

Syllabus

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

Term: Winter 2019
Instructor: André Sorensen
Email: sorensen@utsc.utoronto.ca
Office: Sidney Smith 5034
Office hours: Mondays 5-6pm, Wednesdays 3-4pm
Class time: Mondays 3-5pm
Class location: SS5017a

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop a solid understanding of New Institutional theory and concepts
2. Critically engage with applications of NI in planning theory
3. Critically apply institutionalist theory and concepts to the analysis of urban governance and spatial planning institutions.
4. Understand the theory and method of Comparative Historical Analysis

Course Description

This course focuses on the role of institutions (defined as shared norms and understandings, standard operating practices, and enforceable rules) in structuring processes of urban change, urban governance, and spatial planning. The premise of the course is that cities are extraordinarily densely institutionalized spaces, and that a careful study of institutions, and of 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, and Planning Theory, with a focus on Historical Institutionalism (HI) and Comparative Historical Analysis (CHA), 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 capitalism, is valuable for understanding urban governance and spatial planning in international comparative perspective, and provides a valuable critical perspective on urban property institutions.

Urban governance and spatial 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 over time. Indeed, to a greater degree than in perhaps any other market, the state, and governance and spatial planning institutions, are fundamental and indispensable to the existence and continued value of urban property, and to the working of property markets. Spatial 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 that in different jurisdictions, very different sets of institutions have emerged in the transition to capitalist property systems in cities. An institutional approach helps to explain why particular institutions emerged in each jurisdiction, how they have evolved, and how they shape different urban trajectories. Other worlds are possible, but first we must understand the ones we have, how they became established, and why they become entrenched.

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

COURSE EVALUATION

1. Weekly Reading Reflections	(20%)	10 out of 12 weeks
2. Seminar leadership	(15%)	Once between weeks 2 and 12
3. Participation	(15%)	Weekly
4. Final Paper Proposal	(10%)	February 25
5. Final Paper	(40%)	April 8

Weekly Reading Reflections – 20%

Weekly reading reflections are valuable in ensuring that we actively engage with the required readings. 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. 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 expected for Class 1. Reading responses must be posted to the course Quercus page **by noon on the Sunday before** each class. Late responses will not be accepted.

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? 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.

Seminar Leadership – 15%

The first hour of each class will be devoted to a seminar-style discussion of the required readings, facilitated by one or two participant in the class. Seminar leaders will be decided during the first and second weeks. Seminar leaders should read both the required and recommended readings for that week and will be expected to lead the class in discussion of the readings, and in considering their application to research on cities and spatial planning. The second hour of each class I will present my own analysis of the way the required readings contribute to major current debates, and the challenges and opportunities in applying the week's concepts to cities.

Participation – 15%

Your substantive, constructive and respectful participation in weekly class discussions is crucial for the success of this course. It is expected that all participants 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. Please remember, excellent participation starts with perfect attendance.

Final Paper Proposal – 10%

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 25** at the latest. Proposals 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, or by email. Proposals should include an introduction, a discussion of your approach to institutional analysis, and an outline of the paper, including reference to at least 5 texts that you will be working with, and should be in total not more than 3-5 pages. Please upload to Q in PDF format.

Final Paper – 40%

Final papers 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. All participants are encouraged to explicitly and critically consider the conceptual leverage offered by and the relevance of institutional analysis for your paper. 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 8**, to Q in PDF format.

COURSE BASICS

- My office hours will be Mondays 5-6pm, and Wednesdays 3-4pm, SS5034
- Please arrive to class on time.
- Please submit all assignments to the course page on Q
- Weekly reading reviews should be submitted to Q by noon on the Sunday before each class.

All the readings except the Pierson 'Politics in Time' chapters are available as PDF files in Q in the Files/Readings folder. Readings are numbered by week, and a(Required), b(Recommended) and c(Related).

Pierson, P. (2004) 'Politics in Time'. Is available as an e-book via the library:

<http://site.ebrary.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/lib/utoronto/detail.action?docID=10496631>

TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1. January 7. Introduction Lecture

Required reading: N/A

Week 2. January 14. 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. (2017). 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. Ch1 p1-17

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. (1991). 'Institutions.' *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 5(1): 97-112.

Related:

Hodgson, G. M. (2006). 'What Are Institutions?' *Journal of Economic Issues* 40(1-25).

Week 3. January 21. Historical Institutionalism

Required:

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

Thelen, K. A. and S. Steinmo (1992). *Historical institutionalism in comparative analysis. Structuring politics : historical institutionalism in comparative analysis.* S. Steinmo, K. A. Thelen and F. Longstreth. Cambridge [England] ; New York, Cambridge University Press: 1-32.

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:

Pierson, P. (2000). 'Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics.' *American Political Science Review* 94(2): 251-267.

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.

Thelen, K. (1999). 'Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics.' *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 369-404.

Week 4. January 28. 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:

David, P. (1985). 'Clio and the Economics of QWERTY.' *American Economic Review, Papers and Proceedings of the Ninety-Seventh Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association* 75(2): 332-337.

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.

Related:

Urry, J. (2004). 'The 'System' of Automobility.' *Theory, Culture and Society* 21(4/5): 25-39.

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.

Week 5. February 4. Critical Junctures

Required:

- Capoccia, G. (2015). Critical junctures and institutional change. *Advances in Comparative Historical Analysis*. J. Mahoney and K. Thelen. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 147-179.
- 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**"
- Soifer, H. (2012). "The Causal Logic of Critical Junctures." *Comparative Political Studies* 45(12): 1572-1597.

Recommended:

- Collier, R. B. and D. Collier (1991). *Shaping the Political Arena*. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press. Chapter 1 Framework. p.27-39
- 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.
- Sorensen, A. (2017). *Global Suburbanization in Planning History* Routledge Handbook of Planning History. C. Hein. Ed. London, New York, Routledge.

Related:

- Krasner, S. D. (1984). "Approaches to the State: Alternative Conceptions and Historical Dynamics." *Comparative Politics* 16(2): 223-246.

Week 6. February 11. Structured processes of incremental change

Required:

- Mahoney, J. and K. A. Thelen (2010). *Explaining institutional change: ambiguity, agency, and power*. Cambridge ; New York, Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1
- Pierson, P. (2004). *Politics in time: history, institutions, and social analysis*. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press. Chapter 5 pp. 133-166 "**Institutional Development**"
- Hacker, J. S., P. Pierson and K. Thelen (2015). Drift and conversion: hidden faces of institutional change. *Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis*. J. Mahoney and K. Thelen. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 180-208.

Recommended:

- Campbell, J. L. (2010). Institutional Reproduction and Change. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Institutional Analysis*. G. Morgan, J. L. Campbell, C. Crouch, O. K. Pedersen and R. Whitley. Oxford.
- Boas, T. C. (2007). 'Conceptualizing Continuity and Change: The composite-standard model of path dependence.' *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 19(1): 33-54.
- 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.

Related:

- Tsebelis, G. (2000). 'Veto Players and Institutional Analysis.' *Governance: An International Journal of Policy and Administration* 13(4): 441-474.
- 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.

Week 7. February 25. Sociological Institutionalism;

Required:

- Healey, P. (2018). Developing a 'Sociological Institutional' approach to analysing institutional change in place governance. *Routledge Handbook of Institutions and Planning in Action*. W. G. M. Salet. Abingdon and New York, Routledge: 24-42.

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.

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

Recommended:

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

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

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

Related:

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

Sorensen, A. (2015). Transforming Land into Property: Varieties of Institutionalism and the Production of Urban Space. In J. Hillier & J. Metzger (Eds.), *Connections : exploring contemporary planning theory and practice with Patsy Healey* (423-436). Farnham, Surrey; Burlington, VT: Ashgate.

Week 8. March 4. 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.

Beland, D. (2009). 'Ideas, institutions, and policy change.' *Journal of European Public Policy* **16**(5): 701-718.

Related:

Blyth, M. (2001). 'The Transformation of the Swedish Model: Economic Ideas, Distribution Conflict, and Institutional Change.' *World Politics* **54**: 1 - 26.

Campbell, J. L. (1998). 'Institutional analysis and the role of ideas in political economy.' *Theory and Society* **27**(3): 377-409.

Week 9. March 11. Comparative Historical Analysis

Required:

Thelen, K. and J. Mahoney (2015). Comparative-historical analysis in contemporary political science. *Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis*. J. Mahoney and K. Thelen. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 3-36.

Falleti, T. and J. Mahoney (2015). The comparative sequential method. *Advances in Comparative Historical Analysis*. J. Mahoney and K. Thelen. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 211-239.

Streeck, W. (2015). Epilogue comparative-historical analysis: past, present, future. *Advances in*

Comparative Historical Analysis. J. Mahoney and K. Thelen. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 264-288.

Recommended:

Collier, D. (2011). 'Understanding Process-Tracing.' *Political Science and Politics* 44(4): 823-830.

Grzymala-Busse, A. (2011). Time Will Tell? Temporality and the Analysis of Causal Mechanisms and Processes. *Comparative Political Studies*, 44(9), 1267-1297.

Week 10. March 18. Institutions and Power

Required:

Pierson, P. (2015). Power and Path Dependence. *Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis*. J. Mahoney and K. Thelen. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 123-146.

Lowndes, V. and M. Roberts (2013). *Why institutions matter: the new institutionalism in political science*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, Palgrave Macmillan. Ch4 p77-110

Recommended:

Beland, D. (2010). The Idea of Power and the Role of Ideas. *Political Studies Review*, 8(2), 145-154.

Moe, T. M. (2005). Power and Political Institutions. *Perspectives on Politics*, 3(2), 215-233.

Week 11. March 25. Institutions and spatial planning

Required:

Sorensen, A. (2018). Institutions in urban space: Land, infrastructure and governance in the production of urban property. *Planning Theory and Practice*, 19(1), 21-38.

Taylor, Z. (2013). Rethinking planning culture: a new institutionalist approach. *Town Planning Review*, 84(6), 683-702.

Recommended:

Booth, P. (2011). Culture, planning and path dependence: some reflections on the problems of comparison. *Town Planning Review*, 82(1), 13-28.

Dąbrowski, M., & Piskorek, K. (2018). The development of strategic spatial planning in Central and Eastern Europe: between path dependence, European influence, and domestic politics. *Planning Perspectives*, 33(4), 571-589.

Sorensen, A. (2011). Evolving Property Rights in Japan: Patterns and Logics of Change. *Urban Studies*, 48(3), 471-491.

Week 12. April 1. 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.

Salet, W. G. M. (2002). 'Evolving Institutions: An International Exploration into Planning and Law.' *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 22: 26 - 35.

COURSE POLICIES

Accessibility

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. I will do anything I can to ensure that the course is accessible to everyone 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.>"

E-mail policy: Please contact me by email with any questions. I will make every effort to reply to you within 2 business days. Please identify yourself clearly and include "JPG1504" in the subject line.

Submitting assignments: All assignments should be submitted to the course Quercus site on the due date. Please be sure to keep rough and draft work of your before submitting. These should be kept until marked assignments have been returned.

Late assignments: The penalty for late assignments is 2% of the assignment grade out of 100% per day (including weekends as one day). Weekly reading reflections are only valuable if completed before the class, so will not be accepted if they are submitted after the relevant class. If you foresee problems meeting submission deadlines please contact me; accommodations can always be made with adequate advance notice. This means at least one week before the deadline, not the night before the work is due.