

## Department of Urban Studies and Planning

### Highlights: A Period of Transition and Reckoning

Fall 2019 marked Eran Ben-Joseph's last semester as head of the [Department of Urban Studies and Planning \(DUSP\)](#) after serving in the position for seven years. In January 2020, Chris Zegras stepped up to serve in this role in what was to become an unusually trying and tumultuous spring. While we still are adapting to this evolving situation, looking back we can proudly say that while the past six months have been stressful and hectic, they were also been a period of profound reflection, deep learning, and—in true MIT style—re-commitment, intellectual growth, and creativity.

As part of the leadership transition, Professor Mariana Arcaya rose to the position of associate department head in January. In this role, among other responsibilities, Mariana leads the effort to enhance the department's research culture, bringing her exciting vision to strategically improve DUSP's research capabilities by strengthening our research infrastructure, capacity, and intellectual capital.

The reality of the world today urgently calls us to reimagine what is required to build inclusive, thriving, and sustainable cities. Toward these ends, over the past semester DUSP has re-committed to a transformation of our departmental culture as well as our approach to teaching, research, and career development.

DUSP stands in solidarity and seeks to support Black Lives Matter and other movements drawing attention to systemic racism that permeates all aspects of life in the United States. We stand in support of the many student-led initiatives at MIT, including [the Black DUSP Thesis](#), [the DUSP Students of Color Committee](#), Black DUSP Magic, [the MIT Black Students' Union \(BSU\)](#), and [the MIT Black Graduate Student Association \(BGSA\)](#). [We endorse the BGSA and BSU's petition to MIT leadership to support Black lives at MIT.](#)

Specifically, as a department we formally committed to supporting ongoing Institute-wide processes and efforts such as the Institute Community and Equity Office plan and the BGSA/BSU recommendations, to implementing these recommendations, and to inviting, encouraging, and supporting our colleagues in other departments to join in this commitment, with special attention to those departments we work closely with, including Architecture and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

More concretely, we are working internally to become an actively anti-racist organization, in a way that is strategically integrated with our capability to tackle many of the other challenges the world faces, such as the public health crisis, the housing affordability crisis, the employment crisis, and the climate crisis. Fortunately, DUSP has much to build from as we move forward in this work. In late spring and early summer 2020, a group of Black students (Black DUSP Magic) and allies published a document (the Black DUSP Thesis) that details numerous key priorities and immediate actions to guide DUSP in our anti-racist transformation, including through our research and teaching, admissions, and career and professional development services; in our curriculum; and in our systems of accountability. DUSP has embraced this work and is quickly moving to operationalize as many of the identified key priorities and immediate actions as possible.

To center the underlying systemic issues in the DUSP curriculum and spark a longer-term transformational change, the department has developed a new five-week “teach-in” to start the fall semester.

Anti-Black racism and white supremacy in the United States are part of a broader, structural global human rights problem, exemplified elsewhere in the world in the legacies of colonialism and exclusions based on race, class, religion, and/or gender. DUSP cannot ignore the complicity of planning in these systems and outcomes. Building communities based on equity and inclusion is planning’s duty. Only by dismantling systemic racism can we confront the overlapping social, environmental, health, and economic crises facing cities globally. DUSP must marshal all of our power, privilege, resources, and prestige to make ourselves, the Institute, and our broader societies anti-racist. Without doing so, we cannot make meaningful progress, as city planners, as citizens, as human beings. Anti-racism must become central to DUSP; taking this on as an entire department is long overdue and we will not stop until the work is no longer necessary. DUSP knows and affirms that Black Lives Matter.

### **Rankings, Re-Accreditation, and Reviews**

AY2020 kicked off with a bang as the Planetizen website released its official rankings of graduate programs in urban planning and, for the sixth time in a row, **DUSP was awarded the top spot**. Since 2007, the first year of the Planetizen rankings, DUSP has consistently been ranked first.

In November, as part of an ongoing re-accreditation review for our master of city planning (MCP) degree, the department hosted a site visit team from the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB). The team was chaired by Bruce Stiftel (professor emeritus, Georgia Institute of Technology) along with Stephan Schmidt (associate professor and director of graduate studies, Cornell University) and Alissa Torres (chief planner, Orange County Transportation Planning Division, Orange County, FL). Following the visit, PAB met (remotely) in April, and we are pleased to report that they voted to re-accredit the degree program for an additional five-year term.

Finally, on the heels of the PAB review, we hosted our regular MIT Visiting Committee on November 19 and 20. The meetings, chaired by MIT Corporation member Alan Leventhal, included discussions of curricula, finances, faculty research, student life, alumni relations, and more and concluded with a report praising the department. The report noted (among others) the following highlights:

- DUSP is leading and shaping the urban planning field. “It is an incredibly dynamic, intellectual rich department.” It has undergone an amazing transformation over the past seven years.
- There is an energy and excitement among the faculty and students that “is critically important to a forward-looking activist field like urban planning.”
- The visiting committee was impressed with the “collegiality and mutual respect among faculty,” which is unusual among planning programs.
- The cohort of new young faculty is impressive. They bring excitement and enthusiasm as well as a real sense of optimism about the future of the department.

## Appointments, Promotions, Visitors, and Retirements

### Appointments

Four new faculty members were appointed and began teaching in the department this year.

Andres Sevtsuk began in the fall as a new associate professor of urban science and planning. Previously he taught as an assistant professor of urban planning at Harvard University, where he led the urban analytics concentration. Andres holds a PhD from DUSP, where he worked with William J. Mitchell as a researcher in the Smart Cities group at the MIT Media Laboratory. He is the author of the Urban Network Analysis Toolbox, which is used by researchers and practitioners around the world to study coordinated land use and transportation development along networks.

In January 2020 Catherine D'Ignazio, the second faculty appointment from our urban science search, joined the department. Catherine is a scholar, artist, and designer who focuses on feminist technology, data literacy, and civic engagement. She has run women's health hackathons, designed global news recommendation systems, created talking and tweeting water quality sculptures, and led walking data visualizations to envision the future of sea level rise. Her latest book from The MIT Press, *Data Feminism* (co-authored with Lauren Klein), charts a course for more ethical and empowering data science practices. Prior to coming to DUSP, Catherine was an assistant professor of civic media and data visualization in the Journalism Department at Emerson College, a faculty director at the Emerson Engagement Lab, and a research affiliate at the MIT Center for Civic Media and the Media Lab.

In May 2020, Kairos Shen was appointed to serve as associate professor of the practice in the Center for Real Estate. Kairos had previously served as a visiting lecturer of urban design and planning, teaching 11.301J/4.252J Introduction to Urban Design and Development and 11.305 Doing Good by Doing Well: Planning and Development Case Studies That Promote Both the Public Good and Real Estate Value, a special class of his own design. Prior to coming to MIT, he was the director of planning at the Boston Redevelopment Authority for 13 years. In his capacity as Boston's chief city planner, Kairos worked closely with the mayor of Boston to envision, coordinate, and administer the city's planning and economic development policies and regulations.

In June, Karilyn Crockett was appointed as assistant professor of urban history, public policy, and planning. Karilyn, a former Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Scholar, focuses on large-scale land use changes in 20th-century American cities and the social and geographic implications of structural poverty. She earned a PhD from Yale University, a master of science in geography from the London School of Economics, and a master of arts and religion from the Yale Divinity School. (She will officially assume her position as assistant professor in 2021 after a year serving as chief of equity and inclusion for the city of Boston; while serving in this role, Karilyn will continue as a lecturer in DUSP during the coming academic year.)

In addition to these faculty appointments, a number of other people joined our community of teaching, research, and practice this year.

Jeff Levine began in the fall as a lecturer of economic development and planning. Before joining DUSP, Jeff was the director of planning and urban development for Portland, ME. He has also held positions as the director of planning and community development for Brookline, MA; the director of transportation and long-range planning for Somerville, MA; and a regional planner for the Cape Cod Commission. His research focuses on the areas where public finance, private equity, and land use planning intersect as well as on how transportation, housing, and sustainability interact in small to mid-sized cities and regions.

Yuan Lai joined the department in the fall semester as a lecturer of urban science and planning. Yuan is a data scientist, urban designer, and civic technology innovator. Before joining DUSP, he was a research affiliate at the New York University (NYU) Marron Institute of Urban Management and practiced as a designer/planner at Safdie Architects. He has also been a Forefront Fellow with the Urban Design Forum and a Data Science Immersion Fellow with Bloomberg. He holds a PhD in urban systems engineering and informatics from NYU, a master of science in applied urban science and informatics from the NYU Center for Urban Science and Progress, a master's in urban planning, and a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture with a minor in law.

Effective July 1, Sasha Costanza-Chock, a designer and media scholar, was appointed as a research scientist with the Media Lab and DUSP. Sasha has been a member of both the Media Lab and DUSP communities for many years, as a co-principal investigator in the Center for Civic Media and as an affiliate with both CoLab and the Data + Feminism Lab.

### **Promotions and Tenure**

- P. Christopher Zegras was promoted to full professor, effective July 1, 2019.
- Ceasar McDowell was reappointed as professor of the practice, effective July 1, 2019.
- Mariana Arcaya, Sarah Williams, and Jinhua Zhao were promoted to associate professor with tenure, effective July 1, 2019.
- Justin Steil was promoted to associate professor without tenure, effective July 1, 2019.
- Siqi Zheng was promoted to full professor, effective July 1, 2020.

### **Visitors and Affiliations**

As we do every year, we had a wonderful cohort of visiting faculty and scholars, both new and returning:

- Viktorija Abolina (MARCH 2009, MCP 2013) returned as a lecturer in urban design and planning, co-teaching 11.360 Community Growth and Land Use Planning. Viktorija is the assistant deputy director for neighborhood planning at the Boston Planning & Development Agency.
- Jim Aloisi, former Massachusetts secretary of transportation, joined us as a lecturer in transportation planning, co-teaching the urban transportation introductory course with Fred Salvucci. Jim is a writer, commentator, and consultant specializing in transportation planning, transportation policy, and law.

- Garnette Cadogan returned as a visiting scholar during the fall semester, teaching his course 11.S948 Seeing the City Afresh: Writing About the Modern City.
- Zach Lamb was appointed for a year as a lecturer of urban design and planning, co-teaching (with Larry Vale) the undergraduate 11.301J/4.252J Introduction to Urban Design and Development course in the fall and 11.333J/4.244J Urban Design Seminar in the spring.
- Teresa M. Lynch returned to co-teach 11.S943 Inclusive Economic Development Planning: Brockton Massachusetts with Amy Glasmeier. Teresa is a principal at Mass Economics, a research and consulting firm that works with the public, private, and philanthropic sectors to promote inclusive economic growth in American cities.
- In the spring, Paul Altidor joined the department as a visiting lecturer of international development and planning. Previously, he served as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Haiti to the United States.
- The SPURS (Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies)/Humphrey Program hosted 15 SPURS/Humphrey Fellows from Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, and Togo.

## Retirements

This spring, after more than 40 years at MIT, Professor Robert Fogelson was honored by the MIT faculty in official recognition of his retirement. Bob's studies of urban history and urban affairs often focused on the tensions between growth and fragmentation that we grapple with today. He received a BA from Columbia University in 1958 and a PhD from Harvard University in 1964 and began teaching at MIT in 1968. He is the author of several books on urban history and urban affairs, including *The Great Rent Wars: New York 1917-1929* (Yale University Press, 2013); *Bourgeois Nightmares: Suburbia, 1870-1930* (Yale University Press, 2005); *Downtown: Its Rise and Fall, 1880-1950* (Yale University Press, 2001); and *The Fragmented Metropolis: Los Angeles, 1850-1930* (University of Harvard Press, 1968). He is currently working on a book about the demise of nonprofit cooperative housing in New York after World War II.

## Research and Teaching

### Teaching the MCP Core

This year the MCP committee implemented the latest in a series of planned changes to the MCP core curriculum, shifting the timing and format of the required 11.THG Thesis Prep class. MCP core subjects and instructors for 2019–2020 are listed below.

### Fall 2019

- 11.201 Gateway (Jason Jackson)
- 11.205 Introduction to Spatial Analysis (Sarah Williams)
- 11.220 Quantitative Reasoning and Statistical Methods (Albert Saiz)

- 11.THG Thesis Prep (Gabriella Carolini, Jinhua Zhao, Mariana Arcaya)
- Program group introductory courses: City Design and Development (Kairos Shen); Environmental Policy and Planning (Larry Susskind); Housing, Community and Economic Development (Justin Steil); International Development Group (Balakrishnan Rajagopal); Urban Transportation (Fred Salvucci and James Aloisi)

### **Spring 2020**

- 11.205 Introduction to Spatial Analysis (Joe Ferreira)
- 11.203/11.202 Microeconomics/Planning Economics (Devin Michelle Bunten)

### **PhD Program: First Field Update**

The PhD committee completed the 2019–2020 update of first field general exams for urban and regional economics, international development, city design and development, urban information systems, health and global communities, and public policy.

### **Lightning Talks**

On October 17, 2019, DUSP welcomed Boston-area alums to the campus for a special night of the popular “lightning talks” series. Faculty and alums were asked to explain their projects and research related to the topics of climate change, climate challenges, and climate action in just three minutes.

### **Practicum/Workshop/Studio Courses**

The department offered practicum/studio/workshop classes in locations around the world:

- 11.360 Community Growth and Land Use Planning Practicum: Arlington, MA (Abolina, Levine)
- 11.S943 Inclusive Economic Development Planning, Brockton, MA (Glasmeier, Lynch)
- 11.S939 Resilient Code: Mexico City (CDMX) A Proactive Toolkit to Foster Equitable Resilience, Mexico City (Williams, Lorena Bello Gomez)
- 11.332 Urban Design Studio—The 30-Minute City: Polycentric Urbanism in the Moreton Bay Region, Queensland, Australia (Alan Berger, Rafi Segal, Johah Susskind)
- 11.304 Industrial Remix: Site Planning and Landscapes of Production Workshop, Turin, Italy (Ben-Joseph, Mary Anne Ocampo, Matteo Robiglio, Francesca Frassoldati)
- 11.332 Post-Industrial Kolkata: Equitable Futures for West Bengal’s Jute Mills, Kolkata, India (Arindam Dutta, Brent Ryan)
- 11.651 USA Lab 2020 (Barbara Dyer, Leigh Hafrey, Thomas Kochan, McDowell)
- 11.S944 Green Cities Practicum: Clean Air and Green Travel, Zhengzhou, China (Zheng, Jianghao Wang, Fabio Duarte)

## New Courses

The following new classes were offered in 2019–2020:

- 11.S195 NEET Digital Cities Seminar: Data Collection in Cities (McDowell, Eric Huntley)
- 11.S198 THRIVE at MIT: Navigate Your MIT Experience through Mentoring and Personal Development (Janelle Knox-Hayes)
- 11.188/11.205 Urban Planning and Social Science Laboratory (Williams)
- 11.S198J/11.S955J Deep Learning for Transportation (Zhao)
- 11.S940 Urban Transportation Planning (Salvucci, Aloisi)
- 11.S944 Applied Urban Analytics (Sevtsuk)
- 11.S948 Seeing the City Afresh: Writing About the Modern City (Cadogan)
- 11.S950 Economic Democracy (Dayna Cunningham)
- 11.S952 Developing a Climate Action Strategy for DUSP (Arcaya, Zegras)
- 4.s25 Urban Housing—Re-theorizing the Architecture of Housing as Grounds for Research and Practice (Susanne Schindler)
- 11.S01 Urban Science for Public Good: Gender and Racial Equity in Artificial Intelligence (D'Ignazio)
- 11.S02 Climate Justice and Cities (Steil)
- 11.155J/STS.005J Data and Society (Williams, Eden Medina)
- 11.S187/11.S954 Applied Data Science for Cities: Hacking for Public Good (Lai)
- 11.S189/11.S952 Urban Science in Practice (Sevtsuk)
- 11.S195/11.S941 Global Aging: Planning Cities for a 100-Year Society (Joseph Coughlin)
- 11.S199 Cities and Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation (Knox-Hayes)
- 11.244J/STS.424J Race, History, and the Built Environment (Erica Caple James)
- 11.S943 Housing and Social Stratification in America (Bunten)
- 11.S945 Equity & Inclusion: Local Policy-Driven Strategies for Economic Development and the Just City (Crockett)
- 11.S951 (Re)Engineering Planning and Diaspora Groups (Altidor)
- 11.157J/15.2391J/11.257 China's Growth: Political Economy, Business and Urbanization (Zheng, Zhengzhen Tan, Yasheng Huang)
- 11.074/11.274 Cybersecurity Clinic (Larry Susskind, Weitzner)
- 11.S953 Workshop on City Form (Sevtsuk)
- 11.S966 Forms of Urban Informality: Learning from Global Examples (Kate Mytty, Matthew Claudel)

## Major Events, Speakers, and Other News Items

### Responding to Climate-Induced Displacement

In September 2019 the Resilient Communities Lab, led by Professor Knox-Hayes, hosted a two-day workshop aimed at promoting scholarly and practice-oriented contributions rooted in knowledge sharing around experiences with climate adaptation and relocation. Workshop participants included members of the Isle de Jean Charles, LA, band of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw tribe; the Yup'ik people from Newtok, AK; practitioners from the Lowlander Center; Evans + Lighter Landscape Architecture; the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; the Alaska Institute for Justice; and MIT faculty and students.

### Data Feminism: More Ethical and Empowering Data Science

Professor D'Ignazio's new book from The MIT Press, *Data Feminism*, adds a feminist lens to challenge our assumptions concerning data science and its communication, exposing the very human and imperfect design processes behind models and algorithms and exploring pathways for establishing more ethical and empowering practices.

### Advancing Development through Innovation

In a new edited volume, *Innovation in Brazil: Advancing Development in the 21st Century* (Routledge, 2019), Elisabeth Reynolds (principal research scientist and lecturer of innovation and economic development) and her co-editors (Professor Ben Ross Schneider of MIT's Department of Political Science and Ezequiel Zylberberg, a research affiliate with the MIT Industrial Performance Center) unite a diverse array of empirical contributions to examine Brazil as a critical case study. Building from its rich and diverse contributions, *Innovation in Brazil* presents a new, forward-looking agenda aimed at addressing the country's persistent challenges and exploiting its emerging opportunities.

### Understanding How Low-Income Riders Use Mass Transit

Urban residents hear a lot about public transit fares, but to what extent do transportation costs really affect riders? In a study of Boston's mass transit system, a group of urban studies researchers at MIT showed that if low-income people are offered a 50% fare discount, their ridership increases by more than 30%. The results were outlined in a white paper authored by MIT PhD student Jeffrey Rosenblum and Professors Zhao, Arcaya, Steil, and Zegras.

### Examining Global Sustainable Urbanization

China's urbanization efforts starting in the 1980s have changed the lives of millions of Chinese nationals while also altering the world's political, economic, and environmental landscapes. The MIT China Future City Lab (CFC), a research lab led by Professor Zheng from DUSP and the Center for Real Estate, focuses on uniting academia, government, entrepreneurs, and industry to address the complex challenges presented by urbanization in China. Under Zheng's leadership, CFC has recently published several peer-reviewed papers that aim to provide information for policymakers and urban planners weighing the future of their cities.



### **DUSP Climate Action Plan**

During the fall term of 2019, students in [11.S952 Developing a Climate Action Strategy for DUSP](#), a project-oriented class, gathered data and evidence to create an actionable plan to implement the ideas outlined in the 2018 DUSP Climate Recommendations and reduce the department's climate impact. Students in the class leveraged environmental footprint calculations and inventories, theory surrounding effective institutional change, conversations with stakeholders inside and outside the department, and [research on best practices at other universities](#) to produce a climate action plan for DUSP. The authors of the plan include MCP students Julia Field, Amber Kim, Zoë McAlear, and Mary Hannah Smith.

### **Mapping Contested Spaces**

With developments in technology and access, generation of geospatial content is shifting from professional and governmental actors to informal non-professionals using the mapping systems and satellite imagery available on the Internet. The content that these actors produce is labeled as volunteered geographic information (VGI), which has facilitated the expansion of mapping into previously difficult or inaccessible areas. The collaborative nature of VGI creation highlights the political aspects of cartography, tracing spatial disputes between multiple stakeholders who all have access to mapping tools and their own biases about how spaces should be labeled and codified. In an article published in *Geoforum*, Wonyoung So and Fabio Duarte explored the process and history of collaborative strategies used to map one of the least mapped countries in the world, North Korea.

### **SPURS Conferences and Collaborations**

On October 9–11, 2019, the SPURS European group hosted a regional conference in Gdansk, Poland. In addition, a collaboration between the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB) and SPURS expanded opportunities for underrepresented minority and new immigrant UMB students and fellows to learn about the United States.

### **Aiding the COVID-19 Response across Africa**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the world, DUSP MCP candidate Samra Lakew and DUSP alumna Fitse Gelaye (MCP '18) led elements of the volunteer effort to enhance Ethiopia's capacity to respond to the crisis through the Ethiopia COVID-19 Response Team.

### **Judith Tandler Network**

The second annual meeting of the Judith Tandler Network, made up of students and colleagues of our former colleague, was held at MIT on April 3, 2020. The network was created by Judith's ex-students, and the first meeting was held at NYU two years ago. At the meeting, both current and former students and faculty presented research inspired by Judith's fieldwork-based methods.

### **Commencement and Awards**

A number of awards were announced at the virtual departmental commencement celebration in June.

## Departmental Awards

- Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis: Adrianna Jacobson, “Designing Public Transit at the Margins: How Rethinking Public Transit in Boston to Support the Travel Patterns of Transit-Reliant Women Could Transform Public Transportation for the Better”
- Outstanding MCP Thesis: Yichun Fan, “Air Pollution, Avoidance Behaviors, and Neglected Social Cost: Evidence from Outdoor Leisure and Commuting Behaviors”
- Outstanding PhD Dissertation: Elise Harrington, “Intermediaries and Electrification: Dimensions of Trust and Consumer Education in Kenya’s Off-Grid Solar Market”
- Outstanding PhD Dissertation (honorable mention): Shenhao Wang, “Deep Neural Networks for Choice Analysis”

## DUSP Student Council Awards

- Excellence in Teaching: Devin Michelle Bunten
- Excellence in Advising: Gabriella Carolini
- Staff or Faculty Contribution to Student Life: Ellen Rushman
- Staff or Faculty Contribution to Creating a Healthy Virtual DUSP: Devin Michelle Bunten and Takeo Kuwabara
- Excellence in Teaching by a Teaching Assistant: Zhuangyuan Fan
- Hebbert Award for Student Contribution to DUSP: Annie Calef

## Graduate Degree Program Enrollment and Activities

In 2019–2020, the department’s graduate programs enrolled 58 new MCP students, one new SM student, and eight new doctoral students. The department granted 48 MCP, one SM, and 17 PhD degrees.

### DUSP Graduate Admissions Cycle, 2019–2020

	Applications	Admitted	Enrolled*
MCP (including dual)	354	71	20 enrolled for fall 2020 (41 deferred to fall 2021)
SM	1	1	1
PhD	132	8	8

\*As a result of uncertainty and changes to the program for 2020–2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department provided all graduate students admitted in this cycle with the option of deferring enrollment for one year with no penalty. As of the time of this report, 41 of the incoming MCP students had elected this option.

## Undergraduate Program

In 2019–2020, six students graduated with an SB from DUSP: four in Course 11 and two in Course 11-6. Accounting for graduations, changes of major, and new declarations, the department will have 28 undergraduate majors for the coming year: 15 in Course 11 and 13 in Course 11-6.

## Doctoral Program

As noted above, the department graduated 17 new PhD students. The following dissertations were completed in 2019–2020:

- “Pursuing the Common Good: Overcoming Barriers to Collective Action through Transboundary Water Negotiation along the Blue Nile River” (Yasmin Bijani)
- “Enduring or Escaping Legacies? Politics, Inherited Institutions, and Rebellion in the Struggle Over Water Futures in Chile” (Daniel Gallagher)
- “Red Lines for a Green China: Adaptation, Negotiation and Experimentation in China’s Efforts to Transform Sustainably” (Jessica Gordon)
- “Fighting for Recognition: Asian American Advocates and Their Strategic Uses of Identity” (Haegi Kwon)
- “High-Density Parenting: Design, Policy, and Family-Oriented Urbanism” (Louis Thomas)
- “Centering Peripheries: Warning Systems and Disaster Risk Reduction Planning on the Island City” (Lily Bui)
- “The Production of Rurality: Social and Spatial Transformations in the Tamil Countryside 1915-65” (Karthik Rao Cavale)
- “Realizing Dignity: Dalits Rights, Land Reform, and the Learning of Democratic Citizenship” (Faizan Siddiqi)
- “Deep Neutral Networks for Choice Analysis” (Shenhao Wang)
- “Sensing Lights: Transforming Street Lights into a Networked Urban Knowledge Platform” (Jesus Ricardo Alvarez Felix)
- “Water Operator Partnerships: Utility Reform and the Struggle for Alternatives to Privatization” (Andrea Karin Beck)
- “How Cities Learn: Urban Experimentation for Creating and Governing Technology” (Matthew Claudel)
- “Branching Out into Immigrant Neighborhoods: How Public Libraries Distribute Community Resources to Meet Immigrant Needs” (Laura Delgado)
- “Intermediaries and Electrification: Dimensions of Trust and Consumer Education in Kenya’s Off-Grid Solar Market” (Elise Harrington)

- “Constructing the Capital City: The Politics of Urban Development and Image Making in Eurasia’s Hybrid Regimes” (Suzanne Harris-Brandts)
- “The Politics of Visibility in Urban Sanitation: Bureaucratic Coordination and the Swachh Bharat Mission in Tamil Nadu, India” (Prassanna Raman)
- “Expanding Access to the City: How Public Transit Fare Policy Shapes Travel Decision Making and Behavior of Low-Income Riders” (Jeffrey Rosenblum)

The PhD committee continued its sponsorship of a variety of doctoral student-oriented events, combining research workshop presentations with career development activities.

**Christopher Zegras**  
**Department Head**  
**Professor of Urban Studies and Planning**