

Urban Africa

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Description

This seminar engages debates in contemporary neoliberal urbanism with a particular focus on African cities. It questions the colonially-mediated modern conceptual frameworks that undergird the urban studies field. It suggests to rethink the intimate connection emerges between the development of capitalism and urbanization. This seminar explores the ongoing reconfigurations in urban as social laboratory: the production of gendered, raced, classed subjectivities, housing, land, networks, livelihoods, power, violence and social movements in the everyday life of dwelling.

Texts

Edgar Pieterse, and Edjabe Ntone, eds. *African Cities Reader I: Pan-African Practices*.
Edjabe Ntone, and Edgar Pieterse, eds. *African Cities Reader II: Mobilities & Fixtures*.
Edjabe Ntone, and Edgar Pieterse, eds. *African Cities Reader III: Land, Property & Value*

Week One Contemporary Egypt

Texts: Sims, D. (2012). Understanding Cairo: The logic of a city out of control. Oxford University Press, chapt. 1 & 10; Michaelson, R. (2018, May 8). ‘Cairo has started to become ugly’: why Egypt is building a new capital city. The Guardian. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/may/08/cairo-why-egypt-build-new-capital-city-desert>.

Week Two Neoliberal Urbanism

Texts: Harvey, D. (2008) “The Right to the City” New Left Review 53: 23-53; Sassen, S. (1997) “Whose City is it? Globalization and the Formation of New Claims, Public Culture 8, 205-223; Al. Sayyed, N and A. Roy (2006) “Medieval Modernity: On Citizenship and Urbanism in a Global Era” Space and Polity, 10 (1), pp. 1-20.

Three: African Urbanism

Week Three African Urbanism (Part one)

Texts: Edjabe, N and Pieterse, E (editors) (2015), African Cities Reader III: Land, Property and Value; Pieterse, E. (2009) “Framing themes and questions for an engagement with African urbanism”; Rao, V., DeBoeck, F., & Simone, A. (2007).

“Invisible Urbanism in Africa” *Perspecta*, 39, 78-91. Optional: Simone, A. and Piertse. (2017), E. *New Urban Worlds: Inhabiting Dissonant Times*.

Week Four African Urbanism (Part two)

Texts: Simone, AbdouMaliq. *Improvised lives: rhythms of endurance in an urban South*. John Wiley & Sons, 2018.; Nuttall, Sarah, Achille Mbembe, and AbdouMaliq Simone. *Johannesburg: the elusive metropolis*. Duke University Press, 2008.; Simone, AbdouMaliq. *City life from Jakarta to Dakar: movements at the crossroads*. Routledge, 2010.

Week Five The Neoliberal Social Laboratory (Part one)

Texts: Lelandis, G. (2014) Space and identity in resistance against neoliberal urban planning in Turkey. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(5), 1785-1806; Hewamane, S. (2003) “Performing ‘Dis-respectability’: New Tastes, Cultural Practices, and Identity Performances by Sri Lanka’s Free Trade Zone Garment-Factory Workers” *Cultural Dynamics*, 15: 71; R., & Sanyal, K. (2011). Bypassing the squalor: New towns, immaterial labour and exclusion in post-colonial urbanisation. *Economic and Political Weekly*, XLVI(31), 41-48;

Week Six The Neoliberal Social Laboratory (Part two)

Texts: Arabindoo, P (2009) “Falling Apart at the Margins? Neighborhood Transformations in Peri-Urban Chennai” *Development and Change* 40 (5): 879-901; DeBoeck, F (2011) “Inhabiting Ocular Ground: Kinshasa’s Future in the Light of Congo’s Spectral Urban Politics” *Cultural Anthropology*, 26 (2): 263-286; Abourahme, N. (2009). “The Bantustan Sublime: Reframing the Colonial in Ramallah.” *City*, 13(4), 499-509; Appadurai, A. (2000). Spectral housing and urban cleansing: Notes on millennial Mumbai. *Public Culture*, 12(3), 627. [Select Three Texts]

Week Seven The Politics of ‘Informality’

Texts: Roy, A (2005) “Urban Informality: Towards and Epistemology of Planning,” *Journal of American Planning Association* 71 (2); Datta, A. (2012). *The Illegal City. Space, Law and Gender in a Delhi Squatter Settlement*; Das, V (2011) “State, Citizenship and the Urban Poor” *Citizenship Studies* 15:3-4; 319-333; Rao, V. (2006) “Slum as Theory: The South Asian City and Globalization” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 30 (1), 225-32; [Select Three Texts]

Week Eight Insecurity and Fear, Militarization and Securitization (Part one)

Texts: Kern, L. and Mullings, B. (2013) "Urban neoliberalism, urban insecurity and urban violence: Exploring the gender dimensions" In *Rethinking Feminist Interventions into the Urban*, pp. 23-40; Phadke, S (2007) "Dangerous Liaisons: Women and Men: Risk and Reputation in Mumbai" *Economic and Political Weekly*, April 8, 2007), pp. 1500-1518; Phadke, S (2005) "You Can Be Lonely in a Crowd. The Production of Safety in Mumbai" *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* 12:1; Zeiderman, A., Kaker, S. A., Silver, J., & Wood, A. (2015). *Uncertainty and Urban Life. Public Culture*, 27(2 76), 281-304; [Select Three Texts]

Week Nine Insecurity and Fear, Militarization and Securitization (Part two)

Texts: Wright, M. (2004). *From Protests to Politics: Sex work, women's worth, and Ciudad Juarez Modernity. Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 94(2); Merry, S.E. (2001) *Spatial Governmentally and the New Urban Order: Controlling Gender Violence Through Law, American Anthropologist*, 103 (1); Rajagopal, A. (2001) *The Violence of Commodity Aesthetics, Social Text* 68 (19:3); Graham, S. (2010) *Cities Under Siege: The New Urban Militarism. Verso.* (excerpts) OR Fassin, D (2011) *Enforcing Order: An Ethnography of Urban Policing. Polity.* (excerpts) Clarno, A (2008) *A Tale of Two Walled Cities: Neoliberalization and Enclosure in Johannesburg and Jerusalem, Political Power and Social Theory*, 19, 159-205. [Select Three Texts]

Week Ten Infrastructure

Texts: Baptista, I (2016) 'We live on Estimates': Everyday Practices of Pre-paid Electricity and the Urban Condition in Maputo, Mozambique." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*; Abourahme, N. (2014). "Assembling and spilling-over: Towards an 'ethnography of cement' in a Palestinian Refugee Camp". *International Journal of Urban Regional Studies*; McFarlane, F and Silver,(2016). J. "The Political City: "Seeing Sanitation" and Making the Urban Political in Cape Town" *Antipode*; Babourkova, R. (2016) "Plovdiv: (De-)racialising electricity access? Entanglements of the material and the discursive;" Desai, R.(2015). "The Politics of Open Defecation: Informality, Body, and Infrastructure in Mumbai" *Antipode*. Chance, K. (2015). "Where there is fire, there is politics": Ungovernability and Material Life in Urban. *South Africa" Cultural Anthropology* 30 (3), pp. 394-423; Desai, V. And A. Loftus. (2010). "Speculating on Slums: Infrastructural Fixes in Informal Housing in the Global South" *Antipode*. [Select Three Texts]

Week Eleven Crisis & Movements

Texts: Dikeç, M., & Swyngedouw, E. (2017). "Theorizing the politicizing city." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*; Allegra, M, Bono I, Rokem J

and A. Casaglia, (2013) "Rethinking Cities in Contentious Times" *Urban Studies*, 50(9) pp. 1675-1688; Abourahme, N. (2014). "Ruinous city, ruinous time future suspended and the science fiction of the present." *City*, 18(4-5), 577-582; Harvey, D. (2012) *Rebel Cities*. Verso. [Select Three Texts]

Week Twelve