UP 494: International Institutions, Law and Urban Development Conflicts

The course explores how local subaltern movements engage international institutions to regulate conflicts arising from (post) development projects. We frame international institutions as products of plural and contested legalities of local movements and globally dominant development agencies. We situate each actor within transnational regulatory networks and then explore opportunities for progressive movements to engage international institutions and challenge 'from below' the hegemonic ideas and development projects of dominant states, NGO's and private market actors. Practically, students will select a social movement and map , as a course long project, how they engage international institutions in struggles against the ravages of global political and economic crises that the COVID 19 pandemic revealed especially in marginalized urban areas of cities. Criteria for evaluating final course projects include an expectation to make visually compelling and historically informed arguments on how progressive movements engage international institutions to claim legitimacy and forge transnational solidarities for more humane futures.

Course Goals and Objectives
By the end of this course, you will be able to:
- Understand how local subaltern movements engage international institutions in conflicts with globally dominant economic and state centric actors to legitimize claims and build solidarities Understand how international institutions and associated legalities regulate national and local urban development projects
- Create compelling **multi-media arguments** that evaluate how past relations with iinternational institutions shape possible outcomes of present projects and their emancipatory future potential

Course Structure
This is a **4 credit hour** course offered over **16 weeks as 8 content modules**. You should dedicate approximately 8–**10 hours per week** to working on the course depending on your prior knowledge and personal study habits. You should log on to the course website a minimum of 3 days per week, but as discussions develop, you will probably need to do so more frequently. For additional information about student commitment, please see the policies page.
Required Text

Pluriverse A Post-Development Dictionary Edited by Ashish Kothari, Ariel Salleh, Arturo Escobar, Federico Demaria, and Alberto Acosta
Tulika Books Pub Date: October 2019 ISBN: 9788193732984
Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary contains over one hundred essays on transformative initiatives and alternatives to the currently dominant processes of globalized development, including its structural roots in modernity, capitalism, state domination, and masculinist values. It offers critical essays on mainstream solutions that 'greenwash' development and presents radically different worldviews and practices from around the world that point to an ecologically wise and socially just world.

About the Authors

Ashish Kothari is with Kalpavriksh and Vikalp Sangam in India and is coeditor of *Alternative Futures: India Unshackled*.

Ariel Salleh is an Australian scholar-activist and is author of *Ecofeminism as Politics* and editor of *Eco-Sufficiency and Global Justice*.

Arturo Escobar teaches at the University of North Carolina and is author of Encountering Development.

Federico Demaria is with Autonomous University of Barcelona and is coeditor of *Degrowth: A Vocubalary for a New Era*.

Required readings are also listed in each course module and additional readings for graduate students are marked with an asterisk. In preparation for each class;please complete prescribed readings prior to class and students selected as module presenters must post their reflections to suggested or self selected discussion questions.

Course Components

- This course will consist of the following components:

  Module Overviews

  Each module will begin with the module overview of the module learning goals and activities in which you will participate. Each module is designed with the same structure and activities unless otherwise specified. The module activities are explained in greater detail below. You can find the due dates of specific assignments on each module's Overview page.

  Readings and Lessons

  Each module will contain a list of lessons (recorded lectures) and assigned readings. In most cases, supplemental and additional readings for graduate students are listed for further study. Lessons will summarize key points from the readings and hence do not include all important information from the readings.

  Discussions

  The discussion forums are a ripe place to engage with one another as you wrestle with the content covered in the week. In Modules 1–6, a number of students will act as "presenters" by posting questions related to the module content to the rest of the class. The rest of the class will act as "responders" by responding to the questions for that week. As the discussions evolve, both presenters and responders will contribute their thoughts to the threads that interest them.

Discussion Journals

For Modules 1–6, students will write journal entries to reflect on insights gleaned from participating in group discussions on questions that they and peers request for clarity. Graded activities include presenting and responding to questions and reflecting on the learning process during discussions.

Project

Students will create and present a multimedia story map argument on how insurgent social movements appeal to international institutions to regulate a specific development conflict . As steps along this path, students will write four 500/1000-word project journals and construct a timeline of past regulatory appeals and possible future appeals to international institutions for humanitarian resolution . Project journals will 1) propose an specific local insurgent social movement, within a transnational network, engaged in situated COVID 19 related public health conflict for further study; 2) identify archives to explore past appeals to different global, national, transnational and local actors in conflict 3) evaluate potential of international institutions to resolve conflicts in terms of our proposed schema of violent, bureaucratic and consensual legal strategies 4) propose a strategy for movements involve international institutions in more humane regulation of conflict. All projects will be peer reviewed before submitting final story map arguments and manifestos. More details about the project can be found on the **Course Project** page.

Accommodations

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students should contact both the instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. You can contact DRES at 1207 S. Oak Street, Champaign, (217) 333-1970, or via email at disability@illinois.edu.

Topic Outline

1. Framing International Institutions as outcomes of struggles between dominant global and local subaltern agents over competing legalities for regulating development conflicts
2. Mapping legal repertoires of dominant global and national state actors
3. Mapping legal repertoires of dominant actors within international networks
4. Mapping counter legalities of intercity municipalist movements and alliances
5. Mapping counter legalities of insurgent cosmopolitan movements
6. Reviewing possibilities transnational solidarities from below
7. Project Presentations
8. Project Peer Reviews