

McGill School of Urban Planning Newsletter

Winter 2018, no.2 - March

Mont Mégantic from Scotstown, January 2018

As you all know, the accreditation visit took place on 1st and 2nd March. I'd first like to thank all of you who met with the team and discussed the MUP program with them. I have not yet received the report, but this outside assessment of the program is a valuable opportunity for faculty and staff to think through what we teach, how we teach it, and how we run the school.

Second, by all (informal verbal) accounts, the team was impressed with what they saw, despite building works and peeling paint (in places). That is a great reflection on the people who make up the school: students, alumni (the team met with some of them), students who have entered professional life (the team met with some employers), faculty members, sessional lectures and staff. I am well aware of the efforts everyone puts in to their studies, to student life, to teaching, to running the school, to keeping it tidy... and this is a good opportunity to thank you all for this continuous work.

Turning now to other items, the end of term is fast approaching, and the stress of winter, exams, job hunts, SRPs, essays, internships and conferences is upon us. Everyone feels this tension, so – when you can - relax and enjoy the snow/rain/sun/slush...

Finally, I am greatly looking forward to next week's SOUP symposium (see below) and to the Gewurz lecture on the evening of March 22nd. I look forward to seeing you there.

Richard Shearmur

NEWS

Appointment: Raphael Fischler has been appointed Chair of McGill's Senate Architecture and Planning Committee.

AAG session: Sarah Gelbard (SUP) and Carla Maria Kayanan (U. Michigan) are coordinating a day-long set of sessions on Radical Planning at the American Association of Geographers annual meeting (New Orleans, April 2018). The *Spaces of Struggle* sessions feature the work of dozens of scholars on urban decline, feminist legacies, planning failures, and indigenous lands. <https://radicalplanning.wordpress.com/aag/>

Grant award: Recent PhD graduate (2017), Nufar Avni, has been awarded the prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant, part of the EU Horizon 2020 research innovation programme. She will be doing research on planning, infrastructure and urban governance at the Hebrew University.

Free City: The second issue of *Free City*, the magazine created and edited by SUP students, is out now and available online for free at www.free-city.ca. Happy reading and happy thinking about *Fake Cities* (this issue's theme)!

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:** Afternoons of Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd March. This symposium will include:

- **Ask-a-Prof:** David Wachsmuth (13h00, Thur.) and Madhav Badami (14.15, Fri.) interviewed by MUP students on their research, inspiration and creative process - as well as future research plans!
- **Round-table discussions:** faculty chats with guests from other McGill departments, Concordia, INRS and practitioners on the very hot topics of affordable housing (and whose problem is it? Thur. 14.15) and sustainability (overused buzzword? Fri. 16.30). We anticipate a fiery, animated discussion! Moderated by our very own PhDs.
- **Masters (MUP2) and PhD presentations** (16.00, Thur. and 15.30 Fri.)
- **Mystery Charrette** (13.00, Fri.)
- **Social Evening:** planning board game night at the Thompson House! (evening, Fri.)

DID YOU KNOW?

- David Wachsmuth has been in the news recently thanks to his work on AirBnB (<http://upgo.lab.mcgill.ca/airbnb/>).
- Marc André LeChasseur, who teaches planning law at the school, is the author of a major reference book on Canadian zoning and planning law (Zonage et urbansime en droit Canadien, 2016, 3rd ed.) - great bedside reading.
- Madhav Badami worked for ten years performing R&D on diesel engines for a truck and bus manufacturer in India.
- Richard Shearmur worked for five years as a commercial real estate consultant in London and Paris.

SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

Alvarado,R. and L.Bornstein, 2018, Assessing the Effectiveness of Water Sanitation Sector Governance

Networks in Developing Countries, *International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning*, 13.3, 381-93

Boisjoly, G. and A.El-Geneidy, 2017, The Insider: A Planners' Perspective on Accessibility, *Transport Geography*, 64, 33-43

Harding, S., M.Badami, C.Reynolds & M.Kandlikar, 2016, Auto-rickshaws in Indian Cities: Public Perceptions and Operational Realities, *Transport Policy*, 52, 143-52

Shearmur, R., 2018, The Millennial Urban Space Economy: Dissolving Workplaces and the De-Localization of Economic Value Creation, in Moos, M., D.Pfeiffer & T.Vinodrai (eds), *The Millennial City*, London: Routledge, 65-80

Taye, E. and R.Fischler, 2017, The Growth of Suburban Poverty, *Plan Canada*, 51.1, 30-36

Wachsmuth, D. and H.Angelo, 2018, Green and Gray: New Ideologies of Nature in Urban Sustainability Policy, *Annals of the American Association of Geography*, DOI: 10.1080/24694452.2017.1417819

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." ?

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

Let N = current number of bikes, let S = the number of bikes that will get you kicked out of your living quarters, and let X = optimum number of bikes:

If $N+1 < S$ then $X = N+1$

If $N+1 \geq S$, then $X = S-1$

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

UD² concentration: Raphael Fischler

Transport concentration: Ahmed ElGeneidy