

## **Class and the city.**

PhD course, within the Swedish National Program for Research Education in Human Geography, Spring 2022

Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University; Institute for Urban Research, Malmö University and Social Sciences at Södertörn University.

**Updated 27 September 2021.**

### **Course Organizers:**

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- Lisa Kings, Social Sciences, Södertörns högskola ([lisa.kings@sh.se](mailto:lisa.kings@sh.se))
- Nazem Tahvilzadeh, Institute for Urban Research and Department of Global Political Studies, Malmö University ([nazem.tahvilzadeh@mau.se](mailto:nazem.tahvilzadeh@mau.se)).

### **Course description**

After decades with low interest in class, both politically and theoretically, critical class theories have recently returned in both academia and in policy discourses. The renewed interest in class has direct and longed-for implications within urban theory, where class in best cases has been discussed *indirectly*, as hidden within other discourses like gentrification, segregation, urban social movements, urban unrests, neoliberalism, entrepreneurialism, social sustainability, etc. Class has for example been considered as one part within a broader gentrification discourse; while in reality, of course, it should be the other way around. We argue that the relevancy of class theory, and Marxist class theory in particular, needs more delicate treatment than current affairs admits, in order to more deeply grasp urban and geographical processes such as the mentioned above.

This PHD course want to bring the question of class, city and geography up front: theoretically, empirically, and politically. The course is organised around three course sessions.

### **1<sup>st</sup> session: Uppsala 15-16 February 2022.**

The first session is mainly concerned with theory and conceptual discussions. How can we understand class theory within and beyond Marxism? How do various theoretical traditions understand class differently and which implications do this bring for urban theory? How can we understand phenomena like urban development and planning, gentrification, housing, participation, democracy, segregation, etc. in relation to class theory? How can we theoretically elucidate and understand intersections between class, gender and racism?

Preliminary time table:

## **15 February**

12-13: Introduction

13-15: City and class – an overview. Ståle Holgersen

15-17: Don Mitchell

## **16 February**

9-10: Lisa Kings

10-12: Irene Molina

12-13: Lunch

13-15: Göran Therborn

15-16: Therborn (seminar)

16-17: Seminar

## **2<sup>nd</sup> session: Malmö 8-9 March 2022.**

In the second session we bring theories into the actual: how can class theory be understood in relation to variations of urban conditions? How can class be understood as a mediated reality and empirical material in relation to everyday experiences in city life? Building on the theoretical conceptualizations reviewed at the first session, we go into concrete examples on segregation, displacement, neoliberal urban policies, housing policies, climate change and ecological policies, etc. We will discuss case studies on class (struggle), and how class interacts with other social power relations like racialization and gender.

Preliminary time table:

### **8 March**

12-13: Introduction

13-15: Hela Malmö – Nicolas Lunabba

15-17: Panel: “Class, city and activism” (Daria Bogdanska, Paula Mulinari + TBA).

### **9 March**

9-10: Nazem Tahvilzadeh

10-12: Magnus Nilsson

12-13: Lunch

13-15: Kirsteen Paton

15-16: Paton (seminar)

16-17: Seminar

## **3<sup>rd</sup> session: Södertörn University 4-5 april-2022.**

This third session consist of two parts. One is an excursion in Stockholm with three stops: we go to Kista, Husby and Södermalm to see how class is and has been

materialized and articulated differently within the city. We will for example visit a community centre (Folkets Husby) in Husby to discuss their experiences with community mobilization around issues of relevance for the working class population. The other part of the session consists of workshops and seminars where the course participants gives individual presentation based on the course literature in relation to their own research or other phenomena they find relevant for joint discussions. .

Preliminary time table:

#### **4 April**

12-17. Guided tours: Nazem Tahvilzadeh (Kista and Husby). Håkan Blomqvist (Södermalm).

#### **5 April**

10-17: Workshops and seminars.

**Registration:** Please register by sending email to Ståle Holgersen, [stale.holgersen@kultgeog.uu.se](mailto:stale.holgersen@kultgeog.uu.se), by 1 December 2021.

#### **Further details:**

Examination: The course will be examined through a 5,000 word course paper.

The course gives 7.5 ECTS.

There will be a course evaluation at the end of the course.

Course fee: There is no course fee, but participants will have to cover travel, accommodation etc. by own arrangements. PhD candidates from Departments of Human geography in Sweden make the arrangements with their home institutions. If places are available, the course is also open for postgraduate students in other departments and disciplines.

#### **Literature (Extensive literature list)**

A more detailed list that connects literature to specific lecture/seminars will be provided later. One can start with e.g. R Crompton (2008) *Class and Stratification*; N Smith (1996) *The New Urban Frontier*; or E O Wright (2015) *Understanding Class*, especially chapter 1.

Bridge G (1995) The space for class? On class analysis in the study of gentrification. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 20(2):236-247

Castells, Manuel (1978) *City class power*. London: MacMillan Press.

Cockburn, C. (1977). *The local state: management of cities and people*. Pluto Press.

Collins, Patricia Hill, and Sirma Bilge (2020) *Intersectionality*. John Wiley & Sons,

Cooper, V. & Paton, K (2021) Accumulation by repossession: the political economy of evictions under austerity, *Urban Geography*, 42:5, 583-602

- Crompton R (2008) *Class and Stratification*. Polity
- Engels F (1942) *The Housing Question*. Martin Lawrence.
- Engels, Friedrich (2013) *The condition of the working class in England in 1844*. Martino Publishing.
- Hall, Stuart, et al. (2013) *Policing the crisis: Mugging, the state and law and order*. Macmillan International Higher Education (especially, cap 10, "The politics of mugging").
- Harvey D (1973) *Social Justice and the City*. Edward Arnold
- Harvey D (1985) *The Urbanization of Capital*. Blackwell
- Holgersen Ståle (2020) Lift the class - not the place! On class, urban policies in Oslo. *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography*, 102(2): 135-154.
- Marx, Karl (1973) "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte", i Karl Marx. *Surveys from Exile – Political Writings*. Penguin Books.
- Marx, Karl (1976) *Capital Volume I*. Penguin Books.
- Molina, Irene (2018) Planning for Patriarchy? Gender Equality in the Swedish Modern Built Environment. In: Alexandra Staub (ed.) *The Routledge Companion to Modernity, Space and Gender*. Routledge, 26-40. (contact Ståle for pdf)
- Lees, L. & White, H. (2020) The social cleansing of London council estates: everyday experiences of 'accumulative dispossession', *Housing Studies*, 35:10, 1701-1722.
- Paton, K. (2014) Gentrifying working-class subjects: participating in consumer citizenship, Chapter 4, in *Gentrification: A Working-class Perspective*. Ashgate. (contact Ståle for pdf)
- Paton K, McCall V, Mooney G. (2017) Place revisited: class, stigma and urban restructuring in the case of Glasgow's Commonwealth Games. *The Sociological Review*. 2017;65(4): 578-594.
- Pattillo, Mary (2010) *Black on the block: The politics of race and class in the city*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Poulantzas N (2000 [1978]) *State, Power, Socialism*. London: Verso
- Smith N (1996) *The New Urban Frontier: Gentrification and the Revanchist City*. New York: Routledge
- Smith N and Williams P (eds) (1986) *Gentrification of the City*. Boston: Allen and Unwin
- Solomos, John. "Stuart Hall: Articulations of race, class and identity." *Ethnic and racial studies* 37.10 (2014): 1667-1675.
- Therborn, Göran (2008) *What Does the Ruling Class Do When it Rules*. London: Verso.
- Therborn, Göran (2017) *Cities of Power*. Verso. (especially ch. 6).
- Wright, Erik Olin (2015). *Understanding Class*. Verso. (Especially chapter 1.)