

Reading Notes

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Neoliberalism

Roger Keith, *Urban Neoliberalism: Rolling with the changes in a globalising world*

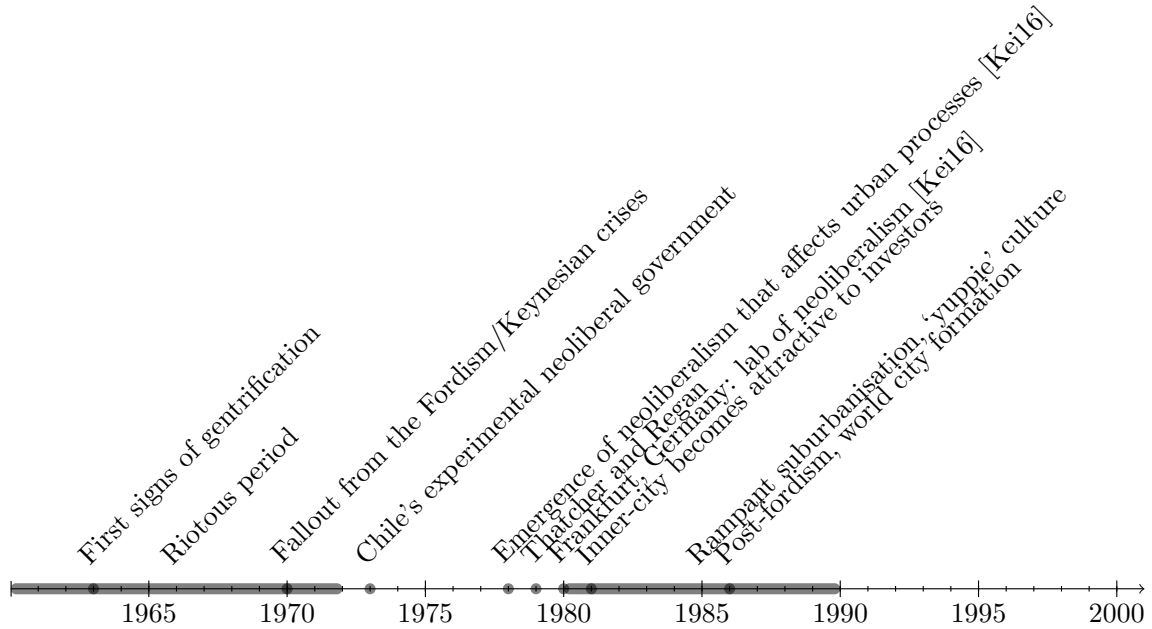
Keywords: neoliberalism, roll back/roll out/roll with it urbanism, Brenner/Schmidt, Schipper, governmentality, ecological dominance

- Urbanisation and neoliberalisation are processes that are material and discursive. They have real ramifications, through which modern capitalist societies are reproduced
- **Neoliberalism** is the role that the state plays in facilitating market rule, and the expansion of market mechanisms and thinking to extra-economic sectors that it entails
 - **Roll-back neoliberalism:** the state does not play a prominent role in early neoliberalism
 - **Roll-out neoliberalism:** the state facilitates neoliberalism, with new forms of institution-building and governmental intervention, concerned specifically with the regulation, disciplining, and containment of those marginalised and dispossessed by the 1980 neoliberalism
- Foucault-inspired critique
 - **Governmentality:** under neoliberalism, individuals govern themselves and are responsible for their own well-being, rather than relying on the government/the state to intervene. Political subjects "govern at a distance"
 - In the neoliberal city, we can expect people to govern themselves according to the model of the enterprise and the norms of competition
- Neo-Marxist critique
 - Neoliberalism is a capitalist project orchestrated by a hegemonic ruling-class, in order to create an '**ecological dominance**' where one system imposes itself on others
 - Ecological dominance is what has happened. There is, in the 21st century, a near complete commodification of urban life and space; exchange and value-oriented activities are dominant; general liberalisation; strengthening of competitive power and of the value of shareholders; → everything is now competitive
- When did the neoliberalism, which affects the urban, start?
 - Harvey: late 1970s with the end of the Fordism/Keynesianism crisis, Chile's experimental neoliberal government after the putsch, the election of Reagan and Thatcher
 - UK and USA policy makers created "urban enterprise zones"
 - Reagan and Thatcher's campaigns worked as disciplining strategies against the urban working class, which occupied (factually or supposedly) uncontrollable spaces of violent contestations or just general discontent
 - Post-fordism (accumulation based on flexible processes) and world city formation (creating urban decision-making centres for global capitalism) were two concrete processes through which neoliberalisation proceeded

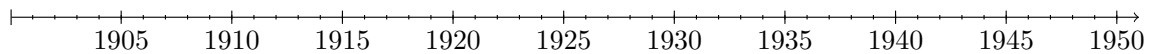
Revanchist
state policies
in favour of
gentrification

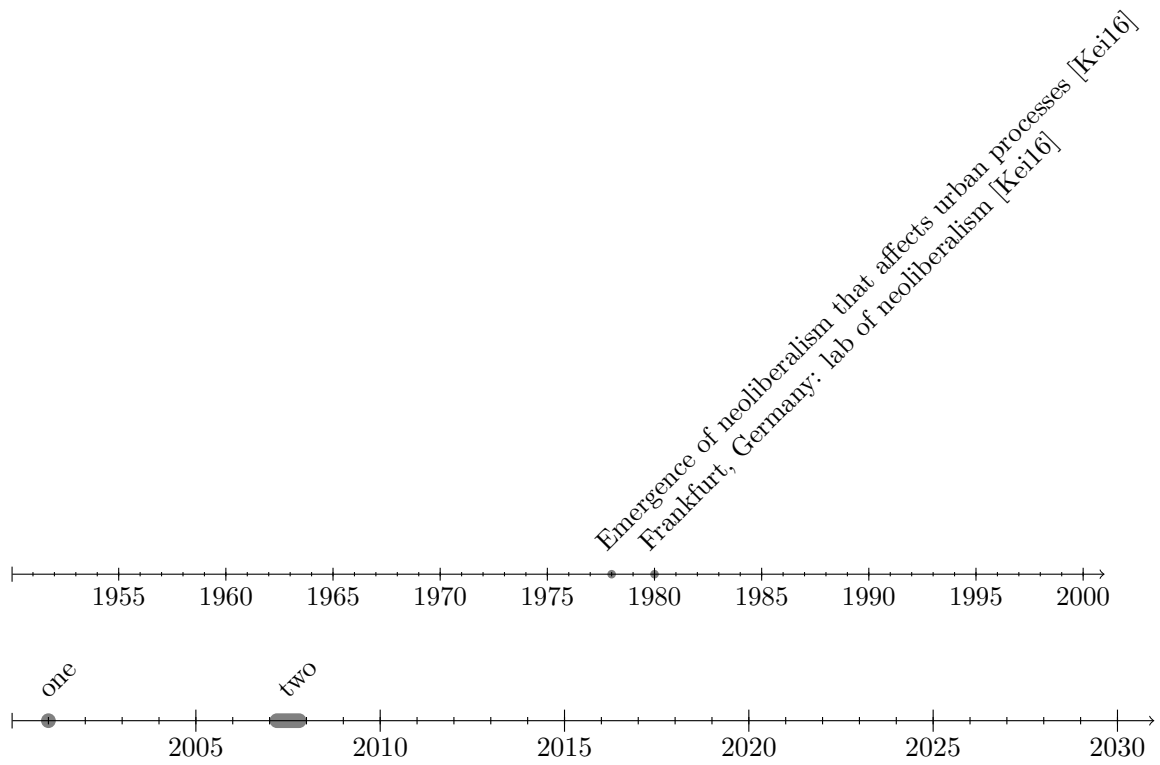
Financialisation
of everything

- Urbanisation and neoliberalisation have changed urban infrastructure: there is a **‘splintering urbanism’**, of sharply segregated, class-divided, privatised and access-controlled infrastructure in cities and suburbs
 - Neoliberal urbanism makes it easy for residents with resources and power to get access to water/mobility/health/other critique infrastructures, and harder to poor and marginalised communities
 - New forms of segregation appear, where the poor are driven out of gentrified centres, into the ‘in-between’ spaces or inner and outer suburbs
- **Smart cities** have had incredible success in neoliberal urbanism: it created a new techno-economic strategy for companies and workers in ‘creative economies’, created new techno-social and techno-spatial ‘constellations’, associated with ‘millenials’ and de-regulated inner-city urbanism, with displacement and gentrification in former inner-city working class neighbourhoods



Chronology





References

- [Kei16] Roger Keil. “Urban neoliberalism: rolling with the changes in a globalizing world”. In: *Handbook of Neoliberalism*. Routledge, 2016, pp. 413–425.