11.S941: Planning against Evictions and Displacement
Units: 2-2-8 (H)
Spring 2014

Instructors:

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Description:

This 12-unit course will combine state of the art research on evictions and displacement globally, in the context of the global crisis of evictions and land grabbing, with the state of the art policy and practice on responses to displacement. The first half of the course will cover the explanations about the mechanisms and drivers of displacement including global commodification, urbanization including land and property speculation, new growth, and relevant development theories, climate change, violent conflict, and nationalism, and the search for alternative forms of relations to land beyond commodification, including through alternative approaches to property such as a rights-based approach to land and housing, the commons, and informal property rights. The second half of the course will introduce and evaluate the policy and legal responses the world, including the UN and civil society campaigns and movements, has developed to deal with displacement and evictions, at the national and international levels, and evaluate the use of UN and national standards as well as tools such as the Eviction Impact Assessment Tool, and participatory mapping technology, through selected case studies.

The pedagogical purpose of the course is to offer an intellectual framework for understanding one of the world’s most pressing phenomena, which has a serious impact on many domains of planning including housing, infrastructure and industrialization and design, and to prepare students to use tools and methods for improving their capacity for planning that is more equitable and just.

No prerequisites are needed.

Grading:

Weekly blog on the readings: 50%
Mock planning exercise: 30%
Class participation: 20%

Weekly blog: More than a summary of the readings, the blog invites you to be analytical, and opinionated, critically engaging with the materials, but going beyond them to draw on on-going cases and other materials from outside of the
class syllabus. Each blog must be between 800-1000 words, be titled and submitted on time through Stellar. Each week blog entries are due by 12 noon on Wednesday.

Mock planning exercise: Details to come soon.

No final paper.

The Lab work component of the course (2 hours per week) is to be spent reviewing audio-visual materials relating to the course, and preparing tools for field work in India during the summer. The students who are in this course may apply to be part of a research team which will spend several weeks in Delhi during August working with the Housing and Land Rights Network, a major housing and land rights advocacy group. The field work is part of the Displacement Research and Action Network and may lead to credits being awarded (either in the form of independent study or practicum). The funding for the field work is not confirmed yet as of the beginning of term.
Class 1: 02/05/14: Displacement: An Introduction to the phenomenon

Video: Witness video

5. Miloon Kothari, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, Statement to the World Urban Forum III (19-23 June 2006) in Vancouver

Part I: Impacts of Displacement

Class 2: 02/12/14: Socio-economic and health impacts

5. HLRN, Planned Dispossession Report
6. Miloon Kothari, “The psychological impact of forced evictions on children”, Paper presented to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child,
9. Miloon Kothari, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, Report (Women and Housing) to the UN Commission on Human Rights, E/CN.4/2006/118 OHCHR, Women and Housing, 2011

Case Study: Three Gorges


Class 3: 02/19/14: Impacts on culture, environment, food, politics and human rights more broadly

4. GELBSPAN, PRIOSTE. Thea, Fernando G. V. Land in the struggle for social justice: social movement strategies to secure human rights. published by Terra de Direitos, Curitiba, 2013 (four case studies)
7. Margaret Sekageyya, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Annual Report (Impact of development projects on human rights defenders) to the UN General Assembly, A/68/262

Case Study: Merowe Dam, Sudan or an URBAN case study (Baljeet Nagar, Delhi or Muthurwa, Nairobi

Part II: Drivers and mechanisms of displacement

Class 4: 02/26/14: Land speculation, commodification, finance and development


Case study: Readings on Land Corridors (Plan Pueblo Panama, India’s Look-East Policy)

Guest speaker: Michael Kane?

Class 5: 03/05/14: Violent conflict


**Case study: Kampala Convention on Internal Displacement**

Guest speaker: IDMC or Roger Peterson or Joseph Schechla

**Class 6: 03/12/14: Climate change, disasters, ‘green grab’**


**Class 7: 03/19/14: Eminent domain, land acquisition, master plans**


Case study: Posco


Guest speaker: Smita Narula? Stalin?

NO CLASS ON 26\textsuperscript{TH} MARCH – SPRING BREAK

Part III: Responses to displacement

Class 8: 04/02/14: Setting new law, norms and policy

2. UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement
5. IFC, Performance Standards
6. Critiques, IAP

Class 9: 04/09/14: Changing the politics of enforcement: Strategic engagement of States and civil society


Case study: Mexico IPT on large dams; report of International People's Tribunal Pre-Hearing; Eviction Impact assessment tool: Test Cases

Class 10: 04/16/14: Structural and institutional changes: decentralization and devolution and free, prior informed consent


Case study: Forest Rights Act, India


Class 11: 04/23/14: Changing the policy context: new growth, and alternative property regimes

Role of Via Campesina, development of UN Declaration on Peasant Rights, Indian Land Reform Policy

Class 12: 04/30/14: Use of technology as a countervailing power

Guest speaker: Ethan Zuckerman, Media Lab, MIT

Class 13: 05/07/14: A negotiation session on resettlement involving a project: A mock planning exercise

Class 14: 05/14/14: Reflective session with students and some audio-visual material