



Proposed Elective Course

Course Instructor: Ghazala Jamil

Credits: 3

Title

Globalisation and the Neo-liberal City

Although in popular discourse cities have historically been perceived as spaces of relative development and affluence (even if marked by anomie), it has also been convincingly argued that they are a manifestation of spatialisation of capital accumulation. The shaping of cities through processes of political-economic restructuring in the neo-liberal era aided by state power is often a consideration pushed to the background and cities are fetishised as being made and shaped through national/sub-national planning and urban governance practices.

This course attempts to underline that cities are increasingly being governed through intellectual technologies that characterise translation of neoliberal ideology into practice, and depend on discourse and processes of globalisation. The neo-liberal city is most prominently marked by the departure of the managerial 'government' which was based on the primacy of the public sector and engaged in redistribution of resources through public services; and the simultaneous ascendance of decentralised and entrepreneurial 'governance' promoting innovative capital accumulation. The course highlights the tensions stemming from conflicting interests of different urban social groups in 'neo-liberal cities'. It throws light upon challenges posed by governance policies and planning practices to people, especially to the poor and powerless. These pertain not just to land-use and zoning, housing, transportation, and public welfare; but also to the wider social security net being in utter shambles. The impact of the globalised impulses of urbanisation is felt not just in transformation of physical spaces, but also the structure of work and cultural being of the myriad variety of city dwellers. Legal regimes too have a direct bearing on the urban landscape and support socio-spatial manifestation of the power imbalance. Conflation of 'informal' with 'illegal' is examined to discern how innovative impulses in the informal practices of city dwellers are utilised in the making of the neo-liberal city, as they strive to make the city more liveable for themselves.

The course focuses its analysis on normative governance practices, and everyday practices of urban dwellers. The pedagogy will be informed by an interdisciplinary approach to understand urbanisation in the backdrop of globalisation, from a standpoint anchored in Global South.

Course Outline

I. Historicising Urbanisation

- Historical analysis of Urbanisation in India

- Spatial and socio-economic dimension of urbanization
- Contemporary Indian cities

II. Theorising Urban

- Urban Studies: Relevance of studying cities and people
- Conceptualising Urban: Global City, Ordinary City, Just City, Invisible City
- Urbanity: Cultural Notions and Subcultures

III. Urban Planning and Governance

- Planning and governance practices: perspectives and influences
- Policy challenges: Rural-Urban Transformation, Suburbanisation, Urban Renewal, Gentrification
- Human settlements and Urban Infrastructure
- Urban Heritage and Contemporary Governance Practices

IV. Globalising City

- Globalisation and organisation of work in cities
- Metropolitan growth and migration
- Segregation, exclusion and security regimes
- Public space: Spaces of consumption

V. Right to the City: Urban Contestations and Informality

- Urban Social Movements, Elite formations
- Urban Poor and Informality as Innovation
- Poverty and Illegality

Indicative Reading List

Agamben, G. (2000). 'What is a camp?' in *Means without end: Notes on Politics*: University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis

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