COLUMBIA
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PLANNING

URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER
APRIL 20, 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.

URBAN CHINA NETWORK

Urban China Network's Class of 2019
Executive Board members (from left) Boying Li, Lu Hao, Yudi Liu, Runpeng Zhao, and Chengqi Tian

We are excited to announce the new Executive Board members of the Urban China Network. Urban China Network facilitates communications with students, scholars, experts, and entrepreneurs who are working on urban development issues in China.

President
Yudi Liu 刘雨迪

Vice Presidents
Lu Hao 郝璐
Runpeng Zhao 赵润芃

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Chengqi Tian 田承启

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Boying Li 李波莹

TDC-MIT TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT, APRIL 16TH

VISITOR
VISITOR
MEN

Faisha Indrakesuma (M.S. UP ‘18) and Charles Romanow (M.S. UP '18) toured the Moynihan Station Project (Penn Station Redevelopment)

The Transportation Diversity Council (TDC) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Transportation Graduate Student Group hosted the 2018 TDC-MIT Transportation and Infrastructure Summit in Brooklyn on Monday, April 16th.

Graduate students from Columbia University’s urban planning program were joined by students from Brown University, Cooper Union, Cornell University, Harvard University, New York University, Pratt Institute, and the University of Pennsylvania. At the conference, students heard from speakers such as Andy Byford, President of New York City Transit, and Michael Connelly, VP of Service Planning & Schedules, Chicago Transit Authority. Students were also given the option to join guided technical tours.

APRIL 17TH LIPS RECAP

Geoff Boeing, a postdoc in the Urban Analytics Lab at the University of California, Berkeley and an incoming Assistant Professor in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University, gave a talk titled, “Computational Street Network Analysis in Urban Form Studies.”

Boeing acknowledges that existing methods for studying urban street networks are cumbersome and may lead to faulty analysis. He cites the lack of data availability and sample sizes; ad hoc or unreported decision making; generalizability, context (planning decisions); and atheoretical conclusions as common problems associated with conventional ways for studying urban street networks. As part of his dissertation, Boeing created the OSMnx, a Python package for downloading administrative boundary shapes and street networks from OpenStreetMap. It allows the user to easily construct, project, visualize, and analyze complex street networks in Python with NetworkX. The user can get a city’s or neighborhood’s walking, driving, or biking network with a single line of Python code. Boeing concludes his presentation by suggesting ways that his tool can be useful for planning, design, and engineering practices.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Nick Borja

Where are you from?
I’m from sunny San Diego, California.

Where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
I studied urban design and mathematics at New York University (go Violets!)

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
I decided on Columbia because I knew I wanted to be in a program that was situated within a design-focused school. I attended the open house just about a year ago, and I had a really lengthy conversation with Professor Leah Meisterlin about data, design, and how they all play into urban planning. I think I sent in my enrollment deposit right after that conversation, haha.

What is your interest in the urban planning field?
My concentrations are the built environment and urban analytics, but I’m really interested in the intersection of planning and design.

What is your dream career?
My dream career is to be a stand-up comedian if urban planner, designer, dog dad extraordinaire doesn’t pan out.

Tell me something that most people don’t know about

you.
I originally planned on studying automotive design when I came to college. Turns out moving to New York will turn you into some sort of manic urbanist and you'll end up at Columbia because of it.

SECOND-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ángel Félix López Zamora

Where are you from?
Born and raised in LA, but had been living in Houston since 2013.

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
History of Art and Visual Culture at UC Santa Cruz.

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
I wanted to work in the city. I was also interested in the work that the professors have produced.

What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?
I have had two favorite classes. First is Economics for Planners as it paired well with the economics and social theory of Joseph Stiglitz, Robert Reich, and Phil Brown. Second is Advanced Spatial Analysis as we both utilize and critique methods.

What is your interest in the urban planning field? What is your concentration?
I am interested in the areas where data analysis meets planning. My concentrations are Urban Analytics and Community and Economic Development.

What is your dream career?
My dream career would be to start and lead an urban planning group looking at wealth inequality within cities as well as providing an avenue for planning and AI applications.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
Read some Marx, Foucault, Sartre, etc., as they can provide some historical and economic ideas to grapple with in planning. Also, don’t be afraid to take a class outside of the program like in Comp Sci, Real Estate, Stats, and others. Just make sure you can bring it back to the planning context. Lastly, take advantage of the events around campus.

Mengyao Li

Where are you from?
Beijing, China

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
I studied Urban Management at Renmin University of China.

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
Because it is in New York! Another reason is that I dreamt of becoming a journalist when I was doing my undergraduate. Columbia University has one of the best journalism schools in the nation. Although things have changed and I chose to study urban planning, I still viewed Columbia University as my dream school.

What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?
Fundamentals of Urban Digital Design. Before taking that class, I had limited design skills. Through that class, I learned how to build models in Sketchup and make renderings. That was the first time I designed an entire project on my own. Professor Alejandro De Castro Mazarro was also very nice and helpful!

What is your interest within the urban planning field? What is your concentration?
My concentration is Community and Economic Development. I also took several urban analytics classes. Dealing with data in the urban analytics classes was challenging but interesting.

What is your dream career?
Urban planner.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
Try to do anything that interests you.

FELLOWSHIP, MENTORSHIP,

AND COMPETITION

Buell Center Fellowships, Application Deadline: April 22nd

The Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture is pleased to announce its annual awards for historical research on the built environment within or between the fields of architecture, urban history, and landscape. Interdisciplinary or comparative work on the Americas is especially encouraged. Up to four awards, each with a maximum of $5,000, will be given for the purposes of carrying out primary research in conjunction with a masters thesis or PhD dissertation project. Applicants must be full-time GSAPP students in the summer and fall of 2018. More info

2018 NYCEDC Waterfront Scholars, Application Deadline: April 25th

Enter for the opportunity to attend the Waterfront Alliance's 2018 Waterfront Conference as one of our NYCEDC Waterfront Scholars! Join hundreds of attendees at the Waterfront Alliance's annual gathering of waterfront stakeholders, planners, environmental advocates, and other experts. The Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 8 aboard the beautiful Hornblower Infinity, located at Pier 40, Hudson River Park, New York City, and will include breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon harbor cruise. More info

Summer 2018 African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Research Fellowship, Application Deadline: April 30th

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is seeking graduate students for its Summer 2018 African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Research Fellows program. As Research Fellows, selected students will contribute to a new research project from the National Trust's Preservation Green Lab focused on affordability and risk of displacement in cities with significant African American populations. As part of the Fellowship, the Research Fellows will be paid a $5,000 stipend and will have reasonable travel and accommodation expenses covered for participation in the National Trust's PastForward San Francisco conference in November 2018. More info

Douglas Haskell Award for Student Journals, Application Deadline: May 1st

Founded to encourage student journalism on architecture, planning, and related subjects, and to foster regard for intelligent criticism among future professionals. The award is not intended as a prize for individuals, but to support the ongoing publication of student-edited journals whose subject matter could include architectural design, history, and theory. Single or multiple awards up to $2,000. More info

Randall Lewis/Urban Land Institute Health Mentorship Program for Graduate Students, Application Deadline: June 15th

The Urban Land Institute's Building Healthy Places Initiative is excited to announce that applications for the second cohort of the Randall Lewis/ULI Health Mentorship Program are now open! This program is an opportunity for graduate students in architecture, urban planning, real estate, or a related field to engage with ULI and deepen their understanding of how the built environment shapes and influences human health. [More info] (https://cdn.filepicker.io/api/file/nsH3mhwRYKqxwQnVBtL8?

OTHER NEWS

Women Writing, April 20th at Ware Lounge
Jing Liu, Mimi Hoang, Anna Puigjaner in conversation with Hilary Sample. Writing about architecture remains critical to the education of an architect. It is an act that is undertaken in academic and professional settings. As such this initiative brings together a select group of architects who have written about their design work, doing so as a means to both better understand the built environment and reflect on the field of architecture as a whole. Women Writing will explore short essays and critical statements written by female architects about their own work and reflect upon writings by renowned women architects. More info

APA Networking Reception, April 21st at Hilton New Orleans Riverside
Please join the GSAPP Urban Planning program for a private cocktail reception at the American Planning Association's 2018 National Planning Conference in New Orleans. During the annual conference, thousands of planning professionals come together to discuss current issues, trends, challenges, and solutions that are shaping planning today. We invite all Columbia GSAPP alumni attending NPC18 to attend! Pre-registration is required. More info

GSAPP Incubator Open Sessions. Writing the Record: Women in American Architectural History, April 23rd at GSAPP Incubator
Women's absence from accounts of American architectural history has been a longstanding problem. In 2017, Pioneering Women of American Architecture, a web-based resource sponsored by the Beverly Willis Architectural Foundation (with support from the NEA), was launched with the goal of documenting and publicizing women's contributions to the built environment in the U.S. Project co-editors Mary McLeod and Victoria Rosner, together with contributor Gabrielle Esperdy, will talk about their work on this timely project and the challenges of writing women back into American architectural history. More info

Calming New York: An Examination of Neighborhood Slow Zones by Jonas Hagen, PhD Candidate, Columbia GSAPP, April 24th at Avery Hall 114
Every year, there are about 60,000 traffic casualties in New York City, including over 200 traffic deaths. Many cities in Europe and the UK created safer streets by implementing area-wide traffic calming. New York City's "Neighborhood Slow Zones" program is the first systematic area-wide traffic calming program in a major US city. This presentation examines the program in terms of environmental justice, traffic safety, and street design. 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

Columbia University
Graduate School of Architecture,
Planning and Preservation
1172 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, New York 10027
(212) 854-3414

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