



McGill School of Urban Planning Newsletter

Winter 2018, no.1 - January

Xi'an City wall, October 2017

Why a newsletter?

This newsletter is intended as an informal vector, circulated to students, staff and faculty of the school, in which basic information will be given and news announced.

It is NOT going to be intensively curated, edited like a journal, nor presented and managed as if it were *Times* magazine.

A few years ago there did exist a school newsletter. However, the last 24 months have seen many changes in administrative personnel and director: one of the items to have disappeared is the newsletter.

Its absence came to my attention when I discovered that a few students were unaware I have been director since January 2017 (when I became interim director). Why not a web page or some other electronic communication? They don't always work: my new status has been announced there.

No one reading the newsletter will have trouble ascertaining who the School's director is. I hope that other arcane (and not-so-arcane) facts, events and achievements will be demystified by this newsletter, which will come out at least twice a term.

Comments and suggestions on format, contents and ways to improve them are welcome: this is a β version, and bugs will be fixed along the way...

Happy New Year,

Richard Shearmur

NEWS

Promotion: As of 1st January 2018, Ahmed El-Geneidy has been promoted to full professor. Congratulations.

Doctoral exams: Patrick Kilfoil successfully defended his PhD proposal 'Innovation Districts: Often Imitated, Never Duplicated?' on 14th Dec. 2017.

Emily Gris  successfully defended her PhD proposal 'Fostering Happiness Among Public Transit Users' on 15th Dec. 2017.

Accreditation process: The School's masters program is currently undergoing the PSB (Professional Standard Board's) accreditation process. This is a periodic assessment of the curriculum, teaching and facilities to ensure recognition by professional planning bodies across Canada. The accreditation team will visit the school on **1st & 2nd March 2018**. A town-hall meeting will be held for students who would like to discuss the master's program and the school with the visiting team. The schedule of the two day visit has yet to be determined, and will be circulated in due course.

Computer renewal: Computers in the computer lab were all purchased at the same time, and are aging together. A plan has been put in place to gradually replace them. Three new computers were purchased in 2017, and a further five will be purchased in 2018.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Gewurz lecture:** Nancy Shoiry, director of SHDM (Montreal's housing corporation), architect, previously director of land-development for the City of Montreal, will be delivering the second Gewurz lecture on **Thursday 22nd March 2018 at 6pm**. The talk will be on the development of affordable and social housing. There will be a small reception in the School beforehand. You are all cordially invited (indeed, encouraged) to attend.
- **Student Symposium:** Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd March a symposium is being organised at the school. More details in the next newsletter.

Friday midday urban.planning@mcgill lecture series: This winter term, on Fridays from 12.00 to 13.30 there will be a series of lunchtime lectures. More will be added as term progresses, but these are the ones that are so far programmed:

19th Jan. Tim Moerman: A Foot in the Door: Landing your first planning job.

26th Jan. Guillaume Lavoie: The sharing and collaborative economy: Fundamental changes in our society !

2nd Feb. Pierre Ste-Marie: The Bonaventure project: Replacing a highway with a park.

9th Feb. Ingrid Waldron: Impacts of gentrification and environmental injustices on health and well-being in Nova Scotian Indigenous and Black communities

16th Feb. Rotem Ayalon: Putting food on a city's agenda
and later...

Bernard McCann: Walking the Camino: a planner's perspective

DID YOU KNOW?

- David Wachsmuth recently obtained a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Urban Governance.
- Emily Grisé received the best student-led paper award at the World Symposium on transport and Land Use in Brisbane 2017, for her paper on planning bicycle facilities in Quebec City.
- Richard Shearmur sits on the *Grand Paris Express* research advisory board.
- Ahmed El Geneidy is a member of the board of directors of Montreal's metropolitan transport authority (ARTM)
- The School has seven adjunct professors: Jayne Engle, Murtaza Haider, Nilson Espino, Marc-André LeChasseur, Paul LeCavalier, Mario Polèse and Ray Tomalty.
- There are about 20 urban areas of over 6 000 000 people in China (the definition of 'urban area' is moot, so a definitive number cannot be given). Using Statcan's definition of CMAs – Census Metropolitan Areas - there are none in Canada (though Toronto is close).

SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

Fischler, R., 2017, North-American Zoning: Real-Estate Regulation—Past, Present and Future in Lehari, A. (ed) *One Hundred Years of Zoning and the Future of Cities*, Berlin: Springer

Managh, K., G.Boisjoly & A.El-Geneidy, 2017, Overcoming barriers to cycling: understanding frequency of cycling in a University setting and the factors preventing commuters from cycling on a regular basis, *Transportation*, 44.4, 871-84

Luka, N., 2017, Contested periurban amenity landscapes: changing waterfront 'countryside ideals' in central Canada, *Landscape Research*, 42.3, 256-76

Pajevic, F. & R.Shearmur, 2017, Catch Me if You Can: Workplace Mobility and Big Data, *Journal of Urban Technology*, 24.3, 99-115

Steimetz-Wood, M., R.Wasfi, G.Parker, L.Bornstein, J.Caron & Y.Kestens, 2017, Is gentrification all bad? Positive association between gentrification and individual's perceived neighborhood collective efficacy in Montreal, Canada, *International Journal of Health Geographics*, 16:24

Verbich, D., M.Badami & A.El-Geneidy, 2017, Bang for the buck: Toward a rapid assessment of urban public transit from multiple perspectives in North America, *Transport Policy*, 55, 51-61

Wachsmuth, D., 2017, Competitive multi-city regionalism: growth politics beyond the growth machine, *Regional Studies*, 51.4, 643-53

QUIZ

What is the mathematical expression of the optimum number of bicycles that a cyclist requires?

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.

PEOPLE

School Director: Richard Shearmur

Graduate Program Director: Lisa Bornstein

Student Affairs Coordinator: Gladys Chan

Administrative Assistant: Paula Domingues