



Education Program SS 2020

(Main-) Seminar: Governance of Complex Systems IV – Confronting the Urban Crisis

Room: F-21/03.03

Time: Tuesday, 12-14 h

Start: 21st April 2020

Short Description:

Since the mid-2000s, we entered the “urban age”: nowadays, more people are living in cities than in rural areas. While critiques exist about “how urban” our world is, the process of urbanization remains unquestioned. Urbanization poses a whole range of complex challenges: why do we live in cities, and what does an “attractive city” mean? How can so many people be living together without deterioration of their quality of life in the face of resource competition? How can services in cities be provided to everybody within legal and budgetary restrictions?

Modern spatial and urban planning emerged to address some of these challenges and ensure good living conditions for urban dwellers. But spatial and urban planning is not neutral; rather, it is embedded in complex socio-political interactions among governance actors. Ideas about what to build and provide as “services” in and outside cities, as well as cultural perspectives about what a “good city” is and how to achieve it, have changed as people changed their preferences and learned (but also failed to learn) what worked and what didn’t. For example, why have some streets be pedestrianized, and why are we so dependent on private car mobility outside cities? Why are Barcelona and Berlin so appealing as compared to Gartenstadt in Bamberg?

The main goal of this course is to learn how to look at cities problematically: they are not “fallen from the sky”, but they have been built, destroyed, re-built and changed over time. That is, they are in constant crisis, because they are complex systems. In this course, we will discuss the historical development of spatial planning in addressing this crisis. We will focus both on the evolution of different ideas underlying spatial planning, and also on concrete practices and planning legislation.

Course structure: The course, as well as the reading material, is taught in English. Lectures are structured on participation and discussion following Problem-Based Learning (PBL). The course is structured in two parts: Part 1 deals with the nature of the urban; Part 2 deals with spatial and planning both as socio-political and practice-oriented activity.

Course Evaluation:

Chairing/supporting discussion in class (25% of the grade) and term paper (75% of the grade).

Course Literature:

We will use selected chapters from: LeGates, R.T. and Stout, F. (2016). The City Reader (6th edition). London/New York: Routledge. You should get these chapters yourself (e.g. library copy of book). Further material will be available online on the Virtual Campus.

Course Syllabus:

The detailed Syllabus of the course will be provided in due time.

Notes:

The seminar will be taught in English.

Registration:

Via FlexNow! From April 1st until April 19th 2020 or during the first lesson.

Speaking hours:

Thursday, 14-16 h

Mail:

sofia.pagliarin@uni-bamberg.de