

**URBS-457/SOCI-435 Globalization and the City**  
**Fall 2015**

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Time: Tuesdays 4:30pm to 7pm  
Classroom: Van Pelt 113

**Course Description:**

Globalization has become one of the primary categories by which 21<sup>st</sup> century change is imagined. Scholars have used the concept to both justify and explain everything from increased social inequality to changing migration patterns to national growth to sectarian strife to corporatization to humanitarianism. Yet, globalization as a category has been ill-defined: is it primarily an economic, political, or cultural process? Where do we see the results of globalization and why?

Either implicitly or explicitly, rightly or wrongly, the city has taken on a renewed focus as the “site” in which these global processes take place, with airports, roads, multinational corporations, information technologies, supranational organizations, and financial centers facilitating global connection between cities. Yet, emerging cities in the Global South such as Sao Paolo, Lahore, New Delhi, and Newark have seen changes drastically different than cities such as New York, London, and Paris. These differences reflect complex histories linked to earlier colonial, racial, and ethnic relations. How, then, does globalization differentially affect these cities?

In the first half of the semester we will review the debates on globalization before locating our discussion in major cities from around the globe, trying to understand the concept of globalization as it is refracted through specific histories of governance, migration, infrastructural development, and violence. We will draw on multi-disciplinary literature to examine the factors that transform urban spaces and to understand why particular cities have emerged as “world” powers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We draw links between global processes, such as the growth of urban middle-classes and emerging communication technologies, and read from across the globe to determine shared opportunities and challenges of global urbanization. Most importantly, we will understand globalization empirically, using case studies from the Global North and the Global South to understand how global connections are forged, creating benefits for some and disadvantages for others; a process of ‘uneven development’.

Students will choose their own city upon which to conduct primary research and deepen their understanding of globalization as a process located in specific histories and spatial relations. They will do primary and secondary research using scholarly articles, news media sources, and documentary film archives to make arguments about how global processes are re-shaping their selected urban locale. By the end of the course, students will have the theoretical knowledge along with empirical case studies to critically respond to the question: *What does the globalization of the city look like?*

**Course Objectives:**

- ✚ Develop an empirical understanding of the economic, political, and sociocultural aspects of globalization discourse
- ✚ Disentangle the relationship between the ‘global’ and the ‘local’
- ✚ Extend knowledge of cities beyond the Global North to the Global South
- ✚ Improve critical reading strategies and cultivate habits of reading a daily periodical

- ✚ Learn techniques for substantive, theoretically rich, fact-based dialogue and debate

### Course Assignments:

- 1. Class Participation:** A seminar is only as dynamic as the discussions generated by students. It is essential that all students do the readings before class and have notes ready for in-class discussion. Students are expected to be active participants, asking questions and furthering dialogue during class.
- 2. Class Presentation:** Each week two students will give a 15-minute presentation on the readings for the week and facilitate a class discussion of approximately 45 minutes. Students should be able to provide a brief history of the urban context under discussion, identify several key theoretical interventions made by each scholar, provide their own thoughts on how these theories allow us to understand globalization differently, and generate guiding questions for discussion. Students are expected to relate the readings with current events (preferably on their chosen city), developing insights and challenging scholarship based on their primary source data.
- 3. Course Blog:** Each week there will be a question based on that week's readings. Each student will be expected to post a response of no more than 250 words by Sunday night at 5pm. Students will be expected to read each others posting and respond to at least one post before arriving in class on Tuesday. The presenters for each week will not be expected to post, but will be expected to read and bring in particular blogposts of interest as part of their Tuesday presentations.
- 4. Newspaper Readings:** Globalization is an ongoing process that is both emerging and dynamic. Reading a range of newspaper sources daily will allow you to start understanding how global processes occur and change, and may allow you to uncover aspects of globalization – such as global climate change – that are not covered in the course. You should read several newspapers (such as The New York Times, The Financial Times, The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, The BBC, Al Jazeera, the Hindu, Atlantic Cities as well as local sources in countries and regions you are interested in), and explore websites such as those listed at the end of the syllabus. Your outside readings will be the basis for your final projects and should be introduced into the class presentations and discussion. Please make the linkages with arguments in the class readings and the themes of the class explicit.
- 5. Midterm Exam:** The midterm will be a take home exam that will ask you to respond to two essay prompts related to the topics from the first half of the semester. It will be due via email within seven days after it has been administered.
- 6. Voiceover Powerpoint:** The end term assignment will be a voiceover powerpoint of 5-7 minutes in which you will use only your voices, images, and film clips to make a specific argument regarding how globalization has affected one specific city in the world (not included on the syllabus already).

You may work alone or with a partner to answer the guiding question of our course: *What does the globalization of the city look like?* You will need to argue using sights and sounds, making your argument by ‘showing’ us a global city. How is the space of your city structured? What are the particular economic practices that have been set in place? What is the demographic makeup of your city and how do particular cultural practices influence how globalization takes place?

**Required texts:**

- ✚ Roy, Ananya, and Aihwa Ong. 2011. *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*. 1st ed. Wiley-Blackwell.
- ✚ Neil Brenner and Roger Keil (eds.) 2006. *The Global Cities Reader*. Routledge.
- ✚ Ramos-Zayas, Anna. 2012. *Street Therapists: Race, Affect, and Neoliberal Personhood in Latino Newark*.

**Week 1 (09/02): Introduction: Is the World Flat?**

Film: Naomi Klein. 2003. No Logo Brands, Globalization, Resistance. Media Education Foundation.

Interview: Thomas Friedman w/ Barack Obama (Aug 4, 2014)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/09/opinion/president-obama-thomas-l-friedman-iraq-and-world-affairs.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/09/opinion/president-obama-thomas-l-friedman-iraq-and-world-affairs.html?_r=0)

Readings:

- Friedman, Thomas. 2005. *The World is Flat*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, excerpts
- Varma, Meher. 2007. “India Wiring Out: Ethnographic Reflections from Two Transnational Call Centers in India.” *Anthropology Matters*. 9(2)
- Appadurai, Arjun. 2001. “Introduction”. *Globalization*. Duke University Press.
- Appadurai, Arjun. 1996. “Introduction”. *Modernity at Large: The Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*.
- Barber, Benjamin. 1992. Jihad vs McWorld *The Atlantic Magazine* <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1992/03/jihad-vs-mcworld/303882/>
- Paul Hirst and Grahame Thompson. 2003. Globalization – A Necessary Myth? In Held, David and Anthony McGrew. *The Global Transformations Reader* (pp. 68-75)

**Week 2 (09/09): Neoliberal Globalization**

Film: Inside Job (2010). Directed by Charles Ferguson.

RSA Animate:

David Harvey - The Crisis of Capitalism

Slavoj Zizek - First as Tragedy, Then as Farce

Readings:

- Nonini, D. M. (2008). “Is China Becoming Neoliberal?” *Critique of Anthropology* 28(2). 145-176.

- Read the Interview with David Harvey. “On Neoliberalism: An Interview with David Harvey.” <http://davidharvey.org/>
- Brenner, Neil and Nik Theodore. 2002. “Cities and Actually Existing Neoliberalism.” *Antipode: A Journal of Critical Geography*
- Picketty, Thomas. 2014. “Excerpts.” *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. Belknap Press.

*Recommended:*

- Harvey, David. 2005. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford University Press.
- Smith, Neil. 2008. “Excerpts.” *Uneven Development: Nature, Capital and the Production of Space*. University of Georgia Press

**Week 3 (09/16): The City in a Globalized Context**

Film:

Readings:

- Steve Kobrin. 2008. It Ain’t Over Until the Fat Lady Sings: Three Narratives Relating to the Rise and Possible Fall of the 2nd Wave of Globalization
- Lin, Jan. 2005. “Globalization and Revalorizing of Ethnic Places in Immigration Gateway Cities” in *The Urban Sociology Reader*, Routledge.
- Saskia Sassen. 2006. “Locating Cities on Global Circuits.” In Neil Brenner and Roger Keil (eds.), *The Global Cities Reader*. Routledge, pp. 89-95.
- John Friedman. 2006. “The World Cities Hypothesis.” In Neil Brenner and Roger Keil (eds.), *The Global Cities Reader*. Routledge, pp. 67-72.
- Castells, Manuel. 2009. “The Space of Flows” Chapter 4 in *The Rise of the Network Society*. Wiley- Blackwell, New York
- Freeland, Chrysta. “The Rise of the New Global Elite”, 2011. *The Atlantic Magazine* <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/01/the-rise-of-the-new-global-elite/308343/>

*Recommended:*

- Sassen, Saskia. 2005. “The Global City: Introducing a Concept”, *Brown Journal of World Affairs*
- Castells, Manuel. 2009. “The New Economy: Informationalism, Globalization, Networking”, Chapter 2 in *The Rise of the Network Society*. Wiley-Blackwell, New York.
- Saxenian, Annalee. 2005. “From Brain Drain to Brain Circulation: Transnational Communities and Regional Upgrading in India and China” in *Studies in Comparative International Development*, Vol. 40, No. 2
- Agarwal and Sivaramakrishnan, 2003. Introduction and Excerpt, *Regional Modernities*.
- Rockefeller, Stuart Alexander. 2011. “Flow.” *Current Anthropology*. 52(4): 557-578

**Week 4 (09/25): The City in a Globalized Context (Power)**

- Zukin, Sharon. 2006. “The City as a Landscape of Power: London and New York as Global Financial Capitals” in *The Global Cities Reader*, Routledge.
- Davis, Mike. 2006. “Excerpts.” *Planet of Slums*. Verso.

- Graham, Stephen. Introduction. *Cities Under Siege*.
- Sassen, Saskia. 2012. Chapter 2 “The Urban Impact of Economic Globalization” in *Cities in the World Economy*. Pine Forge Press.

*Recommended:*

- Sassen, Saskia. 2012 “The New Urban Economy: The Intersection of Global Processes and Place”, Chapter 4 in *Cities in the World Economy*. Pine Forge Press
- Sassen, Saskia. 2012. “Global Cities and Global Survival Circuits”, Chapter 7 in *Cities in the World Economy*. Pine Forge Press
- Castells, Manuel. 2009. “The Transformation of Work and Employment: Networkers, Jobless and Flexitimers”, Chapter 4 of *The Rise of the Network Society*. Wiley-Blackwell, New York

**Week 5 (10/01): New York**

Film:

Readings:

- Janet Abu-Lughod. 2006. “Global City Formation in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. A Historical Perspective” in Neil Brenner and Roger Keil (eds.), in *The Global Cities Reader*.
- Brash, Julian. 2011. “Excerpts.” *Bloomberg’s New York: Class and Governance in the Luxury City*. University of Georgia Press.
- Browse: New York Times Special Series “The United States of Subsidies” [http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/12/01/us/government-incentives.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/12/01/us/government-incentives.html?_r=0)
- Browse: “The Gilded City: Bloomberg’s New York”, Special issue of *The Nation*, April 2013 <http://www.thenation.com/article/173925/special-issue-gilded-city-bloombergs-new-york>
- Jackson, John L. 2001. “Excerpts.” *Harlemworld: Doing Race and Class in Contemporary Black America*.

*Recommended:*

- Davis, Mike. 1992. “Fortress LA” in *City of Quartz*. Vintage: New York

**Week 6 (10/07): Newark**

Film: Heart of Stone (2009)

Readings:

- Ramos-Zayas, Ana. 2012. “Excerpts.” *Street Therapists: Race, Affect, and Neoliberal Personhood in Latino Newark*
- Russakoff, Dale. 2014. “Schooled.” *The New Yorker*. <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/05/19/schooled>

**Week 7 (10/14): Sao Paulo**

TV Series: City of Men

Readings:

- Caldeira, Teresa P.R. 2008. “From Modernism to Neoliberalism in São Paulo.

Reconfiguring the City and its Citizens.” In Andreas Huyssen (ed) *Other Cities, Other Worlds: Urban Imaginaries in a Globalizing Age*. Duke University Press, pp. 51-78.

- Caldeira, Teresa. 2001. “Excerpts.” *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in Sao Paulo*. University of California Press.
- Holston, James. 2008. “Excerpts.” *Insurgent Citizenship: Disjunctions of Democracy and Modernity in Brazil*. Princeton University Press.

*Recommended:*

- Holston, James. 2010. “Right to the City, Right to Rights, and Urban Citizenship.” Mershon Center for International Security Studies.

**Week 8 (10/21): Cairo**

Film: Youssef Chahine – Cairo (1991)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRO1kB2VEu0>

Film: Mai Iskander - Garbage Dreams (2010)

Readings:

- Denis, Eric. 2009. “Cairo ad Neoliberal Capital?” in eds. Diane Singerman and Paul Amar, *Cairo Cosmopolitan*

*The National*. “And then Cairo turned itself Inside Out.”

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/world/and-then-cairo-turned-itself-inside-out#full>

**Week 9 (10/28): Dubai and Abu Dhabi**

Film:

Readings:

- Vora, Neha. 2013. “Excerpts.” *Impossible Citizens: Dubai’s Indian Diaspora*. Duke University Press.
- Kanna, Ahmed. 2011. “Excerpts.” *Dubai, The city as Corporation*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Haines, Chad. “Cracks in the Façade: Landscapes of Hope and Desire in Dubai.” In Ong and Roy (eds) *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*.
- Lowry, Glen and McCann, Eugene. “Asia in the Mix: Urban Form and Global Mobility – Hong Kong, Vancouver, Dubai.” In Ong and Roy (eds) *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*.

**Week 10 (11/04): Lahore and Karachi**

Guest lecturer by Mariam Durrani

Film: The Reluctant Fundamentalist (2012)

Film: These Birds Walk (2013)

Readings:

- Bolognani, M. (2011) *Rang de Basanti in Pakistan? Elite student activism, the emergence of a virtual globalised public sphere and the 2007 Emergency*, in Bolognani, M., Lyon, S. (eds.) *Pakistan and its Diaspora: Multidisciplinary Approaches*, New York: Palgrave.



- Bolognani, M. (2010) 'Virtual protest with tangible effects? An analysis of media strategies in the 2007 Pakistani anti-Emergency movement', in Bolognani, M. (guest editor) *Media in South Asia in the Noughties*, special issue of *Contemporary South Asia*, December 2010, vol. 18(4) , 401-412.
- Ring, Laura. 2006. Excerpts. *Zenana: Everyday Peace in a Karachi Apartment Building*. Indian University Press.

*Recommended:*

Readings from [www.researchcollective.org](http://www.researchcollective.org)

### **Week 11 (11/11): Delhi and Bangalore**

Film: When Shankar Nag Comes Asking (2013)

Readings:

- Roy, Ananya. 2011. "Postcolonial Urbanism" in Ong and Roy (eds) *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*.
- Sundaram, Ravi. 2009. Introduction and Excerpts. *Pirate Modernity: Delhi's Media Urbanism*.
- Ghertner, Asher. 2011. "World Class City Making in Delhi" in Ong and Roy (eds) *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*.
- Goldman, Michael. 2011. "Speculating on the Next World City" in Ong and Roy (eds) *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*.

### **Week 12 (11/18):**

#### **Colombo**

Film:

Readings:

- Perera, Nihal. 2006. "Exploring Colombo: The relevance of a knowledge of New York." In Neil Brenner and Roger Keil (eds.) *The Global Cities Reader*. Routledge.
- Hewamanne, Sandya. 2008. "City of Whores: Nationalism, Development, and Global Garment Workers in Sri Lanka." *Social Text*: 26(2), 35-59.

### **Week 13 (12/02): Johannesburg and Durban**

Film:

Readings:

- Robinson, Jennifer. 2006 *Ordinary Cities: Between Modernity and Development*. London: Routledge
- Murray, Martin. 2008. *Taming the Disorderly City: The Spatial Landscape of Johannesburg after Apartheid*. Cornell University Press.
- Simone, Abdoumalig. 2008 The Last Shall Be First: African Urbanities in the Larger Urban World. In Andreas Huyssen (ed.) *Other Cities; Other Worlds: Urban Imaginaries in a Globalizing Age*. Durham, N.C.; London: Duke University Press, 99-119.

- Simone, Abdoumalig. 2011 No Longer the Subaltern: Refiguring Cities in the Global South. In Tim Edensor and Mark Jayne (eds.) *A World of Cities: Urban Theory Beyond 'the West'*. London; New York: Routledge.
- Simone, Abdoumalig. 2011 Demonstrations at Work: Notes from Urban Africa. In Ray Hutchison and Bruce Haynes (eds.) *The Ghetto Reader: Edited collection of contemporary scholarship*. Boulder, CO.; New York: Westview Press and Perseus, 245-264.

### **Week 14 (12/09): Wenzhou as the City of Migrants**

Film: Lixin Fan. Last Train Home (2010)

#### Readings:

- Zhang, L. 2002. Spatiality and Urban Citizenship in Late Socialist China. *Public Culture* 14:311–334.
- Zhang, Li. 2002. *Strangers in the City: Reconfigurations of Space, Power, and Social Networks Within China's Floating Population*. Stanford University Press. Ch. 2: Commercial Culture, Social Passages.” (pp. 47-68). Networks, and Migration
- Jacobs. China Takes Aim at Rural Influx. New York Times. August 29, 2011. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/30/world/asia/30china.html?pagewanted=all>

### **Week 15 (12/16): Home-ownership and Middle-Class Housing in Kunming**

Film:

#### Readings:

- Zhang, Li. 2010. In Search of Paradise: Middle-class Living in a Chinese Metropolis. Cornell Univ Pr. Intro, chap. 2, 4 (pp. 1-25, 52-78, 107-136).
- § Left Behind. New York Times, Monday Oct. 10, Section 1A. □ Barboza, David
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/10/business/global/households-pay-a-price-for-chinas-growth.html>
- Jessop, Bob and Ngai-Ling Sum. 2000 “An Entrepreneurial City in Action: Hong Kong’s Emerging Strategies in and for (Inter)Urban Competition”. *Urban Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 12, 2287– 2313, 2000

### **Useful Websites**

London School of Economics Cities  
<http://lsecities.net/ua/>

The Atlantic Cities Online Journal  
<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/>

Globalization and World Cities Research Network at Loughborough University, UK  
<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/>



The Nation Special Issue on Bloomberg's New York

<http://www.thenation.com/article/173925/special-issue-gilded-city-bloombergs-new-york>

New York Times Special Series:

The United States of Subsidies

[http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/12/01/us/government-incentives.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/12/01/us/government-incentives.html?_r=0)

The New York Times series on the iEconomy:

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/business/ieconomy.html>

Edward Glaser's New York Times blog

<http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/author/edward-l-glaeser/>

MIT Senseable City Lab ( for visualizations of urban analytics)

<http://senseable.mit.edu/>

The Guardian: The rise of megacities

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/interactive/2012/oct/04/rise-of-megacities-interactive>

BBC Hot Cities Series on Cities and Climate Change

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC0EA73D7E7C57AE7>

2012 Global Cities Index

[https://www.atkearney.com/gbpc/global-cities-index/full-report/-/asset\\_publisher/yA11OgZpc1DO/content/2012-global-cities-index/10192](https://www.atkearney.com/gbpc/global-cities-index/full-report/-/asset_publisher/yA11OgZpc1DO/content/2012-global-cities-index/10192)

Mckinsey Global Institute's Cities Reports

<http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/mgi/research/urbanization>

The Globalization Studies Website at the University of Pennsylvania:

<http://globalizationstudies.sas.upenn.edu/>

The Tate Modern Global Cities Website:

<http://www.tate.org.uk/modern/exhibitions/globalcities/default.shtm>

Saskia Sassen's webpage at the Columbia University:

<http://transnationalism.uchicago.edu/links.html>