Cities worldwide are hubs of cultural creativity, economic innovation, political and environmental transformation, communication, and education. They concentrate and disperse flows of people, resources, and information; they are sites of high finance and of everyday struggles over the means and meaning of life; they stage a drama of collaborative self-organization as well as social strife; they expose the world’s gravest public health and environmental challenges, but also provide the greatest opportunities for innovation in health service delivery and sustainable living. Cities inspire dynamic forms of cultural expression that celebrate—and resist—the concentrating and dispersing forces of global urbanism. Because cities are complex social and natural environments and key nodes in a global ecology that extends across spaces and cultures, the Global Urbanism biennial theme encourages activities that cross disciplinary boundaries and harness the strengths of multiple perspectives, including: the humanities; the social, behavioral, environmental, and natural sciences; fine and performing arts, business, law, planning, education, and engineering; and the biomedical sciences, medicine, nursing, public health, and related health professions.

The Rutgers Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs (GAIA Centers) 2015–2017 biennial theme Global Urbanism supports faculty, staff, and students engaging the Rutgers community in activities that significantly expand the university’s international agenda by exploring the condition of global urbanism.

A GAIA CENTERS’ INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE EVENT

GLOBAL URBANISM
BIENNIAL THEME OPENING LECTURE

WHAT NOT TO DO:
NOTES FROM THE 20TH CENTURY
URBANIZATION EXPERIENCE
FOR 21ST CENTURY PLANNERS

Presentation by Dr. Elliott D. Sclar
Introduced by Dr. D. Asher Ghertner

DR. ELLIOTT D. SCLAR is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Urban Development at Columbia University's Earth Institute. He is a professor of urban planning in Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. An economist and urban planner, Professor Sclar’s research interests include urban economic development planning, transportation and land use planning, and the economics and finance of public services and infrastructure.

Professor Sclar is a nationally recognized expert on the economics of privatization: his book, You Don’t Always Get What You Pay For: The Economics of Privatization (Cornell UP, 2000), won two major academic prizes: the Louis Brownlow Award for the Best Book of 2000 from the National Academy of Public Administration and the 2001 Charles Levine Prize from the International Political Science Association and Governance magazine for a major contribution to public policy literature.

Wednesday, October 21, 2015
Alexander Library, Teleconference Lecture Hall
169 College Avenue, 4th Floor
New Brunswick, NJ
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Presentation Description
Standing at the midpoint of a period of global urbanization, it is important that we do not repeat planning approaches borne of the last century. But breaking old habits is difficult. In his lecture, Professor Sclar will discuss the challenges of contemporary urbanization and the ways in which they differ from those of the last century. If 21st century cities are to succeed as environmentally viable economic entities they will need to be grounded in new understandings of the social and physical context in which 21st century urban life is embedded.

This lecture is part of the GAIA Centers’ 2015-2017 Biennial Theme Global Urbanism, which explores the historical roles of cities as complex social and natural environments and key nodes in a global ecology that extends across spaces and cultures.

Register for this lecture and other events in the International Showcase at bitly.com/RU-Intl-Showcase