

Ankara University
Faculty of Languages, History and Geography
Department of Geography

GGR203 URBAN GEOGRAPHY

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Research Areas of Urban Geography



The content of this course is exactly compatible with the program in which the same course is taught in Turkish, and the open course materials prepared by Prof. Dr. E. Murat Özgür are used.

Research Interest of Urban Geography

- Urban geography, which is a sub-field of human geography, deals with cities (urban areas).
- It focuses on the analysis, explanation and future predictions of urban forms, urban social fabric, economic structures and functions.

Research Interest of Urban Geography

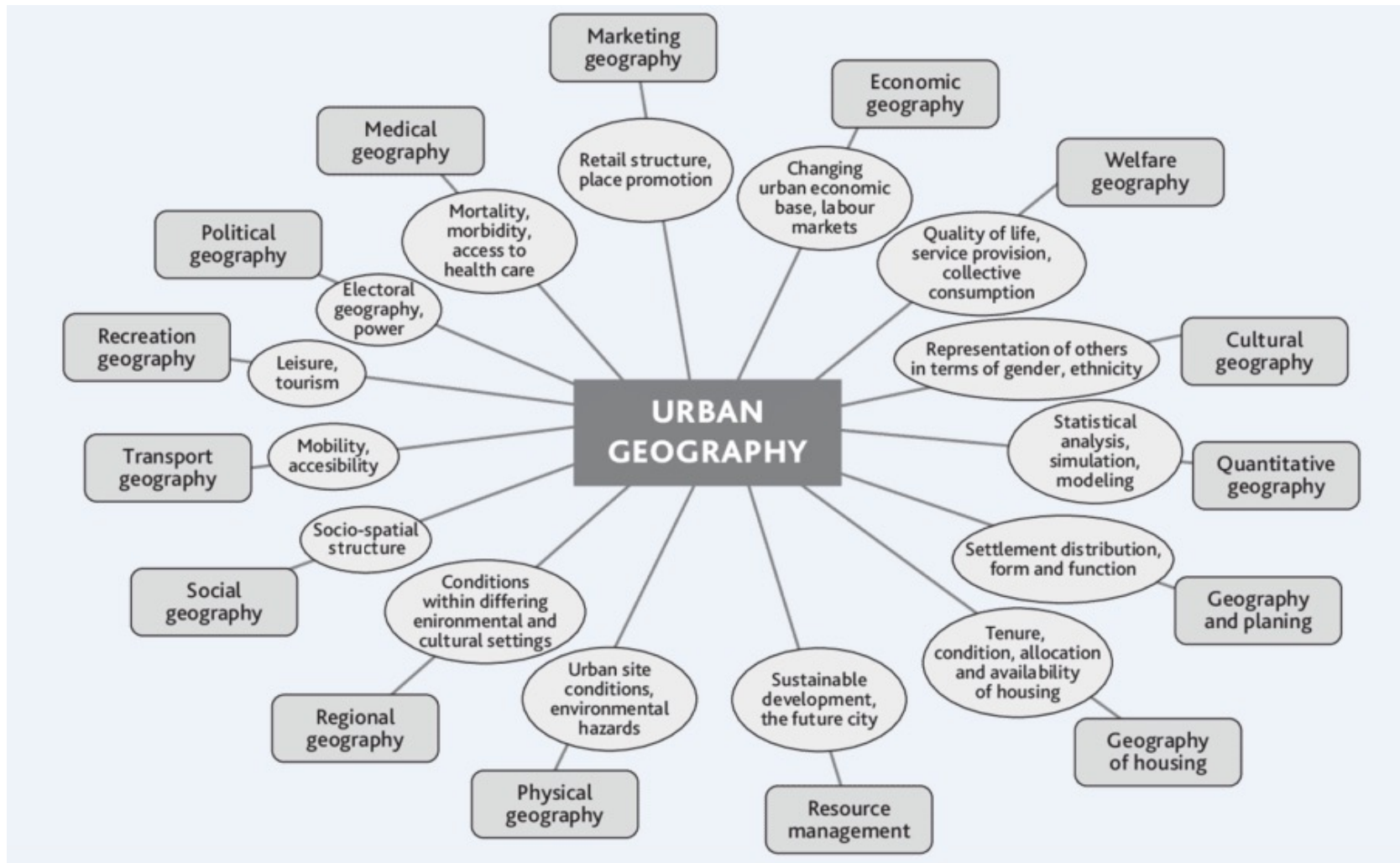
- **The main task of the urban geographer** is to **examine the spatial processes that create the patterns observed in urban areas and to emphasize location and space in their research.**

Research Interest of Urban Geography

Two basic approaches can be mentioned in urban geography:

- Examination of the system of cities.
- Study of the city as a system.
- It can be said that **“urban geography is the study of the city as a system within the system of cities”**.

CONCEPT MAP SHOWING THE STRUCTURE of URBAN GEOGRAPHY

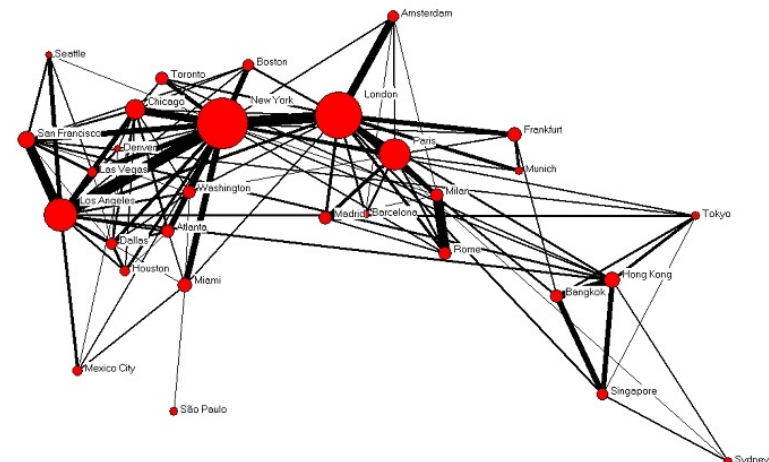
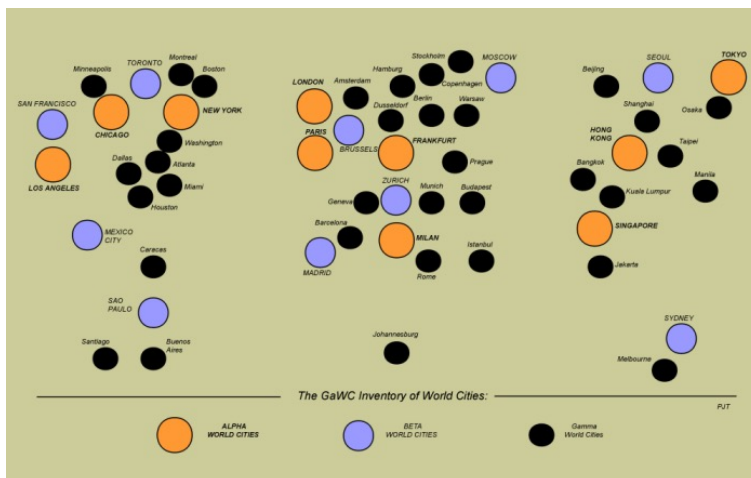


- The integrative, synthesis power of urban geography is one of the main features of this subfield.
- The second essential feature of the geographical analysis of cities is the centrality of a spatial perspective.

Urban Systems and the City as a System

1. The system of cities approach refers to the spatial distribution of towns and cities and the connections between them.

This cross-urban approach focuses on the relationships between an urban system or group of cities at the regional, national or global level.



Urban Systems and the City as a System

2. The study of the city as a system is concerned with investigating the internal structure of urban spaces.

Thus, this intra-urban approach focuses on the spatial internal order of people, activities and institutions in cities.



Definition of the City

1. Population Measure

- **Because urban areas are generally larger than rural areas, population size criteria can make it possible to decide when a village becomes a town.**
- In practice, this urban population threshold varies with time and space. Any settlement with a population greater than 200 in Sweden is classified as urban in the national census, while in the US the minimum population for urban status is 2,500; It rises to 10,000 in Switzerland and 30,000 in Japan.
- **Population size differences can complicate international city comparisons.**

Definition of the City

2. Economic criterion

- In some countries, population size is combined with another criterion to define an urban location. For example, in India, for a settlement to be classified as urban, there must be more than 75 percent of the adult male population engaged in non-agricultural work.

Definition of the City

3. Administrative criteria

- Most towns and cities in the world are defined by legal or administrative criteria. The definition of urban areas by national governments leads to great diversity, creating difficulties for comparative research that can only be overcome by urban analysts who create their own definitions and apply them to the world in the same way.
- The second problem with administrative definitions is that they may have little relevance to the actual physical extent of the urban area. The extension of the residential area of the city beyond the urban administrative boundary may also pose a problem.

Definition of the City

4. Functional criterion

- In some countries, the ratios of the distribution of the population to the branches of activity are used as a criterion for the urban separation.

- **Another Approach: Meaning of the City**

- Although cities are physical objects, it cannot be said with certainty that they are perceived as objectively structured by their inhabitants. Therefore, **a city can be thought of as having both an objective physical structure and a subjective or cognitive structure.**
- Everyone has their own understanding of what a city is and about a local town or city. But the **same urban space can be viewed differently by residents, tourists, workers, old people, unemployed people, women and children.**
- For the **homeless people**, the city is a cold, anonymous and inhospitable place; a spatially constrained world for the **elder people**; For the rich people, it can mean an abundance of opportunity and wealth.

Another Approach: Meaning of the City

- The meaning of the city is tried to be determined by two main approaches:

1. Cognitive mapping

Geographers, planners, and environmental psychologists use mental maps or cognitive mapping techniques to explore the subjective world of urban spaces, both to better understand human behavior in the urban environment and to improve the quality of urban life.

Another Approach: Meaning of the City

- The meaning of the city is tried to be determined by two main approaches:

2. Urbanism as a way of life

Early efforts to identify urban places in terms of a different lifestyle are based on Wirth's (1938) concept of rural-urban continuity. This concept, as the size, density and heterogeneity of places increase; argues that the level of economic and social disorder is also increasing.

Rejection of rural urban dualism

- The concept of rural and urban continuity has been criticized, although it has a certain impact on urban residents.
- Some scholars who have tried to reinterpret the meaning of the city (**Harvey**, 1973, 1985; **Castells**, 1977) have abandoned the concept of a separate urban world and considered urbanism (as a residential lifestyle in urban space) to exist within the larger framework created by capitalist powers. He concluded that it had a structure and character.
- This means that **“urban lifestyles” can spread beyond the physical boundaries of the city.**

Levels of Analysis in Urban Geography

- We can identify five basic levels of analysis: **Neighborhood, City, Region, National cities system, and World cities system.**
- **Neighborhood**
 - The neighborhood is the area immediately around the house; this place usually shows homogeneity in terms of housing type, ethnicity or socio-cultural values.
 - Neighborhoods are suitable places for the formation of common interests and the development of community solidarity. Issues of interest to the urban geographer at this level include local economic decline or revitalization, residential segregation, service delivery levels, and the use of neighborhood political organizations as part of the popular struggle to control urban space.

Levels of Analysis in Urban Geography

- **City**
 - Cities are centers of economic production and consumption, arena of social networks and cultural activities, center of government and administration.
 - Urban geographers examine the role of cities in the regional, national and international economy and how the socio-spatial form of the city is affected by this role (for example, as a financial center or manufacturing base).
 - Examining the distribution of power in the city will focus on the behavior and biases of official organizations, as well as the informal arrangements in which public and private interests operate to influence government decisions.
 - The socio-spatial distribution of benefits and harms in the city is an important area of research in urban geography.

Levels of Analysis in Urban Geography

- **Region**
 - The spread of urban influences to the surrounding rural areas and especially the spatial expansion of cities have enabled concepts such as urban region, metropolis, conurbation and megalopolis to enter the urban geography.
 - Topics suitable for this level of analysis include the city's ecological footprint, land use conflict in the urban periphery, growth management strategies, and metropolitan management styles.

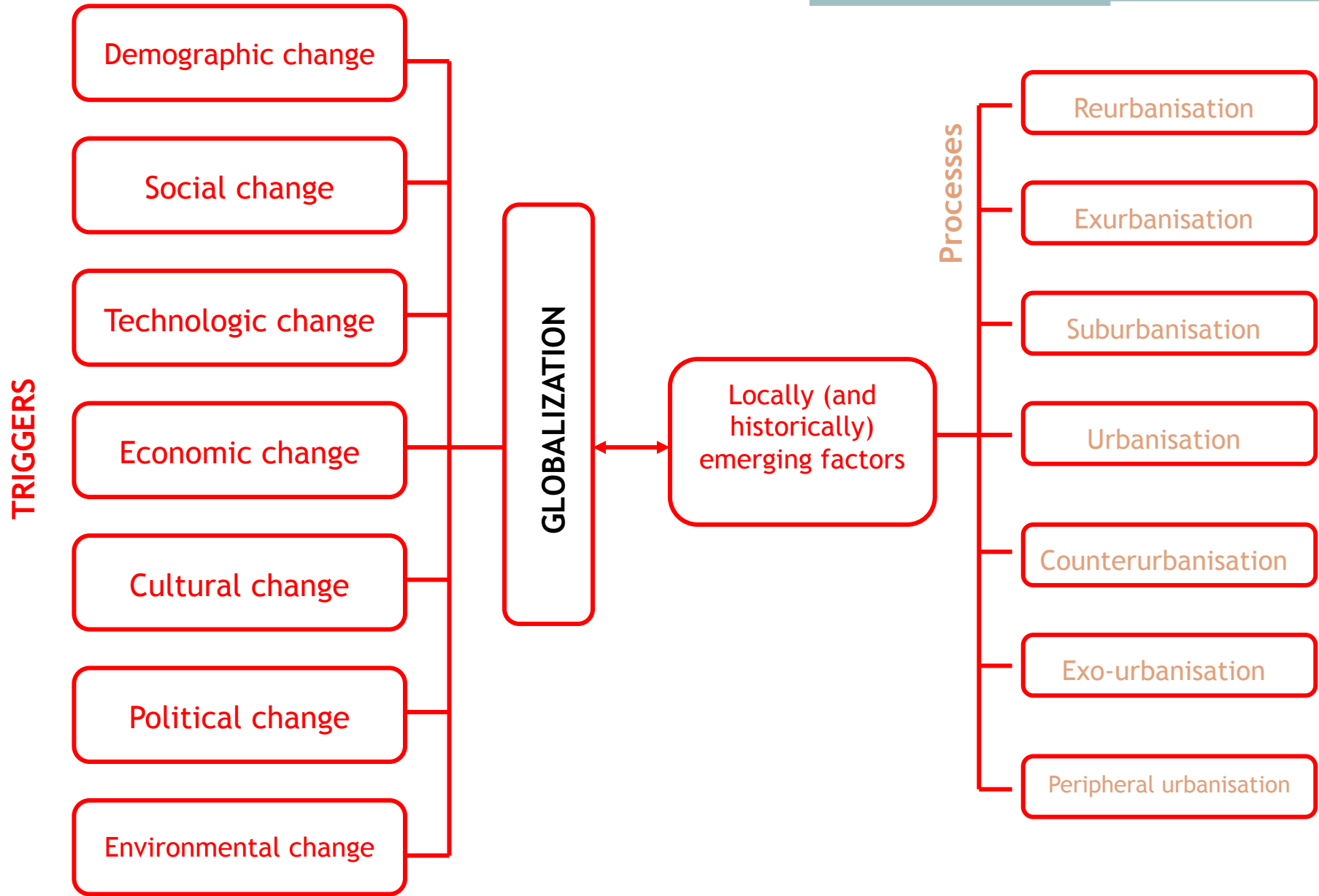
Levels of Analysis in Urban Geography

- **National system of cities**
 - Cities are influenced by nationally determined goals set in pursuit of goals that go beyond urban issues.
 - Successive New Right administrations in the UK (under Margaret Thatcher and John Major) and the United States (under Ronald Reagan and George Bush), liberalized in Turkey (under Turgut Özal, Süleyman Demirel and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan). and/or governments that have implemented conservative policies have pursued an economic policy focused largely on national economic development, without considering the growth or decline of urban areas alone.
 - To grasp the processes and patterns of urban change, geographers must have an understanding of national policy and know how governments affect urban and interurban geography.

Levels of Analysis in Urban Geography

- **Global Cities System**

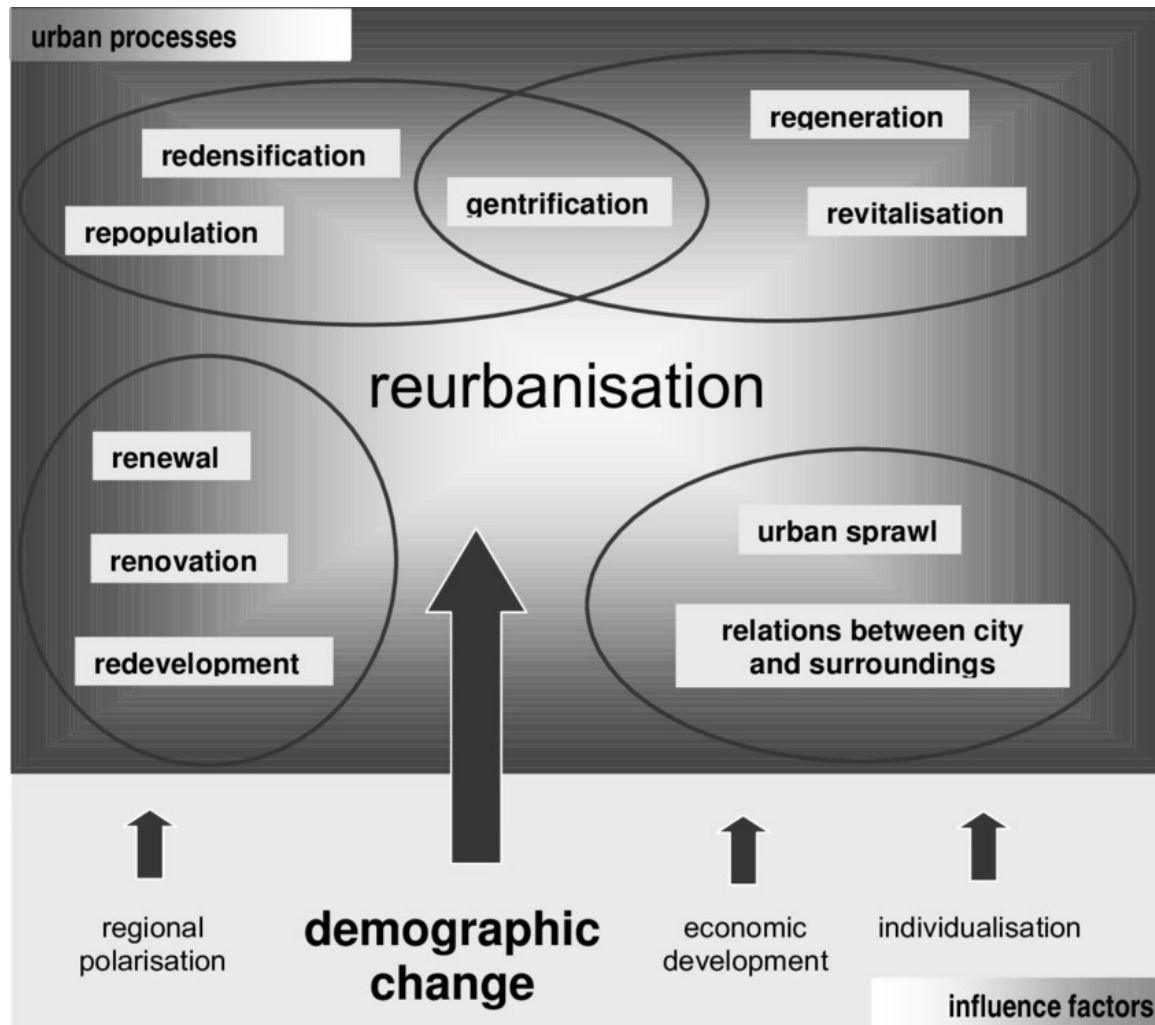
- This concept reflects the growing interdependence of nations and cities within the global political economy. In this urban system, the world's cities occupy a distinctive place because of their role as centers of political and financial control.
- This status is manifested in the concentration of advanced producer services such as education, banking and insurance, accounting, legal services, advertising and real estate services.
- Utilizing the world-cities perspective allows urban geography to reframe many urban issues previously defined in terms of urban or regional boundaries.
- This could mean that investment decisions by managers at a Japanese multinational with headquarters in New York could lead to neighborhood-level job losses and deprivation in Liverpool or Lagos.



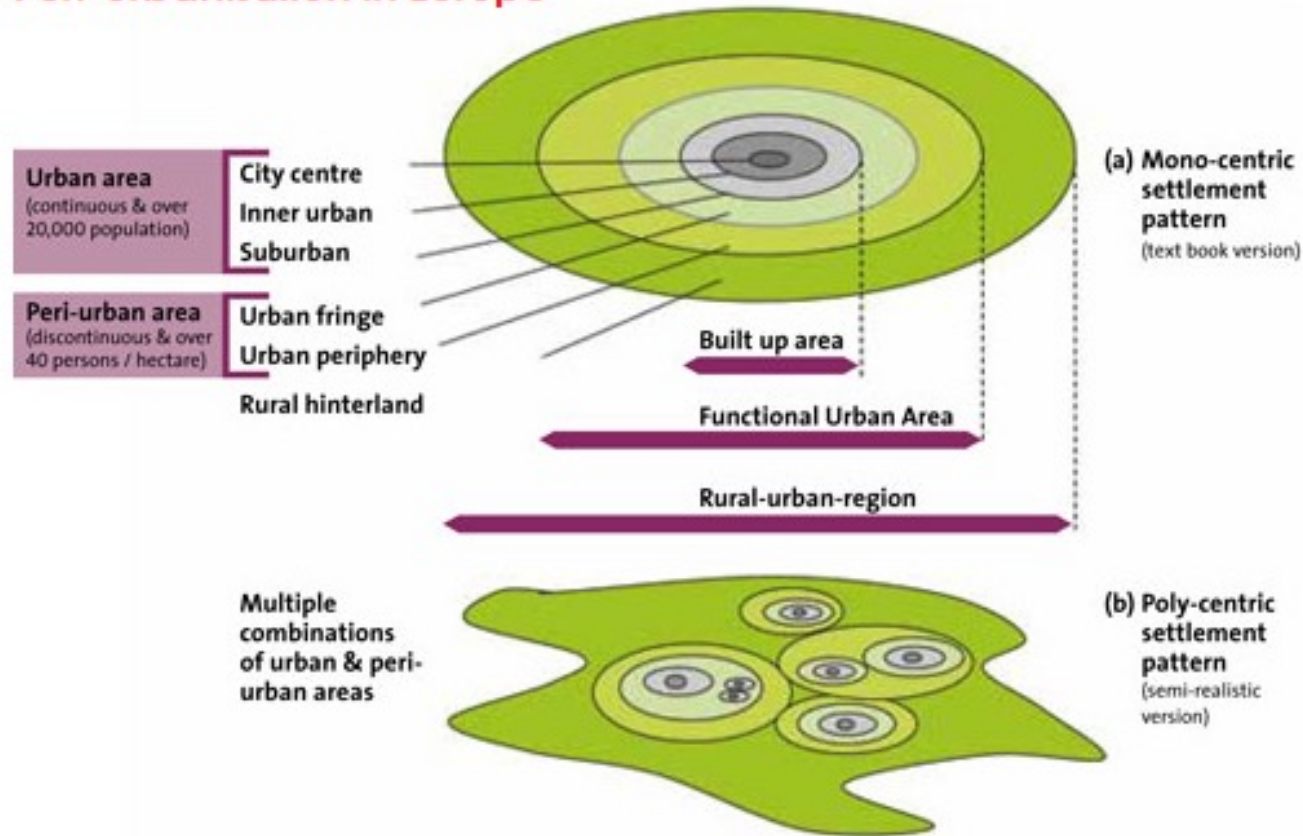
- Reurbanisation** It is the repopulation of urban centers.
- Exurbanisation** Urban residents move into rural areas in search of unique natural amenities and idealized lifestyles.
- Suburbanisation** Previously rural urban fringes (or Greenfield areas) are developed into residential areas, which attract people from urban city living areas
- Counterurbanisation** (Deurbanization) A demographic and social process whereby people move from urban areas to rural areas. It is, like suburbanization, inversely related to urbanization.
- Exo-urbanisation** Outsourced urbanization (with foreign investments)
- Peripheral urbanisation** Environmental urbanization (especially in less developed countries)



Kaynak: <https://planningtank.com/urbanisation/counter-urbanisation>



Peri-urbanisation in Europe



Kaynak: <https://urbanchange.eu/2012/07/17/peri-urbanisation-in-europe/>



A BRIEF HISTORY OF URBAN GEOGRAPHY



Chauncy D. Harris



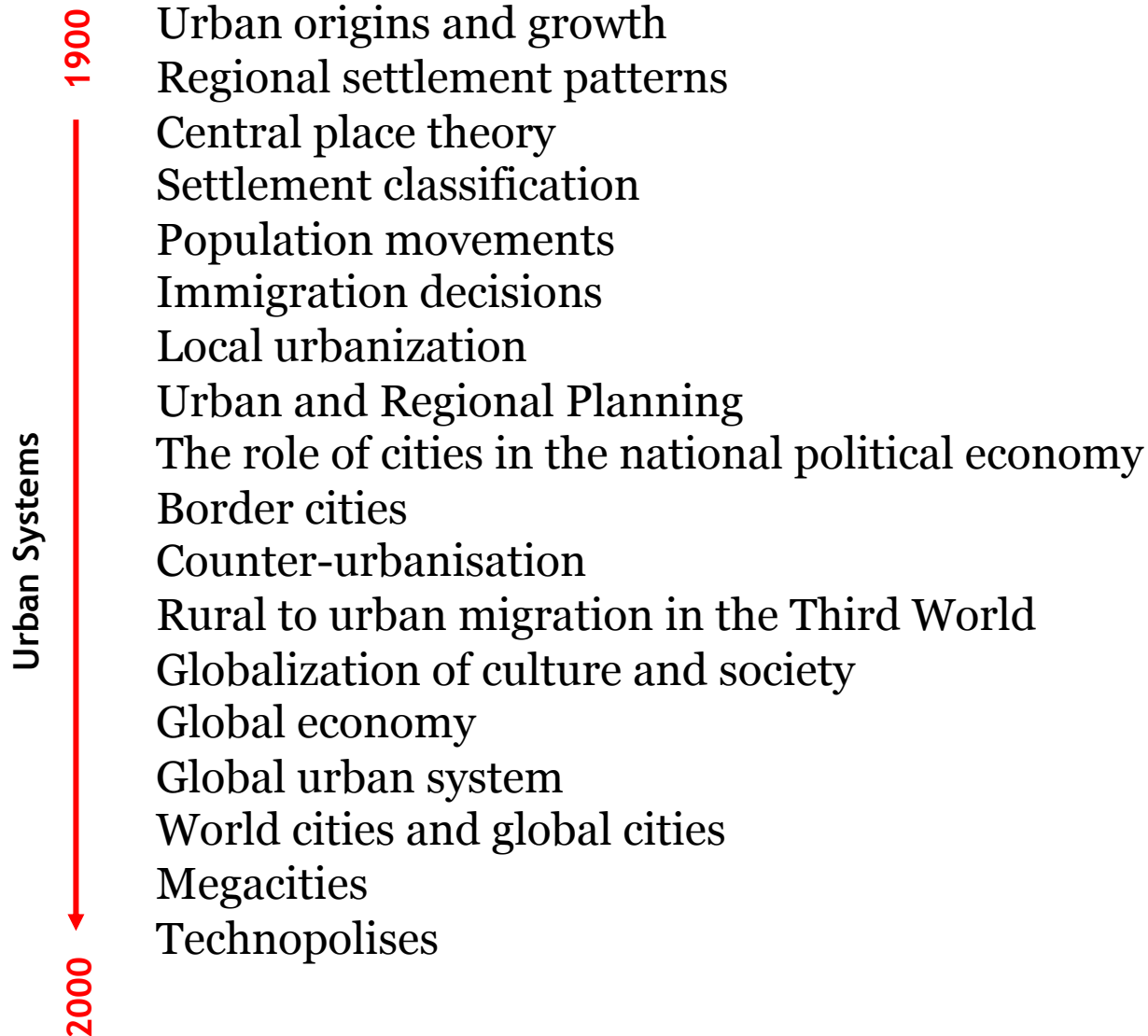
Edward L. Ullman

- Urban geography was not taught as a subject until the first lectures introduced by Chauncy D. Harris and Edward L. Ullman in universities in the late 1940s.
- Although urban geography emerged gradually in the first half of this century, few scholars have developed various basic concepts related to the field.
- The second half of the 20th century witnessed the development of urban geography as a sub-field in geography.

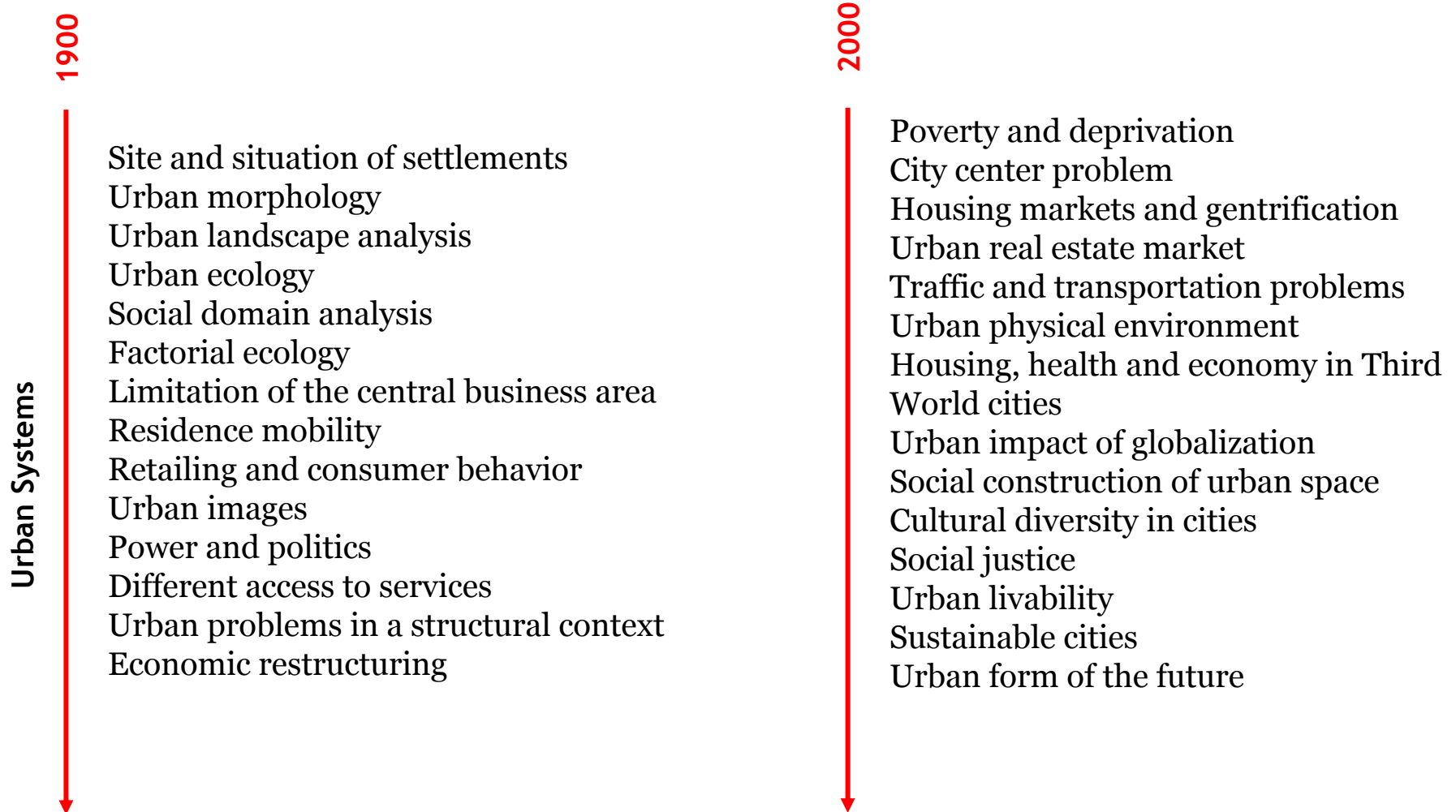
A BRIEF HISTORY OF URBAN GEOGRAPHY

- Since the late 1970s, the scope of urban geography has expanded rapidly. While some see its growing diversity as a source of weakness that can ultimately lead to its fragmentation, some scholars feel that the breadth of perspective reinforces the position of urban geography as an integral focus for urban studies.
- At the beginning of the 21st century, urban geographers form an important mass in the technical field of Geographical Information Science, within the IGU and the American Association of Geographers-AAG, the geographer association with the largest number of members in the world.

EXPANDING SCOPE OF URBAN GEOGRAPHY



EXPANDING SCOPE OF URBAN GEOGRAPHY



NEW TRENDS in URBAN GEOGRAPHY

1. Urbanization and global cities
2. Feminist urban geography
3. Urban cultural geography
4. Urban historical geography
5. Urban location analysis

NEW TRENDS in URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Urbanization and global cities

Global cities and megacities are in the center of attention.

On the other hand, not all megacities need to be global cities. While Tokyo is a global mega city; Kolkata and Jakarta are not like that.

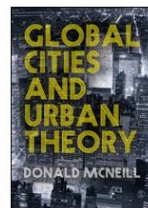
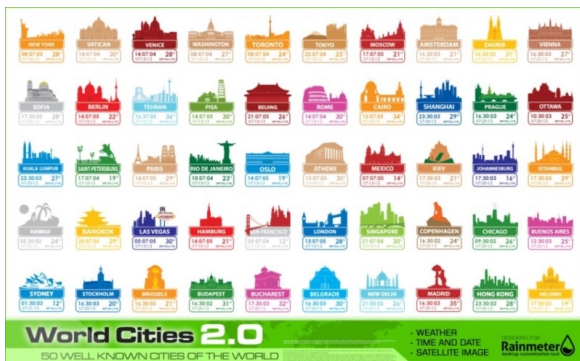
While the number of megacities in the world was 23 in 2011 (all but 4 in the developing world); It is expected to increase to 37 by 2025.

2011			2025		
Rank	Urban agglomeration	Population	Rank	Urban agglomeration	Population
1	Tokyo, Japan	37.2	1	Tokyo, Japan	38.7
2	Delhi, India	22.7	2	Delhi, India	32.9
3	Ciudad de México (Mexico City), Mexico	20.4	3	Shanghai, China	28.4
4	New York-Newark, USA	20.4	4	Mumbai (Bombay), India	26.6
5	Shanghai, China	20.2	5	Ciudad de México (Mexico City), Mexico	24.6
6	São Paulo, Brazil	19.9	6	New York-Newark, USA	23.6
7	Mumbai (Bombay), India	19.7	7	São Paulo, Brazil	23.2
8	Beijing, China	15.6	8	Dhaka, Bangladesh	22.9
9	Dhaka, Bangladesh	15.4	9	Beijing, China	22.6
10	Kolkata (Calcutta), India	14.4	10	Karachi, Pakistan	20.2
11	Karachi, Pakistan	13.9	11	Lagos, Nigeria	18.9
12	Buenos Aires, Argentina	13.5	12	Kolkata (Calcutta), India	18.7
13	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, USA	13.4	13	Manila, Philippines	16.3
14	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	12.0	14	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, USA	15.7
15	Manila, Philippines	11.9	15	Shenzhen, China	15.5
16	Moskva (Moscow), Russian Federation	11.6	16	Buenos Aires, Argentina	15.5
17	Osaka-Kobe, Japan	11.5	17	Guangzhou, Guangdong, China	15.5
18	Istanbul, Turkey	11.3	18	Istanbul, Turkey	14.9
19	Lagos, Nigeria	11.2	19	Al-Qahirah (Cairo), Egypt	14.7
20	Al-Qahirah (Cairo), Egypt	11.2	20	Kinshasa, Democratic Rep. of the Congo	14.5
21	Guangzhou, Guangdong, China	10.8	21	Chongqing, China	13.6
22	Shenzhen, China	10.6	22	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	13.6
23	Paris, France	10.6	23	Bangalore, India	13.2
			24	Jakarta, Indonesia	12.8
			25	Chennai (Madras), India	12.8
			26	Wuhan, China	12.7
			27	Moskva (Moscow), Russian Federation	12.6
			28	Paris, France	12.2
			29	Osaka-Kobe, Japan	12.0
			30	Tianjin, China	11.9
			31	Hyderabad, India	11.6
			32	Lima, Peru	11.5
			33	Chicago, USA	11.4
			34	Bogota, Colombia	11.4
			35	Krung Thep (Bangkok), Thailand	11.2
			36	Lahore, Pakistan	11.2
			37	London, United Kingdom	10.3



World Cities

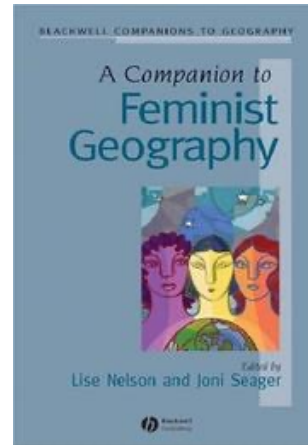
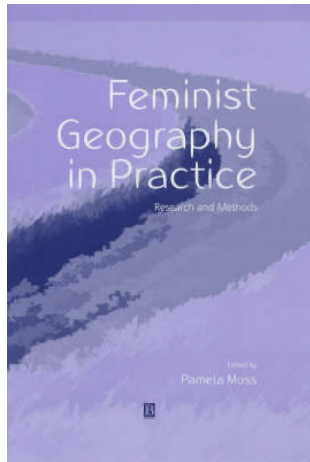
EU – Third Countries Cooperation on Urban and Regional Development



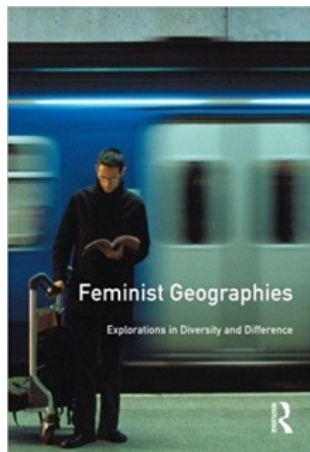
World Cities Day October 31
BETTER CITY, BETTER LIFE

NEW TRENDS in URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Feminist urban geography



Feminist theory entered geography research in the late 1970s. After the 1980s, interest in feminist geography increased. Feminist research on urban processes and everyday life has proliferated.



While feminist urban geographers have defended the importance of gender as an analytical category, they are now investigating how the different structures and relations of inequality are formed at a spatially tangible level, the diversity of women's experiences in cities.

NEW TRENDS in URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Urban cultural geography

- Urban cultural geography has emerged recently with an emphasis on selling culture in urban society in relation to mass and niche consumption.
- While rural-based traditional cultural geography emphasizes worldly relations that have been passed on through generations; The new urban cultural geography focuses on understanding the culture that has emerged in places and places across space.
- Numerous urban cultural geography articles were published in Urban Geography magazine on topics such as retail (regional mall) culture, racism and ethnicity culture, corporate culture, public versus private spaces, and popular culture.

NEW TRENDS in URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Urban historical geography

Urban historical geographers try to understand the ancient or recent past of cities.

Urban historical geography studies take two basic approaches:

1. Researching a city or group of cities in a temporal cross-section (for example, Ankara in 1923). It contributes to developing an understanding of the geography of local areas through a detailed study of a particular place at a given time.
2. Examining a city or group of cities over a certain temporal period (for example, the development of the city of Ankara from the proclamation of the Republic (1923) to the present (2021). It offers a generalized form of detection of significant geographic changes over time.

NEW TRENDS in URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Urban location analysis

Positioned at the center of spatial analysis that developed in the 1960s, location analysis continues to play an important role in contemporary human geography. Because geography is of interest as much as where the events are and why they are there.

Location analysis is concerned with the following elements of the abstraction of geographic space:

1. Nodes (Places thought of as points like a city)
2. Networks (Links between nodes like a road system)
3. Movements (Flows over node-related networks, such as airline passenger volumes between a group of urban areas)
4. Hierarchies (Ordinal order of nodes and networks, such as the arrangement of cities from largest to smallest according to population size)
5. Surfaces (Three-dimensional representations, such as the view of population distribution within a city)

NEW TRENDS in URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Urban location analysis

Location analysis enables to develop an abstract way of thinking about urban geography within and between cities. Abstract thinking helps generalizations.

Some basic abstract spatial concepts are used in our daily life:

Distance
Direction
Spread
Location



accessibility and connectivity



Site (unchanging, fixed place of a settlement)

Situation (the changing position of the settlement depending on the developments over time.)

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Midterm Exam Questions

Main rule

Choose only one of the two questions. Your homework should be between 3000-5000 words. Make use of other academic articles, report and books in the relevant field while preparing your study. Follow the rules of referencing and citing the sources you use. Homework with a plagiarism rate of more than 10% will not be evaluated.

Question 1: Watch the movie The Terminal, directed by Steven Spielberg, in which the concepts of placelessness related to humanist geography are handled. Write a review about this movie based on related literature.

Question 2: Developments such as pandemic and climate crisis have brought up changing approaches to the future of urban places. Discuss the future of cities based on the literature in the relevant field and the dynamics of urbanization in different countries.

Deadline: 15 November 2022

Send your homework to adeniz@ankara.edu.tr