

EUC 6173 - POLITICS AND PLANNING

Planning and politics are considered along a number of dimensions: the ideologies of planning; the role of planning as a selective filter of values and interests in civil society and the local state; planning as a mediator of conflicts between concepts of urban places as 'economic space' and 'community space'; planning as the mediating agency of urban growth and decline.

Time and Location: Thursdays, 9:30 to 12:20, HNES 142

Course Director: Roger Keil

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00 to 12:00 HNES 213

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the relationship between politics and planning
2. To develop an understanding of politics and planning as practices situated in a constellation of actors and institutions that traverse and constitute state and civil society
3. To introduce and discuss major theories, concepts and issues in the study of politics and planning
4. To research and 'map' the power-ful relations that shape a particular conflict, policy, or planning practice

Who should take this course?

Politics and Planning is an advanced introduction to concepts, theories and topics in politics and planning. It is designed for students with a **general** interest in planning, politics and urban studies as well as students **specializing** in these topics. The course is based on a reading of five key book length texts that have (re)defined the field of planning and urban politics. While the course is theoretical and conceptual in nature, it is linked to an empirical study of a particular current problematic in the field of politics and planning: the impending dissolution of Peel Region. The main research assignment in the course is linked to field work related to this case.

Assumptions and Course Organization

The unifying purpose of this course is to get students to grapple with the fact that each concrete political situation and each particular issue in urban politics/planning can be approached from **different perspectives** – and that the role of planners, whoever they may be, can be understood in their always situated and interested relationship to institutions and other actors. In the course, students will develop an understanding of politics and planning in two ways. First, through a close and detailed reading of a set of current books, we will develop a **lexicon of concepts** that will be fundamental to the **theory and practice of urban politics and planning**. Historical in depth and global in reach, these readings will be discussed in terms of their utility for the contemporary situation in the Toronto region. Second, the class will be involved in a **community-based research project**, led by the [City Institute at York University](#) in collaboration with the [Metamorphosis](#) network, to study the impact of the dissolution of Peel Region on the delivery of social planning when responsibilities for social planning and services that are currently located at the level of the regional government, will (likely) be placed into the hands of the lower tier municipal governments of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga.

Throughout the first section of the course, students will work through the close reading of a set of current books on politics and planning that will set the framework for the case study research the class will undertake in Peel Region. After an opening session introducing some classical papers on politics and planning, we will read four full books together over the term. In separate sessions during the middle of the term, we will discuss Peel Region politics and planning as well as experiences with consolidation and local state restructuring in Canada.

Prerequisites and Limitations: none except curiosity, commitment, good humour and the willingness to work with community partners in a research and action project based in Peel Region.

Requirements and class organization:

Following comments by the course director or guest instructors, the class is designed as an interactive **seminar** shaped by focused discussions as well as contextualizations by the instructor.

For the seminar to function in an interactive fashion, students must attend classes regularly, read and digest required readings carefully and participate actively in classroom discussions. For this purpose, students are encouraged to engage class materials in relationship to their experiences or their reflections about current affairs.

There are three mandatory assignments in this course.

- A concise and short **oral presentation** of two sets of weekly readings (**time limit: 10 minutes**).
- A **review** of one of two books on the failure of the Quayside project initiated by Sidewalk Labs: John Lorinc, *Dream States: Smart Cities, Technology, and the Pursuit of Urban Utopias* (Toronto: Coach House Books, 2022); or Josh O’Kane, *Sideways: The City Google Couldn’t Buy* (Toronto: Random House Canada, 2022). Due February 29.
- A research **paper developed in collaboration with community partners in Peel Region following parameters of the collective research project undertaken by the course. Group work is possible. (4000 words). Due April 4**).

More detailed task descriptions will be handed out during the term.

Readings:

The following books will be the core of the readings during the course:

- Ross Beveridge and Philippe Koch, *How Cities Can Transform Democracy*. Cambridge: Polity, 2023.
- Álvaro Sevilla-Buitrago, *Against the Commons: A Radical History of Urban Planning*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2022.
- Kian Goh, *Form and Flow: The Spatial Politics of Urban Resilience and Climate Justice*. Cambridge, Mass., 2021.
- Erik Swyngedouw, *Promises of the Political: Insurgent Cities in a Post-Political Environment*. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 2018.

Please note that with one exception, these books are available as e-Books at the York Library and are accessible to you anytime. The one exception is the book by Beveridge and Koch. I highly recommend you purchase the book either electronically or in hard copy at the [publisher’s website](#).

In addition to readings listed below in the weekly sessions, the books for review by O’Kane and Lorinc are also available through the York Library website.

The scope of readings selected for this course are in line with the need to inform the community based project in Peel Region. This gives the course a slightly more Euro-American bias than I would normally choose. We will, however, discuss aspects of politics from the point of view of Southern Urbanism when ever possible.

Additional Recommended Readings

- Boudreau, Julie-Anne (2000) *The MegaCity Saga: Democracy and Citizenship in This Golden Age*. Montreal: Black Rose Books.
- Boudreau, Julie-Anne (2017) *Global Urban Politics: Informalization of the State*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Boudreau, Julie-Anne, Roger Keil and Douglas Young (2009) *Changing Toronto: Governing Urban Neoliberalism*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Boudreau, Julie-Anne, Pierre Hamel, Bernard Jouve, Roger Keil (2006) Comparing metropolitan governance: The cases of Montreal and Toronto, *Progress in Planning*, Volume 66, Issue 1, 7-59, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.progress.2006.07.005>.
- Boudreau, Julie-Anne, Pierre Hamel, Bernard Jouve & Roger Keil (2007) New State Spaces in Canada: Metropolitanization in Montreal and Toronto Compared, *Urban Geography*, 28:1, 30-53, DOI: 10.2747/0272-3638.28.1.30
- Brenner, Neil (2019) *New Urban Spaces: Urban Theory and the Scale Question*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Bristow, Gillian (2018) New Regionalism, In: Anssi Paasi, John Harrison, Martin Jones (eds.) *Handbook on the Geographies of Regions and Territories*. Edward Elgar: Cheltenham, UK.
- Fanelli, Carlo (2016) *Megacity Malaise: Neoliberalism, Public Services and Labour in Toronto*. Halifax and Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing.
- Keil, Roger, Pierre Hamel, Julie-Anne Boudreau and Stefan Kipfer (eds.) (2017) *Governing Cities Through Regions: Canadian and European Perspectives*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.
- Kirby, Andrew (1993) *Power/Resistance: local politics and the chaotic state*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: University of Indiana Press.
- Kohn, Margaret (2016) *The Death and Life of the Urban Commonwealth*. New York: Oxford.
- Magnusson, Warren (1996) *The Search for Political Space: Globalization, Social Movements, and the Urban Political Experience*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Magnusson, Warren (2011) *Politics of Urbanism: Seeing Like a City*. New York: Routledge.
- McFarlane, Colin (202) *Fragments of the City: Making and Remaking Urban Worlds*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Xuefei Ren (2020) *Governing the Urban in China and India: Land Grabs, Slum Clearance, and the War on Air Pollution*. Princeton.
- Sancton, Andrew (2008) *The Limits of Boundaries: Why City-regions Cannot be Self-governing*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Sancton, Andrew (2000) *Merger Mania: The Assault on Local Government*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- AbdouMaliq Simone and Edgar Pieterse (2017) *New Urban Worlds: Inhabiting Dissonant Times*, Cambridge: Polity.
- Spicer, Zac (2016) *The Boundary Bargain: Growth, Development, and the Future of City-County Separation*. Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.

In addition to these readings, there are many excellent sources that deal with the general issues related to regional governance and specific topics covered in this course. The following scholarly journals contain many articles that are directly related to this course:

- Cities
- International Journal of Urban and Regional Research
- Urban Studies
- Regional Studies
- Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space
- Territory, Politics, Governance
- Journal of Urban Affairs
- Environment and Planning A, B, C, D, E

Relevant websites and non-academic online resources:

- Planetizen: <https://www.planetizen.com>
- The Guardian's (UK Newspaper) series on cities: <https://www.theguardian.com/cities>
- Global Suburbanisms: <https://suburbs.info.yorku.ca/>
- Neptis Foundation: <http://www.neptis.org/>
- Spacing Magazine: <http://spacing.ca>

Academic Honesty

All York students are subject to policies regarding academic honesty as set out by the Senate of York University and by the Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES). Students are strongly encouraged to read the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty, a copy of which can be found on the York University web-site (<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/acadhonesty.htm>). FES is committed to maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity. Please be advised that conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community may result in serious consequences. For more information, please contact the Director, Student and Academic Services and/or the FES Writing Program Coordinator.

Research Ethics

Research ethics clearance for this course is in process.

Please Note:

Students who feel that there are extenuating circumstances that may interfere with the successful completion of the course requirements are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Course Director as soon as possible. Students with physical, learning or other disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in teaching style or evaluation methods should discuss this with the Course Director early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Schedule of Weekly Sessions:

January 11 1. Politics and Planning, the State and Space: Why bother?

Optional texts for opening discussion

S. Harris Ali, Creighton Connolly and Roger Keil (2023) *Pandemic Urbanism: Infectious Diseases on a Planet of Cities*. Cambridge: Policy, Chapter 7, Urban Planning and Infectious Disease Revisited, 152-174 and Chapter 8, The City After the Plague, 175-200.

Ståle Holgersen, S. (2015). Spatial planning as condensation of social relations: A dialectical approach. *Planning Theory*, 14(1), 5-22. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1473095213501672>

Legacy, C., Gibson, C., & Rogers, D. (2023). Infrastructural gaslighting and the crisis of participatory planning. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 0(0). <https://doi-org.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/10.1177/0308518X231209979>

Linovski, O. (2019). Shifting Agendas: Private Consultants and Public Planning Policy. *Urban Affairs Review*, 55(6), 1666-1701. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1078087417752475>

Warren Magnusson (2009) Scaling Government to Politics. In: Roger Keil and Rianne Mahon (eds.) *Leviathan undone?: towards a political economy of scale*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 105-120. [Available through York Library].

Eyal Weizman (2023) Exchange Rate, *London Review of Books*, 45, 21, November 2; <https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v45/n21/eyal-weizman/exchange-rate>

January 18 2. Against the Commons I

Álvaro Sevilla-Buitrago, *Against the Commons: A Radical History of Urban Planning*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2022, 1-108.

January 25 3. Against the Commons II

Álvaro Sevilla-Buitrago, *Against the Commons: A Radical History of Urban Planning*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2022, 109-228.

February 1 4. Understanding Peel Region (Guest Lecturers: Arvind Krishendeholl, Shervin Ghaem-Maghani, Luisa Sotomayor)

S. Harris Ali, Creighton Connolly and Roger Keil (2023) *Pandemic Urbanism: Infectious Diseases on a Planet of Cities*. Cambridge: Policy, Chapter 5, COVID-19 and Extended Urbanization, 94-122.

Glass, M.R. (2018a) Bridging the Regionalism-Public Choice Divide in Regional Studies. *Regional Studies*. 52(8), p. 1150-61. DOI 10.1080/00343404.2017.1415430.

Keil, R., & Üçoğlu, M. (2021). Beyond sprawl? Regulating growth in Southern Ontario: Spotlight on Brampton. *disP-The Planning Review*, 57(3), 100-118.

Arvind Krishendeholl and Daniel Béland (2023) Non-profits were tested by COVID-19 but proved resilient. *Policy Options*, January 18; <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/january-2023/nonprofit-covid-racism-test/>

Arvind Krishendeholl, Rachel Laforest, Sean Meagher, Michelle Bilek and Jillian Watkins (2023) Life after the end of Peel: Rethinking social service delivery in an uncertain future. *The Pointer*, July 28; https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YIza5yCJdVpFz-m9uNzgSTojpNCaa_Ay

Simon Lewson (2023) The Crisis After the Crisis. *The Local*, September 27; https://thelocal.to/covid-pandemic-aftermath-finch-west-northwest/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=the_crisis_after_the_crisis&utm_term=2023-09-27

Ucoglu, M., Keil, R., and Tomar, S. (2021) Contagion in the Markets? Covid-19 and housing in the Greater Toronto Area. *Built Environment*, 47(3), pp. 355–366.

Video: Tough times being homeless in Peel Region (Daphna Nussbaum, Executive Producer for Peel Poverty Action Group; Bruce Marshall, Director): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJNBICTHHxQ&t=10s>

February 8 5. Promises of the Political I

Erik Swyngedouw, *Promises of the Political: Insurgent Cities in a Post-Political Environment*. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 2018, xiii-89.

February 15 6. Promises of the Political II

Erik Swyngedouw, *Promises of the Political: Insurgent Cities in a Post-Political Environment*. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 2018, 89-169.

February 22 NO CLASS – READING WEEK

February 29 7. Amalgamations and Dissolutions

Boudreau, Julie-Anne, Pierre Hamel, Bernard Jouve & Roger Keil (2007) New State Spaces in Canada: Metropolitanization in Montreal and Toronto Compared, *Urban Geography*, 28:1, 30-53, DOI: 10.2747/0272-3638.28.1.30

Davies, Jonathan S. Ismael Blanco, Adrian Bua, Ioannis Chorianopoulos, Merce Cortina-Oriol, Niamh Gaynor, Brendan Gleeson, Steven Griggs, Pierre Hamel, Hayley Henderson, David Howarth, Roger Keil, Madeleine Pill, Yuni Salazar and Helen Sullivan (2023) *New Developments in Urban Governance: Rethinking Collaboration in the Age of Austerity*. Bristol: Bristol University Press, Chapter 4, Rescaling through Austerity Governance, 67-90.

Ekers, Michael, Pierre Hamel & Roger Keil (2012) Governing Suburbia: Modalities and Mechanisms of Suburban Governance, *Regional Studies*, 46:3, 405-422, DOI: 10.1080/00343404.2012.658036

Keil, R. (2000), Governance Restructuring in Los Angeles and Toronto: Amalgamation or Secession?. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 24: 758-781. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.00277>

Taylor, Zack (2016) Good Governance at the Local Level: Meaning and Measurement. IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Government, No.26;
https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/81210/1/imfg_paper_25_taylor_June_16_2016.pdf

March 7 8. Form and Flow I

Kian Goh, *Form and Flow: The Spatial Politics of Urban Resilience and Climate Justice*. Cambridge, Mass., 2021, 1-114.

March 14 9. Form and Flow II

Kian Goh, *Form and Flow: The Spatial Politics of Urban Resilience and Climate Justice*. Cambridge, Mass., 2021, 115-186.

March 21 10. How Cities Can Transform Democracy I

Ross Beveridge and Philippe Koch, *How Cities Can Transform Democracy*. Cambridge: Polity, 2023, 1-73.

March 28 11. How Cities Can Transform Democracy II

Ross Beveridge and Philippe Koch, *How Cities Can Transform Democracy*. Cambridge: Polity, 2023, 74-166.

April 4 12. Dividing Peel, Uniting the Community?

Showcase of student work: Report back to Metamorphosis