

PUBLIC LECTURE - ALL WELCOME

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017

9:45AM - 11:00AM

**VENUE: CONFERENCE ROOM 449, MADSEN BUILDING,
SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES, THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY**



CONJUNCTURAL URBANISM: CITIES, FINANCIALIZATION, AND LATE NEOLIBERALISM

The field of critical urban studies has been moved in recent years by a series of poststructural and postcolonial interventions that have raised searching questions about the explanatory status accorded to “EuroAmerican” case studies, about the reach and relevance of political-economic theory claims concerning entrepreneurial (or neoliberal) modes of regulation, and about the respective utility of planetary, provincial, and particularized formulations of the urban. Conceived as a constructive response to these debates, the presentation will make a case for a “conjunctural” approach to critical urban studies. Here, a special place is reserved for the provisional formulation and ongoing revision of “midlevel” theories—from the entrepreneurial city to austerity urbanism and financialized urban governance—abstraction and contextualization being understood to be simultaneous, dialogic practices. More concretely, conjunctural approaches must also be especially attentive to the positioning of cities in relation to uneven geographical development, spatial divisions of labor, and multiscalar relations. These arguments are illustrated with reference to the shift from entrepreneurial urbanism to fiscal crisis in Detroit and Atlantic City.

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A dark blue silhouette of a city skyline with various building shapes of different heights and widths.

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**PROFESSOR JAMIE PECK,
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Jamie Peck is Canada Research Chair in Urban & Regional Political Economy and Professor of Geography at the University of British Columbia, Canada. With long-term research interests in urban restructuring, geographical political economy, labor studies, the politics of policy formation and mobility, and economic geography, his current research is focused on the financial restructuring of U.S. cities, the politics of contingent labor, and the political economy of neoliberalization.

Recent books include *Offshore: Exploring the worlds of global outsourcing* (2017, Oxford); *Fast Policy: Experimental statecraft at the thresholds of neoliberalism* (2015, Minnesota, with Nik Theodore); *Constructions of Neoliberal Reason* (2010, Oxford); and the *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Economic Geography* (2012, Wiley, coedited with Trevor Barnes & Eric Sheppard).

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and previously the holder of Guggenheim and Harkness fellowships, Peck is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Environment and Planning* series of journals.