



# Strategies of Informality: A Case Study of Informal Urban Farmers in Johannesburg, South Africa

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## Research Questions

How does informality constrain or enable urban farmers?

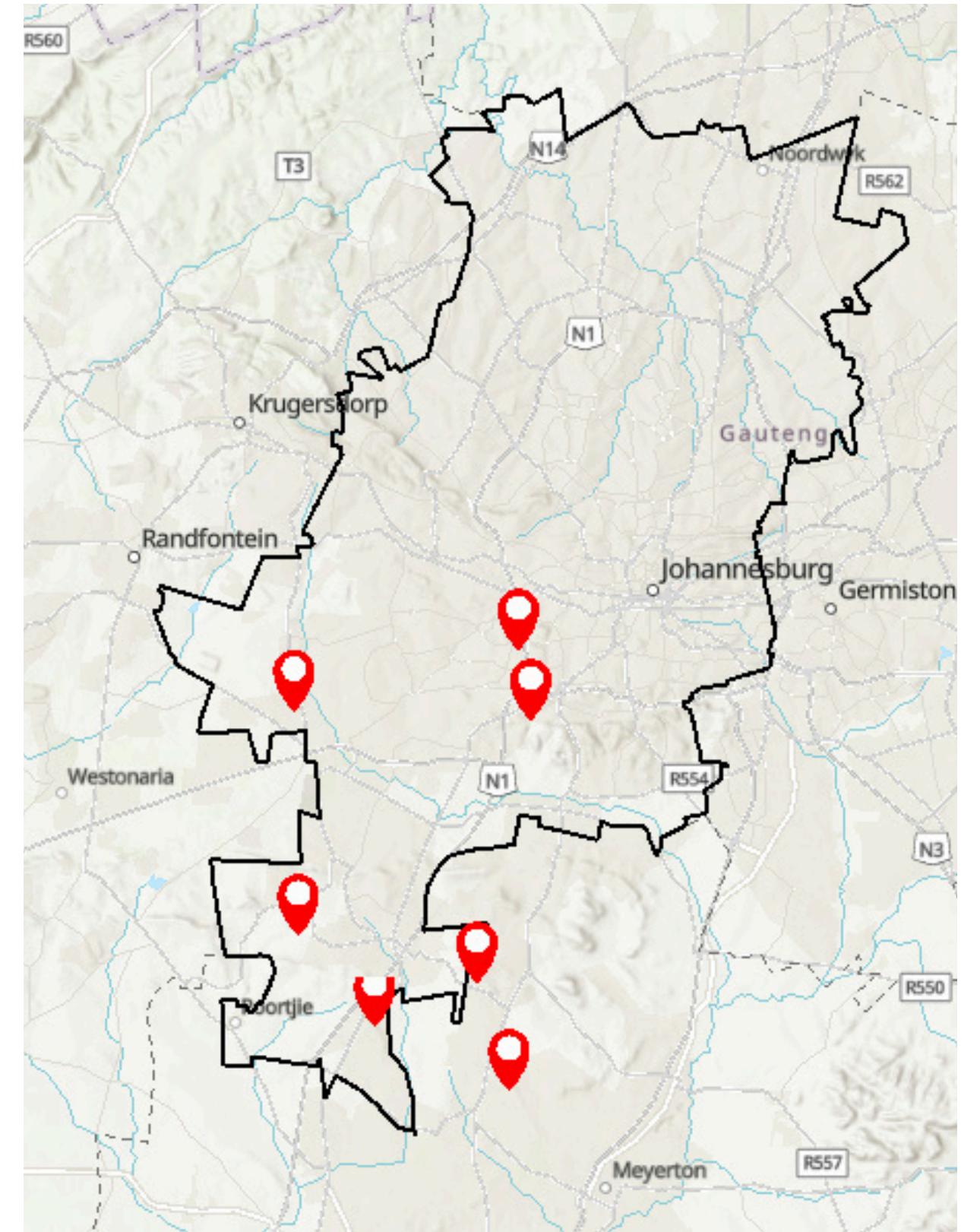
- 01 How do urban farmers perceive informality/formality? How do they identify themselves within this framework?
- 02 What strategies do farmers employ to navigate being informal?
- 03 What steps can be taken to alleviate some of the challenges faced by informal urban farmers?

Research Question 01

## Informality as Negotiation

Unlike formality where value is clearly determined, contracted, and transferred, informality allows the negotiation of value. The state of deregulation that defines the informal is produced by the multiple, contesting interpretations and interests of informal actors.

“ You know, I wouldn't say it's a challenging to do urban farming to farm inside the township. Because we are looking at things differently. Remember, who [is] buying? Who [are the] breadwinners? Who are the people around you? ”



Map of farm locations in Johannesburg metropolitan area (made by author)

Informality



Formality

Accountability & Visibility

Respectability & Opportunity

Commercial vs Urban Farming

Research Question 02

Presenting as a Business Enterprise

Presenting as a Social Enterprise

Institutional Pluralism

Staying Independent

New Space for Urban Agriculture

Research Question 03

Reduce Conditionalities

Reduce Red Tape

Support Quality over Quantity

Increase Mutual Collaboration

Prioritise livelihood

Methodology

Actor Network Theory

Subaltern Theory

Post-colonial Theory

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Greg's farm in Soweto East



Refiloe's farm in Comptonville



Katlhe's farm in Diepsloot



Tim's farm in Orange Farm



Tsepho's farm in Ennerdale