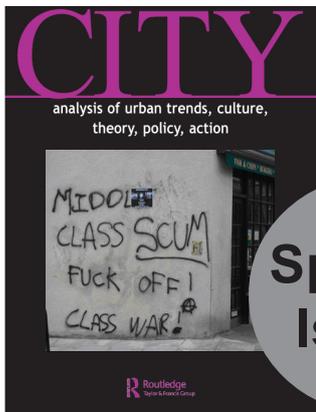


CITY

analysis of urban trends, culture,
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Special
Issue

Special Issue: Cities for people, not for profit

Volume 13, June – September 2009, issues 2 and 3

Guest Editors:

Neil Brenner, Peter Marcuse and Margit Mayer

The rapidly unfolding global economic recession of 2008-9 is dramatically intensifying the contradictions around which urban social movements have been rallying, suddenly validating their claims regarding the unsustainability and destructiveness of capitalist forms of urbanization. Against this background, it appears increasingly urgent to understand how different types of cities are being repositioned within increasingly volatile, financialized circuits of capital accumulation. Equally important is the question of how this crisis has provoked or constrained alternative visions of urban life that point beyond capitalism as a structuring principle of political-economic and spatial organization.

This special issue of *CITY* explores both of these issues through wide-ranging contributions by a diverse group of European and North American urban theorists, sociologists, planners and activists. Chapters address a broad range of themes related to the last three decades of urban restructuring and urban struggles, including: the nature and contributions of critical urban theory; the neoliberalization of urban life; emergent forms of sociospatial polarization; and ongoing struggles to combat exclusionary, profit-based forms of urbanism. By exploring such issues, this volume attempts to contribute intellectual resources that may be useful for those institutions, movements and actors that aim to roll back the contemporary hypercommodification of urban life, and on this basis, to promote alternative, radically democratic, socially just and sustainable forms of urbanism. The slogan, "Cities for people, not for profit," sets into stark relief what the contributors view as a central political objective for ongoing efforts, at once theoretical and practical, to address the crises of our time.

Contents

Editorial

Bob Catterall

Cities for people, not for profit: introduction

Neil Brenner, Peter Marcuse and Margit Mayer

From critical urban theory to the right to the city

Peter Marcuse

What is critical urban theory?

Neil Brenner

Urban studies, critical theory, radical politics: eight theses for Peter Marcuse

Kanishka Goonewardena

Critical development studies and the praxis of planning

Katharine N. Rankin

The urban politics of roll-with-it neoliberalization

Roger Keil

Critical theory and 'gray space': mobilization of the colonized

Oren Yiftachel

Urban policy and architecture for people, not for power

Bruno Flierl in conversation with **Peter Marcuse**

Culture industry cities: from discipline to exclusion, from citizen to tourist

Heinz Steinert

Missing Marcuse: on gentrification and displacement

Tom Slater

Is it, or is not? The conceptualisation of gentrification and displacement and its political implications in the case of Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg

Matthias Bernt and Andrej Holm

Berlin's waterfront site struggle

Albert Scharenberg and Ingo Bader

Taking the bus daily and demonstrating on Sunday: reflections on the formation of political subjectivity in an urban world

Julie-Anne Boudreau with Nathalie Boucher and Marilena Liguori

An in memoriam for the just city of Amsterdam

Justus Uitermark

The 'Right to the City' in the context of shifting mottos of urban social movements

Margit Mayer

Endpiece

War Kids (Revisiting Baghdad)

Roy Scranton

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