Postgraduate Seminar in Urban Anthropology
城市人类学

More than half of the world's population now lives in cities. Rapid urbanisation undoubtedly bears many of opportunities, but also a great deal of problems and challenges. The goal of this course is to introduce how anthropology, a discipline traditionally associated with rural settings, can contribute to our understandings of contemporary urban phenomena. We use anthropological insights and methods to engage the city theoretically and empirically. We focus on the changing nature of urban social life, urban space and place, urban governance and planning, cities as socio-technological laboratories for future living and, more generally, on what may constitute a city in the context of global flows and interconnections. This course explicitly makes the urban the context *and* object of study. Some of the questions that we discuss include: How do cities shape identities and social relations? What kinds of socio-cultural phenomena emerge in complex urban contexts often characterised by anonymity, diversity and inequality? How are groups and institutions both shaping and shaped by urban space? How do urban settings configure the negotiations and power relations between and among different groups and institutions? What kinds of technological advancements do cities necessitate and how, in turn, may they transform cities and urban life in the future?

世界人口的一半以上现在生活在城市里。快速城市化无疑带来许多机遇，但也带来许多问题和挑战。这门课程的目的是介绍人类学，一门传统上被视为与农村环境和社会相关的学科，如何有助于我们理解当代城市的多种现象。这门课程运用人类学的见解和方法，从理论和经验上探讨城市与城市化。我们侧重于城市社会生活的不断变化的性质、城市空间和场所、城市治理和规划、城市作为未来生活的社会技术实验室，以及更广泛地说，在全球流动和相互联系的背景下，如何去理解和定义"城市"。这门课程不仅把城市作为研究的背景而也把它作为研究的对象。我们讨论的一些问题包括：城市如何塑造身份和社会关系？在互不相识、多样性和不平等为特征的复杂城市环境中，会出现什么样的社会文化现象？城市空间是如何塑造群体和机构的？反过来，群体和机构又如何塑造城市空间？城市如何设置不同群体和机构之间的反复碰撞和权力关系？城市需要什么样的技术进步？反过来，它们又如何改变城市和未来的城市生活？

Learning outcomes: By taking this course, students will…
1. learn how to understand and study the city anthropologically.
2. acquire knowledge of different urban theories.
3. come to appreciate, but also critically reflect on the many ways in which humans shape and are shaped by cities.
4. gain a thorough understanding of contemporary urban problems.
5. be able to develop their own urban anthropological projects.

学习目标: 该课程主要会让学生…
1. 了解如何从人类学的角度理解和研究城市现象。
2. 获得不同城市理论的知识。
3. 欣赏但同时批判性地思考人类塑造城市和被城市塑造的许多方式。

4. 获得对当代城市问题的透彻理解。
5. 能够设计自己的城市人类学的研究项目。

Assessment:
Participation 20%
Presentation: 40%
Essay: 40%

评分方式:
讨论／阅读：20%
课堂报告：40%
论文：40%

Participation:
You are expected to regularly attend and participate in class discussions. The awarding of high participation points comes with good attendance and active, thoughtful, consistent class participation, the kind that reveals your thorough preparation and engagement with class materials, particularly required readings. You must attend lectures and seminars to pass the course.

课堂讨论：
要求学生积极参加课堂讨论。会根据发言质量评定成绩。也要求阅读每周的必修阅读材料。学生必须参加讲座和讨论课才能通过这门课程。

Presentation:
You will be asked to give a presentation on weekly readings and prepare questions for discussion. Topics will be allocated in the first week of the class.

课堂报告：
要求每位学生准备一次读书汇报。每位的主题将在课程的第一周分配。读书汇报要求能够相对准确地总结原文主旨，并提出自己的思考以及准备讨论问题。每个报告在 20 分钟左右。

Essay: Short ethnographic reflection on a topic related to the city. Pick an event/occurrence/scene/encounter that you have participated in or experienced. You may also go and look for something over the next weeks. Describe what it is and then reflect and comment on it with reference to one or several of the course topics. This is an ethnographic exercise, but you should also raise some points for discussion and reflection on what it says about the city or urban life.

Weekly topics:

1. Introduction: If only the city could speak, what would it say to us?

Required Readings:
⇒ Eriksen, Thomas Hylland. 2017. *What Is Anthropology?* London: Pluto Press. Chapter 1: "Why Anthropology," pp. 3-18.

For a history of "the city," see:
⇒ Macionis, John J, and Vincent Parrillo. 2013. *Cities and Urban Life*. Upper Saddle River, N.J: Pearson. Chapter 2: "The origins and development of the world's cities," pp. 23-54.
⇒ Graeber, David, and D. Wengrow. 2021. *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity*. First American edition. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Chapter 8: "Imaginary Cities: Eurasia's first urbanities – in Mesopotamia, the Indus valley, Ukraine and China – and how they built cities without kings."

For more on "anthropology," see:
⇒ Lavenda, Robert H., and Emily A. Schultz. 2020. *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1: "Anthropology," pp. 1-14. Chapter 2: "Culture," pp. 15- 28.
⇒ Engelke, Matthew. 2018. *How to Think Like an Anthropologist*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Various chapters.

2. Towards an "Urban Anthropology:" The emergence, transformation and current state of a sub-discipline.

Required Readings:
⇒ Fox, Richard G. 1972. "Rationale and Romance in Urban Anthropology." *Urban Anthropology* 1 (2): 205–33.
⇒ Low, Setha, ed. 2005. *Theorizing the City: The New Urban Anthropology Reader*. New Brunswick, N.J: Rutgers University Press. "Introduction," pp. 1-36.

For an account of fieldwork "in the city," see:
⇒ Bestor, Theodore. 2002. "Networks, Neighborhoods, and Markets: Fieldwork in Tokyo." In *Urban Life: Readings in the Anthropology of the City*, edited by George Gmelch and Walter P Zenner, 4th ed., 146–61. Prospect Hights, III.: Waveland Press.
⇒ Ingold, Tim, and Jo Lee. 2006. 'Fieldwork on Foot: Perceiving, Routing, Socializing'. In *Locating the Field Space, Place and Context in Anthropology*, edited by Simon Coleman and Peter Collins, 67–86. New York: Berg.
⇒ Pardo, Italo, and Giuliana B Prato. 2012. *Anthropology in the City: Methodology and Theory*. Burlington: Ashgate. "Introduction: The contemporary significance of Anthropology in the City," pp. 1-28.

For a discussion on the "what" of the city in China, see:

$\Rightarrow$ Tan, Chee-Beng, and Yulin Ding. 2008. "Rural Urbanisation and Urban Transformation in Quanzhou, Fujian." *Anthropologica* 50 (2): 215–27.

3. (Urban) Space and Place: The physical dimension of the city

Required readings:
$\Rightarrow$ Low, Setha. 2017. *Spatializing Culture: The Ethnography of Space and Place*. London: Routledge. Chapter 2: "Genealogies: the concepts of space and place," 11-33.
$\Rightarrow$ Hall, Edward Twitchell. 2003. 'Proxemics'. In *The Anthropology of Space and Place: Locating Culture*, edited by Setha M Low and Denise Lawrence-Zúniga. Malden, Mas.: Blackwell Publishers.

In-class screening:
$\Rightarrow$ Whyte, William. 1988. *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*. Documentary. Direct Cinema Ltd.

For more on the study of space and place, see:
$\Rightarrow$ Augé, Marc. 1995. *Non-Places: Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity*. London, New York: Verso. "From Places to Non-places," pp. 75-115.
$\Rightarrow$ Geertz, Clifford. 1996. "Afterword." In *Senses of Place*, edited by S Feld and K Basso, 259–62. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press.
$\Rightarrow$ Lefebvre, Henri. 1991. *The Production of Space*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.
$\Rightarrow$ Low, Setha M., and Denise Lawrence-Zúñiga, eds. 2003. *The Anthropology of Space and Place: Locating Culture*. Malden, Mas.: Blackwell Publishers.
$\Rightarrow$ Rapoport, Amos. 1977. *Human Aspects of Urban Form: Towards a Man-Environment Approach to Urban Form and Design*. 1st ed. Oxford; New York: Pergamon Press.

For theoretical discussions about "the city" as an assemblage, see:
$\Rightarrow$ Landa, Manuel de. 2013. A New Philosophy of Society: Assemblage Theory and Social Complexity. London: Bloomsbury. "Introduction," pp. 1-7. Chapter 1: "Assemblages against Totalities," pp. 8-25.

Ethnographies on urban space:
$\Rightarrow$ Low, Setha. 2000. *On the Plaza: The Politics of Public Space and Culture*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
$\Rightarrow$ Rotenberg, Robert. 1995. *Landscape and Power in Vienna*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press.

4. Governing and managing the city: Infrastructure, bureaucracy and (dis)order.

Required readings:
$\Rightarrow$ Abram, Simone, and Gisa Weszkalnys, eds. 2013. *Elusive Promises: Planning in the Contemporary World*. Oxford: Berghahn. "Elusive Promises: Planning in the Contemporary World. An Introduction," pp. 1-34.

⇒ Scott, James C. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 2: "Cities, people, and language," pp. 53-84.

Ethnographies for in-class presentation:
⇒ Weszkalnys, Gisa. 2010. *Berlin, Alexanderplatz: Transforming Place in a Unified Germany*. Oxford & New York: Berghahn.
⇒ Mack, Jennifer. 2017. *The Construction of Equality: Syriac Immigration and the Swedish City*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Other ethnographies on urban planning and control:
⇒ Fassin, Didier. 2013. *Enforcing Order: An Ethnography of Urban Policing*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
⇒ Holston, James. 1989. *The Modernist City: An Anthropological Critique of Brasília*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

5. Social relations: Being in and belonging to the city.

Required readings:
⇒ Low, Setha. 2011. 'Claiming Space for an Engaged Anthropology: Spatial Inequality and Social Exclusion'. *American Anthropologist* 113 (3): 389–407.
⇒ Jaffe, Rivke, and Anouk De Koning. 2016. *Introducing Urban Anthropology*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. Chapter 9: "Cities, citizenship and politics," pp. 137-150.

Ethnographies for in-class presentations:
⇒ Bourgois, Philippe I. 2003. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
⇒ Low, Setha. 2003. *Behind the Gates: Life, Security, and the Pursuit of Happiness in Fortress America*. New York: Routledge.
⇒ Zhang, Li. 2010. *In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press.

Other ethnographies on intra-city segregation, belonging and citizenship:
⇒ Hansen, Thomas Blom. 2012. *Melancholia of Freedom: Social Life in an Indian Township in South Africa*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
⇒ Susser, Ida. 1982. *Norman Street, Poverty and Politics in an Urban Neighborhood*. New York: Oxford University Press.

6. The "glocal" city: Urbanism, markets and neoliberal capitalism

Required readings:
⇒ Hannerz, Ulf. 1996. *Transnational Connections*. London: Routledge. Chapter 11: "The cultural role of world cities," pp. 127-139.

⇒ Sassen, Saskia. 2000. *Cities in a World Economy.* Thousand Oaks and London: Pine Forge Press. Chapter 6: "The new inequalities within cities," pp. 117-138.

Ethnographies for in-class presentation:
⇒ Mathews, Gordon. 2011. *Ghetto at the Center of the World: Chungking Mansions, Hong Kong*. London: Chicago University Press.
⇒ Larkins, Erika Mary Robb. 2015. *The Spectacular Favela: Violence in Modern Brazil.* Oakland, California: University of California Press.

Other ethnographies on cities in a global (neoliberal) world:
⇒ Bestor, Theodore. 2004. *Tsukiji: The Fish Market at the Center of the World*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
⇒ Herzfeld, Michael. 2016. *Siege of the Spirits: Community and Polity in Bangkok*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
⇒ Herzfeld, M. 2009. *Evicted from Eternity: The Restructuring of Modern Rome*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

7. City at Risk: There is nothing unnatural about New York City, or is there?

Required readings:
⇒ Eriksen, Thomas Hylland. 2016. *Overheating: An Anthropology of Accelerated Change*. London: Pluto Press. Chapter 5: "Cities," pp. 81-104.
⇒ Dürr, Eveline, and Jaffe Rivke, eds. 2010. *Urban Pollution: Cultural Meanings, Social Practices*. New York: Berghahn. Chapter 1: "Introduction: Cultural and Material Forms of Urban Pollution," pp. 1-29.

Ethnographies for in-class presentation:
⇒ Günel, Gökçe. 2019. *Spaceship in the Desert: Energy, Climate Change, and Urban Design in Abu Dhabi*. Durham & London: Duke University Press.
⇒ Little, Peter C. 2014. *Toxic Town: IBM, Pollution, and Industrial Risks*. New York: New York University Press.

Another ethnography on urban "risk management" is:
⇒ Zeiderman, Austin. 2016. *Endangered City: The Politics of Security and Risk in Bogotá*. Durham: Duke University Press.

For a critical engagement with "eco-city building" in China, see:
⇒ May, Shannon. 2011. 'Ecological Urbanization: Calculating Value in an Age of Global Climate Change'. In *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*, edited by Ananya Roy and Aihwa Ong, 98–126. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

8. Future Cities: Technology, innovation and the "smart" city.

Required readings:
  ⇒ Ho, Ezra. 2017. "Smart Subjects for a Smart Nation? Governing (Smart)Mentalities in Singapore." *Urban Studies* 54 (13): 3101–18.

Ethnographies for in-class presentation:
  ⇒ Zukin, Sharon. 2020. *The Innovation Complex: Cities, Tech, and the New Economy*. New York: Oxford University Press.