

## **The center-periphery theory in a socio–spatial dimension**

**Case study: NMK public programs department bridging the center – periphery gap.**

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The representation of the socio – economic system world as the dualism between center-periphery countries is at the base of several geographical cataloguing of the world, considering the center as dominant and the periphery as dominated area. This can be applied at different scales: continents, countries, regions, cities. Center and periphery at any scale are distinguished as generally the center is more economically developed, socially stable and environmentally better structured than the periphery. According to these theories development does not happen everywhere and in the same way in the space, instead it is generated in some central points in which there are better services placing the periphery in a position of weakness and subordination. For these reasons streams of people, finances, goods, information and culture of different measure, asymmetric or one way, arise between the center and the periphery, especially in towns. Cities in Sub-Saharan Africa were constructed to be a service for the colonizers, today they are becoming megalopolis due to the rapid migration to the centers though this urban growth is not accompanied by suitable public interventions, the formation of overcrowded, without social justice, undeveloped peripheries is the result. Nairobi with almost 4 million inhabitants and quite a number of informal settlements is one example of this process. The research on the National Museums of Kenya public programs, propose to understand which efforts the NMK as an institution is doing to bridge the gap between the center and the periphery of the city and of the country.

**Key words:** *Centre-periphery, Gap, Urbanization, Development, NMK.*