MAHBUBUR MEENAR HONORED WITH ACSP RISING SCHOLAR AWARD

The ACSP Rising Scholar Award recognizes early-career scholars who demonstrate strong potential for a meritorious impact on planning scholarship. This award was established in 1998 and is given each year using two alternating categories, which are intended to acknowledge differences in emphasis on research across programs, including time allocated for research and resources available to support research. For 2020, nominees from Non-Tier One Programs were eligible.

The 2020 winner of the Rising Scholar Award is Mahbubur Meenar, Rowan University.

Meenar is an Assistant Professor of Planning in the Department of Geography, Planning, and Sustainability and the director of Community Planning + Visualization Lab at Rowan University, New Jersey. With an interdisciplinary background in architecture, urban planning and geography, Dr. Meenar’s research interests include green infrastructure, urban food environment, neighborhood revitalization and digital civic engagement. He examines the connection between natural, built and social environments in developing plans for sustainable, resilient, and equitable communities, focusing on the nexus of land, water and food. As the principal investigator, Dr. Meenar has successfully completed 15 sponsored research projects in southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey with grants from federal, state and local governments, as well as nonprofit organizations and foundations. His work has been published in leading journals, including Journal of American Planning Association, Journal of Planning Education and Research, Environmental and Planning A, Journal of Planning Literature, Landscape and Urban Planning, Local

The committee selected Meenar for the following reasons, "We believe Dr. Meenar has a strong research agenda, and an impressive set of publications and externally funded grants, including a healthy balance between single-authored and multi-authored publications that demonstrate his strong research abilities that are independent of his collaborators. Apart from this, he is actively involved with service not only to the profession, but also to his Department/University and to local communities. He is a well-rounded academic and planner and we are proud and honored to recognize his efforts."

Meenar accepted this award virtually on November 7, as part of the ACSP Annual Conference. You can view his acceptance speech here (4:27):

Here's more from our Q&A with Meenar:

Q: How did you feel upon accepting the award?
A: I am honored to be recognized by ACSP. It is a great feeling to know that my research is valued by the field.

Dr. Meenar currently teaches undergraduate and graduate sections of Environmental and Sustainability Planning, Geovisualization, Community Planning & Site Design and Planning Studio. He was the sponsor of Rowan’s Urban and Regional Planning master’s program, which has been launched in Fall 2020. He is the coordinator of Rowan’s Food Systems Planning certificate program. He is a member of campus Sustainability Task Force, Autism Task Force, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee, among others. In addition to professional affiliations with ACSP, APA-NJ, and AAG, Dr. Meenar has served as a member of Creative Glassboro Advisory Board and National Consortium for Creative Placemaking conference committee. He is serving as a guest editor and a member of the Reviewer Board of several journals. Dr. Meenar has worn a professional planner’s hat to write plans for several environmental justice communities through collaboration with nonprofit organizations and municipalities on topics such as stormwater management and brownfield redevelopment. Extensive and innovative community engagement activities were highlights of these projects, which in return provided him with materials for teaching and scholarship. In addition, he has successfully organized many planning-related public events in the Philadelphia metro region.

The awards selection committee was comprised of the following members: Zeenat Kotval-Karamchandani, Michigan State University; Austin Troy, University of Colorado Denver; John Gaber, Clemson University; Jason Cao, University of Minnesota; Yanmei Li, Florida Atlantic University and Xueming (Jimmy) Chen, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Q: Who do you want to thank, if anyone?
A: I would like to thank my nominators, selection committee members, mentors, sponsors, reviewers, critiques and research collaborators from Rowan University and other national or international institutions. I am thankful to the 25 undergraduate and graduate students who have worked in my research lab in the last four years. Last but not the least, I thank all the nonprofit organizations and community residents/leaders who actively participated in my various projects.

Q: What inspires you about the work for which you won your award?
A: I am inspired by many fellow researchers in the fields of environmental planning, food systems planning, and community development, especially those who approach their work using equity and environmental/social/food justice lenses. My real inspiration, however, comes from nonprofit organizations and community residents who work hard to make positive changes in these planning fields in the real world.

Q: What’s next?
A: I will continue working on my current projects and publishing papers related to my four research tracks. I will continue applying for more research funding and engaging undergraduate students in my projects. After tenure, maybe I will start working on my first book. Not sure about the topic yet.

Read more about this award and past winners here.

Recent Jobs

Northeastern University School of Architecture: Assistant Professor of Race & Social Justice in the Build Environment

Thomas Jefferson University: Assistant/Associate Professor & Director of Master of Urban Design - Future Cities

University of Pennsylvania: Mellon Junior (Postdoctoral) Fellow, Humanities, Urbanism, and Design Initiative at Penn

Association Contributor News

Kauffman Foundation: Early-stage Researcher Professional Development Series

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy: Consortium for Scenario Planning 2021 Conference

Other News

Housing Policy Debate - Call for Abstracts
Call for Student Governing Board Representatives

ACSP invites students from member institutions to apply for the position of Student Representative on the ACSP Governing Board for the term of Spring 2021 to Spring 2023. Are you the one we're looking for? Click below for more details.

Details >

Student Mentoring a Success at Annual Conference & Beyond

The annual student / faculty mentoring event, dubbed "The Dr. Is In," has become a popular staple at the ACSP Annual Conference. This year was no exception as more than 40 members participated in virtual mentoring sessions throughout the conference...

Read More >

Welcome New ACSP Members November & December

Please join ACSP in giving a warm welcome to the new individual faculty and student members, who joined the Association during the months of November and December! We're glad to have you!

New Members >

ACSP Dates & Deadlines

**DECEMBER 2020**

December 11: EXTENDED - Conference Survey Deadline

December 11: New Chairs School*

**JANUARY 2021**

January 29: Call for Student Governing Board Representative Deadline

**MARCH 2021**

March 11-12: Administrators Conference*

March 26: ACSP Spring Board Meeting*

* These events will be held in a virtual format

Photo of the Week

Greetings from ACSP2020 attendees of the Student-Led Roundtable - Planning and Racial Justice in a Time of Crisis. One comment we heard from many attendees is that they liked the "built in" name tags with Zoom and the ability to quickly match names with faces! Have you completed your post conference survey to share your feedback with us yet? Please do so by December 11, and you will be entered into a drawing for free registration to ACSP2021!

Have a great photograph to share for Photo of the Week? Please send picture and caption to news@acsp.org.

ACSP Has a Future Conferences Page on our Website
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The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning promotes education, research, service and outreach in the United States and throughout the world by seeking to:

- recognize diverse needs and interests in planning;
- improve and enhance the accreditation process, and;
- strengthen the role of planning education in colleges and universities through publications conferences, and community engagement;
- extend planning beyond the classroom into the world of practice.

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