

Planning News | Fall 2014



Save the Date: 2015 APA Conference, Seattle

The GSD will host a reception at the American Planning Association Conference in Seattle on April 20, 2015.

Student News



The Second Semester Core Urban Planning Studio published their plan for future development in Chelsea, MA.

Several students undertaking joint degrees with planning have reflected on their experiences at the GSD.

Rob Wellburn MUP '15 and **Matt Furman MUP '15** presented research sponsored by the Joint Center for Housing Studies at a conference held by NeighborWorks America.

Jacob Koch MUP '15 studied the intersection between municipal planning for water systems and informal settlements in Sao Paulo with support from the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies.

Edward Meng MUP '14 and **Heidi Cho MAUD '14, MUP '14** received fellowships from the New Cities Foundation to plan for King Addullah Economic City in Saudi Arabia.

Big city planners dropped by the First Semester Core Urban Planning Studio to provide guidance as the students plan for Dudley Square.



Faculty Updates | Fall 2014

Diane Davis

Professor Diane Davis has continued her work with Professor Ann Forsyth as co-PI of a three-year project funded by Mexico's National Worker Housing Agency (INFONAVIT) to explore new directions in social housing supply in the context of a major national initiative towards the re-densification of Mexican cities.

During the summer, Davis delivered a lecture in Guadalajara on the topic of the future of cities and organized panels in Sao Paulo to examine mobilization in the context of ecological urbanism. In August, Davis addressed the International Sociological Association on the topic of informality in the Global North and South.

The fall saw Davis help the GSD to host a conference entitled "Identity, Sovereignty, and Global Politics in the Building of Baghdad." This conference examined how interventions in post-WWII Iraq that sought to modernize and integrate different populations contributed to the negotiation of different views of political economy, sovereignty, and identity. An article by Davis, "Modernist Planning and the Foundations of Urban Violence in Latin America" is featured in the fall edition of Built Environment.

Ann Forsyth

Ann Forsyth has recently published articles in the areas of healthy communities, sustainability, and planning research (full details about collaborators are available on her

web site www.annforsyth.net). These include: Global Suburbs and the Transition Century: Physical Suburbs in the Long Term (*Urban Design International*), Compromised or Savvy? Achievable Norms in Urban Design (*Journal of Urban Design*), Youth Dietary Intake and Weight Status: Healthful Neighborhood Food Environments Enhance the Protective role of Supportive Family Home Environments (*Health and Place*).

The Health and Places Initiative (HAPI) that Forsyth Co-Directs with Jack Spengler from the School of Public Health has also released a new Research Brief series (A. Forsyth and L.Smead eds. <http://research.gsd.harvard.edu/hapi/research/research-briefs/>).

Michael Hooper

Michael Hooper, Associate Professor of Urban Planning, recently published the first of three papers from a project on post-disaster reconstruction in Haiti. The paper was published in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction and examines how organizations responding to Haiti's 2010 earthquake established priorities around reconstruction. Forthcoming papers will look at spatial tensions in rebuilding and the organizational politics of rubble clearance. Hooper also presented on his research in Haiti during the school's Grounded Visionaries campaign launch and at the annual ACSP conference in Philadelphia.

The fall also saw the conclusion of a second season of fieldwork on a project he is undertaking on responses to urban growth in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Over the summer, two UPD students –Raven Anderson (MUP '14) and Aldarsaikhan Tuvshinbat (MUP '15) – conducted interviews with residents of the city's ger districts, informal areas of predominantly tented homes. Hooper also recently published an article in Global Tenant Magazine which documents a joint policy project undertaken by UPD students and the International Union of Tenants (IUT). IUT is the main advocacy organization for tenants around the world and is based in Stockholm. This collaboration saw students in Hooper's course on Urbanization and International Development write a policy brief for IUT on how policymakers can better address tenants' needs in developing world cities.

Alex Krieger

[Alex Krieger](#) (MCP '77), professor in practice of urban design and principle at [NBBJ](#), was a keynote speaker at the [International Society of City and Regional Planners](#) (ISOCAR) World Congress in Gdynia, Poland, in September. ISOCARP is a global association of experienced professionals that brings together recognized and highly qualified planners

from more than 80 countries worldwide. This year's congress kicked off the organization's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Krieger's presentation was titled "[Transformations along Urban Waterfronts](#)," and explored new developments from a global perspective.

Rahul Mehrotra

In October, Professor Mehrotra delivered the keynote address at the decennial conference of the Deans of the Americas in Antigua. Mehrotra also recently served as chair of the jury of the Urban Age Awards, which are sponsored by Deutsche Bank.

The fall has seen Mehrotra continue his work on ephemeral urbanism, which grew out of studies of the Kumbh Mela. The Kumbh Mela is a Hindu religious festival, which involves the creation of a temporary city on the banks of the Ganges River.

Joyce Klein Rosenthal

Joyce Rosenthal, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning published a study in *Health & Place* on neighborhood characteristics associated with vulnerability to heat-health impacts in New York City. The remarkable findings on urban "riskscapes" were covered by Time Magazine, the Harvard Gazette, and other international news outlets. Research on urban systems for blue-green infrastructure this fall is examining the governance of the design, implementation, use and stewardship of these engineered natural systems in cities for stormwater management, environmental quality, and recreational space in several case study cities.

Dr. Rosenthal spoke on a panel at the October HarvardX gathering in Dallas, Texas, on the future of cities, with hundreds of Harvard alumni at the event, at the invitation of President Faust. She co-organized open GSD-wide workshop in early October on integrating urban climate knowledge into urban planning and design and was discussant and moderator for a panel at the recent 2014 ACSP conference in Philadelphia on "Integrating Climate Adaptation Planning and Its Challenges."