



Dear MUP Alumni,

Welcome to the 2018 edition of our annual update in which we highlight alumni activities, student awards, and news about faculty projects and teaching.

I have been particularly excited about the many opportunities over the past year for students to engage with important urban and regional problems through courses, faculty projects, and fellowships.

- MUPs are active in many student groups from [HUPO](#) to the [Healthy Places Student Group](#) and the [African American Student Union](#).
- Students are involved in shaping the direction of the department through a number of committees. They work with faculty on the Curriculum and Diversity Committees. They lead the Career Services and Recruitment Committees. A new Student-Alumni Committee will work to develop better links between the two groups.
- On my [own web site](#), I keep an extensive, though incomplete list of the fellowship, internship, and research opportunities at the GSD and across campus. MUPs actively seek out these opportunities.
- In the spring of 2018 and again in the spring of 2019, I have been taking a sabbatical. During these times, I am sharing the MUP program director position with Professor Rick Peiser. I want to thank Rick who has put great energy into the job and been a pleasure with whom to work.

Best,

Ann Forsyth

Master in Urban Planning Program Director (Fall)

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Mentoring Program

Rick Krochalis MCP '78 (rickkrochalis@comcast.net) and Trevor Johnson MUP '14 (t.arthur.johnson@gmail.com) are co-organizers of an informal network of planning alumni. A new initiative is to create a mentoring program for current students. In doing this they are being helped by the new MUP student committee. Look out for more information from Trevor and Rick about how this program can expand, subject to alumni interest in participating. Initially, it will involve a small number of group networking events and practicing planner panels. Their long-term goal is to match all students who want a mentor with one located within the greater Boston area. There may also be opportunities to refer students who have specific career questions to GSD alumni located in their geographic area of interest.

Organize Your Own Event

Associated with the mentoring initiative are efforts to help alums connect with each other through informal networking activities. This could be a get together at an office, a restaurant, a bar, or a home, or involve a tour of a project or panel of guest speakers. The programming of an event is up to the organizer but the goal is to create opportunities for alumni connections in places where a cluster of alumni reside. If you want to organize an event in your city, please get in touch with [Trevor Johnson MUP '14](#) for guidance on how to develop such an event and so we can keep track of our expanding alumni network.

Arlington, MA: October 2018

In recent years, we have started annual gatherings of MUP students at the home of program director(s). On October 19, 2018, we opened up the event local alumni with 15 attending. If you live in the Boston area, you will hopefully have seen the invitation, but if not, get in touch so we have your contact information in the future! I also want to encourage planning alumni to establish their own professional networks by periodically organizing GSD events in your own local area.

San Francisco: April 2019

SAVE THE DATE, Monday, April 15: APA will be in San Francisco this coming year. Watch your emails from the GSD with updates on activities for Harvard planning alums including a reception on the evening of Monday, April 15. The GSD reception at APA 2018 in New Orleans is pictured below.



Student Awards from the American Planning Association

- Two planning students, Gina Ciancone MUP '19 and Henna Mahmood MUP '20, recently won [prestigious awards from the American Planning Association](#).
- Syed Ali MUP '19 was selected for the ULI's national [health mentorship program](#).
- Earlier, Marcus Mello MARCH '18, MUP '18 received an [APA Planning and Law Division fellowship](#).



Faculty Updates

For news about faculty, please follow [this link](#).

LinkedIn

Join the official [GSD LinkedIn Group](#) and the Planning subgroup, which provides a fantastic forum to share career-related knowledge, information, referrals, and advice with MUP alumni, current students, and other members of the GSD community (click the "more" tab on the GSD Group's menu, and select "subgroups" to find the [Planning subgroup](#)).

Click the following links to see even more activity from the Planning Department at GSD:

- [Urban Planning and Design Facebook page](#)
- [Urban Planning and Design Instagram](#)
- [Urban Planning and Design Twitter](#)
- [GSD Facebook page](#)
- [Alumni Events](#)
- [Urban Planning GSD website](#)
- [Update your contact information with Harvard](#) (HarvardKey required)

Planning Faculty Updates | Fall 2018

Neil Brenner:

Neil Brenner, Professor of Urban Theory, recently completed a new book, titled *New Urban Spaces: Urban Theory and the Scale Question*. The book will be published by Oxford University Press in early 2019. The book proposes a radical reconceptualization of inherited approaches to urbanization. Rather than focusing on cities as bounded units, urbanization is conceived here as constitutively multiscalar. One of the central challenges of critical urban studies, Brenner argues, is to decipher the contemporary rescaling of the capitalist urban fabric across the planet.

The Urban Theory Lab, directed by Professor Neil Brenner, continues to host a vibrant colloquium for discussions of research in progress by GSD doctoral students, advanced professional and post-professional degree students, faculty, visitors and others interested in critically interrogating the theoretical dimensions of their work. Several projects are also under way related to the investigation of emergent patterns and pathways of urbanization around the world, including in zones of hinterland industrial transformation (agriculture, extraction, logistics) that sustain the global metropolitan network. For further details, see <http://www.urbantheorylab.net>

Diane Davis:

Department Chair Diane Davis continues to work on the questions of urban governance and the politics of planning, particularly as related to mobility infrastructure. Her book (co-edited with Alan Altshuler), titled *Transforming Urban Transport*, is being published by Oxford University Press this fall. She will be presenting it at a symposium in Vienna in October where former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will comment and give a keynote. With Assistant Professor Andres Sevtsuk, Davis is pursuing a new project called "The Future of Streets" in partnership with the City of Los Angeles, in which she critically examines the impacts of technological change on transport and mobility services, and the planning, design, and governance challenges associated with these disruptions. This project deepens arguments she made recently in a book chapter published in *Governing the Smart Mobility Transition* (Marsden and Reardon, eds.) as well as in a spring 2018 article titled "Expanding the Scope of Sustainability Planning: Lessons from Stockholm's Congestion Charging Policy" published in *Urban Planning* (Volume 2, Issue 4).

In August, Davis received research support from the Volvo Research and Educational Foundations and the German Development Agency (GIZ) to conduct a 15-month research project on mobility and transport infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa. In other news, Davis keynoted at a conference in Mexico City in January 2018 focused on the challenges of post-earthquake housing redevelopment, returning again over the summer to speak at the Harvard Club of Mexico and at another conference on Post-earthquake Reconstruction at Mexico's National University (UNAM). She also traveled to Mexico in August with 6 GSD and 4 MIT students to initiate a project on social and economic redevelopment in Oaxaca, one of Mexico's poorest and most environmentally vulnerable regions. She will present papers this fall at the American Collegiate Schools of Planning and Social Science History Association's annual meeting. Next month her book chapter "Reducing Vulnerabilities through Urban Design: Strategic and Tactical Interventions to Generate Resilience in Communities at Risk" will appear in *Urban Design Companion: A Sequel*, edited by a Tridib Banerjee and Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris.

Dan D'Oca:

With Interboro Partners, Dan D'Oca completed a number of projects:

- Installed a colorful canopy in Harvard's Science Center Plaza called "Wavelength"
- Immersed in a neighborhood plan for Detroit's Campau/Banglatown neighborhood
- Worked with Detroit's Planning Commission on an overhaul of the city's zoning code
- Wrapped up "Envision Cambridge," Cambridge's citywide plan
- Finished up the design of a proposed natural playscape in St. Louis
- Put the finishing touches on a user's guide to Detroit's signage ordinance
- Continued to tour in support of our new book *The Arsenal of Exclusion & Inclusion*

Ann Forsyth:

Ann Forsyth has been appointed as the Editor in Chief of the Journal of the American Planning Association, with a term starting in January 2019. She recently received the 2018 ACSP/FWIG Margarita McCoy Award for advancement of women in planning at institutions of higher education and the 2018 EDRA/Places Book Award for her co-authored *Creating Healthy Neighborhoods: Evidence-based Planning and Design Strategies* (Routledge/APA Planners Press 2017). She was the 2018 Clarkson Chair at the University of Buffalo and delivered the 2017 Abercrombie Lecture at the University of Liverpool. In 2017 she established the Healthy Places Design Lab [link to <https://research.gsd.harvard.edu/healthy/>], co-Directed with Jennifer Molinsky of the Joint Center for Housing Studies. In the last year she has also published several articles and chapters (full details about collaborators are available on her web site www.annforsyth.net). These include Redesigning China's Superblock Neighborhoods: Policies, Opportunities, and Challenges (*Journal of Urban Design*), Housing, the Built Environment, and the Good Life (*Hastings Center Report*), Congested Cities vs. Sprawl Makes You Fat: Unpacking the Health Effects of Planning Density (*Town Planning Review*), a chapter Evidence-based Practice: Challenges in a Changing World (in *Healthy Environments, Healing Spaces*).

David Gamble:

David Gamble (MAUD '97) is co-teaching an Option Studio this fall with Shaun Donovan (MArch/MPP '95). While Harvard University's roots are firmly planted in the City of Cambridge, the university now owns more land in the City of Boston. The interdisciplinary studio seeks to transform and grow a new neighborhood in Allston at the intersection of campus and city. The studio will explore visions for what the underutilized land will become and how the campus and the city can grow in a direction that serves as a catalyst for constructive change.

Jose Gomez-Ibanez:

Jose Gomez-Ibanez was appointed a member of Governor Baker's Commission on the Future of Transportation. The Commission is charged with advising the Governor as to how transportation policy should respond to climate change, the development of self-driving cars, the aging of the population and other likely long-term changes. The commission's report is due in December.

Mike Hooper:

Michael Hooper, Associate Professor of Urban Planning, has recently wrapped up several long-standing projects. The first examined post-disaster recovery and rebuilding in Haiti. The most recent article from this project, published in the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, investigates the organizational dynamics of urban rubble clearance in Port-au-Prince ([link](#)). The second project examined the role that subconscious factors play in perceptions of urban density. The results of this experimental research are forthcoming in the Journal of Planning Education and Research.

Andres Sevtsuk:

The City Form Lab (<http://cityform.gsd.harvard.edu/>) has started the Future of Streets (<http://futureofstreets.com/>) research project that investigates how cities might adapt streets to newly emerging shared, electric, and autonomous transportation technology in ways that maximize multi-modal, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable outcomes. The project is led by UPD faculty Andres Sevtsuk and Diane Davis.

On October 15-16, the City Form Lab is also hosting an OECD International Transport Forum workshop at Harvard on "Learning from Transport Innovation in Emerging and Developing Countries". The two-day workshop invites participants from government, industry and academia.

Over the summer, the City Form Lab produced a new publication entitled "Urban Network Analysis: Tools for Modeling Pedestrian and Bicycle Trips in Cities", which will be available both in English and Mandarin. The publication serves as a user-guide to Urban Network Analysis software users globally and describes multiple case-studies of using the tools in planning practice internationally.

Bing Wang:

Bing Wang has been appointed as a member of the Harvard China Fund (HCF) Steering Committee by the Provost Office of the University with a three-year term. Co-funded by the Harvard China Fund faculty grant and the Harvard GSD MDes Real Estate and the Built Environment program, Wang led the organization of the conference *“The Next Wave of Chinese Urbanization: Impact on Economic Growth, Urban Governance and the Built Environment within and beyond China”* that took place at Harvard University Shanghai Center, located in Shanghai Pudong, on June 6, 2018. More than 80 alumni in the region participated in the closed-door conference. The detailed conference agenda is available at <https://research.gsd.harvard.edu/realestate/event/urbanization/>.

Wang was awarded 2018 Best Paper of the Year by the American Real Estate Society (ARES) in the mixed-use properties category for her research manuscript entitled *“Decision-Making Dynamics in Location Selection for Mixed-Use Resort Community Development”* (co-authored with Jenny Xia). The authors will be formally honored at the American Real Estate Society annual conference in April 2019. This is the second time Wang has won the Best Paper Prize from the American Real Estate Society.
