

JUS 591/691

Globalization & Sustainable Cities

Thursday 4:40 – 7:30

Professor Merlyna Lim

This graduate seminar looks at how globalization takes place in cities and how cities embody and reflect globalization. Some scholars have argued that in a networked and globalized society, under the pressure of rapid technological change, cities are becoming more and more obsolete.

This course takes a different perspective by studying the socio-spatial dynamics of cities to reveal the continuing importance of cities and urban agglomerations in the global flows of investment, commodities, labor, information and corporate decision-making. Focusing on Pacific Asian countries, this seminar attempts to address several key issues:

(1) the livability of cities under conditions of rapid and uneven urbanization, (2) poverty and social injustice and inequalities in cities, (3) the quality of the urban environment, (4) spatial relations within and among cities due to economic restructuring and technological change and (5) the social, political and cultural life of cities as they become globally networked.

Taking an interdisciplinary approach, this course is designed to provide the student with a solid understanding of the complex relations between processes of globalization and the worldwide transition to urban-centered societies. It is aimed at students with interests in globalization, technological change, urban planning and design, and socio-political and economic inequalities. Emphasis will be placed on the relationship between globalization and the socio-spatial dynamics of cities as played out in the built environment and people's everyday lives.