

Urban Theory: A critical introduction to power, cities and urbanism in the 21st century

Alan Harding, Talja Blokland



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What *is* Urban Theory? How can it be used to understand our urban experiences? Experiences typically defined by enormous inequalities, not just *between* cities but *within* cities, in an increasingly interconnected and globalised world. This book explains:

- Relations between urban theory and **modernity** in key ideas of the Chicago School, spatial analysis, humanistic urban geography, and 'radical' approaches like Marxism
- Cities and the transition to informational economies, **globalization**, urban growth machine and urban regime theory, the city as an "actor"
- Spatial expressions of **inequality** and key ideas like segregation, ghettoization, suburbanization, gentrification
- Socio-cultural spatial expressions of **difference** and key concepts like gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity and "culturalist" perspectives on identity, lifestyle, subculture
- How cities should be understood as **intersections** of horizontal and vertical of coinciding resources, positions, locations, influencing how we make and understand urban experiences.

Critical, interdisciplinary and pedagogically informed - with opening summaries, boxes, questions for discussion and guided further reading - **Urban Theory: A Critical Introduction to Power, Cities and Urbanism in the 21st Century** provides the tools for any student of the city to understand, even to change, our own urban experiences.

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