In the early 1970s, Henri Lefebvre anticipated a situation of "generalized urbanization" in which an "urban fabric" would be extended to encompass the entire planet. More recently, geographer Edward Soja declared that "every square inch of the world is urbanized to some degree." While the changing morphology and scale of urbanized regions has attracted considerable attention among urban scholars, the worldwide "urban fabric" postulated by Lefebvre and Soja remains underresearched. Building on a theoretical framework that is now under development in the Urban Theory Lab-GSD, this research seminar has explored the Lefebvre-Soja hypothesis of complete urbanization with reference to eight "extreme territories" that are normally not considered to contain urban elements—the Amazon, the Arctic, the atmosphere, the Himalayas, the Gobi desert, the Sahara desert, Siberia and the Pacific Ocean. Please join us for presentations and discussion of our work this semester.

Schedule

All presentations will be held in Gund Hall 124 and are open to the public. Please join the Urban Theory Lab for this discussion of our work in progress on planetary urbanization and the reinvention of urban theory to decipher the rapidly transforming geographies of early 21st century capitalism.

9:00-9:30am: Planetary urbanization and the 'extreme territories'—a theory-driven research experiment

9:30-10:45am: Urbanization in the Arctic (Ali Fard | Ghazal Jafari ) and Siberia (Roi Salgueiro | Conor O’Shea)

11:00am-12:15pm: Urbanization in the Amazon (Christopher Buccino | Danika Cooper ) and the Sahara (Tamer Elshayal | Marianne Polvin)

12:15-1:30pm: Urbanization in the Chauhaus
Lunch Break

1:30-2:45pm: Urbanization in the Himalayas (Michael Chieffalo | Christopher Alton) and the Gobi steppe (Adam Tanaka)

3:00-4:15pm: Urbanization in the Pacific Ocean (Martin Pavlinic | Hector Tarrido-Picart) and the Atmosphere (Melany Sun-Min Park | Robert Dauro)

4:30-5:30pm: Final roundtable on the extreme territories of urbanization
Reflections from David Wachsmuth (NYU), Stuart Schrader (NYU) and Alvaro Sevilla Buitrago (Madrid) followed by general discussion and debate moderated by Neil Brenner.

7:00-11:00pm: Urbanization in Somerville
Urban Theory Lab end of the year celebration at Neil Brenner's home
Planetary urbanization and the ‘extreme territories’—a theory-driven research experiment
Neil Brenner | Daniel Ibañez | Kian Goh | Nikos Katsikis

Urbanization in the Arctic and Siberia
Grga Basic (Arctic) and Ana Maria Quirós (Siberia)

Urbanization in the Amazon and the Sahara
Leif Estrada (Amazon) and Dalal Alsayer (Sahara)

Urbanization in the Chauhaus
Lunch Break

Urbanization in the Himalayas and the Gobi steppe
Vineet Diwadkar (Himalayas) and Shirin Barol (Gobi)

Urbanization in the Pacific Ocean and the atmosphere
Matthew Brown (Pacific) and Chris Bennett (atmosphere)

Final roundtable on the extreme territories of urbanization
Reflections from Álvaro Sevilla Buitrago (Madrid)
followed by general discussion and debate moderated by Neil Brenner.

Urbanization in Somerville
Urban Theory Lab end of the year celebration at Neil Brenner’s home
‘Operational Landscapes’ of Planetary Urbanization
End-of-semester colloquium

Urban Theory Lab | Research Practicum
Instructor: Prof. Neil Brenner
Harvard GSD Spring 2016

6 MAY 2016
9:00 am - 5:30 pm
GUND 123

SCHEDULE

9:00am - 9:30am  Welcome and introduction to the colloquium by Neil Brenner (Professor of Urban Theory, Harvard GSD)

9:30am - 10:45am  Urbanization in the Arctic and the Himalayas
Alex Duffy and Genevieve Ennis-Hume (Arctic)
Justin Henceroth and Rebecca Nolan (Himalayas)

11:00am - 12:15pm  Urbanization in the Amazon and the Sahara
Francisco Lara and Andrea Margit (Amazon)
Carla Ferrer and John McCartin (Sahara)

12:15pm - 1:30pm  Lunch Break

1:30pm - 2:45pm  Urbanization in Siberia and the Gobi Desert
Hernán Bianchi and Amanda Miller (Siberia)
Guan Min and Andrew Stokols (Gobi)

3:00pm - 4:15pm  Urbanization in the Pacific Ocean and the Atmosphere
Renia Kagkou and Ashley Thompson (Pacific)
Rawan Al Saffar and Ramzi Naja (Atmosphere)

4:30pm - 5:30pm  Final roundtable comments by Álvaro Sevilla Buitrago (Fulbright Scholar, Harvard GSD + Professor of Urbanism and Territorial Planning, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid) and Martín Arboleda (Urban Studies Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard GSD)

7:00pm - 7pm  Urban Theory Lab end of the year celebration at the Thirsty Scholar, 70 Beacon Street, Somerville

Cartographic representation by Renia Kagkou and Ashley Thompson