

**Updated 9/25**

**City Planning 298 and Rhetoric 244a**

**Reading Cities, Sensing Cities:**

**A Global Urban Humanities Interdisciplinary Colloquium**

1 credit

Thursday, 1-2, p.m., **NEW LOCATION** Wurster Hall 106

Instructors: Susan Moffat, Project Director, [Global Urban Humanities Initiative](#)  
(listed under instructors Anthony J. Cascardi, Rhetoric  
Jennifer Wolch, City and Regional Planning)  
403 Wurster Hall, [susanmoffat@berkeley.edu](mailto:susanmoffat@berkeley.edu), 510-926-2771

## **INTRODUCTION**

What does it mean to read a city? When urban designers say a landscape is *legible*, what does that mean? We think that we navigate a city with our eyes, but what do our other senses tell us? And what happens when we substitute machine sensing for that bodily human encounter with the city? What place do novels and other narratives play in mapping the cities of our imagination—and the physical cities we design and build? In this speaker series, we'll consider approaches from a variety of disciplines that attempt to understand and represent cities.

This interdisciplinary colloquium will present speakers investigating cities and urbanism from multiple angles—through texts about cities, through looking at cities as texts, through art, photography, music and sound, film, performance, mapping, and crowdsourced sensing technologies.

Speakers will include faculty and graduate students from departments including Architecture, Art History, Art Practice, City and Regional Planning, Comparative Literature, Geography, Theater, Dance and Performance Studies, and more.

The colloquium is part of the [Global Urban Humanities Initiative](#), a joint project of the Arts & Humanities Division and the College of Environmental Design. Our aim with this speaker series is to provide a gathering place where people from different disciplines can learn about each other's work on global cities.

**Requirements for S/U credit:** attendance at 9 of 12 lectures plus a mandatory final discussion session, and writing two brief blogposts for the Global Urban Humanities webpage. There are no required readings. However, relevant readings, videos, and weblinks will be posted on the course website ([globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu/colloquium-reading-cities-sensing-cities](http://globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu/colloquium-reading-cities-sensing-cities)) in advance of each lecture.

**All lectures are open to the campus community, and visitors are encouraged.**

**Visitors: To get weekly notices of the upcoming lecture, sign up for the Global Urban Humanities Initiative listserv (not the newsletter) by going to "Our Email Lists" in the upper right corner of our homepage, [globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu](http://globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu).**

## **SPEAKER SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

- August 28     Art + Village + City in China's **Pearl River Delta**.  
Margaret Crawford, Professor, Architecture.
- Sept. 4        Experiential Mapping of the Urban Form: *Mission Possible: A Neighborhood Atlas* and *Intranational **International Boulevard***  
Darin Jensen, Staff Cartographer and Continuing Lecturer, Department of Geography.
- Sept. 11       Representing Urban Diversity: Romare Bearden's "**Berkeley-A City and Its People**" (1973)  
Lauren Kroiz, Assistant Professor, History of Art
- Sept. 18       Reading Cities as a Blind Person  
Chris Downey, Architect and Georgina Kleege, English
- Sept. 25       Sensing **San Leandro**: Capturing Cityscapes through Sensors  
Greg Niemeyer, Associate Professor, Art Practice
- Oct. 2          Experiments in Online and Print Journals on Cities:  
*Urban Pilgrimage*  
Padma Maitland, Architecture and South and Southeast Asian Studies and Lawrence Yang, East Asian Languages and Cultures  
*pARTicipatory Urbanisms* in **Sao Paulo** and **New Delhi**  
Kirsten Larson, City and Regional Planning and Architecture and Karin Shankar, Performance Studies
- Oct. 9          Uneven Modernity and the 'Peripheral' City: Between Ethnography, History and Literature in **Tbilisi**  
Harsha Ram, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Comparative Literature
- Oct. 16        Creative Class Civil Wars: Displacement and the Arts in the **Bay Area**  
Shannon Steen, Associate Professor, Theater, Dance & Performance Studies
- Oct. 23        Urban Space, Spectacle, Memory and Music in Nineteenth-Century **Vienna**  
Nicholas Mathew, Associate Professor, Music
- Oct. 30        Nature and Culture at the Albany Bulb Landfill  
Susan Moffat, Project Director, Global Urban Humanities Initiative
- Nov. 6         The Art of Change: Exploring Neighborhoods in Transition  
Sue Mark, [marksearch.org](http://marksearch.org) and Anisha Gade, UC Berkeley Architecture

- Nov. 13 Joyce's **Dublin** and Katarina Schroter's **Mumbai, Shanghai and Sao Paulo**  
Catherine Flynn, Assistant Professor of English
- Nov. 20 **NOTE: THIS LECTURE WILL BE AT 5 p.m.**  
The **Tokyo** Model: Lessons in Slum Non-Clearance from the World's First 'Megacity'  
Jordan Sand, Assoc. Professor of Japanese History and Culture,  
Georgetown University
- Dec. 4 Final Discussion –lunch provided! (Mandatory for course credit)

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

In order to receive credit for the course, you must complete the following:

1. Turn in an attendance sheet at the end of each class session. You must turn in the sheet at the end of class—not the next day. You must attend 9 of 12 lectures plus the final discussion section to receive credit.
2. Write two brief blogposts for the Global Urban Humanities Initiative website.

**You must sign up on the first day of class for to blog for one session in the first half of the semester and one in the second half.** You are free to switch sessions with another student later in the semester as long as you both inform me by email (you must still do one post in the first half and one in the second half). I hope to have posts from more than one person for each speaker.

The purpose of the blogposts is 1)is give you a chance to reflect on a particular speaker and the issues they raise or the discussions they inspire and 2)to share our colloquium with the wider community interested in cities and the humanities. I am not looking for a summary of the lecture, but rather a response to something that intrigued you. It could be a reflection on a key concept, on the way the speaker made you think anew about your own research, or on the way people from different disciplines responded differently to the speaker. It may be interesting to draw connections between the speaker of the day and past speakers.

The piece should be roughly two to ten paragraphs and should include links to work and/or a bio of the speaker and any other links you think are relevant.

For examples of blogposts, see the September and October 2013 entries on the Global Urban Humanities blog at [globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu/blog](http://globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu/blog)

(to get to the September 2013 posts you may need to click on “older posts” at the bottom of the page).

Please submit a jpeg image to go with your post—could be borrowed from the speaker’s work or found on the web (please provide credit).

Please email a Word doc of your post with hyperlinks and the jpeg image to [susanmoffat@berkeley.edu](mailto:susanmoffat@berkeley.edu) with a cc to Genise Choy, [gchoy@berkeley.edu](mailto:gchoy@berkeley.edu), who will post after I approve.

**The blogpost is due by 9 a.m. the Tuesday following the class session so that we can post it in time for class members to read before the next session. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

4. **Attendance at the final discussion session on Dec. 4 is mandatory.** If you know now that you will be out of town on that date, please talk to me. The final class will be a chance to reflect on the semester’s speakers and consider what light they shed on reading and sensing cities. It will also be a chance for me to get feedback from you on shaping future colloquia. Lunch will be provided, so consider it a chance for a convivial break from final papers.