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This is to commemorate South African freedom struggle,
envisaged and led by ‘nie-blankes’ (‘non-whites’).
A book that was started when it was still legal to smoke inside most academic institutions, and academic job was considered a steady middle class career, is bound to incur huge debts.

The idea for this book originally came from the late Professor Henryk Hrwinek, who for many years played a leading role in the study of urban informality in Africa and across the globe. I was greatly inspired by his enthusiasm for a truly democratic and a more equitable society. I dedicate this book to his memory.

Special thanks belong to my long-time mentor, Professor Aglae Schoeman of the Central European University, whose teachings will always have a very special place in my academic life.
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I started working on the manuscript as a junior research fellow at the Institute for the Problems of the Developing Societies in Berlin in 1994, which provided a highly stimulating environment.
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