

contemporary urban theory I: soc 2202: cities and society political economy fall 2019

Business Matters

Place Profiles — Graded; uploading final papers (tonight)!

Midterm grading

Revise and Resubmit Option (at the end of the semester)

Final Paper Prospectus — uploaded to OneDrive by Friday, November 1 at 11:59 pm.

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Migration and Immigration

- Models of Assimilation (Classic (straight-line); Segmented)
- Racial Triangulation
- Transnational Ties
 - The transnational movement of bodies results in new forms of urban citizenship, based on spatialized practices.
 - Andrews: how immigrants construct notions of the self through the production and maintenance of transnational ties in positive and negative ways.



Alternate View: Homer Hoyt's Sector Model
 City growth is irregular. Cities were carved up not as concentric zones, but as unevenly shaped sectors within which different economic activities tend to congregate together. All activities, especially manufacturing and retailing, had the tendency to spin off away from the center and agglomerate into sectors that moved outwards.

THE CHICAGO SCHOOL: CRITIQUES

- Generalizability (especially pertaining to the growth of cities).
- Overlooked the role of human action and decision-making in urban land patterns.
- Human ecology limited scholars ability to understand <u>why</u> urban patterns change.
- Overemphasis on economic competition among individuals and underemphasis on social structure/organizations.

william form (1954)

"The Place of Social Structure in the Determination of Land Use: Some Implications for a Theory of Urban Ecology" (1954)

- Human ecologists had ignored the role of social structure, or organized groups in shaping the city.
 - Real estate groups, big business, residents, and local governments all organize themselves in ways that permit or exclude land uses from locating in urban areas.
- Land use not the result of economic competition in free market; to understand processes, we must isolate the various groups involved in land markets/place-making in the city.

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karl marx (1818 - 1883) Das Kapital (Capital) (1867)
 commodifies: an external object that satisfies a human need directly or indirectly.
• use value: value derived from a commodity's use.
 exchange value:value derived from an object's economic value.
 The value of commodities derives from the labor that went into them.

karl marx (1818 - 1883) Das Kapital (Capital) (1867)]
The class character of capitalism means the domination of labor by capital.	
capitalists controls means of labor	
 workers control labor, which is sold as commodity on the market 	
 Economic systems have inherent contradictions that prevent their smooth and consistent functioning. 	
Capitalists behave in ways that belie their own class interests.	
 Competition among labor for employment, which furthers the infliction of violence by the capitalist class. 	

karl marx (1818 - 1883) Grundrisse (1858; published 1939)
 Trade between towns and the countryside disproportionately benefitted town dwellers, particularly capitalists.
Division of labor among places (towns vs. rural areas)
Towns exploited the rural areas.
 A greater dependence on urban markets made rural areas less economically self-sufficient.

friedrich engels (1820 - 1895) The Conditions of the Working Class In England (1848) • Empirical Approach - mapped spatial patterns and described the social life of England's "great towns"	
The workers' lived in the worst parts of town; the wealthy lived in the most desirable.	
The employer class controlled the spatial layout.	
 Urban land use was not the result of bidding in an impersonal marketplace, but instead reflected the social, economic, and political domination of one class over another. 	

the emergence	of urban	political	economy	1

- Limitations of Urban Ecologists to explain urban patterns.
- $\cdot\,$ Challenge presented to urbanists by the ever-exchanging patterns of urban life.
 - Explaining urban growth
 - Increasing racial polarization
 - Changing role of government in urban affairs
 - Changing nature of the economy
 - Changing trajectory of cities around the world.

five areas of agreem	nent
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· Cities are situated in a hierarchal global system.

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 Politics and government matter 	r.
 People and circumstances differences matter. 	er according to time and place, and

points of departure

David Harvey (1978) "The Urban Process Under Capitalism: A Framework for Analysis."

Cities are influenced by the mode of production.

- Businesses normally reinvest their profits into machinery and raw materials, but at certain times they make more profits than they can reinvest in equipment.
- Companies shift some of their investment out of the actual production of products and into building new buildings for offices or new facilities for production.

• Many companies = Urban Building Booms (1920s, 1960s, 1980s, 2000 - 2005).

five areas of agreement
David Harvey (1978) "The Urban Process Under Capitalism: A Framework for Analysis."
he Laws of Accumulation (Based on Marx's Das Kapital)
Primary Circuit of Capital: Contradictions among capitalist class creates an overaccumulation of capital.
Secondary Circuit of Capital: movement of surplus capital into commodities for worker consumption and the built environment for consumption.
Tertiary Circuit of Capital: investments in science and technology.

points of departure

John Logan and Harvey Molotch ("The City As A Growth Machine")

Cities are machines for economic growth

- Built, shaped, and maintained by groups of people who stand to benefit from that growth (entrepreneurs).
- Pro-growth elites consist largely of business owners who need population growth to keep business profitable (real estate, hotel, restaurant industries, retail)
- Growth entrepreneurs support growth by becoming involved in local politics and using their influence to advance a pro-growth agenda for cities.

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• Mark Gottdiener (1977) and Joe Feagin (1988)

- Socio-spatial perspective: Emphasizes physical space and how space can be manipulated to affect urban life.
 - Real estate developers and local government officials are more influential in changing the form and function of cities than other growth entrepreneurs.
 - Emphasis on people's understanding of space, including the ways in which local cultures differ in the symbolic meanings they attach to different spaces.
 - Metropolitan development is also global.

From both the chapter "The City as a Growth Machine", from John R. Logan's <u>Litban</u> <u>Fortunes</u>, and from Kevin Loughron's "Parks for Profil" paper. It is evident that the strategic use of land enables for economic growth whitin cities. The power to push for these economic advancements is often wielded entirely by the active eitles of the urban population. Logan notes that important roles in city growth have been given to "mass media, urban professionals, and skilled political entrepreneus" (Logan 2007, 58). As we have learned throughout this course, and is reiterated in Logan's piece, minorities and the urban poor are often underepresented in the group's and certainly do not have the political power wielded by the urban "eitles."

Is economic growth achieved by the creation of privileged spaces such as New York's High Line progress for a city, or are the benefits outweighed by the inequality it perpetuates within the city? How can a city create public spaces that will economically and socially benefit the entire urban population rather than just the elite?

—Kate F., Expert Question

	The readings for today focus on the topic of growth in urban areas. Although growth is often presented as something that benefits the general public, there are clearly dynamics of power at play in which particular stakeholders have more to lose or gain from development in cities. As local residents of cities are heavily affected by growth, what measures can they take to effectively combat proposed changes, and ensure their opinions are heard?	
	—Joshua B., Experf Question	