Cities of Megasecurity:
Tracing Global-City Studies, and Mapping New Urban Governance and Uprising

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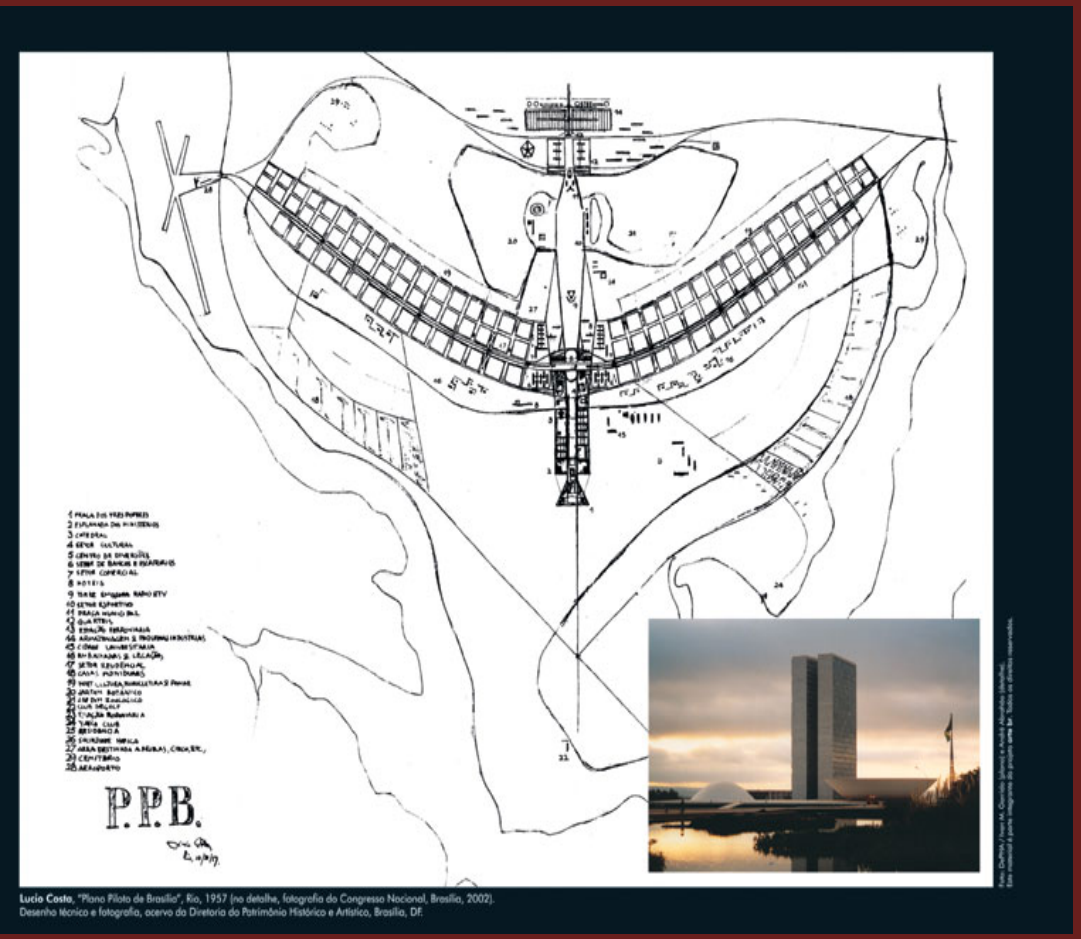
Agenda

- Trace the intellectual history of “global city” studies, as interventions in contentious politics of urban life.

- Identify certain powerful actors, security formations, and economic interests that merit more attention as “global city studies” moves forward.

- Revisit the “Cairo School of Global Urban Studies” and present the cases of urban securitization and social uprising in Cairo and Rio de Janeiro.

19402-60s: Modernist Urbanism



Lucio Costa, "Plano Piloto de Brasília", Rio, 1957 (no detalhe, fotografia do Congresso Nacional, Brasília, 2002).
Desenho técnico e fotografia, acervo da Diretoria do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico, Brasília, DF.

- ISI (Import Substitution Industrialization)
- Nationalization of steel, concrete, fossil fuels
- The secular religion of engineering
- Scale jumping
- Military corps of engineers
- State as "view from jet plane, or bombardier"
- Social engineering rather than popular participation
- Slum clearance and "urban blight"
- Megastate, megascale
- Functional segregation, and suburbanization and racial segregation
- Backlash and revolt

"THE CITY PLANNERS ARE RAVAGING OUR CITIES!"

They've put up gleaming stone and gloss file cabinet housing which breeds delinquency and crime.

They've built spacious green park areas that are avoided by everyone but bums and hoodlums.

They've condemned and destroyed entire city blocks that are not slums, but attractive places to live.

They've zoned our cities into intolerable patterns of dullness.

Jane Jacobs says this and much more in her explosive new book, THE DEATH AND LIFE OF GREAT AMERICAN CITIES. Mrs. Jacobs shows that the city planners have failed because they have overlooked the realities of urban life, and stripped our cities of the vitality and diversity which make them exciting places to live. She offers concrete, practical alternatives that can save our cities from the blunders of orthodox planners.

Harrison Salisbury of the *New York Times* hails this book as "the most refreshing, stimulating and exciting study of this greatest of our problems of living which I've seen. It fairly crackles with bright honesty and good sense."

William H. Whyte, author of *The Organization Man*, calls it "magnificent. One of the most remarkable books ever written about the city."

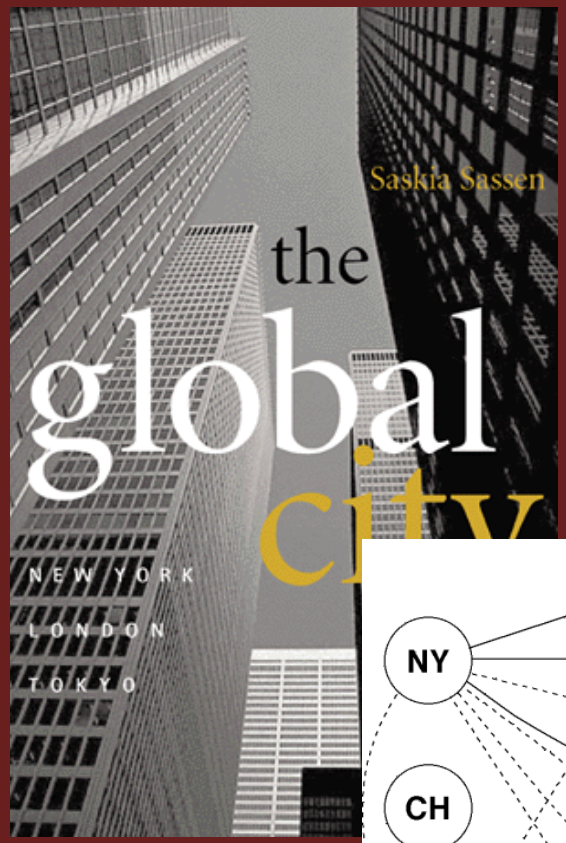
The Death and Life of Great American Cities

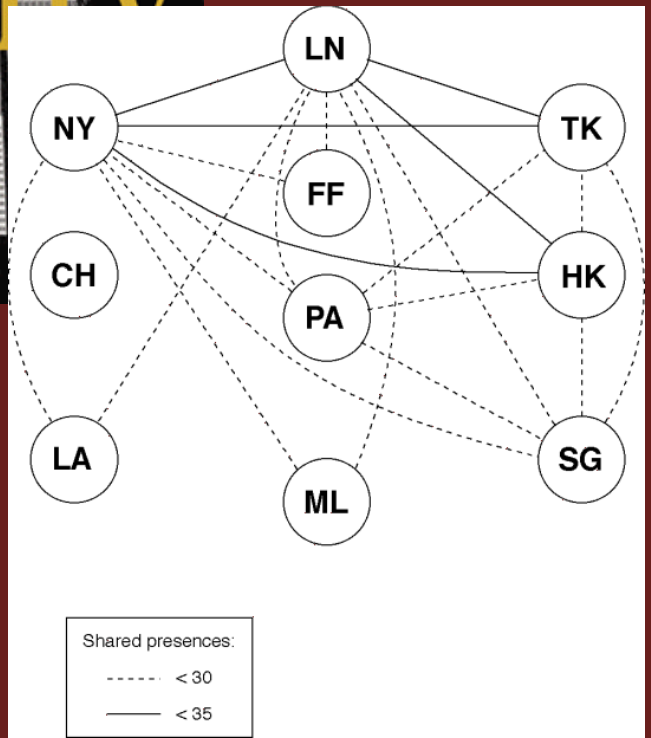
By JANE JACOBS

$5.95, now at your bookstore

RANDOM HOUSE

1980s-1990s: Global City as Financial Hub



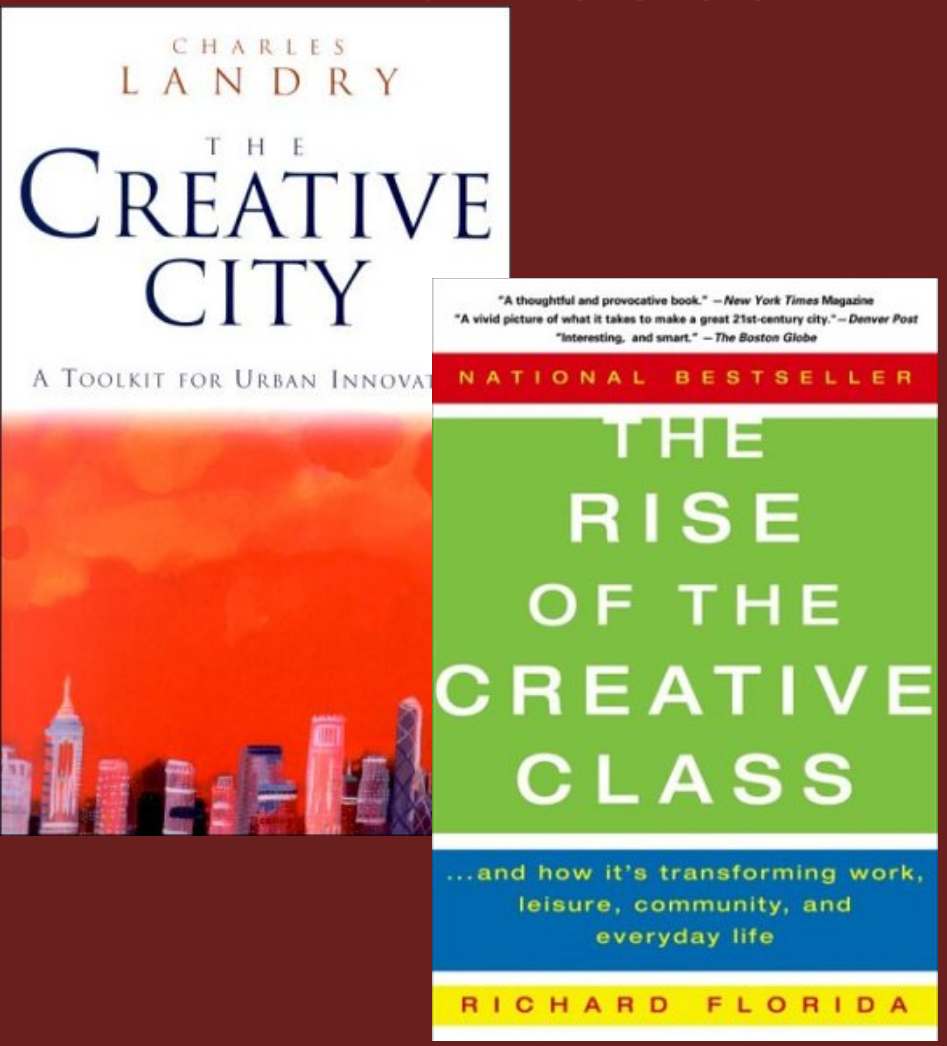


- Post Cold War
- Megascale of state as social engineer is discredited
- State continues to expand, but in policing, prison, security realms, shifts to "parastate" and "privatized" modes for housing, education

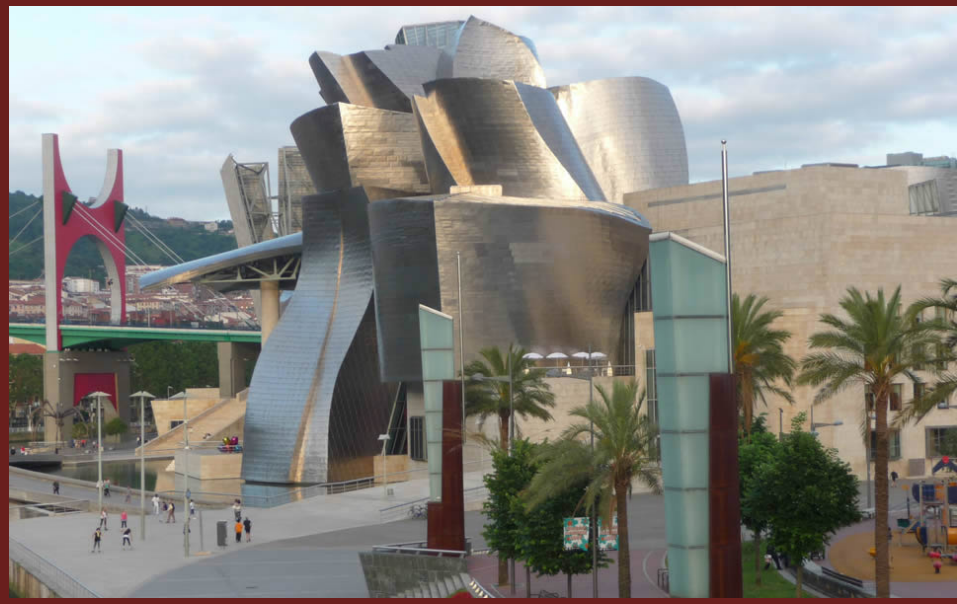
Urban "model" becomes one of financial hub for private sector, "disloyal" to the nation, promoting "globalization"

"Culture" designated as enclave where "the local" is authentically preserved as a form of social capital and competitive advantage

Mid-1990s: The Creative City



- The city as dynamic, productive "civil society" and creative hub
- City reemerges as ideal place to live (not suburbs of the past, or the enclaves of today)
- Multiculturalism, sexuality, -pro-immigrant, "cultural resistance to global homogeneity"
- The liberal archipelago
- Gentrification
- From "FIRE" cities to design, tech and "branding" hubs
- Problem: boutique cities?
- Focus on Global North
- Strong critique by "neoliberal city" school in UK and by "Cairo School"

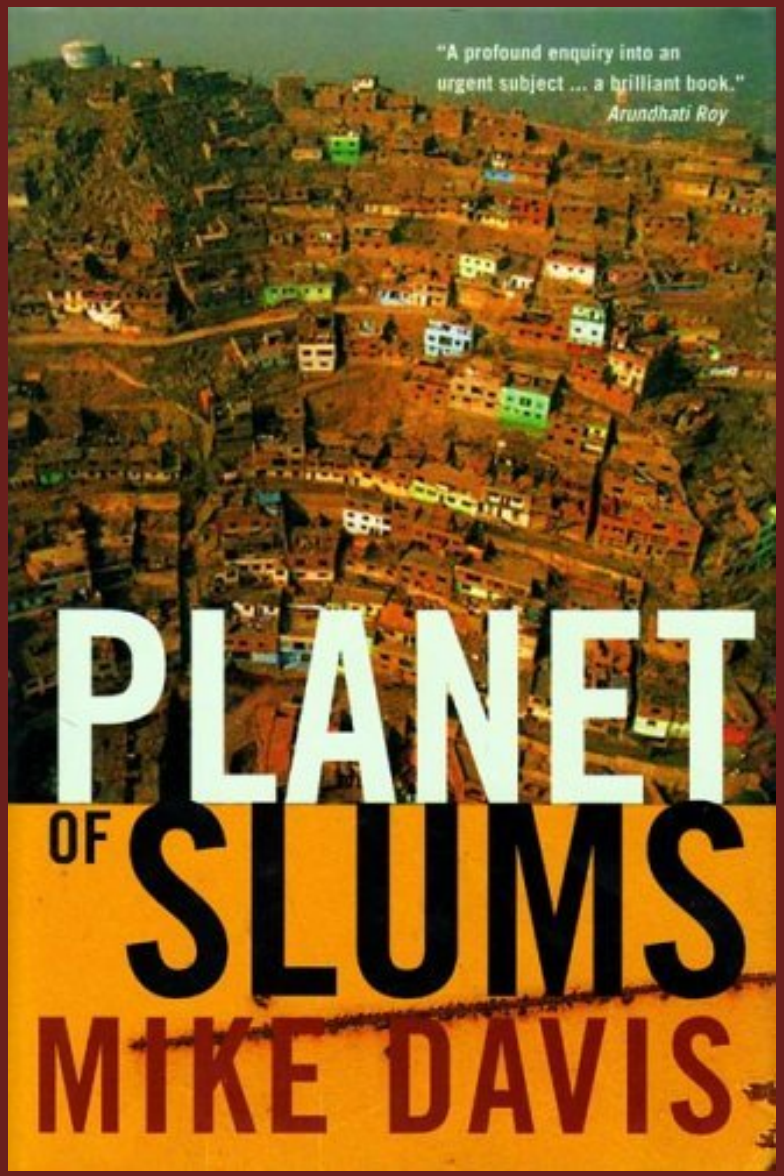


CCB creativ city berlin

Dubai
The Creative City

in and out Dubai

Mid-90s, 2000s: “Planet of Slums”



- Recognition that “Global City” and “Creative City” models ignored the primary realities of urbanism for most city dwellers: “informal settlements”
- Vernacular urban phobia, drug wars, “Arab Street,” slums as a racial space and as the new “dark continent” of criminogenesis
- Hernando de Soto and the “revolutionary” revaluation of the capitalist agency of slum residence
- Realities: Microcredit, charging for water and privatizing security, and “debt democratization”
- Reassessing the state and elite formations that create the “planet of slums” WHILE empowering real participation by residents
- The rise of the Pacification Police and the Humanitarian Military in and around slum areas – the new internal colony

2010-2013: Explosion Urban-Transnational Uprisings and Utopias

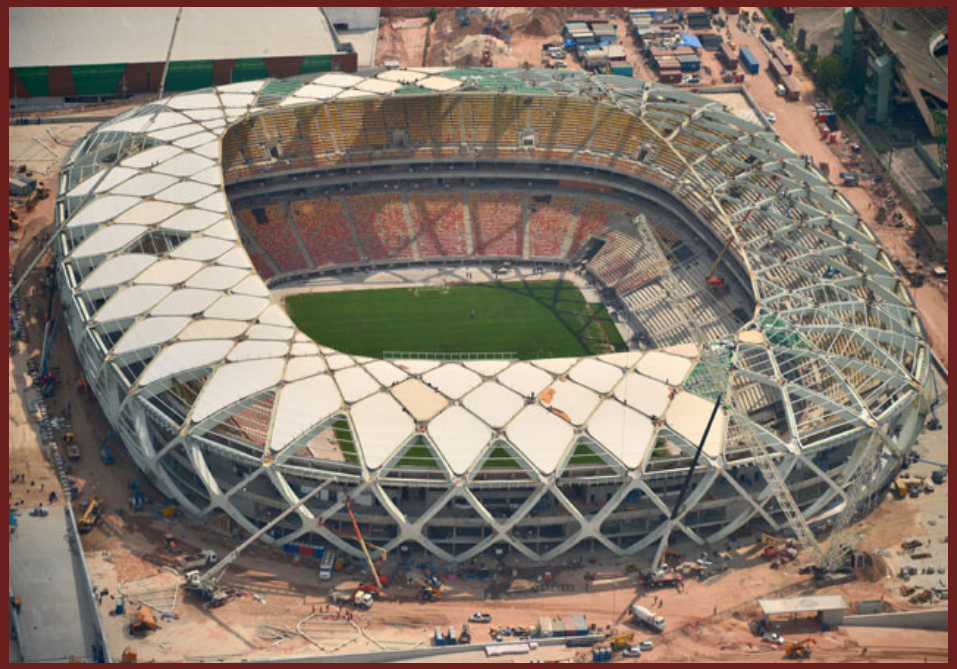
- Tahrir and Tunis
- Indignados and Occupy Wall Street
- Istanbul and Rio de Janeiro
- Shift to public spaces as stagings, platforms, utopias
- Facebook generation, theaters of clashes between police state and radical youth practice

Return of anarchy theory

Neglect of urban-global history:

- Is this a revolution of the "creative classes"/elite "new media"youth,
- uprising of the "planet of slums,"
- reemergence of a city of manufacturing and labor struggles
- reemergence of high-modernism lead by military and big contractors

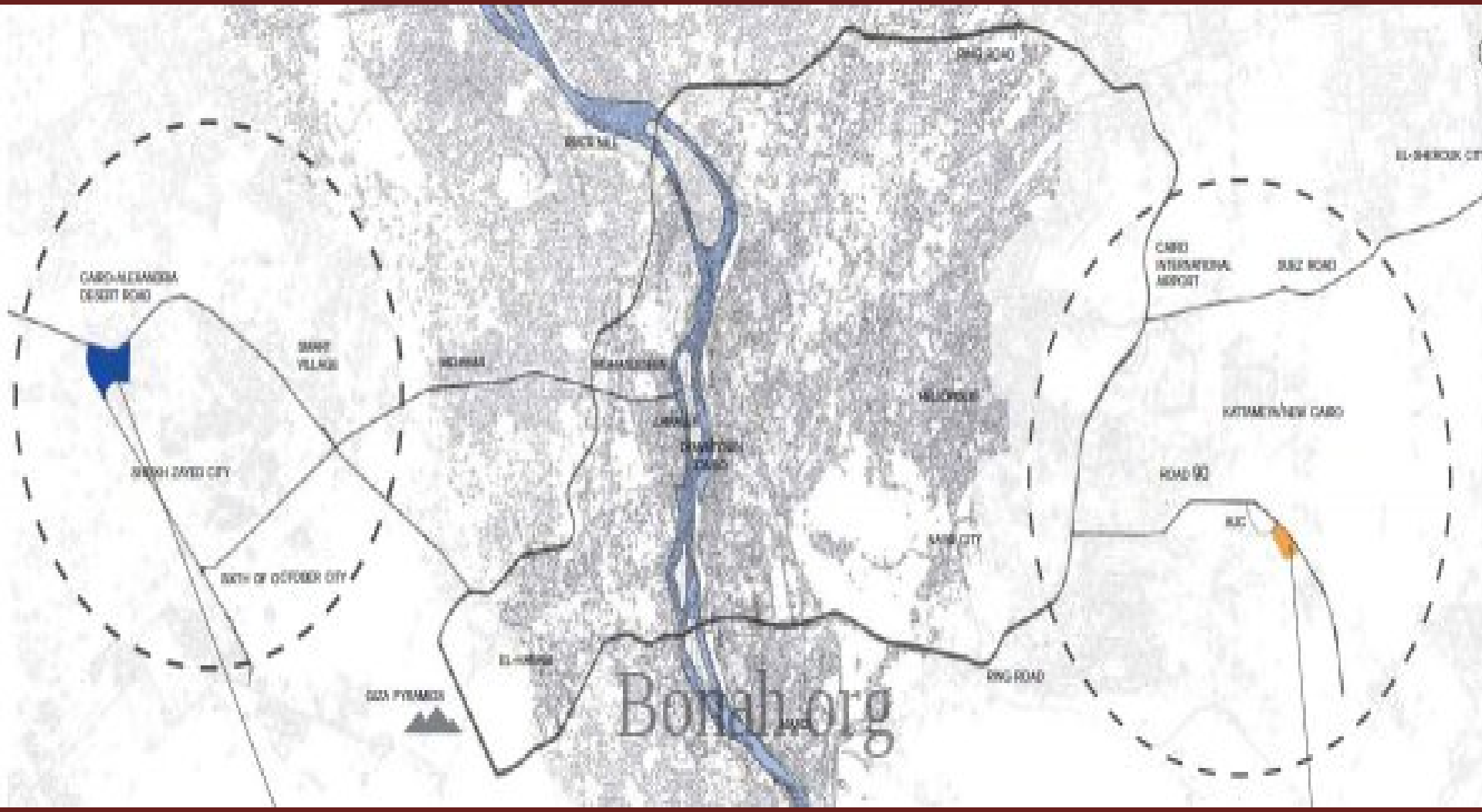
2010s-today: “New Materialism”



- Infrastructure
- Objects as actors
- Concrete, minerals, roads, walls, carbon molecules
- Megascale urbanisms return
- Sometimes as socialist state (Pink Wave), sometimes as crony capitalist-military alliance (Russia, Egypt, US)
- Mass politics of spectacle (sports stadiums, Olympics, landmark buildings and bridges)
- Mass populisms and state violence
- Mass reactions from youth, children, displaced communities, demanding “right to the city”
- My critique of “new materialism” and its focus on objects and tech-science
- The human as object of security, rescue, protection, paternalism
- The scale of object politics and the massification of “the people” through human-security: CITIES OF MEGASECURITY

CASE STUDY: Shifting Geographies of Urbanism in Cairo

- Egypt since 1973:
  - Making the Market State (liberalization) or
  - Making the Thug-Crony State (securitization)?
- Informalization of housing and governance:
- Innovations in popular sovereignty


RING ROAD
CAIRO-ALEXANDRIA DESERT ROAD
SMART VILLAGE
SHEIKH ZAYED CITY
SIXTH OF OCTOBER CITY
GIZA PYRAMIDS
HELIOPOLIS
NAINI CITY
CAIRO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SUEZ ROAD
KATTAMEYA/NEW CAIRO
ROAD 90
RING ROAD
Bonah.org

The baltagiya as parastatal center of governmentality, but projected as the outside…. the shadow state.

2008-2012 Revolutionary Downtown, Workers Republics, and Bandit Utopias

- Transformations of downtown, as peri-urban developments are enclaved

- Radical sociability of downtown, versus new contentious middle-class developments

الشوار مش بلطجيه
ليه نتحاكم عسكرية؟

‘Mu’allima Feminism’

Childrens Social Movements

العدل مين سيده؟!

مقتل 47 طفلاً في حادث تصادم
ع المدرسة رايحين.. شُهداء بالملايين..

إلحقوا إخواتي باقي الأطفال
أسيوط

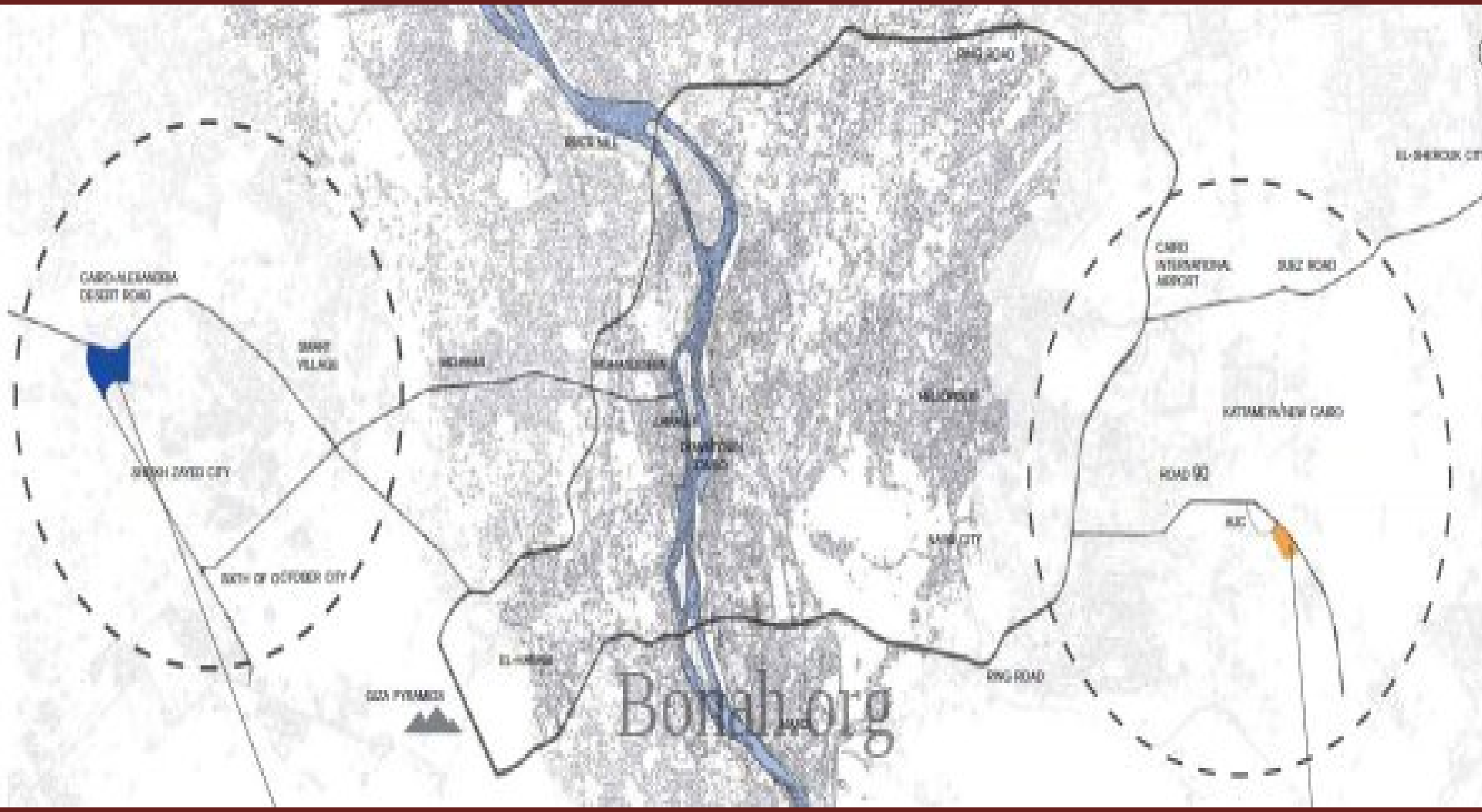
الثوره اتولدت
فكره ولا يمكن تموت

إيه الفروق بين زمان والوقت
لا لحكم العسكر

سميرة إبراهيم: ٢٥ عام تمت تعريتها بالقوة والكشف عن عذريتها
أمام ضباط وعساكر بالجيش وأبت أن لا تنشر فكرتها
لا الإعلام.. لا الجمهور.. لا الإعلام.. لا حياة لمن تنادي
٢٠ عام تعرف وكشفت عن جسدها بمحض إرادتها
تحية إعزاز وإجلال
ومؤازرة لسميرة إبراهيم
بنت الصعيد

HOMO PHOBIA
IS NOT
REVOLUTIONARY
NEVER

- Workers Republics (women factory spaces) in Delta
- New Persian Gulf sexuality and sex commerce formations in Egypt
- Bandit Utopias (and dystopias) in Upper Egypt and Suez, etc.
- Mohammad Mahmoud as Paris Commune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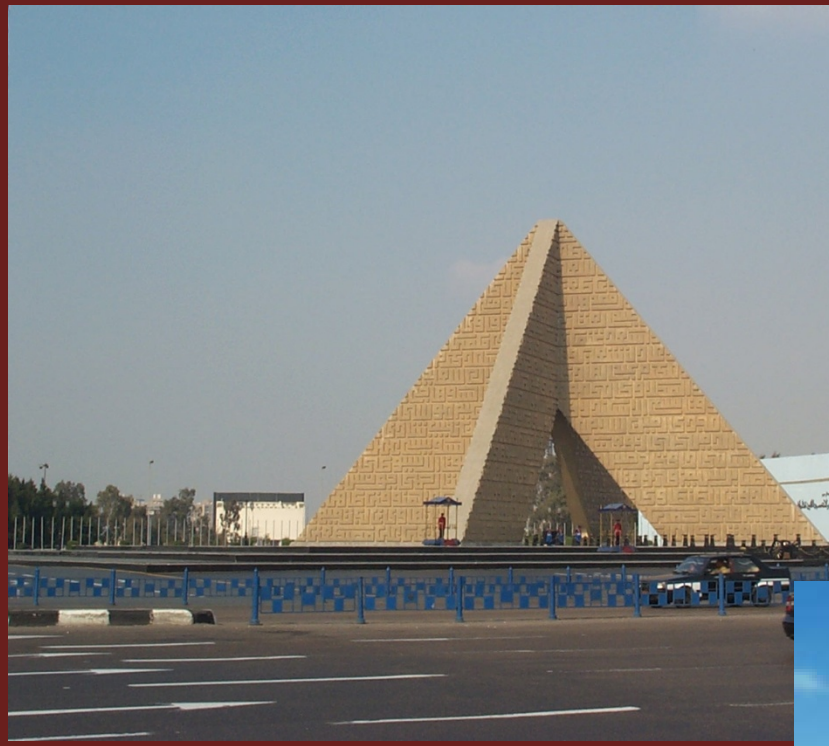
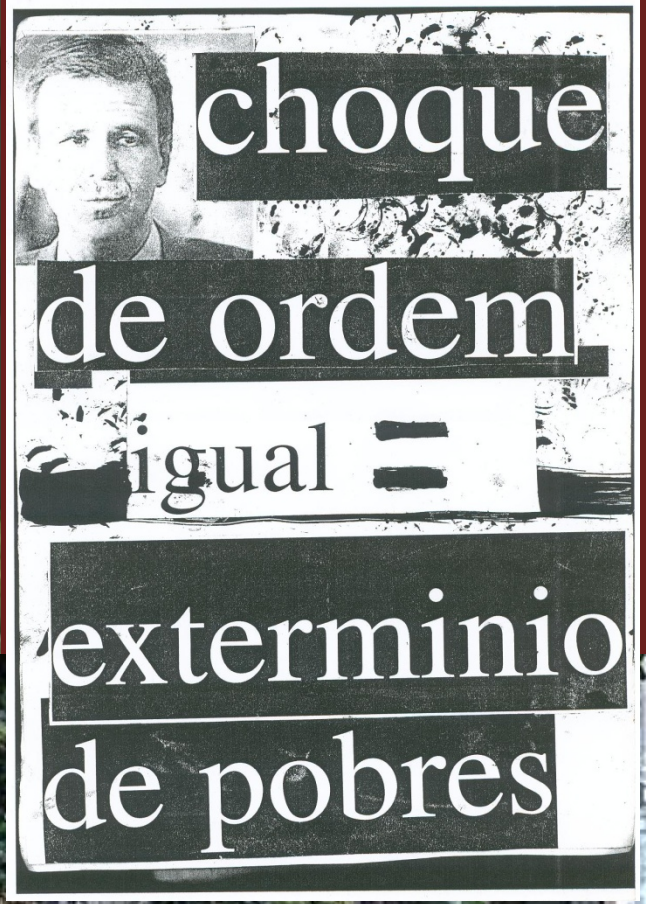


2013-2014 Sissi Period: Saudi Surge?

- Spaces of violence and scale of violence focus on contests between Brotherhood-Qatar bloc and Saudi-Egyptian Army bloc
- Certain new spaces, new moral panics

Rio: Pacification of Slums and Shock-Ordering of “Asphalt”

PREFEITURA - ORDEM PÚBLICA
CHOQUE DE ORDEM
RIO VERÃO 2010
ORDENAMENTO DA ORLA
TG
Tenda de Gerenciamento


choque
de ordem
igual =
exterminio
de pobres

CONTRA A REPRESSÃO AOS POBRES
ABAIXO

Review

- Scale Politics of Mega-urbanism, finance, security
- Limitations of “creativity” promotion, financial democratization and slum entrepreneurship
- New materialities, infrascrutures and security globalizations
- The emergence of mass resistance – toward progressive global-city revolution? Or violent populisms that will preserve the cronies and contractor elites?