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URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 13, 2017

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 career portal.

CLASS OF 2019 PROGRAM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Meet your new program council.

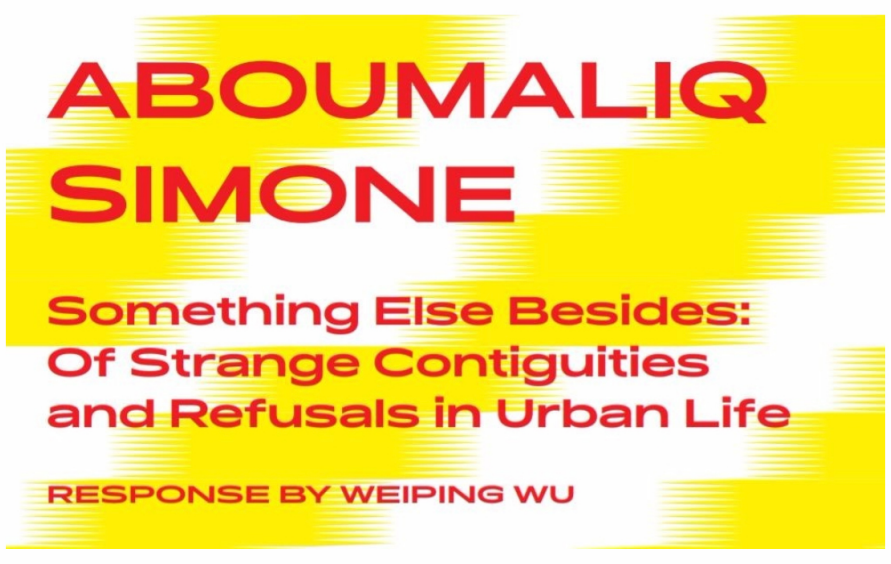
Congratulations to Camille Esquivel, Chaouki El Rassi and Pauline Claramunt Torche who will be the Class of 2019 Program Council Representatives!

Chaouki El Rassi
I have live all my life in Lebanon, where I studied Civil and Environmental Engineering at the American University of Beirut. I have a one year experience in design. I've worked closely with Architects, Planners and Engineers on projects with different scales. I addition to that, I am fluent in three languages: English, Arabic and French.

Camille Esquivel
Hi! My name is Camille Esquivel from Vancouver, BC, Canada. During my undergrad at UBC, I was involved in several student groups that worked towards enhancing the student experience beyond the classroom. From working with an undergrad society to create physical student spaces on campus, to running university-wide intramurals, to helping host a variety of social events for commuter students, I really enjoyed trying to give myself and other students something else to do besides study.

Pauline Claramunt Torche
Before coming to MUP, I worked for four years as an architect in Chile. While working in high contrasted realities (participatory design with vulnerable communities and consultant reports for real estate development) I decided to study urban planning to be prepared to collaborate in the process of building better cities. I have a strong interest to understand and learn from different cultures which encouraged me to travel, study and live outside of my country on several occasions. These experiences have made me realize that diversity is important to build knowledge and peaceful communities. Besides academic and professional interests, I love to play soccer, outdoor activities, extended conversations, and city walks.

SAVE THE DATE


ABOUMALIQ SIMONE
Something Else Besides: Of Strange Contiguities and Refusals in Urban Life
RESPONSE BY WEIPING WU

On **Monday, October 30th, GSAPP's Dean's Lecture Series will present Professor AbdouMaliq Simone**, whose talk is titled "Something Else Besides: Of Strange Contiguities and Refusals in Urban Life" and specifically addresses urban and planning issues.

Professor Simone is an urbanist with particular interest in emerging forms of collective life across cities of the so-called Global South. He has worked across many different academic, administrative, research, policymaking, advocacy, and organizational contexts. He is presently Research Professor at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity; Visiting Professor of Sociology, Goldsmiths College, University of London; and Visiting Professor of Urban Studies at the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town.

Please join the UP community to connect and reflect on global urban and planning issues on Monday, October 30th at 8 pm in Avery Hall, 4th Floor. The reception follows a lecture by AbdouMaliq Simone at 6.30 pm. Light refreshments and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP here for the reception by Wednesday, October 18th.

PLAYING WITH ANOMALIES. CO-PRODUCING NEW IMAGINARIES: BOGOTÁ RIVER

Urban Planning Professor Marcela Tovar-Restrepo led a seminar that included a four-day field trip to Bogotá-Colombia and will complement the Architecture Advanced Studio: "Playing with Anomalies. Co-Producing New Imaginaries: Bogotá River" taught by Giancarlo Mazzanti and Carlos Medellín.

The mission of the Bogotá Joint UP/Arch Studio is to create physical and policy interventions that improve the condition of the city's primary river, the Río Bogotá, as well as neighboring communities. Our studio is focusing on the community of Lisboa and the adjacent section of the Río Bogotá. Prior to traveling to Bogotá, we created a series of "toys" which were used to help us as outsiders engage with Bogotanos in Lisboa and the city center. We exercised multiple techniques of observation and qualitative data gathering; students participated in in-depth interviews with key stakeholders and community members. We also chartered a boat to experience up close the severity of the river's pollution - something we definitely won't forget!

Reflection above was submitted by Eric Pietraszkiewicz (M.S. UP '18).

4TH URBAN CHINA FORUM

Weiping Wu moderates a discussion about design, planning and real estate with Brian McGrath, Mi Shih, Bing Wang, and Siqi Zheng

On October 7th, Urban China Network hosted the 4th Urban China Forum. Professors and practitioners from Columbia University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale-NUS College, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, Rutgers University, the New School and ARUP Engineering Consultancy participated in a lively discussion about China's Transformative Planning and Urban Prospects.

In six keynote speeches and two panel sessions, scholars and experts discussed pressing planning topics in China, which included urban transformation, urban villages and its displacement effect, cluster cities and regional cooperation, human-oriented development approaches.

The forum was attended by students from other programs at Columbia University and visitors from the Greater New York Region.

PUERTO RICO MAPATHON

Pauline Claramunt Torche (M.S. UP '19), Francis Yu (M.S. UP '19) and Eri Furusawa (M.S. UP '18)

On Friday, September 29th, several planning students used satellite imagery and open-source mapping software to aid humanitarian effort in Puerto Rico.

The event was covered by the New York Times and PBS.

OCTOBER 10TH LIPS RECAP

Addressing Uncertainty: Mapping Values and Potentials in Younger Industrial Areas in Change
Anne Mette Boye
Associate Professor and Ph.D. Fellow at the Aarhus School of Architecture, Denmark

Planning the future of areas of uncertainty can be a daunting challenge for urban professionals. Anne Mette Boye presents the case of young industrial areas that seem to be evolving towards an unknown new condition. These zones not only display the expected vacant buildings and the stored leftovers of the city, but also unforeseen activities, such as skate parks, training areas, dance projects and community groups. Professor Boye believes that "to understand their actual quality and transformation, a first step could be to read their current state open-minded as an active part of the contemporary urban landscape and redefine the areas as a new type."

Her method for this reading is mapping the areas through the use of five different objectives extracted from landscape theory: appropriation, cohabitation, connectivity, diversity and porosity. The conference presents the results of a specific case study, Odder, in Denmark, where these five perspectives and the mapping outcomes are outlined. Afterwards, other reference projects are examined, always understanding their context to be able to decontextualize them and introduce their interesting perspectives into the studied place. These projects are the Landscape Naval Shipyard in Philadelphia, the Urban Entrepeneurship Strijp in Eindhoven, the Grassroots groups/ community development organizations in Detroit and the Economic incentives Landbank in Detroit.

After the analysis of this area, for Boye, the managing of uncertainty can be understood as a palimpsest of different but converging practices. Firstly, it is central to grasp the dynamics of the area, focusing on its values to discuss the meaning of the place. However, strategies should be materialized, considering the need to include time and adaptability to changing conditions in the approach. It is also important to engage with stakeholders and create discussions. Maps can be used as a departure point of these debates and also to awaken the local perspectives on the area's potential. Finally, she recommends focusing on the desired qualities instead of attempting to control the future.

Submitted by Gloria Serra Coch (M.S. UP '19).

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Anna Stokes

Where are you from?
At this point home is Raleigh, North Carolina, but I technically was born and raised in Schenectady, NY.

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
I majored in Public Policy with minors in Urban Planning & (less relevantly) French Horn Performance at UNC Chapel Hill.

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
A lot of reasons! The Urban Analytics concentration was a huge draw, as well as the fact that the program was within an architecture school and gives students the ability to take electives across disciplines as my prior education has had little focus on design.

What is your interest in the urban planning field?
Urban analytics & transportation.

What is your dream career?
Big picture: to find & implement innovative strategies in transportation that will decrease SOV dependence.

Tell me something that most people don't know about you.
In the summer of 2010, I rode my bicycle from Florida to California. It took three months and ~1000 PB&J sandwiches.

SECOND-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Maria Garces

Where are you from?
Santiago, Chile

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
Architecture at Universidad Catolica in Santiago

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
I chose Columbia because it's in a prime location for studying Urban Planning (NYC!) and also because I would be able to meet students and faculty from all over the world and make connections.

What has been your favorite class so far and why?
Transit-Oriented Development with Kate Ascher. It's very dynamic and based on real case studies, which helps better understand how different areas of planning can achieve great results by working together.

What is your interest within the urban planning field? What is your concentration?
I have yet to decide my concentration, but it's somewhere between Built Environment and Economic Development. Being able to complement my knowledge and skills in architecture with a broader sense of how a city works and its impacts on people's lives is my main interest.

What is your dream career?
Eventually go back to my architecture studio in Santiago and open a Planning branch where I could develop the skills I've gained here, while still working on architectural projects.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
Explore, explore, explore! It's so easy to get caught up with school that you sometimes forget you are living in such an amazing city! Also, explore further out, take the train and go everywhere you can (especially during the Fall).

PHD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Michael Snidel

The following is an excerpt of the spotlight series by ACSP.

What specialty are you studying?
Housing policy, segregation, neighborhood change, and place-based investment.

Why did you select your particular specialty?
I grew up in the diverse yet exclusive neighborhood of Hyde Park, Chicago. My research is a reflection and extension of my curiosities around urban infrastructures and inequalities that date to my early days of living and walking on the south side.

Do you have a current job or internship in your specialty?
I own and manage my own real estate practice in Baltimore City.

Is there a particular class or professor that has made a great impact on you? How so?
One of the first planning courses I ever took was on redevelopment policy with Dr. Robert Beauregard. The readings were a classic tale of history on repeat; how the same debates and lines of thought that drive economic development policy (insert: urban planning, urban design, housing policy, etc.) are reiterations of the past and yet with little ode to it.

What's your favorite project you've worked on, in class or in practice?
At the Baltimore Development Corporation, Baltimore City's economic development arm, I proposed and was tasked with crafting a tax credit to alleviate the food desert crisis in East and West Baltimore. The project gave me a detailed understanding of the institutional and ideological challenges that maintain food deserts, pushed my real estate finance to a level I thought not possible, and was a textbook on urban politics, city limits, and the trials and tribulations of running a successful grocery store.

The legislation took two years to pass and was a shell of my original proposal. But the tax credit moved the needle on bringing more groceries to forgotten neighborhoods and set a precedent for how government can and should play a role in securing healthy food as a basic right for all its residents.

What future goals do you have in your field?
I want to tip-toe that elusive line of academia meets practice, to use research to solve real planning problems and boots on the ground to inform better planning research.

Big dreams? At some point, I'd like to take a break from research and run a major agency in a major city.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Alejandro De Castro Mazarro

What is your background and what do you do outside of teaching?
I have an undergraduate architectural education, and an urban planning graduate education. Right now I am presenting parts of my PhD work at conferences and papers; and preparing other research projects for upcoming grant proposals.

What do you teach at Columbia University? Who should take your class?
(The second is a hard question). My seminars and studios are related to International Development, and have the pedagogical aim of blending the spatial tradition of physical planning with the evidence-based methodologies of the Social Sciences. This Fall I teach the "Fundamentals of Urban Digital Design," and co-teach the "Introduction to International Development Planning" courses; the next Spring I will teach the seminar "Historical Development of Urban Informality." I think my classes can help students structuring ideas about equality in the shape of arguments; and also I think it will help those students that want to be critical and reflective of information they receive on this.

How long have you been teaching?
For about 9 years.

What do you enjoy most about teaching?
Students in some way mirror the ignorance, knowledge and relevance (or lack of) that I project and teaching is, in this sense, an exercise of empathy that teaches me a lot. Also, teaching gives me the lucky chance to discuss things that I mind with interesting people that mind them. As an instructor, I have the chance to see many good ideas and personal aims; and I find that the pedagogy in teaching helps me carrying or helping for a moment along with those ideas and aims.

What advice do you have for students who are new to the field of urban planning?
I only have but conceptual advices. Dare to think and dare to ask. I would spend too many lines defending this, which is not a slogan. It is in part the realization that our own fears to ask, and reflect, limit and bias our knowledge. Questions are way, way more important than answers.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION NEWS

APA NY Metro Chapter Annual Conference, October 27th
The conference will consist of four technical sessions structured around the theme of technology and innovation. Sessions will address key issues that affect the practice of planning in the metro area, including innovative and adaptive transportation planning, infrastructure to support New York's technology sector, public realm initiatives, and zoning and land use controls. More info

STUDENT COMPETITION

2018 Urban Land Institute Hines Student Competition
Team applications for the ULI Hines Student Competition are due on December 4th, 2017, and the general competition runs from January 15th to 29th, 2018. Now in its 16th year, the competition engages multidisciplinary student teams to devise a comprehensive development program for a real, large-scale site in North America. This 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

2018 Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition
IAH is a graduate student competition, now in its fifth year, 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

UABB with Chinese Architects in NYC—SZ/NYC Symbiotic Symposium: The Life & Dream of the City, October 14th
Students who attended the Urban China Forum might be interested in an event happening on the Seventh Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (Shenzhen). The event will be in Mandarin. More info

MAS Summit for NYC 2017: Pushing the Limit, October 16th
Change has always been a defining feature of our city—but today it is felt with a heightened sense of alarm. With the overarching threat of climate change, and increasing strain on basic needs such as infrastructure and housing, communities are experiencing enormous pressure. As we push the limits of our physical and financial means, we must also push the limits of conventional thinking. This year's Summit will explore ambitious, creative ways to meet these great challenges from the ground up. More info

2017 National Design Awards, October 17th
As part of National Design Week, the 2017 National Design Award winners will lead concurrent salons for discussion of new ideas and advancements in design. Participants will forge valuable connections with the brightest minds in the design world and network with fellow attendees. Light refreshments will be served. More info

TransportationCamp NYC 2017, October 21st
TransportationCamp NYC 2017 will foster open conversation and collaboration between all parties interested in mobility and the radical changes the near-future promises in transportation. Our goal is to assemble planners, software developers, engineers, students, dreamers, professionals, and civic leaders for an exciting day of "un-conferencing." Unlike a traditional conference, the specific session topics are determined by participants, which provides each attendee an opportunity to lead and shape the event. More info

The Hindsight Conference, APA-NYM Diversity Committee Conference Set, November 3rd
The Hindsight Conference will be held on Friday, November 3rd. Venue and more student ticket and involvement details forthcoming. Hindsight, a planning conference named in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Supreme Court decision Buchanan v. Warley (1917), in which the US Supreme Court invalidated racial zoning on 14th Amendment grounds. This event aims to not only shine a light on the discriminatory history of planning and its implicit (and explicit) role in shaping today's inequitable neighborhoods, but also to highlight planning as a means of achieving more inclusive, just, and equitable communities. Student tickets are $10. It includes the cost of the lunch and breakfast. More info

AICP Candidate Pilot Program
Students and recent graduates of PAB-accredited programs can now enroll in the Program any time during the year, register in December–March (for the May exam) or in June–September (for the November exam), use the payment program for exam fees, and take the exam prior to earning professional planning experience. More info

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