

urban temporalities: materialities, practices, subjectivities

Arch 3308/6308/4408 | Spring 2019 | 3 cu | Jeremy Foster (jf252) Thursday 10:10am– 12:05pm 142 E Sibley



A critical part of cities' attraction derives from the way they combine the qualities of an *artefact* (a material trace of human imaginaries, technologies and governmentalities) and a *landscape* (a territory in which human and nonhuman are articulated in a constant state of becoming). The common thread linking these two conceptions of the city is the *passage of time*: each suggests a different kind of 'relative permanence', a co-ordering of time and space that lends causality and orientation to human existence. This course explores the diverse implications of this ontological temporality, both in terms of cities' material evolution and morphology, and how they are imagined, used, and experienced. In particular, we will consider how conventional ways of thinking about how cities mediate the passage of time (ie. 'collage', 'palimpsest', 'memory theatre') are unsettled by various dynamics set in motion by neo-liberalization (hyper-urbanization, place-consumption, construction-urbanism, migration, spectrality) as well as accelerating environmental change and the emergence of Anthropocene and 'post-historical' time-consciousness. This simultaneous 'speeding up' and 'dehistoricization' of the passage of time is paralleled by an array of contradictory urban conditions (ie. urban shrinkage, urbicide, post-industrial ruination, informalization, 'ephemeral urbanism', museification etc). Such realities not only suggest a need to rethink relations between the human and the nonhuman, but also less linear and human-centric ways of understanding the passage of time that have consequences for the design, construction and sustaining of constructed environments. Combining readings and mapping/plotting/scoring/other representational media, students will research and analyze the pasts, presents and futures of a particular city through three lenses: *materialities/ecologies*; *rhythms/practices*; and *subjectivities/narratives*. These exercises will come together in a mini-exhibition at the end of the semester.