

Reading Tips and Study Questions CLASS TWO

Required reading

1. (textbook) Susan Fainstein, **The Just City**, Pp.1-6 only in Introduction, plus chapters 5 (Amsterdam) and 6 (Conclusion).
2. David Harvey, "Places, Regions, Territories," chapter 8 in **Cosmopolitanism and the Geographies of Freedom**, p. 166-201
3. Michael B. Teitz, and Karen Chapple, "Planning and Poverty: An Uneasy Relationship," in Naomi Carmon and Susan S. Fainstein, eds., *Policy, Planning, and People: Promoting Justice in Urban Development* (Penn, 2013), pp. 205-223.

Optional: If you'd like to see and hear Fainstein present on the just city, here's a [video lecture](#) by her in 2011 (she begins about 8 minutes into the video, following an introduction, and viewing time = about 60 minutes)

Discussion questions

1. Why is there so little attention to just outcomes in most literature on planning and policy analysis, according to **Fainstein** in her Introduction? And why is this all the more important as the "competitiveness" frame continues to dominate cities—and much discourse about them—worldwide?
2. Contrast across cities and nations: What key *institutions* did the Dutch create in the post-war period that promoted economic security as well as equality? How did the approach to *urban renewal* in Amsterdam differ from that in New York? And what role have *social housing* and *immigration* played in the city's still-evolving approach to urban development and social policy?
3. What political and other factors does Fainstein, in her Conclusion, argue are most crucial for developing and sustaining just-city policies? What do you think of her policy prescriptions? Pick 1-2 policies or principles on her list that you would particularly like to discuss in class and/or your weekly Forum post.
4. According to **David Harvey**, places are critical for the formation of memory, hope, and political will. Yet, they are also at the root of exclusion, ethnocentrism, and fascism. Places, he argues, shape larger "spaces"—the economy, for example—and yet places are destroyed and recreated by these larger processes. What are some implications of Harvey's arguments for planning?

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

11.401 Introduction to Housing, Community, and Economic Development
Fall 2015

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.