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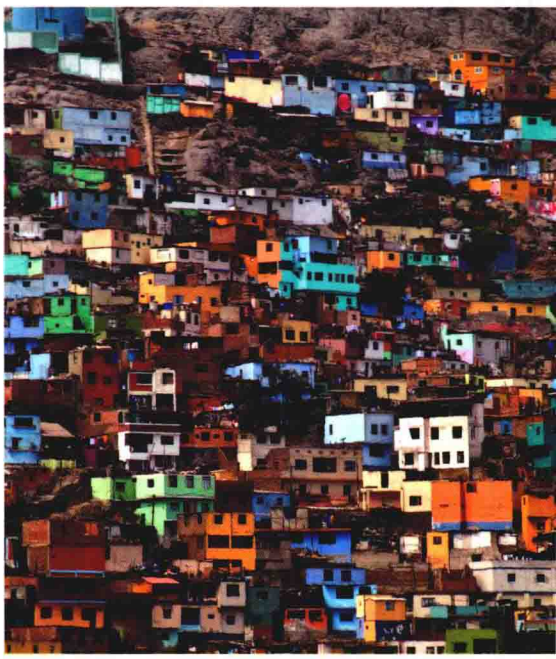
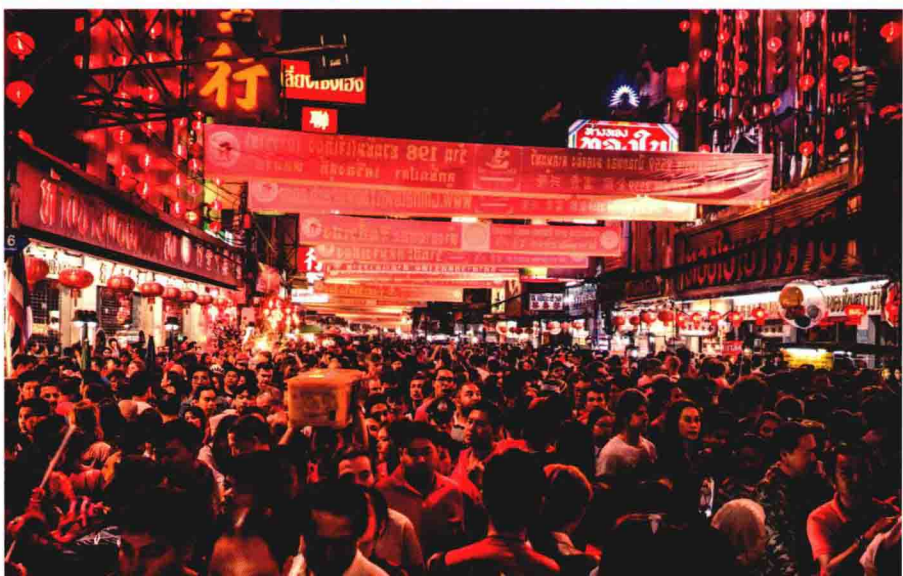
Urbanization in a Global Context

Edited by Alison L. Bain and Linda Peake





"Urbanization in a Global Context provides an excellent introduction to discussions of global urban issues and processes while being mindful of the unique position of Canadian cities within them."

—Colin Mills, Langara College

"This textbook challenges users to connect urbanization in the global south and global north, rather than seeing them as analytically and empirically separate."

—Leslie Kern, Mount Allison University

Urbanization in a Global Context helps students understand the processes of urbanization by examining cities across the global North and the global South. Truly international in its approach, this contributed volume emphasizes the interconnectedness of urban places in different world regions. Each chapter explores contemporary urban issues and introduces current urban scholarly debates, grounding them in international case studies and discussing their relevance to Canadian urban contexts. Featuring a diversity of perspectives and encouraging critical thought throughout, *Urbanization in a Global Context* provides students with the foundation they need to develop their own well-informed positions on complex issues confronting cities around the world.

Highlights

- **Expert contributors** from across Canada provide broad, cutting-edge analysis that reflects their training and experience as top urban researchers and scholars.
- **Coverage of the global North and South** opens students' eyes to the differences and similarities between cities in developed and developing regions.
- **Comparative Canadian examples** help students connect international trends and issues to the Canadian context.
- **Activities and questions for review** prompt students to reflect critically on the complexities of urban issues discussed in each chapter.
- **Additional online resources**—including suggested activities, sample essay questions, and links to online materials for students as well as an instructor's manual and image bank for instructors—offer engaging materials to enhance the learning and teaching experiences.

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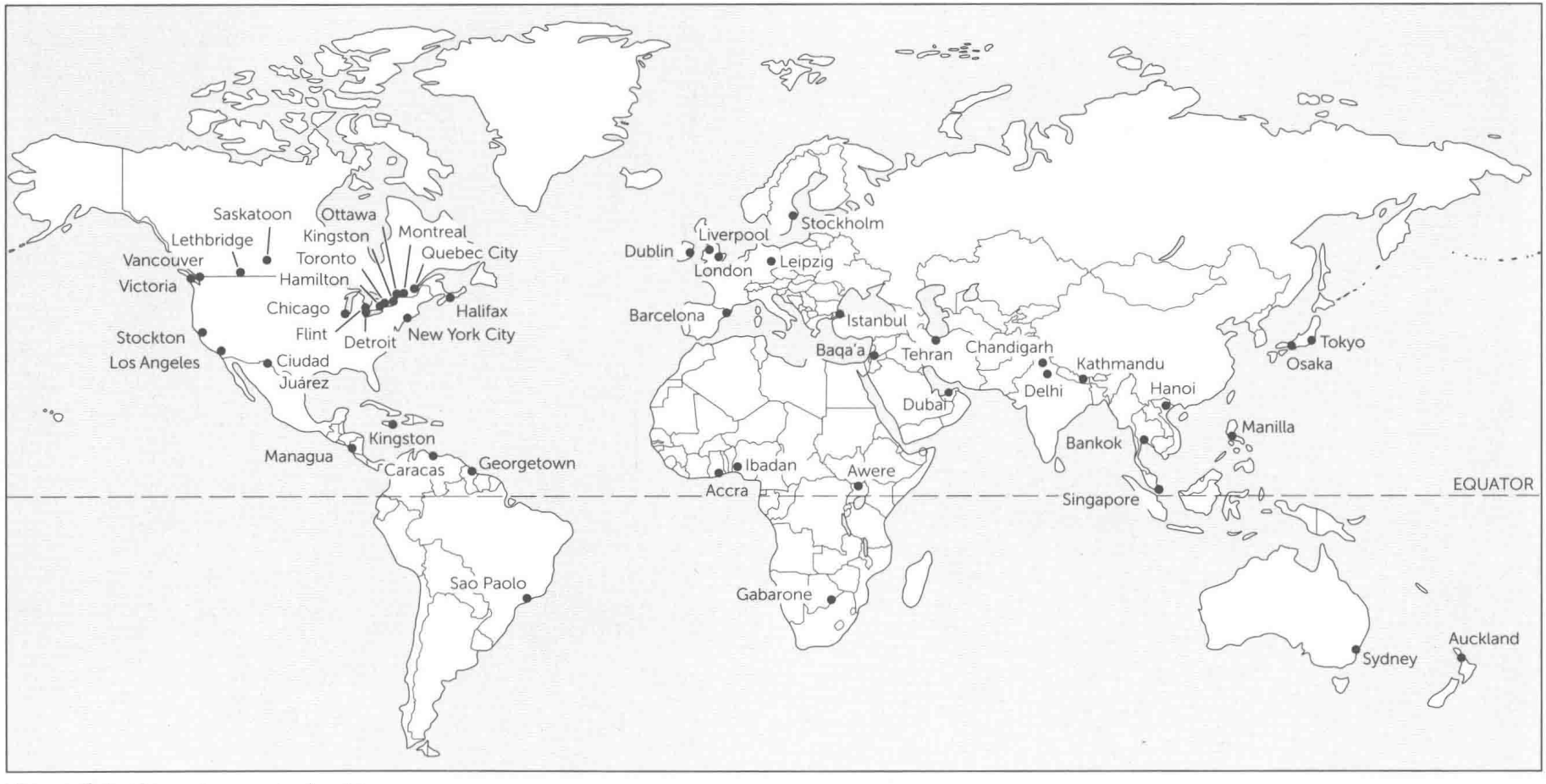

Figure 0.1 Map of case study cities

Urbanization
in a Global Context

Alison L. Bain

This book is for my inquisitive and inspiring undergraduate Urban Geography students who will hopefully continue to explore cities and become part of the next generation of urban scholars.

Linda Peake

This book is for my much loved family, Karen de Souza, Essie B. and Barbara Peake, and the memory of my much missed mother and father, Marjorie and Frederick Peake.

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Preface

A Guide to the Text

This textbook engages with dimensions of global urbanization, introducing Canadian undergraduate students to cities outside Canada across the global North and South. Such a global reach emphasizes the interconnectedness of urban places and speaks to an approach to urban analysis that accentuates the similarities and differences between cities in different world regions. Each chapter focuses on different contemporary urban issues that are central to current urban scholarly debates and grounds them in international case studies. How these issues resonate with the Canadian urban context is discussed through descriptive accounts that draw on examples from a selection of small-, mid-, and large-sized Canadian cities. Activities and questions at the end of each chapter are designed as concrete exercises to prompt students to collaborate with peers to further reflect critically upon how these urban issues could relate to their lived experience in, and growing knowledge of, Canadian cities. In this preface we outline the foci of the chapters as well as the structure of the textbook, ending with a brief description of how readers can productively engage with this textbook to actively deepen their knowledge of the urban.

Our critical examination of how cities work—the roles they play and the meanings they engender—and of how and why urbanization is important, is structured into five sections: (i) urban development; (ii) urban planning and policy; (iii) urban forms; (iv) urban lives; and (v) urban infrastructure and livability. This organizational structure permits analysis of contemporary cities in a conceptual sequence that builds from theoretical foundations about patterns and processes of urban change within national and global urban systems, to urban planning and policy frameworks that govern the production of urban space, to the contemporary built form and appearance of cities, to lived experiences within cities, and finally to the material infrastructural challenges for sustainable and just urban futures. To capture some of the diversity of lived urban experiences, each chapter engages with cities in the global North, the global South, or both, offering distinctive perspectives as well as providing an urban case study of one, two, or three different cities (see the map on the inside front cover for a complete list of the cities discussed in the case studies). We journey with our readers in and beyond North America and Europe so that they might appreciate how the urban is differently manifested in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, and Australasia.

The authors of the chapters comprise a mix of late-, mid- and early-career Canadian scholars, ranging from full professors to graduate students, permitting a breadth of critical reflection that is both cutting-edge and rooted in rich scholarly experience and training. The majority of chapters are co-authored and multi-authored, which not only serves to increase the range of voices and empirical examples provided, but also emphasizes the value of dialogue between scholars. And while the majority of contributors teach in geography, other urban studies–related disciplines are represented, not least by those individuals whose affiliations cross disciplinary boundaries to anthropology, development studies, health sciences, sexuality studies, sociology, urban planning, and women's and gender studies. Given the cross-disciplinary reach of contributors, the range of research methods used to collect the data that inform each city case study is many and varied, including a combination of quantitative and qualitative analytical techniques: statistical analysis of censuses and other large data sets; archival research; participant observation; questionnaire surveys; interviews; and discourse analysis. It should also be clear from the range of images and maps incorporated into each chapter, that visual methods—particularly photography and cartography—are important tools for researchers seeking to understand and represent the complexity of the urban.

The goal of this textbook is to challenge users to understand urbanization in the global South and global North as relational rather than as analytically and empirically separate. In Chapter 1, we, the editors, describe urbanization both as a *level* and as a *process*, providing a geographical and historical overview of the current dynamic pace of urbanization at the global scale. The chapter evaluates the extent to which the Urban Age thesis, which stipulates that the majority of the world's population now lives in urban places, is of value. Counteracting

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this Urban Age–view of the urban as a container and the city as a bounded and knowable entity, the chapter subsequently turns to a theoretical consideration of "the urban question." Addressing both foundational and contemporary urban theory, attention is then given to different ways in which the urban can be understood as a socio-spatial process. The chapter concludes by asking what can be gained from the adoption of a geographical approach to the urban. Concepts of urban space and urban places and the many philosophical paradigms used by geographers to explain them help the reader to better appreciate what is at stake in how the city is studied.

Part I: Urban Development

The first section of the textbook gives readers an overview of urban development at global and national scales, covering both causes and consequences of urbanization, its multiple forms, and its links to urbanism as a way of life. Chapter 2 explores how understandings of urbanization are contested, both in terms of definitions and measurements, and it raises questions about what it means to be urban. The authors, Kenneth Cardenas and Philip Kelly, examine how the global drivers of urbanization operate within the context of uneven development to produce patterns of urban growth and decline, and how these patterns have changed between the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. They also explore the challenges and opportunities that these changing contours of urbanization present, illustrating these issues through a case study of the megacity of Manila in the Philippines. Spatial scales are switched in Chapter 3 in order to explore how processes of globalization and transnationalization affect urbanization within nations. Through a historical-geographical examination of urbanization in Japan, André Sorensen illustrates the ways in which one country and its city systems, in particular the Tokyo–Nagoya–Osaka corridor, have experienced and responded to globalization. Different conceptual approaches to understanding national urban systems are explained and an argument laid out for the importance of engaging with the national scale in a comparative context.

The remaining two chapters in this section return to a global scale of analysis. Chapter 4 provides an overview of the built forms of urbanization. Richard Harris and Roger Keil argue that processes of urbanization have been characterized by both a spatial concentration of activities, seen in urban forms such as the megacities of the global South and the world (or global) cities of the global North and, by urban extension, witnessed through suburbanization, exurbanization, and post-suburbanization. Considering the differentiated nature of suburbanization, they provide case studies of Los Angeles, United States, and Tehran, Iran, to examine questions of suburbanism as a way of life, of suburban development and governance, and of the many different forms that suburban developments can take. Chapter 5 further develops an understanding of different forms of urbanization and urbanism in the global South with case studies on the cities of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Ibadan, Nigeria. The authors, Grace Adeniyi Ogunyankin and Michelle Buckley, highlight two forms of urbanism that characterize life for large numbers of urban residents: informal urbanism, which engages in securing resources in quasi-legal or illegal ways, or in a manner that lies outside of formal governmental regulation and spectacular urbanism, in which expressions of a "global" sense of place are developed involving grand architecture or spectacular events. Two common forms of urbanization are also investigated: instant urbanization, which refers to rapid processes involving the development of large areas of land, capital and labour in the production of ambitious development projects; and incremental urbanization, which can be either rapid or gradual in nature, whereby forms of urban growth take place by accretion.

Part II: Urban Policy and Planning

The chapters in the second section explore some of the differing global contexts in which urban policy and planning are contextualized (e.g., capitalist, socialist, and indigenous), the differing ways in which planning and policy have been employed in the economic contexts of post-industrialism and austerity in cities of the global North, and specific applications of planning and policy within cities, namely in relation to climate change and land use. These chapters also focus attention on how urban planners and policy-makers can perform particularly influential roles in controlling urban development and ensuring that the different functional requirements of cities—for production, distribution, reproduction, and exchange—are appropriately located and connected. Chapter 6, by Betsy Donald and Mia Gray, examines

urban policy and planning in the context of capitalism, introducing the neoliberal concept of austerity urbanism as a theoretical lens through which to consider the state policies imposed on American cities, especially since the global financial crisis of 2007–2008, that seek to reduce budget deficits. The case studies of the municipal bankruptcies of Stockton, California, and Detroit, Michigan, probe the complex interplay between global capitalist forces, particular state policies, and historically contingent urban circumstances. The topic of declining cities in the global North is also addressed by Alison Bain and Rachael Baker in Chapter 7. Using case studies of Leipzig, Germany, and Detroit, United States, they explore the extent to which post-industrial decline, with its associated social and land-use implications, has shaped urban development opportunities within cities. Particular attention is directed to the creative and cultural turn in neoliberal urban policy and to the power of the urban planning profession and urban policy discourses in shaping and controlling property development.

Chapter 8 turns to the operationalization of urban policy and planning in the economic context of socialism. It examines how urban life has been shaped in significant ways by the urban planning and policy legacies of twentieth-century socialism. Within the literature on socialist and post-socialist cities, Lisa Drummond and Douglas Young identify two core questions that have been debated by urban scholars: was or is there a distinctly socialist city; and what was or is socialist about socialist urbanism? Case studies from Hanoi, Vietnam, and Stockholm, Sweden, are used to illustrate different visions of socialist urbanism and different contemporary fates for socialist urban projects. Chapter 9 turns from global systems of power to address urban planning from the "bottom-up" perspective of a global group of marginalized people, Indigenous people, the descendants of the original inhabitants of settler countries around the world, many of whom now live in urban areas. This chapter, by Ryan Walker and Sarem Nejad, provides an overview of some key features of the academic literature on Indigenous peoples living in cities, as well as case studies of Sydney, Australia, and Auckland, New Zealand, that examine the historic and contemporary contours of what urban co-existence between Indigenous and settler peoples looks like. The urban planning and policy focus of Chapter 10, by Daniel Aldana Cohen, addresses climate change—what some see as the greatest global challenge of the twenty-first century. Urban-based activities are responsible for between half to three quarters of the world's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This chapter asks what role do urban activities play in causing GHG emissions and what are the impacts of climate change on cities and their residents. It features two case studies that consider the social and political dimensions of urban climate policy: São Paulo's efforts to reduce GHG emissions and New York City's experience of Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Part III Urban Forms

The third section turns to the scale of the urban itself to address material aspects of urban form—that is, the physical characteristics that constitute built-up areas. A consideration of urban form includes the shape, size, density, and configuration of settlements, the layout of which underscores processes of power that produce patterns of inequality across the urban landscape. In Chapter 11, Nicholas Lynch and Yolande Pottie-Sherman explore how the urban landscape speaks to inequality through an examination of specific urban forms that represent spaces of division in contemporary cities: gentrified areas; gated communities; and socially mixed neighbourhoods. Gentrification and gating are both processes by which exclusion is mapped onto the built environment of cities either through displacement or by physical exclusion, whereas social mixing is a planned attempt to reduce division, albeit not always a successful one. Case studies of London, UK and New York City, USA, focus on specific aspects of the built environment—adaptive reuse and poor doors—that highlight the challenges in bridging socio-economic divides in the city. In their examination of housing markets in Chapter 12, Alan Walks and Dylan Simone also highlight the ways in which housing serves to increase social and spatial inequalities in wealth accumulation among different social groups and neighbourhoods. Their chapter discusses the evolution and structure of residential housing systems and markets in countries in the global North, including the globalization of housing finance and its pivotal relationship to the post-2008 global financial crisis. The effects of the crisis are explored in relation to the volatility experienced in housing production and prices, particularly in the United States, which has the deepest and most globalized housing and mortgage

markets, but also through case studies of the Irish and Spanish housing bubbles in relation to the metropolitan regions of Dublin and Barcelona.

Residential land use occupies the greatest amount of land in cities, combining "public" spaces (e.g., streets, parks, community centres, libraries, and schools) and "private" spaces (e.g., homes). Chapter 13 addresses one aspect of public space, that of protest movements and the role of the urban built environment in the formation of democratic polities. Ebru Ustundag and Gökbörü Tanyildiz examine the dynamic relationship between public space, protests, citizenship, and the new digital technologies of the twenty-first century, using case studies of Istanbul, Turkey, and New York City, USA, to demonstrate how marginalized social groups mobilize physical and virtual resources in order to claim new urban rights and to expand upon existing ones. The final chapter in this section, Chapter 14, co-authored by Nicole Laliberté and Dima Saad, considers the way in which the built fabric of cities has been destroyed and reconfigured through warfare and political violence. Employing an urban geopolitical analysis of militarization and forced displacement, they use case studies of Al-Baqa'a refugee camp in Jordan and the Awere internally displaced persons camp in Uganda to question fundamentally what constitutes the urban.

Part IV: Urban Lives

The fourth section considers how urban built environments consist of more than the materiality of buildings and public spaces; these are actively transformed and re-imagined by the many different and ordinary types of people who live in them, who through their difference give vitality and a unique character to individual cities. The chapters in this section engage with the everyday lives of specific marginalized groups of urban inhabitants—the poor, women, youth, the disabled, and the queer—engaging with processes of social inclusion and exclusion. Those in positions of relative privilege are also considered, as in Chapter 15 in which Harjant Gill and Margaret Walton-Roberts consider how people move between cities, with a specific emphasis on how transnational migration connects multiple urban regions across national borders. Their focus is on the specific example of migration for educational purposes and how the globalization of higher education has shaped Indian cities. The case study of Chandigarh in northern India analyses the pathways of students who travel abroad, assessing how the city's urban form and function services this migratory desire.

The following two chapters focus on the majority social groups to be found in cities of the global South. Chapter 16 addresses the urban poor, a social group that is increasing in size with the urbanization of poverty in the twenty-first century. Sabin Ninglekhu and Katharine Rankin ask, what do we know of the places the urban poor occupy, the social and economic practices in which they engage, and their forms of social belonging? They draw on postcolonial and Marxist literature on "the right to the city" to draw attention to the resourcefulness of this majority group in adapting to ever-changing social and economic conditions. A case study of a squatter settlement in Kathmandu, Nepal, illustrates the ways in which development interventions aimed at city rebuilding inevitably contain within them the threat of dispossession and displacement for the urban poor, revealing as well how the poor navigate the complex sociopolitical and bureaucratic terrains of the cities they inhabit to make claims about citizenship and belonging. In Chapter 17, Linda Peake and Geraldine Pratt turn to another specific social group, that of women, to reveal that urbanization is a deeply gendered process and that democratic urban transformations have at their heart issues of gendered equity, belonging, and justice. A review of the dominant analytical framings employed in the study of women's urban lives is undertaken, particularly in relation to two of the longest-standing analyses of women in cities—issues of gendered fear, safety, and violence, including the right to the city, and women's engagement in activities of production and social reproduction. These issues are further explored through two case studies that address the similarities of the challenges of everyday life facing working poor women in very different cities in the global South, namely Manila, Philippines, and Georgetown, Guyana.

The remainder of the chapters in this section also engage with specific marginalized social groups. Chapter 18 addresses youth, who constitute approximately a quarter of the world's population and most of whom live in the urban global South. In this chapter, Beverley Mullings and Alim Habib consider how social constructions of "race" and ethnicity are implicated in neoliberal forms of urban restructuring in the context of the urban global

South. Using case studies from Kingston, Jamaica, and Accra, Ghana, they analyze how ethno-racial forms of inequality, modes of exclusion, and regimes of violence have come to reassert themselves with the embrace of the market as the primary mechanism for organizing and managing urban space. Focusing on the survival experiences and strategies of young people located at the intersection of marginalizing systems of oppression, this chapter invites imaginative thinking about the ways in which young people potentially offer new modes of creativity and interaction in cities. Identity markers of age, racialization, and disability intersect in Chapter 19, wherein authors Nancy Worth, Laurence Simard-Gagnon, and Vera Chouinard focus on what makes cities more or less disabling for persons with physical and mental health impairments. In this chapter, "disabling" refers to processes of physical and social exclusion arising from physical and social barriers to full participation in city life. Over 80 per cent of people with disabilities live in the global South, and a case study of Georgetown, Guyana, explores some of the ways in which this city further disables persons with physical impairments. A second case study of visually impaired young people living in Liverpool, UK explores how they negotiate social space in the city and how the aids they use or choose not to use change the way they are treated by others. This chapter argues that while persons with physical and mental health impairments continue to be marginalized in urban places, it is important to recognize that disabled people, at least sometimes and in some places, find ways of resisting these processes of marginalization. The last chapter in this section, Chapter 20 by David Seitz and Natalie Oswin, engages the city as a central site for the regulation of and resistance to notions of sexual propriety and impropriety. The chapter outlines some of the multiple meanings of the term "queer," both as an umbrella term to represent a wide range of identities on the LGBTQ spectrum and as a critical approach to the shifting and exclusive ways in which sexual norms work in distinct urban contexts. Following this conceptual discussion, they present three case studies—from Chicago, United States; Ciudad Juárez, Mexico; and Singapore—to showcase the relevance of queer theory's view of gender and sexuality as discursive and social forces for understanding urban life. The chapter highlights how a queer approach helps to put LGBTQ and other sexual experiences and politics on the agenda of critical urban scholarship.

Part V: Urban Livability and Infrastructure

The final section bridges critical reflections upon the diverse lived experience of cities with a consideration of how urban infrastructure is a fundamental component of urban livability. Infrastructure allows the relationship between urban form and urban flows of people, capital, information, and goods to function. All cities contain areas of residential, commercial, industrial, and public space, connected through public and private systems of infrastructure—transportation, information and communications technology, energy, water, sewage, waste disposal, health, education, and cultural facilities—to enable systems of service delivery. Discussion in this section focuses upon these elemental infrastructures, both their hard physical networks and their soft frameworks (e.g., the organizational structure of software, rules and regulations, and finance), in relation to the provision of basic needs: health, food, water, sanitation and waste, and transportation. It also explores the notion of both human and non-human actors as infrastructure. Chapter 21 argues that a sustainable urban future is premised upon recognizing all human and non-human actors and acknowledging their roles in urban infrastructures and urban life more broadly. Laura Shillington and Alice Hovorka discuss the ways in which scholars have theorized nature and cities, highlighting the concept of socio-nature; they reference recent work on urban agriculture and urban animals to argue that cities must be viewed as more-than-human. They provide specific case studies of how plants and trees in Managua, Nicaragua, and chickens in Gaborone, Botswana, are critical elements of urban infrastructures in relation to people's food security.

The remaining chapters in this section explore infrastructure in terms of meeting basic needs. Chapter 22 by Godwin Arku and Richard Sadler provides an overview of the ways that urban areas have approached health issues in order to frame how "healthy cities" are thought about. Key areas of concern are introduced regarding urbanization and health: communicable and non-communicable disease; poverty and economic inequality; and the delivery of urban amenities. The two case studies of Flint, Michigan, and Accra, Ghana, highlight that effective and socially responsible governance is one of the most important macro-level determinants of the creation of infrastructure for healthy cities. Chapter 23,

by Rebecca McMillan, Sawanya Phakphian, and Amrita Danière, engages with water-supply challenges in cities in the global South, focusing on the merits and limitations of service delivery models. Case studies are provided of recent water-governance reforms in two very different contexts: Bangkok, Thailand, where the provision of water has been privatized; and Caracas, Venezuela, where a public utility operates with community participation. Both examples show how actors' interests and activities interact in practice and the important roles played by local communities in struggles for reliable, affordable, and healthy infrastructure in relation to water.

Water infrastructures, like sanitation and waste, are critical urban planning concerns. Chapter 24 focuses on sanitation and waste as urban planning issues with important environmental and public health dimensions. Carrie Mitchell, Kate Parizeau, and Virginia Maclaren examine how access to, delivery of, and management of sanitation and waste services in cities in the global South are connected to broader patterns of urbanization and globalization. They survey current global trends in the provision of sanitation and discuss common themes between sanitation and waste infrastructure, including health and environmental impacts, social inequity in the provision of service, and service delivery mechanisms. A case study of sanitation infrastructure in Delhi, India, investigates how lack of access to toilets affects men and boys and women and girls differently, while a study in Accra, Ghana, on the repairing and refurbishing of electronic equipment contributes to our understanding of the growing problem of electronic waste to the urban economy. Shifting from sanitation to transportation infrastructure, Craig Townsend in Chapter 25 describes features of urban transport infrastructures. This chapter emphasizes conditions in the global South, including the fast pace of transport-system motorization, which often includes extraordinarily high levels of motorcycle use, the high human health impacts of motorization, the expansion of informal transport, and the flows of foreign investment in transport infrastructure. Case studies from Tokyo, Japan, and Singapore highlight aspects of two of the most technologically advanced, innovative, and productive urban transport systems in the world. Together the chapters in this section show how the day-to-day experience and perception of urban infrastructure is a powerful lens through which to examine the urban. Infrastructure, like the city, is also not just an "object" or a "system" or an "output," but rather it is a complex socio-spatial process that enables—or disables—particular kinds of urban lives and futures.

In the conclusion, Chapter 26, we address the future of cities. Utopian thinking of alternative futures has played an important political role in imagining different urban arrangements, or socio-spatialities, that address how power relations can play out differently across urban space. Both urban theorists and practitioners have made significant contributions not only to utopian thinking but also to enacting urban transformations on the ground. Yet forces of urban change are more commonly driven through crises. Hence, the major challenges facing cities in the twenty-first century are addressed: the rapid rate of urban growth in the global South in relatively poor postcolonial countries; the persistent spread of urban neoliberalism as the dominant mode of urban development and regulation; the rise of inequality; and the detrimental effects of stress, including climate change, on urban environments. The textbook ends with a consideration of some of the major discourses addressing urban futures that are circulating in urban scholarly, planning, and policy circles—urban sustainability, the role of electronic data, and resilience—as well as the emergence of urban policy on a global scale. As the potential next generation of urban scholars, we conclude by inviting you to help imagine a global urban future.

How to Engage with This Textbook

We hope that you, the reader, will take this book as more than just a collection of facts and examples of urban scholarship about a number of diverse geographical locations. Our intent is to help you to engage critically—intellectually and politically—with its material. Being a critical reader is about questioning assumptions and discovering where you stand on issues that you read about, not only in relation to, in this volume, the case studies on individual cities but also on the material covered in the disciplines addressed, namely geography and urban studies. Being critical involves not only learning about the underlying social relations and political and economic processes that lead to oppressions, inequalities, injustices, but also using theory and analysis to take a stance against them. The activities and questions at the

end of each chapter are a starting point for you and your classmates to engage in discussion, employing different modes of learning: visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and reading and writing. We do not contend that taking a critical stance enables one to know the "right" answers or be able to grasp the full picture of what is happening in cities. Indeed, engaging in critical knowledge production requires the recognition of its partial nature; this is why talking to and listening to others is a necessary part of critical learning, of becoming part of an epistemic community of learners. In this sense, the text is interactive; the questions are learning tools to explore further how you and other readers interpret the material in each chapter and to recognize and articulate positions in relation to it. The Glossary is a further aid, highlighting concepts and approaches used by the critical urban scholars in this textbook.

Each chapter contains one to three city case studies that are also valuable tools for learning about the urban. Not only do they illustrate and enrich the material discussed, but they also present realistic, complex, and contextually rich situations that investigate a contemporary urban phenomenon within its real-life setting. The case studies are probably best understood as stories that can help you to understand and interpret a spatially and temporally bounded set of events within an urban area through a particular theoretical lens. In other words, they serve to show the application of a theory or concept to real situations and allow you to ask "how" and "why" questions.

The case studies also allow you to consider whether there are aspects that apply to Canadian cities. The Canadian text boxes illustrate how the issues discussed in relation to cities outside Canada also have relevance to the Canadian context in which you may live. The Canadian urban content is not, however, the focus of the textbook; thus, it is deliberately neither accentuated nor intended to function as direct comparison to the more detailed international case studies. What the text boxes bring to their chapters is only the gesture of a comparative approach, allowing you to think about the case studies in relation to the experience of Canadian cities. The interest in learning by thinking about similarities and differences among different cities has grown substantially with globalization. Just as you can learn from discussion with others, you can also learn from thinking across different urban contexts and relating those examples to urban environments and lived experiences that may be more familiar to you.

After reading this textbook, you will be able to fulfil the following learning objectives: you will be able to explain different theories, concepts, and issues of concern to critical urban study; to understand processes and outcomes of urbanization; to understand cities as socio-spatial expressions of processes of inequality and difference and as built environments that can perpetuate these expressions but that are also subject to change; to appreciate the complexity of problems confronting cities around the world and the ways in which urban planners and urban policy-makers respond; to recognize relationships between city structures, socio-economic organization and conflict and urban protest; to identify urban ways of being in terms of how the residents of cities organize their daily lives, the issues they face, and how they may work collectively to affect who gets what and where; to understand the relationship between infrastructure provision and the livability of cities; and to critically interpret contemporary cityscapes through photographs, maps, and texts.

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