

Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
Program in Urban Planning-Columbia University
Course: PLA 6607 - 3 points
Prof. Marcela Tovar-Restrepo

Fall 2014

Thursday, 4:00pm – 6:00pm

200 Buell

SYLLABUS PLA6607.001
Environment, Climate Change and Vulnerability of Cities: Our New
“Normal”

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Climate change (CC) constitutes one of the most urgent issues of our time. It has worldwide implications -from the exacerbation of poverty, to the loss of environmental, political, economic and social security-. Climate change threatens both industrialized and less industrialized world regions. Vulnerable social groups in precarious positions bear the burden of phenomenon like: displacement, interethnic and social conflicts, alteration of food production patterns and livelihoods, and spread of diseases among others. This course explores the vulnerability of urban populations making emphasis on context specific impacts in low and middle-income nations. Using case studies we will analyze how climate change impacts different social groups in our cities, identifying adaptation and mitigation strategies being currently implemented. Tools to draw on climate change scientific data and the uncertainty inherent in future projections, will be provided. Students will have the opportunity to study and engage to climate change and development international processes like: the UN Climate Change Summit in Sept. 2014, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 20th Session (COP-20), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Post-2015 agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Students who can pay for their expenses, will have the opportunity to attend the United Nations COP-20 taking place bet. Dec.1-12/2014 in Lima-Peru (see: http://unfccc.int/meetings/lima_dec_2014/meeting/8141.php). They would be representing the civil society by traveling with and joining the activities pursued by Women Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). WEDO is an international organization that advocates for environmental justice in global policy promoting human rights, gender equality and the integrity of the environment. Its mission is to ensure that women's rights and sustainable development principles- as well as the linkages between them- are at the heart of global and national policies, programs and practices. WEDO works on a range of cross-cutting issues, from climate change and natural resource management, to global governance and finance and UN reform. This NGO works with human rights

NGOs around the world following and contributing to UN platforms and international conventions on environment and sustainable development among national States.

INSTRUCTOR

Marcela Tovar-Restrepo, PhD, is lecturer at in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University. She obtained her PhD in Anthropology at the New School for Social Research (N.Y.) and her Master on Urban Development Planning at University College of London. She conducts research on diversity, gender and development in Latin America. In the U.S.A. she has served as Director (a) of the Latin American and Latino Studies Program at Queens College–CUNY (2008-2011) and taught at Lang College–New School (Urban Studies Program). In Latin America, she has taught and worked as policy-maker in Colombia and Chile for more than ten years. Besides teaching, Dr. Tovar-Restrepo has served as international consultant mainstreaming cultural and gender rights into policy-making processes at different UN instances like the Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD) - DESA, UNDEF, IPU and the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues. She has also served as technical advisor and researcher for International cooperation agencies (GTZ, AECID), governments, social movements and NGOs in areas such as gender and ethnic diversity, environment and human rights and conflict. She is the Chair of the Board of Directors –WEDO, NY.

REQUIRED PRESENTATIONS & ESSAY

INDIVIDUAL IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS. Students will select one or two main topics of our course based on their main interests. Each student will make a 10-15 mins. in-class presentation based on the readings assigned for the topic they have selected. These presentations are intended to introduce the topic for out class and kick-off the collective discussion.

FINAL ESSAY. The final essay will be a maximum of 7,000 words, *excluding* bibliography, graphic materials and tables, and appendixes. The project requires a robust bibliography (including when appropriate academic, journalistic, and institutional data) and supporting graphic materials. Students will need to show a critical understanding of climate change as a cross-cutting issue in urban planning.

EVALUATION

Midterm 15 pts.		
Individual 20 pts.	in-class	presentation(s)
Final		presentation

20 pts.				
Final				report
25 pts.				
Participation,	group	work	and	attendance
20 pts.				
TOTAL				
100 pts.				

OFFICE HOURS

TBA

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS (Most of the readings will be posted on courseworks)

Introduction

1. 9/4/14. What is climate change? How does it impact cities in high-income and low-income countries? What can urban planners do?

Required Reading

Global Report on Human Settlements 2011: Cities and Climate Change, Policy Directions. Chapters 1 and 7. United Nations Habitat. Site: www.unhabitat.org

PART I: Climate Change, Cities and Urban Planning

2. 9/11/13. Urban Politics of Climate Change: Opportunities, Challenges and Policy Making

Required Reading

Climate Change (Routledge Critical Introductions to Urbanism and the City) by H. Bulkeley (Introduction and Conclusions)

Freire, Mila et al., "Cities and the Urgent Challenges of Climate Change". In Cities and Climate Change. Ed. Daniel Hoornweg, Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2011:1-15. (E-Book in Clio Cat)

Heinrichs, Dirk. "Adapting Cities to Climate Change: Opportunities and Constraints". In Cities and Climate Change. Ed. Daniel Hoornweg, Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2011:193-225 (Cases: Cape Town, Delhi, Santiago, Singapore) (e-Book in Clio Cat)

3. 9/18/14. International Platforms for Urban Action: Shall We Question Them?

Required Reading

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change-Fifth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability (2014). Pls. scan the doc. But focus only on the summary for policymakers posted at: <http://www.ipcc.ch>

Aromar, R. et al. Towards transformative adaptation in cities: the IPCC's Fifth Assessment. Environment and Urbanization April 2014, 26: 11-28

Aguilar, Lorena. Missing in Discussions of Climate Change: Women (2014) in http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lorena-aguilar/missing-in-discussions-of_b_5092088.html

Satterthwaite, D. "Getting local governments, residents and enterprises to respond to the new IPCC assessment". Environment and Urbanization April 2014, 26: 3-10

4. 9/25/14. United Nations Summit on Climate Change – N.Y./Sept. 22-18

Activities (TBA)

See: <http://www.un.org/climatechange/climate-summit-2014/>

See: <http://www.climateweeknyc.org>

5. 10/2/14. Resilience vs Sustainability?

Required Reading

Pelling, Mark. Adaptation to Climate Change: From Resilience to Transformation. Part II: The resilience: transition transformation framework pg. 53-68. Routledge 2011 (e-book in CLIO Cat)

Aditya Bahadur and Thomas Tanner. Transformational resilience thinking: putting people, power and politics at the heart of urban climate resilience in Environment and Urbanization, April 2014, 26: 200-214, first published on March 3, 2014 (Case study: 2 cities in India)

Michaela Hordijk, Liliana Miranda Sara, and Catherine Sutherland. Resilience, transition or transformation? A comparative analysis of changing water governance systems in four southern cities Environment and Urbanization April 2014 26: 130-146, first published on March 7, 2014 (Case Studies: Guarulhos, Arequipa, Lima and Durban)

PART II: Social Dimension of Climate Change

6. 10/9/14. Identity, Power and Intersectionality

Required Reading

Kaijser, A. and Kronsell, A. Climate change through the lens of intersectionality in *Environmental Politics*, 23:3, 417-433

Chandra Russo, C. and Pattison, A. Climate Action Planning: An Intersectional Approach to The Urban Equity Dilemma. Forthcoming in the edited volume: *World Turning: Race, Class, Gender, and Global Climate Change*

Nagel, J. Intersecting identities and global climate change in *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* Vol. 19, No. 4, July 2012, 467–476

7. 10/16/14. Social Justice: A Methodological Guideline and a Framework for Pro-poor Asset Adaptation

Required Reading

Moser, C. “A Conceptual and Operational Framework for Pro-poor Asset Adaptation to Urban Climate Change”. In *Cities and Climate Change*. Ed. Daniel Hoornweg, Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2011:225-255 (e-book in Clio Cat)

Moser, C and A Stein (2011), “Implementing urban participatory climate change adaptation appraisals: a methodological guideline,” *Environment and Urbanization* Vol 23, No 2, pages 463–485.

Stein, A. and Moser, C. Asset planning for climate change adaptation: lessons from Cartagena, Colombia in *Environment and Urbanization*, April 2014 26: 166-183

Bartlett, Sheridan. *Climate Change and Urban Children Human Settlements*. Discussion Paper Series No.2, International Institute of Environment and Development, London, 2008: 1-12, 47-72.

8. 10/23/14. Climate Change and Social Roles: Why Gender Needs to be Prioritized?

Khosla, P. and Masaud, A. “Cities, Climate Change and Gender: A Brief Overview”. In *Gender and Climate Change: an introduction*. Ed. Irene Dankelman, London: Earthscan, 2011:55-72

Huraera, J. Adapting the built environment: the role of gender in shaping vulnerability and resilience to climate extremes in Dhaka. *Environment and Urbanization* April, 2014 26: 147-165

Nelson, V, K Meadows, T Cannon, J Morton and A Martin (2002), "Uncertain predictions, invisible impacts and the need to mainstream gender in climate change adaptations", *Gender and Development* Vol 10, No 2, pages 51–59.

Levy, C. Travel choice reframed: "deep distribution" and gender in urban transport. *Environment and Urbanization*, 2013 25: 47

9. 10/30/14. MIDTERM

PART III: Climate Change Governance: Strategies, City Plans and Institutions

10. 11/6/14. Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies in Different Scenarios

Required Reading

Wamsler, C. and Brink, E. Moving beyond short-term coping and adaptation. *Environment and Urbanization*, April 2014 26: 86-111

Krellenber, K. and Hansjurgens, B. (Ed.) *Climate Adaptation Santiago*. Springer, 2014 - Chp.: TBA (e-book in Clio Cat)

Aggarwal., R. M. Strategic Bundling of Development Policies with Adaptation: An Examination of Delhi's Climate Change Action Plan. *International Journal of Urban Research*, Vol 37, Issue 6 pp. 1902-1915, Nov. 2013

Bulkeley, H. Local Government and the Governing of Climate Change in Germany and the UK. *Urban Studies*, Nov. 2006 vol. 43 no. 12, pp. 2237-2259

11. 11/13/14. U.S. Cities: What is happening in NYC?

Speaker: Juan Camilo Osorio - Expert on CC in NYC

Required Reading (TBA)

12. 11/20/13. City Plans of Action

Required Reading

Brody, S. et al. Moving from agenda to action: evaluating local climate change action plans *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* Vol. 53 issue 1, pp. 41-62, 2010

Bassett, E. and Vivek, S. Innovation and Climate Action Planning Perspectives From Municipal Plans Journal of the American Planning Association Vol. 76, Issue 4, pp. 435-450, 2010

Jorgelina Hardoy, J. et al. Institutionalizing climate change adaptation at municipal and state level in Chetumal and Quintana Roo, Mexico. Environment and Urbanization, April 2014, 26: 69-85

13. 11/27/14. NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

14. 2/4/14. FINAL PRESENTATIONS