

Moving fronts in urban political economy

Fall 2018

Class: Thursdays, 2-5, room 223**Instructor:** Jamie Peck (jamie.peck@ubc.ca). Tel: 604 822 0894.

Office hours: M and W 11.15-12.30 (Geog 134), or by appointment

Sept 6	Intro and setup	
Sept 13	(Re)theorizing cities	Key concepts
Sept 20	Growth machines	Key concepts
Sept 27	Urban regimes	Key concepts
Oct 4	Regulationist urbanism	Key concepts
Oct 11	Global cities	Key concepts
Oct 18	No class today	
Oct 25	Ordinary cities	Critical appreciation
Nov 1	Neoliberal urbanism	Critical appreciation
Nov 8	Austerity urbanism	Critical appreciation
Nov 15	Financialized cities	Critical appreciation
Nov 22	Worlding cities	Critical appreciation
Nov 29	Urban China	Critical appreciation

This is conceived as a “pro-seminar,” intended to explore the (moving) research frontier in urban political economy in the period since the 1970s, with a principal focus on Anglo-American contributions. More or less sequentially, a sample of significant contributions to the field will be considered (along with some of the “downstream” effects and debates), in order to assess threads of continuity as well as change and innovation.

We will maintain a quite intensive reading and work schedule during the term, with the tradeoff that the final term paper is relatively short. Each student is required to (a) complete the assigned readings, drafting a 1-2pp reaction paper each week for submission (no later than midnight Tuesday) to the Dropbox folder; (b) serve twice as a session convenor, reviewing and thematizing the reaction papers, co-chairing in-class discussions; (c) write a 3pp “key concepts” paper on a key figure in the field of urban political economy, presenting this in written and oral form to the class; (d) write a “critical appreciation” of an individually chosen monograph in the field, for oral presentation to the class and submission in written form no later than December 11.

Assessment: class participation and weekly reaction papers 30%; key concepts paper 25%; critical appreciation presentation and written assignment 45%.

Key concepts paper: Each student will write a “key concepts” primer, on one of the following figures in urban political economy: Janet Abu-Lughod, Ash Amin, Neil Brenner, Manuel Castells, Mike

Davis, Michael Dear, Susan Fainstein, Steve Graham, Peter Hall, David Harvey, Henri Lefebvre, Helga Leitner, Doreen Massey, Margit Mayer, Harvey Molotch, Jennifer Robinson, Saskia Sassen, AbdouMaliq Simone, Ed Soja, Fulong Wu, Sharon Zukin, or an author of your choice. The primer should not exceed three pages and should include: a bio paragraph, an overview of the research program with a focus on key conceptual/methodological innovations and contributions, and a brief bibliography of not more than six items.

Critical appreciation assignment: Each student will write a “critical appreciation” of an individually chosen book that they admire in the field of urban political economy, with an emphasis on constructive reading and internal critique, together with an eye to positive (and “transferrable”) lessons for urban theory, methodology, and research practice. These should be monographs (not edited collections), and they should engage squarely, rather than obliquely, with the problematics of urban political economy. Beyond that, the choice is with each student. You may want to consider books by the authors featured on the syllabus, or to venture beyond. Each student will prepare a 15-minute presentation for the class (followed by Q&A), with the written versions of each assignment (not exceeding 12pp of 1.5 spaced text, with the bibliography being additional) due at the end of term.

September 6 Introduction and setup

- Derickson KD (2015) Urban geography I: locating urban theory in the “urban age.” *Progress in Human Geography* 39(5): 647–657
- Derickson KD (2017) Urban geography II: urban geography in the age of Ferguson. *Progress in Human Geography* 41(2): 230–244
- Derickson KD (2018) Urban geography III: Anthropocene urbanism. *Progress in Human Geography* 42(3): 425–435

September 13 (Re)theorizing cities

- Harvey D (1973) *Social justice and the city*. London: Edward Arnold, chapter 7
- Castells M (1976) The wild city. *Kapitalistate* 4-5: 2-30
- Molotch H (1976) The city as a growth machine: toward a political economy of place. *American Journal of Sociology* 82(2): 309–332
- Harvey D (1978) The urban process under capitalism: a framework for analysis. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 2(1-3): 101–131
- Zukin S (1980) A decade of the new urban sociology. *Theory and Society* 9(4): 575–601

September 20 Growth machines

- Harvey D (1989) From managerialism to entrepreneurialism: the transformation in urban governance in late capitalism. *Geografiska Annaler, B* 71(1): 3–17
- Cox K R and Mair A (1988) Locality and community in the politics of local economic development. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 78(2): 307–325

- Molotch M (1993) The political economy of growth machines. *Journal of Urban Affairs* 15(1): 29–53
- Gilbert M (1999) Place, politics, and the production of urban space: a feminist critique of the growth machine thesis. In AEG Jonas and D Wilson (eds) *The urban growth machine: critical perspectives, two decades later*, New York: SUNY Press, 95–108
- Peck J (2014) Entrepreneurial urbanism: between uncommon sense and dull compulsion. *Geografiska Annaler, B* 96(4): 396–401
- Cox CR (2017) Revisiting “the city as a growth machine.” *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 10(3): 391–405

September 27 Urban regimes

- Stone C N (1993) Urban regimes and the capacity to govern: a political economy approach. *Journal of Urban Affairs* 15(1): 1–28
- Stoker G and Mossberger K (1994) Urban regime theory in comparative perspective. *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* 12(2): 195–212
- Ward K (1996) Rereading urban regime theory: a sympathetic critique. *Geoforum* 27(4): 427–438
- Brown M (1999) Reconceptualizing public and private in urban regime theory: governance in AIDS politics. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 23(1): 45–69
- Pierre J (1999) Models of urban governance: the institutional dimension of urban politics. *Urban Affairs Review* 34(3): 372–396
- Mossberger K and Gerry Stoker G (2001) The evolution of urban regime theory: the challenge of conceptualization. *Urban Affairs Review* 36(6): 810–835

October 4 Regulationist urbanism

- Lauria M (1999) Reconstructing urban regime theory: regulation theory and institutional arrangements. In AEG Jonas and D Wilson (eds) *The urban growth machine: critical perspectives two decades later*, 125–139
- Jessop B (1997) A neo-Gramscian approach to the regulation of urban regimes: accumulation strategies, hegemonic projects, and governance. In M Lauria (ed) *Reconstructing urban regime theory*. London: Sage, 51-73
- Painter J and Goodwin M (1995) Local governance and concrete research: investigating the uneven development of regulation. *Economy and Society* 24(3): 334–356
- Peck J (1995) Moving and shaking: business elites, state localism and urban privatism. *Progress in Human Geography* 19(1): 16–46
- Brenner N (1999) Globalisation as reterritorialisation: the re-scaling of urban governance in the European Union. *Urban Studies* 36(3): 431–451

October 11 Global cities

- Friedmann J (1986) The world city hypothesis. *Development and Change* 17(1): 69–83
- Sassen S (2005) The global city: introducing a concept. *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 11(2): 27-43
- Beaverstock JV, Smith RG and Taylor PJ (2000) World-city network: a new metageography? *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90(1): 123–134

- Hill RC and Kim JW (2000) Global cities and developmental states: New York, Tokyo and Seoul. *Urban Studies* 37(12): 2167–2195
- Brenner N and Keil R (2006) Global city theory in retrospect and prospect. In N Brenner and R Keil (eds) *The global cities reader*. London: Routledge, 1-16
- Massey D (2004) The responsibilities of place. *Local Economy* 19(2): 97–101
- Van Meeteren M, Derudder B and Bassens D (2016) Can the straw man speak? an engagement with postcolonial critiques of “global cities research.” *Dialogues in Human Geography* 6(3): 247–267

Each student should also choose a chapter to read from this collection, bringing their comments, thoughts, and reactions to the class:

Ren X and Keil R (eds) (2018). *The Globalizing Cities Reader*. London: Routledge

October 25 Ordinary cities

- Amin A and Graham S (1997) The ordinary city. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 22(4): 411–429
- Robinson J (2006) *Ordinary cities*. London: Routledge, introduction, chapters 4 and 5
- Amin A and Thrift N (2002) Cities in a distanced economy. In A Amin and N Thrift, *Cities: reimagining the urban*. Cambridge, Polity, 51-77

November 1 Neoliberal urbanism

- Brenner N and Theodore N (2013) Cities and the geographies of “actually existing neoliberalism.” *Antipode* 34(3): 349-379
- Peck J, Theodore N and Brenner N (2013) Neoliberal urbanism redux? *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 37(3): 1091–1099
- Theodore N and Peck J (2012) Framing neoliberal urbanism: translating “commonsense” urban policy across the OECD zone. *European Urban and Regional Studies* 19(1): 20–41
- Parnell S and Robinson J (2012) (Re)theorizing cities from the Global South: looking beyond neoliberalism. *Urban Geography* 33(4): 593-617
- He S and Wu F (2009) China’s emerging neoliberal urbanism: perspectives from urban redevelopment. *Antipode* 41(2): 282–304
- Le Galès P (2016) Neoliberalism and urban change: stretching a good idea too far? *Territory, Politics, Governance* 4(2): 154-172

November 8 Austerity urbanism

- Phillips-Fein K (2017) *Fear city: New York’s fiscal crisis and the rise of austerity politics*. New York: Metropolitan Books, Introduction and Epilogue
- Tabb WK (2014) The wider context of austerity urbanism. *City* 18(2): 87–100
- Peck J (2014) Pushing austerity: state failure, municipal bankruptcy and the crises of fiscal federalism in the USA. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 7(1): 17–44

- Hinkley S (2017) Structurally adjusting: narratives of fiscal crisis in four US cities. *Urban Studies* 54(9): 2123–2138
- Peck J (2017) Transatlantic city, part 1: conjunctural urbanism. *Urban Studies* 54(1): 4-30
- Davies JS and Blanco I (2017) Austerity urbanism: patterns of neo-liberalisation and resistance in six cities of Spain and the UK. *Environment and Planning A* 49(7): 1517–1536
- Featherstone D, Ince A, Mackinnon D, Strauss K and Cumbers A (2012) Progressive localism in the age of austerity. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 37(2): 177-182
- Mayer M (2013) First world urban activism: beyond austerity urbanism and creative city politics. *City* 17(1): 5–19

November 15 Financialized cities

- Weber R (2010) Selling city futures: the financialization of urban redevelopment policy. *Economic Geography* 86(3): 251–274
- Kirkpatrick LO and Smith MP (2011) The infrastructural limits to growth: rethinking the urban growth machine in times of fiscal crisis. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 35(3): 477–503
- Peck J and Whiteside H (2016) Financializing Detroit. *Economic Geography* 92(3): 235–268
- Lake RW (2015) The financialization of urban policy in the age of Obama. *Journal of Urban Affairs* 37(1): 75–78
- Whiteside H (2018) Foreign in a domestic sense: Puerto Rico's debt crisis and paradoxes in critical urban studies. *Urban Studies* online first
- Christophers B (2015) The limits to financialization. *Dialogues in Human Geography* 5(2): 183–200
- Aalbers MB (2015) The potential for financialization. *Dialogues in Human Geography* 5(2): 214–219

November 22 Worlding cities

- Simone A (2001) On the worlding of African cities. *African Studies Review* 44(2): 15-41
- Roy A (2009) The 21st-Century metropolis: new geographies of theory. *Regional Studies* 43(6): 819–830
- Ong A (2011) Introduction: worlding cities, or the art of being global. In A Roy and A Ong (eds) *Worlding cities: Asian experiments and the art of being global*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell
- McCann E, Roy A and Ward K (2013) Assembling/worlding cities. *Urban Geography* 34(5): 581–589
- Robinson (2016) Comparative urbanism: new geographies and cultures of theorizing the urban. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 40(1): 187–199
- Leitner H and Sheppard E (2016) Provincializing critical urban theory: extending the ecosystem of possibilities. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 40 (1): 228-235
- van Meeteren M, Bassens D and Derudder B (2016) Doing global urban studies: on the need for engaged pluralism, frame switching, and methodological cross-fertilization. *Dialogues in Human Geography* 6(3): 296–301

Each student should also choose a chapter to read from this collection, bringing their comments, thoughts, and reactions to the class:

Roy A and Ong A (eds) (2011) *Worlding cities: Asian experiments and the art of being global*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell

November 29

Urban China

Harvey D (2016) Introduction. In D Harvey, *The ways of the world*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1-9

Logan JR and Fainstein SS (2008) Introduction: urban China in comparative perspective. In JR Logan (ed) *Urban China in transition*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 1–23.

Ren X (2013) *Urban China*. Cambridge: Polity Press, chapter 1

Lin GCS (2013) Chinese urbanism in question: state, society, and the reproduction of urban spaces. *Urban Geography* 28(1): 7-29

Wu F (2018) Planning centrality, market instruments: governing Chinese urban transformation under state entrepreneurialism. *Urban Studies* 55(7): 1383–1399

Peck J (2015) Cities beyond compare? *Regional Studies* 49 (1–2): 160–182

Zhou Y, Lin GCS and Zhang J (2018) Urban China through the lens of neoliberalism: is a conceptual twist enough? *Urban Studies* online first