Latin America is currently the most urbanized continent in the world after North America, with 80% of the population living in urban areas (UN 2014). As a result, Latin American cities are in pursuit of transformation on the one hand, through innovative transit solutions like, bus rapid transit, cable cars, and bicycles, and, on the other, urbanization marked by car-dependency. This seminar will begin by looking at two recent ideas that constitute these deep and contradictory changes to the urban landscape: deliberative democracy and sustainability in the context of Quito, Ecuador. Then, it will go on to discuss ongoing transit interventions in Quito, and in doing so, simultaneously question their current implications on public transport. This discussion will rely on accounts from public transit users in Quito to suggest an alternative approach to transit development amidst planning for a justice-oriented city.

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