

SISU 349: Global Cities, Justice, and the Environment
School of International Service
American University

Spring 2015

Professor: Dr Malini Ranganathan
Email: malini@american.edu
Office location: SIS 301
Office phone: x6901

Class time: Thursdays, 11.45am-2.25pm
Class location: SIS 333
Office hours: Wednesdays, 2-4pm or by appointment



COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course investigates our rapidly expanding urban world with an explicit focus on the history and politics of urban environmental injustices. We will go beyond alarmist narratives and standard “tech” or “best practice” fixes and instead develop nuanced, historically specific explanations for contemporary urban environmental inequalities that are shaped by race, class, gender, religion, and other axes of social and spatial difference. We approach the terms “global”, “cities”, “justice”, and “the environment” in the broadest of senses, interrogating the limits of Northern intellectual traditions and taking seriously the theoretical and empirical contributions of the Global South. We will draw from geography, sociology, urban planning, and anthropology, among other fields to build a strong foundation in urban political ecology. Urban political ecology is an interdisciplinary and radical scholarly field that deploys critical social theory, political economy, and historical analysis to develop insights into the power relations underlying unequal access to urban space, resources, and infrastructure. The field’s frontiers are increasingly being pushed to innovate progressive possibilities (policy and beyond) for healthier, more sustainable, and more inclusive cities. The ultimate objective of the course is for students to come away with a critical “toolkit” for explaining and acting on the complex socio-ecological webs that constitute our cities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, successful students should have gained the following:

- Fluency with key theoretical perspectives, including the origins of Environmental Justice (EJ) activism/scholarship in the United States and applications beyond this context

- Appreciation for why historical phenomena (e.g. colonialism, segregation, post-war suburbanization, financial shocks) matter so much in our understanding of and actions towards contemporary urban environmental problems
- Awareness of how the problems discussed in the literature are not just those that occur “elsewhere”, but are also present in the DC area
- Knowledge of multiple methods used by scholars, practitioners, and activists to research questions of environmental inequality, including ethnographic research, case studies, archival research, surveys, health disparities research, geographic information systems (GIS), and photo/video documentary
- Greater confidence and sophistication in reading comprehension, oral presentation, and qualitative research and writing

REQUIRED BOOKS

This is a reading- and writing-intensive seminar. You will get the most from this class if you do the readings *carefully* and *critically*. You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class. Thoughtful and informed class participation is a major part of the learning experience. The following texts are required and are available for purchase at AU’s Student Bookstore or online (where they may be cheaper):

- Gandy, Matthew. 2003. *Concrete and Clay: Reworking Nature in New York City*. MIT Press: Cambridge.
- Boo, Katherine. 2012. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*. Random House: New York.

All other required readings will be posted on the course Blackboard site.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Over the course of the semester, I will keep updating a list of suggested readings, films, websites, and other materials pertaining to the week’s topics (and please do make suggestions!). Here is a preliminary list of recommended (not required) books outside of the ones I am assigning for the course:

- Agyeman, J. 2005. *Sustainable Communities and the Challenge of Environmental Justice*. New York University Press: New York.
- Bullard, R. 1994. *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality*. West View Press: Boulder.
- Cronon, W. 1991. *Nature’s Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*. Norton: New York and London.
- Loftus, A. 2012. *Everyday Environmentalism: Creating an Urban Political Ecology*. University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis.
- Myers, G. 2005. *Disposable Cities. Garbage, Governance, and Sustainable Development in Urban Africa*. Aldershot: Ashgate
- Pellow, DN. *Garbage Wars: The Struggle for Environmental Justice in Chicago*. MIT Press: Cambridge.
- Rademacher, A. 2011. *Reigning the River: Urban Ecologies and Political Transformation in Kathmandu*. Duke University Press: Durham and London
- Swyngedouw, E. 2004. *Flows of Power: The Political Ecology of Water and Urbanization in Ecuador*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.
- Sze, J. 2007. *Noxious New York: The Racial Politics of Urban Health and Environmental Justice*. MIT Press: Cambridge.

BLACKBOARD SITE

To access the course Blackboard site, go to <https://blackboard.american.edu>, login, and click on the SIS 349 tab. Unless it is in one of the required books listed above, all readings are under the “Course reserves” tab. You can search by author name to find the readings assigned for the week.

ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING, AND DUE DATES

Assignment	%	Due Date
Class participation	20%	Throughout the semester
Reading response papers (3 x 5%)	15%	By 5pm on Bb the Wed before class, 3 times during the semester
Discussion co-facilitation with PPT visuals	15%	Once during the semester
Washington, DC EJ photo/video mini-essay	10%	February 5 by 5pm
Final research paper draft	10%	March 20 by 5pm on Bb
Final research paper	30%	April 30, by 5pm on Bb
Total	100%	

Class participation (20%)

- It is unlikely that you will earn an A-range grade in this course if you do not actively participate in class discussions and demonstrate that you have done the readings and are prepared to engage. The quality of your intervention matters more than the quantity. Most class sessions will comprise of a mixture of lecture and discussion in which you will be expected to make informed contributions. If I sense that students are not doing the readings, or that a few voices are dominating, I will periodically give reading quizzes that will count towards your participation grade.
- Each student is allowed one unexcused absence. Additional absences will lower your grade. Absences for valid reasons such as medical or family emergencies will be excused, but you will still be responsible for material missed. Please contact me in advance if you know you will be late or absent, or as soon as possible following the missed class.

Response papers (3 x 5% = 15%)

You must write three one-page (single spaced, 1” margins, 11-12 pt font) response papers to the readings assigned in three different weeks of your choice (not including the week in which you are a discussion co-facilitator—see below). To write a good response paper, you must be able to read a large amount of material efficiently and effectively, digesting the central themes/arguments through empirical examples that resonate with you. Typically, you should focus your analysis on one or two key readings assigned that week that most interest you. Response papers are not meant as summaries of the readings, but as critical analyses of major arguments, as well as reflections on how the readings relate to or differ from each other. You are expected to point out connections to theoretical perspectives and themes encountered in the class to date and raise questions that speak to the class. Post each of these responses under “Reading responses” on Blackboard by 5pm the Wednesday before class. Your peers and I will be using your responses to lead a discussion the next day (see below), so write clearly and compellingly.

Discussion co-facilitation with PPT visuals (15%)

At the beginning of semester, you will team up with one to two other classmates and sign up to present the readings marked **(D)** below in a particular week of your choice (a roster will be ready by the first class). You are responsible for coordinating with your teammate(s) to co-facilitate a discussion of the readings. As a discussion co-facilitator, you are responsible for: (a) briefly summarizing the readings, pointing out the author’s main arguments, and relating them to the themes of the class, (b) presenting 1-2 visuals (maps, photos, advertisements, movie stills, etc) from

the Internet that connect to the themes in the readings (Note: be creative here! Other than citing the sources of your visuals, no words should be in your PPT slides), and (c) raising questions for the class to discuss. Your presentation should not be more than 15 minutes not including the Q&A following it (I will keep time).

Washington, DC EJ photo/video mini essay (10%) [Due February 5]

Washington, DC is one of the most environmentally unequal “global” cities in the world. It faces serious issues ranging from unequal exposure to toxics pollution around the Anacostia, to homelessness, to food deserts, to unequal flood risk. In this assignment, you will present to the class one photograph or 1 minute of video that relates to a theme in this class. You must shoot this yourself. If you do not have access to a camera or video camera, please check one out from the library. In addition, you are required to write a brief caption/title for your photo or video and a 300-word mini essay discussing what it represents. Instructions for how to post these materials will be circulated in due course.

Final research paper draft: Analysis of an urban/regional environmental justice issue of your choice (10%) [Due March 20, by 5pm on Bb]

For your final paper, you will critically analyze the historic origins and contemporary dynamics of an environmental justice issue of your choice either in the US or abroad, assessing both the problem and its solutions. Examples of environmental justice issues include: toxics waste dumping in communities of color, drinking water contamination, unequal flood risk, food deserts, unequal access to parks and green spaces, eco-gentrification, unequal exposure to highway pollution, mining in indigenous communities, etc. Your paper should include a creative title, a solid introduction with thesis statement/argument, appropriately titled sub-sections (more on this later), and a conclusion that summarizes the main points in the paper. The following questions should be answered:

- What are the historic and political-economic origins of this problem? Draw on at least two theoretical ideas covered in class in your analysis.
- Who is most gravely affected by this problem? Who might benefit from this problem?
- Who is involved in making major decisions around this problem or resource, and what kind of discursive or knowledge frameworks are used in framing the problem? What are the limitations of these frameworks? For instance, do they adequately account for the distributional inequities implied above? Do they socially construct minority groups in a particular light or tell history in a particular way? Do they produce particular types of problem statements and solutions and not others?
- What, if anything, is being done through policy interventions, activism, education, media, boycotts, international funding, etc to address this problem, and what are the effects?

Your proposal (1 single spaced page, 1” margins, 11-12 pt font) should address the first two bullet points above. On one additional page, it should list up to 5 references. Here is a list of some key top-ranked journals in this field (there are several others), FYI:

- <i>Annals of the Assn of American Geographers</i>	- <i>Int’l Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i>
- <i>Antipode</i>	- <i>Urban Affairs Review</i>
- <i>Cities</i>	- <i>Urban Geography</i>
- <i>Environment and Planning: A/D</i>	- <i>Urban Studies</i>
- <i>Environmental Politics</i>	- <i>Local Environment</i>
- <i>Geoforum</i>	- <i>Sociology Compass</i>

Final research paper (30%) [Due April 30, by 5pm on Bb]

Your final paper (12 double spaced pages not including references, 1” margins, 11-12 pt font) should integrate the four bullet points above and make a central argument (more on this later). A

grading rubric delineating the relative importance of the quality of your prose, clear articulation of your argument, effectiveness of your citations, and grammatical accuracy will be handed out in advance.

EMAIL AND OFFICE HOURS

Ask questions regarding class logistics and assignments in class well ahead of deadlines. As a last resort, email me, and I will aim to reply within two days. I highly encourage you to come to my office hours at least once during the semester to discuss your assignments and any thoughts you may have about the course and your interests. If you cannot make my office hours, please email me so that we can find another time to meet.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND OTHER COURSE POLICIES

- Ethics. When in doubt, cite your resources. Plagiarism, both intentional and unintentional, is unacceptable under any circumstance, and easy to discover in our Internet era. I will post instructions on the recommended citation style for your final assignment and go over them in class. Refer to AU's Code of Academic Integrity at www.american.edu/academics/integrity/code.htm for definitions of plagiarism and the University's policies.
- Electronics. Recently published research shows that student learning is reduced when laptops are allowed during lectures partly because aimless browsing has become an addiction. Moreover, taking notes the old fashioned way through pen and paper promotes deeper and more lasting engagement with the material (and temporary relaxation for your wrists): <http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom>. While I do not embrace a wholesale "no laptop" policy in the classroom (and clearly recognize the utility of the Internet in both teaching and learning), I strongly encourage you to keep your laptops and tablets in your bag until you need them for particular in-class exercises or for referring to the readings. I reserve the right to call on students behind their laptop screens at random. Cell phone use of any kind is not permitted once class has begun.
- Disability accommodations. The University has an extensive support system for various learning styles and needs, and I am keen to accommodate these needs in my class. Please bring a letter from the Disability Office and let me know if you need any classroom or learning accommodations.
- Emergency preparedness. In the event of an emergency, AU will implement a plan for meeting the needs of all members of the university community. Should the university be required to close for a period of time, we are committed to ensuring that all aspects of our educational programs will be delivered to our students. These may include altering and extending the duration of the traditional term schedule to complete essential instruction in the traditional format and/or use of distance instructional methods. Specific strategies will vary from class to class, depending on the format of the course and the timing of the emergency. Faculty will communicate class-specific information to students via AU e-mail and Blackboard, while students must inform their faculty immediately of any absence. Students are responsible for checking their AU e-mail regularly and keeping themselves informed of emergencies. In the event of an emergency, students should refer to the AU Student Portal, the AU Web site (<http://www.prepared.american.edu>) and the AU information line at (202) 885-1100 for general university-wide information, as well as contact their faculty and/or respective dean's office for course and school/college-specific information.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS AND DUE DATES

Date	Topic
January 15	<i>Course Introduction: Cities and Justice in the 21st Century</i>
<i>Foundations</i>	
January 22	Urban Natures, Modernity, and Capitalism
January 29	Producing Urban Space
February 5	The (Post-)Colonial City: Discourse, Knowledge, Architecture, Health [Washington, DC photo/video + mini essay due]
February 12	Urban “Apartheids” in the North and South: Tracing Environmental Injustices
<i>Contemporary Debates</i>	
February 19	Urban Informality, Marginality, and Poverty: Disentangling Myth from Reality
February 26	Urban Environmental Governance and the State, Left and Right
March 5	“Sustainable Cities”, “Smart Cities”, “Resilient Cities”: Influential Imaginaries and Practices
March 13	<i>No class</i>
<i>Infrastructural and Resource Politics</i>	
March 19	Hydro-Politics – I [Final research paper draft due]
March 26	Hydro-Politics – II
April 2	Trashy Cities: Dirt, Disorder, and Dystopia
April 9	Geographies of Mobility and Accessibility
April 16	Urban Revolution? The “Right to the City” and Beyond
April 23	<i>Wrap-up Discussion – End of class</i>
April 30	[Final research paper due]

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Remember that each set of readings must be done **before** the date indicated below.

Jan 15 – Cities and Justice in the 21st Century

The introductory lecture lays out the key themes of the course taking as a point of departure Vanessa Watson's provocation that seeing "from" the Global South is useful for unsettling taken-for-granted assumptions about the future of cities and planning. We will review some major aspects of the contemporary urban (environmental) condition and outline what a critical political ecological and environmental justice perspective brings to the table.

Watson, V. 2009. "Seeing from the South: Refocusing Urban Planning on the Globe's Central Urban Issues". *Urban Studies*, 46 (11): 2259-2275.

Mock, B. 2014. How EJ Fared in 2014—and the outlook for 2015: <http://grist.org/politics/how-environmental-justice-fared-in-2014-and-the-outlook-for-2015/>

Recommended reading:

Lawhon, M, H Ernstson, J Silver. 2013. "Provincializing Urban Political Ecology: Towards a Situated UPE Through African Urbanism". *Antipode* 46 (2): 497-516.

Robinson, J. 2002. "Global and World Cities: A View from off the Map". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 26 (3): 531-554.

Jan 22 – Urban Natures, Modernity, and Capitalism

Cities have historically been made through the harnessing of nature by human labor. Complex flows of water, energy, waste, food, and other raw materials are necessary to produce and sustain urban systems. Interactive flows involving humans and nature—what Karl Marx called "metabolism"—are deeply shaped by uneven power geometries within a capitalist political economy. In this lecture, we will explore the relevance of "metabolism" and other foundational concepts for grasping urbanization processes. Note how the term "metabolism" is used differently by ecologists (e.g. Grimm et al.) and political ecologists (e.g. Heynen et al, Shillington).

Heynen, N., M. Kaika and E. Swyngedouw. 2006. "Urban political ecology: Politicizing the production of urban natures". In N. Heynen, M. Kaika & E. Swyngedouw (eds.). *In the Nature of Cities: Urban Political Ecology and the Politics of Urban Metabolism*. New York: Routledge.

(D) Grimm, N. et al. 2008. "Global Change and the Ecology of Cities". *Science*, 5864: 756-760.

(D) Shillington LJ. 2013. "Right to food, right to the city: Household urban agriculture and sionatural metabolism in Managua, Nicaragua". *Geoforum* 44 (1): 103–111.

Recommended readings:

For a brief summary of the Marxist concept of metabolism, see: <http://sdonline.org/56/volume-25-no-2/the-dialectic-of-social-and-ecological-metabolism-marx-mezzaros-and-the-absolute-limits-of-capital/>

Engels, F. 1845. *The Condition of the Working Classes in England* [selections]

Swyngedouw E. 1996. "The city as a hybrid: On nature, society and cyborg urbanization". *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 7 (2): 65–80.

Jan 29 – Producing Urban Space

How space is conceptualized matters for our understanding of urban environmental injustices. Space is not simply inert and empty, waiting to be filled by the march of time or human activities

and objects, but rather is actively produced through relations of power, systems of knowledge, and material artifacts (take for instance gates, public squares, highways, parks, etc...how do these shape who has access to space and who does not?). In this lecture, we will look at key theories related to the *production* of urban space. Of particular import here will be Lefebvre's notion that capitalism is premised on the "production of space".

Harvey, D. 2008. "The Right to the City". *New Left Review*, <http://newleftreview.org/II/53/david-harvey-the-right-to-the-city>

Smith, N. 1982. Gentrification and Uneven Development. *Economic Geography*, 58 (2): 139-155.

(D) Rothstein, R. 2014. "The Making of Ferguson: Public Policies at the Root of its Troubles" Economic Policy Institute, <http://www.epi.org/publication/making-ferguson/>

(D) Heynen, N. 2006. "Green urban political ecologies: toward a better understanding of inner-city environmental change", *Environment and Planning: A*, 38 (3): 499-516.

(D) Quastel, N. 2009. "Political Ecologies of Gentrification". *Urban Geography* 30 (7): 694-725.

Recommended readings

Lefebvre, Henri. 1991. The Production of Space. Oxford: Blackwell.

Smith, N. 1984 [2008]. Uneven Development: Nature, Capital, and the Production of Space. Athens and London: University of Georgia Press.

Feb 5 – The (Post-)Colonial City: Power, Knowledge, Architecture, Health

Much of what we observe in cities in the Global South today can be traced to enduring legacies of the colonial encounter. Such legacies include patterns of racial and ethnic segregation, uneven infrastructure access, and Orientalist "knowledge" and discourses aimed at reading and controlling the native "other". In this lecture, we move beyond political-economic (structural) explanations for how capitalist processes shape urban space and resources, and now turn to the role of discourses, knowledge, subjectification, and architecture in shaping urban environments, drawing in particular from the (post-structural) contributions of theorists Edward Said, Stuart Hall, and Michel Foucault.

AlSayyad, N. (Ed). 1992. "Introduction" in Forms of Dominance: On the Architecture and Urbanism of the Colonial Enterprise. Aldershot and Vermont: Ashgate Publishing.

Hall, S. 1993. "The West and The Rest: Discourse and Power" in B Gieben and S Hall (Eds), The Formations of Modernity: Understanding Modern Societies: an Introduction. Cambridge: Polity Press.

(D) Swanson, M. 1977. "The Sanitation Syndrome: Bubonic Plague and Urban Native Policy in the Cape Colony", 1900-1909. *The Journal of African History*, 18 (3): 387-410.

(D) Kooy, M. and K Bakker. 2008. "Splintered networks: The colonial and contemporary waters of Jakarta". *Geoforum*, 39: 1843-1858.

(D) McFarlane, C. 2008. Governing the Contaminated City: Infrastructure and Sanitation in Colonial and Post-Colonial Bombay. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 32 (2).

Recommended readings:

Foucault, M. 1980. Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977.

Foucault, M. 2003. "Governmentality". In P Rabinow & N Rose (Eds.), The Essential Foucault: Selections from Essential Works of Foucault, 1954-1984. New York: The New Press.

Said, E. 1978. Orientalism. Random House: New York.

Bryant, R. 1998. "Power, knowledge and political ecology in the third world: a review". *Progress in Physical Geography*. 22: 79-94

Legg, S. 2007. Spaces of Colonialism: Delhi's Urban Governmentalities. Blackwell Publishing, Malden.

Feb 12 – Urban “Apartheids” in the North and South: Tracing Environmental Injustices

In the US, the rise of environmental justice as an activist movement and policy and scholarly arena was contemporaneous with the latter years of the Civil Rights movement. In South Africa, environmental justice became an important language of urban activist struggles during the latter years of apartheid rule. While as a scholarly field, environmental justice retains important differences with urban political ecology, particularly in its liberal conception of justice, its overarching goals strongly overlap with those of urban political ecology. In this lecture, we embark on a comparative analysis of “apartheids” and environmental injustices in cities of the North and South.

Holifield, R. 2001. Defining Environmental Justice and Environmental Racism. *Urban Geography* 22 (1): 78-90.

(D) Bullard, R. and G. Johnson. 2000. “Environmental Justice: Grassroots Activism and Its Impact on Public Policy Decision Making”. *Journal of Social Issues*, 56 (3): 555-578.

(D) Williams, B. 2001. “A River Runs Through Us”. *American Anthropologist* 103 (2).

(D) Debbane, A. and R. Keil. 2004. “Multiple disconnections: environmental justice and urban water in Canada and South Africa”. *Space and Polity*, 8 (2): 209-225.

Recommended readings

Morello-Frosch, R. 2002. Discrimination and the political economy of environmental inequality. *Environment and Planning: C*, 20 (4): 477-496.

Heynen, Nik, Perkins, Harold, and Roy, Parama. 2006. "The Political Ecology of Uneven Urban Green Space: The Impact of Political Economy on Race and Ethnicity in Producing Environmental Inequality in Milwaukee." *Urban Affairs Review*, 42:1, 3-25.

Pulido, L. 2000. “Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California”. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 90 (1): 12-40.

Feb 19 – Urban Informality, Marginality, and Poverty: Disentangling Myth from Reality

In cities around the world, people live under conditions of precarious land tenure. Laws and regulations (particularly around land) are flexibly and differentially interpreted, and various groups are involved in everyday negotiations around basic services, such as water and shelter. Arguably, “urban informality” can be posited as “the new normal”. As Roy and others have suggested, informality is not necessarily synonymous with poverty (i.e. even the wealthy and middle class engage in informality). So what is urban informality? How is it related to marginality and poverty? And why does informality matter from an environmental standpoint? This lecture takes a hard look at these questions, tracing key debates from the early 1970s to the current moment. Pay close attention to the differences in tone between Perlman and Davis.

Read this blog entry for a summary of the genesis of the term of “urban informality”:

<http://projectafricanewschool.wordpress.com/2013/02/28/everyday-africa-and-the-theory-of-informality/>

Roy, A. 2005. “Urban Informality: Towards an Epistemology of Planning”. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 71 (2): 147-158.

Davis, Mike. 2004. “Planet of Slums”. *New Left Review*. <http://newleftreview.org/II/26/mike-davis-planet-of-slums>

(D) Schwartz, K. et al. 2014. (In)formality: the meshwork of water service provisioning. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews* 2 (1): 31-36.

(D) Nejeru, J. 2006. “The urban political ecology of plastic bag waste problem in Nairobi, Kenya”. *Geoforum*. 37 (6): 1046-1058

Recommended readings

- Perlman, J. 2004. "Marginality: From Myth to Reality in the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro," In Roy, A. and N. AlSayyad (eds) *Urban Informality: Transnational Perspectives from the Middle East, Latin America, and South Asia*. Washington: Lexington Books, pp. 105-146.
- Devlin, R. 2011. "An area that governs itself': Informality, uncertainty and the management of street vending in New York City". *Planning Theory*, 10 (1): 53-65.
- Portes, A., M. Castells and L. Benton. 1989. *The Informal Economy: Studies in Advanced and Less Developed Countries*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore
- Auyero, J. 1999. "This is a lot like the Bronx, isn't it? Lived experiences of marginality in an Argentine slum," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 23(1): 45-69.

Feb 26 – Urban Environmental Governance and the State

Over the last three decades, cities have become staging grounds for new forms of market-led governance that have shaped every sphere of metropolitan development, from infrastructure to real estate to urban natural resources management. Among urban scholars, there is considerable interest in theorizing these various articulations of "neoliberal" environmental governance and implications for the role of the state and marginalized groups (particularly in the urban water sector which we will look at later). The readings for this session delve into various paradigms of urban planning and governance paying close attention to how urban policies have been transformed in recent years.

- Harvey, D. 1989. "From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism: The Transformation of Urban Governance in Late Capitalism". *Geographiska Annaler. Series B, Human Geography*, 17 (1): 3-12.
- Peck, J. and A. Tickell. 2002. "Neoliberalizing space". *Antipode*, 34 (3): 380-404.
- (D)** Kurtz, H. 2004. "Acknowledging the Racial State: An Agenda for Environmental Justice Research". *Antipode*. 41 (4): 684-704.
- (D)** Miraftab, F. 2004. "Neoliberalism and Casualization of Public Sector Services: The Case of Waste Collection Services in Cape Town, South Africa". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 28 (4): 874-892.

Recommended readings:

- Brenner, N. and N. Theodore. 2002. "Cities and the Geographies of 'Actually Existing Neoliberalism'". *Antipode*, 34 (3).
- Harvey, D. .2005. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Gabriel, N. 2014. Urban Political Ecology: Environmental Imaginary, Governance, and the Non-Human. *Geography Compass*, 8 (1): 38-48.

Mar 5 – "Sustainable Cities", "Smart Cities": Influential Imaginaries and Practices

Growing recognition of the importance of urban climate change mitigation and adaptation, among other environmental challenges, has given rise to new visions of "sustainable", "smart", and "resilient" cities. What does this hopeful vocabulary entail in practice? In the Global South, does the "sustainable city" run up against the consumer-oriented "world-class city"? In this lecture, we look critically at the emergence of influential urban imaginaries, whether and how they shape urban planning, and their effects on the ground. Read the following critical pieces with a broad understanding of Washington, DC's Sustainability Plan: <http://sustainable.dc.gov/finalplan>.

- Krueger, R and J Agyeman. 2005. "Sustainability schizophrenia or "actually existing sustainabilities?" toward a broader understanding of the politics and promise of local sustainability in the US". *Geoforum*. 36 (4): 410-417.
- (D) Bulkeley, H et al. 2014. "Contesting climate justice in the city: Examining politics and practice in urban climate change experiments", *Global Environmental Change*, 25: 31-40.
- (D) Myers, G. 2008. "Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice in African Cities". *Geography Compass*, 2 (3): 695-708.
- (D) Pow, CP and Neo, H. 2013. "Seeing Red Over Green: Contesting Urban Sustainabilities in China" *Urban Studies* 50 (11): 2256-2274.

Recommended readings:

- Hollands, R. 2008. "Will the real smart city please stand up? Intelligent, progressive or entrepreneurial?" *City* 12 (3).
- Comfort, L. 2006. "Cities at Risk: Hurricane Katrina and the Drowning of New Orleans". *Urban Affairs Review*, 41 (4): 501-516
- Brand, P. 2007. "Green Subjection: The Politics of Neoliberal Urban Environmental Management". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 31 (3): 616-632.

Mar 12 - No class

Mar 19 - Hydro-Politics - I

Given its salience to urban metabolism, water is an important area of study in urban political ecology. In Part I, we will look at formative works that theorize the relationship between urban water, power, and money, and in Part II, we will move on to contemporary debates. Of particular interest to scholars have been the implications of water privatization and market-based reform on access and the sustainability of the sector, as well as the forms of political struggle that take root at sites of water policy change.

- Swyngedouw, E. 1997. "Power, nature, and the city: The conquest of water and the political ecology of urbanization in Guayaquil, Ecuador, 1880-1990". *Environment and Planning A*, 29 (2): 311-332.
- (D) Gandy, Matthew. 2003. Concrete and Clay: Reworking Nature in New York City. Cambridge: MIT Press (selections).

Recommended readings:

- Monstadt, J. "Conceptualizing the political ecology of urban infrastructures: insights from technology and urban studies", *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.
- Swyngedouw, E. 2009. "The Political Economy and Political Ecology of the Hydro-Social Cycle". *Journal of Contemporary Water Research & Education*, (142): 56-60.

Mar 26 - Hydro-Politics - II

- (D) Bakker, K. 2007. "Trickle Down? Private sector participation and the pro-poor water supply debate in Jakarta, Indonesia". *Geoforum*, 38 (5): 855-868.
- (D) Ranganathan, M and C Balazs. Forthcoming. "Water Marginalization at the Urban Periphery: Environmental Justice and Urban Political Ecology Across the North-South Divide". *Urban Geography*.

Recommended readings

- Smith, L. 2004. "The murky waters of the second wave of neoliberalism: corporatization as a service delivery model in Cape Town". *Geoforum*, 35 (3): 375-393.
- Bakker, K. 2010. Governance Failure and the World's Urban Water Crisis. Cornell University Press, New York.
- Anand, N. 2011. "Pressure: The Poli-Technics of Water Supply in Mumbai." *Cultural Anthropology*, 26 (4): 542-562.
- Loftus, A. and F. Lumsden. 2008. "Reworking hegemony in the urban waterscape". *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 33 (1): 109-126.
- Gandy, M. 2008. "Landscapes of Disaster: Water, modernity, and urban fragmentation in Mumbai". *Environment and Planning A*, 40 (1): 108-130.

Apr 2 – Trashy Cities: Dirt, Disorder, and Dystopia

The generation of municipal solid waste presents one of the gravest threats to urban health and sustainability everywhere. In the Global South, most recycling work is carried out under dangerous and exploitative conditions by the urban poor. We will read award-winning New Yorker journalist Katherine Boo's heart-wrenching account of trashwork in a Mumbai slum, alongside political-ecological accounts of municipal solid waste management in other cities of the South.

- (D)** Boo, K. 2012. Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity. New York: Random City (entire book)

Recommended readings:

- Packer, J. 2006. "The Megacity: Decoding the Chaos of Lagos". *New Yorker*
http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2006/11/13/061113fa_fact_packer
- Beall, Jo. 2006. "Dealing With Dirt and the Disorder of Development: Managing Rubbish in Urban Pakistan," *Oxford Development Studies* 34 (1): 81-97.
- Chakrabarty, D. 2002. "Of Garbage, Modernity, and the Citizen's Gaze" in Habitations of Modernity: Essays in the Wake of Subaltern Studies. University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London.
- Mustafa, D. 2005. "The Production of an Urban Hazardscape in Pakistan: Modernity, Vulnerability, and the Range of Choice". *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 95 (3): 566-586.

Apr 9 – Geographies of Mobility and Accessibility

People and things in cities seem to be constantly on the move. A surging middle class in cities across Asia and Africa has meant an explosion in the demand for personal vehicles and associated air pollution. Yet, even as some urban dwellers have gained more mobility, a significant proportion of people in both the North and South rely on public transit and para-transit systems, and often lack accessibility to employment and healthy and nutritious food (as is the case in some cities in the US). In this lecture, we look at uneven geographies of mobility and accessibility in developing and developed cities.

Before and after maps show how freeways transformed America's cities:
<http://www.vox.com/2014/12/29/7460557/urban-freeway-slider-maps>

- (D)** Grengs, J. 2007. "Community-Based Planning as a Source of Political Change: The Transit Equity Movement of Los Angeles' Bus Riders Union" *Journal of the American Planning Association*
- (D)** Brand, P and J Davila. 2011. "Mobility innovation at the urban margins", *City: analysis of urban trends, culture, theory, policy, action*, 15 (6)
- (D)** Véron, René. 2006. "Remaking urban environments: the political ecology of air pollution in Delhi." *Environment and Planning A*, 2093-2109.

Apr 16 – Urban Revolution? The Right to the City and Beyond

Political struggle against unfair policies or conditions of oppression takes many forms, from outright resistance and protest—as has been the case in anti-privatization protests in Latin America—to what Asef Bayat has called “quiet encroachment”. We will look at various political practices that seek to challenge, subvert, or parody dominant forms of rule and subjectivities and ask how these analyses enrich the field of urban political ecology.

- (D) Pieterse, E. Chapter 1 in City Futures: Confronting the Crisis of Urban Development. Zed, London
- (D) Purcell, M. 2003. “Citizenship and the right to the global city: reimagining the capitalist world order”, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 27 (3): 564-590.
- (D) Bayat, A. 2000. From 'Dangerous Classes' to 'Quiet Rebels': Politics of the Urban Subaltern in the Global South. *International Sociology*, 15 (3): 533-557.

Apr 23 – Wrap-up Discussion