



Education Program WS 2018/19

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

Room: F21/03.03

Time: Tuesday, 12-14 h

Start: 16th of October 2018

Description

At the turn of this century, there were more people living in cities than on the countryside. While one can debate the exact moment when this happened, the process of urbanization is unquestioned. Urbanization poses a whole range of complex challenges. How does one accommodate so many people living together without deterioration of the quality of life? How does one cater for the needs of everybody within legal and budgetary restrictions? How does one create an attractive city and how can that quality be retained in the competition for resources?

Urban planning and governance arises from the need to ensure good living conditions in the city. But ideas about what constitutes a good city, and how to achieve that, have changed as people changed their preferences and learned what worked and what didn't. For example, modernism was embraced and then abandoned (ostensibly, at least) as the solution to all urban problems. Yet, we can still discover modernist principles within the alternative approaches.

The purpose of this course is to learn how people have dealt with urban crises, how their approaches worked out, and to propose solutions to contemporary issues in urban planning. We will discuss the historical development of planning methods and the properties of contemporary approaches. We will focus on both the conceptual changes and the practical changes in terms of e.g. planning legislation and practices. The course consists of two parts. Part 1 focuses on the nature of the urban; part 2 focuses on urban planning as an activity.

Learning goals of the course:

- To describe the nature of problems challenging city
- To explain how different planning approaches work in responding to the urban crisis
- To analyze the fit (or lack thereof) between planning approaches and actual urban dynamics

- To propose alternative approaches to traditional planning procedures if common approaches fail to deliver the desired results.

Test and grading:

Students will be required to write a paper. This written report as well as participation in the shape of chairing sessions will be graded. More details can be found at the end of this syllabus.

Paper (75%) and chairing sessions (25%), Minimum - maximum number of participants: 3-15.

Please note!

The seminar is taught in English. The course follows the format of problem-based learning (PBL), which requires active participation of the students. Please refer to the syllabus for detailed information on how this works.

Literature (mandatory):

- LeGates, R.T. and Stout, F. (2016). The City Reader (6th edition). New York etc.: Routledge
- E-reader, available online through Virtual Campus.

Registration:

Registration starts on the 1st of September 2018 via FlexNow or during the first lesson.

Speaking hour:

Thursday, 11-12 h

Contact:

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