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Università Degli Studi Di Firenze - Dipartimento di Architettura - A.A. 2017/2018
Jointly With York University of Toronto, Faculty of Environmental Studies

B020765 (cds B117) Approfondimento: Seminario tematico di Architettura 6 CFU

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Language: English

ANNOUNCEMENT

Spring Institute in Global Suburban Studies Florence and Milan (Italy)

May 1 – May 11, 2018

<http://suburbs.info.yorku.ca>

*First week in Florence
Second week in Milan*

Please send application materials to
camilla.perrone@unifi.it
and archint@unifi.it
no later than February 28, 2018.

Advanced Master's and PhD students, post-docs and early career researchers from the University of Florence are invited to apply for the *Spring Institute in Global Suburban Studies* taking place Florence and Milan in May 2018. The Institute is co-organised by University of Florence (Laboratory of Critical Planning and Design) and York University of Toronto within the framework of the International Agreement of Cultural and scientific cooperation between the University of Florence and York University. The course is offered within the umbrella of the Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) on Global Suburbanisms (<http://suburbs.info.yorku.ca/about-us/>).

The two-week long Spring Institute, structured around the themes of global suburbanization, land, and infrastructure, will combine formal and informal opportunities to study the sub/urban



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landscapes of Florence and Milan. It will include thematic lectures by international experts, field trips exploring the urban centres and peripheries of Florence and Milan, as well as career building workshops for professionals and early career academics.

Speakers include:

- Sandro Balducci, Politecnico di Milano
- Marco Facchinetti, Politecnico di Milano
- Valeria Fedeli, Politecnico di Milano
- Pierre Filion, University of Waterloo
- Roger Keil, York University
- Ute Lehrer, York University
- Markus Moos, University of Waterloo
- Giancarlo Paba, University of Florence
- Nick Phelps, UCL
- Camilla Perrone, University of Florence
- Iacopo Zetti University of Florence

Course overview and objectives

The course is based on the *Global Suburbanism* research core and objectives as quoted below (<http://suburbs.info.yorku.ca/about-us/>).

Urbanization is at the core of the global economy today. Yet, the crucial aspect of 21st century urban development is *suburbanization* - defined as an increase in non-central city population and economic activity, as well as urban spatial expansion. It includes all manner of peripheral growth: from the wealthy gated communities of Southern California, to the high rise-dominated suburbs of Europe and Canada, the exploding outskirts of Indian and Chinese cities, and the slums and squatter settlements in Africa and Latin America.

Suburbanism is the growing prevalence of qualitatively distinct 'suburban ways of life'. This Major Collaborative Research Initiative is the first major research project to systematically take stock of worldwide developments.

We analyze recent forms of urbanization and emerging forms of (sub)urbanism as well as the dilemmas of aging suburbanity. We broadly focus on the governance of suburbanization, that is, efforts to guide and regulate its development. It involves state, market and civil society actors and implies democratic deliberation *and* social conflict. The categories land, which includes housing, shelter systems, real estate, greenbelts, megaprojects, and infrastructure, including transportation, water and social services, serve as the two prime anchors upon which we hinge specific research projects. Examination of Canadian suburbanization and suburbanism will serve as a basis and comparative "control" case to understand suburbanization in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia.



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The objectives are threefold: (1) To document and evaluate the diversity of global suburbanisms in their various contexts; (2) To explore the mutual and co-constructive elements of environmental or financial crisis with the production and governance of global suburban space; (3) To use our wide-ranging empirical data and analysis to intervene in urban theory.

Drawing on methodological and analytical approaches from political economy, urban political ecology, and social and cultural geography our international team contributes to better grasping the complex processes of suburbanization as they pose challenges to policymakers, planners, and academics alike. For each approach, we have developed concrete foundational, thematic and geographical projects and case studies. Some cut across all geographical areas; others will be specific to particular geographies. They are cross-referential.

Learning objectives

The overall objective of the course is to stimulate thinking about the complexity, role, values, and problems of suburban environments (urban and regional systems), and to raise awareness about the importance of planning and designing for quality of a “suburban way of life”.

Students who have successfully completed the course will be able to:

1. Distinguish key historical phases of suburban development.
2. Discuss the process, forces, and factors of suburbanization.
3. Apply fundamental urban theories and models of (sub)urban and regional structure.
4. Identify the three fundamental dimensions of suburbanization (land, infrastructure and governance).
5. Summarize each of these dimensions and articulate examples of how they are related within a suburban planning context.
6. Debate issues and topics related to contemporary suburban way of life.
7. Describe the social life, activities, and interactions of people in urban environments.
8. Understand relationships between global environmental and economic trends and their impact on diverse cultures and communities.

Reading Materials

There is one required text for this course:

Keil R. (2017), *Suburban Planet: Making the World Urban from the Outside In*, Wiley¹.

Course format

The Spring Institute follows a lecture, explorations and discussion format. Specifically, lectures present the primary themes and concepts from the assigned readings, with an opportunity for questions and comments from students. The exploratory sessions alternate between: (1) structured discussion of topics related to places (2) self-exploration reporting.

¹ <https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Suburban+Planet%3A+Making+the+World+Urban+from+the+Outside+In-p-9780745683119>



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Requirements & evaluation

Students are expected to attend and participate during class meetings, inside and outside (tours and filed trips). The class participation component of the final grade consists of (1) attendance at lecture and discussion sessions as well as (2) *active involvement* in the discussion, careful listening, and respect for the opinions of others. The periodic **Independent Research Assignments** also count towards class participation.

Eligibility

Advanced Master's and PhD students, post-docs and early career researchers from the University of Florence with an interest in sub/urban studies are invited to apply and will receive priority in the selection. Applicants from other institutions will be accommodated if there is availability. This is a course offered for credit at University of Florence.

Application process

Please send an expression of interest (no more than 500 words) outlining your research interests, how your work relates to questions of global suburbanization, and what you hope to gain from participation in the institute. A selective procedure will be launched after that.

Submissions must include your full name, email address, institutional affiliation, program, and, if you are a student, the year of your expected graduation.

Please send application materials to camilla.perrone@unifi.it and archint@unifi.it **no later than February 28, 2018.**

Master degree theses tutored by an international advisory board will be offered to students who attended the seminar with excellent results.

PhD students, post-docs and early career researchers will be included in the international research group on Global Suburbanism.

Costs

Financially supported by the Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) on Global Suburbanisms, the Spring Institute will bring together leading international scholars in the field of sub/urban studies from York University, the University of Waterloo, University College London, Politecnico di Milano, and the University of Florence, with early career scholars and graduate students from Canada and Italy to provide an in-depth look at suburbanization processes.

Students from University of Florence will be asked to support their own expenses (travel and accommodation cost that will be very low) for the week in Milan. All of the other costs (meals and transportation) will be covered by MCRI on Global Suburbanisms.

Draft schedule

	Monday April 30	Tuesday May 1	Wednesday May 2	Thursday May 3	Friday May 4	Saturday May 5	Sunday May 6
AM	Arrival Florence (students from	Public holiday	<i>Introduction</i> University of Florence	<i>Suburban Land</i> Ute Lehrer	Camilla Perrone Giancarlo Paba	Iacopo Zetti	Free time Travel to Milano



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	<i>Orientation</i>	<i>Explore</i> Florence by foot, bicycle, and public transit	<i>Suburban Planet</i> Roger Keil	<i>Suburban bus tour</i>	<i>Participant Projects:</i> Exchange of ideas and experiences	<i>Career Building:</i> Methods of suburban research	
	Monday May 7	Tuesday May 8	Wednesday May 9	Thursday May 10	Friday May 11	Saturday May 12	
AM	<i>Introduction</i> Politecnico di Milano	<i>Suburban Infrastructure</i> Pierre Filion	<i>Still Detached & Subdivided</i> Markus Moos	Sandro Balducci & Valeria Fedeli	Marco Facchinetti	Departure	
PM	<i>Guided walking tour in city</i>	<i>Suburban bus tour</i>	<i>Participant Projects:</i> Exchange of ideas and experiences	<i>Career Building:</i> Publication	<i>Final Group Meetings:</i> Evaluation		