

Urban Revolutions

*Note: This syllabus is subject to change.

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Overview

In the 1960's, French spatial theorist Henri Lefebvre wrote of an urban revolution taking hold throughout the world in the 20th century—a transformation of society emerging from the industrial revolution of the previous century. According to Lefebvre, this “complete urbanization of society” constitutes a fundamental change in how we live in and produce space—even outside cities. The urban revolution for Lefebvre offers both dangers and opportunities. On the one hand, it is marked by processes of commodification of space and life that alienate and exploit. On the other hand, the contradictions inherent in the capitalist production of space foment politically radical practices capable of subverting unequal power relations. In other words, if capitalism is an increasingly urban process then so too is the revolution against it.

In many ways, the 21st century has confirmed Lefebvre's predictions not only because more of the world is living in cities than rural areas than ever before. Capital accumulation and other social and cultural changes also advance through the production and remaking of urban spaces around the globe. But urbanization today poses challenges to dominant theories. While urban theories derive largely from cities like New York, Paris and Los Angeles, the most dramatic transformations and upheavals are taking place through different dynamics in cities like Mumbai, Lagos, Cairo and Shanghai. Furthermore, feminist, post-structural, postcolonial and anti-racist scholarship reveals how urban spatial politics and rule operates through “more-than-class” embodiments of power and difference. Thus in addition to Marxist urban geography texts, this seminar delves into theories of urban geography from the Global North and South that critically engage dominant framings. The aim is to shed light on broader urban dynamics in order to rethink radical social change and the city itself in more relevant and politically enabling ways.

The first part of the course will introduce three key Lefebvrian concepts (*Urban Revolution*, *The Production of Space* and *The Right to the City*) in relation to classic and new work in urban geography and urban theory more broadly. The second part of the course will address literatures on a variety of urban geography topics (urban political economy, embodiment, postcoloniality, legibility, sovereignty, biopolitics, difference, subjectivity and spectacle) in relation to Lefebvre's dialectical spatial triad—spatial practice, representational space and spaces of representation. The third part will investigate urban political mobilizations around the world, focusing on the socio-spatial production of uprising as well as the different ways that social forces use and remake urban space.

Requirements

This is a reading intensive seminar that will be most successful if everyone comes well prepared for discussion.

Each student will be expected to perform the following:

1. Prepare a one-page commentary on the week's reading and circulate it to the class (in the discussion section of D2L) by Tuesday evening before Wednesday's seminar. While it may be helpful to state key arguments, the one-pagers should not simply summarize the readings, but critically engage the literature, making linkages between the pieces and/or to your own work. You might discuss how well authors substantiate their claims and additions that would strengthen their arguments. You could also explore a concept or two within the readings and relate it/them to your own work. The one-pagers are your opportunity to reflect on the readings in a way that is productive for you. They are also very useful references for dissertation writing and comps so it does indeed pay to put some effort into them.
2. Lead/chaire one or two class discussions (possibly with one other student). You should begin with a short 10-minute presentation of the key theoretical and conceptual issues in the reading(s) for that week. It would also be useful to make linkages to key themes or problems addressed in previous sessions.
3. Submit a final paper. The paper will be more of a short analytical reflection than a long research paper. Details to follow.

Format of the class: The first period of the class (1.25 or so hours in) will be a discussion of the key readings assigned for the week. I will start with a short (5 minute) contextualization. The discussion will then be chaired by 1 or 2 students; it will involve approximately 10 minutes of framing the book/articles and posing a set of key questions and ideas. The student(s) are then responsible for chairing the discussion, trying as much as possible to provide some direction to the discussion. When convenient, we will take a short break. For the final period of the seminar I will lead discussion in order to flag important themes to which we should pay attention. I will take a few minutes at the end set the stage for the following week's readings.

Readings by Week

PART I FRAMING URBAN REVOLUTION: UNEVEN AND CONTESTED URBAN GEOGRAPHIES AND THEORIES

Week 1: January 15

Introduction to the course

framing concept 1: urban revolution

Week 2: January 22

Neil Smith (2003). Forward. In Lefebvre, H., *The Urban Revolution*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. vii-xxiii.

Henri Lefebvre (2003) From the City to Urban Society, The Urban Illusion, and Urban Society in *The Urban Revolution*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp.1-22, 151-164, 165-180.

Henri Lefebvre “Industrialization and Urbanization” and “Theses on the City, the Urban and Planning,” In *Writings on Cities*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 65-86 & 177-184.

Saskia Sassen 2006. Cities in a World Economy. In *The Globalization and Development Reader: Perspectives on Development and Global Change*, eds. J. Timmons Roberts and Amy Bellone Hite. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

(Skim) Jennifer Robinson (2002) Global and world cities: A view from off the map, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 26(3), 531-554.

Recommended:

Ananya Roy (2009) The 21st Century Metropolis: New Geographies of Theory

Week 3: January 28 Cancelled – Sapana away for a talk at University of Hawaii

framing concept 2: the production of space

Week 4: February 5

Henri Lefebvre (1991) Chapter 1 *The Production of Space* Oxford: Blackwell

Christian Schmidt (2008) Henri Lefebvre’s theory of the production of space: towards a three-dimensional dialectic, in K. Goonewardena, S. Kipfer, R. Milgrom, C. Schmidt Eds *Space, Difference and Everyday Life: Reading Henri Lefebvre* New York: Routledge.

framing concept 3: the right to the city

Week 4: February 12

David Harvey (2008) The Right to the City, *New Left Review* 53 pp. 23-40.

Henri Lefebvre (2002) from The Right to the City, *The Blackwell City Reader* pp. 367-374.

Asef Bayat (2000) From ‘Dangerous Classes’ to ‘Quiet Rebels’: The Politics of the Urban Subaltern in the Global South, *International Sociology* 15:3, 533-557.

Micheal Watts (2001) 1968 and all that, *Progress in Human Geography*, pp. 157-188.

Tovi Fenster (2005) The Right to the Gendered City: Different Formations of Belonging in Everyday Life, *Journal of Gender Studies*

Recommended

Don Mitchell *The Right to the City*

Partha Chatterjee (2004) "Populations and political society" and "The Politics of the Governed", *The Politics of the Governed*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 27–53 and 53-80

AbdouMaliq Simone (2004) People as Infrastructure: Intersecting Fragments in Johannesburg, *Public Culture* 16:3, 407-429.

Anjaria Jonathon (2011) Ordinary states: Everyday corruption and the politics of space in Mumbai, *American Ethnologist*, 38(1), 58-72.

PART II THE SPATIAL TRIAD: DIALECTICAL URBANISM

spatial practice 1: capitalist urbanization

Week 6: February 19

David Harvey (2002(1978)) from The Urban Process Under Capitalism, *The Blackwell City Reader*, pp. 116-124

Neil Smith (1996) selections from *The New Urban Frontier: Gentrification and the Revanchist City*, pp. 51-116

Ruth Wilson Gilmore (2002) Fatal Couplings of Power and Difference: Notes on Racism and Geography, *The Professional Geographer*, 54:1, 15-24

Ruth Wilson Gilmore (1999) You have dislodged a boulder: Mothers and prisoners in the post-Keynesian California Landscape, *Transforming Anthropology*, 8:1&2, 12-38.

J.K. Gibson Graham (2002) from *The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It): A Feminist Critique of Political Economy* in *The Blackwell City Reader* pp. 225-228

Recommended

Manuel Castells (1983) City and Culture: The San Francisco Experience, *The City and the Grassroots*, Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 97-172

Sallie Marston 2000 The Social Construction of Scale *Progress in Human Geography* 2, 219-242

David Harvey (1989) The Urbanization of Capital, *The Urban Experience* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 17-59.

Rachel Brahinsky (2013) Race and the making of Southeast San Francisco: Towards a theory of race-class. *Antipode*.

spatial practice 2: neoliberal/global urbanization

Week 7: February 26

Neil Brenner and Nik Theodore (2002) Cities and the geographies of actually existing neoliberalism, *Antipode*, 34(3), 349-379.

Melissa Wright (2014) *Gentrification, assassination and forgetting in Mexico: a feminist Marxist tale* 21(1)

Hiba Bou Akar (2012) Contesting Beirut's Frontiers, *City and Society*, 24(2) 150-172.

Sapana Doshi (2013) The politics of the evicted: Redevelopment, subjectivity, and difference in Mumbai's slum frontier. *Antipode* 45, 844–865.

Jim Glassman (2006) Primitive accumulation, accumulation by dispossession, accumulation by 'extra-economic' means *Progress in Human Geography* 30, 5 pp. 608–625

Background/Recommended

Neil Smith (2002) New Globalism, New Urbanism: Gentrification as a Global Urban Strategy *Antipode*

Mike Davis (2006) *Planet of Slums*. New York: Verso.

A. Varley (2013) Postcolonialising informality? *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 31(1) 4 – 22

Jamie Peck, Nik Theodore and Neil Brenner (2013) Neoliberal Urbanism Redux? *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 37(3) 1091–9

Arjun Appadurai (2001) Deep democracy: Urban governmentality and the horizon of politics. *Environment and Urbanization* 13, 23–43.

representations of space 1: legibility, (neo)liberalism, state-space

Week 8: March 5

Patrick Joyce (2003). 'Maps, numbers and the city: Knowing the governed,' From *The Rule of Freedom: Liberalism and the Modern City*. London: Verso, pp. 20-61.

Mustafa Dikeç (2007) Space, Governmentality, and the Geographies of French Urban Policy *European Urban and Regional Studies* 2007 14: 277

Ananya Roy (2009) Why India cannot plan its cities: Informality, insurgence and the idiom of urbanization. *Planning Theory* 8, 76–87.

You-Tien Hsing (2010) Chapter 1: Land and Urban Politics, *The Great Urban Transformation* London: Oxford University Press

Recommended

James Scott (1998), State Projects of Legibility and Simplification (pp. 9-11) and Cities, People and Language (pp. 53-84) in *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*, New Haven: Yale University Press. pp 103-146

Faranak Miraftab (2004). Making neo-liberal governance: the disempowering work of empowerment. *International Planning Studies*, 9(4), 239-259.

representations of space 2: sovereignty, surplus populations, borders, carceral geographies

Week 9: March 12

Michael McIntyre and Heidi J. Nast (2011) Bio(necro)polis: Marx, Surplus Populations, and the Spatial Dialectics of Reproduction and "Race" *Antipode*

Thomas Blom Hansen Finn Stepputat (2006) Sovereignty Revisited *Annual Review of Anthropology* 35: 295–315.

Allison Mountz (2011) The enforcement archipelago: Detention, haunting, and asylum on islands. *Political Geography*, 30(3), 118-128.

Monica Varsanyi (2008) Immigration Policing Through the Backdoor: City Ordinances, the "right to the City," and the Exclusion of Undocumented Day Laborers, *Urban Geography* 29(1) 29-52.

Aiwha Ong (2000) Graduated Sovereignty *Theory Culture Society* 17(4) 55-75.

SPRING BREAK

spaces of representation 1: spectacle, aesthetics, the space of "time"

Week 10: March 26

Susan Buck-Morss (1991) selections from *The Dialectics of Seeing: Walter Benjamin and the Arcades Project* Cambridge: MIT Press

Achille Mbembe (2004) The Aesthetics of Superfluity, *Public Culture*, 16 (3) pp. 373-405

Guy Debord *The Society of the Spectacle* (selections)

Recommended/Background

George Simmel The Metropolis and Mental Life

Achille Membe and Sarah Nutall The Elusive Metropolis

spaces of representation 2: embodiment, movement, worlding

Week 11: April 2

Elizabeth Grosz (2002 (1992)) Bodies-Cities, *The Blackwell City Reader* pp. 297-303

Martin F. Manalansan IV (2013) Queer Worldings: The Messy Art of Being Global in Manila and New York, *Antipode: Journal of Radical Geography*

Michel de Certeau (1984) "Walking in the City," in *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Berkeley: UC Press. pp. 91-110

Teresa Caldeira (2012) *Imprinting and Moving Around: New Visibilities and Configurations of Public Space in São Paulo*. *Public Culture*, 24(2 67), 385-419.

TBD

Week 12: April 9 cancelled for AAG conference

PART III THE SPATIAL PRACTICE OF SUBVERSION, MOBILIZATION, UPRISING: RETHINKING THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

insurgency and rights across difference

Week 13: April 16

Matthew Sparke (2012) From Global Dispossession to Local Repossession: Towards a Worldly Cultural Geography of Occupy Activism. *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Cultural Geography*, p. 385-408.

Jenna Loyd, Andrew Burrige and Matthew Mitchelson (2009) Thinking (and Moving) Beyond Walls And Cages: Bridging Immigrant Justice and Anti-Prison Organizing in the United States, *Social Justice*

Faranak. Miraftab (2009) Insurgent Planning: Situating Radical Planning in the Global South. *Planning Theory*, 8 (1) 32-50

James M. Allegra, I. Bono, A. and Casaglia, R. Marzorati, H. Yacobi (2013) Rethinking Cities in Contentious Times: The Mobilisation of Urban Dissent in the 'Arab Spring', *Urban Studies*, 50(9)

Al-Zubaidi, Layla, ed. (2011) *People's Power: The Arab World in Revolt*. Heinrich Böll Foundation selections

Recommended

Jaime Amparo Alves (2013) From Necropolis to Blackpolis: Necropolitical Governance and Black Spatial Praxis in São Paulo, Brazil, *Antipode*

Holston (2008) Chapter 1: Spaces of Insurgent Citizenship & Chapter 6: Legalizing the Illegal. *Insurgent Citizenship: Disjunctions of Democracy and Modernity in Brazil*. Princeton.

Mustafa Dikec (2007) 'Revolting geographies: Urban unrest in France,' *Geography Compass* 1(5): 1190-206.

Hyun Bang Shin (2013) 'The right to the city and critical reflections on China's property rights activism,' *Antipode*

Benjamin Kohl (2006) Challenges to Neoliberal Hegemony in Bolivia, *Antipode* 38:2

Garelli G, Tazzioli M (2013) Arab Springs making space: territoriality and moral geographies for asylum seekers in Italy *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 31(6) 1004 – 1021

the dialectics of security and uprising in comparative perspective

Week 14: April 23

Paul Amar (2013) *The Security Archipelago Human-Security States, Sexuality Politics, and the End of Neoliberalism*, Durham: Duke.

Recommended

Daniel Goldstein (2005) Flexible Justice: Neoliberal Violence and 'Self-Help' Security in Bolivia

Week 15: April 30 Paper workshop

May 12: Papers due