



---

## Speculative Urbanism and the New Volatility of City Life

Lecture by Michael Goldman

Wednesday, May 23, 2018  
5 p.m., Room A 300

---

## Invitation

---

IUN-Habitat Director Joan Clos recently declared we would build more urban infrastructure in the next three decades than in all of human history. He was referring to an emergent global imperative to transform our cities into global (or green or smart) cities, as a necessary path to global sustainability. Michael Goldman will explain the origins of the global obsession with urban infrastructure, its transnational spread, and its relationship to the 2008 financial crisis and current regime of urban financialization. The talk will start with trends in Europe and the U.S., then focus on Michael Goldman's research in India where housing and land dispossession, empty buildings and stalled infrastructure projects co-exist, municipalities have become bankrupt, and private equity firms are major landlords. A range of pressing issues will be discussed: Why has this happened and how are people resisting? Who will pay, who will use such "world-class" facilities? How will this infrastructure solve our most trenchant problems of poverty, inequality, and ecological distress?

Professor **Michael Goldman** teaches Sociology and Global Studies at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (USA), is currently the V.K.R.V. Chair Professor at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (Bangalore, India), author of *Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization* (Yale University Press), and is completing a book manuscript on speculative urbanism and the (un)making of global cities.

Comment: Prof. Dr. **Sebastian Botzem**, Universität Bremen and FU Berlin

Moderation: Dr. **Tine Hanrieder**, WZB

The Lecture is part of the WZB event series **Great Crisis of Capitalism – A Second Great Transformation?**

To register, please reply by May 18, 2018 to Marion Obermaier, E-Mail: [marion.obermaier@wzb.eu](mailto:marion.obermaier@wzb.eu)

*Our event location is wheelchair-accessible. If you need support, please inform Friederike Theilen-Kosch: [friederike.theilen-kosch@wzb.eu](mailto:friederike.theilen-kosch@wzb.eu)*

---

WZB Berlin Social Science Center  
Reichpietschufer 50  
D-10785 Berlin  
Telefon +49 (30) 25491-0  
Telefax +49 (30) 25491684