

# 11.S945 Equity & Inclusion

Local policy-driven strategies for economic development and the Just City

Lecture 1

# Course Goals & Objectives

1. Explore a wide range of theory and practice in the field of urban economic development
2. Develop a working knowledge of local government approaches to more equitable economic development strategies
3. Develop a critical point of view on the merits and limitations of these strategies
4. Engage in formal opportunities to present new views to public and political actors in the field

# Part I. Building an Analytical Framework

- Planning Theory & Practice
- Urbanization & Globalization
- Urban Social Movements and New Space Claims
- Community Dev at the Bargaining Table
- Equity & Inclusion Plans (traditional & emerging strategies)

# Part II. Case Studies

- **CASE ONE** Race- & Gender-based Approaches to Equity
  - NYC
- **CASE TWO** Race- & Gender-neutral Approaches to Equity
  - Oakland
  - Kansas City
  - St. Louis
- **CASE THREE** Environmental Justice and Equity Planning
  - New Orleans & Atlanta

# Part III. Gaining Ground

- Cultural Heritage & Preservation
- Cultural Tourism
- Arts Planning & Economic Development
- Commercial Development & Commercial Values
- Social Enterprise

# Part IV. Deliverables

- Team Case Study
- Class Presentations
- Reading Posts (7/3)
- Short Paper -- op-ed on policy (500 words)
- Final Paper -- policy brief or research paper
- Public Roundtable

# Intros

# Forester (1993)

Forester -- analysis links "**planning and administrative practice** directly to the exercise of influence and power. Most obviously, the ability to shape others' attention and generalizes the form of power commonly discussed as 'agenda-setting.'"

- Theory of power
- What do "we" really want?
- 9: "Political organizers must pay attention to simultaneously to the goals they wish to achieve and the ways in which their actions -- their speech, gestures, pronouncements, expressions -- reconstitute their own identities, shape their reputations, and thus further enable or undermine their future abilities to act."

# Forester, ctd.

- Cost-benefit analysis -- utilitarian approach
- asks “how is policy made”
- asserting the need for and utility of critical theory

- **15: planning as a “value-laden activity whose success or failure has consequences for the society encompassing it”**
- **16: empirically fitting, practically appropriate, ethically illuminating (pace Bernstein 1976).**
- **“Help planners and citizens understand and assess the ethical and political consequences of various possibilities of action, policy, or intervention”**

# Forester, ctd.

- Planning is inherently political
- Planning practice as communicative action. More than “talk”
  - “checking early with a neighborhood association, for example, may involve them in planning and also make them partially responsible for the results of that process.”
- Planning analyst “calls, directs, and shapes -- that is, organizes or disorganizes -- the attention of others. Planning analysts' communicative action “is not only to be understood as information processing, but also as practical social and political action. By shaping attention, the analyst shapes action and inaction as well.
- Planner not “a processor of facts, but a *practical organizer* (or disorganizer) of *attention*.” Planning as practical-communicative action.

# Forester

Planners are called to work to clarify, reveal, and communicate to citizens actual possibilities of life-enhancing, emancipatory actions.

# Sandercock (1998)

**Mel King:** “We complain about the dirt with the broom in our hands”

- addressing system issue through direct action & electoral politics
- people-oriented definition of development
- “We will build a city based on our values”

## Gilda Haas

- Housing, economic development, Community Scholars, Accidental Tourism in LA
- Popular education and radical planning
- Multi-ethnic, multi-racial coalitions
- Lessons from insurgent planning

# M.L. King Jr. (1963) “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

Image of Birmingham protesters removed due to copyright restrictions. Original image can be accessed at <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-3765>.

## Fainstein (2010) *The Just City*

“Democratic thought is theoretically weak when it is not tied to an economic program.” (29)

Equity: “distribution of both material and non-material benefits derived from public policy that does not favor those who are already better off at the beginning. Further, it does not require that each person be treated the same but rather that treatment be appropriate.” (36)

# Fainstein

Justice encompasses “equity, democracy, diversity”

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