

PAAS 451: Asian Mega-Cities & Urban Regions

Instructor: Andrew Marton

Email: amarton@uvic.ca



Course description:

Comparative multi-disciplinary survey of urban transition in Asia. Several case studies introduce patterns and processes of urban and regional change which highlight implications for the future of urban societies in Asia. Key themes include: historical overview of trends in Asian urbanization; critical examination of *urban* and *rural* across various socio-cultural and political-economic settings; global and local forces and the importance of *place*; Western theory and local area-based knowledge.

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Describe and critically analyse major patterns and processes of urbanization and the development of cities and urban regions in Asia
- Use appropriate information to evaluate the empirical realities of such phenomena in the context of relevant concepts and theoretical frameworks
- Identify assumptions, strengths and weaknesses of conventional interpretations of rapid urban transformation in Asia, and understand alternative conceptualizations

Proposed assignments:

Academic journal article review	20%
Presentation/Discussion leader	25%
Course paper	45%
Participation	10%

Proposed reading list:

Sample readings include the following:

Jung N. (2012) New economic space, policies and social actors: The development of Kangnam area from urban fringe to the centre of new economy and relational governance. In Daniels, P. W., Ho, K. C. & Hutton, T. A. (eds.) *New economic spaces in Asian cities: From industrial restructuring to the cultural turn*. London/New York: Routledge, pp.118-32.

Kong, L., Ching, C. & Chou, T. (2015) *Arts, culture and the making of global cities: Creating new urban landscapes in Asia*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. (Chapter 8 Remaking Shanghai's old industrial spaces: The growth of creative precincts, pp. 140-59)

Marton, A. M. & McGee, T. G. (2017) Mega-urbanization in China: Rural-urban synthesis as a foundation for sustainability. *The global studies journal* 10 (2), pp. 1-19.

McGee, T. G. (1991) The emergence of *desakota* regions in Asia: Expanding a hypothesis. In Ginsburg, N., Koppel, B., & McGee, T. G. (eds.) *The extended metropolis: Settlement transition in Asia*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, pp. 3-25.

Trinh, D. L., Ngyuen, H. M., & Dang, N. A. (2005) Urbanization and urban growth in Vietnam. In Ness, G. D. & Talwar, P. P. (eds.) *Asian urbanization in the new millennium*. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish, pp. 283-319.