

INTERNATIONALISING CITIES

Urban fabric and urban policies in a globalising world

NEOLIBERALIZATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION OF CITIES



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
3 February 2017
Paris

LATTS

UNIVERSITÉ —
— PARIS-EST

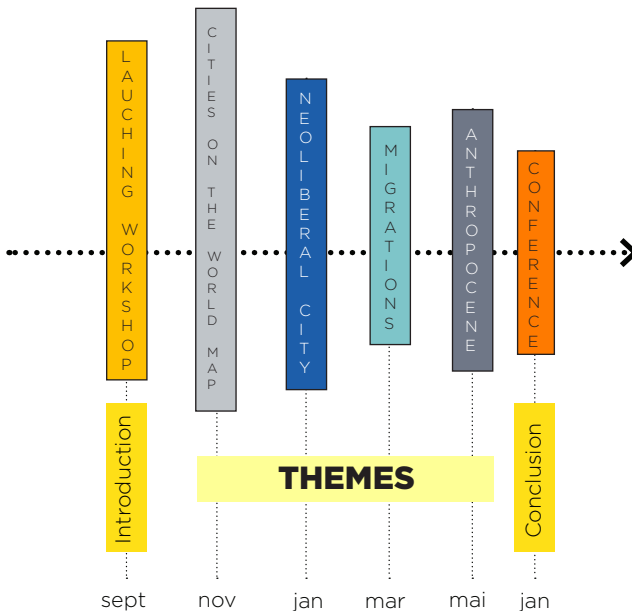


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The contemporary period is marked by a process of economic, political, cultural and environmental globalisation, unprecedented in its nature and scope. Based on the intensification of the circulation not only of material goods, money and persons, but also of imaginaries, representations, social norms and patterns, this "third globalisation" changes how societies relate to a global (or at least an ever more globalised) space; it is in particular strongly articulated with urbanisation, another major process at work.

The (most) visible side of this mutation, metropolisation, has been widely studied as regards its processes as its results. But the effects of globalisation on urban spaces, economies and societies are more diverse and affect all levels of the urban hierarchy. "New" geographies of innovation, international migrations, the circulation of cultural norms, tourism development, the rise of transnational actors involved in urban production, various forms of intensification of urban competition, links between urbanisation and global environmental change... all contribute to the profound mutations of the urban phenomenon in all its dimensions.

This serie of workshops aims to explore internationalisation as a set of constraints, opportunities and resources for urban development and policies (in other words, the ins and outs of the international action cities), retaining as a main analyser the contemporary modalities of urban production in its various dimensions: cultural and imaginary, material and technological, economic and financial, political and social.



SECOND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP: PROGRAM

8h45 - 9h15 *Welcome coffee*

9h15 - 9h25 Introduction
Ludovic Halbert, LATTs, and Gilles Pinson, Sciences Po. Bordeaux

9h30 - 11h Internationalizing cities and neoliberalization in retrospect

Speakers Jennifer Robinson (Department of Geography, University College London)
Patrick Le Galès (Centre d'études européennes, Sciences Po. Paris)

Chairperson Gilles Pinson (Centre Emile Durkheim, Sciences Po. Bordeaux)

11h - 11h15 *coffee break*

11h15 - 12h45 Urban movements and resistance to the neoliberal internationalization of cities

Speakers Justus Uitermark (University of Amsterdam)
Ozan Karaman (LATTs, Université Paris-Est)

Chairperson Martine Drozd (LATTs, Université Paris-Est)

12h45 - 14h *lunch break*

14h00 - 15h30 Consultants and global urbanism

Speakers Oula Aoun (LEMA, University of Liège)
Laurent Devisme (CRENAU, ENSA de Nantes)

Chairperson Gilles Pinson (Centre Emile Durkheim, Sciences Po. Bordeaux)

15h30 - 16h *coffee break*

16h-17h30 Between neoliberal agendas and the globalization of the real estate investment industry: the financialization of urban production

Speakers Rachel Weber (Department of Urban Planning and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago)
Antoine Guironnet (LATTs, Université Paris-Est)

Chairperson Ludovic Halbert (LATTs, Université Paris-Est)

17h30 - 17h45 Conclusion
Ludovic Halbert, LATTs, and Gilles Pinson, Sciences Po. Bordeaux

SECOND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP: STATEMENTS

General statement

The debate on how neoliberalization processes affect city-regions throughout the world remains a heated one. While a tradition of works rooted in the neomarxist political economy paradigm insists on the ceaseless reconfigurations of “neoliberal urbanization” and “neoliberal urbanism” (Harvey 1989, Swyngedouw et al. 2003, Peck et al. 2009, 2013), authors from a more neo-weberian tradition have recently discussed some putative limits to the “Neoliberal City” concept (Pinson & Morel Journal 2016). This present workshop seeks to engage with this debate by questioning the relations that exist between these two “macro” processes, namely the neoliberalization of urban agendas and policies and the internationalization of cities. We question how the ongoing transnationalization and circulation of mobile actors, capital, and policy models may be a factor in understanding the ways neoliberalization may be spread, shaped and, at times, contested in different national and urban political-economic institutional systems. What is the role of transnational actors (investors and real estate professionals, planning consultants) and their cognitive, human and financial resources in promoting and disseminating neoliberal-inspired policies? How are policy-makers and planners’ agendas and practices influenced by the growing transnational circulation of neoliberalizing strategies and practices? (How) are urban movements and activists reconfiguring their actions and priorities, including by mobilizing global/transnational networks, to resist ongoing transformations at the urban and local levels? Can internationalization and increased mobilities of ideas and standards be the vehicle of something else than pure neoliberalization? In other words, can alternative values and policy schemes benefit from internationalization?

Session 1. Internationalizing cities and neoliberalization in retrospect

This session will set the scene from a conceptual and theoretical perspective. What exactly are neoliberalization and internationalization? Are they both sound notions to capture the recent and current transformations of urban agendas, policy mixes and fabric? Furthermore, are they processes that are necessarily linked and complementary? The speakers will return to the two theoretical debates in which the urban studies community is involved -policy mobilities and neoliberalization- and try to build bridges between both.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP: STATEMENTS

Session 2. Urban movements and resistance to the neoliberal internationalization of cities

This session is concerned with cities as spaces of contestation in a time of rapidly internationalizing urbanization. It seeks to reflect on the international dimension of both contemporary «neoliberal» urban development and conflicts engendered by the rapid growth and transformation of urban space. If the neoliberalization of the urban is necessarily place-specific, being the result of situated interplay between local, national and global actors, how does the internationalization of cities, understood as the circulation of policy models and the growing use of standardized modes of operation relying on transnational expertise, shape the outcomes of neoliberal urban strategies? Do internationalization processes contribute to reinforce their neoliberal qualities? As neoliberalization is never straightforwardly accepted, how does its internationalization impact the manifold ways neoliberal urban projects are negotiated and resisted, especially by community groups and urban social movements? More broadly this session aims at questioning the extent to which the hypothesis of a global neoliberal restructuring of urban space - characterized by a combination of entrepreneurial agendas, a systematic economic exploitation of urban space and exclusionary politics - is helpful to understand contemporary urban social movements and struggles over the future(s) of our cities.

Session 3. Consultants and global urbanism

Consultants and consulting firms operating in urban domains (architecture, planning, utilities, finance, etc.) went global in the last decades. They have developed a capacity to intervene and sell their knowledge and services in a wide variety of institutional and cultural contexts. How can we define the nature of the knowledge and agendas they are promoting? Do their interventions systematically consist in disseminating a pure neoliberal vision of urban policy priorities? Can they rather be the vehicle of variegated knowledge and visions? Can they be the vehicles of alternative methods and agendas?

Session 4. Between neoliberal agendas and the globalization of the real estate investment industry: the financialization of urban production

This session questions some potential underpinnings of the financialization of urban production, namely the role of increasingly entrepreneurial/neoliberal agendas in terms of economic development and planning policies and the growing importance of circuits of capital rooted in transnational flows of finance. To which extent the globalization of financial markets drive contemporary urbanization? What is the role of local public and private actors? How are power relations redefined in this financialized urban political economy and with what social and spatial consequences onto city-regions? How are the different national and urban political-economic institutional settings playing out in accommodating and/or resisting financialization processes and outputs in city-regions, for instance between the US and France?

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Participation in the international workshop is free and open to all, with registration ahead of time.

Make sure you carry an identity card or a passport.

Please confirm your attendance by signing up with your name, institution, and position : <https://www.inscription-facile.com/form/5xoCRAij8ace5AXjWQaA>