

JPG 1516: Declining Cities
Department of Planning and Geography
Semester: Fall 2020
Tuesdays 3-5pm, Remote

Professor:

Jason Hackworth

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Office Hours: By appointment (email me and we can set up a phone call or zoom meeting)

General description:

This course explores urban spaces that are viewed as problems or “in decline”. Cities, or at least parts of cities, have long been framed as a problem, particularly in large sprawling federalist societies like the United States and Canada. Exactly what those problems are, who they affect, and what should be done (or not done) about them vary over time and space. This is a seminar on the social construction of urban problems. We will explore the tension between on-the-ground challenges such as deprivation, crime, and depopulation, on the one hand, and the way that these problems are deployed by political and economic elites to motivate (or in some cases avoid) change, on the other.

Text/ Readings:

Most course readings are retrievable through the University of Toronto Library System; the remainder will be provided to students directly (details TBA).

Policies:

Zoom/ Online Access: Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this course will be conducted online. I will email you the zoom address for the class at least one day beforehand.

Penalties for late term work: Written term work (assignment and final paper) will incur a penalty of 10 percent per day (with nothing accepted one week after the deadline).

Academic integrity: Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism includes quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper attribution. Students also should not submit any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought, without first discussing it with the instructor.

Disability services: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit the following website as soon as possible: <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

Evaluation:

Class Participation and Reading Presentation (10 percent): This is a seminar, so it is crucial for students to engage with the readings as seriously as possible. I ask that you do the readings beforehand and be ready to discuss them. I also ask that you select one of the “readings that can be presented this week” and prepare a short presentation to the class on it. For the latter, please focus on three elements: 1) the argument of the article; 2) its relationship to the course material for that week; and 3) pertinent details about the author and their perspective.

Urban problem assignment (30 percent): This assignment involves the analysis of an urban problem. It consists of a bullet-point memo that you will submit, and a 10 minute presentation to the class on November 3 or 10. Details of the assignment are posted on Quercus.

Final paper and presentation (60 percent): The final paper is an academic consideration of the problem you presented for your earlier assignment. It involves both a submitted paper and a presentation on November 17 or 24. Details have been posted on Quercus. The paper itself will be due one week after the end of classes, December 1.

Schedule:

Week 1 (September 8): Course introduction

Week 2 (September 15): Features and types of distressed space/ urban political economy

Required Reading:

* Bacchi, C. (2009). Chapter 1, in *Analysing Policy: What's The Problem Represented To Be?* Frenchs Forest, NSW: Pearson Australia.

Introduction in Hackworth, J. (2019). *Manufacturing Decline: How Racism and the Conservative Movement Crush the American Rust Belt*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Question to consider before class: Much of the Global North is composed of societies where public consultation and input is required for a problem to be considered worthy of intervention. But it is also true that some groups have more influence over this process than others. Can you think of examples from your research or professional experience where one group or even person had a disproportionate influence over a policy being made?

Week 3 (September 22): Racial capitalism

Required Readings:

Chapter 1 in Hackworth, J. (2019). *Manufacturing Decline: How Racism and the Conservative Movement Crush the American Rust Belt*. New York: Columbia University Press.

* Hackworth, J. (2020). *Toward a Du Boisian Urban Geography*. Working Paper.

Question to consider before class: What are the overlaps between racism and capitalism? Can you think of forms of capitalism that are not influenced by some form of racism? Can you think of forms of racism that are not influenced by capitalism?

Readings that can be presented this week:

- Anderson, E. (2015). The white space. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 1(1): 10-21.
- Bledsoe, A. and W. Wright (2018). The anti-Blackness of global capital. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 37: 8-26
- Dorries, H. (2017). Planning as property: Uncovering the hidden logic of a municipal nuisance by-law. *Journal of Law and Social Policy*, 27: 72-93.
- Gilmore, R.W. (1999) Globalisation and US prison growth: From military Keynesianism to post-Keynesian militarism. *Race and Class*, 40(3): 171-188.
- Saberi, P. (2017). Toronto and the 'Paris problem': Community policing in 'immigrant neighbourhoods'. *Race and Class*, 59(2): 49-69.
- Wilson, B. (2012) Capital's need to sell and Black economic development. *Urban Geography*, 33(7): 961-978.

Week 4 (September 29): The political uses of urban problems

Required Readings:

- Chapter 2 in Hackworth, J. (2019). *Manufacturing Decline: How Racism and the Conservative Movement Crush the American Rust Belt*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Stradling, D. and R. Stradling. (2008). Perceptions of the burning river: Deindustrialization and Cleveland's Cuyahoga River. *Environmental History*, 13: 515-35.

Question to consider before class:

Readings that can be presented this week:

- Gilens, M. (1996). 'Race coding' and white opposition to welfare. *The American Political Science Review*, 90(3): 593-604.
- Harvey, D. (1989). From managerialism to entrepreneurialism: the transformation of urban governance in late capitalism. *Geografiska Annaler B*, 71: 3-17.
- Hohle, R. (2012). The color of neoliberalism: The 'modern southern businessman' and postwar Alabama's challenge to racial desegregation. *Sociological Forum*, 27(1): 142-162.
- Peck, J. (2006). Liberating the city: Between New York and New Orleans. *Urban Geography*, 27(8): 681-713.
- Seamster, L. (2018). When democracy disappears: Emergency management in Benton Harbor. *Du Bois Review*, 15(2): 295-322.

Week 5 (October 6): Removing the problem

Required Readings:

- Introduction in Rutland, T. (2018). *Displacing Blackness: Planning, Power and Race in Twentieth Century Halifax*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Introduction in Summers, B.T. (2019). *Black in Place: The Spatial Aesthetics of Race in a Post-Chocolate City*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

Question to consider before class: Most urban planners now concede that the urban renewal period was a heavy-handed destruction of perfectly functional communities. Other corners of the field continue to point to the challenges of concentrated poverty. Is it ever appropriate to deal with concentrated poverty through demolition and dispersal? Are there ways to make it more humane and effective than it was under urban renewal?

Readings that can be presented this week:

- Benediktsson, M. (2014). Territories of concern: Vacant housing and perceived disorder on three suburban blocks. *City and Community*, 13: 191-213.
- Cooper-McCann, P. (2016). The trap of triage: Lessons from the 'Team Four Plan'. *Journal of Planning History*, 15(2): 149-169.
- Crump, J. (2002). Deconcentration by demolition: Public housing, poverty, and urban policy. *Environment and Planning D*, 20(5): 581-596.
- Gordon, C. (2003). Blighting the way: Urban renewal, economic development and the elusive definition of blight. *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, 31: 305-337.
- Talen, E. (2014). Housing demolition during urban renewal. *City and Community*, 13: 233-253.

Week 6 (October 13): Avoidance, containment, policing

Required Readings:

- Hackworth, J. (2020). Why Black-majority neighborhoods are the epicentre of population shrinkage in the American Rust Belt. *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*, early view.
- Malik, A. (2016). Neighborhood watch: Racial profiling and virtual gated communities. In *Sub Divided: City-Building in an Age of Hyper-Diversity*, J. Pitter and J. Lorinc eds., 87-102. Toronto: Coach House Books.

Question to consider before class: Though places like Jane-Finch are treated by white citizens in the GTA as "no go zones", will it eventually gentrify and become occupied by the very people that now pathologize it? Can you think of examples of neighbourhoods (in any city) that have never gentrified or integrated?

Readings that can be presented this week:

- Hwang, J. and R. Sampson (2014). Divergent pathways of gentrification: Racial Inequality and the social order of renewal in Chicago neighborhoods. *American Sociological Review*, 79: 726-751.
- Kornberg, D. (2016). The structural origins of territorial stigma: Water and racial politics in Metropolitan Detroit, 1950s-2010s. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 40(2): 263-283.

- Kye, S. (2018). The persistence of white flight in middle-class suburbia. *Social Science Research*, 72: 38-52.
- Rhodes, J. (2012). Stigmatization, space, and boundaries in de-industrial Burnley. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 35(4): 684-703.
- Wacquant, L. (2014). Marginality, ethnicity and penalty in the neoliberal city: An analytic cartography. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 37(10): 1687-1711.

Week 7 (October 20): Mixing populations

Required Readings:

- Dunn, J. (2012). 'Socially mixed' public housing redevelopment as a destigmatization strategy in Toronto's Regent Park: A theoretical approach and a research agenda. *Du Bois Review*, 9(1): 87-105.
- Khare, A., Joseph, M., and R. Chaskin (2015). The enduring significance of race in mixed-income developments. *Urban Affairs Review*, 51(4): 474-503.

Question to consider before class: Is it possible to advocate for social mix without adopting a paternalistic attitude toward the poor? Is it possible to oppose social mix without advocating for concentrated poverty? Is stable, integration possible? Is it desirable?

Readings that can be presented this week:

- August, M. (2008). Social mix and Canadian public housing redevelopment: Experiences in Toronto. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 17(1): 82-100.
- August, M. (2014). Challenging the rhetoric of stigmatization: The benefits of concentrated poverty in Toronto's Regent Park. *Environment and Planning A*, 46(6): 1317-33.
- Sampson, R. (2009). Disparity and diversity in the contemporary city: Social (dis)order revisited. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 60 (1): 1-31.
- Sampson, R. and P. Sharkey (2008) Neighborhood selection and the social reproduction of concentrated racial inequality. *Demography*, 45: 1-29.
- Slater, T. (2013). Your life chances affect where you live: A critique of the 'cottage industry' of neighbourhood effects research. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 37(2): 367-87.

Week 8 (October 27): Reconciliation, justice, empathy, relief

Required Readings:

- Introduction in Fainstein, S. (2010). *The Just City*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Conclusion in Hackworth, J. (2019). *Manufacturing Decline: How Racism and the Conservative Movement Crush the American Rust Belt*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Question to consider before class: Are there more humane ways of tackling urban problems? What are some criteria for a more progressive approach to urban challenges? What are the

obstacles to implementing such an approach? Will some problems eventually expire on their own?

Readings that can be presented this week:

- * Desmond, M. (2016). Epilogue from *Evicted*. New York: Crown Publishers.
- Hackworth, J. and J. Rekers (2005). Ethnic packaging and gentrification: The case of four neighbourhoods in Toronto. *Urban Affairs Review*, 41(2): 211-236.
- Pottie-Sherman, Y. (2018). Austerity urbanism and the promise of immigrant- and refugee-centered urban revitalization in the US Rust Belt. *Urban Geography*, 39(3): 438-457.
- * Power, A., Ploger, J., and Winkler, A. (2010). Chapter 8, in *Phoenix Cities: The Fall and Rise of Great Industrial Cities*. Bristol: The Policy Press.

Week 9 (November 3): Urban Problem Presentations

Week 10 (November 10): Urban Problem Presentations

Week 11 (November 17): Term Paper Presentations

Week 12 (November 24): Term Paper Presentations