Global Course: Spatial Planning and Institutional Design

Introduction Lecture
Dr. Gwenda van der Vaart
University of Groningen
2020-2021

Introduction

Global Course

Partners:
Groningen University
University of Tokyo
Newcastle University,
University of Washington, Seattle
Renmin University of China

+ Damascus University, Damascus, Syria

University of Groningen

University of Washington

Renmin University of China

Newcastle University

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University of Tokyo

Global Course is truly international

› Lectures are recorded and streamed at five top universities on three continents.

› Group assignment with collaboration with fellow students from around the globe.

Virtual classroom: globalcourse.planning.eu

About the Global Course

Two central questions:

1. What are institutions and which historic, economic and cultural factors explain their existence?

2. How and why does the institutional context differ between the participating countries?

Context-dependent

About the Global Course

Course aim: create awareness among planning students that:

› spatial interventions are rooted in institutional settings, and institutional changes might have spatial outcomes as well

› spatial design cannot do without institutional design.

› **Juxtapose** some of the most influential writings on Institutional Design with a focus on the discipline of planning

› **Discuss** the mechanisms underlying different institutional settings and planning frameworks in countries around the globe.

› **Explain** the dialectic between institutional arrangements and planning practice.

› **Apply** different perspectives on Institutional Design on a real-life case study.

› **Reflect** on institutional settings in your home country, by taking into account different perspectives on Institutional Design and international planning practices.

› **Demonstrate** a sense of respect for other frames of reference and cultural differences

› **Cooperate** with fellow students from different universities, who come from different cultural backgrounds and institutional systems, by using digital technology and the English language.

Two narratives

› Theoretical-oriented
› Practice-oriented

Theoretical narrative

› Institutions

- are influenced by history, culture and economy on various scale levels.

- are the result of decision-making processes, democratic procedures, collective behavior and power struggles between public and private bodies, official and unofficial, and institutional and individual actors.

› Nature of Institutions explained from different perspectives: institutional economics, political economy, path dependency, and (in)formal institutions.

Practice-oriented narrative

› International-comparative approach on planning systems, based on an overview of the institutional context of the participating countries.

› Local context, explain how spatial planning system is established

› What is ultimately the goal of spatial planning and spatial interventions?

Role of each University

› Each University:

  › represents a specific institutional background

  › provides 2 lecures: theoretical narrative & practice-oriented narrative

› Web-lectures

› Virtual classroom http://globalcourse.inplanning.eu

› Group Assignment

› Diverse and intellectually stimulating environment

University of Groningen (Netherlands)

Lecture: Introduction to Institutional Design and Spatial Planning

Lecture: Country overview NL: Dutch spatial planning: too good to be true?

Newcastle University (United Kingdom)

Lecture: Understanding spatial planning from a political economy perspective

Lecture: Country overview UK: Institutional Design and the Historic Environment – The British Conservation Planning System.
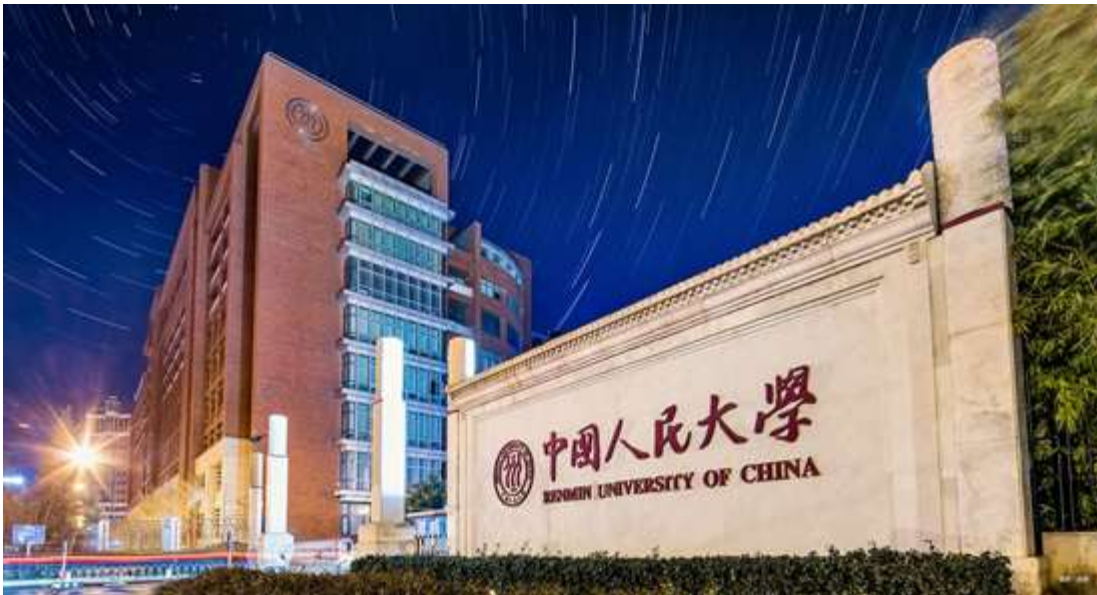
University of Tokyo (Japan)

Department of Civil Engeneering

Lecture: Introduction to Land Use Planning in Japan: Understanding How the Japanese Urban Environment is Shaped.

Lecture: Country overview Japan: Making of Urban Tokyo and Urban Planning system in Japan.

Renmin University (China)

Department of Urban Planning and Management

Lecture: Spatial Planning System in China: Structure, Agency and Path Dependence

Lecture: Understanding the role of the planner in reshaping urban landscape in China.

University of Washington (USA)

Department of Urban Design and Planning

Lecture: Understanding spatial planning from an institutional economics perspective

Lecture: Country overview USA: Evaluating the Role of Local Government in the USA

Group Assignment

› Cooperate with colleagues from all over the globe.

› Apply an international-comparative approach to a specific topic and investigate how and why the institutional settings are different in different geographical contexts.

› Groups of max. 12 students (2 from each participating institution) work on the same topic.

› Topics:

Shortage or nuisance of car parking   *Energy transition of housing*
(Over)tourism / versus local culture   *Urban regeneration*
Vibrant university campuses   *Sports facilities*
Urban heritage conservation

Your local professors will check for your preferred topic.
Group formation will be announced on April 16!

Group Assignment

Edition 2020-2021
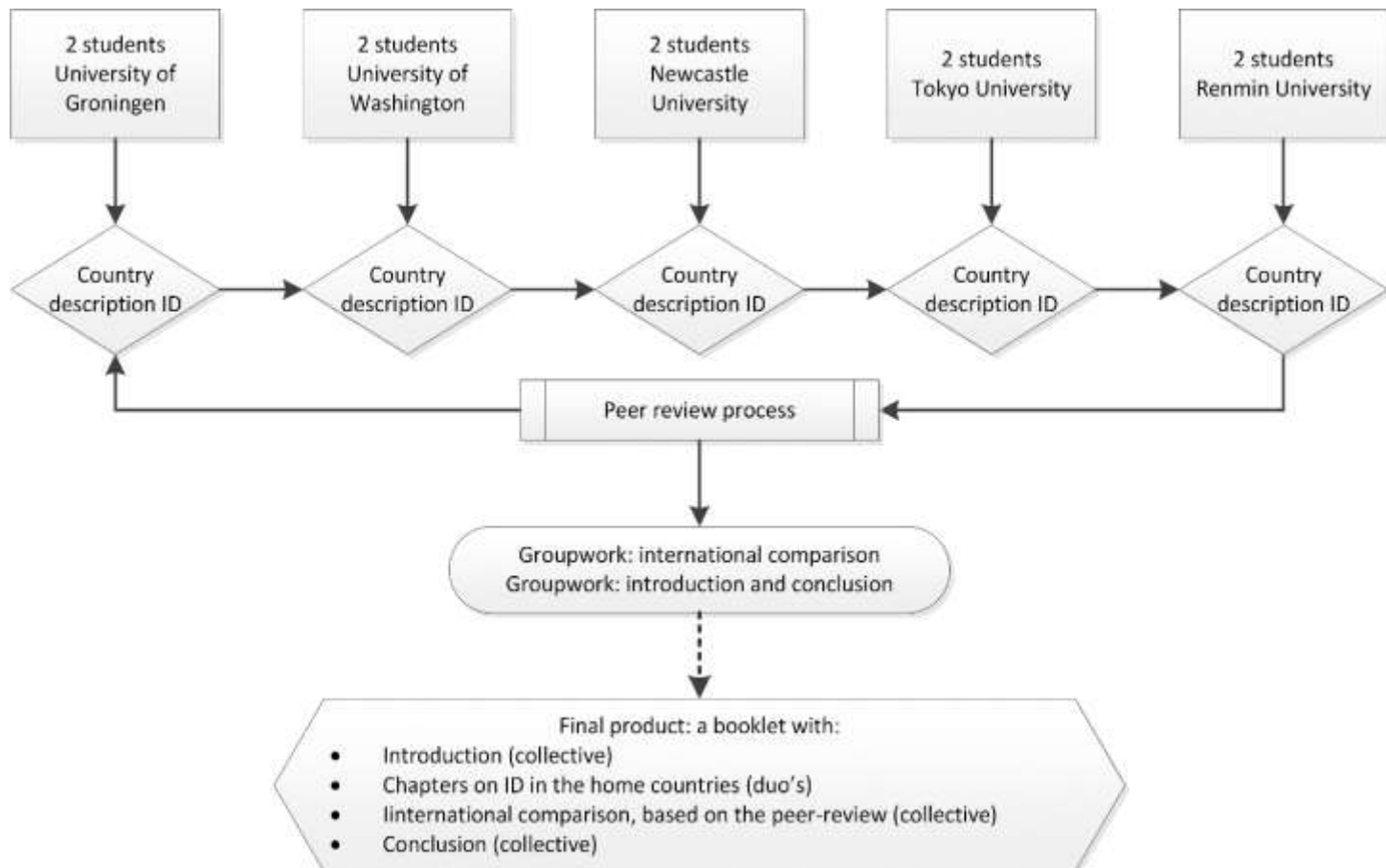
ASSIGNMENT TEMPLATE AND INSTRUCTIONS

Title [fill in the title of the assignment]

Assignment Global Course on Institutional Design for Spatial Planning

Group Description
Student_1 name, Newcastle University
Student_2 name, Newcastle University
Student_3 name, Renmin University
Student_4 name, Renmin University
Student_5 name, University of Washington
Student_6 name, University of Washington
Student_7 name, University of Groningen
Student_8 name, University of Groningen
Student_9 name, University of Tokyo
Student_10 name, University of Tokyo
Student_11 name, Damascus University
Student_12 name, Damascus University

Abstract (*max. 200 words*)

The abstract is a **collective effort**. Summarize the assignment structure, topic under study and key findings from the specific country chapters and international comparison of the Institutional Design.

1. Introduction (*max. 700 words*)

The introductory chapter is a **collective effort** done <u>after the peer-review process</u>. Please describe the topic/planning issue under analysis ('what' is it, 'why' did you choose this planning issue, and 'when' is it encountered in practice by a planner). Develop a sound problem definition that expresses the relevance of analysing a specific spatial planning problem. You are encouraged to think of the scalar level, history, underlying power balance of institutions and their outcomes regarding the chosen topic. The introduction should provide a comprehensive understanding of the planning problem selected.

2. Country Chapters (*max. 1500 words per country description*)

This chapter constitutes the 'country chapters' elaborated by **each local group**, i.e. you will work together with colleague(s) from your University.

Group Assignment

› First deadline May 17 23:59 GMT (country chapter draft)

› Second deadline May 24 23:59 GMT (peer-review)

› Final deadline June 9 23:59 GMT (comparative analysis)

› Use digital technology to discuss and operate in an international setting.

Ethics

› Fully taught and assessed in English

› **Interactions** with colleagues from around the globe, which involves unexpected encounters with new ideas that might challenge your own worldview, or the dominant way of thinking about spatial planning in your country.

Ethics

› Understanding of different institutional settings contributes to a better understanding of the structural powers that shape the institutional environment of students' home base.

› Consideration each other's traditions, manners and work method - inclusiveness, open-mindedness, and embracing and learning with diversity.

› Any questions?

globalcourse.inplanning.eu

or ask your professors

g.van.dervaart@rug.nl

Next: dr. Barend Wind on Institutions and Planning