



McGill School of Urban Planning Newsletter

Somewhere between Mont Ventoux and Bilbao, Photo: Shearmur

Fall 2019, no.5 - December

A late welcome

The Fall term started rather badly for me: I suffered a pedestrian accident, breaking my wrist and thumb as I was 'walked into' whilst cycling responsibly on a bike path (am I part of [Chaloux & El-Geneidy's](#) perfectly law abiding 0.6%?). It would be tempting to call for a ban on pedestrians, but I have resisted...Anyway, this explains the belated Fall newsletter.

I would like to welcome the incoming master's students. I hope the Fall term has gone well, that you have now settled in, and that you are celebrating the success of Studio 1.

I would also like to belatedly welcome Professor [Anna Kramer](#) to the School. She joined in August 2019. Professor Kramer obtained her PhD from Waterloo, working on the variation of house prices with transport accessibility. Before this she attended Dalhousie, obtaining an MA in Architecture after studying Environmental Design as an undergraduate. Prior to joining the School she was associate professor at University of Toronto. We are delighted she is now on board.

Many activities are happening. Some are listed below, but others are already well underway such as the field trip to [Hafen City](#) (Hamburg), leaving on 10th December, and another being organized to Panama for late April. These trips involve considerable investment in terms of time and organization by the professors setting them up, so I'd like to thank Nik Luka, David Wachsmuth and Lisa Bornstein for all the work they are putting in. I would also like to thank Sam and Brenda Gewurz for supporting these initiatives, which are critically important for the school and for allowing our students to experience and discover urban design and planning issues in other contexts. We look forward to finding out about these places and the projects that have been undertaken there.

Wishing you all a well-earned rest, and some fun (let's hope for snow!) over year-end break.
Richard Shearmur

New GPD

Professor [Madhav Badami](#) has taken on the role of Graduate Program Director. As such he provides advice and guidance to students with regards course choices and program, directs students to faculty or university resources as appropriate, and assist students in sorting out any issues that may arise during the course of their studies.

Inclusionary zoning in Montreal

Over the last nine months, since Montreal introduced its proposed [20-20-20 policy](#) for inclusionary zoning, the question of how to address housing shortages and rising costs in Montreal – in particular whether the 20-20-20 policy is the appropriate way forward - has been the subject of extensive debate.

Public hearings were held in October 2019. Nik Luka and Richard Shearmur submitted [a memoire](#), commenting on the 20-20-20 proposal. [All contributions and position papers](#) submitted to the OCPM are available on-line. These documents make for a good read.

David Wachsmuth's work on Air BnB, recently presented at [hearings in Ontario](#), is closely related to the issue of housing affordability and supply.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019-20 Gewurz lecture, 31st March, 6.00pm

This year's annual Gewurz lecture will take the form of a panel on social and affordable housing, with particular attention to planning and to alternative financing arrangements. In the light of Montreal's proposed 20-20-20 bylaw, this is a hot topic. The panel is not yet finalised, but will include [Joshua Simon](#) (East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, Oakland, CA).

A date for your diaries!

WINTER 2020 FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES

More dates for diaries: Professor Kramer is organizing the winter Friday lecture series. These are 'brown bag' events, held between 12.00 and 13.30 on Fridays in room 420. They allow students and faculty to discover new aspects of planning and to discuss them directly with practitioners and researchers.

All students, faculty, alumni, and other interested parties are warmly invited to attend. The schedule (subject to change) is as follows:

JANUARY 10, [Olivier Roy-Baillargeon](#), *Vivre en Ville* *Vivre en Ville: Towards Sustainable Buildings, Streets, Communities and Regions*

JANUARY 17, [Patrick Kilfoil](#), *Working for the growth machine? Reconciling planning and economic development in practice and research*

JANUARY 24, [Marie-Hélène Binet-Vandal](#), *Ville de Montréal, Redeveloping Griffintown*

JANUARY 31, Graziella Bieto-Challenger, [Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Council](#) *Between decision-making and the human side of a city*

FEBRUARY 7, [Emanuel Guay](#), UQAM, *Working against or within the markets? A comparison of two strategies to secure social and community housing in Parc-Extension, Montreal*

FEBRUARY 14, [Mustafa Mirza](#), Raya Khalifé, [Daniella Guerrero](#), [WSP Rail Systems](#) *TeamDesigning trains for an urban context*

FEBRUARY 21, [Aaron Vansintjan](#), University of London, *What role does civil society have in urban development? Gentrification and the history of radical municipalism in Montreal*

FEBRUARY 28, [Bartek Komorowski](#), Ville de Montréal, [Vision Zero](#) and *Vélo city*

MARCH 20, [Rotem Ayalon](#), Centraide de Grande Montréal, *Montréal's Collective Impact Project: joining forces to accelerate neighborhood change*

ANNUAL SOUPosium

Each year the students of urban planning (SOUP) association organizes a lively conference during which there are formal presentations, interviews with researchers, panels discussions and pizzas (or equivalent).

This year the SOUPosium will be on **Friday 13th March 2020**, all day.

Again, a date for you (now overflowing) diaries!

As a reminder, here is the 2019-2020 SOUP board:

- Nicolette Dent, OUPS President
 - Danielle Kerrigan, PhD Representative
 - Trent Bonsall, 1st Yr Representative
 - Ksenia Merkoukhina, 2nd Yr Representative
 - Jenni Chung, Officer at Large
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SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

In this section a selection of the faculty's research activities or publications are mentioned, to give an idea of what we are up to.

Lisa Bornstein is co-researcher on [Œuvre Durable](#), a multi-university research team focused on vulnerability, resilience and sustainable reconstruction. It analyzes living environments through the theoretical and empirical approaches of vulnerability and resilience.

C.Krelling & M.Badami, 2019, [CNG and diesel urban buses in India: A life-cycle cost comparison](#), *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation*, DOI: 10.1080/15568318.2019.1594468

N.Chaloux & A. El-Geneidy, 2019, [Rules of the Road: Compliance and Defiance among the Different Types of Cyclists](#), *Journal of the Transport Research Board*, 2673(9), 34-43

C.Miller, A.Swift, B.Hackenberger, A.Kramer, 2019, Beyond the Sandbox: Student Scholarship, Digital Citizenship, and the Production of Knowledge, in *Scholarship in the Sandbox: Academic Libraries as Laboratories, Forums, and Archives for Student Work*, eds Jackson, A. et al, doi: <https://doi.org/10.5072/FK2XK8D45D>

M.Qviström, N.Luka & G.De Block, 2019, [Beyond Circular Thinking: Geographies of Transit-Oriented Development](#), *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 43.4, 786-93

G.Beaudet & R.Shearmur, 2019, [L'Innovation Municipale : Sortir des Sentiers Battus](#), Presses de l'Université de Montréal

H.Angelo & D.Wachsmuth, 2019, [Why does everybody think that cities can save the planet?](#) In *The Role of Non-State Actors in the Green Transition*, eds. J.Hoff et al, Routledge, 193-210

STUDIO 3

An important part of the school's activities revolve around its involvement with Montreal's (and other places') communities. This is epitomised both by faculty's work and by students' activities. Studio 3 involves 2nd year masters students responding to terms of reference from municipalities, community organizations and others. This year the following projects have been undertaken:

- **Ville St-Laurent / Côte St.Luc:** preparation of a PPU-type document envisioning the potential development of the Namur / De la Savane area around the Décarie interchange.
 - **Chambre de Commerce de l'Est de Montréal :** analyzing the East of Montreal Island in order to propose possible routes for rapid transit infrastructure.
 - **Archdiocese of Montreal:** consulting three Plateau-East parishes and local communities in order to find ways for the church to make the best use of its buildings in view of furthering its community-based mission.
 - **McGill Faculty of Medicine (Outaouais) and CISSS Outaouais:** development of a siting and access plan for a new teaching hospital in the Outaouais region.
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STUDIO 1

This year's studio 1 project involved analyzing a large and complex neighbourhood – the part of Montreal downtown that runs from Montreal General Hospital, down through Shaughnessy Village, Little Burgundy to Pointe St.Charles.

This heterogeneous neighbourhood, a western 'Fleuve-Montagne' corridor (?), has been closely studied from historical, communal, environmental and morphological perspectives in view of proposing possible policies, designs and solutions to issues identified.

This challenging project, involving much learning-by-doing and discovery (of data sources, planning principles, methods and ways-of-thinking...), has led to a series of bold and original suggestions.

And lest anyone think that some of these ideas are too bold, let's recall the Oresund Bridge, the Channel Tunnel, Boston's Big Dig or the pedestrianization of Times Square – all bold ideas that many people thought impossible to implement. Such ideas provide a vision and increase the field of possibilities ([champs des possible](#)). Of course, it then takes a lot of consultations, time, sweat, tears, politics, regulations, design, finance and general hard work to make some of these visions become reality!

QUIZ

I (Richard Shearmur) have certain [reservations](#) concerning the association between cities and innovation: my argument – supported by [research results](#) - is that whilst innovation and creativity of course occur in cities, they also occur outside of cities. Why would the village of Oswaldtwistle contribute to my reservations?

Previous Quiz: Land value capture is the flavour of the month. [The Globe & Mail \(15th May 2018\)](#) has recently described the Caisse des Dépôts' efforts to pay for some of its light-rail costs by recovering the increase in real-estate value from owners of properties the value of which is being enhanced by the railway . In what year did a bylaw "*provide for the widening of certain streets in London and for the recovery of a contribution ... from owners and occupiers of property the value of which was enhanced by the widening*"?

Answer: **In 1662** an "Act for repairing the High wayes and Sewers" was passed in Britain. Land Value Capture is nothing new! This act specified that "*a Jury shall and may be impannelled in manner and forme aforesaid to judge and assess upon the Owners and Occupiers of such Houses such competent su[m]m or su[m]ms of money or Annual Rent in considerac[i]on of such improvement and melioration*"

See: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/statutes-realm/vol5/pp351-357#h3-0021>

Cullingworth, J.B., 1988, *Town and Country Planning in Britain*, 10th edition, Unwin Hyman, pp158-59

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: Madhav Badami

Student Affairs Coordinator: Gladys Chan

Administrative Assistant: Paula Domingues

UD² concentration: David Wachsmuth

Transport concentration: Ahmed El-Geneidy