Policies For Urban Security

Learning objectives

The main objective of the course is reflecting on how analyze crime trends and the perception of insecurity of the population in urban contexts. Perceived insecurity is a social problem, which encompasses several dimensions such as personal experiences, demographic factors, socio-economics characteristics, the environmental setting. Consequently, social security can be addressed from different perspectives and by public policies that involve several actors at different levels.

Contents

The course focuses on the urban contexts and the four key dimensions of insecurity (objective, subjective, socio-geographic and socio-economic dimensions). In particular, it explores the mismatch between crime trends and the perception of insecurity, also examining the influence of social markers. Finally, models of policies at national and European level are discussed.

Detailed program

The course is divided into a theoretical part which will discuss the concept of urban security, the main theoretical approaches on social control, the normative dimension of urban security and the evolution of policies for urban security, with particular attention to the models of urban security. A second part will be devoted to the presentation and discussion of some empirical research carried out at national and European level on the issue of urban security governance. In the third part of the course direct testimonies will be provided by the main actors of urban security (public administrators, local police operators). Finally, attending students will be involved in ethnographic work in a significant district of Milan in relation to urban security issues. The outcome of the work will be evaluated in the final exam.
Prerequisites

No prerequisites

Teaching methods

Lectures, individual/group exercises, presentations of readings by the students.

Assessment methods

Attending students: participation in in-class discussions of the assigned readings and presentation of a final paper.

Non attending students: oral exam.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Pitch T., La società della prevenzione, Carocci, Roma, 2013


