



INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO)

Academic year 2020-2021

Urban Visualities

ANSO132- Spring - 6 ECTS
[Schedule & Room](#)

Course Description

This course explores the ways in which urban experience is imagined and produced through the myriad visual and aesthetic forms of the urban environment, including the relevant visual regimes with their constitutive (in)visibilities and corresponding modes of seeing and being seen. The practices and mobilities through which the city is experienced, engaged with, and known along with the multiple spaces of public life like neighborhoods, streets, slums and parks that structure myriad forms and modalities of urban encounter and dwelling will also be considered. Additionally, we will look at the key figures and collectivities—the stranger, the *flâneur*, the crowd, the neighbor, the Muslim television preacher, the motorcycle-taxi driver--associated with urban modernity from fin-de-siècle Europe to contemporary life in the Global South in cities like Jakarta and Johannesburg, among others. Questions of materiality and media specificity will inform our approach to a wide range of visual and aesthetic forms central to the creative and artistic representation and construction of urban life---design and architecture, advertising and graffiti, photography, film, public art and performance art, ruination and sprawl. A concern throughout will be the aesthetic-political character of appearance and the visual politics of urban existence and their implications for the heterogeneous habitation and sensate experience of city dwellers.

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Syllabus

Evaluation:

Active student participation is expected. Each week 1-2 students will be responsible for presenting the material in class (guidelines will be provided). The main assignment is an ethnographic exploration of a city or neighbourhood in which the idea is to approach your choice of city/neighborhood from as many vantages as possible. The choice of city/neighborhood must be formulated early in the semester and a journal must be kept about the research, the sources consulted, social media engagements, interviews, image archive, and so on.

The final grade will be based on the following assignments:

In-class presentation(s) on course readings	20%
1 response paper to ImageApp event	20%
1 presentation on city/neighborhood project	20%
1 mini-ethnography of city/neighborhood	40%

The assignments will be posted on Moodle.

Lecture Topics and Assigned Reading:

February 25 *Introduction*

Italo Calvino (1972) *Invisible Cities*

Please watch *Helvetica* Dir. Gary Hustwit, 2014

March 4 *Urban Imaginaries & Moods*

Andreas Huyssen, ed. (2008) *Other Cities, Other Worlds: Urban Imaginaries in a Globalizing World*, "Introduction: World Cultures, World Cities," pp.1-23

Orhan Pamuk (2008) "Hüzün-Melancholy-Tristesse of Istanbul," in Andreas Huyssen, ed. *Other Cities, Other Worlds*, pp.289-319

Dipti Kheera (2020) *The Place of Many Moods: Udaipur's Painted Lands and India's Eighteenth Century*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Introduction & Chapter 5, pp.1-26, 147-172.

March 11 **Students attend roundtable/launch IMAGEAPP project**

March 18 *Visual Politics and Civic Assemblages*

bell hooks "In our glory: Photography and Black Lives" In *Art on My Mind: Visual Politics*. New York: The New Press, 1995, pp.54-64.

Dell Upton. "Monuments and Crimes," *Journal 18*, 25 June 2020.

Caroline Randall Williams. "You Want a Confederate Monument: My Body is a Confederate Monument." *The New York Times*, 26 June 2020.

Recommended: "As Statues Fall: A Conversation about Monuments and the Power of Memory." *The Wenner-Gren Foundation*, July 23, 2020.

March 25 *Seeing in the City*

Seeing the City in times of Covid (selected photo essays and readings)

Walter Benjamin (2003) "The Paris of the Second Empire in Baudelaire" in Walter Benjamin. Selected Writings, vol.4 1938-1940, pp.3-39
 Georg Simmel, (1970) "On Visual Interaction" in Stone, G. and Farburman, H. eds. *Social Psychology Through Symbolic Interaction*. Waltham, MA: Ginn-Blaisdell.
 Jacob Riis (1997 [1890]) *How the Other Half Lives*. New York: Penguin Books. (Selections)
Virtual Tour of Tenement Museum New York City

April 1

MappingsCartographiesOccupations

Siegmund Kracauer (1995) "Introduction" by Thomas Y. Levin pp.1-4; "Analysis of a City Map" pp.41-44.
 Certeau, Michel de (1984) "Walking in the City," *The Practice of Everyday Life* University of California, Trans. Steven Rendall.
 Rebecca Solnit and Rebecca Snedeker (2013) *Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas*. Berkeley: University of California Press (selections)
 Mitchell, WJT (2012) "Image, Space, Revolution: The Arts of Occupy" *Critical Inquiry* 39(1): 8-32.
 Watch film: *Snakes and Ladders/Le Jeu de l'Oie*. Dir. Raul Ruiz, 1980.

April 8

Spring break

April 15

The City and the Street

Sassen, Saskia (2011) "The Global Street: Making the Political." *Globalizations* 8:5, pp.573-579.
 Gaonkar, Dilip (2014) "After the Fictions: Notes Towards a Phenomenology of the Multitude" *e-flux, Journal # 58*.
 Spyer, Patricia (2016) "Streetwise Masculinity and Other Urban Performances of Postwar Ambon: A Photo-Essay" in Kathryn Robinson, ed. *Growing Up in Indonesia: Experiences and Diversity in Youth Transitions*. Leiden: Brill.
 Strassler, Karen (2020) "Street Signs," *Demanding Images: Democracy, Mediation, and the Image-Event in Indonesia*. Durham: Duke University Press, Chapter 4, pp.168-218.

April 22

Students present city projects

April 29

Religion in the City

Kajri Jain (2021) *Gods in the Time of Democracy*. Durham: Duke University Press. Introduction and 1 chapter.
 Aryo Danusiri "Performing Crowds: The Circulative Urban Forms of the Tariqa Alawiya Youth Movement in Contemporary Indonesia" *Global Prayers: Contemporary Manifestations of the Religious in the City*. Metrozones 13. (and other selections from *Global Prayers*)

May 6

Memory in the City

Abidin Kusno (2016) *Visual Cultures of Ethnic Chinese Indonesia*. London and New York: Rowman and Littlefield, Chapters 1 & 2.
 Nancy Munn (2013) "The "becoming-past" of places: Spacetime and memory in nineteenth-century, pre-civil war New York," *HAU* 3(2), pp.

Emma Tarlo (2003) *Unsettling Memories: Narratives of the Emergency in Delhi*. London: Hurst & Co., Chapters 1 & 2, "Introduction," "Forgetting and Remembering the Emergency," pp. 1-61.

May 13 **Holiday on account of Ascension Day**

May 20 *Urban Ethnography I:*
Sammy Balaji and Filip de Boeck, *Suturing the City* (2016) (selection)
Debra Spitulnik, "The Language of the City: Town Bemba as Urban Hybridity" *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 81(1): 30-59.
Achille Mbembe and Sarah Nuttall (2008) "Introduction: Afropolis." In Sarah Nuttall and Achille Mbembe, eds. *Johannesburg: The Elusive Metropolis*. Durham: Duke University Press,
David Bunn (2008) "Art Johannesburg and its Objects." In Sarah Nuttall and Achille Mbembe, eds. *Johannesburg: The Elusive Metropolis*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp.137-169.

May 27 *Urban Ethnography II:*
Arjun Appadurai, *The Capacity to Aspire*, Part II. "The View from Mumbai"
Christiane Brosius (2013), "The Enclave Gaze: Images and Imaginaries of Neoliberal Lifestyle in New Delhi." In Patricia Spyer and Mary Margaret Steedly, eds. *Images That Move*. Santa Fe: SAR Press, pp.73-99.
Recommended: Katherine Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*

June 3 m *Students present their final projects*