GPEIG VOICE 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLOBAL PLANNING EDUCATORS INTEREST GROUP

Picture Credit: Lu Liau; Houhai Street during COVID19 in Beijing, China
Global Perspectives in Planning Education and Research

2021

The newsletter team would like to thank all contributors.
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Greetings GPEIG Colleagues,

How time flies! The new year of 2022 has arrived. As we celebrate another year of success in enhancing planning education across boundaries amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we reflect on our year 2021’s achievements. In spite of the obstacles to in-person communication created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we still created new opportunities to serve the global planning community through GPEIG and enriched our presence within the local and regional planning community.

**GPEIG events at the 2021 ACSP Annual Conference**

At the virtual 2021 ACSP Annual Conference, GPEIG sponsored or co-sponsored four events:

I) **GPEIG Business & Awards Meeting, 8 October 2021**

- This was moderated by Jimmy Chen and Charisma Acey. The annual updates were shared with the members, and the student and faculty awards winners were felicitated during the meeting.
- This year, the Award Committees worked very hard to select the winners of the following three student awards and one faculty award.

**Student Awards**

- **Best Dissertation Award**: The winner was Maria Atuesta Ortiz (Harvard University). The award committee chair was Neema Kudva (Cornell University).
- **Best Student Paper Award**: The winner was Andrew Wang (Washington University in St. Louis). The award committee chair was Atul Pokharel (New York University).
- **Student Case Study Competition Award**: The winner was Harman Singh Dhodi (Cornell University). The runner up was Naganika Sanga (University of Michigan). The award committee chair was Divya Chandrasekhar (University of Utah).

**Faculty Award**

**Best Journal Article Award**: The winners were Raksha Vasudevan (Columbia University) and Magdalena Novoa (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign). Isabelle Anguelovski (Institute for Environmental Science and Technology, Spain), Clara Irazábal-Zurita (University of Maryland), and James J.T. Connolly (University of British Columbia) received an honorable mention. The award committee chair was Anuradha Mukherji (East Carolina University).

Congratulations to all award winners and thanks to all award committee members!
II) Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in the Planning Academy through Intersectionality among Interest Groups, 21 October 2021.
Hosted by the ACSP Committee on Diversity, supported by GPEIG (Global Planning Educators Interest Group), FWIG (Faculty Women Interest Group), INCLUSION, and POCIG (People of Color Interest Group).

Hosted by the Global Planning Educators Interest Group (GPEIG). Panelists: Francis Owusu, Charisma Acey and others.

Hosted by FWIG, GPEIG, INCLUSION, POCIG, and the ACSP Student Governing Board Representatives.

Election of new GPEIG Co-Chair

Jimmy Chen was termed out as a GPEIG Co-Chair this year. GPEIG greatly appreciated his contribution and leadership (2019-2021).

This fall, GPEIG members elected Ana Paula Pimentel Walker from the University of Michigan as the new Co-Chair (2021-2023). Congratulations and welcome, Ana! Shelagh McCartney co-led the election committee work with Enrique Silva, and Ashima Krishna. Thank you so much!

Other Activities in 2021

Book Discussion: Undoing the Silence: Six tools for Social change writing, Friday, March 5, Chapters 1-4 . Friday, March 12, Chapters 5-9.


We thank you all for your continued support of GPEIG. We are looking forward to seeing you all in the near future. Happy New Year!

Best Regards,

Xueming (Jimmy) Chen, 2019-2021 Co-Chair, Virginia Commonwealth University
Charisma Acey, 2020-2022 Co-Chair, University of California, Berkeley
GPEIG hosted its Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony on October 8, 2021 (Friday) online, where student and faculty members came together to celebrate the past year’s achievements. The immediate past co-chair Dr. Jimmy Chen provided an overview of GPEIG activities and accomplishments in 2020-2021. Co-chair Charisma Acey presented the plan for year 2021-2022. The participants congratulated the GPEIG student and faculty award winners and waved together, looking forward to the coming year.

This year, GPEIG hosted three roundtables at the virtual ACSP conference. The first roundtable on October 21 was titled “Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in the Planning Academy Through Intersectionality Among Interest Groups”. This special session was organized by the ACSP Committee on Diversity (CoD) and comprised members from four ACSP interest groups - GPEIG, FWIG and PO-CIG. The session discussed possible collaborations among interest groups for promoting diversity and inclusion in the planning academy.
On October 23, 2021 (Saturday), GPEIG hosted a roundtable titled “Racism, Equity, Intersectionality: Global Perspectives on COVID-19 and Inclusion.” Panelists Francis Owusu, Hayden Shelby, Victor Pineda, Katia Polser, and Charisma Acey contributed to the discussion. This roundtable aims to promote a global conversation on empowering cities and local governments to address racism and other systemic inequality in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate health, economic, and social impacts on vulnerable social groups worldwide. During the roundtable, participants drew from comparative case studies to discuss what cities have done in response to the pandemic, reflected on the solutions. They also discussed where we are headed as the pandemic lingers on, and the implications for global planning education, practice, and research.

The last roundtable on “Creating Equitable and Inclusive Classrooms” was also hosted by GPEIG, FWIG, POCIG and the ACSP Student Governing Board Representatives. In this session, the participants reviewed basic concepts and terms, explored inclusive language and greetings, discussed ways to develop an inclusive curriculum to foster inclusivity in the classrooms.

“See you in year 2022!” Screenshot from GPEIG’s second online annual business meeting on October 8 2021.
NEWSLETTER TEAM @WORK
STUDENT AWARD
GILL-CHIN LIM AWARD FOR THE BEST DISSERTATION ON INTERNATIONAL PLANNING

MARIA ATUESTA ORTIZ, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

BIO:
Maria Atuesta is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the UPenn Center for Latin American and Latinx Studies. She graduated with a PhD in Urban Planning from Harvard University and a master’s in City and Regional Planning from University of California, Berkeley. With a background in economics and history, her research explores dynamic relations between space and communities. Specifically, in her dissertation, Maria studied how forced migrants accessed housing in Colombia and how this process shaped the creation of different neighborhood communities with different claims on the city. With expertise working in policy-oriented projects for multilateral organizations, public offices, and academic research centers, Maria’s research often includes policy analysis. She has studied how different policies have shaped our material and social environments with unintended consequences that have reproduced social inequality. She has been able to advance her research with support from the Fulbright program for Colombia, the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies and the U.S. Institute of Peace.
1. What inspires you about the work for which you won the award?

Originally, Granada was not the ideal place I had in mind for fieldwork. Yet, I was surprised by the recent transformations the city has gone through and how it has incorporated migrants representing about one fourth of its population in the last three decades. The varieties of experiences of neighborhood formation that I encountered in Granada were a profound inspiration.

2. Could you share some memorable experiences regarding this work?

During the Covid pandemic, residents of Granada donated food to be distributed to street-dogs and cats. They worried that the cute animals that wander around the city would not be able to survive in the empty streets; with no passersby to hand them leftovers.

3. How did you feel upon accepting the award?

I felt proud and happy that others appreciated my work in Granada and this has encouraged me to more actively share my work. I would love for more people to learn about this small city and the experiences of many displaced persons who live in its urban peripheries. I would love for new theories to emerge from these small urban centers, generally located at the peripheries of knowledge production.

4. What’s next?

As I mentioned above, I would love for more people to learn about this small city and the experiences of many displaced persons who live in its urban peripheries. I would love for new theories to emerge from these small urban centers, generally located at the peripheries of knowledge production. Hence, I will keep working in that direction. I would also like to translate my work to Spanish for it to be read in Colombia, and, hopefully, other Latin American countries. I would like my interviewees to be able to get a glimpse into how I have written about the stories that they have shared with me.
BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD

WINNER:
ANDREW WANG, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

“Examining the Impact of In-situ Infrastructural Upgrading on Sustainability in Informal Settlements: The Case of Accra, Ghana.”

BIO:

I am currently the Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance (IMFG) at the University of Toronto. I received my Doctor of Sustainable Urbanism from Washington University in St. Louis (WashU). My area of interest studies spatial and housing inequality through different perspectives, scales, and themes to interpret how they may affect the broader pursuit of urban sustainability. I engage with three research directions: (1) assessing the metabolisms and quality of life in cities in an era of globalization, (2) comparing the models of informal settlement planning in the Global South, and (3) evaluating the impacts of settlement interventions on marginalized groups and the urban future in the Global North. My current projects at IMFG study the fiscal conditions of Accra, Ghana, to map out the challenges of settlement improvements. I look forward to developing comparative case studies of settlement planning in Latin America. I was a professional urban planner in the Urban Development Bureau of Kaohsiung City, focusing on brownfield redevelopment and urban renewal.
My dissertation, titled Examining the Impact of In-situ Infrastructural Upgrading on Sustainability in Informal Settlements: The Case of Accra, Ghana, examined the impact of in-situ infrastructural upgrading (providing infrastructure and services locally instead of relocating or resettling the people) on neighborhood sustainability in informal settlements. The outcomes derived from this approach were understudied, making it a substantial gap in the research. I adopted a mixed-methods research approach to investigate three informal settlements in Accra, Ghana, as cases and focus on the impact of urban drainage by unpacking how the system has consolidated urban form, strengthened community building, and enhanced citizenship. These features indicated that in-situ upgrading has successfully enhanced these areas’ neighborhood sustainability and transformed them from settlements into communities. As a result, in-situ upgrading is suggested as an ideal policy option for informal settlement planning.

1. **What inspires you about the work for which you won the award?**

The first time I engaged with the idea of urban informality was in summer 2017. I was funded by the Divided City Initiative – an urban humanities initiative in partnership with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Center for the Humanities, and the Sam Fox School at WashU – to explore the landscape of spatial inequality in Johannesburg, South Africa. This experience enlightened me in informal settlement planning because it represented the unresolved social/spatial inequality in cities. I quickly shifted my focus to the approach of in-situ upgrading after exploring the work by Prof. Marie Huchzermeyer, Prof. Jennifer Robinson, and Prof. AbdouMaliq Simone, and many more, while understanding why human-centered interventions became rather critical in these challenging environments. I wanted to illustrate why in-situ upgrading might work in certain conditions critically. Later on, my journey to Accra, Ghana, was only made possible due to the advice from my colleagues and mentors at WashU, and the financial support from the Sam Fox School.

2. **Could you share some memorable experiences regarding this work?**

My stay in Ghana has been immersed with good experiences. Yet, I had two specific moments that made this journey special. The first moment happened when I was still in the field. That was a sunny afternoon, and I had an appointment with a colleague to conduct some interviews. I waited for an hour until seeing him in person. Though it was not the first time I faced the challenge of keeping the others on time, I was curious about why this happened so often. Our conversation revealed the challenges that he had faced.
These include (1) preparing for a long trip from where he stayed to meet me up, (2) finding the reliable Trotro routes that could get him to the right place in time, and (3) enduring the concern that he had limited mobile data credit to retain his communication with me. To that moment, I noticed that it was not about how challenging this fieldwork could be to me, but a sudden lesson informing how important it was to see the whole thing from different perspectives. If the challenge has already been so clear, why could not I spend more thoughts standing in the others’ shoes to propose more solutions?

The second moment occurred on the date of my dissertation defense. I have been wondering what feedbacks I could share with the communities after receiving all the supports that were given. Upon confirming that my defense will be virtual, I invited the relevant stakeholders, including policy practitioners, non-profit organizations, and community groups, to join the event in December 2020.

We – referring to my committee members Prof. Linda Samuels (chair), Prof. Samuel Shearer, Prof. Ian Trivers, and I – were delighted to host about ninety attendees from five countries. We certainly felt the enthusiasm, and that moment helped me understand how research meant to be influential to policymaking and attractive to broader populations. There was still much more to talk about, but probably these experiences will be with me for some more time, even after moving on to the other projects.

3. How did you feel upon accepting the award?

It felt like receiving an invitation to join the extensive communities in GPEIG, ACSP, and beyond. I value this award because it says that I pick up an appropriate research direction that my audience and I believe to be crucial. This early-stage recognition encourages me to continue my passion for researching, teaching, networking, impact delivering, and giving back alongside planning discipline. The more I get involved in these communities, the more scholars I am eager to engage with and talk to. And I look forward to having more of these opportunities in the future.

4. What’s next?

I look forward to continuing my academic activities in North America and strengthening different scholarly connections with various institutions in my hometown Taiwan. I am grateful that I can be exposed to different cultures, respect and appreciate the differences, and go through multiple rises and falls in becoming a better scholar. I believe that is what I am aiming at.
GPEIG AWARDS

STUDENT CASE STUDY AWARD

WINNER:
HARMAN SINGH DHODI, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

“Intra-Urban Split in Sanitation Provision: The untended plight of urban villages in Delhi, India”

BIO:

Harman (he/him) is an infrastructure and urban policy enthusiast. He is currently working as an Analyst at HR&A Advisors on broadband infrastructure and access across the United States. His past research has focused on urban policy research, environmental performance of infrastructure systems, gentrification and water quality, and urban water and sanitation infrastructure in the Global South. Harman holds a Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University and a Bachelor of Technology in Civil Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.
Highlights
I look at the case of urban sanitation disparities of fecal waste management in Delhi, India with a special focus on its urban villages. Households in the outer districts of Delhi (comprising majority of its urban villages) are better provisioned with toilets within their premises when compared to households around the city center. Even so, within the urban villages, these household toilets are limited to the privileged residents. The data shows a disproportionate increase in septic tanks in Delhi, with more than 60% of households relying on septic tanks in urban villages. Nonetheless, onsite sanitation facilities, like septic tanks, turn out to be inadequate solutions for the dense urban environment of Delhi due to primitive tank design, limited services to empty the tank and leakages when transporting the waste. On the other hand, government efforts have focused on construction of public toilets, which lack crucial accessibility requirements for the under-provisioned and disadvantaged population such as women, transgender people and the differently abled. These results highlight the need for inclusive planning and extensive data collection to address socio-spatial disparities in urban infrastructure services.

1. What inspires you about the work for which you won the award?
It’s definitely the severity of the issue. Defecation is such a basic human function, yet if not managed properly can be harmful for both the individual and the community at large. Not to forget the environmental impacts. Yes, the most sad part is the disparities on which section of the population can have access to something as basic as a toilet. While there has been appreciable change, women, transgender and disabled populations still lack access or feel uncomfortable when using public toilets. Basic services like water and sanitation are so vital for living a healthy life, that we cannot even think of inclusive cities without addressing these basic service challenges.

2. Could you share some memorable experiences regarding this work?
I think the most memorable experience was travelling to India to conduct field research in the midst of the pandemic. This posed a very critical challenge for me to collect data while maintaining my safety and those with whom I would interact. It was definitely an experience that has taught me how challenging field research is, and made me appreciate even more the need for sanitation provision in informal settlements in India.

3. How did you feel upon accepting the award?
The GPEIG award has provided me with a platform to disseminate my exit project findings as a means to encourage planners to rethink how we provide equitable access to sanitation services in the context of rapidly urbanizing cities of the global South. It also helps share my research methodology and ideas to students and researchers who might be interested in similar topics of urban infrastructure. I have had many current and prospective students at Cornell reach out to me and seek advice for their projects and research, and I am more than happy to assist them!

4. What’s next?
I am working as an Analyst in NYC with HR&A Advisors, a regional planning and real estate consultancy firm. I am working on broadband infrastructure in the United States, its deployment, access, affordability and adoption challenges. It still surprises me that the country has such inequitable broadband access despite tremendous technological innovations that the country is the pioneer in. Especially in a post-covid world, lacking broadband access widens existing inequities such as education access for children, workforce opportunities, healthcare access, to name a few. Like any other infrastructure, broadband needs innovative solutions and political and financial support to reach those who lack it at present. I am excited to focus on broadband as my new Everest to climb.
GPEIG AWARDS

STUDENT CASE STUDY AWARD

RUNNER UP:

NAGANIKA SANGA, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR

“Low-income housing development in India: Strategies for income mixing and inclusive urban planning”

Naganika is a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan, where she studies the urban politics of housing policies and land use planning in India and the United States in a multi-governance framework. Before joining the Ph.D. program, she worked as a Policy Analyst in the areas of international development, governance studies, housing policy, and information systems.

Highlights

Naganika argues in her paper that mixed-income housing policies in India, like many countries from the Global South, evolve as a tool to encourage low-income housing production. This southern turn to mixed-income housing policies is different from the social mix and integration objectives pursued by the countries in the Global North. Naganika proposes a scale-based framework to serve as a diagnostic tool to assess different government approaches to mixed-income housing policies. Based on an evaluation of four case studies of mixed-income housing initiatives in India, she finds that the socio-economic conditions, caste-based discrimination, high land values, and developer opposition in India do not favor close-grained mixed-income housing initiatives like inclusionary housing and PPPs supported by the federal government. Instead, the federal government should support large-scale mixed-income housing initiatives using land readjustment processes in addition to protecting the existing informal settlements to create equitable housing options and location access to all income groups. Small-scale initiatives that foster socio-economic integration will be more feasible over time once mixed-income housing is successfully institutionalized at larger scales.
BEST JOURNAL ARTICLE AWARD
WINNERS:
RAKSHA VASUDEVAN, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MAGDALENA NOVOA, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

“‘Pluriversal Planning Scholarship: EmbracingMultiplicity
and Situated Knowledges
in Community-Based Approaches’ published in Planning
Theory.”

BIO: Raksha Vasudevan

I am currently the Bruce S. Goldberg postdoctoral fellow in Youth Wellbeing at Teachers College, Columbia University. In my work, I employ critical ethnography, participatory mapping, and arts-based methods to explore how young people and their families navigate social, economic, and environmental justice challenges vis-a-vis state (dis)investment. Specifically, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and Harlem, New York, I investigate how young people and their families negotiate and subvert planning and education infrastructures in the global north and south through their everyday practices.
1. What inspires you about the work for which you won the award?

Magda and I wanted to write this article because we felt there was a gap in the literature that wasn’t acknowledging the most recent wave of critical planning scholarship. We noticed that currently critical planning scholars are drawing from community experiences and theoretical frameworks such as Indigenous studies and Black studies (to name a few) but also relied upon the precedents set by previous planning scholars to imagine a different role for planning and planning scholarship. For that reason, we thought it would be useful to trace the lineages of what we define in the article as pluriversal planning scholarship – in learning about where people learned and drew inspiration from for their work, we were inspired for our own work.

2. Could you share some memorable experiences regarding this work?

As part of the process of writing the article, we have also hosted several roundtables each year at ACSP. It has been so rewarding to be able to share the space with more established as well as early career scholars who are similarly thinking across geographies and scales to imagine a different role for planning.

3. How did you feel upon accepting the award?

As early career scholars, I think Magda and I were very thrilled that our work was resonating with so many others. The award, as well as the roundtables and responses we have had to the article reassures us that the project we have undertaken is worthwhile and necessary.

4. What’s next?

Since it was a gap identified in the article, we are now extending this research to gather more in-depth information about pluriverse planning scholars’ community-based contributions, including how scholars conduct community-based research, the process of initial engagements, the obstacles that they encounter in the field, and the methods they use to work with communities. We welcome those on the GPEIG listserv who do community-engaged work to take part in this confidential survey: https://bit.ly/3CeiqDB (should take no more than 30 minutes).
BEST JOURNAL ARTICLE AWARD
HONORABLE MENTION:
ISABELLE ANGUELOVSKI, INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SPAIN
CLARA IRAZÁBAL-ZURITA, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
JAMES J.T. CONNOLLY, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

“Grabbed Urban Landscapes: Socio-Spatial tensions in Green Infrastructure Planning in Medellín”, published in the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research

ISABELLE ANGUELOVSKI, INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SPAIN

BIO:

Isabelle Anguelovski is currently a Senior Researcher and Principal Investigator at the Institute for Environmental Science and Technology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain. She was trained in urban and environmental planning (PhD, MIT, 2011) and she considers herself as a scholar activist and tries to make her research meaningful for and engaged with local environmental justice activists. Most of her research is centered on studying processes and dynamics that lead to more just, resilient, healthy, and sustainable cities, bringing together theory from urban planning, public policy, urban and environmental sociology, and urban geography. Her projects examine the extent to which urban plans and policy decisions contribute to more just, resilient, healthy, and sustainable cities, and how community groups in distressed neighbourhoods contest the existence, creation, or exacerbation of environmental inequities as a result of urban (re)development processes and policies.
Clara Irazábal-Zurita, University of Maryland

BIO:

Clara Irazábal is the Director of the Urban Studies and Planning Program (URSP) in the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (MAPP) at the University of Maryland (UMD), College Park, in the Washington DC area. She got her PhD from the University of California at Berkeley and has two master degrees, one from UCB and another from the Central University of Venezuela. In her research and teaching, she explores the interactions of culture, politics, and placemaking, and their impact on community development and socio-spatial justice in Latin American cities and US Latinx, immigrants, and minority communities.

James Connolly, Northeastern University

BIO:

James Connolly is an assistant professor of public policy & political science, with appointments of 75% in the School of Public Policy & Urban Affairs and 25% in political science. His current research examines community development and mainstream environmental coalitions in state-level urban environmental policies. His interests also include analyzing how the institutions that shape urban environmental land use policy are structured (spatially and politically) and how they are changed. He has published articles in journals including The Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Landscape and Urban Planning, and Environmental Management. Connolly earned his PhD in Urban Planning from Columbia University.
I. INTERNATIONAL PLANNING COURSES

URBAN PLANNING AND POLICY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Contributor: Michael Hooper, Associate Professor of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia

The University of British Columbia has expanded its international course offerings with a new course entitled “Urban planning and policy in the Global South.” The course provides in-depth exposure to urban planning and policy issues in the Global South and allows students to explore these ideas through readings, debates and a large number of applied cases and scenarios focusing on issues ranging from local governance in Afghanistan to waste collection in Uganda.

HAVANA’S ART & CULTURE: THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Contributor: Reemberto Rodriguez, Affiliate, National Smart Growth Center, University of Maryland

The University of Maryland offered a unique short winter semester virtual course in January 2022 titled “Havana’s Art & Culture: The intersection of architecture, planning, preservation, and economics”, open to non-UMD students as well. The course is a collaborative effort amongst the University’s architecture, planning, preservation, and real estate programs with guidance from the Office of International Affairs. The intent is for the course to be a precursor to a study abroad offering in Havana in January 2023.

This 3-week interdisciplinary virtual course examines the intersections of these disciplines, highlighting how they are manifested in the arts, culture, and society. Havana is one of the oldest cities in the hemisphere, having just celebrated its 500th year anniversary. The course provides the opportunity for students to intensely interact with Cuban experts in each discipline, some directly – virtually – from Havana.
The Instructor Team for the course includes facilitator Reemberto Rodriguez, a Cuban-born long-time practitioner of all four disciplines with recent emphasis in placemaking and community organizing; Gerrit Knapp, University of Maryland Director of the National Smart Growth Center and Economics Professor; Havana based Isabel Rigol Savio, retired Architecture Professor and prolific speaker from the University of Havana who will also coordinate the virtual participation of experts from Havana; Manuel Ochoa, Economic Development Consultant; and Manela Diez, a facilitator of family and architectural journeys to Cuba.

The course is intensely interactive, with unique opportunities for participatory learning, and maximizes technology to experience today’s Havana virtually. These experiences are augmented by the contextual history of all four disciplines weaving in the richness of the arts and culture in Havana, neighborhood-based student group projects, and individual projects using the Pecha-Kucha presentation model.
JOINT STUDENT CAPSTONE PROJECT: UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA AND NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Contributor: Ashok Das, Associate Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

Ashok Das, Associate Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP), University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (UHM) and Katherine Li, Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages, Director of the Office of External Affairs, and Advisor of the Center for Peace Studies at North South University (NSU), Dhaka, Bangladesh are the faculty instructors of a joint capstone project in Spring 2022 involving undergraduate and graduate students from UHM’s College of Social Sciences and NSU. Students from different disciplines at both universities work together to pursue individual and group topics as part of the larger capstone project on “NGO-led community-based approaches for development and resilience in Bangladesh.” This capstone will pilot a new tripartite initiative among UHM (DURP and CSS), NSU, and the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM). CFE-DM supports faculty-led, student capstone projects focused on policy and planning issues related to disaster management, humanitarian assistance, community resilience, and institutional capacity building.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COURSES AT ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

Contributor: Deden Rukmana, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Community and Regional Planning at Alabama A&M University

In the Fall of 2020 semester, the Department of Community and Regional Planning at Alabama A&M University was pleased to welcome Dr. Yancili Lozano-Torres as the leading faculty for the international development planning specialization in the MURP program. She holds a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning and a Master of Science in Economics from the Florida State University. Her areas of research include: feminist urban planning, local governance and urban policies for marginalized groups, comparative analyses, Latinx, and mixed methods. Dr. Lozano has worked in local government (e.g. deputy mayor in her hometown), and conducted consulting and NGO work in Colombia. She has also taught in higher education since 2007, including Universidad del Pacifico (Colombia) and Florida State University.

Dr. Lozano-Torres took the lead in updating the title and description of three required courses for the international development planning specialization. Those three required courses include Regional Development and Planning, International Development Planning, and Global
Perspective in a Planning Context. The updated title and description of those courses have been approved by the University Standard and Curriculum Committee in October 2021. The updated courses are also a part of the program preparations for the reaccreditation by the Planning Accreditation Board in March 2023.

INTERNATIONALLY FOCUSED PLANNING COURSES AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

- Global Perspectives on Urban Resilience Planning (Instructor: Sara Meerow). Covers theory and applications connecting sustainability sciences and practice to urban environmental planning, sustainable urban development, restoration, and preservation.
- International Planning (Instructor: Hue-Tam Jamme). Introduces globalization, international development, international planning practices and policies, urbanization and urban and regional planning in developing nations.

INTERNATIONALLY FOCUSED PLANNING COURSES AT VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

- International Development Policy and Planning
- International Development
- Non-Governmental Organizations in International Development
- Topics in Infrastructure Planning in Developing Countries
- International Development Studio
- Advanced International Development Planning and Policy

INTERNATIONALLY FOCUSED PLANNING COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

- Cities in the Developing World
- International Perspectives on Urban Problem Solving
- International Development
- Urban and International Development
- Comparative International Development
- Special Issues in International Public Policy
- Policy, Planning, and Development International Laboratory
- International Development Administration
- Processes of Change in Developing Societies
- Financial Administration in Developing Countries
INTERNATIONALLY FOCUSED PLANNING COURSES AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

- Chinese Urbanism in Global Context
- Cities in Crisis: Planning in Comparative Perspectives
- Climate Adaptation and Disaster Planning
- Governance and Action for Inclusive Cities
- Introduction to International Planning
- On Spatial Exclusion and Planning
- Practicum: Residential Planning in Global Cities
- Urban Informality
- Urban Infrastructure Services & Mobility in Global Context

INTERNATIONALLY FOCUSED PLANNING COURSES AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

- International Development Planning Workshop (Instructor: George Frantz).
- Global Climate Change Science and Policy (Instructor: Linda Shi).
- Urban Public Management (Instructor: Mildred Warner).
- Current Issues and Debates on NGOs (Instructor: Neema Kudva).
- International Institutions (Instructor: Victoria Beard).
- Urban Transformations in the Global South (Instructor: Neema Kudva).
- Planning and Poverty in the Global South (Instructor: Victoria Beard).

INTERNATIONAL PLANNING COURSE AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

In the Summer of 2022, Dr. Jesus Lara will be leading an international study abroad program, “European Cities and Sustainable Urban Planning Practices: Munich, Cologne, Berlin, Hamburg, and Copenhagen.” This course will address the general principles of sustainability and examine in the field how some of these principles have been put into practice. Participants not only gain an understanding of the planning, design and function of these European cities but will discuss and analyze how applicable these approaches and technologies might be for U.S. urban areas (especially Midwestern U.S. urban centers).
INTERNATIONALLY FOCUSED PLANNING COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA CHAMPAIGN

• Cities in a Global Perspective (Instructor: Faranak Miraftab).
• Community Development in the Global South (Instructor: Faranak Miraftab).
• Transnational Planning Seminar (Instructor: Faranak Miraftab).
• International Environmental Planning and Governance (Instructor: Sean Kennedy).
• Planning with Climate Change (Climate Action Planning) (Instructor: Sean Kennedy).
• Placemaking in International Setting (Instructor: Magdalena Novoa).

INTERNATIONALLY FOCUSED PLANNING COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

• Comparative Planning Institutions and Law (Instructor: Ana Paula Pimentel Walker). Critiques/examines US planning law and compares it to law in countries around the world
• Comparative Participatory Planning and Community Development (Instructor: Ana Paula Pimentel Walker). Compares participatory planning strategies around the world
• Comparative Environmental Planning (Instructor: Ana Paula Pimentel Walker). Compares environmental planning strategies around the world.
• Global and Comparative Planning (Instructor: Lesli Hoey). Offers an introduction to historical and theoretical frameworks to understand international development, key international institutions (World Bank, UN, social movements, etc.) and then looks at major trends/innovations in a variety of planning topics (e.g., informal settlements, disaster planning, food systems planning, transportation planning).
• Comparative Urban Policy (Instructor: Martin Murray). Compares urban policy around the world.
• Comparative Housing and Property Policy (Instructor: Ana Paula Pimentel Walker). Compares housing and property policy around the world.
• Infrastructure Planning in the United States and Developing Countries (Instructor: Martin Murray). Compares infrastructure planning around the world.
Nick R. Smith, Assistant Professor of Architecture and Urban Studies, Barnard College, Columbia University, recently published “The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China” (University of Minnesota Press, 2021), which investigates the radical expansion of Chinese urbanization under a new planning and policy regime dubbed “urban–rural coordination.” The book ethnographically explores the contested implementation of this new approach to urban–rural relations and its profound consequences for China’s villagers.


Ashima Krishna, Associate Director, Purdue Policy Research Institute published an article titled “The Evolving Role of Contemporary Conservation Architects in India: Beyond Traditional Professional Practice” in Change Over Time, the conservation and preservation-focused journal from PennPress. This article draws on conversations and feedback received from Professor John Forester, and relates to Professor Forester’s extensive work on the role of planners and planning practitioners. See https://muse.jhu.edu/article/807670/summary.

• Yancili Lozano Torres, Assistant Professor at the Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University published the following article: Lozano-Torres, Y. (2021). The quest for gender equality: Understanding and measuring gender responsiveness in Colombia’s municipal planning. Cities, 119, 103358.

• Clara Irazábal, Professor and Director, Urban Studies and Planning Program, University of Maryland, College Park published the following articles:
  


1. Title: UC San Diego now has a new Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Contributor: Keith Pezzoli, Teaching Professor, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, University of California, San Diego.

UC San Diego now has a new Department of Urban Studies and Planning tracks. We aim to bring into new planning curriculum including the US-Mexico border research, climate change, and equity. This update provides some of the publicly engaged work we are doing in these areas: https://www.clppct.unifi.it/vp-250-the-bioregional-city-planning-design.html.

2. Title: Bioregional Planning and Design: Nature-based solutions to climate change

Contributor: Keith Pezzoli, Teaching Professor, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, University of California, San Diego.

On February 6, 2020, the U.S.-Mexico Border Solutions Alliance gave a presentation to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in Washington DC. The National Science Foundation’s Smart and Connected Communities program provided support to create this Alliance. At the February 6th NAS meeting, with program sponsors and policymakers, the Alliance suggested pathways to doing team-based, solutions-oriented research converged around three topics: transformation of production, health and well-being, and regional sustainability. The presentation highlighted key results/suggestions that emerged from a series of community workshops held on both sides of the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border. These workshops brought together practitioners, service providers and policymakers to begin identifying shared challenges that can benefit from the research being conducted by universities in border communities.
A Global Planning Educators Interest Group (GPEIG) member, Keith Pezzoli, represented the Alliance task force focused on regional sustainability. At the February 6th NAS meeting, Pezzoli presented ideas for convergence research and community science aimed at increasing transborder bioregional resilience. The presentation included research strategies for understanding and improving nature-based solutions to climate change in the form of blue and green infrastructure, from spatial and environmental justice standpoints. The UC San Diego Bioregional Center for Sustainability Science, Planning and Design, which Pezzoli directs, is pursuing nature-based solutions to climate change with a number of grants.

Nature-based solutions to climate change are now on the agenda of many researchers around the world. Urban-rural resilience is one of the major goals sought by those who are promoting nature-based solutions. Nature-based solutions are inherently place-based—needing to be dialed in to a particular territory’s diverse assets, strengths, vulnerabilities, etc. Nature-based solutions couple human and natural systems to make cities, towns, working lands/waters resilient, sustainable and healthy. Examples the Bioregional Center has been examining include reforestation, afforestation, agroforestry, regenerative agriculture that builds healthy soil as a carbon sink, anaerobic biodigesters that turn food wastes into soil/energy/fertilizer, xeriscape landscaping that utilizes water-conserving techniques (drought-tolerant plants, mulch, bioswales), ecological restoration/conservation of riparian habitat, coastal wetlands and kelp forests. The Bioregional Center active in the San Diego-Tijuana City region is currently planning to establish a transborder Bioregional Consortium –focused on Creating Artful Research for Visioning and Engagement (CARVE Consortium). One of the projects now getting underway with support from the University of California, Office of the President, Global Food Initiative, involves asset mapping of the bioregion’s urban forests, including food forests in underserved communities (food deserts).

https://sites.google.com/ucsd.edu/keith-pezzoli-website
3. Title: Propinquity

Contributor: Andre Comandon, Postdoctoral Research Associate, USC Price School of Public Policy

Propinquity is inspired by the idea that the proximity of different social groups is important for society to function well but that we do not have a good understanding of social distance in cities around the world. This web-based platform (beta-version), allows scholars and students to compare cities and better understand how people come together and cities co-exist in an inter-connected world.
http://urbanstructure.sites.luskin.ucla.edu/

4. Dr. Tijs Van Maasakkers, Associate Professor at The Ohio State University, is conducting research on urban sustainability in the Netherlands and holds an appointment as a visiting Senior Social Scientist at TNO, the Netherlands Organization for applied scientific research (www.tno.nl), in their Environmental Planning group. TNO was founded by Dutch law in 1932, to enable business and government to apply knowledge. As part of Dr. Tijs Van Maasakkers’s visiting appointment, he is collaborating with TNO colleagues on multiple projects. His focus so far has been on two EU-funded innovation projects, MOVE21 (move21.eu) and NETZERO Cities (http://netzerocities.eu).
Title: UHM Department of Urban and Regional Planning Organizes U.S.-Indonesia Knowledge Exchange Webinar Series with Mercy Corps and USAID

Contributor: Karl Kim, Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (UHM) is collaborating with Mercy Corps Indonesia and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to directly support the Government of Indonesia’s National Emergency Management Agency Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (BNPB) in increasing capacity for disaster risk reduction. The project is called Investing in Human Capital for Disaster Management (INVEST DM 2.0) and builds upon DURP’s previous work in Indonesia from the Building Resilience Through Training project (2013-2017).

During October 2021, Professor Karl Kim, lead organizer of the webinar series, facilitated the first of five U.S.-Indonesia knowledge exchange webinars taking place between October 2021 and February 2022. The webinars convene senior disaster management officials, civil society organizations, universities, law enforcement, and media from the U.S. and Indonesia to discuss accreditation systems for disaster management organizations; certification of disaster management trainings and personnel; lessons learned from disasters; improvement of emergency operations centers; and leadership and management.

The series aspires to synthesize best practices from planning with an end goal of fostering more collaborative relationships between governments, international organizations, and universities to address hazards and threats associated with climate change in Hawai‘i, Indonesia, and the Asia-Pacific Region.

Clara Irazabal, Professor, Urban Studies and Planning Program, University of Maryland, College Park received the Fulbright Scholar Award 2020-2022 to perform research in Costa Rica: “Venezuelan Migrants in Costa Rica: Selective (Dis)Affiliations and (Sub)Urban Implications.”
Dr. Deden Rukmana, Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Community and Regional Planning at Alabama A&M University, was appointed by the Governor of Jakarta, Indonesia as a member of the expert team of Jakarta’s tall buildings through the Governor’s Decree No. 381/2021 on April 1, 2021. The team is assigned to review and provide recommendations for all proposals of tall building developments in Jakarta. The team consists of 20 architects and 4 urban planners including Dr. Rukmana and will serve for a three-year term. The team has been established since 1990s, but the involvement of urban planners has just started in 2021.

5. Dissertations on International Planning completed in 2020-21

Note: The following information was contributed by individuals, supervisors, and planning programs.

**Arizona State University**
Jianyi Li. The Electronics Hardware Innovation Cluster in Shenzhen, China: Contemporary and Future Dimensions from an Agglomeration, Institutional, and Built Environment Context. (Supervisor: Douglas Webster)

**Columbia University**

**Cornell University**
Nidhi Subramanyam. Planning the Urban Futures of a Small City and Its Rural Past: Governance and Water Infrastructures in Tiruppur, India. (Supervisor: Neema Kudva).


Harvard University
HJ van den Berg. Equity and Climate Change Adaptation: Toward a Better Understanding of Resource Allocation. (Supervisor: Peter Rowe).
Xuanyi Nie. The Civic Value and Economic Promise of Medical Cities in the United States and China. (Supervisor: Alex Krieger).
Jingping Liu. The Evolution and Retrofitting of Work-unit Communities Under a Self-organizing Logic: Cases in Nanjing, P.R. China. (Supervisor: Peter Rowe).

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
Sergio Andres Contreras Pinto. Three essays on microenterprises and self-employment. (Supervisor: Geoffrey Hewings).
Efad Huq. Amphibian Urbanism in Dhaka’s Contested Wetlands. (Supervisor: Faranak Miraftab).

University of Pennsylvania

University of Southern California

University of Texas Austin
NEWS FROM
PLANNING SCHOOLS


**Virginia Commonwealth University**

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**
Jessica Agnew. Demand-Side Factors that Affect the Potential of Market-Based Approaches to Alleviate Micronutrient Malnutrition in Mozambique. (Supervisor: Ralph P. Hall).

Raj Kumar G.C. Exploring the Potential of Multiple Use Water Services for Smallholder Farmers in the Western Middle Hills of Nepal. (Supervisor: Ralph P. Hall).
GPEIG’S COMMITTEES

Current GPEIG Co-chairs:

1. Charisma Acey, Co-chair (2020-2022)
Charisma Acey is an associate professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at UC Berkeley, where she also serves as Faculty Director of the Berkeley Food Institute (BFI) and Research Director of the Institute of Urban and Regional Development. Her background includes managing humanitarian relief and development projects in Africa and Latin America, carrying out multi-city mixed-methods research projects to understand disparities and solutions for improving access to clean water and safe sanitation among communities living with the discriminatory legacy of unequal investments in urban infrastructure. Charisma’s research, teaching, and service-learning courses focus on local and regional environmental sustainability, with an emphasis on poverty reduction, community participation in urban governance, food security, environmental justice, and access to basic infrastructural services.
Contact: charisma.acey@berkeley.edu

2. Ana Paula Pimentel Walker, Co-Chair (2021-2023)
Ana Paula Pimentel Walker is an assistant professor in urban planning at the University of Michigan. She investigates how disenfranchised communities engage with urban governance and evaluates the significance of participatory institutions in planning socially and environmentally just cities. Her research aims to amplify the voices of informal dwellers, migrants, and ethnic minorities in the planning process, while co-producing strategies that defy inequalities and institutional racism. To achieve these goals, the action-oriented component of her research focuses on advancing community organizing, capacity building, and access to justice. She teaches courses in participatory planning, planning law, international service-learning studios, housing policy, and environmental planning. Pimentel Walker has a PhD in anthropology, Masters in urban planning and Latin American studies, and a law degree.
Contact: appiment@umich.edu
GPEIG’S COMMITTEES

Past GPEIG Co-Chairs

(2019-2020) Praveen Maghelal
(2020-2021) Xueming (Jimmy) Chen

Election Committee (2021 Elections)

Shelagh McCartney, Ryerson University (Chair)
Ashima Krishna, Purdue University
Enrique R. Silva, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Communications Committee (Past and current members)

Andrew Rumbach, Texas A&M University (Chair and Webmaster)

Newsletter committee

Sandip Chakrabarti, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
Lu Liao, Renmin University of China
Nidhi Subramanyam, University of Toronto
Taru, University of Michigan
Yingying Lyu, Harvard University

Awards Committees

Best Journal Article (Faculty Award)
Anuradha Mukherji, East Carolina University (Chair)
Sai Balakrishnan, University of California Berkeley
John C. Harris, University of Oklahoma
Lucie Laurian, University of Iowa
James H. Spencer, Louisiana State University
Carolina Sarmiento, University of Wisconsin Madison

Student Case Study Competition Award

Divya Chandrasekhar, University of Utah (Chair)
Meenu Tewari, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Sanjeev Vidyarthi, University of Illinois Chicago
Lesli Hoey, University of Michigan
Samuel Tabory (Harvard University) (2020 Winner)
Gill-Chin Lim Award for the Best Dissertation on International Planning

Neema Kudva, Cornell University (Chair)
Hiba Bou Akar, Columbia University
Ruth Steiner, University of Florida
Hayden Shelby, (Past Winner), Assistant Professor, University of Cincinnati

Gill-Chin Lim Travel Awards Committee

Elizabeth Hamin (Chair), University of Massachusetts Amherst
Abhinav Alakshendra, University of Florida
Mi Shih, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Hayden Shelby (Past Winner), University of Cincinnati
Marielos Arlen Marin (Student, Past Winner), University of Massachusetts Amherst

Best Student Paper in International Planning

Atul Pokharel, New York University (Chair)
Cuz Potter, Korea University
Gregory Randolph, University of Southern California (2020 Winner)

Global Planning Education Committee (GPEC) Leadership

Yingling Fan, University of Minnesota (Co-Chair, 2019-2022).
Lesli Hoey, University of Michigan (Co-Chair, 2019-2022).
Clara Irazabal Zurita, University of Maryland, College Park (2019-2023).
Francis Owusu, Iowa State University (2019-2021).
Bruce Stiftel, Georgia Institute of Technology (2019-2022).
Sandip Chakrabarti is associate professor and chairperson in the Public Systems Group at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA). He is the founding co-chair of the Centre for Transportation and Logistics at IIMA. Sandip received his Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Development from the Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California in 2015. His research and teaching interests include transportation planning, travel behavior analysis, urban economics, public finance, and sustainable development. Before joining IIMA, Sandip worked as a postdoctoral research associate at the USC Metrans Transportation Centre (2015-16), and then as a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Planning and Urban Studies, University of New Orleans (2016-17). Along with his co-authors, Sandip received the 2017 Chester Rapkin Award for best paper in the Journal of Planning Education and Research awarded annually by the ACSP. Sandip currently lives and works in Ahmedabad, India and can be contacted at sandipc@iima.ac.in.

Yingying Lyu is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, and an incoming Assistant Professor of Planning at the Department of Geography and Planning, West Chester University of Pennsylvania. She is also an Associate at the Harvard-China Project on Energy, Economy, and Environment based in the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; and a member of the Social Technology for Global Aging Research Initiative at Harvard University. Lyu received her Doctor of Design degree at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in November 2019. Her research focuses on health, aging, and environmental sustainability. The core research question behind her work is how to build cities and communities that can promote positive health outcomes for all people. The research of her and collaborators has been published in the Journal of Planning Literature, Journal of Transport & Health, and HERD: Health Environments Research & Design Journal.

Nidhi Subramanyam is Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto and a faculty affiliate with the university’s School of Cities, Data Sciences Institute, and the Center for South Asian Studies. Her ongoing research examines just approaches to plan and govern water infrastructures in the face of rapid urbanization and the growing impacts of climate change. She also investigates questions on urban governance and rural-urban transitions in cities of the Global South. At their core, all her projects interrogate how planning processes reflect and reinforce the status quo in
moments of transition and how different social groups contest inequalities and transform planning at such moments to create just and sustainable futures. Nidhi Subramanyam received a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University in 2021. She grew up in Mumbai, India, but is currently an immigrant-settler in the traditional lands of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit in the region known as Tkaronto (Toronto). She can be reached at nidhi.subramanyam@utoronto.ca or via Twitter @needycities.

Lu Liao is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Urban Planning and Management at Renmin University of China. Lu’s research sits at the intersection of environmental planning and urban governance, with a broad focus on sustainability, climate change and social equity. Her current research agenda examines local governments’ decision-making and implementation of the sustainability plans and policies, in both China and the U.S. Her work has been published in journals including Journal of the American Planning Association, Local Environment, Rural Sociology, Land Use Policy, and Resource, Conservation and Recycling. She received her Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning at Cornell University in 2021, a Master in Public Administration and a Bachelor in Law at Tsinghua University.

Taru is a PhD Candidate in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Michigan. She has completed a Masters of Regional Planning from AAP, a Sustainable Global Enterprise Immersion from SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University; and a Certificate in African Studies, LSA, University of Michigan, focusing primarily on African Cities. Taru’s work primarily situates itself in international and post-colonial territories and is deeply engaged with normative planning theories and their application in places with plural institutions, structural violence, and difference. Her current dissertation focuses on the role plural institutions and community networks can play to effectively address disaster- specifically looking at COVID response in ordinary cities. Taru has also worked as a researcher with the International Planning Case Study Project and the Detroit River Stories Lab. She can be reached at tarutaru@umich.edu.
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