The seminar consists of the following blocks:

- an introduction to the seminar, in which
  --- the topic and its relevance for planning and urban studies is presented,
  --- the working approach and the course requirements are presented,
  --- a preliminary choice of case studies to be conducted by participants (preferably in groups) is presented and discussed;

- an introduction and guided discussion of theoretical approaches to understanding the topic:
  --- understanding conflict in urban development and planning, devoted to presenting a variety of disciplinary perspectives necessary in order to understand the nature of conflicts in urban development and planning;
  --- approaches to conflict transformation: theories and practices, devoted to presenting theories and approaches to conflict transformation of particular relevance for planning practices;

- in parallel, seminar meetings will be devoted to the presentation and discussion of interim findings from the case studies conducted by participants (for details, see below).

The detailed schedule of the seminar is provisional and can possibly be adapted to the development of discussions on the case studies.

Participation to meetings devoted to choice, presentation and discussion of case studies is mandatory.

Introduction to the seminar

09.04 1. Introduction: Urban space, conflicts, and spatial planning

16.04 2. First short presentation and discussion of case studies / Mind-mapping session 1

23.04 3. Planning theory and democratic politics:
the struggle with interpreting the nature of planning conflicts
Understanding conflict in urban development and planning

30.04  4.  Conflict and the city: social contention and urban space

07.05  5.  Theories of contention and social mobilization, 1

14.05  6.  Theories of contention and social mobilization, 2
        literature: Gualini (2015, part II)

21.05  7.  Second (extended) presentation and discussion of case studies / Mind-mapping session 2

Approaches to conflict transformation: theories and practices

28.05  8.  Deliberative / interpretive approaches to conflict, 1
        additional: Fischer (2003, ch.8), Raiffa (1982, ch.1)

04.06  9.  Deliberative / interpretive approaches to conflict, 2

11.06  10.  Guest lecture (t.b.c.) / consultation with students

18.06  11.  consultation with students

25.06  12.  Third (final) presentation and discussion of case studies, session 1

02.07  13.  Third (final) presentation and discussion of case studies, session 2

09.07  14.  (t.b.d.)

Literature

reader (provisional):


suggested additional readings:


General course information

Topic

The seminar is devoted to understanding the nature of planning and urban development conflicts against the background of the contentious nature of urban development, and to learning about critical-interpretive approaches to dealing with planning and urban development conflicts.

The choice of conflict as the focus of the seminar does not only reflect the actual relevance of the subject, but also the conviction that a critical-interpretative approach to conflict offers a crucial perspective for understanding the political nature of urban development and planning. Accordingly, dealing with the issue of conflict represents a crucial issue for critical planning theory and practice.

The seminar approaches the issue of planning conflict on an interdisciplinary basis, with reference in particular to three specific areas of theorizing and research:

- the meaning and role of conflict in democratic politics and society;
- the dynamics of contentious politics and social mobilization;
- the nature of conflicts in urban development and planning.

Against this background, the seminar will discuss the way planning theory and urban studies conceives of contention and conflict in the framework of planning processes.

The active contribution of participants consists in the conduct of a case study of conflict in urban development and planning, preferably in Berlin. Further details are discussed during the seminar.

Activities

The seminar consists of joint activities, based on:

- introduction and guided discussions of the seminar topics, based on the literature (required and suggested);
- meetings devoted to the choice, presentation and discussion of case studies conducted the students.

Participation to meetings devoted to choice, presentation and discussion of case studies is mandatory.

Language: English.

The examination elements of the seminar can be completed in German language upon individual and justified request.

Case studies

Students are required to express their interest for analyzing a case study of urban development conflict and to present this choice during the seminar.

Case studies should be conducted in small groups (approx. 3-4 students) and be presented in oral form in the course of scheduled meetings as well as in form of a written report (digital/Pdf) at the end of the seminar.

It is the students’ own responsibility to form groups and present their choice of case studies during scheduled meetings.

Presentations during these scheduled meetings are meant to actively involve all participants.
Learning resources

All seminar resources including this syllabus, (selected) literature sources and comments/communications are made available on a dedicated ISIS2 course from the start of the semester (password-protected).

Grading and evaluation

Students are required to actively participate in the activities of the seminar.

Individual students’ assessment is based on active participation in discussions and colloquia during the seminar as well as on the presentation of an essay / written report at the end of the seminar; both examination elements are required for passing the seminar.

Assessment is in the form of a portfolio-examination.

Examination elements of final assessment are:
- presentations / active participation in seminar meetings (groups / individual) weighting: 50%
- essay / written report (groups) weighting: 50%

The examination elements of the seminar can be completed in German language upon individual and justified request.

The seminar is part of Module M4 Planning Theory A (6 ECTS). For detailed evaluation and grading rules, please refer to description of Module M4 Planning Theory A.

Deadlines / mandatory activities

- 16.04: First short presentation and discussion of case studies / Mind-mapping session 1
- 21.05: Second (extended) presentation and discussion of case studies / Mind-mapping session 2
- 25.06 / 02.07: Third (final) presentation and discussion of case studies, session 1 / 2

Consultation hour

Tuesday, 9:00-10:00h, ISR, Room B 219.
Please sign in at the notice board or contact for reserving a timeslot.