
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Conference of the Commission on Urban Anthropology

The Global Financial Crisis and the Moral Economy: Local Impacts and Opportunities

Venue & Date: Brooklyn College, CUNY
Brooklyn, New York, June 18-20, 2015

Sponsors

Brooklyn College of The City University
of New York
International Education Program, Brooklyn
College CUNY
CUNY Academy of Humanities and
Sciences
Feliks Gross Seminar on Visual and Urban
Ethnography

General Convenors

Jerome Kruse, Brooklyn College CUNY
(USA)
Judith N. Desena, St. Johns University
(USA)

Conference Scientific Committee

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Conference Outline

Both individuals and groups in local urban settings have been impacted by global economic forces, international regulations, and flows of capital and people. The global financial crisis has also created scenarios

that directly bear on urban research methods and theory. For example, in Europe, the local effects of the crisis have been exacerbated by the imposition of the Maastricht parameters among most of the countries that have adopted the Euro. There as elsewhere, such as in the USA, the crisis has dramatically impacted on neighbourhoods, provoking catastrophic housing and job losses and, as a by-product, setting in motion dynamic urban social processes such as the relatively peaceful 'Occupy Wall Street' movement as well as bloody street demonstrations in Greece.

By and large, governments have failed to constructively meet the complex challenges posed by these global phenomena, thus raising critical issues of both legitimacy and legitimation. The current crisis has apparently established the supremacy of economics over politics. Comparative ethnographic analyses can document in detail local effects of this crisis such as unemployment, informal employment, foreclosures, homelessness, bankruptcy, suicide and crime. It can also bring to light how local cultures are coping with this situation.

Urban Anthropologists and other Social Scientists have studied in depth the empirical realities of the widening gap between the distribution of rights and access to them, and the attendant processes of societal inclusion and exclusion. A major task of this Conference will be to reflect on how this affects ordinary people. Urban ethnographers have demonstrated the moral and cultural complexity of individual action, highlighting the social value of individual and local community action.

Through ethnographically-based analyses, this Conference will bring together 20 to 30 scholars to explore these complex

issues in Western and non-Western settings, Specifically, the Conference will discuss how legal, semi-legal and illegal actions draw on community resources to defy global and state power. Ethnographically-based analysis has an important contribution to make to our understanding of how all institutions in urban neighbourhoods are changing as a result of the global financial crisis and that these transformations demonstrate the complex effects of economic decline.

For further details and updates, see:
www.urban.anthroweb.net

IUAES Inter-congress 2015:

Re-imagining Anthropological and Sociological Boundaries

Thammasat University, Bangkok,
15-17 July 2015
<http://socanth.tu.ac.th/iuaes2015>

Panels convened under the auspices of the Commission on Urban Anthropology:

P1-02 Fear, or Better Fear Not: Challenges in Data Collection

<http://socanth.tu.ac.th/iuaes2015/2014/10/p1-02-fear-or-better-fear-not-challenges-in-data-collection/>

Convenors: Marcello Mollica and Kayhan Delibas

P1-07 Migration and Urbanization: the Role of Ethnicity in the Contemporary World

<http://socanth.tu.ac.th/iuaes2015/2014/10/p1-07-migration-and-urbanization-the-role-of-ethnicity-in-the-contemporary-world/>

Convenor: Talbot Rogers

P2-01 Decline of Small Towns and Growth of Megacities: an Universal Phenomenon?

<http://socanth.tu.ac.th/iuaes2015/2014/10/p2-01-decline-of-small-towns-and-growth-of-megacities-an-universal-phenomenon/>

Convenor: Sumita Chaudhuri

P7-07 Underground Scenes and Practices in Urban Life and Beyond

(Commission on Urban Anthropology and proposed Commission on Anthropology of Music, Dance and Related Practices)

<http://socanth.tu.ac.th/iuaes2015/2014/10/p7-06-underground-scenes-and-practices-in-urban-life-and-beyond/>

Convenor: Rajko Mursic