

REVISED ASSIGNMENTS FOR UPCOMING TOPICS CLASS (10/21/03, Week 8):
The Urban Heat Island: Built-Environment Risk Factors for Population Health & Their Mitigation
(Joyce Rosenthal, facilitator)

Everyone should read the same material:

- Read Klinenberg, Eric: pp. 1–78, Prologue (“The Urban Inferno”), Introduction (“The City of Extremes”), and Chapter 1 (“Dying Alone”) from *Heat Wave* (2002).
- Skim & review Hough, Michael: Ch.6 “Climate: Making Connections” from *Cities & Natural Process* (2002).

You are NOT required to read these 2 articles that were handed out in class, but they are classics on the urban heat island that you may wish to peruse:

- Buechley, RW et al., 1972, Heat island = death island?, *Env.Res* 5, 85–92.
- Clarke, JF, 1972, Some effects of the urban structure on heat mortality, *Env.Res* 5, 93–104.

You are NOT required to read article that was copied & made available in class courtesy of Amanda. It is an excellent summary of Klinenberg’s core ideas, so you may wish to skim it:

- Klinenberg, E, 2001, Dying alone: the social production of urban isolation, *Ethnography* 2(4):501–531

Here are FOCAL QUESTIONS to consider as you think about readings. Please be prepared to lead a class discussion on these questions as indicated in the revised class format.

Question #7 is for everyone to think about & be prepared to contribute ideas to discussion:

Group 1, Amanda & Anthony:

- 1) What are some of the risk factors for heat-related illness or mortality that Klinenberg identifies for the deadly 1995 Chicago heat wave? Do you think these risk factors are the same for other urban areas? (You might consider Chicago versus the city you grew up in, or versus NYC.)
- 2) What future trends or changes (even regulations) might affect these risk factors in the future?

Group 2, Kanao & Jo:

3) What public policies impact on these risk factors i.e. what policies or programs may make urban populations more vulnerable to heat-related health impacts or, conversely, be protective?

4) How can urban planners and public health practitioners work together to reduce risks in future heat waves? Are there measures that both professions can advocate for to make urban areas more compatible with their climate?

Group 3, Ann Marie, Amy, and Ben:

5) What are the aspects of our urban centers that create the urban heat island, i.e. why are urban areas usually warmer than surrounding counties?

6) How can we separate the effects of the urban heat island on temperatures from those of possible climate change?

For everyone to ponder & develop questions:

7) What questions would you begin asking** public health practitioners in Paris about what happened this past summer of 2003, when so many died in the heat wave?

(SEE NEXT PAGE)**

**** Our class has kindly been invited to hear Eric Klinenberg & Marc Esponda, the Director of SocioDemographic Statistics for the Paris Planning Agency, speak together on *Heatwave in Paris: What Went Wrong?* on October 29 at 4 pm (SEE FLYER BELOW). Even if you cannot attend, it gives a nice reality to your consideration of question #7 above. What would you ask of the people who have studied urban heat waves & their effects on population health? The questions you develop then can actually be posed to the experts on the 29th!**



International Longevity Center
invites your participation in

A Seminar

Heat Wave in Paris: What Went Wrong?

Marc Esponda

Director of Socio-Demographic Statistics

Paris Planning Agency (APUR)

and

Eric Klinenberg,

New York University

Marc Esponda, a specialist in urban studies, surveys, statistics and forecast methodologies, heads the demographic and socio-economic studies at the Atelier Parisien d'Urbanisme. His research includes studies in living and housing conditions of the Paris population, links between social and economic public policies and social needs assessment. He was also responsible for the 33rd French census for the city of Paris and the creation of a local reference database in partnership with the French National Institute of Statistics. His expertise ranges from local urban sites to great metropolitan areas both in developed and developing countries. Eric Klinenberg, Assistant Professor of Sociology at New York University and author of *Heat Wave: Social Autopsy of a Disaster*, will be the discussant.

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

4:00 p.m. (reception to follow)

60 East 86th Street (between Park and Madison)

New York, New York 10028

Limited Seating. Please RSVP to Michael Gusmano

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