

© Kamla-Raj 2002

PRINT: ISSN 0972-0073 ONLINE: ISSN 2456-6802

Anthropologist, 4(4): 249-252 (2002)

DOI: 10.31901/24566802.2002/04.04.04

A Task Ahead¹

Peter J.M. Nas

*Faculty of Social Sciences. Institute of Cultural and Social Studies,
Leiden University. 2300 RB Leiden, The Netherlands
E-mail: NAS@fsw-leidenuniv.nl*

KEYWORDS City. Urbanization. Globalization. Informational Society. Symbolism

ABSTRACT More and more, anthropologists will be forced to direct their attention towards the mega-urban areas that, increasingly, are dominating societies in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In this contribution based on the closing lecture delivered at the IUAES Inter- Congress held in Beijing, 28 July 2000, Peter J. M. Nas emphasizes the fundamental social transformations that are taking place moving us towards an urbanized and informational society. He makes a case for anthropological research on different types of mega-urban regions and their cultural and symbolic characteristics. Cities and urban regions are containers of rituals and symbols. They have to be studied holistically.