

The Urban Planet

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WELCOMING REMARKS

By Dean Xiangming Chen

Starting with the second issue of CUGS' Newsletter *The Urban Planet*, we are introducing a new feature – a short essay on an important urban topic written by a scholar at or outside Trinity College. The inaugural essay is by Sharon Zukin, a renowned urbanist who has published extensively on culture, gentrification, shopping, and consumption in New York City and beyond. The essay was excerpted from a chapter that Professor Zukin delivered as a keynote for a conference held at Trinity in November 2008, which was organized by CUGS. She has recently revised the chapter for a book edited by Xiangming Chen and Ahmed Kanna (the first Raether postdoctoral fellow in urban studies at CUGS during 2008-09) for publication by Routledge. A key question raised by her is “does globalization make all cities look the same culturally?” We hope you enjoy this essay and look forward to others in our future issues.

In this issue, we continue to feature exemplary Trinity students who, in their own voices, talk about their experiences with and benefits from pursuing urban and global studies at Trinity through CUGS. We also continue to include information and updates on our programs, staff, events, and grant opportunities. If you have any comments and suggestions for our newsletter, please email them to cugs@trincoll.edu.



Check out the story behind this pic on page 3

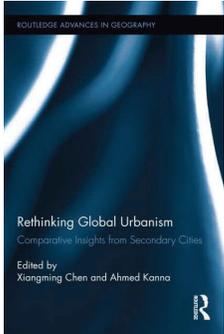


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Competitive Globalization and Urban Change: The Allure of Cultural Strategies

Sharon Zukin, Ph.D., is Professor of Sociology at Brooklyn College and the City University



With the rise of branding as the predominant marketing strategy of our time, cities of all sizes and regions try to distinguish themselves by establishing a unique place-identity as their urban brand. Competition is the motivating factor, for since the 1970s cities have increasingly vied for the attention of companies that could bring investments and jobs and for affluent visitors and residents who funnel their spending power into the local economy.

Though public officials define their efforts in terms of growth and jobs, they are pursuing a moving target, for the underlying dynamic is propelled by the mobility of both people and capital. Time annihilates space, as Karl Marx wrote more than a century ago, and with ever faster jet planes and electronic communications, both tourists and businesses easily move from place to place. It is impossible to ensure their loyalty. But cities try to be “entrepreneurial” about economic development. They offer subsidies to companies to locate factories and offices within their borders, hire famous architects to design flagship projects that will spur media buzz, and promote their reputation as “the biggest,” “the best,” or “the capital of the world” for one kind of activity or another. Yet the uneven reward structure of a “winner-take-all” economy reduces the chances that first- and second-tier cities will achieve equal results.

Though competitive development strategies may not bring the desired results, they do change a city in two important ways. First they provide a particular type of urban environment where the work of globalization gets done and second they provide a specific kind of global image that is readily understandable as self-promotion. In other words, strategies aiming to transform a second-tier into a first-tier city really do create new urban spaces for work and play, and the spaces themselves—their names and prices, their architectural forms, and the lifestyle of modern luxury that they promise—“rebrand” the city in a different way. Play space is just as important as work space, for besides new corporate headquarters the iconic architecture of transnational capitalism today offers huge opportunities for consumption: indoor shopping malls, spectacular modern art museums, and all-weather sports stadiums with expensive seats. Though these symbols of growth inspire pride, they push local governments beyond their fiscal limits and push local residents toward adopting modern, globalized modes of acquisition and display.

Like everyone else, investors, developers, and local government officials are influenced by the flow of ideas and strategies that travel around the world. These ideas originate as a response to specific conditions in one city or another, but when they are talked about at international meetings or in the media, they stir people’s interest

everywhere. When they are applied to one city after another, though, they lead to homogenized landscapes. Often developers and public officials choose a competitive response that promises to out-do the efforts of other cities, like building the tallest skyscraper in the world. This works until a developer in another city builds a taller tower. Another strategy that has been used from Brooklyn to Beijing is to hire superstar architects to design eye-catching buildings and new urban districts (on Frank Gehry’s plan for Atlantic Yards in Brooklyn, see <http://www.nytimes.com>, May 12, 2006). Again, this works until developers or public officials in the next city hire the same superstar architects to reproduce their signature style—or until developers run into financial problems and scale down the architects’ ambitious plans (on the scrapping of Frank Gehry’s plan, see <http://www.nydailynews.com>, June 4, 2009; <http://www.nytimes.com>, June 5, 2009). The risk is that these strategies will set up a treadmill of competition that guarantees a duplication of effects; this will in turn create an unwanted homogenization.

These cultural strategies do bring several important benefits to local governments. First, they suggest that all cities can be winners. Second, unlike old smokestacks and docks, they’re clean. Third, like shopping centers and Business Improvement Districts, they make people feel safe, and they create a sense of belonging to a broad public of consumers. *The Gates*, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, and the Cow Parade, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, are a part of the “hypermarket of culture” that keeps people enthralled. As a result, public art installations, modern art museums, and festivals have become a pervasive and an influential part of cities’ toolkits to encourage tourism on the one hand and entrepreneurial creativity on the other, all in the spirit of developing a new, modern, globally-oriented public culture. The effect, though, is to homogenize “difference” and repress local, multivocal cultural languages by a single dominant rhetoric of “global urbanism.”

For city dwellers eking out their existence day by day, such changes in the palette of urban life may expand some resources while reducing other opportunities for material survival. If they lose their house, their market stall, or access to the streets, the financial compensation they receive will not make up for the social networks that are broken and the change in the city’s authentic character. Is authenticity only a fiction spun for the aesthetic tastes of highly educated, mobile consumers of places? Or is it a set of historical overlays, unexpected encounters, and uneven development that creates a dense urban patchwork of cultural identities? It is too soon to know whether either of these places—the global city center or the global urban periphery—will impose an inevitable, irreversible homogenization.

TRINITY-IN-SHANGHAI TO LAUNCH IN FALL 2012

By Lisa Sapolis

Trinity College is pleased to announce the launch of a new study abroad program, Trinity-in-Shanghai (based at Fudan University), for fall 2012. Trinity-in-Shanghai will join the College's existing study away programs in Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Paris, Rome, Trinidad and Vienna. With this addition in Asia, Trinity will achieve its goal of having a study abroad footprint in all major regions of the world, distinguishing itself among top liberal arts colleges and furthering its leadership in the area of study abroad. Fudan, a 27,000-student comprehensive university that is ranked third in China, has formal ties with major research institutions in the U.S., including Yale, Stanford, Washington University in St. Louis, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Also a timely initiative,

this new program will be launched in the midst of President Obama's "100,000 Strong Initiative," designed to double the number of U.S. students in China by 2014 and eventually raise the number to 100,000. Although fewer than 20,000 U.S. students now study in China annually, the country has quickly become one of the most popular study abroad destinations. Through the Trinity-in-Shanghai program, Trinity students will have a great opportunity to study with the excellent faculty at Fudan University. A dynamic and cosmopolitan city of 20 million people anchoring the lower Yangtze River basin, Shanghai will provide Trinity students with opportunities to pursue a variety of field research, excursions to nearby cities, internships, and service opportunities during their study there. Detailed information on the course offerings, Mandarin instruction, and other activities at Trinity-in-Shanghai will be forthcoming in a new brochure, on the website of the Office of International Programs (OIP) at <http://www.trincoll.edu/UG/student/OIP.htm>, and by contacting the OIP, x2005, oip@trincoll.edu.

SUMMER STUDY AWAY GETS UNDERWAY WITH A NEW FACE:

Michelle Kollen to Spearhead Summer Study Away Programs



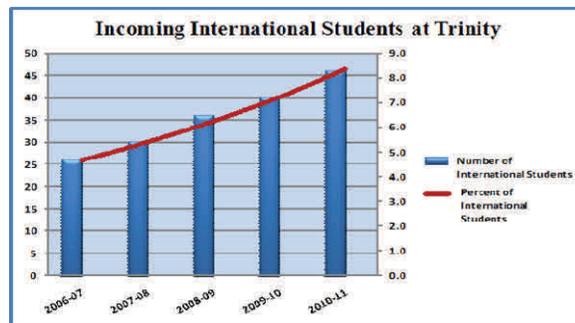
We are pleased to welcome Michelle Kollen, who has joined the OIP team as a Program Coordinator working with summer study away and outreach. She received her Master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs from Indiana University and her Bachelor's in Political Science and Economics from Saint Joseph's University. While an undergraduate, she studied abroad in London, where she developed an interest in international education. After graduate school, she worked as a Study Abroad Advisor for Arcadia University before moving to the Netherlands for nearly ten years. She lived in both the Hague and Leiden and learned the Dutch language fluently working in telecommunications and IT in the private sector. She is thrilled to be returning to the field of study abroad and higher education. She will be working with students and faculty on the development, advising, and administration of Trinity summer programs, as well as advising on non-Trinity summer study away options.

The Urban Planet

OISS STAFF NEWS

By Tamara Kribs

The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) provides assistance to current and prospective members of Trinity's diverse international community. In addition to Trinity's dynamic corps of international scholars who enrich the college through teaching and research, the student population includes 160 undergraduates from nearly 54 countries across the globe, including: Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Burma (Myanmar), Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. This fall, Trinity enrolled the largest group of international students in its history which comprised 8% of the class of 2014--46 of them from 25 countries. (The chart below shows fast our International Student population has grown since 2006). OISS is a multi-faceted resource: it assists students and scholars with immigration matters; it acts as a liaison with sponsoring agencies and foreign governments; and it helps strengthen the bonds between Trinity's international students and scholars, domestic students, and the communities of greater Hartford and across the world.



MEET OUR VISITING IIE SCHOLAR:

M. REZA GHANBARPOUR

Dr. M. Reza Ghanbarpour is a visiting scholar at the Center for Urban and Global Studies and the Environmental Science Program during 2010-11, supported jointly by a fellowship from the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Scott Johnson Memorial Fund at Trinity. Dr. Ghanbarpour conducts research in the field of environmental pollution, hydrological modeling, geostatistics & GIS and environmental decision analysis. He is currently working on two research projects in the field of environmental hydrology. First, he is conducting a research to investigate the effects of climate change and urbanization on variability of hydrologic parameters in Park River Watershed in Connecticut. The second project is spatial analysis of groundwater pollution in a plain located in Iran using geostatistical analysis and GIS. He has published a number of peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals and book chapters.

Dr. Ghanbarpour has developed a course on watershed hydrology (ENVS 244). He is teaching this course in the Environmental Science Program at the College in the spring semester of 2011. As a teacher, he seeks to provide his students not only with the theoretical and fundamental knowledge related to his courses, but also with the skills and applied concepts necessary to analyze the environmental problems in a real world context. Before joining Trinity, he was an assistant professor in Iran from 2005 to 2010. He has taught some undergraduate, graduate and PhD courses on meteorology, applied hydrology, hydraulics, river engineering, water resources and watershed modeling.

Fellowships and Grants Deadlines

January

1	Via CUGS: The Davis Projects for Peace
15	Senior Year Nomination: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

February

1	Junior Year Nomination: Harry S. Truman Scholarship
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March

1	Junior Year Nomination: Beinecke Scholarship
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April

Check Trinity Today	Via CUGS: Grossman Fund for Global Studies Grant and Senior Thesis Prize
	Via CUGS: Levy Fund for Urban Studies Grant and Senior Thesis Prize
	Via CUGS: Tanaka Student Research Grant
	Via CUGS: Technos Japan Tour

October

1	Senior Year Nomination: Marshall (UK) Scholarship
	Senior Year Nomination: Mitchell (Ireland) Scholarship
	Senior Year Nomination: Rhodes Scholarship
15	Senior Year Nomination: Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship Program
	Senior Year Nomination: Gates Cambridge Scholarship

For information on **Fellowships**, contact Anne Lundberg, Director of Urban Programs & Fellowships, x4242

For information on **Graduate Fellowships** in the sciences, contact Alison Draper, Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Science, x5189

For information on **CUGS Grants and Prizes**, visit the Center's website at:

<http://www.trincoll.edu/UrbanGlobal/CUGS/students/Research/Pages/>

THE CUGS ARTS INITIATIVE

By Jason Rojas

CUGS launched an Arts Initiative tasked with increasing collaboration between our campus arts community and the city's vibrant and extensive arts community in an effort to build stronger connections with our host community. The planning committee is made up of Professors Preston, Galm, Berry, Fisher, Younger and Director of Community Relations Jason Rojas. We spent our first year engaged in discussion about how such an initiative would be implemented. We continue to refine our efforts and to date our work has resulted in a series of events that have brought diverse constituencies together to celebrate the arts. In 2010 we funded the Broad Street Arts Initiative where we hosted Favianna Rodriguez a celebrated printmaker and digital artist based in Oakland, California. Using high-contrast colors and vivid figures, her composites provide a view into the lives of immigrant day laborers in the U.S., mothers of disappeared women in Juárez, Mexico, or her own life. Favianna also conducted workshops for our students as well as in the community. Information about Favianna can be found at <http://www.favianna.com/bio/index.php>.

For 2011 one exciting project that we are funding is Professor Jonathan Gourley's proposal "**Virtual Daylight: An Urban Environmental Revival**" in collaboration with Park Water Arts, Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative and artist Mary Miss. This project "City as Living Laboratory" is a collaborative artistic approach that addresses systemic environmental topics through site-specific installations that are distributed across the local urban context. The project will involve a series of community conversations that will bring together area artists, scientists, historians, and citizen stakeholders to create a collective bigger picture of their cultural and environmental context. Events will be held at Trinity College, The Studio@Billings Forge, and Connecticut Historical Society. For more details about our work, please check out our webpage at <http://www.trincoll.edu/UG/faculty/grants/arts.htm>

***The CUGS arts committee is grateful to the important contributions from Professors Claire Rossini and Pablo Delano during the first phase of this initiative.**

TRINFO.CAFE

By Carlos Espinosa

In addition to celebrating 10 years of service to the Hartford and Trinity communities in November, Trinfo.Café continues to expand opportunities for student research, particularly for those students who have returned from abroad and are interested in connecting to the city. Starting in the spring 2010 semester, Trinity student William Pollack '10 had the opportunity to conduct an independent study at Trinfo.Café that linked community service and learning into a semester long experience that culminated with a comparative research project. Will Pollack's independent study had him teaching basic computer literacy in Spanish to neighborhood residents and designing a new program for recent immigrant arrivals on practical internet use, while also conducting the necessary research to complete a comparative analysis on the different

approaches taken by Chile and the US to tackle the digital divide. This past semester, Sandra Gonzalez '11, completed an internship for her community learning class Organizing in Neighborhoods at Trinfo.Café where she taught computer literacy classes in Spanish to city residents; organized a community educational event in conjunction with the Trinity College student group Stop The Raids on a provision of the Obama administration's immigration policy called the DREAM Act; and wrote a comparative analysis on the different policy approaches Spain and the US take towards undocumented immigrants. This semester Kendra Gedney '11, will be teaching computer literacy classes in Spanish, co-teaching our youth program for the students of the Montessori School, and writing a comparative piece on how microloans have been implemented in Peru and in poor urban communities in the US, using Hartford, as an example. For more information, please visit: <http://www.trinfo cafe.org/academics/>

Nick Bacon, '10 My first experience with the Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS) was during my senior year at Trinity. I had come across an announcement for the Stephen Levy Senior Research Prize and decided to submit my thesis, *Lost in Dialectic: A Critical Introduction to Urban Space in Greater Hartford, 1633-2010*. A few months later, I learned that I had won first place, and was invited to work at the center as the first Research Associate in Urban Studies. Working at CUGS has been an extremely rewarding experience. In addition to conducting extensive research, or performing GIS analysis, and publically presenting on topics of my own choosing, I've written a chapter for an upcoming book on Hartford, focusing on the transformation of my hometown, East Hartford, CT. Moreover, by granting me access to a plethora of lectures, workshops, and opportunities to converse with other researchers and scholars, I've substantially developed my understanding of urban history, policy, and theory.

Tomàs de' Medici, '11

The Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS) is the crux of my Trinity College experience. In 2007, I matriculated to the College and began my career with the Center. The Center has continually acted as the nexus for my most significant Trinity experiences. I began working at the Center as a freshman, and immediately was assigned to studying Chinese urbanization. During the summer prior to my sophomore year Dean Chen invited me to join him as a co-author for *The "Instant City" Coming of Age: Production of Spaces in China's Shenzhen Special Economic Zone*, which was published in the December, 2010 issue of *Urban Geography*. As my knowledge and appreciation of China grew, the Center brought me to the megacities of China with the expedition, Boomtowns of the Yangtze River. This experience and my continued work at the Center further galvanized my interest in China. I spent the spring of 2010 in Shanghai at Fudan University, further increasing my first-hand knowledge and understanding of China. Now, as a senior, I am taking my time at the Center for Urban and Global Studies to its logical conclusion with a self-designed Urban and Global Studies major and a thesis under the auspices of the Center and the economics department regarding the primary goods export relationship between China and Latin America. I will always be grateful to the Center for all of the opportunities and direction it has afforded me.

Ezra Moser, '10

The Cities Program played a central role in my choosing to attend Trinity, and I came here with the intention of pursuing an interdisciplinary, urban-themed course of study. The Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS) allowed me to follow these academic interests after I completed the cities program my sophomore year, and helped me to design my interdisciplinary Urban Studies major. More importantly, however, CUGS transformed my academic experience by fostering a more globally oriented shift in my focus. Directly following my junior year I participated in the center's inaugural "Boomtowns of the Yangtze River" summer program, which was an incredible opportunity to witness and study global processes of urbanization firsthand. I still retained my original interests in American urbanism and urban history as a double major in American Studies, and my senior thesis, which examined the experience and socio-political integration of refugee communities in my home city of Portland, Maine, allowed me to blend a global and local focus. I now live in London where I am pursuing a master's degree from the London School of Economics in City Design and Social Science.

Yuwei Xie, '11

I started getting involved in The Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS) first through the Cities Program, which triggered my interest in urban issues. Thanks to the information provided by CUGS, I was awarded the A.V. Davis Fellowship during the summer of 2008 to conduct research and intern at Hartford Preservation Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving historical buildings in Hartford. In the summer of 2009, I participated in the China Yangtze Boomtown Program. It was a most rewarding experience that helped me gain further insight into a number of Chinese cities, including my native city Shanghai. I started working at CUGS as a research assistant during the summer of 2010. The projects that I have been involved in cover a great breadth of local and global urban topics, adding to my urban knowledge. Last semester as a First-Year Seminar mentor for the Cities Program, I encouraged the students to explore the resources the center provides in order to enhance their urban studies. For me, CUGS has greatly enriched my learning experience, without which my Trinity education would not have been the same.

WORLD CITIES LECTURE SERIES

PRESENTED BY THE CENTER FOR URBAN AND GLOBAL STUDIES

Tuesday, February 8

Islamabad: 12 miles from Pakistan, or 'the Only Truly Pakistani City'?

Annie Harper, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International Studies

Tuesday, February 22

A Combined Floodplain Hydraulic and GIS Analysis for Sustainable Urban Planning

Reza Ghanbarpour, IIE Visiting Scholar

Tuesday, March 8

Mecca, Jerusalem, Baghdad: The Image of the City in the Early Islamic World

Zayde Antrim, Assistant Professor of History and International Studies

Tuesday, March 29

Comparing Recognition Struggles and Immigrant Inclusion in London and New York Enclaves

Vojislava Filipcevic, Raether Postdoctoral Fellow in Urban Studies, CUGS

Tuesday, April 12

Living with a Predicament: Renaissance and Baroque Authors on the Difference of Naples

Sean Cocco, Assistant Professor of History

Tuesday, April 26

Fractional Forms of Post-neoliberal Urban Belonging: Microcitizenships in Buenos Aires

Ryan Centner, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Tufts University

All talks will be held during the 12:15-1:30 Common Hour at 70 Vernon Street.

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We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to everyone who contributed to this issue.

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THE CENTER FOR URBAN AND GLOBAL STUDIES

COMMUNITY LEARNING INITIATIVE'S ANNUAL WORKSHOP SERIES: "PEDAGOGIES OF THE REAL WORLD"

Present:

"College-Community Partnerships in Undergraduate Research"

Presented by Andrea E. Chapdelaine, Ph.D.
February 28, 2011 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm
Venue: Reese Room at the Smith House,
Trinity College

RSVP by February 18, 2011