

### **Discussion Questions: Niemelä, chapters 4.1, 4.2, 4.3**

What ecosystem services do we want cities to provide? Make sure you have 2-3 examples as we're going to start by making a list. Then we're going to prioritize it.

What are the effects of urbanization on your highest priority service? Try to think of things that are both good and bad.

p. 203 talks about the concentration of cities along rivers/coasts. What did you think of the alternative explanations given?

Is urbanization good or bad for biodiversity? (This is a more specific variation on the question asked in chapter 4.1)

What is the alternative to urbanization? (I stole this one 100% from the book, but it's a good one.)

Chapter 4.2 doesn't say much about ecology, or conservation *per se*. But did you think that the historical perspective helps us think about conservation in urban settings? How can we use a historical perspective to benefit biodiversity?

p. 210 hints at the notion that globalization is akin to (though not exactly the same as) a reversion to conditions before humans settled down and started to form permanent settlements. What is your response to this idea?

History tells us how cities came to be. How can we use this information to improve the placement of future cities? Think about this question both from planning and implementation perspectives.

How well did you feel that the authors of chapter 4.2 understand ecologists and the work that they do? Come with specific examples of ways in which they either did or did not "get it".

p. 214 attempts to characterize key factors that differentiate urban ecosystems from rural ecosystems. What factors would you have on your list? Which are the most important?

The last chapter presents a typology (classification) of cities. If your goal is to improve the biodiversity value of cities, how would you classify them?