CU Title: Development in Transition

Overview

This curricular unit (CU) builds on the theory and core notions of economics and development offered in the CU ‘Theories of Modernity and Development’. It introduces the idea of development in the 21st century against the backdrop of the Anthropocene, and thus of a series of crises and challenges that demand a fundamental questioning of the paradigm of endless growth. This CU builds bridges between economic theory and socio-ecological sustainability, by exploring the critical phenomenon of urbanisation, and engaging with processes of environmental, economic, and social development in urban environments around the world.

Cities are birthplaces of civilization, centres of culture, trade, and progress and, increasingly key sites of both opportunity and constraint for development. Though they occupy just over two percent of the Earth’s crust, they are home to over 50 percent of the world’s population. Large cities represent 70 percent of the world’s GDP whilst together the world’s cities account for 75 percent of energy consumption and up to 80 percent of global CO2 emissions. Cities, and their rural surrounding areas, will thus account for a significant part of the development story of the 21st century. In particular, metropolitan areas will continue to bear the brunt of global megatrends such as climate change, natural resource depletion, population growth, income inequality, mass migrations, and education and health disparities, among many others.

The CU on Development in Transition will help students to critically explore the nature of development challenges through the urban lens. It is structured around three modules that offer a range of disciplinary perspectives and understandings of development in urban environments, including their rural contexts:

Module 1: Sustainable Transitions in the Anthropocene
Module 2: Urban development, planning and governance
Module 3: Ecological resources and urban/rural challenges

Each week includes two lectures. With few exceptions, lectures are coupled, so that frontal the initial lectures of 3 hours lays out the foundations of the week’s theme, while the second lecture of 2 hours will adopt the format of are followed by workshop lectures, during which the based on the collective discussion of the week’s key readings (usually two) and concepts are collectively discussed.

Module 1: Sustainable Transitions in the Anthropocene will provide the students with the theoretical background to the curricular unit, by way of exploring the notions of progress, modernity, inequality and ecological unsustainability, and the challenges they pose in an era in which mankind and urbanisation are considered to have become a ‘force of nature’ – what many now refer to as the Anthropocene. The module examines these ideas within the theory and policy of development transitions, and discusses the relevance of UN urban policy discourses and of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Finally, the module offers an overview of recent debates in urban theory, to provide key theoretical concepts useful to understand our current ‘urban age’.

Module 2: Urban development, planning and governance provides a common understanding of the drivers of urban development framed by the challenges and opportunities of the Anthropocene. The module examines how and why changing economic structures, social interaction and institutions shape urban development framed by the climate change impacts and policies. Topics include: urban agglomeration and innovation; urban development and resilience; the potential of ordinary practices in the building of just urban governance; migrations and their impacts on urban territories; and the politics of development and planning.
Module 3: **Ecological resources and urban/rural challenges** focuses on the nexus between urban development and sustainable ecological development. On the one hand, the module discusses energy transitions and climate change adaptation; on the other, questions the urban and demographic growth phenomenon typical of many developing regions for its implications in rural areas and in their life styles. The challenge that modern civilization is facing is to move from an agriculture that has been able to provide the needs through an increase in cultivated areas, to a solution focused on increasing productivity in those areas. Meanwhile, the growing awareness of the importance of biodiversity and sustainability for the future of mankind, will force us to assume the valorization of those parameters on the strategies properly framed by appropriate public policies for a more equitable world.

**Assessment**

One book review (2500 words), book chosen from the ‘core readings’ or ‘additional readings’ of the CU; and one essay (6000 words), critically assessing one theme chosen among those presented in the CU.

**Programme - Modules and themes:**

5 hours per week, combining lectures and seminars; total duration: 13 weeks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Main SDGs</th>
<th>Lecturer(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Sustainable transitions in the Anthropocene</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td><strong>The Anthropocene</strong>, sustainability and SDGs</td>
<td>16, 17 (all)</td>
<td>Olivia Bina</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td><strong>Transitions and transformations</strong>: theories for shaping the future</td>
<td>8 (all)</td>
<td>Olivia Bina</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td><strong>Urban age</strong>, from theory to practice</td>
<td>10, 11</td>
<td>Simone Tulumello and Mário Vale</td>
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<td>2. Urban development, planning and governance</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td><strong>Urban development</strong>: sustainable transitions and innovations</td>
<td>11, 12, 13</td>
<td>Mário Vale and Margarida Queirós</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td>Urban development and resilience</td>
<td>9, 11</td>
<td>Margarida Queirós</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td>Practices of informality and participatory governance for social justice</td>
<td>10, 11, 16</td>
<td>Marco Allegra and Roberto Falanga</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td><strong>Urban population</strong>: environmental causes and social consequences of migrations</td>
<td>1, 2, 11, 13, 15</td>
<td>Jorge Malheiros and Jennifer McGarrigle</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Urban politics and planning</strong>: the contested governance of development</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Andy Inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ecological resources and urban/rural challenges</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td><strong>Energy transitions</strong>: from global challenges to everyday life change</td>
<td>11, 12</td>
<td>Ana Horta</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td>Critical issues in climate change adaptation 1</td>
<td>11, 13</td>
<td>João Mourato and Margarida Queirós</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td><strong>Food production</strong> and environment</td>
<td>2, 13, 15</td>
<td>Manuel Correia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td>Ecosystem services – evaluation of the environment benefits</td>
<td>2, 13, 15</td>
<td>Lima Santos</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3+2</td>
<td>Value chains and trade</td>
<td>8, 12</td>
<td>Luís Mira</td>
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Readings

Module 1: Sustainable transitions in the Anthropocene

Week 1 – The Anthropocene


Week 2 – Transitions and Transformations


Week 3 – Urban age


Module 2: Urban development, planning and governance

Week 4 – Urban development


Week 5 – Urban development and resilience


**Week 6 - Participatory governance for social justice**


**Week 7 – Urban population**


Akim Mabogunje - Systems Approach to a Theory of Rural-Urban Migration (a classic).

Alassane Drabo and Linguère Mously Mbaye - Climate Change, Natural Disasters and Migration: An Empirical Analysis in Developing Countries (IZA DP No. 5927)


**Week 8 - Urban politics and planning**


[KEY READING] Kaika, M. (2017) Don’t call me resilient again!: the New Urban Agenda as immunology ... or ... what happens when communities refuse to be vaccinated with ‘smart cities’ and indicators, Environment and Urbanization, 29(1), 89-102


Module 3: Ecological resources and urban/rural challenges

Week 9 – Energy transitions


Week 10 - Climate change adaptation


Week 11 – Food production and environment


Week 12 – Ecosystem services [KEY READINGS to be confirmed]


Week 13 – Value chains and trade

[KEY READING] Agricultural Value Chains in Developing Countries A Framework for Analysis. [http://edepot.wur.nl/189057]
