

University College Maastricht
Period 2
2017-18
Course SSC3047

Course book

**Urban Development & Poverty in
the 21st Century**

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PREFACE

This updated 12th edition of the course book is a course manual with links to books, academic journal articles, and reports, usually available at the university's library and study centres. Effort has been made to provide easy access to various web-related sources, but there may be inaccuracies. Please send us an email if you find one.

To stay informed we use the Student Portal as a general communication tool to provide the latest information on lectures, deadlines, literature and extra materials. All students should check their university email to be aware of course changes.

For students not acquainted with the Maastricht problem-based learning system we advise consultation of *PBL Study Skills; an overview* by C. van Til & F. van der Heijden (ISBN 90-5398-057-1, to be ordered from Department of Educational Development and Research, tel 043-3885725, or e-mail: secretariaat-educ@educ.unimaas.nl).

In case of questions, problems or uncertainties, your tutor is your first contact; if required students can also contact the course co-ordinator by email, phone or at the plenary lectures.

We wish you a stimulating and interesting course!

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Introduction: Urban Development and Poverty in the 21st Century

In 2008, the world reaches an invisible but momentous milestone: For the first time in history, more than half its human population, 3.3 billion people, will be living in urban areas. By 2030, this is expected to swell to almost 5 billion. Many of the new urbanites will be poor. Their future, the future of cities in developing countries, the future of humanity itself, all depend very much on decisions made *now* in preparation for this growth.

UNFPA, 2007, p. 1.

Each year and all over the world, millions of people move from urban areas to cities. Modern urban growth and development have been inexorably entwined with economic, technological and cultural globalisation. But who are the winners and the losers in these processes of global change? This course frames ‘the city’ as “a heuristic space – a space capable of producing knowledge about some of the major transformations of an epoch” (Sassen, 2011, p. 5) and as a lens through which to acquire knowledge about development and poverty in our globally interconnected and troublesome world.

In many ways the city, as an urban space, can be conceptualized as a contested site, a compact ‘laboratory’ where many of the tensions and opportunities related to globalisation and development are acted out. Through readings in this course we delve into the human aspects of these contrasting and contradictory spaces, and we analyse social, economic and political processes in industrial and post-industrial cities. We discuss connections and tensions between urban communities and economic development; the creation of vulnerable populations through urbanization and the precariousness of labour; the structural failures of slum ecologies and how they affect people; and also how citizens nevertheless find myriad modes of making the city their home.

The units of this course each investigate different aspects of how cities, especially the emerging megacities of the Global South, are actors in creating local-global spaces around the world. We will examine the articulation of neoliberalism in urban space, the consequences of international debt and structural adjustment projects in ‘megacities’, and we look at how cities are hubs for moving people (most often women) to other places to make a living in the service industries - domestic labour, sex work, cleaning jobs. Further yet, we examine the opportunities these cities represent: as spaces of creativity, new melanges of identities, new cultural forms and novel cultural, economic, social and political prospects. In short: we aspire to infuse you with knowledge both of how urban development and poverty are structurally reproduced in highly political ways, *and* of how ‘cityness’ also always depends on how people – in particular the less well-to-do — manage to flexibly and inventively arrange their lives on a daily basis.

Fundamentally, this course departs from the question what it takes to live and survive in a megacity when very poor, marginalized, silenced, made invisible, patronized, and rendered peripheral. Key to this point of departure is the notion, coined by Simone (2010) of ‘cityness’:

Cityness refers to the city as a thing in the making In other words, at the heart of city life is the capacity for its different people, spaces, activities, and things to interact in ways that exceed

any attempt to regulate them. While the absence of regulation is commonly seen as a bad thing, one must first start with the understanding that no form of regulation can keep the city 'in line'. Simone, 2010, p. 3.

We look at what constrains the range of options the urban poor can choose from when designing their lives, but we also look at the ways in which, despite of these constraints, people make a living and contribute crucially to what cities are, and at where these constraints and modalities of survival meet. The course thus focuses on development and poverty in cities; on how inequalities emerge, are sustained and combated in megacities & slums; and, crucially, on what it takes to live and survive in poverty in metropolises.

The course starts (Unit 1) with *introducing* the topic of megacities and their peripheries, their ghettos/slums/shantytowns/informal settlements through the lenses of Davis' *Planet of Slums* (2006), and UN-HABITAT (the UN programme which supports governments to achieve MDG7-11, the 'slum target'). We confront different approaches to the future of slums.

Moving from there we study six areas of the 'urban climateric', as Davis calls it, or of 'cityness', as Simone would probably prefer. Each of these areas inquires into the emergence, sustenance and contestation of basic and major inequalities within the city. Thus we develop at once a profound understanding of urban inequalities and insights into their emergence, solidification and their contestations. The six areas are simultaneously thematic and to a certain extent disciplinary.

In Unit 2 we look at *urban infrastructures* – planned and unplanned, made from concrete as well as from/by urban inhabitants. We do this from the perspective of urban and human geography – the study of the interaction between human beings and their environment in particular places and across spatial areas. We ask how the city's built environments affects the positioning of its citizens in politically relevant and also often gendered ways. In other words, we explore how infrastructures can invite and exclude, but also how they are being circumvented and bent around by particularly the urban poor, and how people always find ways to alter and own their city – in short, how people themselves can be(come) a city's infrastructures.

In Unit 3 we look at the domain of cultural production. Being poor in a city does not (only) come with hardships, and not all hardships are unproductive. As part of this course's aim to look at how the urban poor contribute to the cities they struggle to survive in, in this unit we look from a broad *cultural studies* perspective at the domain of cultural production - think of cinema (p.e. Nollywood), photography (p.e. Lagosphoto), fashion (Dakar Fashion Week, Sapeurs de Congo), visual arts (graffiti, other), music (Rio's Baile funk, Kenya's ghetto rap) etcetera. How do such art-forms emerge from and relate to marginality? What does engaging with these art-forms offer to people in terms of who they are and how they contribute to the city?

In Unit 4 we explore *precarity and precarious labour*, from the angle of *political economy*. Key to this unit is Guy Standing's *The Precariat* (2011): "The precariat is defined as those people who not only have insecure jobs or move uneasily between short-term jobs and spells of unemployment, but who lack any sense of occupational identity or narrative to give their lives. Their incomes are insecure; their housing is often

insecure as well.” We focus on how precarity tends to structurally affect the already vulnerable urban poor inhabitants of megacities of the Global South more than others – especially migrants, women, and youth. But we also look at how notions of ‘precarity’ and ‘precariousness’ tend to argue from a ‘majority-world’ perspective.

In Unit 5 we investigate how urban spaces deal with *gendered labour*. Cities are not only places in which people live and make a living – they are also mobility-hubs. People use cities to migrate from and to, as spaces to temporarily inhabit before another move; and they use cities to facilitate the (involuntary) movement of others, which we would call trafficking. We look at the gendered form of these movements: at women who migrate or who are being migrated to work in the service industry i.e. who do domestic, cleaning and sex-work far away from home so as, perhaps, to improve their own lives and/or that of their families back ‘home’. We explore how cities facilitate these migrations, but also whether and when it makes sense to differentiate between voluntary and involuntary movement, and between migration for domestic and sex work.

Unit 6 examines how issues of *pollution, climate change and other ecological hazards* tend to hit the urban poor much harder than they do the well-to-do. Non-human and human forces are highly related in two ways: first in that informal settlements tend to often be located dangerously close to natural hazards (volcanos, earthquakes, floods), and second in that these ‘natural’ hazards are closely related to man-made developments and decisions (pollution, climate change, urban design, etc.). Here, we return to at urban informal settlements, with a perspective on how their location and their infrastructures affect the urban poor, but now with a focus on how people create opportunities to make a living from and live in waste(s) of others, and how local governments struggle to accommodate their paradoxical contribution to the city’s (in)sanity.

In Unit 7 we close the circle by looking closely at the complexities of *cityness*, in particular at how the city is lived by the urban poor. Abdoumalig Simone is primarily and crucially interested in how the ‘urban poor’ (and others marginalized groups) are also actively constituting and re-negotiating the ever-changing cities they live in. His ethnographically inspired writings are sometimes accused of romanticizing and depoliticizing what it is like to be poor in a city, but by writing from a ‘majority-world perspective’, he also argues how peripheries are crucial sites where the city is being (re)made. For Simone, cityness ‘refers to the city as a thing in the making’ (Simone 2010, p. 3) and articulating the intricacies of survival and innovation in a city, he argues, is key to devising policies that might work.

The seven Units will be accompanied by a lecture provided by an expert from FASoS or another university. The lectures frame and reframe the weekly themes by providing grounded takes on the issues we discuss. The lectures are thus a valuable addition to and an integral part of the course.

Throughout this course, you will be developing an understanding of many new concepts that are important to how researchers discuss and theorize the workings of cities in the light of globalisation, survival and poverty. We focus on the following four as key for exploring urban development in the Global South:

- infrastructures
- survival logics
- cityness
- countergeographies of globalisation

Keep these keywords in mind as discussion points throughout the course.

References:

Simone, A. (2010), *City Life from Jakarta to Dakar: Movements at the Crossroads*. New York: Routledge.

Standing, G. (2011). http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbyMM_q2VFg

UNFPA (2007), *State of the World Population: unleashing the potential of urban growth*. New York: UNFPA.

EDUCATIONAL SETTING

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students have acquired knowledge about the impact of urbanization on the interrelationship of development and poverty in an increasingly globalized world, in particular:

- o drivers in processes of urbanization and slum formation;
- o the emergence of 'megacities' and their consequences in terms of urban planning;
- o challenges and opportunities for cities through multi-cultural identities, spaces and processes of transnationalism;
- o ecological challenges and opportunities facing urban slums;
- o impacts of (urban) poverty and precarity on people's rights;
- o how major global crises (financial, climate, migration) are interlocking and expressing themselves in the major urban centres;
- o how globalization and urban poverty have been and can be conceptualized and interrelated.

Problem-based Units and Group Meetings

Overview

Students gather each week on Friday for a group session (Tutorial) of 2 hours and for a plenary session/lecture on each Tuesday. Four additional tutorials are planned on Tuesdays.

- The lectures aim to connect the study units, to give background and answer questions that came up in the study groups.
- In the Tutorial sessions, students discuss the literature according to problem-based educational rules.
- In week 4 and 5, on Tuesday, students present part of their city file to their group members, after which they finalise their city file.
- Students are required to bring the literature to class, to facilitate in-depth discussions.

Tutorials

Students will read course materials and attend all tutorials. Readings will be material for discussion in 8 tutorials. Within each Unit's pre-discussion, students will collaboratively define learning goals for the group to study the related literature, determine their own conclusions, and possibly formulate other relevant issues during the in-depth post-discussion of each unit. In order to facilitate the pre- and post-discussion, students are expected to bring all relevant literature to class.

Lectures

All lectures will take place on Tuesday afternoons for 2 hours (13.30-15.30). These lectures will not be counted as obligatory for your attendance in this course; however, the content discussed in the lectures may be included in the final exam. Please arrive on time. The lecturer will be shortly introduced after which the lecture will start, usually with a 15 min break midway. Students are encouraged to prepare questions for the lecturers and or discussion.

Lectures MGD3001 and SSC3047

Tuesdays 13:30 – 15:30 hrs
FASoS TURNZAAL Grote Gracht 90-92

October 31st

Dr. Bernike Pasveer
FASoS/UM

Introduction to the Course

November 7th

Dr. Lauren Wagner
FASoS/UM

Colonial legacies in Urban Planning

November 14th

Tracian Meikle
University of Amsterdam

Cultural Production

November 21st

Dr. Erhard Berner
ISS, The Hague

Precarious Entrepreneurship

November 28th

Melanie Uy
University of Amsterdam

Labour-Migration

December 5th

Dr. Robert Coates
Wageningen University

Uneven Development and Political Ecology

December 13th

Dr. Simone Frangella
ICS Lisbon

Human Infrastructures

The City File

The City File assignment consists of an analysis of a specific city, framed by the focus of this course: to look at how the urban poor/marginalized make sense of and contribute to their city. The objective of this assignment is to critically connect the emergence of a specific megacity to structural issues of poverty, inequality, development and community organization/civil society initiatives as discussed throughout the course. You may choose between two general research questions for your city file:

How do poor/marginalized groups contribute to the city's development?
or
How do poor/marginalized groups manage to survive in the city?

In in groups of 2 or 3 students, you will choose a (mega)city. You then choose three empirical domains related to the course Units (for example: informal labour, cultural activities, and environmental issues) as analytical lenses onto that city. The resulting City File is an *academic* analysis: students are encouraged to use diverse sources including monographs, policy reports and academic articles to substantiate their arguments. Based on your chosen city, you may refine the scope of the general research questions above to focus on key aspects that are most evident and prominent in your city.

As this is a research assignment, students are expected to find their main sources utilizing the databases available through the Maastricht University library portal, such as E-journals, the e-reader, the PiCarta database, and the materials available in the library itself. Besides the reports and policy papers your final reference list should contain an absolute minimum of **at least ten academic sources**, including **five references from the chosen units**. To get you started, here are some resources you will find useful as starting points:

- UM Library Catalogue;
- PiCarta: (NCC + OLC);
- Google Scholar;
- Gugler, J. (2004). *World Cities Beyond the West: globalization, development and inequality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- *Megacities Project*, <http://www.megacitiesproject.org>
- The latest editions (as these may not yet appear in Google Scholar) of UM E-journals such as:
 - *International Migration*
 - *European Journal of Migration and Law*
 - *Forced Migration Review*
 - *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*
 - *The European Journal of Development Research*
 - *Social & Cultural Geography*
 - *Regional Studies*
 - *Journal of Development Studies*
 - *Urban Studies*

- *City & Society*
- *Third World Quarterly*
- *Cities*
- UN-Habitat (2010). The State of African Cities.
(<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3034>)
- UN-Habitat (2010). The State of Asian Cities.
(<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3078>)

Each student is expected to work steadily on their group's City File from week one onwards. Each group member will contribute to giving a presentation consisting of a general introduction and one of the sections of the paper, and contribute to the final paper (City File).

Deliverables: Presentation and Paper

Group work will be organized during the first tutorial session, and then starts immediately from Unit 2 onwards. During week 4 and 5, the Tuesday group meeting will be devoted to **15-20 minute presentations** by each subgroup of the results from 'their' city. The other sub-groups should participate by giving constructive comments and asking questions to improve the analytical perspective of the paper.

- **Bring your Presentation on USB on your assigned day (Tuesday of Week 4 or Week 5)**
- **Share presentation slides with your tutor by 20:00 the day before the presentation**

The **City File Paper** consists of three thematic, well-referenced (minimum 10 academic sources, including 5 references from chosen units), ~1200-word sections chosen from 3 units, plus a ~600-word introduction and a ~600-word conclusion that renders the file into a coherent whole. The entire city-file is thus approximately 4800 words (+/- 10%), using standard 12-point font and following APA style for referencing and bibliography.

- **The presentation makes up 10% of the final grade.** Each individual group member should make a demonstrable contribution to the presentation.
- After the final presentation session, each group has time to edit, and write an introduction and conclusion that renders the file into a coherent written document.
- **The City File Paper (4800 words, +/- 10%) will comprise 40% of the final course grade.**
- Each subgroup uploads its final City File on the Student Portal through Safe Assign. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, may result in ineligibility of the submitted work for grading.
- The City File Papers and Presentations will be graded on a subgroup basis. Each group should include the Preface on Group Member Contributions (see Student Portal for an example).

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	Lecture Unit 1	Tutorial: Introductions, scheduling chairs, organizing groups; U1 pre-discussion Tutorial: U1 post-discussion and U2 pre-discussion
WEEK 2	Lecture Unit 2	Independent Tutor Consultation about City File topics (optional) Tutorial: U2 post; U3 pre
WEEK 3	Lecture Unit 3	--- Tutorial: U3 post; U4 pre
WEEK 4	Lecture Unit 4	Tutorial: Presentations City File (by 3 subgroups) Tutorial: U4 post; U5 pre
WEEK 5	Lecture Unit 5	Tutorial: Presentations City File (by 3 subgroups) Tutorial U5 post; U6 pre
WEEK 6	Lecture Unit 6	Tutorial U6 post; U7 pre Tutorial: U 7 post, evaluation
WEEK 7	Lecture Unit 7 (optional)	Mon Dec 11 All Subgroups Upload City File – 12 noon Take-home exam Published on Eleum – 16:00
WEEK 8		Mon Dec 18 Students submit Take-Home exam via Safe Assign submission point on Student Portal – 16:00

RULES & REGULATIONS

Attendance & Participation

We expect students to be present at all meetings (plenary and group sessions), the attendance rules of UCM apply.

- If not present at least 85% of the 10 Group/Tutorial sessions (i.e. 9 sessions), students will have to do an (extra) assignment before receiving a final grade. Of course we expect you to be present and participate at all tutorials.
- 8 sessions present = 1 assignment (at the co-ordinator's discretion after consultation with the tutor) on missed gatherings
- If 7 or less of 10 sessions present, the course must be retaken

Assignments

In order to permit students to undertake their own research and to relieve some of the pressure from the final exam, students collectively work on a City File of a mega-city of their choice. See the City File section above for details on the Presentation and Written components.

These assignments can be considered a mid-term exam.

Exam

- Take-home exam; the exam is based on the course book, the texts mentioned under the heading 'literature', as well as on the lectures;
- Mid-term exam: presentation & paper (group)
- All students must write in English
- Deadlines: see below.

How to pass this course?

- Presence at least 85%;
- Participation 'satisfactory' (to the tutor's discretion);
- Group grade on 1 City File presentation (10% of final mark);
- Group grade on 1 City File (40% of final mark);
- Individual Take-home exam (50% of final mark).
- Overall mark 5.5 is a pass.
- ECTS 5.

Deadlines

- The deadline for the City Files is **December 11th at 12 noon**. City Files must be handed in through SafeAssign on the Student Portal, using the Group to submit.
- The *Take-Home Exam* will be made available through Eleum, on December 11th at 16:00. The take-home exam must be handed in through SafeAssign on **December 18th, at 16:00**.
- The *resit* will take place according to the UCM schedule for Period 2 courses.

Literature

- Books, book chapters, and articles (paper or electronic versions) are available at the Inner City Library and some at the UCM study room and E-reader). Nearly all readings are also available on the internet.
- **Students are required to bring the literature to class** to facilitate in-depth discussions.

Communication

- Announcements will be made through the Student Portal for this course, and occasionally via email to students' Maastricht University email addresses.
- All papers in this course have to be delivered through Safe Assign on the Student Portal. These should be either in Word (.doc, .docx) or PDF format. Slides for the presentation may be in Powerpoint (.ppt, .pptx) or PDF format.
- **Please visit the Student Portal regularly and use its extra resources and tools!**

Plagiarism

To avoid plagiarism and write papers in the correct format students are strongly advised to read the documents on Academic Writing made available in the Course Material section on the Student Portal. Plagiarism will be officially reported to the UCM examination committee. Regular sanctions of UCM apply.

PROBLEM BASED STUDY UNITS

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO CITIES AND SLUMS

Introduction

We introduce the topic of megacities and their peripheries, their ghettos/slums/shantytowns/informal settlements through the lenses of Davis' *Planet of Slums*, and UN-HABITAT (the UN programme which supports governments to achieve MDG7-11, the 'slum target'). We confront different approaches to the future of slums.

Abrupt accelerated growth

"Before considering why Third World cities and their slums grew so fast in the second half of the twentieth century, it is first necessary to understand why they grew so slowly in the first half. Although there are some exceptions, most of today's megacities of the South share a common trajectory: a regime of relatively slow, even retarded growth, then abrupt acceleration to fast growth in the 1950s and 1960s, with rural in-migrants increasingly sheltered in peripheral slums."

Davis (2006), p. 51

Staggering urban growth

"...cities will account for virtually all future world population growth, which is expected to peak at about 10 billion in 2050. Ninety-five percent of this final buildout of humanity will occur in the urban areas of developing countries, whose populations will double to nearly 4 billion over the next generation. Indeed, the combined urban population of China, India, and Brazil already roughly equals that of Europe and North America...Dhaka, Kinshasa, and Lagos today are each approximately forty times larger than they were in 1950. China—urbanizing "at a speed unprecedented in human history"—added more city-dwellers in the 1980s than did all of Europe (including Russia) in the entire nineteenth century."

Davis (2006), p. 2

The urban divide

"Cities are, more often than not, divided by invisible borders. These split the "centre" from the "off-centre", or the "high" from the "low", as the urban divide is colloquially referred to in many parts of the South The urban divide does not just refer to fragmented space or a community driven by socio-economic disparities. More often than not, economic lines of divide tend to coincide with social, cultural and political barriers."

UN-HABITAT (2010), p. viii & xii

Core and periphery

"[T]he countryside is urbanizing *in situ* as well as generating epochal migrations ... Indeed, in many cases, rural people no longer have to migrate to the city: it migrates to them [...] In the sprawling cities of the Third World, then, "periphery" is a highly relative, time-specific term: today's urban edge, abutting fields, forest, or desert may tomorrow become part of a dense metropolitan core."

Davis (2006), p. 9 & 37



The Slum Target

‘According to UN_HABITAT estimates, between the year 2000 and 2010, a total of 227 million people in the developing world will have moved out of slum conditions. In other words, governments have collectively exceeded the slum target of the Millennium Development Goal 7 by at least 2.2 times, and 10 years ahead of the agreed 2020 deadline.”

UN-Habitat (2010), pp. x

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/>)

Approaches

“*In situ* upgrading of informal settlements, even if incorporated into official urban or housing policies, sits uncomfortable with the political logic that has bought into global competitiveness [...] Urban competitiveness ... actively steers away from ... informal settlement upgrading.”

Huchzermeyer (2011), p. 29-30 & 33

Rights-based approach	Operational approach of the MDGs
Treats the poor as agents, and identifies duties for the state. This has political implications	Treats the poor as objects, and does not articulate duties for the state. Avoids political implications
Promotes accountability of governments to organised citizens	Promotes a monitoring industry
Focuses on causes and complexity of poverty/informality	Focuses only on symptoms of poverty/informality

Huchzermeyer (2011), p. 38

Literature

Davis (2006). *Planet of Slums*. London: Verso.
Chapter 1: The Urban Climacteric, pp. 1-19

Chapter 2: The Prevalence of Slums, pp. 20-49
Chapter 3(a): The Treason of the State, pp. 50-61

UN-Habitat (2010). *The State of the World's Cities 2010-2011*.

Overview & Key findings, pp. viii-xx

Chapter 1.3: Slum Dwellers, pp. 30-49

Online available at:

<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2917>

Huchzermeyer, M. (2011). *Cities with 'Slums': From Informal Settlement Eradication to a Right to the City in Africa*. Claremont SA: UCT Press

Introduction, pp. 1-19

Chapter 1: Informal settlements, global governance and Millennium
Development Goal Seven Target 11, pp. 23-46

UNIT 2: URBAN INFRASTRUCTURES

Introduction

Here we look at *urban infrastructures* - planned and unplanned, made from concrete as well as from/by urban inhabitants. We do this from the perspective of urban and human geography - the study of the interaction between human beings and their environment in particular places and across spatial areas. We ask how the city's built environments affect people's whereabouts in politically relevant and also often gendered ways. That is: how they invite and exclude, but also how they are being circumvented and bent around by particularly the urban poor. Infrastructures thus enable and constrain in relevant ways. We also look at how people always negotiate to whom space belongs, and find ways to alter and own their city - how people themselves can be(come) a city's infrastructures.



The state does nothing

“In too many poor cities, citizens’ relationship to their government is similar to what a Nairobi slum-dweller recently described to a Guardian reporter: “the state does nothing here. It provides no water, no schools, no sanitation, no roads, no hospitals.” Indeed, the journalist found out that residents bought water from private dealers and relied on vigilante groups for security—the police visited only to collect bribes. The minimalist role of national governments in housing supply has been reinforced by current neo-liberal economic orthodoxy as defined by the IMF and the World Bank. The Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) imposed upon debtor nations in the late 1970s and 19

0s required a shrinkage of government programs and, often, the privatization of housing markets.”

Davis (2006), pp. 62-63.

Everyday infrastructures / Gender

“Attending to what is possible in the spacing and timing of daily life highlights the contingencies of these routines and strategies of coping. It exposes the potential for

sometimes fragile daily routines to be disrupted by external events, constrained by the need to coordinate movements with others and made uncertain by gaps or delays in infrastructure networks. Such 'gaps' may include unreliable transport, limited childcare opening hours, or a sick child unable to attend a school or nursery, traffic congestion and general disruption to the timing and spacing of carefully planned and choreographed daily events"

Jarvis (2009), p. 132

Human Infrastructures

"... infrastructure is a medium of conveyance and articulation. It establishes a concrete framework of how residents are able to reach each other, how they are able to think about how they are positioned and located in relationship to each other. Through roads, wires, conduits, grids, and pipes, infrastructure establishes particular forms of individuation and autonomy [...] In a city like Kinshasa, people themselves are the important infrastructure."

Simone (2010), p. 128.

Literature

Davis (2006). *Planet of Slums*. London: Verso

Chapter 3: The Treason of the State, pp. 61-69

Jarvis, H. (2009). *Cities and Gender*, London & New York: Routledge.

Chapter 5: Infrastructures of daily life, pp. 127-156

Simone, A. (2010). *City Life from Jakarta to Dakar: Movements at the Crossroads*. New York: Routledge.

Chapter 3: Intersections: What Can Urban Residents Do With Each Other?, pp. 117-160.

UNIT 3: IDENTITY AND CULTURAL PRODUCTION

Introduction

Being poor in a city does not (only) come with hardships, and not all hardships are unproductive. As part of this course's aim to look at how the urban poor contribute to the cities they struggle to survive in, in this unit we look from a broad *cultural studies* perspective at the domain of cultural production - think of cinema (p.e. Nollywood), photography (p.e. Lagosphoto), fashion (Dakar Fashion Week, Sapeurs de Congo), visual arts (graffiti, other), music (Rio's Baile funk, Kenya's ghetto rap) etcetera. How do such art-forms emerge from and relate to marginality? What does engaging with these art-forms offer to people in terms of who they are and how they contribute to the city?

Fixed and mobile identities

“The imaginary of the ghetto is paradoxical in that it speaks simultaneously to a sense of harshly bordered immobility and isolation, and to a border-crossing cosmopolitan transnationalism. It provides the opportunity to articulate, on the one hand, the local specificity of urban marginal spaces, and on the other, to dwell in a translocal musical space that connects a specific urban locality and its residents to similar spaces and like-minded people across the world. The popular culture imaginary of the ghetto offers a globally resonant frame through which marginalized urban youth can both understand their own local situation in connection to broader processes of urban exclusion and communicate this understanding locally and internationally. As Hall (1997: 183) points out: ‘Paradoxically, the marginal has become a powerful space. It is a space of weak power, but it is a space of power nonetheless’. The spatial identity of the ghetto allows for the linking of highly local identities to more abstract transnational identities.”

Jaffe, R. (2012), p. 682.



Ghetto Biennale Tap Tap in Port-au-Prince (<http://caribbeanintransit.com/>)

Transformation through subversion

"At its core, funk music is a transformational and countercultural practice through which these young people experience sense of unity and find a greater sense of courage to resist the wearying effects of the harsh realities they face on a daily basis. In the space of bailes funk, a densely significant and complex musical culture is enacted in which social norms are subverted and a politically charged and powerfully moral space is conjured up and sustained. In the moment and space of the funk musical experience in the baile, participants are lifted above the limitations of their daily lives to an emotional state that makes available to them the feeling of what it would be like to live in a better world."

Sneed, P (2008), p. 60.

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Chapter 1: The violence of illusion, pp. 1-17
Chapter 2: Making sense of identity, pp. 18-40

UNIT 4: PRECARIITY AND PRECARIOUS LABOUR

Introduction

In this unit, we discuss precarity and precarious labour from the angle of political economy. Key is Guy Standing's *The Precariat* (2011): "The precariat is defined as those people who not only have insecure jobs or move uneasily between short-term jobs and spells of unemployment, but who lack any sense of occupational identity or narrative to give their lives. Their incomes are insecure; their housing is often insecure as well." We focus on how precarity tends to structurally affect the already vulnerable urban poor inhabitants of megacities of the global south even harder: migrants, women, youth. But we look at how the notions of 'precarity' and 'precariousness' tend to argue from a 'minority-world' perspective.



The precariat

"[the precariat] consists of a multitude of insecure people, living bits-and-pieces lives, in and out of short-term jobs, without a narrative of occupational development, including millions of frustrated educated youth who do not like what they see before them, millions of women abused in oppressive labour, growing numbers of criminalised tagged for life, millions being categorised as 'disabled' and migrants in their hundreds of millions around the world. They are denizens; they have a more restricted range of social, cultural, political and economic rights than citizens around them."

Standing (2011)

Minority- and majority-world perspectives

"From a Southern perspective work has always-already been precarious, a basic fact which unsettles the notion that something new has been discovered. The genealogy of the concept precarity/precariat already shows its Southern origins, but this is never really acknowledged. While the precariat discourse exudes a nostalgia for something which has passed (the Keynesian/Fordist/welfare state), it does not speak to a South which never experienced welfare state capitalism. The Southern experience of precarity is marked by the nature of the postcolonial state and, later, by the developmental state where this has emerged. The changing nature of work as a result of the erosion of the welfare state is but one modality of precarity, others have been in existence for a long

time in the fraught relations between workers, the state and society in the South, marked by limited forms of citizenship.”

Munck, R. (2013), p. 752

Beyond the formal-informal binary

“... the fundamental problem with the formal-informal approach is it tells us what work relations and economies are not, i.e., ‘formal.’ For the few who are ‘formal,’ labor and social protections are increasingly elusive, as we argue in the following sections. Engaging the binary risks reinforcing it, thus further marginalizing vulnerable populations. Furthermore, the informal economy will not meet ‘inevitable extinction.’ Work in the informal economy is unlikely to be transitioned into employment in the formal economy. Alternate theoretical and empirical approaches are needed to de-link social and labor protections from ‘formal’ employment arrangements.”

Arnold & Bongiovi (2012), p. 5

Different kinds of entrepreneurs

“... the entrepreneurs in the slums risk their own assets and independently allocate factors of production, apply their knowledge to their business and make decisions about stocking, changes in their offer and contracting credit. Therefore, they are entrepreneurs indeed – but [...] a different type of entrepreneurs with distinct support needs.”

Berner et.al. (2012), p. 384



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UNIT 5: LABOUR-MIGRATION: SEX, GENDER, AGENCY

Introduction

Cities are not only places in which people live and make a living – they are also mobility-hubs. People use cities to migrate from and to, as spaces to temporarily inhabit before another move; and they use cities to facilitate the (involuntary) movement of others; we would call that trafficking. Here we look at a gendered form of such movements: at women who migrate or who are being migrated to work in the service industry i.e. who do domestic, cleaning and sex-work far away from home so as, perhaps, to improve their own lives and/or that of their families back ‘home’. ... We look at how cities facilitate these migrations, but also at whether and when it makes sense to differentiate between voluntary and involuntary movement, and between migration for domestic and sex work.

Countergeographies of globalization

“The last decade has seen a growing presence of women in a variety of cross- border circuits. These circuits are enormously diverse but share one feature: they are profit- or revenue-making circuits developed on the backs of the truly disadvantaged. They include the illegal trafficking in people for the sex industry and for various types of formal and informal labor markets. And they include cross-border migrations, both documented and not, which have become an important source of hard currency for governments in home countries. The formation and strengthening of these circuits is in good part a consequence of broader structural conditions. Among the key actors emerging out of these broader conditions to give shape to these particular circuits are the women themselves in search of work, but also, and increasingly so, illegal traffickers and contractors as well as governments of home countries. I conceptualize these circuits as countergeographies of globalization.”

Sassen (2005), p. 12

International labour-migration

“[O]ur analysis highlights how labour migration has some contradictory effects on women migrant workers we interviewed. On the one hand, the opportunity for labour migration increases women’s vulnerability because of the social construction of gender in Bangladesh; on the other hand, migration is beneficial because it provides migrant women with the opportunity to resist existing power and authority over them.”

Blanger & Rahman (2013), p. 357



Internal migrant workers

“Among the waves of internal migrant workers arriving in the industrial cities over the past two decades, young women have been among the first to be picked up by the new export-oriented industries. Young women constitute a high proportion of the factory workers, making up over 70 percent of the total workforce in the garment, toy, and electronics industries (Ching Kwan Lee 1998; Pun Ngai 2005a). Their gender, in addition to their youth and rural migrant status, is an integral part of China’s export-led industrialization facilitating production for the world market. This gendered process of proletarianization echoes the feminization of labor use and the growth of new factory-towns under the export-led industrialization model prevalent in Latin America and Asia since the 1960.”

Ngai (2007), p. 240

Migrating for sex-work

“My argument is that, while some migrants who sell sex, along with their migrations, can usefully be studied within the criminological frame, the vast majority should be treated by migration scholars, who need to resist an apparent taboo on sexual matters that leads to shyness or delicacy rather than straightforward study.”

Agustín (2006), p. 29/30

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UNIT 6: ECOLOGICAL VULNERABILITY AND URBAN POVERTY

Introduction

Unit 6 looks at how issues of pollution, climate change and other ecological hazards tend to hit the urban poor much harder than they do the well-to-do. Non-human and human forces are highly related in two ways: first in that informal settlements tend to often be located dangerously close to natural hazards (volcanos, earthquakes, floods), and second in that these 'natural' hazards are closely related to man-made developments and decisions (pollution, climate change, urban design etc.). And so we look at urban informal settlements again, and at how their location and their infrastructures affect the urban poor. But we also investigate - again - how people create opportunities to make a living from and live in (other people's) waste, and how local governments struggle to accommodate their contribution to the city's (in)sanity.

Urban inequality and segregation

"Urban inequality in the Third World is visible even from space: satellite reconnaissance of Nairobi reveals that more than half of the population lives on just 18 percent of the city area (...). Bombay, according to some urban geographers, may be the extreme: "While the rich have 90 percent of the land and live in comfort with many open areas, the poor live crushed together on 10 percent of the land." Davis (2006), pp. 95-96

"Urban segregation is not a frozen status quo, but rather a ceaseless social war in which the state intervenes regularly in the name of 'progress,' 'beautification,' and even 'social justice for the poor' to redraw spatial boundaries to the advantage of landowners, foreign investors, elite homeowners, and middle-class commuters." Davis (2006), p. 98



Mumbai

Squatting in dangerous places

“Squatters trade physical safety and public health for a few square meters of land and some security against eviction. They are the pioneer settlers of swamps, floodplains, volcano slopes, unstable hillsides, rubbish mountains, chemical dumps, railroad sidings, and desert fringes (...). Precisely because [a] site is so hazardous and unattractive, it offers “protection from rising land values in the city.” Such sites are poverty’s niche in the ecology of the city, and very poor people have little choice but to live with disaster.”

Davis (2006), pp. 121-122

Changing rhetoric on ‘cartoneros’

“...neoliberal urban institutions ... offered caricaturing renditions of the cartoneros as “disturbing”, “dirty”, “invaders” of the central city, a label that serves simultaneously as decriptor and stereotype [...] At the same time ... another force was emerging: the drive to upgrade the formerly disinvested areas in the southern area of Buenos Aires. The more pronounced visibility and ascendant fear and anxieties, along with a push to upgrade disinvested areas in mid 2003, prompted neoliberal urban institutions to craft rhetoric and envision policies to normalize the cartoneros’ visibility and organize their activity away from the street-scape and public visibility.”

Sternberg, C. A. (2013), p. 191



Cartoneros in Buenos Aires

http://ferfal.blogspot.nl/2009_08_01_archive.html

Right to the city

“Over the decades, the Zabaleen have created what is arguably one of the world’s most efficient resource recovery and MSW recycling systems. Figure 1 shows the storage of bags of sorted materials ready for recycling as well as the increasingly

upgraded buildings used for both residences and recycling businesses. Figure 2 illustrates the location of the Zabaleen's main settlement between the Muqattam Hills and the long established informal settlement of Manshiet Nasser. It also demonstrates the relative proximity of 'Garbage City' to Cairo's business and administrative centres and to its historic cultural core in Islamic Cairo. Yet the continuation of this intricate relationship between community, environment, and livelihood is jeopardized by official municipalities' privatization plans of MSW services through contracting technology-intensive multinational corporations. Such a privatization approach threatens the socio-economic sustainability of the garbage collectors community as it fails to allow people to build incrementally on their technologically appropriate indigenous patterns of living. Because the authorities do not intend to compensate them for these changes, the Zabaleen could lose access to their economic assets; waste garbage. This situation has led the authorities to pursue a policy of moving the Zabaleen activities further out of the city, claiming that this will turn Zabaleen neighborhoods into cleaner living environments while still allowing the MSW sorting, recovering, trading, and recycling to occur. But such relocation plans will increase the Zabaleen's travelling distance and cost of services delivered to residential and commercial places, thus creating new risks for the sustainability of the Zabaleen's foothold on trade and livelihood." Fahmi & Sutton (2010).

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Chapter 5: Haussmann in the Tropics, pp. 95-120

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UNIT 7: ON CITYNESS

Introduction

In this Unit we close the circle by looking closely at the complexities of *cityness*, in particular at how the city is lived by the urban poor. Simone is primarily and crucially interested in how the ‘urban poor’ (and others marginalized groups) are also actively constituting and re-negotiating the ever-changing cities they live in. Simone's ethnographically inspired writings are sometimes accused of romanticizing and depoliticizing what it is like to be poor in a city, but by writing from a ‘majority-world perspective’, he also argues how peripheries are sites where the city is crucially being (re)made. For Simone, cityness ‘refers to the city as a thing in the making’ (Simone 2010, p. 3) and articulating the intricacies of survival and innovation in a city, he argues, is key to devising policies that might work.

Cityness

“Cityness refers to the city as a thing in the making ... In other words, at the heart of city life is the capacity for its different people, spaces, activities, and things to interact in ways that exceed any attempt to regulate them. While the absence of regulation is commonly seen as a bad thing, one must first start with the understanding that no form of regulation can keep the city “in line”.”

Simone (2010), p. 3

Policies

“The important work is perhaps simply to document [the] efforts on the part of the poor to give rise to a new moral universe, a sense of value, of potential, and of the unexpected to which people’s attention, no matter how poor, is also paid. If there are policies that could possibly bring about a more judicious distribution of resources, income, and opportunities, the grassroots will also have to mobilize themselves to meet them.”

Simone (2010), p. 39

Literature

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Chapter 1: On Cityness, pp. 1-59.