

# **GES1026/GESS1019 – Urban Planning in Singapore**

**Lecture 1 – Introduction** 

Dr. WANG Xize, Department of Real Estate

#### **Outline**

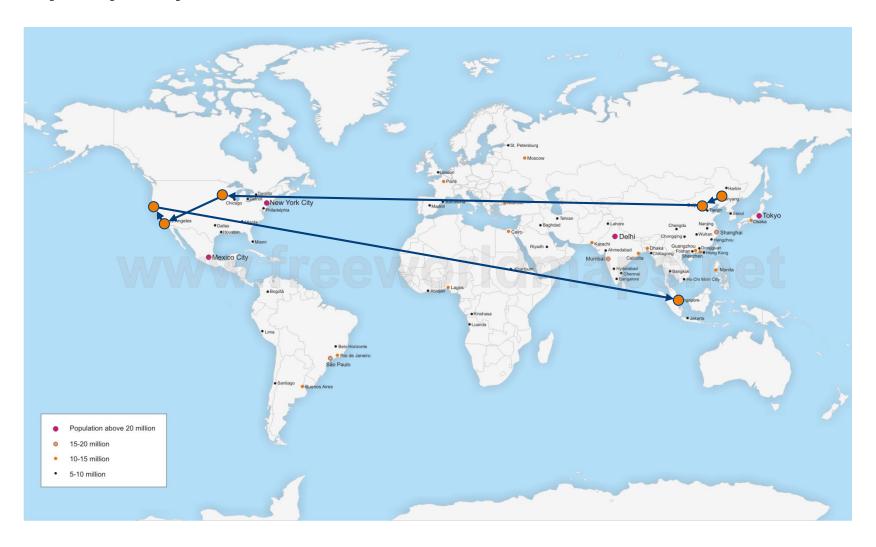


- Introduction
- Class logistics
- Urban challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Defining urban planning
  - Arguments for and against planning
- Brief history of urban development
  - The birth of modern urban planning

#### Introduction



My odyssey with cities ...



#### Introduction



- Research interests
  - Urban planning and policy analysis
  - Health and well-being
  - Demographic change
  - Sustainable mobility
- Contact info
  - Email: wang.xize@nus.edu.sg
  - Please allow 48 hours for email responses
  - Please add "GES1026 or GESS1019" in the email subject line

#### Introduction



- Tell us something about you
  - https://PollEv.com/ges1026
  - Note: use your student ID (e.g. A020xxx...) for your
     PollEveryone screen name





#### **Module Objectives**

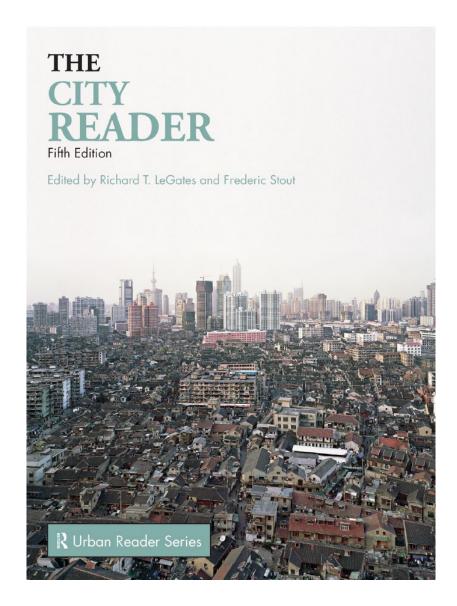


- This is an introductory module that provides students with an understanding of urban planning in the context of the growth and evolution of cities and its application in Singapore.
- Key learning objectives include:
  - Understanding the nature of urban planning;
  - An appreciation of urban planning system and processes;
  - Understanding urban planning principles and theories, and their application in the Singapore context.

#### **Textbooks**



World Scientific Series on Singapore's 50 Years of Nation-Building 50 YEARS OF URBAN PLANNING IN SINGAPORE Editor Heng Chye Kiang World Scientific



#### **Topics to be Covered (Lectures)**



- Planning history and theory (Weeks 2-4)
  - Introduction; pioneering planning thoughts; history of planning in Singapore
- Planning practice in Singapore (Weeks 5-8)
  - Long-range strategic planning; land use planning; planning implementation I/II
- Selected specific topics of planning (Weeks 9-12)
  - Participatory planning; heritage conservations; transportation I/II
- Wrap-up and review (Week 13)

#### **Assessments**



• Weekly quizzes: 5%

• Group project: 35%

Presentation: 10%

Report: 25%

• Participation: 10%

• Final exam (open-book, 2hrs): 50%

#### **Assessments**



- Weekly quizzes
  - A week to complete, open book, test your levels of understanding of the materials
  - A total of ten quizzes (weeks 3-11)
- Participations
  - Attendance/participation in lectures and tutorials
  - High-quality contributions in the discussions on the LumiNUS/Forum/GES1026 GESS1019 main forum
    - Feel free to post your questions/clarifications at forum
    - You can also email me the questions, and I will post them on you behalf if I feel necessary
    - Just asking questions or providing random answers won't count, only high-quality answers do

#### **Assessments**



- Group project
  - Students are expected to work in the SAME teams (of 5-6 students) for a project:
    - Identify one urban challenge/problem for Singapore, analyze it, and propose solutions based on literature/cases
  - Teams must be formed in the SAME tutorial group.
  - The 4 tutorial meetings consists of discussions and exercises to guide your group project.
    - We will start tutorial sessions in week 5
  - Please note that all team members are expected to actively contribute to the group project.
    - Team evaluation forms will be sent out at the end of the semester, and free-riders will be penalized

## **Lateness Policy**



- I have a strict policy towards credit for assignments that are turned in late.
  - A late assignment/project report will be accepted up until one week after the original due date with the following penalty:

Lateness	Penalty
Within 24 hours	20% off
24.01~48 hours	30% off
48.01~72 hours	40% off
72.01 hours ~ 7 days	50% off
Longer than 7.01 days	Zero grade

 I will consider requests for extensions due to special circumstances on a case-by-case basis, but please do not count on such requests being granted.

## **Schedule**

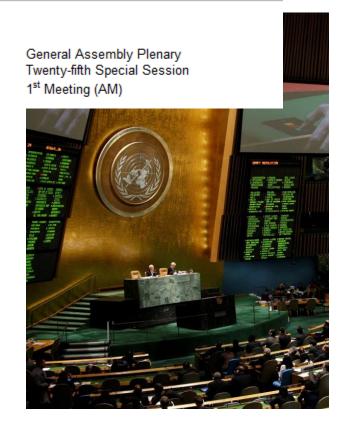


Week & Date	Lecture	Tutorial	Assignment Due
1: Aug. 9	National Day, no class		
2: Aug. 16	1. Introduction		
<b>3:</b> Aug. 23	2. Pioneering planning thoughts		Group project out
<b>4:</b> Aug. 30	3. History of Planning in Singapore		
<b>5:</b> Sep. 6	4. Long-range strategic planning	Introduction,     urban challenges and     project kick-off	Team formations & one sentence project topic
<b>6:</b> Sep. 13	5. Land use planning		
Sep. 18-26	Recess week		
7: Sep. 27	6. Implementation of plans I	2. Project topics and plans	Project proposal due Friday of the week
8: Oct. 4	7. Implementation of plans II		tutorial session taken in place.
9: Oct. 11	8. Participatory planning	3. Project progress and consultation	
<b>10:</b> Oct. 18	9. Heritage conservations		
11: Oct. 25	10. Transportation I	4. Group project presentation	Project slides due before presentation
<b>12:</b> Nov. 1	11. Transportation II		
13: Nov. 8	12. Wrap-up and review		
Reading week: Nov. 19			Project report due



- UN's General Assembly Meeting in 2001
  - "The world had entered an "urban millennium", and the international community must rise to its many challenges."
  - The shift to cities had brought problems with it that must be redressed. At the same time, the needs of rural settlements and communities must not be forgotten."





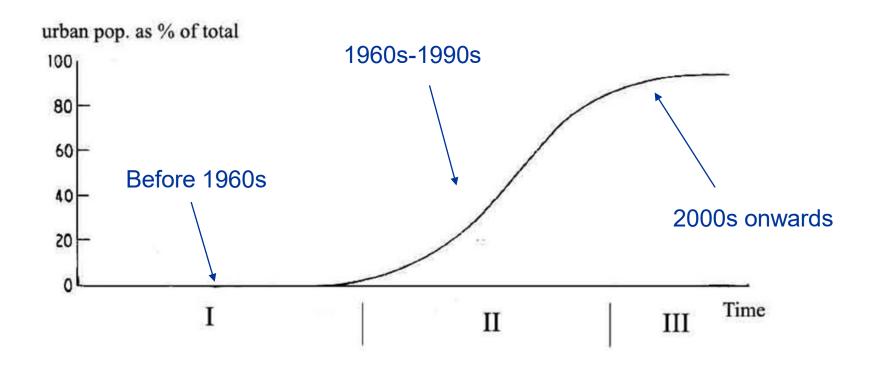
Source: <a href="https://www.un.org/press/en/2001/GA9867.doc.htm">https://www.un.org/press/en/2001/GA9867.doc.htm</a>



- Defining "urban"
  - No common global definition of what constitutes an urban settlement.
  - Criteria may be based on one or a combination of characteristics
    - Land use, administrative, economic, density, etc.
    - Example: Altas of Urban Expansion
  - Global urban population exceeded rural population for the first time in 2007.
  - Large cities with 5-10 million inhabitants account for a small, but growing proportion of the global urban population.



Trends in urbanization



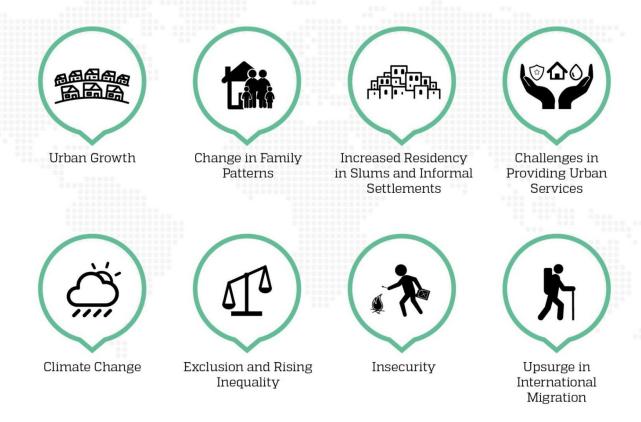


- Trends in urbanization
  - The share of global population residing in cities is projected to increase in all regions.
    - 2.5 billion more urban population by 2050, 90% in Asia and Africa.
  - Most megacities are located in the 'Global South'.
    - E.g. poorer, less developed regions of Africa, Latin America, and developing Asia including the Middle East
  - Some cities have experienced population decline in recent years.
  - A majority of city dwellers live in cities that face high risk of disaster-related mortality or economic losses



Magnified old problems, emerging new problems

Persistent issues and emerging urban challenges due to increased urban population.



## Why Urban Planning?



- Urban planning is an important tool for city leaders to achieve sustainable development
  - It helps to formulate medium- and long-term objectives that reconcile a collective vision with the rational organisation of the resources to achieve it.
  - It makes the most of municipal budgets by informing infrastructure and services investments, and balancing demands for growth with the need to protect the environment.

## Why Urban Planning?



- Urban planning is an important tool for city leaders to achieve sustainable development
  - It distributes economic development within a given area to reach social objectives, and creates a framework for collaboration between local governments, the private sector and the public.
  - Well-planned cities are more adaptive to climate change and resilient to its negative impacts than unplanned, poorly managed cities.



- Definitions of planning have changed over time and are not the same in all parts of the world.
  - Earlier views defined urban planning as physical design, enforced through land use control.
  - Current perspectives recognize the institutional shift from government to governance, the necessarily wider scope of planning beyond land-use, and how plans are implemented.



- Some contemporary definitions of planning
  - Planning is the art and science of ordering the use of land and siting of buildings and communication routes so as to secure the maximum practicable degree of economy, convenience and beauty (Keeble)
  - Planning is the making of an orderly sequence of action that will lead to the achievement of a stated goal or goals (Hall)
  - Planning is a process for determining appropriate future action through a sequence of choices (Davidoff and Reiner)



- Overall, planning is ...
  - a future-oriented social and economic problem solving process;
  - is concerned with management of resources, finding the most effective and efficient means over time and space
  - It is a way to achieve a certain level of consensus among different stakeholders
  - It is an intervention with an intention to change alter the existing course of events



- Planning's key characteristics include ...
  - Concern with the public interest (community)
  - Public intervention
  - Anticipation of change (future-oriented)
  - Comprehensive action
  - Political nature

## Why NOT Urban Planning?

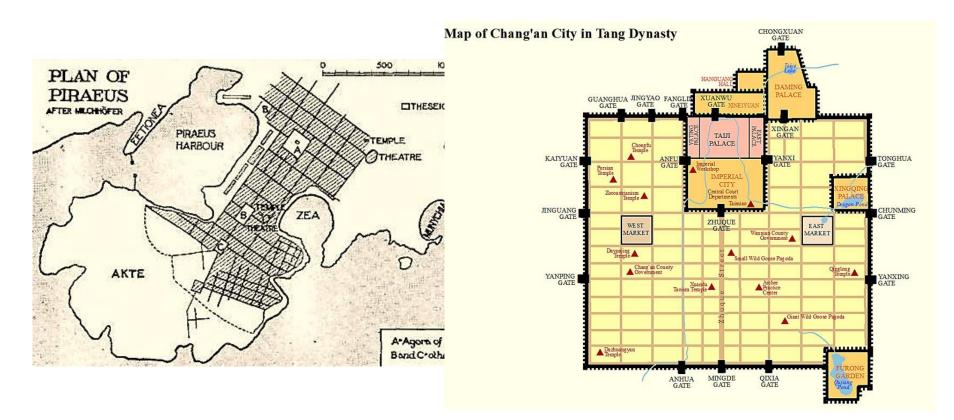


- Some common arguments against urban planning
  - The planning process normally assumes that planners know best, which may not be true
    - Jane Jacob's critiques against the rational planning model
  - Government failure
    - Some researchers argue that zoning has been the course of market inefficiencies and failure
  - Overly restrictive, lack of flexibility
  - Uneven implementation and enforcement
    - Political cycles

## **Cities in History: Ancient Planning**



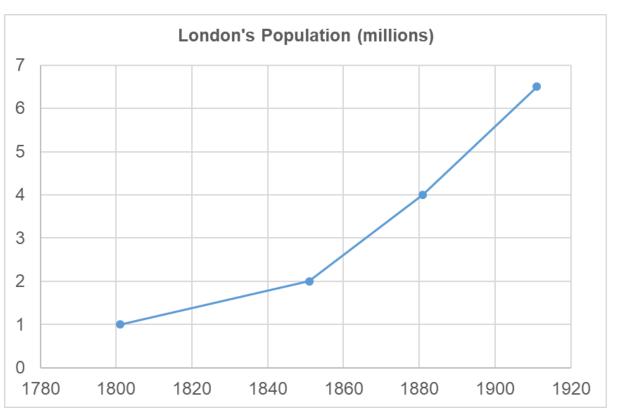
- Ancient "urban planning" (e.g. in Greece, Rome or China) made cities highly spatially organized for order and harmony.
  - Purpose: defense, worship, social life.



## Cities in History: Industrialization



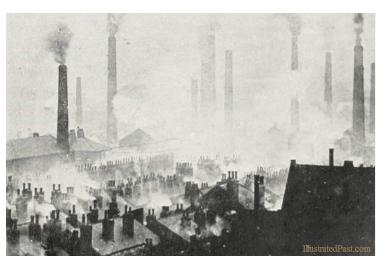
- The mass industrialization in the 19<sup>th</sup> century posited enormous challenges to the cities
  - Massive rural-to-urban migration, explosive growth of urban population since 1840s.



## Cities in History: Industrialization



- Cities in the late 19<sup>th</sup>century does not have
  adequate basic
  infrastructure to meet the
  residents' basic needs
  - Lack of sufficient living space - overcrowding
  - Water and air pollution
  - Limited water supplies being contaminated
  - Poor personal hygiene
  - Lack of public health controls

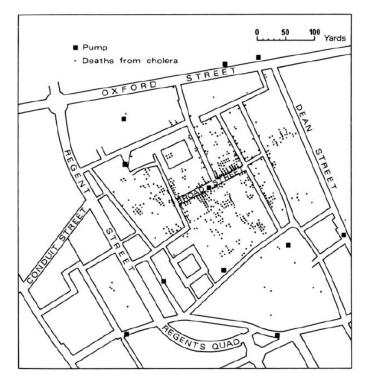




#### Cities in History: Industrialization



- The mass industrialization in the 19<sup>th</sup> century posited enormous challenges to the cities
  - London's cholera epidemic in 1854



**Figure 2.2** Deaths from cholera in the Soho district of London, September 1854. Dr John Snow's celebrated map, which established the connection between the cholera outbreak and a single polluted water pump in Broad Street. This emphasized the importance of supplying pure water to the inhabitants of the growing cities in Britain.

# Cities in History: Birth of Modern Urban Planning



- Modern urban planning was born as a response to these urban problems in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century Western world.
- Pioneering thoughts in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century:
  - Garden cities
  - Radiant cities
  - **–** ...
  - Will be introduced in the next lecture
- Many of Singapore's urban planning ideas can be rooted back to these pioneering thoughts