A comparative exploration of contemporary urban culture and arts in cities with African and French roots, across multiple continents.

- What are the aesthetics, distinctive capacities, and uses of specific artistic forms and media: visual arts, performance arts, and literary arts--that flourish in these cities?
- How do these forms express or engage political and social hierarchies, reproduce marginalized or precarious lives?
- How do they represent and respond to trauma caused by natural catastrophes, such as hurricanes and earthquakes, and man-made disasters of colonialism, slavery, and political violence?
- Can the arts play a distinctive and critical role in reworking social relations, contesting abusive power, and constituting a new sense of local, national, and even transnational belonging?
- How are the arts and urban public space appropriated by strapped local governments under neo-liberalism?