

Urban Communication: Image, Space, and Media

Autumn 2017 Wednesday 11:30 AM AVC

Lecturer: Tae-Sik Kim

Office Hour: Wed 10:00 – 11 40 AM & 2:00 – 3:40 PM

Contact Information: beinkid@mail.muni.cz

➤ Course Objectives

This course examines communication patterns in the urban environment. A city is a typical interdisciplinary space where humans, technologies, and cultures interactively form a variety of communicative actions. Grounded in the understanding of the role of urban space as media, this course looks closely at how urban spaces represent (are represented by) everyday communications. This course covers a variety of issues in urban communication, ranging from urban branding to neoliberal exclusion in urban space. Throughout the course, students will discuss how urban spaces connect/disconnect/reconnect people. By reading a variety of research articles assigned in the course and participating in class discussions, students learn to widen their perspectives on urban space, society, and communication and to develop their own research projects focusing on communicative activities in the urban environment.

- Comprehend the role of urban space as media.
- Develop strategic ways of thinking to improve urban communicative capability.
- Review and analyze a variety of research articles on urban communication.
- Find important themes and methods of urban research.
- Lead insightful discussions.
- Develop a research project by applying sociocultural experiences.

➤ Syllabus

Week 1. Course introduction

Week 2. Urban Communication: Theories and Practices

Week 3. Theme 1. Fieldwork - Fieldwork 1. Brno's Communicative Space

Week 4. Fieldwork 2. Brno's Un-Communicative Space

Week 5. Fieldwork 3. Brno's Collective Memory

Week 6. Individual Fieldwork: Brno as a Medium

Week 7. Theme 2. Urban Representation – 1) Urban Semiotics

Week 8. 2) Urban Borders

Week 9. Film Screening “Urbanised”

Week 10. Theme 3. Branding Cities

Week 11. 2) Branding Sustainability

Week 12: 3) Creating Story

Week 13. Class Conference

➤ Literatures

Reading Articles: See, below.

➤ Teaching Methods

The format of the course is a combination of brief lectures and controlled discussions of various assigned readings.

All students are expected to read all articles assigned and to develop appropriate discussion questions. Each student **is a class leader** for an assigned week.

Fieldwork is an main method of this course. Students should develop their own fieldwork project under the instructor’s supervision.

➤ Assessment Methods

Attendance (100 – 3 Unexcused Absences will lead to loss of credit)

3 Small Papers (100 x 3 = 300)

1. Position paper on Week 7&8 Seminars (Due - Midnight 7. Nov)
2. Movie Critic (Due – Midnight 21. Nov)
3. Position paper on Week 10, 11, & 12 Seminars (Due -Midnight 12. Nov)

One Class Leader Project (100)

Group Fieldwork (500, Work with 3-4 Colleagues, 1 Midterm Report, 1 Final Report)

Total: 1000

A: 900-1000

B: 800-899

C: 700-799

D: 600-699

E: 500-599

F: -499

➤ Study Materials

All materials, with the exception of book chapters available in the library and articles available online, will be provided in PDF format.

Week 2. Urban Communication: Theories and Practices

Georgiou, M “Media and the city: Making sense of place” *International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics* 6.3 (2010)

Crang, Mike. 'Cyberspace as the new public domain.', in *Urban diversity : space, culture and inclusive pluralism in cities worldwide*. (2010) Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press ; Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, pp. 99-122.

M. De Certeau *Walking in the City*

Week 7. Theme 2. Urban Representation – 1) Urban Semiotics

Pauwels, L. (2016). Visually researching and communicating the city: a systematic assessment of methods and resources. *International journal of communication.--, 10, 1309-1330.*

Kim, Tae-Sik. "Three faces of Chinese modernity: nationalism, globalization, and science." *Social Semiotics* 21.5 (2011): 683-697.

Shortell, Timothy and Krase, Jerome, “Place, Space, Identity: A Spatial Semiotics of the Urban Vernacular in Global Cities” ESA Research Network Sociology of Culture Midterm Conference: Culture and the Making of Worlds, October 2010.

Week 8. 2) Symbolic Border

Howell, Ocean. "Skatepark as Neoliberal Playground Urban Governance, Recreation Space, and the Cultivation of Personal Responsibility." *Space and culture* 11.4 (2008): 475-496.

Smith, Michael Peter. "Transnational urbanism revisited." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 31.2 (2005): 235-244.

Smith, M. P. (1992). Postmodernism, urban ethnography, and the new social space of ethnic identity. *Theory and society*, 21(4), 493-531.

Week 10. Theme 1. City Branding – 1) Making a Place Attractive

Kavaratzis, Mihalis, and Gregory J. Ashworth. "City branding: an effective assertion of identity or a transitory marketing trick?." *Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie* 96.5 (2005): 506-514.

Crewe, L., & Martin, A. (2017). Sex and the city: Branding, gender and the commodification of sex consumption in contemporary retailing. *Urban Studies*, 54(3), 582-599.

Kavaratzis, M. (2004). From city marketing to city branding: Towards a theoretical framework for developing city brands. *Place branding*, 1(1), 58-73.

Week 11. 2) Branding Sustainability

Kokosalakis, Christina, et al. "Place image and urban regeneration in Liverpool." *International Journal of Consumer Studies* 30.4 (2006): 389-397.

Gold, John R., and Margaret M. Gold. "Olympic cities: regeneration, city rebranding and changing urban agendas." *Geography compass* 2.1 (2008): 300-318.

Joo, Y. M., & Seo, B. (2017). Transformative city branding for policy change: The case of Seoul's participatory branding. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 2399654417707526.

Week 12. 3) Urban Storytelling

Morris, B. (2010). Shibuya Un / Wrapping: Place, Media, and Punctualization. *Space and Culture*, 13 (3): 285-303.

Davis, D. (2011). Intergenerational digital storytelling: a sustainable community initiative with inner-city residents. *Visual Communication*, 10(4), 527-540.

Makagon, D., & Gould, MR (2016). Learning the City Through Stories: Audio Documentary as Urban Communication Teachers. *International Journal of Communication*, 10, 1263-1276.

