

MÀSTER EN ESTUDIS TERRITORIALS I DE LA POBLACIÓ
(edició 2012-2013)

Departament de Geografia,
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Seminari Green Planning Today

Professor: Dr. Jason Byrne

Dies: 25, 26 i 26 de setembre del 2012

[Seminari 1. Environmental justice and access to urban green space](#)

25 de setembre del 2012

Geographers and planners in North America have recognised since the 1970s that some people bear a heavier burden of environmental harm than others. This basic idea is known as 'environmental justice'. Environmental injustice means that low-income earners and minority populations are disproportionately exposed to harms like pollution (air, water and soil), natural hazards (e.g. earthquakes) and have more difficulty in getting decision-makers to fix these problems. In North America these disadvantaged populations are called 'people of colour' (e.g. African-Americans, Latinos and Asians) and the 'working poor'. But European countries and Australia have been much slower to recognise these problems, and planners have yet to fully grasp the extent of the issues and what to do about them. This lecture explores the problem of environmental justice looking at a case study of the United States' largest urban national park in Los Angeles. The lecture briefly overviews the literature, discusses a research project, examines findings, and suggests a research agenda for exploring these issues in European cities such as Barcelona.

[Seminari 2. Climate justice and planning for vulnerable populations and climate change](#)

26 de setembre del 2012

Most urban scholars and design professionals accept that climate change is occurring. Many cities have begun to prepare action plans to address climate change threats. But few design professionals, policy makers and academics recognise that climate change has environmental justice implications, especially for cities. This lecture explores the new field of 'climate justice' and examines the latest findings from recent research. Climate justice refers to the fact that vulnerable and disadvantaged urban populations are disproportionately exposed to harms resulting from climate change, such as floods, intense storm events, heatwaves and food insecurity. A research agenda for climate justice research in Australia is discussed and how that agenda might be extended to European cities such as Barcelona is explored.

Seminari 3. The role of green space in climate change adaptation

27 de setembre del 2012

Parks, reserves, green walls, street trees, community gardens and other types of green spaces have a potential role to play in adapting cities to climate change. We know that cities will be especially vulnerable to multiple threats arising from climate change, but green space may mitigate many of these threats. This lecture explore recent research undertaken in China looking at how Chinese residents perceive climate change, and whether they are prepared to accept increased green space in the built environment as a way of adapting cities to climate change. The lecture considers implications of the research for European cities like Barcelona.



Dr Jason Byrne BA Hons. Anthropol., UWA; BA Urb. Reg. Plan., Curtin; Ph.D., Geog. S Calif., LA

Jason is a senior lecturer in environmental planning at Griffith University (Gold Coast campus). As an urban geographer, interested in nature/society relations, specifically urban green space, his research focuses on the cutting-edge field of 'urban political ecology', framed around the urban nature/society/health nexus, with a sub-focus on ecological modernisation and climate change. Jason is particularly interested in the nature's services benefits that green space (e.g. parks, reserves, open space) provides and how we can better plan urban

environments to maximise these benefits.

Jason is affiliated with three research centres (the Urban Research Program, Environmental Futures, and the Centre for Environment and Population Health). As a member of the Association of American Geographers, Institute for Australian Geographers, Planning Institute of Australia and International Urban Fellows Association, he works with a network of international researchers and has collaborated on international research investigating obesogenic urban environments (USA) and park ecosystem services (China) among other projects.

He has published over 40 scholarly publications including peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and encyclopaedia entries.