

## URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 3, 2021

Already four weeks have passed since the start of this semester and please make sure to take care of your well-being and find some time to enjoy the snow. For your safety, Columbia Transportation has partnered with Via to offer [free ride-share night shuttles after 4PM in the vicinity of campus](#).

For international students graduating this semester, last Saturday was the first day to apply for the Post-Completion OPT. If you plan on staying in the US post-graduation, please apply as soon as possible due to [expected delays in processing](#).

Contributions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Elaine Hsieh and Geon Woo Lee using this [form](#). Feel free to share any news regarding events, class projects, jobs/internships, scholarships/fellowships, and academic related student updates.

### PROGRAM UPDATE

Heather Roiter, '07 MSUP, received the [Frederick O'Reilly Prize](#) for her outstanding work in helping NYC agencies respond to the pandemic. As Assistant Commissioner for NYC Emergency Management, she has developed the City's Covid-19 hotel program serving essential workers and at-risk individuals.

PhD student Jenna Davis published a [book review](#) of Shane Philips's *The Affordable City* in the [Journal of Planning Literature](#).

#### WORKSHOPS

[cover letter](#)   [organizing thesis](#)  
[planning paths in private tech](#)  
[professional leadership](#)

The UP Office has planned many [career events](#) this month to help out with recruiting and networking. These range from workshops in resume and cover letters, career session, to LiPS panels that can be great opportunities for networking.

#### Cover Letter Workshop

9AM, Saturday, February 6

Rebecca Andersen Polimeda, Associate Director of Career Services & Industry Relations at Columbia GSAPP's MSRED program, will present on how to make an effective cover letter and what comes next. This workshop is open to Urban Planning and Historic Preservation students and will be tailored to jobs in these industries.

#### Professional Leadership Intensive Workshop

1PM, Friday, February 12

Students graduating this Spring are invited to register for an interactive Professional Leadership Intensive led by Executive Coach Patricia Hayling Price. These 3-hour workshops are designed to help develop your personal leadership skills. Topics covered include the following: personal branding; leadership in your career; the unspoken rules of your profession; the cultural norms of your workplace.

#### Planning Paths in Private Tech

7PM, Friday, February 12

MSUP program Alumini James Piacentini '20, Cartographer at Apple; Shruti Shubham '16', Data Analyst at Gridics; and Nick Kunz '19', Data Scientist at Microsoft, will talk about their career paths from planning into private tech. They will discuss what they do day-to-day in their positions, planners's contributions to tech, and how planning students who want to work in the industry can prepare.

#### Organizing the Thesis Workshop

10AM, Saturday, February 13

This workshop helps students impose order on their materials and formulate a plan for integrating the research into their papers. Using an organizational grid, students will focus on meaningfully categorizing and evaluating their research in light of a focused research question.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATION UPDATES

#### URBAN Magazine

URBAN Magazine is seeking pitches for the Spring 2021 issue. For the Spring issue, we hope to continue the conversations that were started in [Dialogues](#). In keeping with the spirit of the past issue, we want to hear from our readers and writers about possible themes for URBAN's Spring issue. We welcome any form of writing, from personal reflection to research articles. Should you be interested in contributing to this issue, please send us a short pitch (couple sentences ~ paragraph) to [urban.submissions@gmail.com](mailto:urban.submissions@gmail.com) by Friday, February 12.

#### Program Council

Save the date! Program Council will be holding their first in-person event on Friday, February 19 from 2:30 - 5 PM EST on campus under the GSAPP Tent. Social distancing rules and face masks will be required.

#### APA Student Representative Committee

The 2021 APA-NYM Chapter Mentorship Program is now accepting applications! Join the APA New York Metro Chapter's Mentorship Program for a unique professional development opportunity. The mentorship program is six months long, and offers planners of all levels an opportunity to expand one's network while setting goals and working on achieving them. Mentor and mentee roles are available to planning practitioners of all experience levels and graduate students. Please note that we plan this year's program to be entirely remote, running from March to September 2021. This is a great way to expand your network, learn some new skills, and get more involved in the APA-NYM Chapter! Please fill out the [Application Form for Mentees](#).

#### LatinGSAPP

LatinGSAPP launched Patio, an independent, student-run editorial platform focused on critical issues of the Latin American community and built environment. Patio is the field where inside meets outside. While defined by a sense of interiority and belonging, it opens itself to outsiders with unequivocal joy. This first issue is focused on Alterity, or the acknowledgment of the existence of oneself through the capacity to recognize the other as such a singular, subjective person. The first round of features is published on <https://patiopublication.cargo.site/>

## FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



#### Moses Narayan Leovich

Jackson Heights, New York  
 University of Michigan '19, Environmental Science

#### What is your interest within the urban planning field?

It's such a varied field that it's hard to choose, but I love parks and urban ecology!

#### If you could pick up a new skill in an instant what would it be?

CAD- it's definitely a steep learning curve! In terms of non-school-related skills, I would love to be able to play piano without having to actually practice.

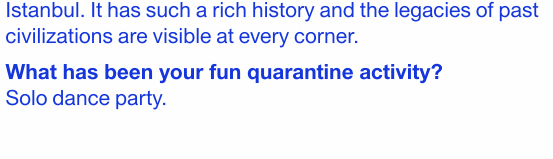
#### What's your favorite city you've ever visited, and why?

Montreal, I love the museums and big open public spaces. This will be controversial but I think Montreal bagels are just as good as (if not better than) NYC bagels.

#### What TV shows are you currently bingeing?

Great British Baking Show! I also just started Lupin on Netflix and I'm hooked!

## SECOND-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



#### Zeineb Sellami

Tunis, Tunisia  
 Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Versailles,  
 Master of Architecture

#### What is your interest within the urban planning field?

International Development

#### If you could pick up a new skill in an instant what would it be?

Right now... would love to become a Master at R Studio!

#### What's your favorite city you've ever visited, and why?

Istanbul. It has such a rich history and the legacies of past civilizations are visible at every corner.

#### What has been your fun quarantine activity?

Solo dance party.

## UPCOMING GSAPP EVENTS

**Building Collaboration: On the Question of Repair**  
 1PM, Friday, February 5

Flores A. Forbes, Associate Vice President for Community Affairs in the office of Government and Community Affairs at Columbia University, and Akilah King, CEO of Room To Grow, join Prof. Malo Hutson in conversation on [community collaboration](#) with Columbia University in the City of New York on building together towards partnership and repair.

**LiPS: NYC Transformed: City Planning at a Time of Crisis**  
 1PM, Friday, February 5

Planning practice in New York City was profoundly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuing economic chaos, and a long overdue reckoning on race and police brutality. Local government officials were called on to mediate and manage these crises—while simultaneously dealing with new frictions in the internal functioning of their agencies. Yet, despite this, planning work continued to be done. The panel will also consider the future of New York City, as it confronts a fiscal crisis, a new mayoralty, and the residual effects of the pandemic.

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

**Making it Big: Why Developing Countries Need More Large Firms**  
 1 PM, Wednesday, February 10

Join Alexandros Ragoussis, author and senior economist at the World Bank's International Finance Corporation, for a [discussion about his latest book](#), in which six development economists explicate how large firms are created in low- and middle-income countries and what their role is in development.

**Power After the Pandemic**  
 12 PM, Thursday, February 18

Join the Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development (ANHD) and the Urban Design Forum's Executive Directors, in conversation with Maurice Jones of LISC and Brandee McHale of Community Investing and Development at Citi, as they explore how to operationalize racial equity in the community development sector.

**Land Back! The Importance of Oral History in First Nation Land Claims Cases**  
 6 PM, Thursday, February 18

First Nations people have been fighting to protect their lands since first contact. This workshop will explore the role that indigenous oral histories play in land claims cases from the perspective of a land claims researcher.

**NYC Housing, Health & Equity Roundtable**  
 1 PM, Thursday, February 25

Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC) hosts Prof. Malo Hutson and Prof. Diana Hernandez for a roundtable discussion on [current issues in NYC housing with a focus on policies to address inequalities](#).

## WHAT WE'RE READING

[Underestimating Carbon Emissions: American cities are underreporting greenhouse gas emissions due to flawed data or inconsistent methodologies.](#)

[Amazon unveils their latest design plans for their Arlington HQ2 campus dubbed "The Helix".](#)

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