URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 26, 2018

Contributions or ideas for this newsletter can be submitted to Nicholas Johannes. Newsletters will be sent on a bi-weekly basis. For jobs, internships, and fellowships, please see the new career portal.

LECTURE IN PLANNING SERIES

Richard Walker, Professor of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley, presented the main findings of his recently published book, *Pictures of a Gone City*.

The Bay Area, as Walker described, is the nation's center for information technology, and one of the fastest growing places in the world. Buried underneath these superlatives, however, is the tangled political, social, and racial history that plagues the community. He emphasized in his lecture that it is "important to get the peculiarities right" because what is going on in the Bay Area is happening across cities in the Global North. The rapid growth of the tech industry creates housing problems and gentrification.

Walker disputes common theories of economic success. He argues that in the capitalist theory, the contribution made by entrepreneurs to society is often overblown —"only the frosting of the cake, a multi-layered cake." Next, he made the case why the agglomeration theory is highly problematic. According to Walker, the agglomeration theory is a productivist theory, which measures a city's success through its economic output. Then, he railed against the rent-seeking behavior of the finance world, which aims to "circulate money within rich people."

"Something, even more, is going on," Walker said, "capitalism reworks and reshapes the city in its own image." Ending his presentation with a parting thought, he noted that "popular theories are quite wrong."

PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE: PRACTICUM ON SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

Two weeks ago, students from the "Planning for Resilience" practicum led by Urban Planning Professor Marcela Tovar Restrepo visited Santiago de Los Caballeros in the Dominican Republic to study the Benito Monción, a historical site in the city center, and its connectivity to the Yaque River North.

The project was managed by Cities Lab, a Housing and Urban Development Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), and partnerships with 100 Resilient Cities Project, Center for Resilient Cities and Landscape (CRCL) at Columbia GSAPP, and urban planning students from the local university, Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM).

In one week, 17 students were dispatched to work with various urban planning tools, such as: Rapid Ethnographic Assessment; participant observations; participatory mapping; mobility research; interviews; and mapping the streets using Device Magic, a smartphone application. Planning students were paired with IADB and PUCMM students to conduct 24 interviews with government officials, leaders from local organizations, and business owners.

The research data collected from the trip will help the government understand the current dynamics and opportunities for local economic and urban development in the area. Finally, the recommendations from the practicum will be implemented by the IDB.

-Yuli Nabila Priadi (M.S. UP '19)

UNNATURAL DISASTER

In January of 2018, four months after Hurricane Maria devastated the island, Puerto Rico's Governor Ricardo Rosselló announced a plan to privatize the US territory's publicly owned power utility (PREPA).

Rosselló's more recent push to commence privatization of the island's public school system emphatically echoes and underscores these facts. While many fields are involved in addressing the current crisis on the island, we believe a more focused, historically informed conversation on the roles of architecture, planning, and preservation in both the production and management of these ever-more-frequent emergencies—especially as they pertain to infrastructure —is warranted.

Co-organized by Columbia GSAPP Urban Planning, Urban Design, and Historic Preservation Programs, the Center for Spatial Research, and the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, in conjunction with the Buell Center's "Power: Infrastructure in America" research initiative, which considers infrastructural systems and processes as sites of sociotechnical and ecological governmentality at the intersection of neoliberalism and nationalism.

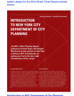
Speakers

- Ivis García Zambrana, The University of Utah
- Marcelo López-Dinardi ('13 MSCCP), Texas A&M University
- Mark Martin Bras, Vieques Conservation & Historical Trust
- Andrés Mignucci, University of Puerto Rico
- Frances Negrón-Muntaner, Columbia University
- Ingrid Olivo, GIZ Sustainable Intermediate Cities Program

In conversation with Urban Planning Professor Hiba Bou Akar and Monxo López, Hunter College. The event is on **November 9th at 1 pm at Avery Hall Room 114.** More info

CAREER EVENTS

On October 19th, a group of 18 M.S. UP students visited the office of Arup, an independent firm of designers, planners, engineers, consultants and technical specialists working across every aspect of today's built environment. The students heard from two planners about their career paths leading to Arup, as well as the professional development and research opportunities sponsored by the company. Later, the students toured the office and the Exploration Lab, where they tested using VR to envision signage system design for the 42nd Street Times Square subway station.



Introduction to NYC Department of City Planning, November 8th from 5 to 6pm, 200 S Fayerweather
UP adjunct professors Purnima Kapur and Douglas Woodward will present on their time working at DCP, including tips on getting your foot in the door. Light refreshments will be served.

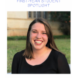
Internship Roundtable, November 15th from 1 to 2pm, 300 Buell South
Join us for an informal roundtable discussion to hear your peers share their recent internship experiences. Topics will include navigating the internship search process, highlights and challenges on the job, and balancing work responsibilities with school work. There will be time for Q&A at the end.

STUDENT NEWS

Anna Stokes (M.S. UP '19) was awarded the Women's Transportation Seminar - Greater New York Chapter (WTS-GNY) Leonard Braun Memorial Graduate Scholarship at the organization's Annual Gala on October 10th. This scholarship is intended to support women in the transportation field, and is awarded to one graduate student annually. To qualify, students must be enrolled in a graduate program related to transportation, meet certain academic criteria, and plan on pursuing careers in transportation. Anna was selected as a recipient for this award based on her academic and professional merits. In addition to financial support, this award has provided Anna with the opportunity to meet and network with many inspiring women working within the transportation field. More info

Guilherme Rocha Formicki (M.S. UP '19) published a paper about social rent in the currently run-down central area of São Paulo, Brazil. The paper titled "Social Rent in São Paulo: Assessment of the Conditions for a Turning Point in the City's Housing Policies" was presented by Formicki's co-author at the V Meeting of the National Association of Research and Post-Graduate Studies in Architecture and Urbanism, in Salvador, Brazil. More info

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Jade T Watkins

Where are you from?
Dallas, Texas

What and where did you study for your undergraduate?
Health and Society at the University of Texas

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
For the dual degree program with Public Health.

What is your interest within the urban planning field?
How urban planning can be a tool for preventative medicine.

If you could pick up a new skill in an instant what would it be?
Be fluent in Mandarin.

What's something you want to do in the next year that you've never done before?
Go to the crazy, big, and famous New York City holiday things like the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade and the New Years at Times Square to watch the ball drop. Even though I've already heard pretty rough things about those, it's a bucket list thing.

Tell me something that most people don't know about you.
I have a motorcycle back home and drove it to high school for a while, or jumped off the tallest building in the Southern Hemisphere (Auckland Skytower in New Zealand).

SECOND-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Guilherme Rocha Formicki

Where are you from?
São Paulo, Brazil

What and where did you study for your undergraduate?
I studied Architecture and Urbanism at the University of São Paulo (USP)

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
I chose Columbia because of its faculty, student diversity, and good range of courses offered within the International Development concentration. The fact that Columbia is in New York was also very important in my decision. Lastly, all the history that Columbia has amazed me as well.

What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?
Can I name two courses? I really enjoyed "The Historical Development of Urban Informality," for it comprehensively covered issues such as slums and vulnerable settlements, which I am very interested in and which I think should definitely be studied by planners. The other was "Economics for Planners," which made me see the connection between Planning and Urban Economics in a much more interesting and fluid way. This course also raised many social justice issues that are usually overlooked in Economics.

What is your interest within the urban planning field?
I am interested in Urban Informality, Slums, Housing, and Social Justice matters.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
Don't hesitate to contact professors and TAs for help. They really know a lot and are willing to help us. The first two semesters can be tough because of adaptation, so this help is really important. And, of course, try not to do 19 credits if you have the chance. It could be very demanding.

What is your dream career?
I want to intertwine public service with teaching.

If you don't have to start working right away after graduation, what would you be doing?
I plan to start a Ph.D. if I don't work right after graduation.

COMPETITIONS AND GRANTS

Urban Land Institute Hines Student Competition, Application Open: October 15th
Since 2002, the ULI Hines Student Competition has challenged students to collaborate across disciplines and imagine a better built environment. Groups of five students form teams to devise a development program for a real site in a North American city, providing designs, market-based financial data, and related narratives. his is an excellent opportunity for students to engage in solving a real-world planning challenge, and the winning team will receive $50,000. Students interested in entering the competition can talk to Weiping about using the Advanced Research course to earn credit next semester. More info

International Research Grants Program, Deadline: November 1st
The International Division annually awards up to two US$1,000 grants to undergraduate or graduate students pursuing a study abroad program, doing international research, or participating in an international internship program approved by their school or department. The student will be required to produce a unique report written specifically for the Division. More info

Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition, Registration Deadline: December 10th
IAH is a graduate student competition that is run by HUD. It brings together students from different disciplines including architecture, planning, policy, real estate, business and others to collaboratively provide a real-world solution. The finalists receive a cash prize of $20,000 for first place, $10,000 for second place, and $5,000 for each third and fourth place teams. More info

OTHER NEWS

Creating Deep Connections and Deep Forms lecture by Kongjian Yu, founder of Turenscape, Beijing, October 29th, Wood Auditorium Kongjian Yu is the Dean of the College of Architecture and Landscape at Peking University and the founder of the award-winning landscape and architecture firm Turenscape, based in Beijing. His pioneering research on 'ecological security patterns' and 'sponge cities' have been adopted by the Chinese government as the guiding theory for national land use planning, eco-city campaigns, and urban ecological restoration. More info

Better Development, October 30th, Center for Architecture
Join us for Better Development, a panel exploring how to address the role and opportunity of the architect/master planner in the public process of entitlement.

Speakers:

- Jared Della Valle, CEO, Alloy Development
- Claudia Herasme, Chief Urban Designer/Director of Urban Design, NYC Department of City Planning
- Paula Kirby, Managing Director, Plaxall
- AJ Pires, President, Alloy Development
- Claire Weisz, FAIA, Founding Principal, WXY architecture + urban design

Moderator:

- Alexandra Lange, Architecture Critic, Curbed

Free for student with valid ID. More info

NYLON #14: Regional Planning, October 31st, Center for Architecture
In 2017, New York's Regional Plan Association (RPA) released its Fourth Regional Plan, looking at the Tri-State metropolitan area in its totality. In the same year, the Mayor of London released the draft New London Plan for Greater London, which addresses but does not resolve London's relationship with its neighbouring counties. Is it time for London to think more strategically across boundary?

Speakers New York:

- Tom Wright, President and Chief Executive Officer, Regional Plan Association (speaking from London)
- Carolyn Grossman Meagher, Regional Planning Director, New York City
- Marilyn Jordan Taylor, FAIA, Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, Former Dean, University of Pennsylvania School of Design

Speakers London:

- Richard Brown, Research Director, Center for London
- Sadie Morgan, Founding Director, dRMM, Commissioner, NIC, Chair, HS2 Ind. Design Panel

Students attend for free with valid ID. More info

Ground Transportation and Climate Change, November 3rd, Cooper Union's Rose Auditorium
The current discourse surrounding mobility, the movement of goods, and cities is focused on convenience and mode rather than considering the production of greenhouse gases. This conference will look at radical changes happening in urban transportation through the lens of their potential climate change impacts. This conference will engage scholars and practitioners in questions about the future of land-based transportation. The League is also organizing a Mobility Innovation series that will engage innovators and entrepreneurs to address themes raised in the conference. GSAPP students are invited to attend and will receive complimentary tickets. If you are interested in attending or have questions, please contact Ginny Hanusik. More info

Van Alen Institute's City-Making from the Outside In Event Series, October 30th to November 4th
Outside In is about the creative "outsiders" who are solving the challenges of urban life for themselves–ordinary citizens, artists, entrepreneurs, and NGOs who are getting things done, boldly reshaping our city and our daily lives. As we travel around New York City exploring unique projects from rooftop farms and food co-ops to repurposed cultural venues and makeshift gathering spaces, we'll examine how these projects can inspire collaborative partnerships with design professionals, private industry, and the public sector to transform the city. Here is a sampling of the events:

- **Makeshift Metropolis** - Looking back on a long career of thinking and writing about cities, Rybczynski considers trends and visions throughout the history of American city-making and asks if any of those past ideas are relevant to a nation as diverse and dispersed as the U.S. is today.
- **Public Private Personal** - How neighborhoods receive new development often reflects how included residents feel in the development process. Whether we're making way for a high-rise residential tower or converting a vacant lot to a community garden, people need to feel heard. Approaches to promote and harness that listening should be a significant part of any city-maker's toolkit.
- **My Gowanus** - Join us for a tour of the Gowanus Canal and surrounding lowland neighborhood with Gowanus Canal Conservancy (GCC) founder Andy Simons to learn about how one of the most polluted water bodies in the country is undergoing a remarkable transformation. Hear about the conservancy from its modest volunteer beginnings to its role today as a robust stewardship-and-advocacy group, working to build and maintain innovative green infrastructure in the Gowanus Watershed. More info

Civic Impact in Practice, November 1st, Center for Architecture, 536 LaGuardia Place
Attendees will be exposed to a range of approaches for integrating civic impact into practice. They will develop an understanding of how to increase civic impact through practice, identifying existing design-education based strategies that contribute to strengthening communities. Free for students with valid ID. More info

APA NY Metro Chapter Roundtable: Emerging Firms in Planning, November 13th, 224 Centre Street, 6th Floor
Join the APA NY Metro Chapter for a dialogue centered around the ways the planning community can support and encourage new and smaller firms to flourish, including MWDBE firms. The New York City planning and urban design industry benefits from having a diverse community of firms and professionals offering unique services that are adaptive and creative for the challenges of our city. This panel will bring together representatives from emerging firms to discuss the challenges and opportunities for emerging firms in the New York City region. More info

2nd Annual GISMO GIS Job & Career Fair, November 14th, Hunter College
The 2nd Annual GISMO GIS Job & Career Fair will be held at Hunter College, West Building (SW corner at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue), from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 14th. We will have at least twelve employers who will be present including: ESRI, CycloMedia, and GroundPoint Engineering. Each employer will have a table and job seekers will circulate from table to table speaking with employer representatives. If you plan to attend this event pre-register by Friday, November 9th at the following link making sure you fill out the brief questionnaire. More info

Indigenous Knowledge of Local Ecosystems in Fiction of Inner Mongolia with Robin Visser, November 14th, Ware Lounge
Recent studies show how indigenous knowledge can subvert (legally) or salvage (in the ruins of) transnational corporate interests, yet the efficacy of indigenous knowledge in stemming environmental degradation remains highly contested. In this talk Professor Visser analyzes works by three contemporary eco-writers of Inner Mongolia to explore dynamics between indigenous knowledge of local ecosystems and Beijing's promotion of ecological civilization. She argues that even while this literature raises environmental awareness, indigenous perspectives can also be strategically appropriated to strengthen control over historical-ly contentious national minorities. More info

APA-NYM Chapter 2018 Annual Conference, November 16th, Columbia University Lerner Hall
Join us for this year's Chapter premier event that brings together hundreds of regional planners, appointed and elected officials, students, and allied professionals. Whether your goal is to contribute expertise and help drive change in the field of planning, celebrate this year's awardees, learn from your peers and adopt new practices, or connect with like-minded planners who are solving everyday challenges like yours, make plans now to join APA-NYM. Breakfast and lunch are included, with cocktail networking. More info

2018 Social Enterprise Conference, November 30th, Riverside Church
Join us as we bring together industry leaders, investors, philanthropists, professionals, faculty, students, and alumni to share best practices and engender new ideas surrounding the intersection of capital and society. Speaker presentations will catalyze conversations of change and embolden a generation to take risks in order to create a world in which everyone, regardless of where they were born, has the equal opportunity to succeed in creating a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities. Students can get discounted tickets when they use code CUsave50 for $25 tickets. More info

CORRECTION

In the previous newsletter, Professor Floyd Lapp's article for the Journal of the American Planning Association titled, "Up Close and Personal: What One Planner Learned in a 55-Year Career That Has Paralleled the Major Events of the Time" had an incorrect link. Read more

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