

LSE-PKU Summer School 2015

[GY201, updated]

[Speculative Urbanisation in Asia]

Course Outline and Reading List

INSTRUCTOR

Dr Hyun Bang Shin, Associate Professor of Geography and Urban Studies, Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science

Dr Hyun Bang Shin is a specialist in urban Asia and teaches in the Department of Geography and Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science. His research includes the critical analysis of the political economic dynamics of urban (re-)development and covers Asian urbanisation, speculative urbanisation, displacement and gentrification, the right to the city, and mega-events as urban spectacles.

Recently, he was the recipient of the STICERD/LSE Annual Fund New Researcher Award in 2009, which funded his two-year research (May 2009 - July 2011) on the socio-spatial and political implications of the 2010 Asian Summer Games in Guangzhou, China. In 2012, he organised workshops in London and Santiago de Chile, together with colleagues from the UK, Chile and Argentina, on Towards an Emerging Geography of Gentrification in the Global South. These workshops were part of the Urban Studies Seminar Series (2011-2012), funded by the Urban Studies Foundation and the Urban Studies journal.

He has co-edited (with Loretta Lees and Ernesto López-Morales) *Global Gentrifications: Uneven Development and Displacement* (Policy Press), and is currently working on a number of publication projects including a co-authored manuscript on critical discussions of gentrification in the global South (for Polity Press's Future Cities series) and a single-authored monograph entitled Making China Urban (for Routledge's Asian Studies series).

For more information on his research and publications, see his personal web (<http://urbancommune.net>), his department [profile](#) or his entry on the [LSE Experts](#) directory.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course explores the contemporary dynamics of urbanisation in Asia, with special emphasis on cities in China and other East and Southeast Asian economies, which share the experiences of rapid urban development with strong state intervention in speculative city-(re)making and economic development. The course will benefit from the geographical advantage of taking place in Beijing and make use a number of China case studies to examine the differences as well as similarities of urban development between Chinese and other Asian cities.

Applying interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives, the course encourages students to develop critical knowledge and comparative understanding of how urban space is transformed in different social, economic and political settings, and what socio-spatial implications are made in a differentiated way upon local populations. Throughout the course, we ask whether the concepts and theories born out of the (post-)industrial Western urban experiences can be applicable to the understanding of urban Asia. We also ask what are the

challenges that cities in East and Southeast Asia face, given its current development trajectory. We do this by examining a set of carefully selected themes that address (a) the integration of Asian cities with the global economy, (2) the distinctive characteristics of Asia's urban development, and (3) the place-specificities of state intervention in forming urban growth strategies.

Recommended General Readings

- Campanella, T.J. (2008) *The Concrete Revolution: China's Urban Revolution and What it Means for the World*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press
- Friedmann, J. (2005) *China's Urban Transition*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press
- Gordon, M. (2011) *Ghetto at the Center of the World: Chungking Mansions, Hong Kong*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
- Hsing, You-tien, (2010) *The Great Urban Transformation: Politics of Land and Property in China*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Lees, L., Shin, H.B. and López-Morales, E. (eds.) (2015) *Global Gentrifications: Uneven Development and Displacement*, London: Policy Press
- Loh, K.S. (2013) *Squatters into Citizens: The 1961 Bukit Ho Swee Fire and the Making of Modern Singapore*. Singapore: NIAS Press
- Merrifield, A. (2013) *The Politics of Encounter: Urban Theory and Protest under Planetary Urbanization*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press
- Park, B-G. et al. (2012) *Locating Neoliberalism in East Asia: Neoliberalizing Spaces in Developmental States*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell
- Shao, Q. (2013) *Shanghai Gone: Domicide and Defiance in a Chinese Megacity*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

Prerequisites

None

Assessment

Essay: 50% (1,500 words)
Final Exam: 50%

Course Overview

Day 1. Introduction: Planetary Urbanisation and Asian Cities

Day 2. Speculative Urbanisation and the East Asian States

Day 3. Urban Change in (Post-)Socialist China: Dialectics of Decentralisation and the Path Dependency of Economic and Social Reform

Day 4. (Re-)making Cities in East Asia: Speculative Urbanisation and Growth Politics

Day 5. Land and Housing Development in China: 'Nation of *Chai*' (Demolition), Sub-urban Development and Informality

Day 6. Olympic Cities: Event-led Urban Development and Politics of Spectacles

Day 7. Heritage and Urban Development (inc. Field trip to inner Beijing)

Day 8. Gentrifying Asia: Global Gentrifications and Politics of Displacement

Day 9. Contesting Cities: The Right to the City and the Critique of Property-rights Activism

Day 10. Indebted Citizens: Economic Crisis and Work/Social Inequalities