

LONDON FIELD TRIP, 11 October 2019

## **SPECULATIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

MSc programme in Urbanisation and Development, 2019-2020

Led by Professor Hyun Bang Shin with Dr Austin Zeiderman, Dr Niranjana Ramesh, and Dr Mara Nogueira-Teixeira

In case of emergency: call Hyun (07342998641)

### **Itinerary (approximate)**

09:00 am

Introduction (Michael Wise Room)

10:00 am

Walk over Waterloo Bridge crossing River Thames to Waterloo station. Take Jubilee line eastbound to Canary Wharf

11:15 am

Walk from Canary Wharf through Poplar to Robin Hood Gardens

11:50 noon

Walk to Poplar DLR station, take DLR towards Stratford

12:15 pm

Visit Stratford and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

13:00 pm

Return to Stratford station and take Central Line to return to LSE

### **KEY QUESTIONS**

- Can you find urban themes that you have so far come across in various courses you've taken (or are taking), reflected in the city's built form?
- What traces of history remain visible in the present configuration of East London?
- What processes of urbanization are evident in the physical spaces of the city?

### **IMPORTANT INFO**

- Read the landscape as we move and visit sites
- Ask questions
- Stay together
- If you get separated: call someone, catch up with group, or follow route on your own
- In case of emergency, call Hyun (07342998641).
- What to bring?
  - Walking shoes
  - Oyster card or contactless credit/debit card for local transport
  - Raincoat/umbrella, water and snacks

## SITES OF INTEREST

### 1. River Thames

- What is the role of nature in processes of urbanization, past and present?
- How is the river used and by whom?

### 2. South Bank and Coin Street Community Builders

- How does the landscape reflect London's transformation from the 1980s?
- How does the case of Coin Street Community Builders relate to gentrification?

### 3. London Underground

- How are London's inequalities expressed in the city's transport infrastructure?
- How is the boundary between public and private reflected in the underground?
- Are there any habits, performances, or customs you can notice among passengers? How do they differ across transport types?

### 4. Canary Wharf

- What/who belongs in this spaces and what/who does not?
- What (dis)connections do you notice between Canary Wharf and the spaces surrounding it?

### 5. Docklands Light Railway

- What role do transport infrastructures play in processes of urban redevelopment?
- What security technologies are evident?

### 6. Poplar

- This area was once the Limehouse Chinatown, London's first. What reasons do you think it would have for being here? Why would it disappear?
- Can you find any evidence of the area's historical links with China?

### 7. London Docklands

- What local signs point to global histories of imperial expansion and commerce?
- How are these histories commemorated (or not)?

### 8. Robin Hood Gardens

- What traces of the past survived the demolition of the estate?
- Should social housing be converted into architectural history? What is more important, history versus function? And how about history versus ethics?

### 9. Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford

- What models of urban development have been pursued here?
- What is the legacy of the Olympic site after 2012?