

# McGill School of Urban Planning Newsletter

Danish Architecture Centre, Copenhagen, September 2018 (R.Shearmur)

Fall 2018, no.3 - October

## Notes from the (quasi-)underground

Term is now well underway, and building work continues apace, heedless of students, staff, janitors or professors. Whilst every effort has been made by the Faculty of Engineering, its project managers, and by the School to ensure that disruption would cease by the end of August, these efforts have had no more effect than wet snow melting on a duck's back. I am therefore very grateful to all students, school staff, building maintenance staff and faculty members: under trying circumstances the School is still functioning effectively - a tribute to all involved.

On a brighter note - it is neither shrouded in plastic, hidden by tarpaulin, nor filmed in dust -, a committee from Quebec's ministry of education will visit the School on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. Though this is not the final stage in implementing the new Urban Planning PhD, it is an important stage nonetheless, and one that suggests the program will (relatively) soon be up and running.

Finally, we are currently recruiting. A faculty position has been advertised: applications will be coming in throughout this semester. Probably in February and March next year (watch this space) candidates will come for interviews. Each will meet students, and each will present: your impressions on the candidates are valuable to the selection committee, and we will arrange, closer to the time, for feedback.

Wishing you all a fine Fall semester,

Richard Shearmur

## NEWS



- The McGill Planning Class of 2019 and 2020 at the **planners' picnic**, a longstanding tradition where MUP1s and MUP2s can hang out and talk about their summers. Big thanks to the School of Urban Planning for providing refreshments!.

- Half of the McGill SUP **graduating class of 2013 gathered at the School** in mid-September to celebrate their 5th year anniversary. They were joined by members of the class of 2012 and 2014, as well as current

first and second-year students and professors, who all eagerly participated in lively discussion of planning issues in Canada, the US, and France. Four 2013 "MUPpets" gave long-form presentations on their work around the world in an afternoon mini-conference. The program concluded with Pecha-Kucha-style personal updates from 9 alumni.

The group also arranged for a tour of the class's First Year Studio, now the future Campus MIL, led by planner Pierre St Cyr. The Class of 2013 would like to thank the McGill School of Urban Planning for allowing our group to invade the 4th floor of Macdonald-Harrington once again. See you in 5 years for our tenth anniversary!



- **The most important elections of this Fall** were held on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. The results of the OUPS (Organization of Urban Planning Students) elections are:

#### **Christopher Kuno - President**

Kuno is the official spokesperson of the Organisation of Urban Planning Students. He is responsible for official student correspondence within the school and with external entities. He also plans events and represents student interests. Chris is incredibly proud of the OUPS team's contribution to a positive and memorable student experience for all those at the School of Urban Planning.

#### **Filipa Pajevic - PhD Rep**

Filipa represents the interests and needs of McGill Planning PhD students. In addition, she

is an anchor of the organization, involved in planning events and promoting the School both within the McGill community and abroad. Filipa was integral in the founding of the School of Urban Planning Symposium (SOUPosium – see below)

#### **Ksenia Merkoukhina - Officer at Large**

Kesnia represents the interests of all students and supports the organisation. The officer at large is also the logistic and financial backbone of OUPS.

#### **Nicolette Dent - First Year ReP**

Nicolette represents MUP1 students, assumes shares responsibilities within the organisation. The First Year Rep also takes on the role of MUP Director of Energy and Morale ensuring students are appropriately caffeinated and energised.

#### **Xuanxiao Wang - Second Year Rep**

Xuanxiao represents MUP2 students, assumes joint responsibilities and supports the organisation. Xuanxiao plays a key role, particularly in event planning and organisational management.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- OUPS-organised **apple picking** – 20<sup>th</sup> October.

- **Gewurz lecture:** Professor **Vanessa Watson**, eminent planning theorist and expert on planning in the global South, will be delivering this Fall's Gewurz lecture on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 18.00 in room G10, MacDonald Harrington**. The talk will be on "*New African City Plans: World Class Cities or Property Developer Land Grabs?*". Asking whether the smart, eco and world-class city discourses are relevant for rapidly growing and often poor African cities, this lecture will also shed light on how these labels are used (and abused).

- OUPS-organised **'How to get an internship' workshop** - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- **Christmas / New Year party:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 5pm to 8pm, followed by festive clean up. (Royal Victoria College, 3425 University) This is a potluck event – so

please begin to think about what you will bring...

- **SOUPosium**: after a successful and fun initial symposium in March 2018, the Souppsiem will be back on afternoons of Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Keep these dates free!

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### FALL FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES

(12.05pm to 1.25pm, room 420)

- **Philippe Gerber**, 12<sup>th</sup> Oct: Mobility, Biography, Identity, towards quality of Life: the MoBILife project in a nutshell
- **Richard Shearmur**, 26<sup>th</sup> Oct: Lego Town. To Plan or not to Plan (for isolated corporate hamlets in Denmark)?
- **Bernard McCann**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov: A Planner's Walk: The Road to Compostella
- **Sarwat Vigar**, 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. Creating MeaningfulPublics: Women's Mobility in Karachi's Old City Quarters
- **Pavlik Frank & Adam Cutts**, 16<sup>th</sup> Nov: Crowd Urbanism: Recent trends in Civic Crowdsourcing and Crowdfunding
- **Miranda Sculthorp**, 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov: Household Access to Water and Sanitation: Experiences From Chennai and Bangalore

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### 2017 BERLIN FIELD TRIP (+ other field trips)

**Nik Luka** and **Olivia White** delivered a 50-page richly-illustrated report on the 2017 Berlin trip: 'Rethinking the Kulturforum', made possible by the Gewurz endowment and the ELATE (Enhancing Learning and Teaching in Engineering) initiative; the report is based in part on field studies conducted by 12 students in the Master of Urban Planning programme.

This was the first of what the School intends as annual summer field-learning opportunities organized thanks to the leadership of **Lisa Bornstein**, in her role as Interim Director, and supported by all of the core faculty. The May 2018 Panama trip was the second of this series.

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### (ex-) PhD student appointments

**Dea van Lierop**, started as an Assistant Professor at Utrecht University (PhD 2017)

**Ehab Diab**, started as an Assistant Professor at University of Saskatchewan (PhD 2015)

**Genevieve Boisjoly**, will start as an Assistant Professor at Polytechnique of Montreal (PhD 2018)

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### STUDENT CONFERENCES AND AWARDS

**TRAM** group students will be presenting 9 peer reviewed academic articles at the Transportation Research Board 98th Annual Meeting this January in Washington DC.

**Filipa Pajevic** is organising a series of sessions at the April 2019 AAG meetings in Washington D.C. on workplace mobilities and the new locations of work activities.

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### CULTURAL POLICY FOR QUEBEC AND OTHER THINGS

**Nik Luka** was appointed as a key advisor on the new Quebec Cultural Policy (<https://partoutlaculture.gouv.qc.ca/politique/>) which we hope will survive the election.

**Nik** is also on the CA for Convergence, and part of the advisory committee for the rue Ste.Catherine project – without Nik it would be even more disruptive.

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### CAMILIEN-HOUE DEBATE

**Nik Luka** will be co-hosting a forum on 30<sup>th</sup> October on the Camilien Houde pilot project (with les Amis de la Montagne).

As part of the SSHRC PDG 'Safe Passage' **Nik** will also be convening an interdisciplinary colab on the Mont-Royal project (proposed closure of the Camilien-Houde road) framed by a Community Design Workshop this winter.

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### METHODS MODULES: a university first

An innovative approach to teaching methods, introduced by **Lisa Bornstein** in Fall 2016, was enshrined in the updated Master's program in Spring 2018. The program is now flexible: methods are taught as a series of 1-credit stand-alone courses (modules), with the possibility of introducing specialized methods modules as and when they are required.

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## IN OTHER NEWS....

**Patrick Kilfoil** was awarded the 2018 J.E. Hodgetts Award presented by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada for the best paper published in 2017 in Canadian Public Administration (with Jean-Philippe Meloche Université de Montréal), "A Sizeable Effect? Municipal Council Size and the Cost of Local Government in Canada". See: <https://thenewspirit.ca/2018/09/20/fact-checking-the-financial-impact-of-council-downsizing/>

**Patrick** was also awarded a C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (May 2018).

**Free City** a planning journal edited by SUP students, has just published its third volume. It presents cutting edge, fun and provocative short pieces dealing with planning issues. <http://free-city.ca/>

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## AND FINALLY, A SURVEY

**Richard Shearmur** is running an exploratory survey in order to better understand where people actually perform different components of their (paid) work activity. You are invited to take a look at the brief presentation of the research and to circulate and/or respond to the survey: <https://www.mcgill.ca/centre-montreal/channels/news/survey-location-work-activities-290443>

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## SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

Cardosi, G., G.Lizzaralde, S.Kibue and **L.Bornstein**, 2018,, Multilevel Informality: Migration, Spatial Organization and Control in the Toi Market in Kibera (Nairobi), in Asgary, A. (ed) *Resettlement Challenges for Displaced Populations & Refugees*, Berlin: Springer

Grisé, E., G.Boisjoly, M.Maguire and **A.El-Geneidy**, 2018, Elevating Access: Comparing Accessibility to Jobs by Public Transport for Individuals With and Without Physical Disability, *Transportation Research Policy A*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tra.2018.02.017>

Sadoway, D., G.Gopakumar, V.Baindur and **M.Badami**, 2018, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission as a Window on Urban Governance: Its Institutional Footprint, Antecedents and Legacy *Economic & Political Weekly*, LIII.2, 71-81

**Shearmur, R.**, 2018, La dissolution du territoire: la métropole comme machine économique efficace? in Nadou, Pecqueur, C. et F.Nadou (eds.) *Dynamiques Territoriales et Mutations Économiques*, Paris: L'Harmattan, 65-78

**Wachsmuth, D.**, 2018, Researching the Global Right to the City, in Harrison,J. and M.Hoyler (eds) *Doing Global Urban Research*, Sage, 153-68

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE RE: PACKAGES

Please note that whilst the School is happy to receive letters and small items (such as books) on behalf of students, other arrangements need to be made for larger parcels. Thanks.

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## QUIZ

Being male and long deceased do not necessarily earn you a place in an Atlas: what did Ptolemy, Strabo, Mela and Herodotus do to earn front page exposure in the circa. 1921 *Times Atlas & Gazetteer of the World*?

Previous quiz: Who wrote: "...many of the problems created by a modern town, like many other problems caused by contiguity in space, are not adequately solved by competition." ? The reply is: Friedrich von Hayek, 1956, *The Road to Serfdom*, London: Routledge (edited by Bruce Caldwell, 2008), p95. The chapter is called 'The 'Inevitability' of Planning'.

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## NEWS FEED

Please let **Richard Shearmur** or **Paula Domingues** know of short announcements, events, achievements or (odd) facts for the newsletter. Suggestions for quizzes are also welcome. Note that, in the interest of brevity, we may not be able to include all suggestions.

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## PEOPLE

**School Director:** Richard Shearmur

**Graduate Program Director:** Lisa Bornstein

**Student Affairs Coordinator:** Gladys Chan

**Administrative Assistant:** Paula Domingues

**UD<sup>2</sup> concentration:** David Wachsmuth

**Transport concentration:** Ahmed ElGeneidy