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**About WIEGO:** WIEGO is a global research-policy network that seeks to improve the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. WIEGO builds alliances with and draws its membership from three consistencies: membership-based organisations of informal workers, researchers and statisticians working on the informal economy, and professionals from development agencies interested in the informal economy. WIEGO pursues its objectives by helping to build and strengthen networks of informal worker organisations; undertaking policy analysis, statistical research, and data analysis on the informal economy; providing policy advice and convening policy dialogues on the informal economy and documenting and disseminating good practice in support of the informal workforce.





## Biographies

**Richard Dobson**, an architect by training, worked for over ten years for the eThekweni Municipality as project leader, first of the Warwick Junction Urban Renewal Project and then for the inner city renewal programme. He left the city in 2006 to establish ASIYE ETAFULENI (Zulu for 'let us negotiate') – a non governmental organisation (NGO) offering design and facilitation services to the informal economy. His professional technical, design and project work has been recognized through various national and international awards and citations.

**Caroline Skinner** is a researcher affiliated to both the School of Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town. For over a decade, Skinner's work has interrogated the nature of the informal economy with a view to informing more appropriate policy responses. She has published widely on the subject and has been involved in policy and advocacy work at a local, provincial, national and international level. Much of her work has been done under the auspices of the global research-policy network Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO).

**Jillian Nicholson** is the writer and editor of numerous accessible books based on the in-depth research, documentation and experience of those engaged in a particular field of expertise. She has written for the eThekweni Municipality as well as provincial and national government, the School of Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, WIEGO and other NGOs. Her books include three others on informal economy issues.

**Dennis Gilbert** is an award winning architectural photographer who, although currently based in London, was born in South Africa. He was originally trained as an engineer in Durban but went on to complete a Master of Fine Arts in photography at California Institute of the Arts, Los Angeles. He has exhibited in (among others) Photofusion in London and FADA Gallery University of Johannesburg. His photographs have been published in numerous publications. In 2008 he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Royal Institute of British Architects for his contribution to architecture.

**Gerald Botha** has been taking photographs for 30 years. He has worked in photography for the past fifteen years as the owner and principal photographer at Stella Nova, a Durban-based commercial photographic studio. He is known for his innovative and people-centred approach to photography.

**Anna Gaylard** has worked in graphic design for the past twelve years and is currently the creative director of the Durban based advertising agency, Brandswell. She divides her time between advertising and applying her skills in the field of development, mainly through the design of educational resource material and publications.

*Warwick Junction has provided exhilarating proof of how poor people, in sensitive collaboration with urban planners, can enliven a city centre, generate employment for themselves and expand services for the population at large.*

– Professor Keith Hart, the anthropologist who coined the phrase 'informal sector'

This book offers a fresh look at street traders' lives, the role they play in city life and their contribution to its economy. It shows that it is possible to include street trading in urban plans in a way that adds to the vitality and attraction of cities. This is not a common perception of street trading or of urban planning, which makes the book all the more significant.

Warwick is a vibrant street trading area situated in the primary transport hub in South Africa's east coast city of Durban. This is the context for the book: here a small dedicated team of local authority officials, street traders and their leaders worked for over a decade tackling seemingly insurmountable urban management and design challenges. It is hoped that this account of the transformation of Warwick will inspire other local authorities and planners as they deal with the challenges and opportunities presented by the informal economy.

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