

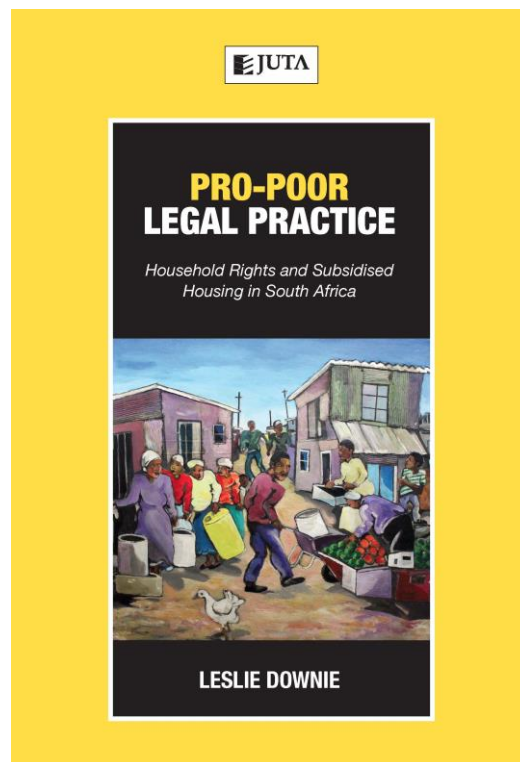
CONTENT FOR FIG APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER:

Pro-Poor Legal Practice: Household Rights and Subsidised Housing in South Africa
by

Leslie Downie BA LLB Hons (English) MPhil (Geomatics)

FIG's article of the month in July 2016 was *Social Tenure Based on Intimacy – Avoiding Family Disasters: South African Marital Contracts as an Innovative Pro-Poor Land Tool*, by Downie and Whittal. Further insight into the themes covered in the article can be found in the recent Juta publication by Leslie Downie, see <https://juta.co.za/products/pro-poor-legal-practice-household-rights-and-subsidised-housing-in-south-africa/>

The book grapples with how people's private lives and informal practices intersect with the legal and cadastral land information system. It argues that in Africa, mapping of 'people-belonging-to-land' should be given equal weight to mapping of 'land-belonging-to-people'. Innovative use of servitudes is seen as key for the overlapping use rights of people belonging to land. Downie believes that many informal practices are actually Cinderella servitudes that should have been invited to the ball.



Optional additional paragraph:

She is currently driving a legal specialisation in land tenure information systems with Michalsons Attorneys in Cape Town. She feels the geomatics profession's scientific, outcome-based approach is critical to extend lawyers' understanding of informality and land tenure.