# The Urban Political Economy And Ecology Of Automobility

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the study of urban political economy needs no justification for cities are the heart and arguably the soul of our civilization and their political and economic conditions are the

linchpins of its existence but how should we study urban political economy urban political economy deals with different nations belgium denmark france norway the uk and the usa and with different problems expenditure patterns service provision economic development fiscal strain budgetary cuts and borrowing systems but they all agree on two fundamental points about the study of their subject matter first that the urban economy cannot be understood outside its political context just as urban politics cannot be understood without its economic background and second that the local and the national are knitted together so closely and so tightly that it is necessary to think of them as forming a single system urban political economy explores the idea of the fusion of factors by demonstrating the extent to which local and national conditions react upon one another to analyze the urban political economy

in this book david I imbroscio urges that urban political economy must move forward beyond the question of what is to a consideration of what might be he systematically poses the possibilities for reconstructing the nature of contemporary city politics while integrating a wealth of innovative urban analysis the author explores three alternative urban economic development strategies entrepreneurial mercantilism community based economic development and municipal enterprise he considers whether these strategies are likely to be effective for bringing about urban economic vitality and whether it is feasible for cities to pursue these efforts in the current political economic context by addressing these questions imbroscio reaches

sustainability with its promise of economic prosperity social equity and environmental integrity is hardly a controversial goal yet scholars have generally overlooked the ways that policies aimed at promoting sustainability at local national and global scales have been shaped and constrained by capitalist social relations this thought provoking book reexamines sustainability conceptually and as it actually exists on the ground with a particular focus on western european and north american urban contexts topics include critical theoretical engagements with the concept of sustainability how sustainability projects map onto contemporary urban politics and social justice movements the spatial politics of conservation planning and resource use and what progressive sustainability practices in the context of neoliberalism might look like

just how resilient are our urban societies to social energy environmental and or financial shocks and how does this vary among cities and nations can our cities be made more sustainable and can environmental economic and social collapse be staved off through changes in urban form and travel behaviour how might rising indebtedness and the recent series of financial crises be related to automobile dependence and patterns of urban automobile use to what extent does the system and economy of automobility factor in the production of urban socio spatial inequalities and how might these inequalities in mobility be understood and measured what can we learn from the politics of mobility and social movements within cities what is the role of automobility and auto dependence in differentiating groups both within cities and rural areas and among transnational migrants moving across international borders these are just some of the questions this book addresses this volume provides a holistic and reflexive account of the role played by automobility in producing reproducing and differentiating social economic and political life in the contemporary city as well as the role played by the city in producing and reproducing auto mobile inequalities the first section titled driving vulnerability deals with issues of global importance related to economic social financial and environmental sustainability and resilience and socialization the second section driving inequality is concerned with understanding the role played by automobility in producing urban socio spatial inequalities including those rooted in accessibility to work migration status and ethnic concentration and new measures of mobility based inequality derived from the concept of effective speed the third section titled driving politics explores the politics of mobility in particular places with an eye to demonstrating both the relevance of the politics of mobility for influencing and reinforcing actually existing neoliberalisms and the kinds of politics that might allow for reform or restructuring of the auto mobile city into one that is more socially politically and environmentally just in the conclusion to the book walks draws on the findings of the other chapters to comment on the relationship between automobility neoliberalism and citizenship and to lay out strategies for dealing with the urban car system

here is a book that makes sense of the I a riots homelessness tax giveaways and the other big urban issues that are back in the national spotlight in this streamlined and updated new edition of his classic book the dependent city paul kantor now focuses on economic development and social welfare policies to reveal the key dilemmas of american urban politics returning to a political economy theme kantor explores how city governments have struggled to escape and accommodate the reality of their economic dependency in the policies that they ve pursued revisiting cities across the nation kantor finds not only that they have become more dependent but also that the character of this dependency has changed and deepened exploring local regimes in the frostbelt and

sunbelt and in suburbia he finds that they frequently act more like captives of big business rather than as representatives of citizens local attempts to promote social justice increasingly run up against a wall of economic dependency created by federal policies and business power this book signals how american cities can find ways of overcoming this dependency by working together with states and the federal government to promote healthy democratic urban politics the dependent city revisited is an accessible provocative supplement for a wide variety of courses in urban studies and political economy as well as stimulating reading for anyone who is interested in understanding america s urban mosaic

this volume provides the most important essays and papers on urban and regional policy making it a convenient summary of the key theories approaches and research results the study of sub national politics is no longer mainly concerned with the urban political decision making process and now focuses on the political economic and social preconditions for urban policy as the articles and papers reprinted in this volume demonstrate local and regional politics are increasingly important features of most western democracies economic and political life are more and more determined by changes occurring at the local regional and global levels rather than at the national level this volume seeks to cover the most important elements of research on local government with a particular emphasis on different approaches and theories of urban political economy the volume covers in turn the study of urban politics and government theories of local government central local relationships and local autonomy local politics the political economy of local government and regional policy

providing a robust conceptual framework urban regime theory has despite its cited shortcomings gained a dominant position in the literature on local politics in addition to its recent use in contexts outside the united states and in comparative cross national research reconstructing urban regime theory presents a challenging argument for the need to reconceptualize urban regime s middle level abstractions by interpreting it through the higher level abstractions of regulationist theory the contributors propose stronger conceptual linkages between local agents and institutions regime transformation and the restructuring of urban space the blend of empirical and case study provides an excellent mix of theory and practice

praised for the clarity of its writing careful research and distinctive theme that urban politics in the united states has evolved as a dynamic interaction between governmental

power private actors and a politics of identity city politics remains a classic study of urban politics its enduring appeal lies in its persuasive explanation careful attention to historical detail and accessible and elegant way of teaching the complexity and breadth of urban and regional politics which unfold at the intersection of spatial cultural economic and policy dynamics now in a thoroughly revised tenth edition this comprehensive resource for undergraduate and graduate students as well as well established researchers in the discipline retains the effective structure of past editions while offering important updates including all new sections on immigration the black lives matter movement the downtown condo boom and the impact of the sharing economy on urban neighborhoods especially the rise of airbnb individual chapters introducing students to pressing urban issues such as gentrification sustainability metropolitanization urban crises the creative class shrinking cities racial politics and suburbanization the most recent census data integrated throughout to provide current figures for analysis discussion and a more nuanced understanding of current trends taught on its own or supplemented with the optional reader american urban politics in a global age for more advanced readers city politics remains the definitive text on urban politics and how they have evolved in the us over time for a new generation of students and researchers

this compelling new textbook scrutinizes urban politics through a theoretical and empirical lens to provide readers with a clear understanding of the relationship between political spatial and economic issues on the urban environment taking a truly global analysis the book uses international comparative case studies from cities across the world including london beijing austin and vancouver engaging in style and thorough in its coverage of the key issues this book draws on ideas and theories from human geography politics sociology economics and development

this authoritative handbook provides a comprehensive overview of research into urban politics and policy in cities across the globe leading scholars examine the position of urban politics within political science and analyse the critical approaches and interdisciplinary pressures that are broadening the field

engaging with themes of conflict change and crisis this book re invigorates the distinct interdisciplinary field of canadian political economy

in 2018 the city of cape town faced the prospect of reaching day zero that is a combination of natural and human made factors leading to the complete collapse of its

municipal water supply while the rains eventually fell and a major disaster was averted the fear of running out of water looms large in the psyche of residents in many cities around the world water is a non substitutable essential finite and fugitive resource it is the lifeblood of human endeavour cities through global processes such as agenda 2030 and forums such as iclei exchange best practices for achieving water security these forums also are collective social spaces occupied by civil society organizations who share strategies and tactics and the private sector who compete for markets and contracts promoting patent protected technologies it is these groups states civil societies private sectors coming together who determine who gets what water when and where it is the job of academics to understand the how and why and of academic activists to fight for equity of access and sustainability of use evidence drawn from around the world and over time consistently shows that water flows toward money and power outcomes are too often socially inequitable environmentally unsustainable and economically inefficient how to shift existing processes toward improved practices is not clear but positive outcomes do exist in this collection we compare and contrast the challenges and opportunities for achieving urban water security with a focus on 11 major world cities bangalore beijing cairo cape town chennai istanbul jakarta london melbourne sao paulo and tokyo through the theoretical conceptual and practical insights provided in these case studies our collection constructively contributes to a global conversation regarding the ways and means of avoiding day zero

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