Jake Monaghan

University of Southern California

will present a talk titled

"Disorder in the Urban Mosaic"

Abstract: The philosophy and policy of the city confronts two related questions. One concerns the urban ideal, or what the city ought to look like in social and spatial terms. Another related question concerns disorder. What is disorder? Is it real or stance-dependent?

I'll defend what I call the "urban mosaic" ideal, following theorists like Iris Marion Young, Jane Jacobs, and Chandran Kukathas. Then I'll draw out some implications for our thinking about disorder. If the city is like a diverse mosaic, this suggests that what counts as disorder will usually be contested. Further, since competing conceptions will inevitably interact at the boundaries, disorder conflicts will be dynamic, shifting across the mosaic.

The result is that the urban ideal is inherently conflictual. But this does not commit one to thinking that disorder is purely stance-dependent. This, I'll argue, is an important point of dispute in the liberal and critical theoretical approaches to the city.

Friday Dec 5th 3:30pm

Helen C. White 4207

(Bunge Room)

Department of Philosophy
COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON