Urban Asia in LSE-PKU Summer School, 12-23 August 2013

The LSE-PKU Summer School is a unique programme run jointly by the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Peking University (PKU) each summer since 2004. The programme has grown to 410 students from more than 50 nationalities in 2012. The 2013 programme will feature 17 courses from across the social sciences, all taught by a leading faculty member from one of the two institutions.

The new course <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/study/summerSchools/LSEPKUProgramme/courses/gy201.aspx> in Geography, Urban Studies and Planning, “GY201: Urban Asia – Cities, Society and Development” may be of particular interest to your students and colleagues. The course, taught by Dr Hyun Bang Shin <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/researchAndExpertise/Experts/profile.aspx?KeyValue=h.b.shin@lse.ac.uk>, an urban specialist with major research interests in East Asia including China, will explore the contemporary dynamics of urbanisation in Asia, with special emphasis on East and Southeast Asia (including China) that have experienced rapid urban development with strong state intervention in city-making and economic development. The course, which has no formal prerequisites, will look at a number of key issues including urbanisation, globalisation and city-making, politics of urban redevelopment, housing, heritage conservation, gentrification and mega-events.

Other courses in the programme cover disciplines such as law, economics, media, international development, economic history, management, international relations, finance, geography, government and social policy, all with a focus on China and/ or Asia and providing the opportunity to experience China first-hand whilst studying at one of the countries’ top universities.

Each course totals 48 contact hours (usually 36 hours of lectures and 12 hours of classes), and is formally assessed to allow the award of an official transcript. Whilst neither LSE nor PKU formally award credit for the programme, many previous participants have been able to receive credit from their home institutions – we are very happy to provide any information to assist with this. All courses are taught in English, and there is the opportunity for participants to undertake ten hours beginners Chinese language tuition alongside the programme.

The programme tuition fee is £1,200, but a discounted rate of £1,100 is available to any current students.

Applications for the programme are now open, and can be submitted online at http://www.lse.ac.uk/LSEPKUSummerSchool where more information is available.

If you have any questions, would like further material or have any suggestions for the programme, please do contact us on lse-pku.programme@lse.ac.uk.

Useful URLs:
Summer School details: http://www2.lse.ac.uk/study/summerSchools/LSEPKUProgramme/Home.aspx
Course list: http://www2.lse.ac.uk/study/summerSchools/LSEPKUProgramme/courses/Home.aspx
New course on Urban Asia: http://www2.lse.ac.uk/study/summerSchools/LSEPKUProgramme/courses/gy201.aspx
LPS-GY202 Towards a Sustainable Future: China’s environmental challenges

This course examines the pertinent environmental challenges facing China’s economy and society in the context of globalization and social and economic development. Using economic tools and models students will study China's environmental dilemmas: Green Growth and sustainability; the role for government, market and civil society in creating and managing the changes; the impact on society of environmental degradation and how Chinese society can be a catalyst for change. There is also a strong international dimension to the course, placing China's environmental challenges within the global discussion on climate change and other global environmental problems. Students will examine the current global regulatory structures and the politics of future international and domestic regulatory reform.

The course will move from discussing the historical changes in environmental governance in China and the use of both command-and-control and market-based instruments, to considering the development of civil society, information disclosure and public participation. It will discuss the relationship between poverty and the environment – including the role of the Grain for Green program, eco-compensation and eco services payments – then China’s practice in responding to global environmental issues, especially the Montreal protocol. It will discuss how trade affects China’s environment and development and look at emerging concerns and responses of environmental development issues.

Throughout the course, students will be encouraged consider a range of empirical studies, and to discuss and examine the challenges, driving forces and possible solutions through readings and class discussions.

LPS-GY201 Urban Asia: Cities, society and development

The course explores the contemporary dynamics of urbanisation in Asia, with special emphasis on cities in East and Southeast Asia that have experienced rapid urban development with strong state intervention in city-making and economic development. Located geographically proximate, the economies in the region display some shared experiences of rapid urbanisation, export-oriented growth and strong developmental states, though their actual urban development outcome would be variegated due to geographical and historical specificities of places (eg, transitional economies versus other capitalist late industrialisers).

Applying interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives, the course encourages students to develop critical knowledge and comparative understanding of how urban space is transformed in different social, economic and political settings, and what socio-spatial implications are made in a differentiated way upon local populations. The course will draw on various examples of urban policy and practice from cities across Asia, with emphasis on newly industrialised economies in East and Southeast Asia. The course will also benefit from the geographical advantage of taking place in mainland China, and examine the differences as well as similarities of urban development between Chinese and other Asian cities.

Throughout the course, we ask whether the concepts and theories born out of the (post-) industrial Western urban experiences can be applicable to the understanding of urban Asia. We also ask what the challenges are that cities in East and Southeast Asia face, given its current development trajectory. We do this by examining a set of carefully selected themes that address (1) the integration of Asian cities with the global economy, (2) the distinctive characteristics of Asia’s urban development, and (3) the place-specificities of state intervention in forming urban growth strategies.

About the Instructor

Dr Hyun Shin joined LSE’s Department of Geography and Environment in 2008 having previously been a Visiting Research Fellow at the Social Policy Research Centre, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the LSE Asia Research Centre. He is a specialist in urban Asia, focusing on the critical analysis of political economic dynamics of contemporary urban development and its socio-spatial implications. He received his PhD (2006) and MSc (2000) from the LSE, and BSc (1994) from Seoul National University.

He has many years’ experience of having carried out empirical research on East Asian cities. Including a two-year research project on the socio-spatial and political implications of the 2010 Asian Summer Games in Guangzhou, China and URBACHINA, a four-year international research collaboration funded by the EU Seventh Framework Programme. In 2012, he organised workshops in London and Chile on Towards an Emerging Geography of Gentrification in the Global South.
Instructor
Dr Hyun Bang Shin
Department of Geography and Environment
London School of Economics and Political Science

Having joined the Department of Geography and Environment in 2008, Hyun Shin is a specialist in urban Asia, focusing on the critical analysis of political economic dynamics of contemporary urban development and its socio-spatial implications. He is also an Associate at the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, LSE and a Research Associate at the White Rose East Asia Centre, University of Leeds. He was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Social Policy Research Centre, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (2002-2003) and also at the Asia Research Centre, LSE (2006-2007). He received his PhD (2006) and MSc (2000) from the LSE, and BSc (1994) from Seoul National University.

He has many years' experience of having carried out empirical research on East Asian cities. Recently, he was the recipient of the STICERD/LSE Annual Fund New Researcher Award in 2009, which funded his two-year research (May 2009 - July 2011) on the socio-spatial and political implications of the 2010 Asian Summer Games in Guangzhou, China. In 2012, he organised workshops in London and Santiago de Chile, together with colleagues from the UK, Chile and Argentina, on Towards an Emerging Geography of Gentrification in the Global South. These workshops were part of the Urban Studies Seminar Series (2011-2012), funded by the Urban Studies Foundation and the Urban Studies journal. He is currently involved in URBACHINA, a four-year international research collaboration funded by the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), and in a three-year project on investigating disparities in South Korea, working with three locally based researchers with the funding support from the National Research Foundation of Korea.

Course overview
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Recommended Preparatory Reading List


Prerequisites
None

Assessment
Essay: 50% (1,500 words)
Final Exam: 50%
Students are required to produce a 1,500-word assessed essay by the end of the course. There will also be a closed book final written examination with essay style questions.

Course Overview
Session 1
Globalising World, Accumulation and Urban Asia
Session 2
Cities in Transition: Urban Change in (Post-)Socialist Cities
Session 3
City-remaking: Politics of Urban Regeneration and Real Estate Development
Session 4
Housing, Home-ownership and Social Change
Session 5
Heritage Conservation and Urban Transformation
Session 6
Locating Gentrification in Urban Asian Contexts
Session 7
Financialisation of Everyday Life: Middle Class Living and Low-income Households
Session 8
Olympic Cities: Urban Spectacles, Mega-events and Mega-projects
Session 9
Rural-urban interstices: Sub-urban Development and Informality
Session 10
Sustainable Development and Future of Cities