

CP115: URBANIZATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Fall 2020 (online), M, W, 8:30–10 am, Sections M, W 11 am–noon

Course Outline

The main aim of the course is to foreground histories, theories, and practices of urbanization in the “global south.” The course has three key areas of focus.

First, the course aims to cultivate a nuanced understanding of cities in the global south so that we can go beyond stereotypical representations and practices that see these cities either as dystopic or exotic. The course problematizes the category of the “global south,” and it does so by situating cities within wider networks of capitalism, democracy, and (de)colonization.

Second, the course explores the relationship between urbanization and inequality. It is deeply attentive to planning institutions—such as the colonial and postcolonial state, the World Bank and IMF, transnational corporations, decolonization movements—and their complicity in, and resistance to, the production of global urban inequalities.

Third, the course is committed to critical urban theory and practice. The category of the “global south” forces us to reckon with places and peoples that have been marginalized by planning and development practices. A key question underlying the course is: does the U.S. have a “global south?” By asking this question, the course will help us in making sense of how uneven globalization affects us in our own backyard of Northern California; it will also help us in making critical planning links across cities that we are familiar with and those that we think are “out there” in the “rest of the world.”

The course is divided into two parts.

Part I, on the **histories of urbanization in the global south**, pivots around two analytics: “urbanization” and “global south.” We will focus on key historical moments: late colonialism (late 19th century to the 1940s), the Cold War period (1940s to 1980s), and the new era of globalization with the 1980s as a pivotal decade. During each of these periods, we will explore the geographies of power associated with urbanization: of how more powerful places and peoples named and acted upon the ‘rest of the world,’ but also how the ‘rest of the world’ resisted, via categories such as the Orient, the tropics, developing countries, peripheries, Third World, global south.

Part I ends with the question: “are we in the colonial present?” Here, we will take stock of the past weeks’ readings, and ask how colonial-era planning ideas, practices, and institutions continue to shape contemporary processes of urbanization. We will also end Part I with the question: does the U.S. have a “global south?” and what it means to globalize Ferguson and other places that we might think of as “American” but which are produced within wider unequal global networks of capitalism and power.

In Part II of the course, we will focus on **emergent urbanizations** in the present. Themes from Part I will be foundational for analyzing contemporary processes of urbanization. The recurrent theme of the “U.S.A’s south” will underpin Part II. This part of the course is organized around comparisons: how can we historicize seemingly current events like climate change by viewing in tandem the littoral port-cities of New Orleans and Kolkata (Calcutta); or how and why should we connect prisons in rural California with smallholder farming in Indonesia, and what do these have to do with cities and urbanization?

Overview of course schedule

26 August Introduction

PART I: Histories of Urbanization in the Global South

Week 2 Colonial Cities

31 September Cities and Empire, Cities and Capitalism

2 September Dual Cities

Week 3 Cold War Cities

7 September No class – Labor Day

9 September Geographies of Core-Periphery

Week 4 The Long 1980s

14 September Geographies of Debt

16 September The Informal City

Week 5 Are we in the Colonial Present I?

21 September Global Cities

23 September Globalizing Ferguson

Guest speaker: Alex Rogala, Urban Planner, San Francisco

Introducing Assignment 1

Week 6 Are we in the Colonial Present II? (with a focus on the covid-19 pandemic)

28 September Phylo-geography

30 September Cordon Sanitaire

Week 7 Midterm

5 October Midterm Exam

7 October Recap of Part 1

PART II: Emergent Urbanizations

Week 8 Logistics Cities

12 October Cities and Supply Chain Capitalism

14 October Zones

Week 9 Urban Peripheries

19 October Comparative Gestures: Sao Paulo and Paris

21 October Peripheries and War

Guest Speaker: Hiba Bou Akar, Urban Planning Faculty at Columbia University

Week 10 “Slums”

26 October An Intellectual History of “Slums”

28 October The Cinematic Gaze: Slums in Films

Week 11	Littoral Cities of Climate Disaster
2 November	Historicizing Climate Disaster
4 November	Land "Reclamations"
	<i>Guest Speaker: Kalyanee Mam, documentary filmmaker of Lost World</i>
Week 12	Remittance Geographies
9 November	Transnational Migration and Community Development
	<i>Guest Speaker: Deepak Lamba-Nieves, Center for the New Economy, Puerto Rico</i>
11 November	No class
Week 13	The New Enclosures
16 November	Dispossession across the Agrarian-Urban Divide
18 November	Desakota
Week 14	Indigenous Geographies
23 November	Cities in Settler-Colonies
25 November	No class
Week 15	Borderlands
30 November	Architecture of Walls
2 December	Refugees and the City
	<i>Guest Speaker: TBC</i>
Week 16	Wrap-up
	Final Exams