

## **Karen Andes, Global Health, 2017**

When I applied to participate in the Piedmont Project, I was aware of many of the sustainability issues that Megacities and Slums pose for urban development, but the workshop heightened my awareness of some issues in particular.

Rapid urban growth – particularly in cities that already house more than 10 million people – poses fundamental challenges to the provision of key public services like potable water and the removal of sewage and solid waste. Informal settlements – or “Slums” – are fundamentally unsustainable in the due to the issues of precarity, poverty, and inequality that the course explores. Ironically, these settlements also rely on sustainable practices, as their residents build homes from found materials, and many collect and sell recyclable materials to make a living.

I think the parts of the workshop that influenced my thinking the most were actually learning about Emory’s many efforts to reduce its environmental impact by building LEED-certified structures, developing the Waterhub, and preserving greenspace. What struck me the most is how much planning (and technology) goes into these processes – and how planning is precisely what is missing in informal settlements.

I had originally planned on developing the course on Slums/Informal Settlements only, but it occurred to me that the focus on Megacities as well allows an exploration of how some cities have developed innovative solutions precisely because of pressures on natural resources (e.g. Singapore), or a political will to prioritize specific problems (e.g. transportation in Bogotá under Peñalosa), or the need to retrofit infrastructure for large segments of the population (e.g. water and sanitation in “Neza-Chalco-Izta” in Mexico City).

On a more personal note, I was rather horrified to realize that despite all my other efforts, my carbon footprint is determined by the 2-3 transcontinental flights (RT) I take each year!



ROLLINS  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
EMORY

**DEPARTMENT:** Global Health  
**COURSE NUMBER:** TBD      **SEMESTER:** (Fall 2018?)  
**CREDIT HOURS:** 3  
**COURSE TITLE:** Megacities and Slums: Global Health and Sustainable Development

**INSTRUCTOR NAME:** Karen Andes, PhD.

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

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SCHOOL ADDRESS OR MAILBOX LOCATION:

**OFFICE HOURS:** By Appointment

**BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Around the year 2010, the world's urban population outnumbered its rural population for the first time. By 2050, an estimated 70% of the world's population will live in urban areas, including a rising number of "Megacities" and the expansion of hundreds of small to midsize cities. Over the same period, the potential proliferation of informal settlements – or "slums" – is tremendous. Currently, about a quarter of the world's urban population lives in "slums," which are typically poor, informal settlements characterized by inadequate housing, overcrowding, "illegal" or insecure land tenure, poor nutrition and/or food insecurity, as well as a lack of infrastructure (e.g. water, sewage, sanitation, electricity) and access to public services (e.g. education and health services). Because such settlements are typically built on relatively undesirable land, they also tend to be susceptible to natural disasters.

This course takes a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the challenges that rapid urbanization poses for progress in global health and sustainable development worldwide. The course will begin with an overview of processes and consequences of rapid urbanization from multiple disciplines, as well as an overview of challenges currently experienced in many Megacities and Slums such as: informality, precarity, inequality, sustainability, vulnerability to disasters, etc. The second part of the course will introduce the comparative historical method, outline a framework for students' comparative analyses of specific cities/slums, and allow time for students to present their small groups' analysis to the class.

The course focuses on Megacities and Slums as fundamentally un-sustainable urban forms in their current contexts, and seeks to identify more sustainable future pathways.

### **LIST SCHOOL LEVEL, DEPARTMENT, AND/ OR PROGRAM COMPETENCIES**

Each course will include school level, departmental or concentration competencies as is required by CEPH accreditation.

1. Assess the major forces that influence the health of populations around the world
2. Critique major global priorities and the reasons for their prioritization
3. Critique the evidence for improving health delivery systems and health status of individuals, communities, and populations around the world

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Identify key features of Megacities and Slums that challenge sustainable paths toward health and development.
2. Evaluate the relative importance of key features of contemporary urban environments in health and development outcomes.
3. Apply Comparative Historical Methodology to the empirical study of one city/slum case study.

### **EVALUATION**

Student learning will be evaluated through the following methods:

#### Individual Grades

1. Attendance/Participation: 30%. Students are expected to come to class prepared to engage the weekly readings in discussion. After the first absence, 2 points will be deducted for each subsequent absence.
2. Book Review: 15%. Students will select a monograph/book to read and review in writing.
3. Book Review Critiques: 10%. Students will read and critique 2 of their peers' Book Reviews.
4. Peer Evaluations: 5%. Evaluation of peer contributions on group projects.

#### Group Grades

1. Group Presentation: 15%. Presentation of case study in *Cities on a Finite Planet*.
2. Group Presentation: 25%. Comparative City/Slum Case Study Final Presentation.

### **ACADEMIC HONOR CODE**

The RSPH requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic course of study must be the original work of the student.

## Week 1: Cities, Megacities and Slums

- Syllabus and Course Overview
- **Documentary:** “*Slums: Cities of Tomorrow*” (1:22)  
*This documentary seeks to address the housing problem in the age of urban overcrowding by looking at structures built on a human scale from a sociological and philosophical perspective.*

## Week 2: Urbanization and Development in Global Perspective

Satterthwaite, David and Sheridan Bartlett. 2016. “Urbanization, Development, and the Sustainable Development Goals,” in Bartlett, Sheridan and David Satterthwaite, eds. *Cities on a Finite Planet*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Mitlin, Diana and David Satterthwaite. 2013. “Why this Book,” in *Urban Poverty in the Global South: Scale and Nature*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Basiago, Andrew D. "Economic, Social, and Environmental Sustainability in Development Theory and Urban Planning Practice." *The Environmentalist* 19, no. 2 (1998): 145-161.

- **Video:** Andrew Marr’s Megacities – Living in the City (Episode 1)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fo6d-pahxPM>

## Week 3. Urbanization Research in Historical Perspective

Castells, Manuel. "The New Historical Relationship between Space and Society." Chapter 4 in *Designing Cities: Critical Readings in Urban Design*. Edited by Alexander Cuthbert. Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2003, pp. 59-68.

Kasarda John D. and Edward M. Crenshaw. 1991. Third World Urbanization: Dimensions, Theories, and Determinants. *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 17:467-501.

Davis, Diane E. "Cities in Global Context: a Brief Intellectual History." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 29, no. 1 (2005): 92-109.

- **Video:** Andrew Marr’s Megacities – Cities on the Edge (Episode 2)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJYrdwfkkek>

## Week 4. Urbanization and Poverty

Mitlin, Diana and David Satterthwaite. 2013. “Measuring Poverty,” in *Urban Poverty in the Global South: Scale and Nature*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Harvey, David. 2008. The Right to the City. *New Left Review* 53:23-40.

Bolay, Jean-Claude, Jérôme Chenal, Yves Pedrazzini. 2016. "Slums and Precarity in Developing Countries." In *Learning from the Slums for the Development of Emerging Cities*. GeoJournal Library 119.

Verma, Arpana. 2011. "Megacity Metrics: Current Systems and Developing a Conceptual Framework," in Omar Khan and Gregory Pappas, eds. *Megacities and Global Health*. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association.

- **Video:** Andrew Marr's Megacities – Sustaining the City (Episode 3)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4OsB9R7kx8>

## **Week 5. Urbanization and Sustainability**

Leitman, Josef. 1999. "Thinking about the Urban Environment" and "Understanding Problems, Characteristics, and Underlying Causes," in *Sustaining Cities: Environmental Planning and Management in Urban Design*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Gardner, Gary. 2016. "The City: A System of Systems," in The Worldwatch Institute, *Can a City be Sustainable? (State of the World)*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Isunjua J.B., K.Schwartz, M.A.Schouten, W.P.Johnson, and M.P.van Dijk. 2011. "Socio-economic aspects of improved sanitation in slums: A review." *Public Health* 125(6):368-376.

- **Documentary:** *H2O mx*  
*Can a megacity mobilize its 22 million citizens for sustainable water consumption? Mexico City was built in the middle of a lake. This film is an environmental case of study of the Valley of Mexico in its struggle to save itself from water shortage, while the population keeps on growing.*

## **Week 6. Health in Global Cities**

Mitlin, Diana and David Satterthwaite. 2013. "Why Is Health So Poor Among Low-Income Urban Dwellers?" in *Urban Poverty in the Global South: Scale and Nature*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Chant, Sylvia and Cathy McIlwaine. 2016. "Gender and Health: an Urban Penalty for Slum-dwelling Women?" in *Cities, Slums and Gender in the Global South: Towards a feminised urban future*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Vlahov, David. 2001. "Urban Health in the Context of Twenty-First Century Megatrends." ,," in Omar Khan and Gregory Pappas, eds. *Megacities and Global Health*. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association.

- **Video:** Kevin McCloud's Slumming It (Episode 1)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mQbo9ZTjEs>

## **Week 7. Informality**

Mitlin, Diana and David Satterthwaite. 2013. "Incomes and Livelihoods" in *Urban Poverty in the Global South: Scale and Nature*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Hansen, Karen Tranberg and Mariken Vaa. 2004. "Introduction." In Karen Tranberg Hansen and Mariken Vaa, *Reconsidering Informality: Perspectives from Urban Africa*. Nordiska Afrikainstitutet.

La Porta, Rafael and Andrei Shleifer. 2014. "Informality and Development." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 28(3):109-126.

- **Video:** Kevin McCloud's Slumming It (Episode 2)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPANDq-XOEs>

## **Week 8. Inequality**

Mitlin, Diana and David Satterthwaite. 2013. "Critical Issues in Urban Inequality" in *Urban Poverty in the Global South: Scale and Nature*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Peterson, V. Spike. 2010. "Informalization, Inequalities, and Global Insecurities." *International Studies Review* 12:244-270.

Barber, Benjamin. 2013. "PLANET OF SLUMS": The Challenge of Urban Inequality. In *If Mayors Ruled the World: Dysfunctional Nations, Rising Cities* (pp. 177-212). Yale University Press.

Chant, Sylvia and Cathy McIlwaine. 2016. "Gendered Access to Land and Housing," in *Cities, Slums and Gender in the Global South: Towards a feminised urban future*. New York, NY: Routledge.

## **Week 9. Comparative Historical Method**

Lang, Matthew. 2012. "Comparative Historical Methods: An Introduction." Chapter 1 in *Comparative Historical Methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Kantor, Paul, H.V. Savitch, and Serena Vicari Haddock. 1997. "The Political Economy of Urban Regimes: A Comparative Perspective." *Urban Affairs Review* 32(3):348-377.

McFarlane, Colin. 2010. The Comparative City: Knowledge, Learning, and Urbanism. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 34(4):725-742.

Robinson, Jennifer. 2016. "Comparative Urbanism: New Geographies and Cultures of Theorizing the Urban." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 40(1):187-199.

### **Week 10. Comparative Disaster Risk: *Cities on a Finite Planet***

Mitlin, Diana and David Satterthwaite. 2013. "Broadening the Understanding and Measurement of Urban Poverty" in *Urban Poverty in the Global South: Scale and Nature*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Arabella Fraser, Mark Pelling and William Solecki. 2016. "Understanding Risk in the Context of Urban Development: Definitions, Concepts, and Pathways," in Bartlett, Sheridan and David Satterthwaite, eds. *Cities on a Finite Planet*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Sheridan Bartlett, David Satterthwaite, Debra Roberts, Jan Corfee-Morlot, David Dodman and Jorgelina Hardoy. 2016. "Cross City Analysis," in Bartlett, Sheridan and David Satterthwaite, eds. *Cities on a Finite Planet*. New York, NY: Routledge.

- **Student Presentations:** Students will sign up to present case study chapters on Bangalore, Bangkok, Dar es Salaam, Durban, London, Manizales, Mexico City, New York, and Rosario from *Cities on a Finite Planet*.

### **Week 11. Gender**

Chant, Sylvia and Cathy McIlwaine. 2016 "Introduction: Cities and Slums in the Global South – the Importance of Gender," in *Cities, Slums and Gender in the Global South: Towards a feminised urban future*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Chant, Sylvia and Cathy McIlwaine. 2016. "Analyzing Gender in the Cities of the South: Introducing the Gender-Urban-Slum Interface," in *Cities, Slums and Gender in the Global South: Towards a feminised urban future*. New York, NY: Routledge.

- **Student Presentations:** Cities/Slums Case Studies

### **Week 12. Youth**

Hansen, Karen Tranberg. 2008. "Introduction: Youth and the City," in Karen Tranberg Hansen. *Youth and the City in the Global South*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

- Presentation: Karen Andes, "Emerging Adulthood among Youth in the Bañados of Asuncion, Paraguay."

- **Student Presentations:** Cities/Slums Case Studies

### **Week 13. Potential Solutions**

David Satterthwaite, Sheridan Bartlett, Debra Roberts, David Dodman, William Solecki, Alice Sverdlik and Mark Pelling. 2016. "Conclusions on Ways Forwards," in Bartlett, Sheridan and David Satterthwaite, eds. *Cities on a Finite Planet*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Satterthwaite and Mitlin. 2013. "A Future that Low-Income Slum Dwellers want, and can help secure." Human Settlements Working Paper Series Poverty Reduction In Urban Areas – 38. International Institute for Environment and Development.

- **Student Presentations:** Cities/Slums Case Studies

### **Week 14. Case Studies**

- **Student Presentations:** Cities/Slums Case Studies