

16/06 - Monday: Exploring suburbanism in theory and practice

- 9.00 am – 9.30 am: **Welcome and getting to know each other**
- 9.30 am – 12.00 am: **Setting the scene: disciplinary perspectives on suburbanisms**

In this session we will explore suburbanism from the perspective of four different disciplines, namely sociology, history, urbanism and spatial planning and spatial economics. Participants are expected to prepare for this session by reading one paper for each of the disciplines. These papers are classical texts that exemplify the disciplinary perspective. The papers can be found in the reader. The aim of this session is to familiarize ourselves with the disciplinary perspectives. These perspectives will be studied in more depth during the sessions the following days.

The session will be led by Prof. Ilja Van Damme (history), Prof. Stijn Oosterlynck (sociology), Dr. Maarten Van Acker (urbanism and planning) and Dr. Thomas Vanoutryve (spatial economics).

Required reading:

Gans, H. (1967). Levittown and America, p.63-68, from “The Levittowners. Ways of Life and Politics in a New Suburban Community.” New York: Columbia University Press. (Sociology)

Gans, H. (1974 [1968]). Urbanism and suburbanism as ways of life, p.95-116 in Pahl, (R.E.) Readings in Urban Sociology. Oxford: Pergamon Press. (Sociology)

Smith, M. (2010). Sprawl, Squatters and Sustainable Cities: Can Archaeological Data Shed Light on Modern Urban Issues?” Cambridge Archaeological Journal (20)2: 229–53 (History)

Brueckner, J.K. (2011). “Lectures on Urban Economics.” Cambridge: MIT Press. Chapter 4 on ‘Urban Sprawl and Land Use Controls’. (Spatial economics)

The reading for the discipline of urbanism and spatial planning will be sent later.

- 1.00 pm – 7.00: Field trip 1: **Antwerp suburbs by bus by Luk Vanmaele**

On this field trip, we will take the bus to visit different manifestations of the suburbs around Antwerp, exploring their diverse historical roots and contemporary urban forms. The field trip will give us insights into how changes in urban morphology, the ethnic and demographic composition of suburban neighbourhoods, its economics functions and political fault lines shape suburban social life. Our guide will be Luc Vanmaele. He is an architect and spatial planner and long-time guide of the urban tourism organisation Antwerpen Averechts.

- 7.00 pm: **Dinner**

Restaurant Las Mañas, Ankerrui 36, 2000 Antwerp, tel. 03 231 72 20.

We will go there in group after the field trip.

17/06 - Tuesday: Historicizing suburbanism

- 9.00 am – 12.00 am: **Prof. Mark Clapson** (Department of Social and Historical Studies, University of Westminster, London, UK) **on the Anglo-American and European model of the suburb, their uses and limitation**

In this talk I will assess the relevance, uses and limitations of the 'Anglo-American' and 'European' models for an understanding of recent suburbanisation across the world, particularly in relation to social change and spatial forms.

Required reading: Clapson, M. and Hutchison (2010) "Suburbanization in global society." Research in Urban Sociology **11**: 1-14

- 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm: **Prof. André Loeckx** (Department of Architecture, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium): **'The suburb, between ideal and ordeal. Suburbanism and suburbanity revisited'**

Framing the geography of settlement in Flanders remains a 'mission impossible'. The picture is unclear, full of ambivalence, open to paradigmatic simplification and ready for ideological appropriation. Common understanding considers Flanders as a fully built-up and urbanized territory. Planning critics reject its sprawl and suburbanity. Certain political discourses mobilize to defend the green countryside against the threat of metropolitan promiscuity. With Flanders as a case, the session will make an attempt to unfold the history and the logics of ambivalence of the so-called suburb. The aim is to identify starting points that enable to reformulate issues of territorial development.

- 4.45 pm – 5.30 pm: **Writing a paper on suburbanism: first discussion of themes and questions**
- 8.00 pm: Screening of **'Conversations in Milton Keynes'**, with introduction by **Ingo Baltes**, director of the documentary at VAI.

Location: Art Campus 'De Singel', Desguinlei 25, 2018 Antwerp.

The best way to get there is by tram. At the Central Station take tram 2 in the direction "Hoboken", or tram 6 in the direction "Olympiade". It takes 20 minutes to reach tram stop "De Singel".

18/06 - Wednesday: Global suburbanisms

- 9.00 am – 12.00 am: **Prof. Roger Keil** (Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Canada): **'Global Suburbanisms: A Challenge for Urban Theory and Practice'**

This presentation discusses recent trends towards global suburbanization in the context of current debates on sub/urban theory. It will ask how we might have to redirect and recalibrate our thinking on cities in light of the global phenomenon of a "suburban revolution". It will end with a few thoughts on what researchers and urban practitioners might have to grapple with in terms of new forms of governance in post-suburban environments.

Required reading: Keil, R. (2011). "Global suburbanization: the challenge of researching cities in the 21st century." Public **43**: 55-61

- 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm: **Dr. Bruno Meeus and Prof. Pascal De Decker** (Faculty of Architecture, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium): **'Actually existing suburbanism: the case of Belgium'**

Interventions on suburban growth by amongst others David Harvey have convincingly demonstrated the fundamental role of postwar suburban development in overcoming a major crisis in Western capitalism in the 20th century. The Fordist model of mass production and mass consumption fuelled by a Keynesian welfare state generated economic growth in many states of the 'First World'. In this session we argue that in order to imagine the potential futures of 21st century suburbia, the diverse pathways through which 'actual existing suburbanisms' came into being have to be taken into account. Our focus will be on the Belgian pathway that started at least 125 years ago and where the Fordist period should be seen as only one phase in the historical production of the current Belgian suburban landscape. A phase in which the Fordist development model articulated with an already existing trajectory of home ownership stimulation and leading to a particular suburbanism characterized by commuting and dwelling stability, do-it-yourself practices and anti-urban sentiments. In a first part we will discuss the formal institutional trajectory of housing and spatial policies. In a second part, we investigate the informal institutionalization of suburbia through processes of normalization.

Optional reading: De Decker, P. (2011). "Understanding housing sprawl: the case of Flanders, Belgium." Environment and Planning A **43**(7): 1634-1654.

- 4.45 pm – 5.30 pm: **Writing a paper on suburbanism: interdisciplinary reflection**

19/06 - Thursday: Measuring suburbs and economic dispersal

- 9.00 am – 1.00 pm: **Prof. Isabelle Thomas** (Department of Transport and Spatial Economics, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium and Department of Geography, UCL, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium): **‘Suburbanisation: What? Where?’**

One can find libraries full of books and articles on suburbanization. As geographers we notice that different authors from different disciplines describe processes of suburbanisation in quite different locations. Is it possible to define and thus delimit geographically the neighbourhoods that are suburban? What methods can be used? Which different delimitations of suburbs arise? Using examples, mainly from the Antwerpen context, an overview will be given of delimitation methods from simple and maybe ‘old fashioned’ methods to actual, complex quantitative tools.

Optional reading: Brueckner, J.K. (2011). “Lectures on Urban Economics.” Cambridge: MIT Press. Chapter 2 on ‘Analysing Urban Spatial Structures’.

- 2.00 pm – 6.00 pm: Field trip 2: **Antwerp suburbs by tram by Prof. Ann Verhetsel**

After the course a workshop-fieldtrip is organized by prof. Ann Verhetsel in cooperation with drs. Bart Tritsmans. A cross-cut will be made from the borders of 16th century Antwerp to the actual border of the metropolitan area. We travel from the Rooseveltplaats to Wijnegem shopping center by tram. On several stops the ‘former’ borders of the urban area will be discussed, using different approaches: morphological, economic, social, politic, demographic, cultural, An active input of the participants is required by bringing their thoughts into the discussion.

20/06 - Friday: Governing the suburbs

- 10.00 am – 1.00 pm: **Prof. Filip De Rynck** (Department of Administration and Management, University of Ghent, Belgium): **‘Governing by Governance? City-regional governance in comparative perspective’**

Two recent trends in the urban studies literature coincide in this lecture: the raise of city – regions as a field of action for planning and public policies and the emergence of theories and practices of governance as a new (?) way of governing the city – regional commons. The concept of governance appeals for a more market oriented and network-like approach based on interaction and negotiations between public and private actors. After a short overview of the literature on city- regional governance, we develop a framework for analysing governance practices in city-regional realms from an international comparative perspective: the path dependency of the institutional framework and the way government is organized; the functioning of the political system; the impact of fiscal instruments; the role of spatial planning. The case of Flanders and its city – regions is used to illustrate the contingency of city – regional approaches and of governance itself.

Optional reading:

Miller, D., en Lee, J.H., (2009). “Making sense of metropolitan regions: a dimensional approach to regional governance.” in Publius: the journal of federalism 126-145

Voets, J. en De Rynck, F. (2008) “Contextualizing city – regional issues, strategies and their use: the Flemish story.” in Local Government Studies 34 (4): 453-470

- 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm: **Prof. Eric Corijn** (Free University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium): **‘Suburbia versus Urbanity. A political reading of spatial patterns.’**

In this final session we will open up the debate on the societal and political consequences of the suburban condition, with the relationship between the pre-dominantly suburban region of Flanders and metropolitan Brussels as a case. On the one hand we will examine the relationship between the anti-urban habitus and the politics of the Flemish national struggle. On the other hand we will look at the framing in the dominant discourses of metropolitan Brussels as “a problem”. It will clarify the conditions and limitations of the “urban turn” laid down in the White paper on Urban Politics published by the Flemish government in 2003. Finally we will discuss the limitations of the suburban mental map with regards to the challenges of globalization and superdiversity. We will suggest to position “urbanity” as a postnational expression of the urban, as opposed to the political framing of the nation state and as a way out of the “postpolitical” neoliberal consensus.

Optional reading:

Corijn, E. (2009). Urbanity as a political project: Towards post national European cities, pp. 197-207 in Kong, L. and O'Connor, J. (eds.) *Creative Economies, Creative Cities. Asean-European Perspectives*. Dordrecht-Heidelberg: Springer.

- 4.15 pm – 5.00 pm: **Writing a paper on suburbanism: final reflections**

- 5.00 pm: **Closing words and drink**