

URBAN SOCIOLOGY

Qualifying Exam — Fall 2021

The questions below constitute the qualifying exam for Urban Sociology. To complete the exam, you must answer one question from each of the three sections below in an essay format. Each answer should be a self-contained essay approximately 8–10 pages long (i.e., 2,000–2,500 words). Although you must cite to referenced work in each essay, one comprehensive bibliography for all three questions will be sufficient. You may consult materials from the reading list you've been provided, as well as any other scholarly sources you've read during the exam period.

This qualifying exam is to be completed in two weeks. The evaluation of the exam will take two weeks. You will be notified of your performance by email. Make sure that the office has your up-to-date contact information. Please use the identifying student number that you have been assigned at the top of your exam. The exams are graded confidentially and numbers only will be used to identify the author of the exam. See Graduate Handbook for any further detail

A. Choose one of the Following Questions

1. In 1899, W.E.B DuBois' classic study on *The Philadelphia Negro* yielded insights about social classes and amusements in the city. How does Dubois' image of the city relate to other early thinkers of urban sociology like Park, Burgess, Wirth, and Simmel. Has Dubois' place in the literature on urban sociology received appropriate attention? Why?
2. The city has often been viewed as a place that includes playscapes, amusements, amenities, and other sites of leisure. How have sociologists examined these spaces and what have they learned from their exploration? Given the consistent shifts in the study of urban sociology, what are some of the impending challenges facing continued exploration of the city?

B. Choose one of the Following Questions

1. What does locally grounded urban ethnographies or other qualitative studies based on fieldwork add to our understanding of macro- and global-level social processes and inequalities?
2. How had state socialism as a social formation impacted urban development and what did this legacy imply for the formation the postsocialist city?

C. Choose one of the Following Questions

1. What does the notion of the 'right to the city' mean? And how does it relate to the subaltern struggles to reclaim and reshape cities, as have been discussed in the works of Partha Chaterjee, James Holston, and Asef Bayat? Discuss.
2. Post-colonial scholars such as Ananya Roy claim that Western urban perspectives are unable to account for the complexities of city life in the Global South. What do you think of this argument? Does

Roy's argument apply also to the post-socialist cities? What are the key elements in the postsocialist cities that distinguish them from their western capitalist counterparts? Discuss.