PhD Course in Urban Geography/Urban Studies/Cultural Studies:
“Riots, Uprisings, and Revolts in the Contemporary City”
Fall, 2018, 7.5 ECTS
Application Deadline, 15 August, 2018 (see below)

Course Organizers:
Prof. Don Mitchell, Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University
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Dr. Catharina Thörn, Department of Cultural Studies, University of Gothenburg
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Prof. Mustafa Dikeç, Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University
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Course Rationale and Description:
As has been well noted in the scholarly literature and popular discourse, we now live in an urban age. As Lefebvre argued fifty years ago, the industrial revolution seems to have been supplanted by an urban revolution. Yet this is equally an age of urban unrest – of riot, rebellion, uprising, and insurrection – as the social democratic, socialist, and neoliberal orders that marked the early stages of the urban revolution have sequentially broken down, and as a new social order has yet to solidify. Understanding the role riots, uprisings, and revolts in the production of urban space, urban disorder, and the nature of emerging new urban orders, is thus of utmost importance.

Geographers, urbanists, and scholars of culture have contributed to a vibrant and growing literature on urban unrest, which, through its specific focus on the spatiality of urban riot, revolt, and uprising, can be distinguished from (even as it builds upon) earlier scholarship on social movements and urban disorder that emerged out of the upheavals of the 1960s. By the time the course is held, the three course organizers will have each published substantial books (two of them edited/collective efforts, one sole-authored) that examine and expand theories urban unrest and their role in shaping cities. These three books (listed below) will form the foundation of the course, supplemented by other key works in the burgeoning literature.

A crucial part of the course, beyond understanding the social and spatial theories of urban rage and unrest, is understanding the role cultural practices play in moments of upheaval. First, times of unrest are often enormously productive, not just of new political formations and order, but of new forms of artistic expression. Second, such artistic expression in turn often shapes revolt itself as participants take on new ways of knowing and being (or adapt older ones, like the carnivalesque). Third, riots and revolts are transformative of material spaces and political orders, but at the same time must be represented; artists and other cultural producers thus themselves become key actors in shaping the discourses of rebellion and reaction. A significant goal of the course, therefore, will be to examine the interrelationship of urban unrest, spatial transformation, and cultural production from an interdisciplinary perspective, bringing into dialogue human geography, urban studies, cultural studies, and social theory. To accomplish this goal, a portion of the course will take the form of participation in a one-and-a-half-day mini-conference entitled, “Culture in Revolt.” The mini-conference will involve not only researchers, but also artists/cultural producers and activists involved in understanding and shaping this insurrectionary moment.
Besides the mini-conference, the course will consist primarily of seminars, with emphasis placed on student participation. **Examination will occur by a final paper of 4,000-5,000 words. Students wishing to submit an alternative form of cultural intervention may discuss their ideas for doing so with the course organizers.** Participating students will be expected to present their central arguments as well as an overview/outline of their final paper/project during the blocks set aside for student presentation.

Since the course organizers are committed to integrating research with learning/teaching, **students will be invited to apply separately to also make a presentation in the mini-conference if they so desire.**

**List of Potential Instructors (subject to change):**
Mustafa Dikeç, Malmö University  
Anders Lund Hansen, Lund University  
Miguel Martinez Lopéz, Uppsala University  
Margit Mayer, Free University of Berlin  
Don Mitchell, Uppsala University  
Dominika Polanska, Uppsala University  
Ove Sernhede, University of Gothenburg  
Catharina Thörn, University of Gothenburg  
Håkan Thörn, University of Gothenburg

**TO APPLY:**
Send an email to Don Mitchell ([Don.Mitchell@kultgeog.uu.se](mailto:Don.Mitchell@kultgeog.uu.se)) expressing your interest in the course and confirming your availability for each module. Include an explanation of how the course might influence or be valuable to your scholarly interests. Seats in the course are limited so we cannot guarantee everyone admission. **Applications will be accepted up until 15 August, 2018,** and the organizers will inform all applicants whether or not they are admitted to the course shortly after the deadline.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**
**Module 1: Thursday-Friday 13-14 September, 2018, Uppsala University**  
**Theme: Riots, Rebellions, Uprisings, and Revolution in the Making of Cities**  
**Thursday, 13 September:**  
9:00-9:30 Introductions and Goals for Course  
9:30-12:00 (with a break) Seminar 1: Key Themes, Historical Texts  
12:00-13:00 Lunch  
13:00-15:30 (with a break) Seminar 2: Key Themes, New Texts  
16:00-17:30 Walking Tour in Uppsala
19:00 - Group Dinner (self-funded)

**Friday, 14 September:**
9:30-12:00 (with a break) Student Presentations (1): Introducing and Discussing Your Paper Ideas
13:15-15:00 Public Lecture: Organizing, Squatting, Movements: A Discussion with Miguel Martinez López and Dominika Polanska.
   

**Module 2: Wednesday-Friday, 17-19 October, 2018, University of Gothenburg**

**Theme: Urban Uprising: Culture in Revolt**

**NB:** This portion of the course will be composed of three related parts: (1) a visit to, and discussion of, the exhibition Accessing Utopia (2017),1 (2) a one-day public mini-conference, and (3) a one-day “closed” series of seminars and discussions (PhD students will be required to participate in all three sections).

**Wednesday, 17 October @ Frölunda Kulturhus:**
14:00 Exhibition and Discussion
19:00 Dinner

**Thursday, 18 October @ Frölunda Kulturhus:**
9:30-17:00 Course/Conference: Culture in Revolt
   
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   A mini-conference, organized as part of the course, exploring the role of culture in urban uprisings – and in representing them, including a keynote by Margit Mayer. Besides lectures/discussions by some of the potential instructors listed above, participants will include activists from the Accessing Utopia project among others.

19:00- Course/Conference Dinner (partially self-funded)

**Friday, 19 October @ Gothenburg University:**
9:30-12:00 (with a break) Seminar 3: Key Themes from the Conference: A Discussion of What We Learned and How It Fits
12:00-13:00 Lunch
13:00-16:00 (with break) Seminar 4: Policing the Crisis
   
   (i) A close focus on Stuart Hall et al. Policing the Crisis: Mugging, the State, and Law and Order, with contemporary updates from: (ii) Robin D. G. Kelley, “Thug Nation: On

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1 Accessing Utopia is the latest work from the collaborative artistic research group Bathtä (René Léon-Rosales and Behzad Khosravi-Noori). The piece is based on interviews with young Swedish activists who have engaged in organizations dealing with the multiple expressions of racism and social injustice in Swedish society. Using artistic research methodology, the project articulates a narrative strategy which aims to put forward the complexities of young people’s understanding of their own activism, and hence their political subjectivities. The work takes the format of a polyphonic multi-channel video installation.
State Violence and Disposability”; and (iii) Vijay Prashad, “This Ends Badly: Race and Capitalism”

**Wednesday 7 November: Preliminary Drafts of Course Papers/Projects Due**

**Module 3: 15-16 November, 2018, Malmö University**

**Theme: Urban Rage and the Exclusionary Politics of the City**

**Thursday, 16 November**

9:30-12:00 (with short introductory lecture) Screening of *La Haine (Hate)* (1995)

12:00-13:00 Lunch


**Location to Be Determined**

17:30-19:30 Public Event: Rage, Revolt, Uprisings, Revolution? A Moderated Discussion among Catharina Thörn, Mustafa Dikeç, and Don Mitchell. Moderated by Anders Lund Hansen (to be confirmed)

19:30 Dinner

**Friday, 17 November**

9:30-12:00 (with break) Student Presentations 2: Workshopping Your Papers (Part 1)

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-14:30 Student Presentations 3: Workshopping Your Papers (Part 2)

14:30-15:30 Short Break and Course Wrap Up.

15:30 ish ... Consider staying for the “after seminar”

**Final Course papers (4000-5000 words) – or alternative cultural intervention – due: 14 December, 2018**

**LITERATURE**

**Required Texts**

*Foundational Texts for the Course:*


**Other Required Texts:**


Hall, Stuart, Critcher, Chas, Jefferson, Tony, Clarke, John, and Roberts, Brian. (2013 [1978]) *Policing the Crisis: Mugging, the State, and Law and Order* (New York; Palgrave Macmillan).

Further Reading
Key Texts on the Urban Revolution:
Lefebvre, H. (2003 [1970]) The Urban Revolution (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press)

Texts on Urban Unrest:
Extensive and timely bibliographies of the literature urban unrest may be found in the three “Foundational Texts” and so are not repeated here. A few key recent works include: