

Syllabus – DRAFT (still may change)

JPG1504 Institutionalism and Cities: space, governance, property & power

Term: Winter 2017
Instructor: André Sorensen
Email: sorensen@utsc.utoronto.ca
Office: Sidney Smith 5034
Office hours: Mondays 3-5pm
Time: Mondays 1-3pm
Place: SS2124a

Learning Objectives:

1. Develop a solid understanding of New Institutional theory and concepts.
2. Critically engage with applications of NI in planning theory.
3. Engage in a detailed examination of Historical Institutionalism and its development over the last 20 years.
4. Apply institutionalist theory and concepts to the analysis of urban governance and planning institutions.

Course Description

This course focuses on the role of institutions in shaping processes of urban change, governance and planning. The premise of the course is that cities are extraordinarily densely institutionalized spaces, and that the formal study of institutions, and processes of institutional continuity and change will be productive for both planners and urban geographers. The course reviews the New Institutional literature in Political Science, Sociology, Economic Geography, and Planning Theory, with a focus on Historical Institutional (HI) concepts, and develops a conceptual framework for the application of HI theory to urban space. The claim is that an understanding of institutions is revealing of power dynamics in urban governance, is valuable for understanding urban governance and planning in international comparative perspective, and provides a valuable critical perspective on urban property institutions.

Urban governance and planning present an exceptionally dense and consequential set of institutions that regulate processes of urban growth and capital investment in cities. Local states play a central role in structuring the production of new urban property rights during land development, and in defining and protecting those property rights. Indeed, to a greater degree than in perhaps any other market, the state, and governance and planning institutions, are fundamental and indispensable to the existence and continued value of urban property, and to the working of property markets. Urban governance and planning, in HI perspective, is the set of institutions designed to manage and regulate urban spaces and property, many of which appear prone to path dependent processes and positive feedback effects. Fundamental is the insight that in different jurisdictions, very different sets of institutions have emerged in the transition to capitalist property systems in cities. The question is, why have particular institutions emerged in each jurisdiction, and how do they shape different urban trajectories. Other worlds are possible, but first we must understand the ones we have, and how they became established.

The course will be useful for urban geographers and planners who are interested in urban politics, planning theory, planning history, property rights, international comparison.

Course Evaluation

1. Weekly Reading Reflections	(20%)	Weekly
2. Participation	(20%)	Weekly
3. Major Paper Proposal	(20%)	February 27
4. Major Paper	(40%)	April 10

Weekly Reading Reflections

Weekly reading reflections are valuable in ensuring that everyone actively engages with the required reading. It is quite a different matter to quickly read a paper than it is to sit down and write a considered response to the paper. And as the readings are the starting point for class discussions, a critical engagement with them will help to ensure a rich discussion. Participants should write a 2-page double-spaced reflection on the required readings for 10 weeks of the term. No reflection is required for Class 1 and you can skip one further week during the term.

Your reading reflections should represent a thoughtful engagement with the required readings associated with each class. These reflections should be more than a simple summary of the content and should discuss some of the following questions: what key questions and/or issues do the readings provoke you to consider? Why do these readings matter, or not? How do the readings contribute to an understanding of institutions? What modifications, if any, might be required to apply these concepts to urban institutions and urban space? What is of value in the readings, what critiques might be offered and what are the limits of the work? When writing your reflections remember that particular, focused engagements are always better than overly general comments. One approach to evaluating the readings is to discuss the way the readings help you understand or explain an issue or concept that you are interested in pursuing in your own research. Each reading reflection should end with a question about the week's topic to be posed during class.

To develop critical reading skills requires that most of the readings be read more than once. I suggest reading an article and taking notes about the major ideas. Then re-read either the entire article again, or the introduction and conclusion. Ask, what is the author's main argument, what is the lens he/she uses to illustrate the argument, and what are the main lines of evidence?

Your Reading Reflections must be submitted as email attachments no later than 9:30 AM on the Sunday preceding the scheduled class.

Participation - 20%

Your substantive, constructive and respectful participation in weekly class discussions is crucial for the success of this course. Each class will start with a brief introduction by me to some of the major ideas, current debates, and challenges in applying the week's concepts to cities. It is expected that students will contribute to the discussion by posing questions, raising issues and comments using the readings to inform your comments and analysis, listen closely to others, and respectfully engage with their views. We will work together to become more fluent with the debates and ideas embedded in the readings, and to articulate them. It is a goal of this course to learn from one another through an active and engaged discussion of the material we are working with. We will do our best to make time to allow all of those who wish to make a contribution to the conversation to do so. Please remember, participation starts with perfect attendance.

Major Paper Proposal

Participants are strongly encouraged to start thinking and working on an idea for your major paper at the start of the class. Having a good concept that fits both your own research interests and an institutionalist approach will make writing the paper much more manageable. Any topic is possible, as long as the paper draws on the New Institutional theories and conceptual frameworks introduced by this course. Please submit your proposal by February 27 at the latest. Your proposal should clearly identify the topic that you intend to research and briefly explain how you will use NI theory. I will be happy to provide feedback and comments on your ideas during January and February in advance of the deadline, during office hours. Proposals should include a hypothesis, and an outline of the paper, including at least 5 texts that you will be working with, and should be in total not more than 3-5 pages. Please submit as an email attachment in a Word-compatible format so I can make comments.

Major Paper

Your major research paper should be between 20 to 25 pages double spaced (25 maximum), plus bibliography. Any topic is acceptable, as long as the paper draws on the literature and concepts of NI. Papers should include an abstract, should be clearly and concisely written and structured, and should support a clear thesis. Please submit no later than April 10, as an email attachment in a Word-compatible file.

Course Basics

- We will use the Learning Portal for communication: email and announcements.
- All required readings can be accessed via the course Dropbox.
- Please arrive on time to class.
- Please submit all assignments by email to sorensen@utsc.utoronto.ca
- Extensions are possible for the final research paper, but must be arranged in advance of the deadline.
- There are no extensions for the weekly reading reviews, which should be emailed to me 24 hours before the start of each class.

Week 1. Introduction ✓

Class 1. Introduction to the course: Institutions and urban space, property, planning and the self-reinforcing dynamics of power

Required:

Sorensen, A. (2015). 'Taking Path Dependence Seriously: An historical institutionalist research agenda in planning history.' *Planning Perspectives* 30(1): 17-38.

Week 2. New Institutionalism ✓

Required:

Hall, P. A. and R. C. R. Taylor (1996). 'Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms.' *Political Studies* 44(5): 936-957.

Lowndes, V. (2009). New Institutionalism and Urban Politics. *Theories of Urban Politics*. J. S. Davies and D. L. Imbroscio. Los Angeles, Calif., Sage: 91-105.

Sorensen, A. (forthcoming). New Institutionalism and Planning Theory. *Routledge Handbook of Planning Theory*. Eds. M. Gunder, A. Madanipour and V. Watson. London, New York,

Routledge.

Recommended:

- Lowndes, V. and M. Roberts (2013). *Why institutions matter: the new institutionalism in political science*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, Palgrave Macmillan.
- March, J. G. and J. P. Olsen (1984). 'The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life.' *American Political Science Review* 78(3): 734-749.
- North, D. C. (1990). *Institutions, institutional change, and economic performance*. Cambridge ; New York, Cambridge University Press.

Week 3. Historical Institutionalism;

Required:

- Thelen, K. (1999). 'Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics.' *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 369-404.
- Pierson, P. (2000). 'Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics.' *American Political Science Review* 94(2): 251-267.
- Pierson, P. (2004). *Politics in time: history, institutions, and social analysis*. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press. Introduction pp. 1-16 "**Placing Politics in Time**"

Recommended:

- Hacker, J. S. (2004). 'Privatizing Risk without Privatizing the Welfare State: The Hidden Politics of Social Policy Retrenchment in the United States.' *American Political Science Review* 98(2): 243-260.
- Sorensen, A. (2015). Transforming Land into Property: Varieties of Institutionalism and the Production of Urban Space. *Connections: exploring contemporary planning theory and practice with Patsy Healey*. J. Hillier and J. Metzger. Farnham, Surrey ; Burlington, VT, Ashgate: 423-436.

Week 4. Path dependence

Required:

- Pierson, P. (2004). *Politics in time: history, institutions, and social analysis*. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press. Chapter 1 pp. 17-53 "**Positive Feedback and Path Dependence**"
- Mahoney, J. (2000). 'Path dependence in historical sociology.' *Theory and Society* 29: 507-548.

Recommended:

- Low, N. and R. Astle (2009). 'Path dependence in urban transport: An institutional analysis of urban passenger transport in Melbourne, Australia, 1956–2006.' *Transport Policy* 16: 47-58.
- Quitau, M.-B. (2007). 'Water-flushing toilets: Systemic development and path-dependent characteristics and their bearing on technological alternatives.' *Technology and Society* 29: 351-360.
- Robertson, D., I. McIntosh and J. Smyth (2010). 'Neighbourhood Identity: The Path Dependency of Class and Place.' *Housing, Theory and Society* 27(3): 258-273.
- Sorensen, A. (2011). 'Uneven processes of institutional change: Path dependence, scale, and the contested regulation of urban development in Japan.' *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 35(4): 712-734.

Week 5. Critical junctures,

Required:

- Capoccia, G. and R. D. Kelemen (2007). 'The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative, and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism.' *World Politics* 59(3): 341-369.
- Pierson, P. (2004). *Politics in time: history, institutions, and social analysis*. Princeton, N.J.,

Princeton University Press. Chapter 2 pp. 54-78 “**Timing and Sequence**”
Collier, R. B. and D. Collier (1991). *Shaping the Political Arena*. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press. Chapter 1

Recommended:

Katznelson, I. (2003). Periodization and Preferences: Reflections on purposive action in comparative historical social science. *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. J. Mahoney and D. Rueschemeyer. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 270-301.

Week 6. Structured processes of incremental change ✓

Required:

Thelen, K. (2003). How Institutions Evolve: Insights from comparative historical analysis. *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. J. Mahoney and D. Rueschemeyer. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 208-240.

Pierson, P. (2004). *Politics in time: history, institutions, and social analysis*. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press. Chapter 5 pp. 133-166 “**Institutional Development**”

Mahoney, J. and K. A. Thelen (2010). *Explaining institutional change: ambiguity, agency, and power*. Cambridge ; New York, Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1

Recommended:

Streeck, W. and K. Thelen (2005). Introduction: Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies. *Beyond Continuity: Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies*. W. Streeck and K. Thelen. Oxford, Oxford University Press: 1-39.

Moulaert, F. and B. Jessop (2006). Thematic Synthesis Paper 1 – Agency, Structure, Institutions, Discourse (ASID). Demologos project.

Boas, T. C. (2007). 'Conceptualizing Continuity and Change: The composite-standard model of path dependence.' *Journal of Theoretical Politics* **19**(1): 33-54.

Week 7. Sociological Institutionalism;

Required:

Gonzalez, S. and P. Healey (2005). 'A Sociological Institutional Approach to the Study of Innovation in Governance Capacity.' *Urban Studies* **42**(11): 2055-2069.

Healey, P. (2006). 'Transforming Governance: Challenges of Institutional Adaptation and a New Politics of Space.' *European Planning Studies* **14**(3): 299-320.

Healey, P. (2006). The New Institutionalism and the Transformative Goals of Planning. *Institutions and Planning*. N. Verma. Amsterdam ; Boston, Elsevier: 61-87.

Recommended:

Healey, P. (1999). 'Institutionalist Analysis, Communicative Planning, and Shaping Places.' *Journal of Planning Education and Research* **19**: 111-121.

Roland, G. (2004). 'Understanding Institutional Change: Fast-Moving and Slow-Moving Institutions.' *Studies in Comparative International Development* **38**(4): 109-131.

DiMaggio, P. (1997). 'Culture and Cognition.' *Annual Review of Sociology* **23**: 263-287.

DiMaggio, P. J. and W. Powell (1983). 'The iron cage revisited: Institutional isomorphism and collective rationality in organizational fields.' *American Sociological Review* **48**: 147-160.

DiMaggio, P. J. and W. W. Powell (1991). Introduction. *The New Institutionalism in Organizational Analysis*. W. W. Powell and P. J. DiMaggio. Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press: 1-38.

Week 8. Discursive/Constructivist Institutionalism ✓

Required:

- Schmidt, V. (2010). 'Taking ideas and discourse seriously: explaining change through discursive institutionalism as the fourth 'new institutionalism'.' *European Political Science Review* **2**(2): 1-25.
- Hay, C. (2006). Constructivist Institutionalism. *The Oxford handbook of political institutions*. R. A. W. Rhodes, S. A. Binder and B. A. Rockman. Oxford, Oxford University Press: 56-75.
- Bell, S. (2011). 'Do We Really Need a New 'Constructivist Institutionalism' to Explain Institutional Change?' *British Journal of Political Science* **41**: 883-906.

Recommended:

- Schmidt, V. (2008). 'Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse.' *Annual Review of Political Science* **11**: 303-326.
- Taylor, Z. (2013). 'Rethinking planning culture: a new institutionalist approach.' *Town Planning Review* **84**(6): 683-702.
- Campbell, J. L. (1998). 'Institutional analysis and the role of ideas in political economy.' *Theory and Society* **27**(3): 377-409.
- Beland, D. (2009). 'Ideas, institutions, and policy change.' *Journal of European Public Policy* **16**(5): 701-718.

Week 9. Evolutionary Economic Geography√

Required:

- Martin, R. (2010). 'Roepke Lecture in Economic Geography - Rethinking Regional path Dependence: Beyond Lock-in to Evolution.' *Economic Geography* **86**(1): 1-27.
- Boschma, R. A. and K. Frenken (2006). 'Why is economic geography not an evolutionary science? Towards an evolutionary economic geography.' *Journal of Economic Geography* **6**: 273-302.
- Coe, N. M. (2010). 'Geographies of production 1: An evolutionary revolution?' *Progress in Human Geography* **35**(1): 81-91.

Recommended:

- Drahokoupil, J. (2012). 'Beyond Lock-in versus Evolution, towards Punctuated Co-evolution: On Ron Martin's 'Rethinking Regional Path Dependence'.' *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **36**(1): 166-171.
- Martin, R. (2012). '(Re)Placing Path Dependence: A Response to the Debate.' *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* **36**(1): 179-192.

Week 10. Institutional complementarities and co-evolutionary governance theory

Required:

- Van Assche, K., M. Duineveld and R. Beunen (2015). *Evolutionary governance theory : theory and applications*. New York, NY, Springer Berlin Heidelberg. Ch.
- Van Assche, K., M. Duineveld and R. Beunen (forthcoming). Co-evolutionary planning theory: Evolutionary Governance Theory and its relatives. *Routledge Handbook of Planning Theory*. M. Gunder, A. Madanipour and V. Watson. London, New York, Routledge.

Recommended:

- Hall, P. A. and D. W. Soskice (2001). *Varieties of capitalism : the institutional foundations of comparative advantage*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Week 11. Power, Property institutions and city planning,??

Required:

- Moe, T. M. (2006). Power and Political Institutions. *Rethinking political institutions : the art of the state*. I. Shapiro, S. Skowronek and D. Galvin. New York, New York University Press: 32-71.
- Adams, D. and S. Tiesdell (2010). 'Planners as Market Actors: Rethinking State–Market

Relations in Land and Property.' *Planning Theory and Practice* **11**(2): 187-207.
Lai, L. W. C. (2005). 'Neo-Institutional Economics and Planning Theory.' *Planning Theory* **4**(1): 7-19.
Buitelaar, E., A. Lagendijk and W. Jacobs (2007). 'A theory of institutional change: illustrated by Dutch city-provinces and Dutch land policy.' *Environment and Planning A* **39**: 891-908.

Recommended:

Scott, A. (1983). 'Property Rights and Property Wrongs.' *The Canadian Journal of Economics* **16**(4): 555-573.
Gualini, E. (2001). *Planning and the intelligence of institutions : interactive approaches to territorial policy-making between institutional design and institution-building*. Aldershot ; Burlington, Ashgate.
Lai, L. W. C. (1997). 'Property rights justifications of planning and a theory of zoning.' *Progress in Planning* **48**(161-245).
Pred, A. (1984). 'Place as Historically contingent Process: Structuration and the Time-Geography of Becoming Places.' *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* **74**(2): 279-297.

Week 12. The question of institutional design

Required:

Alexander, E. (2005). 'Institutional transformation and planning: from Institutionalization theory to Institutional design.' *Planning Theory* **4**(3): 209-223.
Pierson, P. (2004). *Politics in time: history, institutions, and social analysis*. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press. Ch. 4, pp. 104-132 "**The Limits of Institutional Design**"
Moroni, S. (2010). 'An evolutionary theory of institutions and a dynamic approach to reform.' *Planning Theory* **9**(4): 275-297.

Recommended:

Alexander, E. (2011). 'An evolutionary theory of institutions - prescriptive implications: Institutional design lives, but prudential principles apply ' *Planning Theory* **10**(2): 187-189.

Accessibility

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. I will do anything I can to ensure that the course is accessible to anyone who wishes to take it. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, do communicate with me, and visit

<http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

Academic integrity.

Please do not plagiarize.

"Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism is quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper use of citation (and quotations marks when using an author's words). Students also should not be submitting any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought, without first discussing with the instructor. Please consult the "Rules and Regulations" section of the Arts and Science Calendar

(<http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules & Regulations.html>) for

further information and check the 'How not to plagiarize' website at:
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize.>"