

Module Outline

Module Code : RE4808
Module Title : Urban Challenges and Policies
Semester : Semester 2, Academic Year 2022/2023
Faculty : Assistant Professor Fan Yi & Assistant Professor Wang Xize
Department : Real Estate
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Overview

This module exposes students to current urban challenges faced by Singapore and cities around the world. It provides economic perspectives to link these challenges to fundamental global trends of technological, demographic and climatic changes. Urban development goals of sustainability, liveability and social equity will be discussed, and so will be various urban solutions, from land use pattern, urban transportation system and infrastructure investment, to housing policies. Students are challenged, through case studies, to think about necessary collective choices, including land use policies, taxation and allocation of public resources, and urban governance models, in order to achieve urban goals.

Learning Outcomes

Through the module, student will be able to:

- Understand the fundamentals of policy making
- Understand challenges in urban (re)development
- Critically evaluate the policy impacts
- Critically analyse the impacts on behaviours of various individuals and/or organizations
- Apply principles & framework in the Group Assignments

Module Prerequisite(s)

RE2701 Urban Planning
RE3703 Advanced Real Estate Economics

Module Preclusion(s)

Nil

General Guide & Reading

- Cheshire, Paul C., Nathan, Max and Overman, Henry G. (2014). **Urban economics and urban policy: challenging conventional policy wisdom**. Edward Elgar, Massachusetts, USA.
- **Urban Systems Studies** - On-line publications by Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore on relevant topics: <https://www.clc.gov.sg/research-publications/publications/books>.
- References provided at the end of lecture notes

Tentative Schedule & Outline

Lesson /Week	Date	Topic	Activity

1	Jan 10	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module outline & structure Urban challenges and public policies 	
2	Jan 17	Environment Challenge & Liveability policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change and environmental policy Urban noise and I-ACT framework 	
3	Jan 24	CNY Holiday	
4	Jan 31	Inequality challenge & Place-based policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place-based policies in low and high opportunity areas 	Tutorial 1
5	Feb 7	Population challenge & Migration policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration policy for migrants Differentiating policy in real estate market 	
6	Feb 14	Neighborhood challenge & Gentrification policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighborhood changes and gentrification case studies 	Tutorial 2
Recess Week 18 Feb to 26 Feb 2023			
7	Feb 28	Urbanization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory & principles Singapore's urban renewal policy approach 	
8	Mar 7	Building conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation vs development Tangible vs. intangible heritage 	Tutorial 3
9	Mar 14	Land & resource management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore's past reserves Land supply Property market 	
10	Mar 21	Sustainable development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for greenery despite land scarcity Value of parks and greenery 	Tutorial 4
11	Mar 28	Transportation I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable transportation Supply of land transport 	
12	Apr 4	Transportation II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel demand management Land use management Transport and health 	Tutorial 5
13	Apr 11	Revisions + group project presentations	
Reading Week 15 Apr to 21 Apr 2023			
Examination Weeks 22 Apr to 6 May 2023			

Assessment

Assessment Components	Weightage (%)
Group Assignments	40
Participation in Lectures & Tutorials	10
Final Exam (Open book)	50
Total	100

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism

Academic integrity and honesty is essential for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. The University and School expect every student to uphold academic integrity & honesty at all times. Academic dishonesty is any misrepresentation with the intent to deceive, or failure to acknowledge the source, or falsification of information, or inaccuracy of statements, or cheating at examinations/tests, or inappropriate use of resources.

Plagiarism is “the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’ own” (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The University and School will not condone plagiarism. Students should adopt this rule - You have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is being presented as entirely your own work. This is a minimum standard. In case of any doubt, you should consult your instructor.

Additional guidance is available at:

- <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/administrative-policies-procedures/acceptance-record#NUSCodeofStudentConduct>
- <http://nus.edu.sg/osa/resources/code-of-student-conduct>

About the instructors

Dr. Fan Yi is an assistant professor in the Department of Real Estate at NUS Business School. Her research interests lie in urban economics and labour economics, focusing on topics related to mobility and liveability. Specifically, she works on evaluation of responses to urban environment/policy, inter-generational and intra-generational mobility. Her work has been published at leading journals, such as *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *China Economic Review*, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*.

Dr. Fan has served as guest editor of *Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews* and has been ad hoc reviewers for more than 20 journals. She has been awarded NUS Business School Teaching Excellence Award and NUS Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Research Fellowship. Dr Fan obtained her PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2015. Prior to joining NUS, she has taught in universities in Hong Kong and the United Kingdom.

Dr. Wang Xize is an assistant professor at the Department of Real Estate of National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also a faculty affiliate of NUS Institute of Real Estate and Urban Studies (IREUS) and NUS Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR). He works interdisciplinary in the fields of public policy, urban planning, public health and transportation. His current work focuses on (1) the impact of urban built environment on people’s mental health and well-being, as well as (2) how individuals and policy makers could best mitigate the negative health impacts of the incoming global challenges (e.g., climate change, and aging).

Prior to NUS, he has been a postdoctoral scholar at University of California, Berkeley. He received a Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Development at University of Southern California, a Master in Urban and Regional Planning at University of Minnesota, and a B.E. in Urban Planning and a B.A. in Economics in 2010 at Peking University, where he was also a recipient of China's National Scholarship.