

## PUBLICATIONS

### Understanding an Urbanising World

**Poverty by Ruth Lister.** Poverty remains one of the most urgent issues of our time. Ruth introduces students to the meaning and experience of poverty in the contemporary world. The book opens with a lucid discussion of current debates around the definition and measurement of poverty in industrialized societies, before embarking on a thought-provoking and multi-faceted exploration of its conceptualization. It draws on thinking in the field of international development and real life accounts to emphasize aspects of poverty such as powerlessness, lack of voice, loss of dignity and respect. In so doing, the book embraces the relational, cultural, symbolic as well as material dimensions of poverty and makes important links between poverty and other concepts like well-being, capabilities, social divisions and exclusion, agency and citizenship. It concludes by making the case for reframing the politics of poverty as a claim for redistribution and recognition. The result is a rich and insightful analysis, which deepens and broadens our understanding of poverty today. **Published by Blackwell Publishing ISBN: 0745625649 £14.99**

#### **The Gentrification in a Global Perspective: Gentrification in a Global Perspective by R. Atkinson, G. Bridge**

Gentrification, a process of class neighbourhood upgrading, is being identified in a broader range of urban contexts throughout the world. This book throws new light and evidence to bear on a subject that deeply divides commentators on its worth and social costs given its ability to physically improve areas but also to displace indigenous inhabitants. It brings together the most recent theoretical and empirical research and each author gives an overview of gentrification in their country so that each chapter retains a unique approach but tackles a common theme within a shared framework. The main feature of the book is a critical and well-written set of chapters on a process that is currently undergoing a resurgence of interest and one that shows no sign of abating.

**Published by Routledge, ISBN: 0415329515 £24.99**

#### **Planet of Slums by Mike Davis**

In this brilliant & ambitious book Davis charts the expected global urbanization explosion over the next thirty years and points out that outside China most of the rest of the world's urban growth will be without industrialization or development, rather a 'perverse' urban boom in spite of stagnant or negative urban economic growth. With a third of the global urban population living in Dickensian slums, at least half under the age of twenty, Mike explores the threat of disease, of forced settlement on hazardous terrains, and state violence, on huge populations. He shows how poverty not only grew

massively in the 1990s (when the IMF policies of the 1980s were supposed to reap huge rewards) but how the gap between rich and poor countries expanded and how women and minorities fell further behind.

**Published by Verso Books ISBN: 1844670228 £15.99**

#### **Reason in the City of Difference by Gary Bridge.**

Contemporary discourse emphasizes the irrational, unconscious, discursive and displaced experiences of city life. Discussion of conscious agency is minimal and is often confined to small acts of resistance. The book aims to re-establish a strong notion of conscious agency in our understanding of urban life. Through philosophical and empirical exploration, it examines how the city has been shaped by reason: through the technical rationality of urban planning and through the profound social and spatial effects of economic rationality. It argues that we get a view of the oppressiveness of cities from a preoccupation with the effects of narrow instrumental rationality.

**Published by Routledge ISBN: 0415287677 £21.00**

#### **Cityscapes: Cultural Readings in the Material and Symbolic City by Ben Highmore.**

The modern city has many dimensions, both physical and imaginative. This book offers an innovative approach to exploring its complexity by focusing on the varied and often conflicting rhythms of urban life. Spanning the 19th and 20th centuries, it draws on cultural texts as varied as Edgar Allan Poe's London, Parisian department stores, colonial and anti-colonial Algiers, the North American cities of recent detective fiction, and the virtual city of The Matrix. The resulting text is original in conception, vivid in its analysis and insight, and highly accessible to students. **Published by Palgrave Macmillan ISBN: 0333929357 £17.99**

#### **Ordinary Cities: Between Modernity and Development by Jenny Robinson**

This groundbreaking book establishes a new framework for thinking about urban development, and crosses the long-standing divide in urban scholarship and urban policy, between Western and other cities (especially those labelled 'Third World'). It considers the two framing axes of urban modernity and urban development which have played an important part in dividing the field between Western and non-Western cities, and argues that if cities are to be imagined in equitable and creative ways, urban theory must overcome these axes with their Western bias, and that the resources for theorizing cities need to become at least as cosmopolitan as cities themselves. **Published by Routledge ISBN: 0415304881 £19.99**

#### **After the Cosmopolitan by Michael Keith**

The majority of the world's population now live in cities. The social, cultural and economic problems and opportunities generated by this extraordinary

concentration of demographic groups from increasingly diverse backgrounds has become symbolic of the contemporary human condition, and resulted in new forms of cultural conflict and dialogue. In this fascinating study, Michael Keith argues that both racial divisions and intercultural dialogue can only be understood in the context of the urbanism through which they are realized.

**Published by Routledge ISBN: 0415341698 £15.99**

#### **Why Social Justice Matters — Themes for the 21st Century by Brian Barry**

The idea of social justice is essential to the kind of radical and systematic critique of the domestic and global status quo that is needed. Barry sets out what social justice means and explains why it either has universal scope or is worth nothing. In a strong attack on almost the entire corpus of contemporary political philosophy, he maintains that the fashionable arguments against the universal reach of principles of justice are devoid of merit. Barry is equally scathing about the leadership of New Labour and its political hangers-on, such as the members of the so-called Commission on Social Justice, who have done their best either to suppress or subvert the idea. He argues that the present period is, nevertheless, a time of opportunity brought about by the increasing instability of the international economic and political order and by growing opposition to the selfish short-sightedness of the world's richest countries. The book concludes by sketching some implications of the idea of social justice for three questions: the obligations of the present generation to future ones, the distribution of resources within the world as a whole and the demands of equal treatment and equality of opportunity in culturally diverse societies. **Published by Polity Press ISBN: 0745629938 £17.99**

#### **For the City Yet to Come: Changing African Life in Four Cities by Abdou Maliq Simone**

Among government officials, urban planners, and development workers, Africa's burgeoning metropolises are frequently understood as failed cities, unable to provide even basic services. Whatever resourcefulness does exist is regarded as only temporary compensation for fundamental failure.

Abdou Maliq Simone argues that this perspective overlooks all that does work in the Africa's cities, thereby foreclosing opportunities to capitalize on existing informal economies and structures in development efforts within Africa and to apply lessons drawn from them to rapidly growing urban areas around the world. Simone contends that Africa's cities do work on some level and to the extent that they do, they function largely through fluid, makeshift collective actions running parallel to proliferating decentralized local authorities, small-scale enterprises, and community associations. **Published by University Press ISBN: 0822334453 £16.99**