

**Alison E. Post**  
**Postdoctoral Fellow, Committee on Global Thought**  
**Adjunct Professor, SIPA**  
**Columbia University**

**PUAF U6830**  
**Cities in Developing Countries:**  
**Problems, Politics, and Policies**



**Seminar Description:**

Over half of the world's population is now urban. As urban populations swell, metropolitan areas in both the developed and the developing world struggle to provide basic services and address the negative externalities associated with rapid growth. Sanitation, transportation, pollution, energy services, and public safety typically fall to sub-national governments. Yet local sub-national institutions face difficulties as they tackle these challenges because development tends to spill over political boundaries and resources are limited. Such difficulties are particularly acute in the developing world due to tighter resource constraints, weak institutions, and the comparative severity of the underlying problems. Moreover, democratization and decentralization suggest that urban governance and service delivery may have become more democratic, but presents challenges with respect to priority-setting, coordination, and corruption.

This course will examine the most pressing problems facing metropolitan areas in the developing world. It will also consider the political and institutional environment in which efforts to address metropolitan problems have been developed, the financial and institutional vehicles used to provide services of different types, and the role of political parties and other forms of political organization in the development and allocation of services. This course will draw on a number of disciplinary perspectives that offer analytic leverage as we try to understand underlying social and economic changes in cities of the developing world, as well as the institutional and political forces that influence our ability to address problems and adapt to these changes. Empirical examples will be drawn from across the globe, though readings will lean most heavily towards Latin America.

**Assignments:**

This course is structured as a writing-intensive seminar. Assignments are designed to improve students' abilities to make cogent arguments supported by data and evidence. There will be three paper assignments. The first two papers will be of 5-7 pages in length. The final paper will be 10-12 pages in length.

- First paper: (due week 5) Select a large metropolis in the developing world. Use data from the World Development Indicators, Habitat Report, and national censuses to assess the extent to which the migration, population growth, settlement, income, employment, and service access trends described in the readings week 1-5 reflect reality in your city. Based on the analytic approaches in the readings, develop hypotheses regarding the discrepancies between the trends observed in your case and the general trends described in the readings. Suggest research strategies that might be used to evaluate your hypotheses.

- Second paper: (due week 8) The urban problems discussed in the course are inter-related in complex ways. Present a coherent argument for or against the following proposition: “Urban policy involves irreconcilable trade-offs between equity, growth, and environmental concerns.” Support your argument with theoretical arguments and empirical examples and data on general trends drawn from the readings. Be careful to discuss the extent to which cases discussed are representative.
- Third paper: (due the last week of class): Choose an area of urban policy in which you would like to gain greater expertise. Drawing on readings from the second half of the course regarding the politics of urban policy and outside readings, discuss the ways in which political institutions and actors constrain make certain types of policy approaches and innovations more feasible than others. Differentiate the dynamics of your chosen policy area from others discussed in the readings.

### **Grading**

Class participation will count 25% towards final grades. The assignments will contribute 75% of the grade: the final paper will be worth 45% of the final grade, and the two shorter papers each 15%.

### **Academic Integrity at SIPA:**

The School of International & Public Affairs does not tolerate cheating and/or plagiarism in any form. Those students who violate the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct will be subject to the Dean’s Disciplinary Procedures. Cut and paste the following link into your browser to view the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct online.

[http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources\\_services/student\\_affairs/academic\\_policies/deans\\_discipline\\_policy.html](http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/deans_discipline_policy.html)

Please familiarize yourself with the proper methods of citation and attribution. The School provides some useful resources online; we strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with these various styles before conducting your research:

[http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources\\_services/student\\_affairs/academic\\_policies/code\\_of\\_conduct.html](http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/code_of_conduct.html)

Violations of the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct should be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

### **Reference Materials (on reserve):**

Gilbert, Alan (1994). *The Latin American City*. London: The Latin American Bureau.

Nickson, R. Andrew (1995). *Local Government in Latin America*. Boulder : L. Rienner Publishers.

United Nations Commission on Human Settlement (HABITAT) (2001). *Cities in a Globalizing World: Global Report on Human Settlements*. London: Earthscan Publications.

## **Course Readings:**

### *Week 1: Introduction: Trends and Concepts*

Mumford, Lewis (1937). "What Is a City?" *Architectural Record*.

Wirth, Louis. "Urbanism as a Way of Life." *American Journal of Sociology* (1938).

Pugh, Cedric (1995). "Urbanization in Developing Countries: An Overview of Economic and Policy Issues in the 1990s." *Cities*. 12(6): 381-398.

Evans, Peter (2002). "Looking for Agents of Urban Livability in a Globalized Political Economy." In Evans, Peter ed. *Livable Cities? Urban Struggles for Livelihood and Sustainability*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

## **The Backdrop: Recent Change in the Social and Economic Fabric of Cities in the Developing World**

### *Week 2: Migration, Settlement Patterns, and Social Exclusion*

Becker, Charles M. and Andrew Morrison (1997). "Public Policy and Rural-Urban Migration." In Gugler, Josef. *Cities in the Developing World: Issues, Theory, and Policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Beall, Jo (2002). "Globalization and Social Exclusion in Cities: Framing the Debate with Lessons from Africa and Asia." *Environment and Urbanization*. 14(1): 41-51.

Caldeira, Teresa P.R. (2000). *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in Sao Paulo*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 213-255 [Chapter 6: Patterns of Spatial Segregation.]

Gilbert, Alan (1994). *The Latin American City*. London: The Latin American Bureau. [Chapter 3: "The Move to the City." pp. 39-56]

### *Optional reading:*

Sengul, H. Tarik (2003). "On the Trajectory of Urbanization in Turkey." *International Development Planning Review*. 25:2.

### *Week 3: Economic Change*

### *Required readings:*

Glaeser, E. and A. Ades (1995). "Trade and Circuses: Explaining Urban Giants." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 110: 228-258.

Knox, Paul. 1997. "Globalization and Urban Economic Change." In *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 551. (May 1997), pp. 17-27.

Stren, Richard. "Local Governance and Social Diversity in the Developing World: New Challenges for Globalizing City-Regions." *Global-City Regions. Trends, Theory, Policy*. Edited by Allen J. Scott. New York: Oxford University Press.

Grant, Richard and Jan Nijman (2002). "Globalization and the Corporate Geography of Cities in the Developing World." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 92(2): 320-340.

*Optional readings:*

Friedman, John (1995). "Where We Stand: A Decade of World City Research." In Paul L. Knox and Peter J. Taylor, ed. *World Cities in a World System*. New York: Cambridge, pp. 21-47.

Wu, Fulong (2000). "The Global and Local Dimensions of Place-Making: Remaking Shanghai as a World City." *Urban Studies* 37(8): 1359-1377.

*Week 4: Neoliberal Reform and Employment Patterns*

*Required readings:*

Cohen, Michael (1990). "Macroeconomic Adjustment and the City." *Cities*. February, 1990, pp. 49-59.

Kurtz, Marcus (2004). "The Dilemmas of Democracy in the Open Economy: Lessons from Latin America." *World Politics* Vol. 56:2 (January).

Gilbert, Alan (1994). *The Latin American City*. Chapter 4: "The World of Work."

*Optional readings:*

Tripp, Aili Mari (1997). *Changing the Rules: The Politics of Liberalization and the Urban Informal Economy in Tanzania*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 102-170.

*Week 5: Urban Infrastructure and Services*

Hardoy, Jorge E. and David Satterthwaite (1997). "Building the Future City." From Josef Gugler ed. *Cities in the Developing World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 265-279.

Da Silva, Ana Amelia (2000). "Sao Paulo and the Challenges for Social Sustainability: The Case of Urban Housing Policy." In *The Social Sustainability of Cities: Diversity and the Management of Change*. Mario Polese and Richard Stren, eds. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 202-227.

Gilbert, Alan (1994). *The Latin American City*. Chapter 5 - 6. ["Housing Strategies" and "Urban Management."]

Habitat (2001). *Cities in a Globalizing World: Global Report on Human Settlements*. London: Earthscan. [Chapter 10: "Assessments of the Urban Environment: Water Supply and Sanitation Services." pp. 122-126]

Savedoff, William and Pablo Spiller (1999). *Spilled Water: Institutional Commitment in the Provision of Water Services*. Washington, D.C.: Inter-American Development Bank. [Chapter 1]

*Optional Reading:*

Devas, Nick (2003). "Can City Governments in the South Deliver for the Poor?" *International Development and Planning Review*. 25:1.

*Week 6: The Rule of Law and Urban Violence*

Caldeira, Teresa P.R. (2000). *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in Sao Paulo*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 105-137 [Chapters 3-5]

Leeds, Elizabeth (1996). "Cocaine and Parallel Politics in the Brazilian Urban Periphery: Constraints on Local Level Democratization." *Latin American Research Review*. 31(3): 47-83.

*Film Screenings:* [choose to view one of the following films]

"City of God" [Rio de Janeiro]

"Virgen de los Sicarios" [Medellín]

*Week 7: The Urban Environment/ Environmental Justice*

*Required Readings:*

Hardoy, Jorge E., Diana Mitlin and David Satterthwaite (2001). *Environmental Problems in an Urbanizing World*. London: Earthscan, pp. 1-36.

Main, Hamish and Stephen Williams. "Marginal Urban Environments as Havens for Low-Income Housing." In Main and Williams, *Environment and Housing in Third World Cities*.

Keck, Margaret (2002). "Water, Water, Everywhere, Nor Any Drop to Drink." Evans, Peter ed., *Livable Cities? Urban Struggles for Livelihood and Sustainability*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

*Optional readings:*

Harvey, David (1996). *Justice, Nature, and the Geography of Difference*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers. [Part IV, pp. 329-403]

Pezzoli, Keith (2002). "Sustainability, Livelihood, and Community Mobilization in the Ajusco 'Ecological Reserve.'" From Evans, Peter ed. *Livable Cities? Urban Struggles for Livelihood and Sustainability*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

## **Political Actors and Institutions**

### *Week 8: Institutional Fragmentation, Regime Type, and Political Participation*

Stren, Richard (2002). "Introduction: Toward the Comparative Study of Urban Governance." *In Governance on the Ground :Innovations and Discontinuities in Cities of the Developing World* . Edited by Patricia L. McCarney and Richard E. Stren. Woodrow Wilson Center and Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 1-38.

Pierre, Jon (1999). "Models of Urban Governance." *Urban Affairs Review*. 34(3): 372-397.

Gibson, Edward (2005). "Boundary Control: Subnational Authoritarianism in Democratic Countries." *World Politics*. 58(1), October 2005, pp. 101-132

H.P. Kitschelt (2007). "Party Systems", in *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*. Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### *Optional readings:*

McCarney, Patricia, Mohammed Halfani and Alfredo Rodriguez (1995). "Towards an Understanding of Governance: The Emergence of an Idea and its Implication for Urban Research in Developing Countries." *In Perspectives on the City*. Edited by Richard Stren with Judith Kjellberg Bell. Toronto: Centre for Urban and Community Studies, pp. 91-142.

Islam, Nazrul, *et. al.* (2003). "Reforming Governance in Dhaka, Bangladesh." From McCarney, Patricia and Richard Stren eds. *Governance on the Ground: Innovation and Discontinuities in Cities of the Developing World*. Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press.

### *Week 9: Urban Social Movements*

Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink (1998). *Activists Beyond Borders*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. pp. 1-38.

Hochstetler, K. (2000). "Democratizing Pressures from Below: Social Movements in the New Brazilian Democracy." *In Democratic Brazil*. P.R. Kingston and T.J. Power, ed. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Schneider, C. (1991). "Mobilization at the Grassroots: Shantytowns and Resistance in Authoritarian Chile." *Latin American Perspectives*. 18(1): 92-110.

### *Week 10: Institutions, Actors, and Public Policy*

H.P. Kitschelt (2000). "Linkages between Citizens and Politicians in Democratic Politics." *Comparative Political Studies*, 33(6-7) (August-September 2000), pp. 845-79.

Medina, Luis Fernando and Susan Stokes (2007). "Monopoly and Monitoring: An Approach to Political Clientelism." from Kitschelt, Herbert and Steven Wilkinson, eds. *Patrons, Clients, and Policies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Van de Walle, Nicolas (2007). "Meet the New Boss, same as the Old Boss? The Evolution of Political Clientelism in Africa." from Kitschelt, Herbert and Steven Wilkinson, eds. *Patrons, Clients, and Policies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Chandler Davidson and George Korbel (1981). "At-Large Elections and Minority Group Representation: A Reexamination of Historical and Contemporary Evidence." *The Journal of Politics*. 23(4): 982-1005.

#### *Week 11: Federalist and Unitary States*

Tiebout, Charles (1956). "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditure." *Journal of Political Economy*. 44(5): 416-424.

APSA-CP: *Newsletter of the Comparative Politics Section of the American Political Science Association*. Special Issue on Federalism 11(1): Winter 2000.

Montinola, G., Y.Y. Qian, and B. R. Weingast (1995). "Federalism, Chinese Style—The Political Basis for Economic Success in China." *World Politics* 48 (October, 1995): 1-30.

Gibson, Edward, ed. (2004). *Federalism and Democracy in Latin America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. [Introduction]

#### *Week 12: Decentralization and Multi-Level Governance*

Grindle, Merilee (2007). *Going Local: Decentralization, Democratization, and the Promise of Good Governance*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [Chapter 1 and 2]

Eaton, Kent (2004). *Politics Beyond the Capital: The Design of Subnational Institutions in South America*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. pp. 1-58

Myers, David J. and Henry A. Dietz (2002). "Conclusions." From *Capital City Politics in Latin America: Democratization and Empowerment*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

#### *Week 13: Modes of Service Provision and Political Accountability: Part I*

Birdsall, Nancy and John Nellis (2003). "Winners and Losers: Assessing the Distributional Impact of Privatization." *World Development*. 31(10) 1617-1633.

Estache, Antonio, Andrés Gómez-Lobo, and Danny Leipziger (2001). "Utilities Privatization and the Poor: Lessons and Evidence from Latin America." *World Development*. 29(7): 1179-1198.

Levy, Brian and Spiller, Pablo (1994). "The Institutional Foundations of Regulatory Commitment: A Comparative Analysis of Telecommunications Regulations." *Journal of Law Economics and Organization*. 10(2): 201-246.

Nickson, Andrew R. and C. Vargas (2002). "The limitations of water regulation: the failure of the Cochabamba concession in Bolivia." *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, Vol.21, No. 1, Jan.-March 2002, pp. 99-120.

*Week 14: Modes of Service Provision and Political Accountability: Part II*

Wilson, James Q. (1980), "Conclusion," from Wilson, James Q., ed. *The Politics of Regulation*. New York: Basic Books.

Murillo, Maria Victoria (forthcoming). *Voice and Light: Political Competition, Partisanship, and Policymaking*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. [chapters 2-3]