

Urban Social Geography

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Contents

Urban Geographical Traditions	4
What is "the urban"?	4
Urban Age	4
What is the difference between the urban and the city?	5
Urban Conceptualisations	6
What is "the city"?	6
City Conceptualisations	6
The Urban as a Process: Urbanisation	6
What is "geography"?	7
What is being "critical"?	7
Epistemological Rules of Thumb	7
Foundational Approaches	8
Theories of world-city formation	9
Centrality of cities/city-regions in the global economy: Friedmann, Sassen, Scott	9
John Friedmann, <i>World City Hypothesis</i>	10
Sassen, <i>The Global City</i>	10
Scott, <i>Global City Regions</i>	11
Mapping world city networks	12
Critiques and complementary views	12

Key words	13
Polarisation in World/Global Cities	14
Polarisation	14
New York City	14
Why is it that world/global cities have become so polarised?	15
Conceptualisation	15
Economic restructuring	16
Production	16
Consumption	17
Redistribution	17
Command and Control	17
Polarisation thesis	18
Labour Market Globalisation	18
New forms of industrial exploitation	19
Criticism	19
Occupational Structure	19
Spatial Structure	19
Urban segregation: patterns and causes	20
Classical models of urban form	20
Burgess' land use model, 1925	20
Hoyt's sector model	21
Harris and Ullman's sector model	22
Alternative models	23
Conclusion	23
Patterns of segregation	23
Evenness	23
Exposure	24
Concentration	24

Centralisation	24
Clustering	24
Scale matters	24
Causes of segregation	24
Neighbourhood effects and living with diversity	26
Cultures of urban research	26
Urban cultures	26
Transport and cities: a historical hegemony	26
Critical perspectives on urban transport	26
Readings	26
Polarisation in World/Global Cities	26
Hamnett, <i>The changing social structure of global cities: Professionalisation, proletarianisation or polarisation</i>	26
May et. al, <i>Keeping London Working: global cities, the British state and London's new migration division of labour</i>	27
Urban segregation: patterns and causes	27
Pacione, <i>Land Use in the City</i> , 2009	27
Van Kempen, Sule Özüekren, <i>Ethnic segregation in cities: new forms and explanations in a dynamic world</i> , 1998	28
Exam	29
Urban segregation	29

Urban Geographical Traditions

September 27th, 2021

Draw a general outline of how urban geography has been practiced in the last 50 years, and how it interrogates some of urban geography's main concepts and approaches.

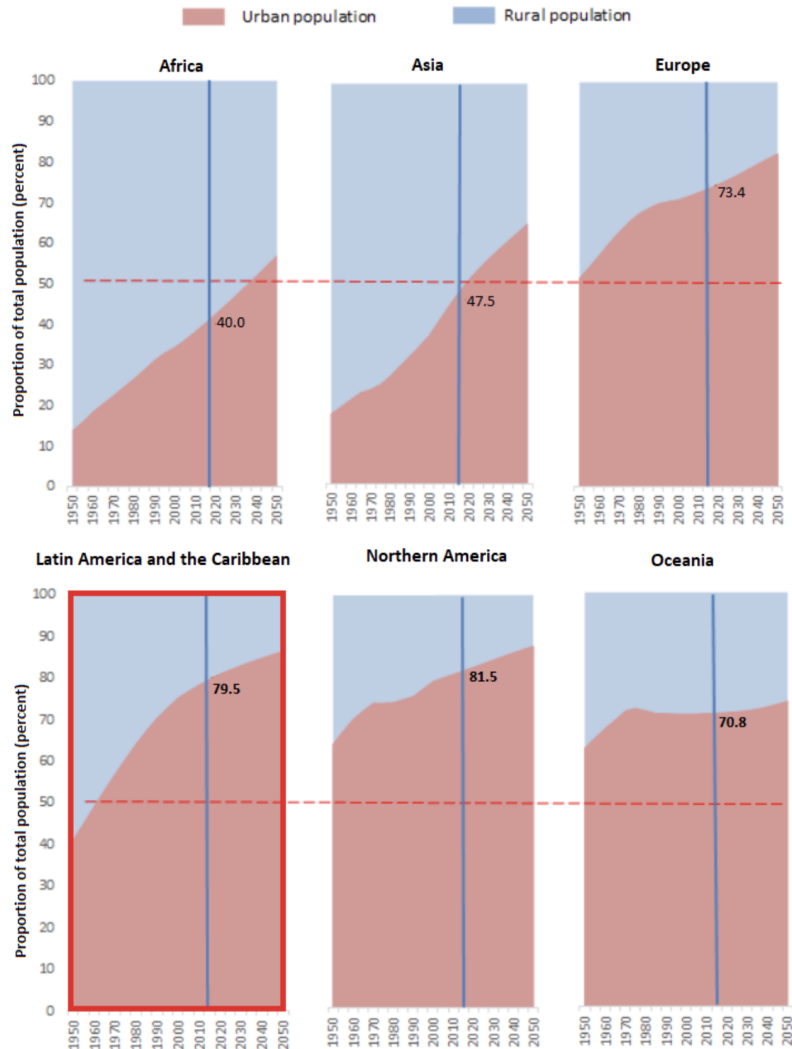
What is "the urban"?

Urban Age

We are living in the Urban Age, where the population growth is proportional to urban growth. Since circa 2005, the majority (more than 50%) lives in urban areas, or cities, as opposed to rural areas.

Urbanization is a **global phenomenon**. It started with the global North (USA, Western Europe) in the 19th century, spread to South America, USSR, Oceania in the 1950s, and Africa, Asia in the 1990s. Urbanisation intensified in the 1990s, and as of the 2000s, Asia dominates the economic growth and urbanisation.

Urbanization isn't equal throughout the world. For example, in 2018, 40% of Africa's population was urban, 50% in Asia, 75% in Europe, 80% in Latin America and North America, and 70% in Oceania.



Is urbanization really "global"? Are we really in an "urban age"? How we measure the urban depends on statistics and national definitions and categories that diverge. It is impossible to find one definition of the urban. What is understood as "the urban" is a *chaotic abstraction*, and doesn't neatly overlay cities in the spatial sense (boundaries).

This makes the distinction of the urban vs. the rural, and the categorisation of space in either or, a black box. Is it important to think about the rural? What is difference between the urban and the city?

What is the difference between the urban and the city?

The urban is a phenomenon, a process, and elements of the urban can exist outside of the city. It is a set of values which direct how we might organise a city.

The city is a built environment, made of concrete. It is a marker in space, it is a physical manifestation of the urban. It has boundaries and is political - cities have mayors and elections, for example.

Thus, the urban is greater, theoretically, than the city.

Urban Conceptualisations

- A distinctive way of life, which can take place in cities but also outside of the city (suburbs, rural, slums)
- It epitomises a particular society (capitalist, industrial, fordist, modern, classist...). The urban can therefore be categorised differently depending on the context and time period.
- Projects symbolic power (see city conceptualisations)

What is "the city"?

City Conceptualisations

- A lump of material, the **built environment**
- The non-city is... what? the rural? It is hard to say where the city ends. For examples, large boulevards connecting the city to "outside" spaces may have shops along them, which could be characteristic of the city. But are they still part of the city?
- A complex division of labour, with increasing efficiency and surplus, but also inequality
- Projects symbolic power, through skyscrapers and impressive architecture that reminds the world of the city's social/political/economic dominance. Think of the CCTV tower in Beijing, World Trade Center in NYC, Burj Khalifa in Dubai. But what is behind this image of spectacular urbanism? Is it a facade?
- Is administrative, with administrative boundaries

The Urban as a Process: Urbanisation

Urbanisation is:

1. **Demographic process** in which cities gain more and a wider variety of residents, with an increased density
2. It speaks to the increasing **globalisation of urban economic, political and cultural influence**
3. It helps us consider **how space is organised** through processes of uneven development

Urbanism is:

1. Narrowly defined as **urban design**
2. Gaining an **urban attribute**, a psychological and sociological feeling, giving particular meaning to urban space. *Flaneurs, dandys*

Planning is:

1. A future-oriented activity, where actors of various types engage to govern how development will take place

What is "geography"?

Geography is the terrain, the typologies, the interconnectedness of space and 'something' within that space; the **social and physical processes within the context of space**.

Geography is defined by "how" we study, rather than "what", with an emphasis on space. There are different concepts of space: territory, scale, place, and networks.

The **territory** defines boundaries, and sovereignty of a space (the Brussels capital has sovereignty within Belgium).

The **scale** defines the sensitivity of processes (teaching is a small scale, commuting is a large scale, the Brussels capital scale is greater than its territory).

The **network** defines hubs and leaks beyond the territory, towards micro-networks (Brussels connected to other cities via a transport network, but also by people living in eg. Ghent and commuting to Brussels to work. This is a leak of taxes and money from the capital to Flanders/Wallonia)

The **place** is the attachment of meaning, sentiment, to a place (how Brussels is represented in Flemish vs. Wallonia media)

What is being "critical"?

To be critical is to be aware of your own biases, and not cherry-picking your information. To be critical is to fact-check and question, to be reflexive about your own positionality. You should bring up new concepts, and take seriously the experience and position of others. Critical research should be socially relevant and politically engaged. The Chicago School would define it as "*reducing the illusions in society itself*".

Brenner and Schmidt are critical authors of the Urban Age.

Epistemological Rules of Thumb

1. There is no universal theory of anything
2. Every theory has birthmarks: what were the questions, situated in time and space, that gave rise to formulating a search question/theory in a particular way?
3. Reflexivity on birthmarks is required if you want to be critical, therefore all theories need to be provincialised
4. Can theories "speak" across contexts?
5. Engaged pluralism might allow for inter=theoretical conversation and comparison

Foundational Approaches

After WWII, geography moved from purely territorial to plural definitions, from regional (urban) geography (descriptive, map-oriented, idiographic) to a spacial science (nomothetic, method-driven, applied orientation).

The **materialist approach** has materialist frameworks, is concerned with distribution and social-justice, and agenda-setting: Marxist geography, Structuralist geography, Critical geography, Radical geography, Feminist geography, Critical realist geography

The **humanistic approach** is about the experienced city, issues of representation and discourse, uses qualitative methods, and is about giving voice: Humanist geography, Cultural urban geography, Post-structuralist geography, Post-colonial geography, Queer geography

Theories of world-city formation

Octobre 4th, 2021

The first session on world and global cities aims to:

- Provide a framework to conceptualise and analyse cities under (economic) globalisation
- Give an overview of key theories of world-city formation dating back to the 1970s-1980s and onwards
- Introduce model-based approaches to the world-city network as a heuristic to map out how cities are positioned on global flows of capital, knowledge, and people
- Discuss a number of key critiques of the alleged "world/global cities paradigm", voiced from social constructivist and post-colonial positions

Centrality of cities/city-regions in the global economy: Friedmann, Sassen, Scott

How are cities central in the global economy? What does it mean to say that cities are powerful?

- Concentration of businesses, seats of corporate power, migration of elites to the city
- Cities are administrative and political authorities
- The city is a hub of ideas, culture, social influence, and knowledge transfer
- Flows converge in cities, and flow between big cities: it's easier and faster to travel between cities than from a city to its periphery or towns. The substance of the flows can be knowledge, people, capital, commodities

The five most powerful regions of Europe are Deltametropolis, Flemish Diamond, RheinRuhr Area, Ile-de-France, and Greater London. There are multiple ways that we can measure the power, or influence, of such world-cities:

- **Weight of area in national context:** the **GDP** is higher, and the density of population is higher¹
- **Patents:** number of patents is higher. This indicates the level of social and technological innovations of a city
- **Education:** the proportion of people educated at a high level is higher. This indicates a different labour market structure
- **Employment by sector:** proportion of employment in services is higher, and proportion of employment in industry or agriculture is lower

¹Higher than the European and national averages. This applies to the rest of the indicators.

John Friedmann, *World City Hypothesis*

tldr; global cities are basing points in a global (economic) urban system, organising and articulating production and markets

Why are cities economically central and powerful?

There were predictions in the 1980s that “the end of the city” was coming, due to ICT and cheap mass transportation. Instead, these gave rise to new forms of uneven development related to **functional centrality** on a more global scale. People could travel from further distances and still work in the functional (city) centre, and have relationships with people from a longer distance.

World cities were inserted in a **global urban system**, in which urban processes that cross-cut national and regional borders are conceptualised: this insertion drives structural change in cities and renders some places powerful. We have to look beyond national urban systems, and start thinking about processes of **globalisation**, ie. on a global scale. A great part of economics became international, and only the global urban system can explain what is happening internationally.

In this sense, world-cities are the base points to explain “spatial organisation and articulation of production and markets” (*The World City Hypothesis*, Friedmann, 1986), ie. the geo-economic restructuring of the world.

There is a new **international division of labour** in the world. Companies offshore their production activities or relocate to (semi) peripheries to drive prices down because of cheaper labour markets, in order to stay competitive. There are new actors, TNCs and MNCs (trans- and multi- national corporations) that dominate and organise a global supply chain that is highly integrated² Given the importance of TNC/MNCs, mapping their headquarters can be used to locate world-cities.

This illustrates that world-cities are sites for centralised **command and control** functions in a complex global economy. It implies a hierarchy connecting the core and the periphery, with core cities absorbing the surplus (and thus getting richer and growing in all dimensions)³. But, (semi) peripheries can still hold local command and control functions.

Sassen, *The Global City*

tldr; global cities are cities where APS (Advanced Producer Services) are produced for the international market; APS have control capabilities over global production, and they produce global financial markets

Sassen writes at the same time as Friedmann, in a context of de-industrialisation (specially in NY, London, Tokyo) and fiscal crisis of the local state, and cities are trying to figure out what they might become. Sassen focuses on the **shift to service economies**, especially finance services and auxiliary services in law, management consultancy, accounting, auditing, advertising, etc. These auxiliary services are called **advanced producer services (APS)**, they are not producing consumable goods, but rather goods that are consumed as they are produced (eg. legal advice).

Advanced producer services are embedded in global cities, and they have **control capabilities** to manage

²This complex, interconnected division of labour is illustrated by 1) the Evergreen container ship that blocked the Suez canal and blocked distribution of goods for a week, or 2) the lack of bicycles during the covid pandemic, when manufacturing plants had to close due to regional or national safety measures.

³This means that locations and cities will benefit unequally from this geography: the US (Global North) producing in Argentina (Global South) will benefit the US, who extracts the profit, and disadvantage Argentina, who has a cheaper labour market

global production and produce global financial markets. There is a **labour market polarisation**, with high and low skilled labour forces surround APS, which results in the “peripheralisation” of the core (eg. sweatshops).

Sassen says that “*global cities are sites for the production of specialised services needed by complex organisations for running a spatially dispersed network of factories, offices, and service outlets; and the production of financial innovations and the making of markets, both central to the internationalisation and expansion of the financial industry*”.

Global cities are connecting to the world of finance for investments, and growing the need for concentration and control. This geography is self reinforcing.

Why are APS concentrating in a limited number of cities? There are several interlocking **path dependencies**:

- **Large services market**: there is access to firm/client relations, for out-sourced APS
- **Labour market and associated culture**: a cosmopolitan elite and ‘yuppie’ (young urban professional) culture is formed, since the 1980s
- The most specialised and globalised APS firms need **synergies** with similar firms in the city, which creates an **APS complex**. For example, financial firms, ICT firms, advertising, management consultancy, accountancy, and legal services all need each other to some extent
- The APS complex produces **cross-border connections** through a network of affiliates and other partnerships

Even within the city, there are APS clusters. For example, the concentration of law firms in Avenue Louise and in the EU quarters of Brussels.

Scott, *Global City Regions*

tldr; global city-regions are a complex assemble of cities/settlements/hinterlands that are interconnected via production networks, themselves oriented towards global economy

Sassen’s views of global cities as APS centres fits London, Hong Kong, Brussels, etc., but there are large-scale territorial entities like the Pearl River Delta⁴ and the Bay Area, which have global power but are not cities. Many production processes don’t need an ‘urban core’.

The need for centrality is applicable to **post-Fordist modes of production**⁵, where **knowledge is central**. The concentration is a by-product of globalisation and technological innovations (cf. cognitive-cultural capitalism).

So, not only APS need to be centralised. For knowledges that are not easy to de-centralise, proximity matters. For example 1) industries in which it is important to communicate with clients face-to-face, or 2) tailored, just-in-time delivery. Concentrating an activity in one area also makes it easier to receive federal/public investments (ie. investments drive centralisation).

⁴One of the most densely populated urban regions of the world, considered a megacity, and one of the wealthiest regions in China.

⁵Post-fordism is the idea that modern industrial production has moved away from mass production in huge factories, towards specialised markets based on small flexible manufacturing units

Global city-regions are a complex ensemble of cities/settlements/hinterlands, that are interconnected via multiple production networks, which in themselves are oriented towards the global economy. APS firms can still be used as a general indicator of the globalisation of Global City-Regions, as they produce the tools to enable proper functioning in a global economy.

Mapping world city networks

Comparing the importance of urban connections (eg. London/Hong Kong vs Paris/Tokyo) is difficult when using available data sources, and without using a secondary data source or creating new data. This is because there is a research gap regarding world-city networks. Secondary data could be information on inter-city transportation or information flows (eg. flows of airline passengers). New data collections could be developing a methodology to use specific attribute data to assess inter-city relations (eg, the GaWC-heuristic).

Are airline flows a good way to measure global economic influence, and thus helpful to map the world-city network?

- Some cities which are not global-cities have airports, and maybe vice versa
- People travel for leisure, which may tell us something about the local economy but not about the influence of the city's economy on a global scale
- A lot of goods are moved by other means than air, eg. water or land

Therefore, we need a **new metageography** of spaces of flows. This would be a new socio-spatial structure.

The GaWC (Globalisation and World Cities) heuristic is an example of a new way to gather data⁶. The starting point is the presence of international APS firms, that is used as a general indicator for command and control functions of cities. Since APS firms have office networks that comprise of the most important cities in the global economy, we make the core assumption that inter-city relations can be assessed based on the APS firms being present in multiple cities. → we measure the connectivity of cities.

APS don't represent all of the global economics, but they represent strategies of the command-and-control of APS firms.

Critiques and complementary views

The GaWC heuristic is a powerful tool to map and spatially analyse the global connections of world/global cities, but has been criticised from various angles: post-colonial, social-constructivist, political-economy, and financialisation perspectives.

- **Post-colonial critique:** there is a western bias in the knowledge production of urbanisation, people are dropped off the map of urban studies research.
 - Off the geographical map refers to (world) cities in the Global South
 - Off the conceptual map refers to the focus on a limited number of economic processes, and ignoring equally important inter-urban connections
 - World cities research ignored the role and position of 'ordinary' cities in the global economy, or reads them in light of Eurocentric global city theories

⁶See <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc>

- Tendency in urban studies to reject world/global city theory as only befitting the Global North, but not on the basis of a sound argumentation: non-representation as a ‘result’, not a ‘neglect’
- **Social-constructivist critique:** stresses the political nature of world-city formation and its often un-debated consequences
 - Post-modern knowledge theory: world cities are not a ‘given’ but a product of global and local forces, and crucially mediated by acts of representation
- **Financialisation:** GaWC heuristic is a powerful shorthand for the geographies of world/global cities, but world-city functions are often assumed instead of researched
 - etc...

Key words

World cities World city-regions Global urban system, global economic system GaWC Command-and-control function of cities

Polarisation in World/Global Cities

This second session on world and global cities discusses the connections between the positionality of cities on global circuits of value and their internal social and economic structure:

- Applies Harvey's framework to analyse urban entrepreneurial export-base enhancing strategies
- Focuses on the polarisation debate, which has centred on the mechanisms that produce income & professional divides, the contextual factors that mediate such polarisation processes, the role of high/low-skilled migration, gentrification, etc.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0P2V_np2c0&ab_channel=RSA

Polarisation

tldr: polarisation is a class division that is reproduced through space, and is stronger in global cities

Income disparity looks different in different cities. Chicago, Detroit, LA, Miami, New Orleans, SF, NYC, all have different, contextual landscapes of polarisation.

Polarisation is the reality of **class division**. <https://www.opportunityatlas.org> is an income map that traces neighbourhood effects, based on census data. The **neighbourhood effect** is the idea that where you are born, predetermines your life. This is due to the amenities, infrastructure, opportunities associated to the geographical location.

Polarisation is one of the starting point of debates in global cities: it raises the questions about **how class divisions in cities are reproduced in/through space, but also why there is a deep polarisation in key nodes in the global economy**, ie. in world/global cities.

Picture LA, a 'citadel' city where polarisation/segregation are both horizontal and vertical (there are no wealthy people residing on the ground floor). Wall Street in LA is a poor neighbourhood in decline, or a 'zone in transition', yet it is contrasted with nice hotels. This says to people that 'those who have nothing to do here, should not be here'.

New York City

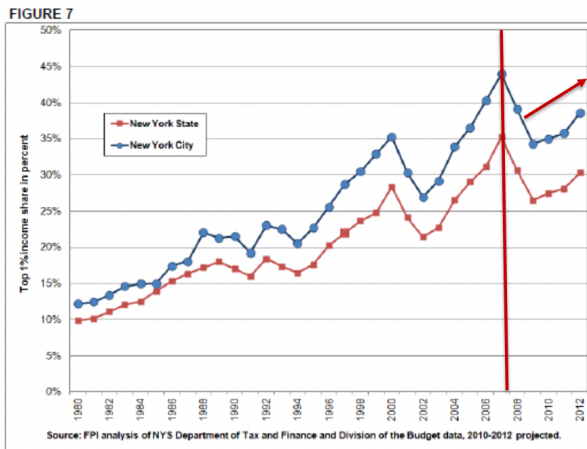
We can see how NYC's polarisation patterns have evolved in the last decade, since the 2008 recession: **polarisation and income distribution gaps have increased**.

The median family income has fallen⁷, and the decline in income is steeper in NYC than in the state of NY. The share of total income going to the top 1% continues to increase (it only declines during a financial crisis but quickly rebounds), such that the top 1% own over 40% of the total income and the income of the lowest household is ~17.5% of the top earners' income. And the gap is increasing.

Productivity has increased but wages have not: for 1 hour of work, an extra 14% is produced, but the wages have not proportionally increased. The profit is not going to the workers, and a full-time worker at a minimum wage now lives under the **poverty line**.

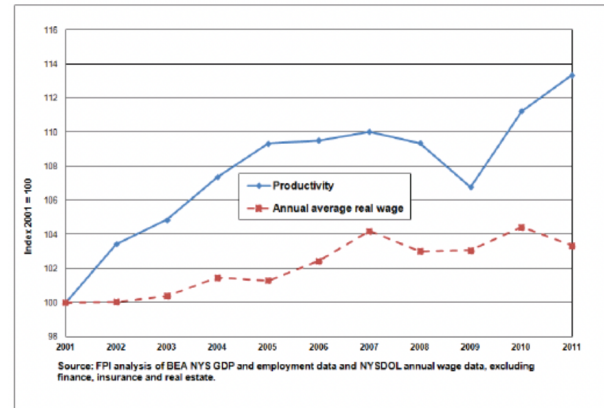
⁷Income can be equated to labour

Polarization is not over: the income share of the top 1% in New York has started to rise again, as was the case after previous recessions



Average wages for New York workers have not kept pace with productivity over the past decade; productivity gains have boosted profits instead

FIGURE 8



8

Why is it that world/global cities have become so polarised?

- Large companies with a lot of capital are subsidised
- Unequal income distributions, where rich companies are getting richer
- Companies are looking for the fastest way to make money, ie. they employ at the lowest wage possible. It's a corporate strategy to not care about the general welfare of the workforce
- The state is not taking the role of creating regulation and (welfare) policies
- Extra money "floating around" goes into financialisation, as can be seen with the gap in productivity (profit) and wages
- Companies can remove workers who want higher wages, because there is enough demand for such low-wage jobs
- A worker needs to be produced in a "social way", including education, health,... (social reproduction) which happens in cities
- Poverty blaming does not help with polarisation, eg. Benefit Street

Conceptualisation

The main explanation for why polarisation exists, is because of economic restructuring (this is mostly about North-Atlantic cities).

Some conceptualisations:

- "Dual cities", Mollenkopf and Castells, 1991
- "Divided cities", Fainstein et al., 1992

⁸Fiscal Policy Institute report, *Pulling Apart: The Continuing Impact of Income Polarisation in New York State*

- “Quartered cities”, Burgers, 2002
- “Polarized cities”, Sassen, 1991; Friedmann 1986

Economic restructuring

The crisis of North-Atlantic Fordism in the 1970s led to an economic restructuring. With Fordism, there was a deal between the companies and workers, that they would get a wage allowing them to purchase the items they were manufacturing. However, productivity couldn't keep up with wages. This entailed:

i don't understand

- **A relocation of production**, ie. offshoring and decentralisation made possible by **globalisation and the new international division of labour** (NIDL)
- **The deindustrialisation of the core**: production activities in cities declined
- **Structural unemployment**: as cities lost their functions, poverty rose and became characteristic of cities
- **Shift towards fiscal austerity**: the tax base declined
- **Market rationality and privatisation**: the state interfered less and encouraged privatisation (market deregulation which enriched companies), and shifted towards neoliberalism (Thatcher, Reagan)
- **Declining power of the state to control multinational capital**: this power shifts to multinational companies
- **Self fulfilling prophecy of interurban competition**: policy makers are trying to become entrepreneurial, and instead of being fair, start to be competitive

Harvey (1989) proposes four “entrepreneurial” strategies to navigate this crisis: production, consumption, redistribution, command and control

Production

Policy makers create or exploit particular advantages for the production of goods and services:

- Attracting public and private investments into physical and social infrastructure, to strengthen the economic base
- Stimulating new technologies, venture capital...
- Reducing local costs with tax breaks, cheap credit...
- Reducing “excessive” labour costs or investing in highly educated labour force
- Stimulating a mix of related activities and creating agglomeration economies, eg. Silicon Valley
- **Form**: clusters and edge cities

Consumption

The city's position in the spatial division of consumption should be improved:

- Make people want to spend money in your city: through tourism, retirees, local consumers
- Residents rarely see an increase in their wages, despite the attraction of money in their city
- There's an increased credit, and a dependence on banks to finance consumption
- Attract high income jobs (managerial, CEO...) and their conspicuous consumptions
- **Form:** the socio-spatial structure is affected by consumerism, visible by gentrification, cultural innovation, upgrading of urban environment (starchitecture), consumer attractions, spectacle, heritage, city branding/marketing

Redistribution

There is a competition for the (supra)nationally distributed surplus. Cities and regions compete with each other to attract investments. The surplus comes from the economy, and not the government budget. Especially under austerity, which cuts government budget and makes the surplus allocation problem greater.

Who competes for surplus?

- Military/defense investments in the US
- EU countries for EU money
- Urban renewal projects in Flanders

Command and Control

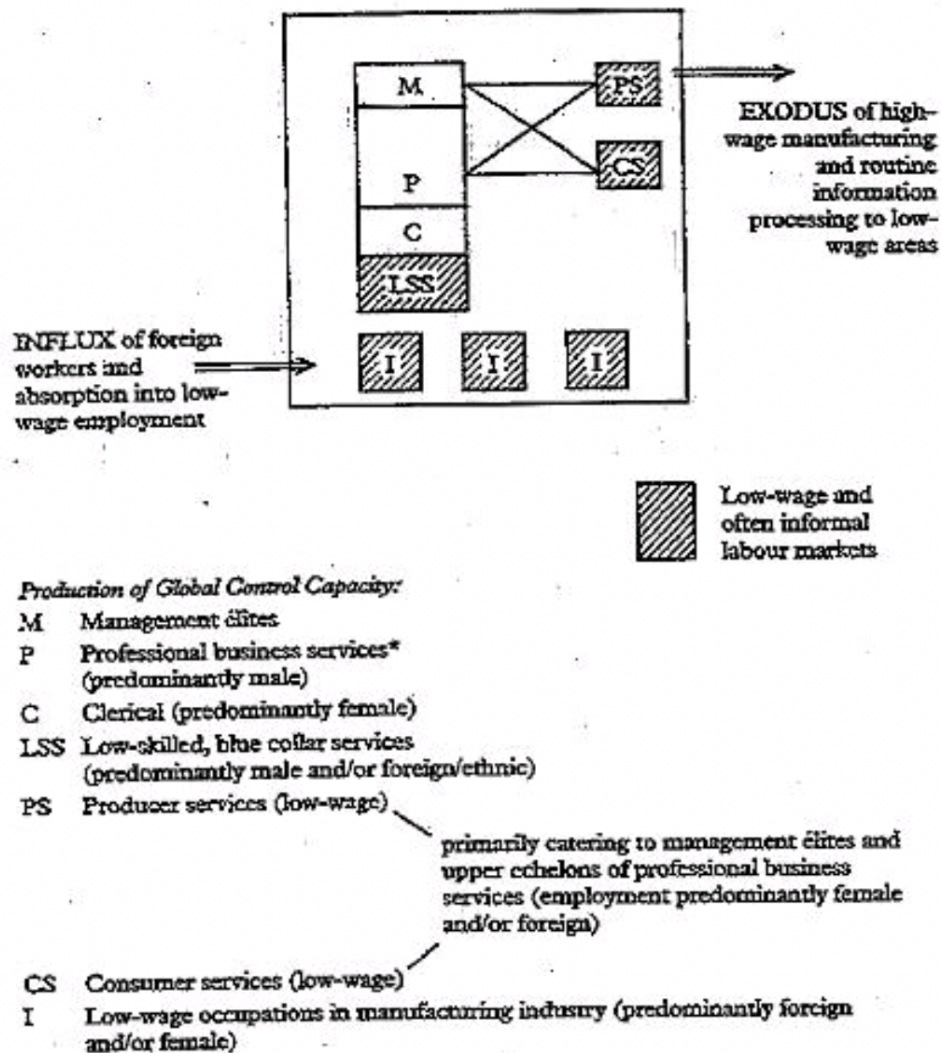
A specific kind of investment in connectivity, to assume control in high finance, government, and information gathering/processing:

- Investment in connectivity infrastructure, both physical and digital
- CBD-development and office space strategies
- Investment in high-skilled labour markets and education (universities, business schools,...); companies sponsor finance programs for employees
- **Form:** a dynamic in world/global cities and their monopoly spaces (eg. Wall Street, the City of London)

Polarisation thesis

There is an influx of high salaried people, with high spending power. This generates a demand of low paid jobs to cater to them (conspicuous consumerism).

This transforms the labour market: there is a growth of **jobs at the top and bottom** of the job ladder, but a decrease in demand for jobs in the middle. The informal economy and informal workers also grow.



Labour Market Globalisation

What sets global cities apart is their **globalised labour market**. There is a growing role of high-paid and low-paid migrants in the urban economy, this divide is often articulated along ethnic lines (“expats” vs.

“immigrants”). The growth of the supply of low-skilled/deskilled workers causes a downward pressure on wages.

For example:

- 3D jobs (dirty, demanding, dangerous/difficult) originally were paid higher wages in order to attract workers. Now, low-wage jobs are for those otherwise excluded from the labour market.
- Should Belgium tax expats? No, because it makes the country attractive in the competition for talent

There is growing **informality and “peripheralisation at the core”** (Sassen-Koob, 1982). You need some knowledge to be able to access the market place, or you are excluded and must find informal work.

Immigration lead to the expansion of ‘informal’, ‘floating’, or ‘street’ economic activities, such as sweatshop manufacturing, off-the-book childcare, and other unregistered, non-taxpaying activities. Exploitation does not only take place in the Global South: it also takes place in the Global North where people from the Global South live.

New forms of industrial exploitation

Sweatshops are reminiscent of old-style exploitation. They are small units in secluded spaces, they function with subcontracted deals, and workers are paid by the pieces or by weekly contracts. This is highly precarious work and hard to regulate.

The global city formation is made possible by the absence of regulation in the periphery.

Criticism

The two main criticisms are:

- **Universalising and generalising tendencies:** started in London, NY, Tokyo, and is considered universal, but is it the case?
 - The thesis projects this logic: economic restructuring/globalisation → HQ/APS functions → income/professional polarization → socio-spatial polarisation
- **Simplistic theory:** polarisation theory is elegant but reduces the complexity of what is going on. Occupational and spatial structures need to be studied in detail. Professionalisation and mobility could also help explain socio-spatial inequalities

Occupational Structure

pick up from slide 35

Spatial Structure

-

Urban segregation: patterns and causes

October 25th, 2021 - Nick Schuermans

Classical models of urban form

Burgess' land use model, 1925

Burgess was trying to understand what cities looked like, and what kind of groups can be found. He found 5 concentric rings: the loop (CBD), zone of transition, zone of working class, suburban zone, commuter zone. This model is an ideal type, a simplification.

Why five rings? **Bid rent theory**, that different groups of people, are able to pay different rents. The centre has headquarters (can pay higher rents), and further away, suburban, less dense spots (can pay less rent).

It was written in 1925, which is around the time that Chicago was going through an exponential growth. Thus, Burgess makes a **model of a growing city**, and tries to understand how the growth works in terms of population and the built environment.

The city is characterised by heterogenous population, yet Burgess' model doesn't represent this. Thus, it only really works for Chicago.

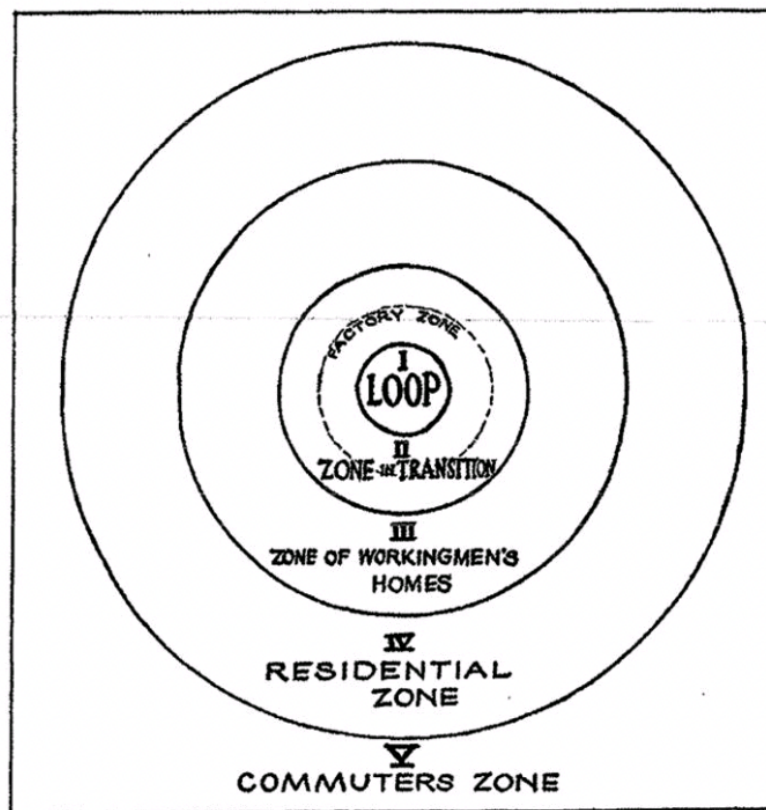
Assumptions and principles:

- Cultural and social heterogeneity of the population
- Commercial and industrial base to the economy of the city
 - Other industries can dominate the city, eg. tourism, heritage, religious/pilgrimage
- Private ownership of property and economic competition for space
 - Planned economies under communism
- Expanding area and population of the city
 - But, cities are marked by shrinkage, eg. Detroit
- Transport is equally easy, rapid, cheap in every direction within the city
- City centre is main centre for employment, thus most valuable
 - But, eg. airports are also hubs
- No districts are more attractive because of differences in terrain
 - But coasts, mountains, terrain influences attractiveness
- No concentration of heavy industry
- No historic survival of an earlier land-use pattern in any district

Thus, it's obvious that these assumptions do not apply to any real city, and Burgess acknowledged it.

The zones are:

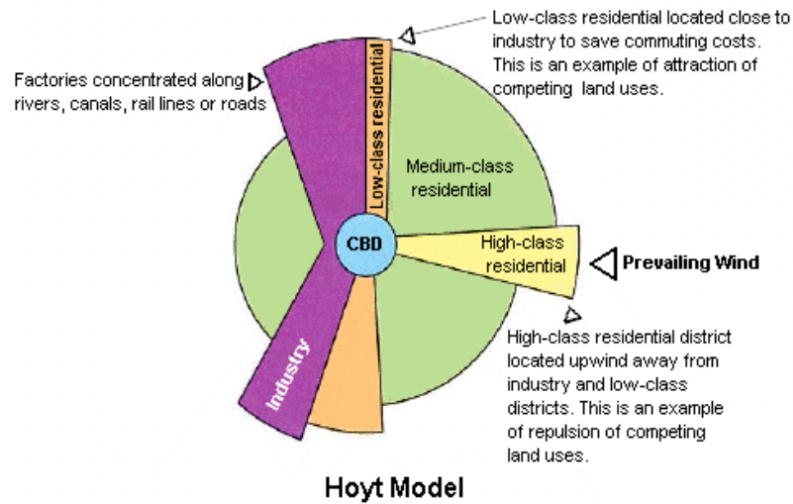
- **Loop:** Chicago had an elevated metro track that ran in a loop; place with shopping, offices, HQs, theatres... ie. the functions that are able to pay the highest price for this central location. They need to draw workers/consumers from all corners of the city, thus need to be in the loop
- **Zone in transition:** factories that rely on labour coming from different parts of city, but who are not able to pay as much rent as the businesses in the loop; also residential, for first generation immigrants who cannot yet afford to live further out (eg. Little Sicily)
- **Working class zone:** 'respectable' working class neighbourhoods (eg. Belgians, Russians, who had been able to climb social ladder and move away from factories)
- **Commuter zone:** better, middle-class residences and commuter belt;
-



Hoyt's sector model

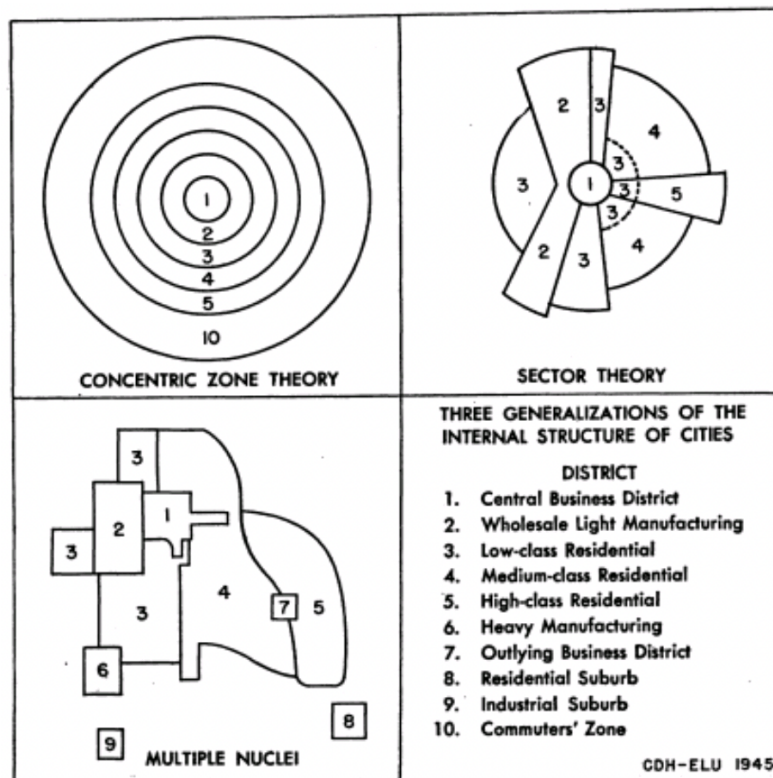
Between 1925-1939, the depression/economic crisis affected the US and less people were willing to move to the US. Thus, Hoyt was thinking of a model where cities grow slowly, and the car plays an increasingly important role.

The sector model reflected the strong core (CBD) around which sectors are organised. When the city grows, or a certain group of people grows, these sectors grow outwards. There is a focus on class, rather than group of migrants.



Harris and Ullman's sector model

A multi-nuclei model, where cities have a CBD but also other strong areas, with business (eg. river side industries) and other institutions (eg. universities).



Alternative models

The British city, the Chinese city, the African city, LA in 1990s (skid row, gated suburbs), the post-socialist city (Tallinn)

Conclusion

Models have birthmarks, from a specific place and time. They need to be situated as such

Provincialisation - what is it?

Patterns of segregation

Focus on residential segregation, groups that live separately from each other, in different parts of the urban environment. There are five dimensions of segregation: evenness, exposure

Evenness

Evenness is the differential distribution of two social groups, among areal units in a city; a minority group is segregated, if it is unevenly distributed over a given area

Index of dissimilarity measures the unevenness in population across space. If an index is low, it means that the population is evenly distributed (ie. less segregation), whereas if an index is 100, the population is unevenly distributed (ie. high segregation).

Exposure

Residential exposure is the possibility of interaction/contact of populations with each other.

Concentration

Amount of physical space occupied by a minority group in the urban.

Centralisation

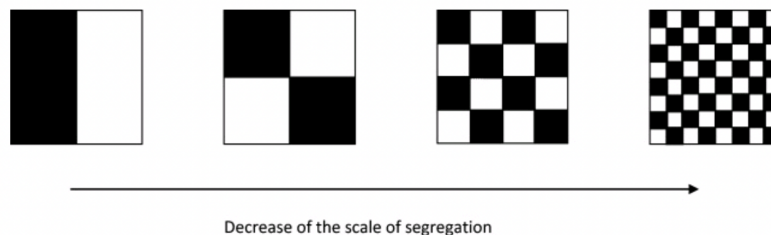
A degree to which a group is located near the centre of an urban area.

Clustering

A degree to which areal units

Scale matters

Looking at segregation at different scales, give you very different results as to how segregated a city is.

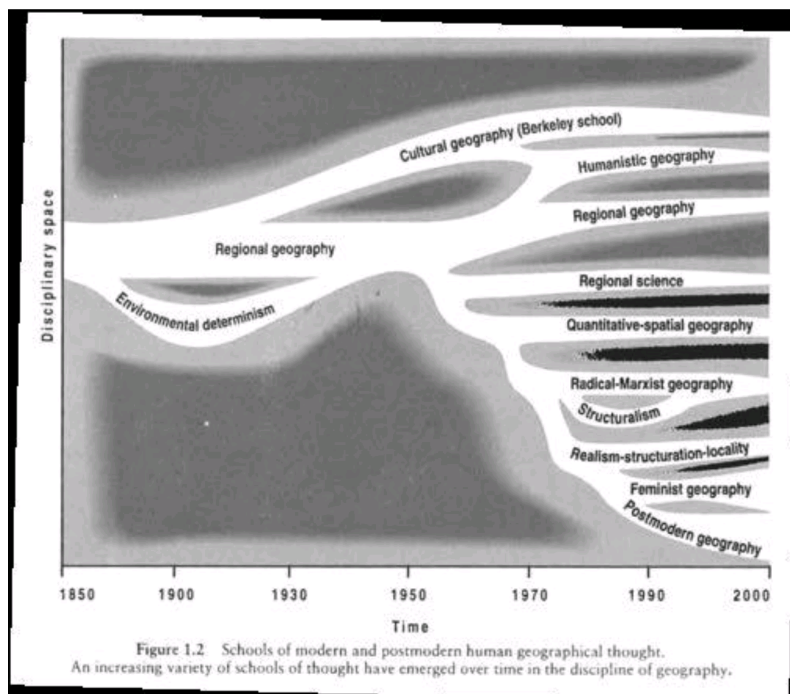


Causes of segregation

Why do different population groups take up different parts of the city? There are many threads of geographers, with different opinions

- **Quantitative spatial geography**
- **Ecological models** of the city, eg. “urban metabolism”, “natural forces”, with a pattern of expansion
→ competition → invasion → succession

- **Marxist geography** aims to understand the flow of capital, and the accumulation regime; how segregation fits within the accumulation of capital (Harvey)
- **Neo-Weberian** approach
- **Behavioural geography** based on people's reasoning and preferences around living in a certain environment over another; can be done through an ethnic lens;
- **Post-modern geography**: the meaning of housing, and how this affects one personally; housing is not just structural, but also about feeling at home; for eg., what does moving to the suburbs do to a middle-class family? how does social mobility impact people? why do gentrifiers move back to the city? it's all about a certain identity, and how people understand and distinguish themselves; gentrification is something that's promoted by the cities



Neighbourhood effects and living with diversity

Cultures of urban research

Urban cultures

Transport and cities: a historical hegemony

Critical perspectives on urban transport

Readings

Polarisation in World/Global Cities

Hamnett, *The changing social structure of global cities: Professionalisation, proletarianisation or polarisation*

- There are three trends studied: professionalisation, proletarianisation and polarisation. These concepts have shaped the social structure of global cities, and the paper aims to understand whether there is a dominant trend
- **Professionalisation** refers to an increase in “professionalised” occupations, with an increase in professional, managerial and technical workers, some on high income. Professionalisation started as a result of changes in the industrial structure (from industrialisation to a post-industrialisation era starting in the 1970s).
- **Proletarianisation** is the increase in de-skilled jobs, as a result of changing industrial structures (basically the opposite of professionalisation, as a result of industrial structure changes).
- **Polarisation** is the growing gap between the top and bottom ends of the occupational and income distribution, where the middle is shrinking.
- Society went from a pre-industrial (pre-1840s), to industrial (1840s) and **post-industrial society** (PIS, 1970s).
 - It shifted from a society dominated by manufacturing employment, to one dominated by the service sector and drastic decrease in manufacturing employment. PIS could be expected to give rise to de-proletarianisation (decline in working class) due to machinery and innovation replacing manual labour. On the other hand, capitalism generates technical innovation that could replace high-skilled labour, which would increase proletarianisation.
 - Researching the class structure of PIS shows that there is an upwards shift towards professionalisation, and that society is biased towards high-skilled labour (top and middle classes) rather than low-skilled (bottom class). Children with working-class parents and grandparents are now likely to be graduates and work in professional careers
 - However, the growth of professionalisation, and thus of the professional and managerial class, has been accompanied by an increase in income inequality and precarious work → polarisation

May et. al, *Keeping London Working: global cities, the British state and London's new migration division of labour*

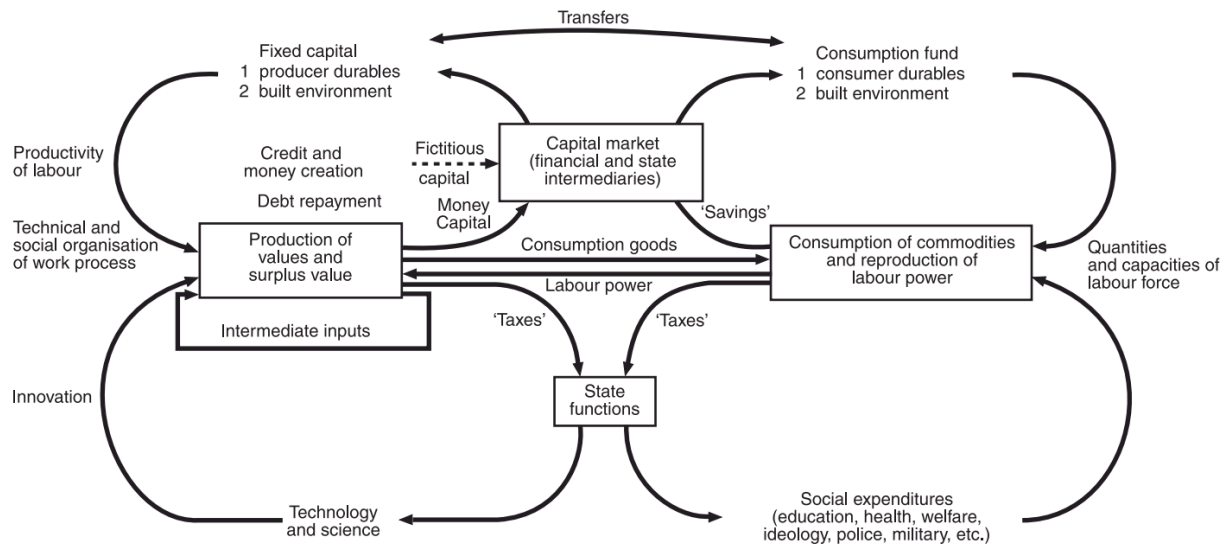
- Instead of focusing on professionalisation and jobs at the top end of the market, this paper focuses on the bottom end and specifically on the character and composition of the people who work there (mostly foreign-born and migrant labour). It explores how state welfare, labour market, and migration policies have changed the labour market and increased the low-skilled labour demand, which is disproportionately taken up by foreign-born workers and new migrants.
- It criticises Hamnett's work, saying that it focuses too much on professionalisation rather than polarisation
- Regarding the state welfare policies, it did not protect wages or working conditions. Instead, Conservative governments tried hard to secure a competitive economic advantage for Britain by labour market de-regulation and welfare restructuring. The British state actively tried to facilitate the recruitment of migrant labour, at the same time restricting people's welfare.
 - A significant proportion of the bottom of the labour force are migrants, working long and unsociable hours, for extremely low rates, without protection offered to native workers like the benefits system
- Bottom-up initiatives, and places of faith have taken on the role of campaigning for worker's rights

Urban segregation: patterns and causes

Pacione, *Land Use in the City*, 2009

- Morphogenesis: the study of town-planning, and what causes the city to have the shape it does
 - Urban landscape can be divided in three elements: land use (the most susceptible to change), buildings (less susceptible to change because their use can change without the building changing), town plan (street layout, most resistant to change) (Conzen, 1960)
 - Town plan is the outcome to the visions and policies of individuals (eg. landowners) or agencies (eg. local planning dept) that have the power to change the urban landscape
 - Need to understand the background, motivations and actions of the major agents in the development of townscapes
- Human ecology: stems from the Chicago school
 - “Competition among land uses for space resulted in the invasion of the most desired parts of the city and eventually the succession of existing land uses by a more dominant activity”
 - “Natural” areas would evolve, based on class and ethnicity
 - **Burgess' concentric zone** model is an ideal type, with known limitations (which is why applying it to other cities can be difficult)
 - Public redevelopment scheme and government policies (eg. social housing), and gentrification of the inner-city, challenge the value of model today
 - **Hoyt's sectors**: urban land use starts at the city centre, around which the sectors are organised. The sectors grow only outwards. Critique is that it only represents residential housing and does not take into account class or ethnicity
 - Burgess' model focuses on the demand side of housing, whereas Hoyt's model focuses on the supply-side mechanisms whereby middle class housing develops in the periphery. Both are extremely simplistic

- **Harris and Ullman's multi-nuclei:** the location and growth of the multi nuclei are based on factors such as, activities require specialised facilities, similar activities group together, some activities repel each other, and some activities must locate elsewhere than where is most convenient because of eg., high rent prices
- Modern models: Mann's model of typical UK city, Kearsley's modified Burgess model, Vance's urban realms model, White's model of 21st century city
- Political economy: seeking interpretations of urban change that reveals the structural forces underlying the observed land-use patterns
 - Capitalist societies, based on capital accumulation, are designed in such a way as to facilitate the transfer of profits and maximise the opportunities for investment → circulation of capital (Harvey)
 - Circuits of capital:
 - * Primary circuit: the production process; surplus created during production is reinvested in primary circuit, or if there is not enough demand to produce more, in to the secondary and tertiary circuits
 - * Secondary circuit: investment in fixed capital (built environment, real estate); profit is in the form of rent, or increased exchange value (sale price)
 - * Tertiary investment: in science and technology, ie. innovations to improve productivity, or labour capability (eg. health, education); this investment is usually made by the state
 - Contradiction between capital accumulation (provokes urban change and redevelopment) and the built environment (resists change)



Van Kempen, Sule Özüekren, *Ethnic segregation in cities: new forms and explanations in a dynamic world*, 1998

- Segregation and concentration: **spatial segregation** is the residential separation of groups, ie. the degree of deviation from the uniform spatial distribution of all populations within a city. Spatial segregation implies **spatial concentration**, whereby one population group is disproportionately represented in a given space, compared to other groups

- Disadvantages of spatial segregation and concentration
 - Living in a segregated/poor neighbourhood limits your opportunities in life (education, employment, health...)
 - Poverty has an effect on facilities (commercial and not)
 - Neighbourhood effects: the way the neighbourhood is viewed by others, and its stereotypes, contribute to self-fulfilling prophecies; this is a limited understanding, and is dangerous because it can lead to a lack of empathy towards those populations
 - Ghettos are “institutionalised”: residents did not choose it for themselves, rather, they were coerced by society; residence is involuntary
 - **Underclass** “suffer from prolonged labour-market marginality and have virtually no chance to alter this situation”. They’re economically and politically isolated, usually have deviant or illegal behaviours, their lifestyle is one of survival and is different from that of the poor. Dangerous because it lumps together different populations, and normalises them
- Advantages of spatial segregation and concentration
 - Existence and maintenance of social contacts is made possible by the concentration of like-minded people; it encourages cultures and norms that are not those of the mainstream society
 - Social networks allow people to support each other
- Behavioural approach: explanations that include the preferences, perceptions and decision-making of the individual in housing and residential mobility
- Ethnic-cultural approach: cultural differences between groups can help explain differences in housing conditions and residential patterns

Exam

2021 Exam Questions

Urban segregation

See lecture 4 slide 28