

# GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

## GPYH 401 - Honours Seminar in Human Geography I:

### Pandemic Urbanism



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| <b>Course Instructor</b>            | Carolyn Prouse  | <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:cpv@queensu.ca">cpv@queensu.ca</a> |
| <b>Office</b>                       | Mac-Corry D304  | <b>Tel:</b> 613-533-6000 ext. 78592                              |
| <b>Contact Time</b>                 | 2 x 1.5 remote seminars/week  |  |
| <b>Format</b>                       | Remote seminar, multimedia engagements, and personal/virtual fieldtrips   |  |
| <b>Class Assessment (potential)</b> | Weekly discussions and reflections; presentations to peers; and final team project (an interactive digital component for our urban pandemic portal) |  |

#### COURSE OVERVIEW: Pandemic Urbanism

This course is inspired by the COVID-19 global pandemic and its intimate relationship with urbanization processes. In this class we will take an urban political ecology perspective to understand how urbanization has transformed human-animal relations, contributing to disease outbreaks; and how the city has been a key site of disease proliferation, negotiation, and containment. Our political ecological approach will stress the power regimes within which bacteria and viruses proliferate and take shape, from processes of capitalism, colonialism, and imperialism, to new forms of social reproduction and care. We will take a global and historical perspective, looking at diseases across both the Global North and South, the histories of pandemics, COVID-19 now, and post-COVID futures. Our final project will be an online resource for the public: we will be creating digital components for an urban pandemic portal (eg blog series; podcasts; webinars; interactive maps) that will explore and explain an urban pandemic-related topic of your choosing.

#### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe and apply key theoretical approaches in urban political ecology
2. Communicate complex ideas to a general public in written and/or verbal form
3. Demonstrate geographical skills honed throughout your scholarly career, including writing, mapping, and interviews

#### COURSE TOPICS

Bio(in)security; colonialism and the spread of disease; capitalist urbanization, habitat loss, and zoonotic disease; infectious disease's impact on urban form; disease containment/quarantine; racialized governance of pandemics; Indigenous and Black reproductive and environmental justice; geographies of experimentation and clinical trials

#### COURSE READINGS (a selected list subject to change) – note that the books will generally be selected chapters only

- Ahuja, Neel. (2016). *Bioinsecurities: Disease Interventions, Empire, and the Government of Species*. Duke University Press.
- Doshi, Sapana. (2017). Embodied urban political ecology: Five propositions. *Area* 49(1): 125-128.
- Garriga-Lopez, Adriana & Diaz, Carlos (2019). Becoming epidemic: The Zika Virus epidemic and gendered power in Puerto Rico. In Lerman & Shepard (Eds.) *Gender and Health in Contemporary Latin America and the Caribbean*.
- Gandy, Matthew. (2006). The bacteriological city and its discontents. *Historical Geography* 34(0): 14-25.
- Karachi Urban Lab (2020). Why the COVID-19 crisis is an urban crisis. *Prism*. Vancouver, Canada.
- Keil, Roger & Ali, Harris (2008). Racism is a weapon of mass destruction: SARS and the social fabric of urban multiculturalism. In *Networked Disease: Emerging Infections in the Global City*.
- Monique, Lopez. (2020). Our role as planners during a pandemic. *Pueblo Planning*. Los Angeles, United States.
- Petryna, Adriana. (2009). *When Experiments Travel: Clinical Trials and the Global Search for Human Subjects*. Princeton University Press.