

Urban Sociology

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October 22, 2021

Requirements:

- 3000 words double spaced, excluding refs/figures
- include at least 3 references to texts of syllabus
- include at least 2 references to new urban sociology texts

Notes

Gig economy

- Adam Badger, Geographer, PhD in food delivery gig economy <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=trzrwWAAAAAJ>
- Lecture 5, Undocumented Activism:
 - Are people working in the gig economy organising themselves in such a way as to be recognised and heard?
 - Can their activism be related to urban space? They have become a common sight within urban space, their bikes/cares/motorcycles are ubiquitous. However, is there any activism and if so, can it be seen on the streets? Its not visible in Brussels, or Munich... are there other European cities where it is visible? How

do the conditions change from country to country? What about in the US? Are there less worker welfare protection policies?

- Gig economy companies like Uber, make it virtually impossible for its workers to unionise. They have no formal way of contacting each other, of reaching out to their peers, if not by word of mouth or by ad-hoc measures
- Acts of civil disobedience: these sound interesting, they are planned events that go against the status quo. Are there such things staged by gig economists?
- Are gig economy workers uniting in safe spaces?

Find out how
they organise

- A parallel to the gig economy: the black economy.

Undocumented Migrants, Activism, Safe Spaces, Sanctuary Cities

- Key themes: Undocumented Migrants, Activism, Safe Spaces, Sanctuary Cities
- Connections to lectures:
 - Chicago School: where are the safe spaces within Burgess' concentric circle? where are the undocumented migrants? They exist throughout the city, and throughout social classes. For example, some are college educated and working in reputable companies (NYT modern love anecdote)
- “Prevention through deterrence” policy: the US discouraging migrants from attempting to cross into the US, because of the dangers associated <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolab/projects/border-trilogy>
 - How did the ICE rules change affect undocumented communities in the US?
 - Woman who's children were born in the US, faces deportation after ICE rule change. She decided to go public and find sanctuary within the church <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/tnyradiohour/segments/fleeing-deportation-woman-takes-sanctuary>
Although dozens of people are supposed to be hiding from deportation inside churches in NYC, she was the first to go public. This could be linked to the undocumented migrant activism; it's also interesting because she has children who are american citizens by birth

- * She is now an ICE fugitive, so what are her next options? <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/18/nyregion/told-to-go-back-to-guatemala-she-sought-sanctuary-in.html>
- How does church sanctuary defy law and government? Is this something that exists only in the US, or also in other places/with other religions than Christianity?
 - * In the US, religious buildings, schools and hospitals cannot be entered by police
 - * https://www.newsanctuarynyc.org/about_old
- By sheer will of the local government, cities are able to defy federal policy and protect its people. It decides to stop “illegalising”[SN21] newcomers, and rather, integrate them in the society

Idea bucket

- Empirical study of a city, on a sociological perspective (can maybe reuse astana). Astana was majority non-kazakh a century ago, but efforts to make it the capital drove kazakhs to it (especially given saturation of almaty), they are now the majority
- Civil disobedience
- The black economy: it makes up a part of the economy of the city, eg Brussels where 100.000 people are undocumented yet working and contributing to the society in some way. Who are these people who work in the black economy? how are they shaping the city, and influencing the politics?
- sanctuary cities and safe spaces: do they work, how do they work, why don't they work, do they change urban space?
 - What conditions need to exist in order for safe spaces to exist and be constructive towards progressing the cause?
 - Rally by undocumented group, by the ICE agency in Chicago (Immigration Customs and Enforcement)

References

- [SN21] Thomas Swerts and Walter Nicholls. “Undocumented Immigrant Activism and the Political: Disrupting the Order or Reproducing the Status Quo?” In: *Antipode* 53.2 (2021), pp. 319–330.