



**David J. Roberts, PhD**

**Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream**

BAs (Business Administration and Political Science) (Washington), MA and PhD (Geography) (U of T)

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**Biography**

David Roberts ([d.roberts@utoronto.ca](mailto:d.roberts@utoronto.ca)) is an Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream in the Urban Studies Program at the University of Toronto. He holds BAs in Business Administration and Political Science from the University of Washington and an MA and PhD in Geography from the University of Toronto. After his undergraduate degrees were completed, he worked at a residential shelter for homeless and refugee youth in Seattle for several years before moving to Toronto to pursue his graduate degrees. His doctoral research focused on tensions of urban planning in South Africa. He used the 2010 World Cup as a basis for examining tensions between planning directed at social development of the post-apartheid city in South Africa versus planning designed to support the needs of a visiting tourist class. He continues to be interested in the relationship between hosting mega-events and other contemporary trends in urbanization. He is cross-appointed to the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto and as Adjunct Member to the Graduate Program in Environmental Studies at York University. He also serves as the Faculty Advisor for [First in the Family Peer Mentorship Program](#) and is the Faculty Coordinator for the Arts and Science Teaching and Learning Community of Practice.

## Teaching 2016-2017

INI234: Cities in Popular Culture

INI235: A Multidisciplinary Introduction to Urban Studies I

INI236: A Multidisciplinary Introduction to Urban Studies II

INI432: Cities and Mega-Events

JGI216: Globalization and Urban Change

## Research

Dr. Roberts' research interests focus on the various mechanisms and processes through which communities and individuals influence urban policy and urban knowledge production (what we know about cities) more broadly. He is interested in the ways in which current trends and developments in urbanization have impacted community development, participatory planning, and other aspects of citizen/resident engagement with the cities they live in.

His current research is focused on:

- The connection between a city's desire to host a mega-event and other aspects of urbanization;
- The use of public-private partnerships for the provision of public infrastructure and both the innovative possibilities and limitations for the use of this model; and,
- Issues of race, inequality, and social justice in the city

## Recent Publications

Roberts, D. (2016) "More than Just a Racist Eruption: the Co-constitution of Race and Neoliberalism" in Springer et. al. (eds.), *Handbook on Neoliberalism*. London: Routledge.

Roberts, D. (2015) The killing of Mike Brown: Ferguson, MO and colorblindness in the contemporary United States. *Dialogues in Human Geography*, 5(2), 249-252.

Roberts, D. & M. Siemiatycki (2015) Fostering Meaningful Partnerships in Public-Private Partnerships: Innovations in Partnership Design and Process Management to Create Value *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 33(4), 780-793.

Mahtani, M. and D. Roberts (2012) "Afterword: Contemplating New Spaces in Canadian Studies" in R. Coloma et. al. (eds.), *Filipinos in Canada: Disturbing Invisibility* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press) pgs. 417-426.

Roberts, D. and O. Bass (2012). "The World Cup Geography of Durban: What Will Endure" in Alegi, P. and C. Bolsmann (eds.), *Africa's World Cup: Critical Reflections on Patriotism, Play, Spectatorship, and Urban Space* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press)

Roberts, D. (2010) Durban's Future?: Re-branding through the production/policing of event-specific places at the 2010 World Cup. *Sport in Society* 13(10) 1462-1473. Republished in *Sport in the City: Cultural Connections* (Routledge, 2011) M. Sam and J. Hughson (eds.), pp. 70 – 81.

Roberts, D. and M. Mahtani (2010) Neoliberalizing Race, Racing Neoliberalism; Placing “Race” in Neoliberal Discourses. *Antipode* 42(2) 248-257.