



## A Task Ahead<sup>1</sup>

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**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.

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