

Equity & Inclusion

Lecture 3

Class Assignments

Team Case Presentation. Students will work in small groups (4-6 people) to present a 15-20 minute case study and lead discussion on a current set of urban problematics related to equity and inclusion. A primary goal of the case study is to provide students with a chance to hone their professional research and presentation skills. Groups for the case study presentations should be set by the third week of class, with additional details on the presentation content expectations also provided by the Instructor at that time. Suggested case topics and articles will be added to the syllabus by the teams and distributed to the class in advance of their presentations.

Final Paper. Students may write either a professional memo-style policy brief or a traditional 12-15 pp academic-style paper, depending on their interest. This paper must relate to some aspect of the case study they have presented. Students are encouraged to use the final paper as an opportunity to flesh out their thinking as pertains to other academic interests and deliverables (thesis proposal, past or upcoming research projects, etc.). These are individual papers and are not group assignments. Students working on the same group case are expected to write their own paper or brief, focusing on an aspect or theme in the case that is of interest to them.

Short Essay due Tues of week 3

Weekly Reading Posts begin next week by 9pm (6/3)

Case Studies

Case 1: NYC (week 6)

Case 2: Oakland & St. Louis/Kansas City (week 7)

Case 3: New Orleans & Atlanta (week 8)

Requirements

- Review of local news reporting on the issue. Opinion leaders/makers
- Identification of primary decision-makers and relevant agencies (org chart)
- 2-3 readings for class
- Analysis of key issue, context, municipal opportunity, barriers
- Cost of living profile
- 2-3 lead recommendations

Short Essay: Op-ed

due Tues of week 3 (500-600 words)

- ❖ Lead with your big idea -- your opinion/voice are vital
- ❖ Lay the ground, give context to the issue
- ❖ Make one point and make it well
- ❖ Why should readers care? Make this explicit
- ❖ Make specific recommendations

Op-ed Issues & Examples

1. Proposed MBTA fare hikes (Boston)

<https://cdn.mbtta.com/sites/default/files/fmcb-meeting-docs/2019/01-january/2019-01-28-fmcb-fare-proposal-original.pdf>

Opinion

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2019/01/31/opinion-michelle-forget-fare-hikes-make-free/vJpKVu6Rft2C4Esi50mB5M/story.html>

2. Prop C (San Francisco)

https://sfelections.sfgov.org/sites/default/files/Documents/candidates/Nov%202018/LT_C.pdf

Opinion

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/Vote-no-on-Prop-C-Taxing-business-to-help-13257616.php>

Urbanization & Globalization

- Understanding the urban, national and global context of economic prosperity.
- Focus on global networks, transnational financial flows, crisis and social movements
- Capitalism's patterns and current trends
 - “People in cities experiencing the dislocations associated with privatization and the loss of a social safety net — all elements associated with globalization — react through mobilization in urban social movements, demands for participation in local governance, and rights advocacy. The process of public mobilization also has motivated elites to employ the discourse of democracy and rights...” (Davis, 103).
- The academic **name game**
- **What influences economic development**

Castells (2017)

“The dynamics of the system led to its demise.” (156)

Governments coming to “the rescue of financial capitalism.” (156)

“Thus the rise of alternative economic practices, largely in connection with social movements that emerged during the crisis (Castells 2015) appeared to be the harbinger of significant changes in the lives of people by transforming the culture, creating a new imaginary, and implementing new policies on the basis of a change in power relations.” (158)

Castells (2017) cont'd

Wants “to suggest a tentative grounded theory on the interaction between cultural transformation, political change, and economic organization. As has been established by a long scholarly tradition, economic practices, like all social practices, embody culture and are rooted in institutions. I understand culture as a set of values that guide human action.” (159)

“(A)s long as the orderly sequence of life can proceed without major disruption, even with its inequities and inequalities, economy as usual seems to be the only possible economy, to which everybody and everything must adapt.” (159)

Davis (2005)

“ ‘silences’ in the American urban literature about the global context of urban patterns and processes.” (93)

Colonial & Postcolonial scholarship vs. “victim blaming”

Latin Americanist urban scholars: work “framed in the context of larger structural relations between cities, the countryside and metropolises in the advanced capitalist world.” (94)

1970s-1980s decline of urban sociology. 1989 - third world urbanists’ death.
Ethnocentrism of the American academy

Davis (2005) cont'd

“But what is most striking about this new wave of scholarship is that when compared to the antecedent literature on third-world cities and globalization, the **unit of analysis for theorizing connections had changed**, as had the nature of the connections, and both produced slightly different claims and different types of research to the forefront of the scholarly agenda. One key characteristic of the newer scholarship — as implied earlier — is the **fixation with cities of enormous economic importance**, and not merely of considerable size.” (99)

- “Do global cities generate national prosperity, or does national prosperity generate global cities?”
- *Is poverty of failed prosperity a function of a lack of global integration?*

Sassen (2005)

- global city NOT world city
- moving beyond the nation-state as key vehicle and container of capital movement
- rescaling of strategic territories to articulate a new system
- subnational, crossnational, supranational
- specialized service firms + agglomeration economies + global service
- city as information center; global command and control functions

Storper et al. (2015)

“The role of academic research is sometimes to reveal what is not apparent to the naked eye, and sometimes to do the opposite by showing that what seems obvious is not what it happens to be.” (193)

- Various methods of econ dev research
- Case studies +/-
- International development theory: structural “clubs” of economies (17)
- Economic geographers -- tracking industries & firms
- “agglomeration economies”
- Role of entrepreneurs
- Regional differences (e.g., tech & counterculture of Bay Area) "zeitgeist"
- People oriented vs. place oriented development

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