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Practices of Invisibilization and Migration
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abstract

With the end of the apartheid regime, and despite the strict immigration policies introduced since 1994, the number of foreign workers in Johannesburg, South Africa, has constantly increased. It is very difficult for Mozambican migrants to get a visa and thus most are undocumented. The contribution examines the relationship between migration and urban belonging and inclusion for Mozambician migrants in post-apartheid Johannesburg. In particular the strategies migrants put in place to gain access to the city are examined, specifically focusing on their 'practices of invisibilization'. Without citizenship, both in theory and practice, migrants in Johannesburg are forced to live detached from the State, seeking invisibility from society and within public space in order to cope with the constant threat of deportation. In this sense the word 'apartheid' is still present in the narrative of migration in the city.