

Composing Cosmopolis

Dean Saitta

Anthropology & Urban Studies

University of Denver



1. To Compose Cosmopolis We Need to Think & Design Interculturally.

- ***Policy***: Adapt services, institutions, and governance structures to the needs of culturally-diverse populations.
- ***Planning***: Design and develop public spaces that culturally-diverse populations will want to use.



Available Planning & Design Strategies

1. Locate public spaces at neighborhood edges to soften boundaries & promote “hybridity”.
2. Widely distribute cultural amenities and iconic buildings rather than concentrating them in “districts.”
3. Detail the built environment (architecture, monuments, signage) to evoke *culture, history, and place*.

Idea Store,
Whitechapel,
London

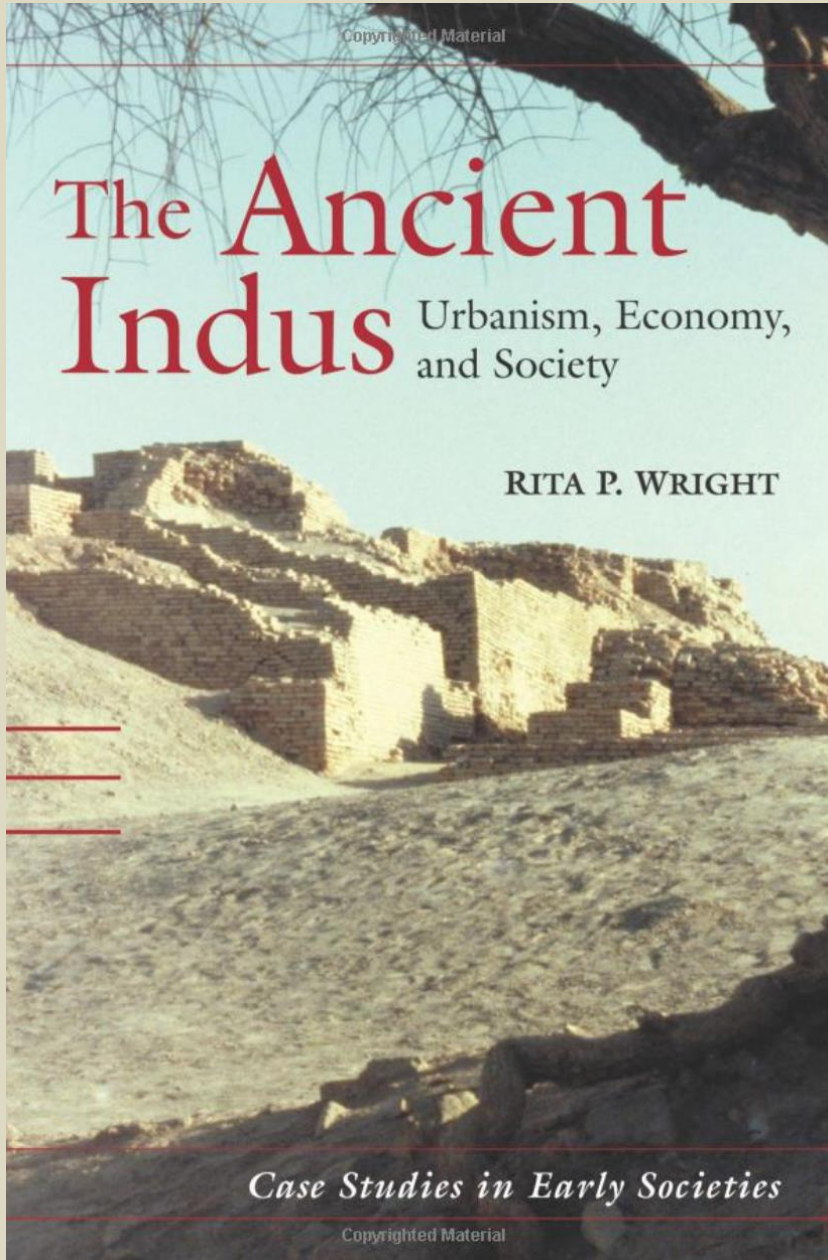




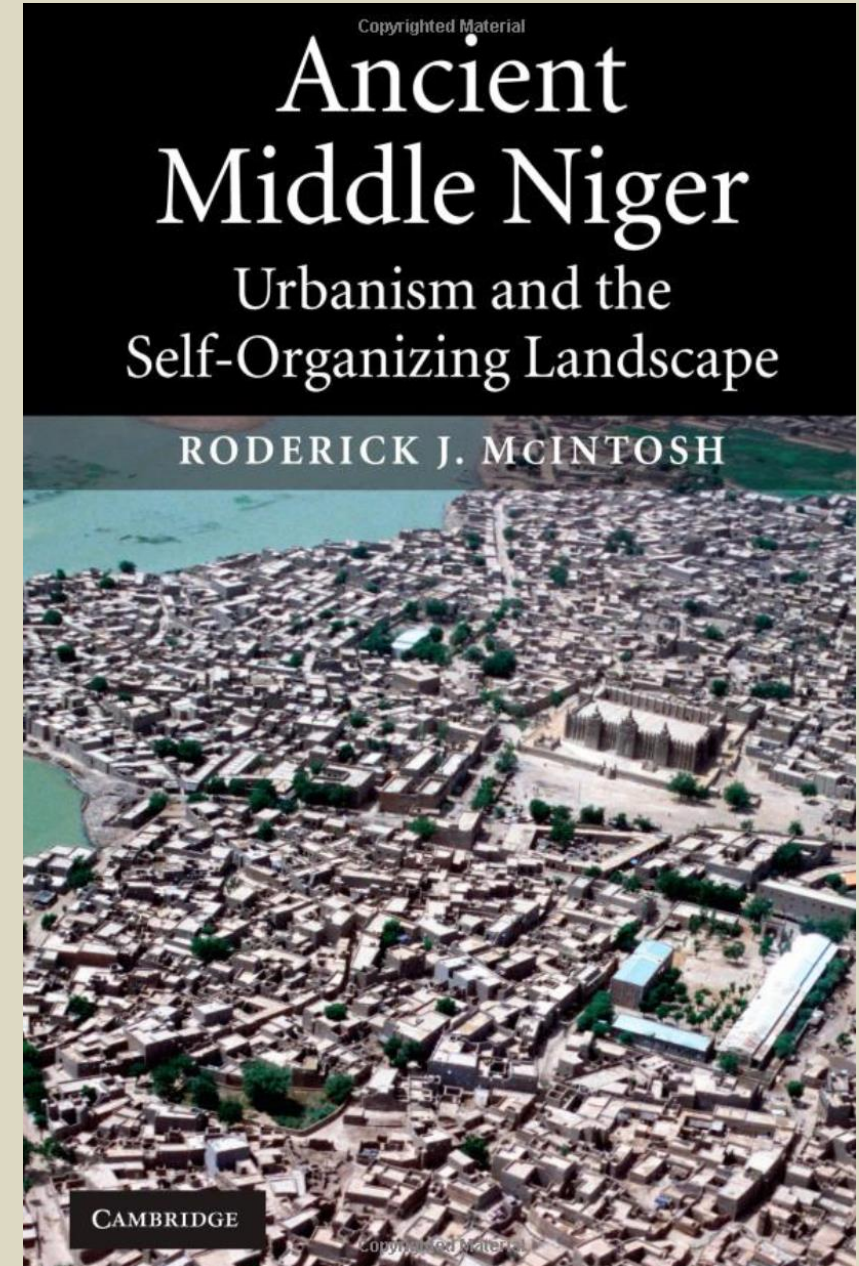
*Social
Urbanism*
in the
Global
South



2. To Compose Cosmopolis we need to Engage with Old Urbanism.



Consider
Mohenjo-Daro
(Pakistan) &
Jenne-Jeno
(Mali)
as models for
social inclusion
&
environmental
sustainability.



1. There is great variety in the ways that neighborhoods were organized and populated.

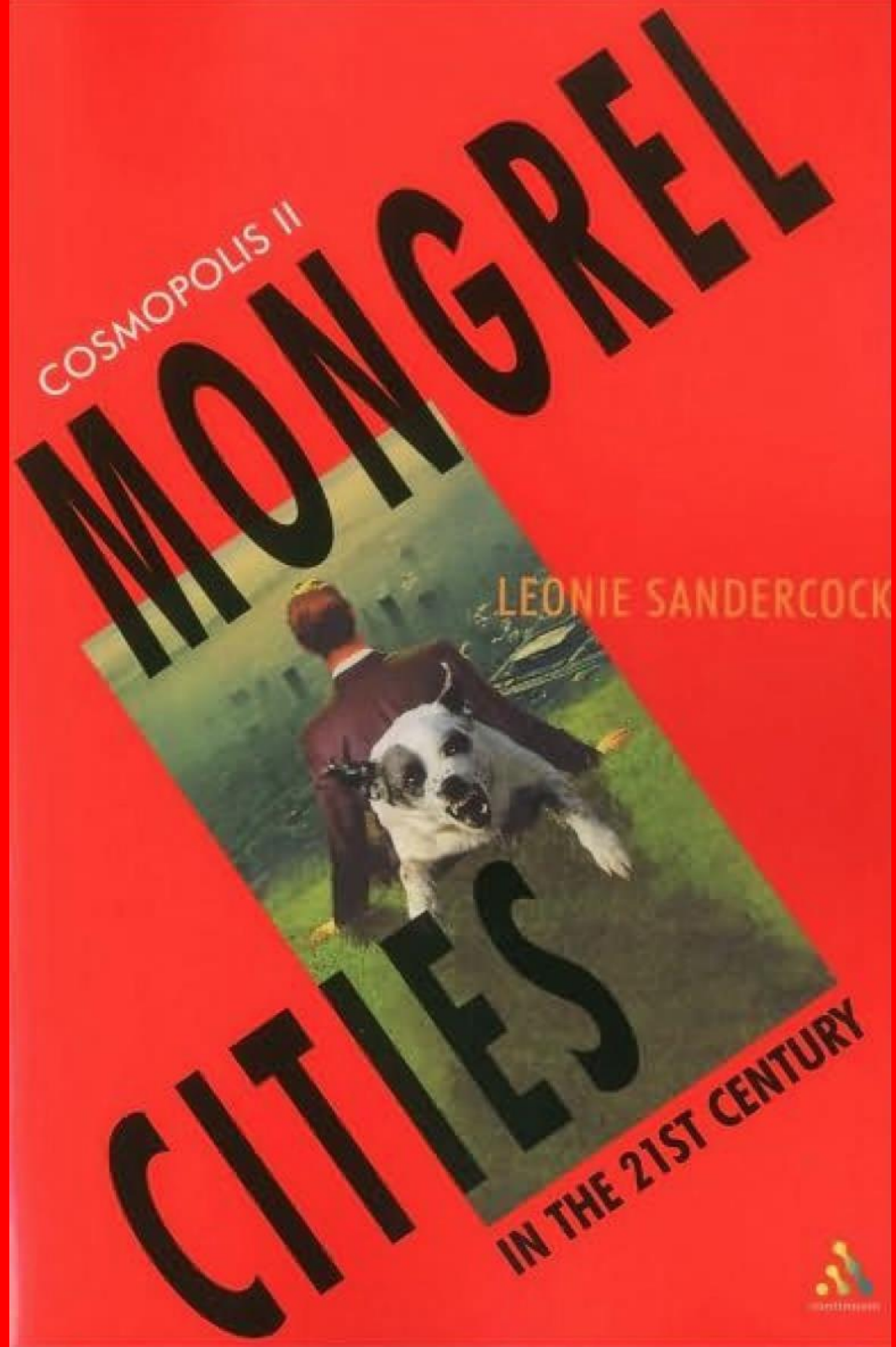
2. Time (History) and Space (“Sacred Landscapes”) were effectively used to promote civic identity out of cultural diversity.

3. The most inclusive and sustainable ancient cities employed policies of urban governance based on heterarchy rather than hierarchy.

What We're Learning From These Ancient Cities



Ruins of Mohenjo-Daro



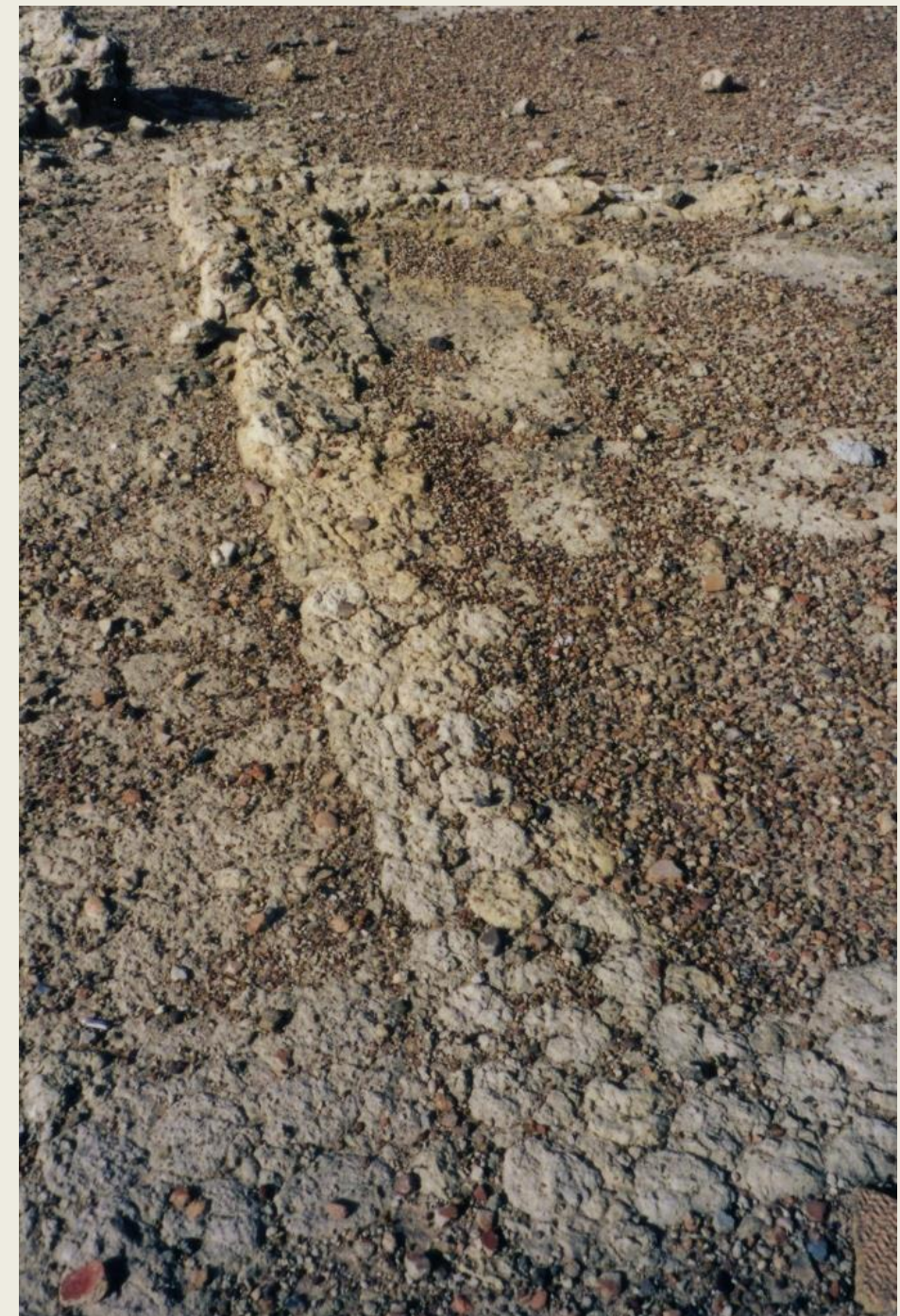
The Cosmopolitan Project, Going Forward

*“The 21st century project is, I would argue, precisely that: a century-long project, a long-term process of building new communities and of actively constructing **new ways of living and working together on matters of common destiny, seeking new forms of social and spatial belonging...the possibility of a togetherness in difference.**”*

The Cosmopolitan Project is informed by Intercultural Theory and a comparative understanding of urbanism's Deep History.



Ruins of Jenne-Jeno



<http://www.interculturalurbanism.com>

INTERCULTURAL URBANISM

An Interdisciplinary Perspective on Urban Culture, Space, Architecture, and Design

Building the Inclusive City



Baltimore Street Protest, 2015 (Wikipedia)

<https://www.planetizen.com/user/62500>

PLANETIZEN

How Ancient and Modern Cities Compare (and Why Planners Should Care)



Teotihuacan, with the iconic Pyramid of the Moon at right (Gorgo, Wikimedia Commons)