



Networks of Cultural Production in the City: Digital Mapping

Overview

This course will focus on the relation between culture, history, and urban space through the aid of digital mapping. Drawing on certain case studies, it will offer insights on the spatial history of the urban milieu to understand where cultural production—in its expanded sense of knowledge production in the arts, literature, and sciences—takes place. These sites may include libraries, publishing houses, printing presses, bookshops, publishers, cinemas and theaters, literary and scientific associations, educational institutions etc. The goal is to discover the interrelations among these sites with the aid of interactive GIS maps in order to understand: 1) how cultural materialities, networks and flows—things, practices, spaces and forms—reconfigure the city; 2) the impact of the city’s cultural milieu on its public sphere; and 3) how notions of place-making play out with reference to the city’s cultural milieu. This course will bring together literatures and debates that cross the social sciences, humanities and science/technology, drawing particularly on material culture studies, urban and architectural studies, sociology of consumption, practice theory, actor-network theory, cultural theory and design studies. The course will expose participants to selected digital/GIS mapping tools, as well as archival investigation, ethnographic research, and how to bring these methods into conversation. Participants will explore methods for thinking spatially and learn how to plan a digital mapping research project.

Course Objectives

The objectives of the course are as follows:

1. Offer an understanding of cities, culture and the material aspect of cultural production in a different range of contexts through the aid of digital mapping/Digital Humanities.
2. Offer an awareness of key urban theories, cultural changes, cultural policy, trends and underlying dynamics in view of the cultural aspect of city-making.
3. Combine interdisciplinary perspectives from material culture studies, urban and architectural studies, sociology of consumption, actor-network theory, practice theory, cultural theory and design studies, and expose participants to the affordances of digital/GIS mapping of cultural networks.
4. Knowledge of GIS is not a prerequisite. While GIS training is outside of its scope, this course demonstrates what GIS may endow the cultural theorists with, particularly with reference to the practice of spatial history. The tutorials – involving practical issues

through case studies and guided exercises, however, will introduce GIS to the participants.

Course Outline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The city in history ● Understanding cities: Theory, culture & spatiality ● Ways of being in and experiencing the city ● Networks: Flow of people, things, ideas ● Movement, mobility & mapping ● Desired future and the smart city project ● Spatial analysis & digital mapping ● How do we (re)imagine the city (digitally)? ● Cultural production: Networks, sub-cultures & cultural subversion
Dates & Duration	27-31 October , 2025 (5 days): 12 hours lectures and 4 hours tutorials
Who can attend ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students (graduate, research) interested in Urban and Architecture Studies, Digital Humanities and cultural aspects of urbanization, city-making etc. ● Faculty from reputed academic institutions and practitioners from the artistic, cultural, governmental, and industrial fields with related interests.
Exam Date	Date of examination: 31 October 2025
Fees	<p>a. Participants from abroad: USD 250 b. Participants from Industry/Research Organizations: Rs. 5000/- c. Participants from Academic Institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faculty member: Rs. 2000/- ● PG & PhD Student, both internal & externals: Rs. 500/- <p>Registration fee does NOT cover food or accommodation. Outstation participants may be provided with twin sharing accommodation upon payment at the Institute Guest House, if available.</p>
Registration Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay the requisite course fee (see above) through SBI Collect. You may use the adjacent QR code. Select: NETWORKS OF CULTURAL PRODT IN THE CITY D/M 2512011. Save the payment reference number. You'd need this in the next step. 2. Fill out this registration form. Now, await the Course Coordinator's confirmation. 3. The deadline for registration is 31 August 2025. Number of participants for the course will be limited to 50. Seats will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis.



Instructors



Swati Chattopadhyay is an architect and architectural historian specializing in modern architecture and urbanism, and the cultural landscape of the British empire. She is a Founding Editor of PLATFORM, and has served as a director of the Subaltern-Popular Workshop, a University of California Multi-campus Research Group, and as the editor of the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians (JSAH)*. In 2018 she was named as a Fellow of the Society of Architectural Historians for a lifetime of significant contributions to the field. She is the author of *Small Spaces: Recasting the Architecture of Empire* (Bloomsbury, 2023); *Unlearning the City: Infrastructure in a New Optical Field* (Minnesota, 2012); and *Representing Calcutta: Modernity, Nationalism, and the Colonial Uncanny* (Routledge, 2005; paperback 2006).



Avishek Ray is an Associate Professor of Cultural Studies at the National Institute of Technology Silchar. He is the author of *The Vagabond in the South Asian Imagination: Representation, Agency & Resilience* (Routledge, 2022), co-author of *Digital Expressions of the Self(ie): The Social Life of Selfies in India* (Routledge, 2024) and co-editor of *Nation, Nationalism and the Public Sphere: Religious Politics in India* (SAGE, 2020). He works on mobility, postcolonialism and digital cultures. His research appears in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, *Contemporary South Asia*, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, *Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies*, *Transfers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies*, *Tourism, Culture & Communication*, among others.

Course Coordinator

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