

# A New Framework to Describe the Capacity to Aspire

'The capacity to aspire' refers to aspirations of people to escape conditions of poverty and deprivation



Future-oriented **cultural capacity**



**Social spaces** based on a broad socio-economic context



A **meta-capacity** founded on social and collective action



**Ethics of possibility** for improving quality of life



**Navigational capacity** that meaningfully realises having a voice and being empowered

Which factors influence the capacity to aspire among young black South African people from working- and middle-class backgrounds?

## The OATS Framework

### Objects



Immediate objects of aspiration are more about wants (designer clothing, latest gadgets)



Intermediate objects of aspiration provide long-term rewards with sustained effort

### Agency

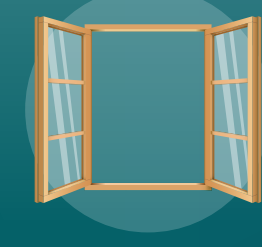


Agentic capabilities strengthen active self-formation and discipline



Agentic transactions involve the use of social networks, historical narratives and role models for youth

### Tools



Windows provide a glimpse of the future, allowing youth to anticipate and plan ahead



Social safety nets provide guarantees that allow youth to take prepared risks

### Spaces



Imposed spaces are composed of race, class, age, gender and sexual orientation, and vary according to time, location and the individual



Intended spaces focus on the horizon, the spaces of the future and the ethics of possibility, fed by hope and imagination



The OATS conceptual framework is a unique proposal that seeks to understand the internal workings of the capacity to aspire

### OATS - A new conceptual framework

In: *Black Youth Aspirations: Imagined Futures and Transitions into Adulthood*

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