

University of Roehampton – Summer Online

Department: Social Sciences

Module: Londonopolis – exploring the global city

Module Tutor: Dr Michal P Garapich

Module outline

This module will combine contemporary theories and debates on the condition of urban life in a global city with virtual ethnographic, street level perspective experienced and then conceptualized by students. The idea is to continuously relate theories from urban anthropology, sociology and urban studies with dynamic reality 'out-there' directly confronted by students. The aim of the module is to generate discussions on the interplay between culture and structure, economy and society, urban landscape and human behaviour using phenomena, data, images, observations gathered by students during virtual fieldtrips, which are the integral part of the teaching tool.

London is undoubtedly one of the global cities that offer a unique experience of social diversity. For many international students life in London is part of their education trajectory *per se* and this module aims at introducing this assumption through a study exploring various aspects and trends in contemporary global city.

Learning outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- be familiar with various aspects of contemporary social life in London beyond mere visitor's gaze
- critically reflect on various theoretical debates within urban studies
- reflect on various methodological, ethical and political aspects of urban ethnography
- apply their critical reflections in their own interpretations of social life of London
- familiarize themselves with various qualitative methods of urban research like interviews, visual ethnography, participant observation, discourse analysis, auto-ethnography
- be aware of effective writing strategies

Teaching and learning methods:

Online lectures and seminars plus ethnographic de-briefing

Virtual field trips undertaken in the student's own time

Drop-in hours and group discussions

Main themes of the module:

- Introduction to urban theory and research methods
- Art and the city
- City, capitalism and urban inequalities
- Social resistance and urban politics
- Super-diversity, migration and the city

Assessment

Ethnographic essay – 3000 words 100% of the entire mark

The essay needs to demonstrate:

- Familiarity with theoretical concepts and debates relating to particular urban issues
- Ability to relate these concepts to real life phenomena and empirical data gathered during fieldtrip and through independent research
- Independent thinking and ability to form and express own interpretations over the issue
- Ability to express oneself in a clear and cohesive manner
- Ability to reference work properly (using Harvard)

Bibliography

Required reading on Methodology:

P. Atkinson. 2007. *Handbook of ethnography*. Sage Pub.

M. Hammersley, P. Atkinson. 2007. *Ethnography: principles in practice*. Taylor&Francis

J. Brewer. 2000. *Ethnography*. Open University Press (available on-line)

Further readings

M. Savage, A. Warde 1993. *Urban Sociology, Capitalism and Modernity*. MacMillan Press

W.G. Flanagan. 1990. *Urban Sociology. Images and Structures*. Allyn and Bacon

A.Giddens. 1991. *Modernity and Self-Identity*. Cambridge Polity

U. Beck. 1992. *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*. Sage

N. Coleman. 2005. *Utopias and Architecture*. Taylor&Francis

D.Higgs.1999 *Queer Sites: Gay Urban Histories since 1600*, Routledge

C. Heap. 2009. *Slumming : Sexual and Racial Encounters in American Nightlife, 1885-1940*.
University of Chicago Press

J. Schneider and I. Susser (eds.) 2003. *Wounded cities: Destruction and reconstruction in a globalized world*. Oxford: Berg

S. Hall 1993. 'Cultural Identity and Diaspora', [in] P. Williams and L. Chrisman (eds.) *Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory*, Hemel Hempstead, p. 392-403.

S. Castles and M. Miller. 2006. *The Age of Migration*. Basingstoke: Macmillan

J. Friedman, J. 1992. 'The past in the future: history and the politics of identity'. *American Anthropologist* 94:4, 837-59.

M. Castells. 1999. "The Informational Mode of Development and the Restructuring of Capitalism" [in] *Readings in Urban Theory*; ed. by Susan S. Fainstein and Scott Campbell; Blackwell

J. Eade. 1997. *Living the Global City. Globalisation as a Local Process*. Routledge

G. Baumann. 1996. *Contesting culture: discourses of identity in multi-ethnic London*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.