

## **Department of Urban Studies and Planning**

In November 2017, the [Department of Urban Studies and Planning \(DUSP\)](#) hosted its visiting committee, chaired by Alan M. Leventhal. The two-day visit included discussions of curriculum, finances, accreditation, faculty research, student life, alumni relations, and more.

On May 16, 2018, the MIT faculty approved a new undergraduate degree, the Bachelor of Science in Urban Science and Planning with Computer Science. Combining urban planning and public policy, design and visualization, data analysis, machine learning, artificial intelligence, pervasive sensor technology, robotics, and other aspects of both computer science and city planning, the program will reflect how urban scientists are making sense of cities and urban data in ways never before imagined—and using what they learn to reshape the world in real-time.

The goal of the program is to train undergraduates in the theory and practice of computer science, urban planning, and policy-making—encompassing ethics and justice, statistics, data science, geospatial analysis, visualization, robotics, and machine learning.

The new major, to be known as Course 11-6, represents the culmination of over two years of work between DUSP and the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. The two departments will jointly administer the program.

Over the past year, DUSP also formally established an accelerated, three-year Master in City Planning/Master of Business Administration (MCP/MBA) dual degree program. This major accomplishment represents one of the first times that the MIT Sloan School of Management agreed to consider shortening their overall course length. Current students in either department will now be able to apply for admission to either program during their first year in residence, while new students will apply to both programs concurrently.

### **Appointments, Promotions, Visitors, Leaves, Departures**

#### **Appointments**

Jason Jackson was named assistant professor in the department, where he has previously served as a lecturer. His research focuses on the historical origins and evolution of the institutional arrangements through which states and markets are constituted. Jackson's work is particularly interested in the role of economic ideas and moral beliefs in shaping market institutions. It assesses the implications of political struggles between business, government, and societal actors for market structure and resulting competitive and distributional outcomes. Empirically his work centers on contexts ranging from the politics of monopoly and foreign investment in India from the late colonial period to the present, to the “sharing economy” and urban transportation markets in contemporary cities in Asia, Europe, and the United States.

The recipient of several research grants and awards, Jackson holds a BA from Princeton University, an MS from SOAS (the School of Oriental and African Studies) University of London, an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School, and a PhD from MIT.

Erica James was appointed associate professor of medical anthropology and urban studies with tenure in the department, in a transfer from the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, where she has been on the faculty since 2004. She is the founding director of MIT's Global Health and Medical Humanities Initiative. Her work is focused on violence and trauma; philanthropy, humanitarianism, and charity; human rights, democratization, and post-conflict transition processes; race, gender, and culture; and religion and healing. Her publications include "Democratic Insecurities: Violence, Trauma, and Intervention in Haiti" (University of California Press, 2010), which documents the psychosocial experience of Haitian torture survivors targeted during the 1991–1994 coup period and analyzes the politics of humanitarian assistance in "post-conflict" nations making the transition to democracy.

James holds a BA from Princeton University, an MTS (Master of Theological Studies) from Harvard Divinity School, and an MA and PhD from Harvard University.

### Promotions

Janelle Knox-Hayes was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure in the department. Previously she was the Lister Brothers Associate Professor of Economic Geography and Planning (without tenure). Her research draws on empirical evidence of how societies have sought to mitigate climate change through the creation of carbon emissions markets and related financial instruments.

Sarah Williams was promoted to associate professor without tenure. She is the director of the Civic Data Design Lab, which works with data, maps, and mobile technologies to develop interactive design and communication strategies that expose urban policy issues to broader audiences. Her research as a scholar and designer in urban informatics and civic media involves the collection, analysis, and visualization of civic data in spatial and temporal dimensions, with a goal of promoting public understanding and debate and informing public policy and urban planning and design.

Jinhua Zhao was promoted to associate professor without tenure in the department, where he is the Edward H. and Joyce Linde Associate Professor of Transportation and City Planning and directs the Urban Mobility Lab. His research focuses on three interconnected themes: behavioral theories, mobility management in China, and governance of new transportation technology.

### Visitors and Affiliations

Viktorija Abolina (MCP '13, MArch '09) joined us in the fall as Lecturer in Urban Design and Planning to co-teach 11.360 Community Growth and Land Use Planning with Terry Szold.

Garnette Cadogan joined DUSP as an MLK Visiting Scholar. He is a writer who focuses on history, culture, and the arts, and is the editor-at-large for *Non-Stop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas* (edited by Rebecca Solnit and Joshua Jelly-Schapiro) and co-editor of the *Oxford Handbook of the Harlem Renaissance* (with Shirley E. Thompson; forthcoming). His current research explores the promise and perils of urban life, the vitality and inequality of cities, and the challenges of pluralism.

Onesimo Flores Dewey (PhD '13) was a visiting lecturer in the fall, co-teaching the Guadalajara practicum with Chris Zegras and Brent Ryan. Dewey is the CEO of Conecta Cuatro, a company that promotes innovative technology ventures to tackle urban and transportation problems in Mexico.

Judy Geyer joined DUSP in the fall as a lecturer of urban economics and planning to teach 11.202 Planning Economics and 11.203 Microeconomics. Geyer is an associate and research scientist at Abt Associates. Her background includes experience in analyzing the dynamics of participation in social programs, the outcomes of housing subsidy and housing counseling programs, and exploring market and behavioral responses to incentive mechanisms. She has previously worked as an adjunct instructor at Tufts University and at Carnegie Mellon University.

Teresa M. Lynch co-taught (with Amy Glasmeier) the practicum 11.S940 Nodal Economic Development: Building Life Sciences Capabilities Across the City and its Urban and Suburban Hinterland. Lynch is a principal at Mass Economics, a research and consulting firm that works with public, private, and philanthropic sectors to promote inclusive economic growth in American cities.

Gregg Macey (PhD '07) was a visiting professor in the fall, teaching 11.148 Environmental Justice: Law and Policy. Macey is a professor of law at Brooklyn Law School. His research interests include environmental regulation, organizational theory, and natural and man-made disasters.

Jonah Susskind was appointed lecturer of landscape architecture and urban design to co-teach the urban design studio and a seminar on landscape and urbanism. Susskind graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Design with an MLA and has worked as an artist and landscape architect.

Anthony Vanky (PhD '17) was appointed as a lecturer of urban design and planning to teach 11.301/4.252 Introduction to Urban Design and Development.

Bruno Verdini (PhD '15) returned as a lecturer in urban planning and negotiation to teach the undergraduate version of 11.011 The Art and Science of Negotiation in both the fall and spring semesters, as well as an advanced negotiation course.

The Malaysia Sustainable Cities Program hosted a group of eight visiting scholars who came to MIT after spending the fall at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia studying implementation of Malaysia's commitment to low-carbon development.

DUSP also has two visiting artists working with faculty and students.

- Visiting artist Stephen Carpenter, professor of art education and African-American studies at Pennsylvania State University, joined DUSP at the invitation of Larry Susskind for three visits (September 28–30, October 5–7, and November 16–18) as an MIT Center for Art, Science, and Technology (CAST) Artist in Residence. Carpenter led a series of three participatory performances called "Collaborative Creative Resistance." This series—in response to the global

water crisis—seeks to inspire students and community partners to use existing technologies and art-creating strategies to address fundamental social problems in new ways.

- Another CAST Artist in Residence, Newton Harrison, emeritus professor of art at the University of California, San Diego, and member of the collaborative team of Newton and Helen Mayer Harrison, worked with Anne Whiston Spirn's Ecological Urbanism class.

As usual, the Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS)/Humphrey program hosted a group of distinguished planners from around the globe. In AY2018, DUSP welcomed 15 fellows from 12 countries, including Argentina, Bhutan, Brazil, China, Ghana, India, Iraq, Kosovo, Macedonia, Mexico, Nepal, and Nicaragua. The fellows' fields of interests included land-use planning and management, housing, electrification and power engineering, urban violence, water and agricultural livelihoods, and environmental preservation and pollution reduction.

### Faculty Leaves

The following faculty members were on leave in AY2018:

- Fall 2017: Mariana Arcaya, Dennis Frenchman
- Spring 2018: Mariana Arcaya, Jason Jackson, Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Brent Ryan, Sarah Williams, Chris Zegras

### Research and Teaching

The following new classes were offered in AY2018:

*Fall 2017:*

- 11.403 China Urban and Real Estate Research Seminar, Siqi Zheng
- 11.S938 Re-Designing Disaster-Resilient Communities and Housing in Saurashtra, India, Brent Ryan, Marie Law Adams, Lorena Bello Gomez
- 11.S939 TOD en Guadalajara, Chris Zegras, Brent Ryan, Onesimo Flores
- 11.S940 Nodal Economic Development: Building Life Sciences Capabilities across the City and its Urban and Suburban Hinterland, Amy Glasmeier, Teresa Lynch
- 11.S942 Wanderings in Psychogeography: Exploring Landscapes of History, Biography, Memory, Culture, Nature, Poetry, Surreality, Fantasy, and Madness, Ezra Glenn
- 11.S944 Regional Innovation Ecosystems, Elisabeth Reynolds

*Spring 2018:*

- 11.004 People and the Planet: Environmental Histories and Engineering, Janelle Knox-Hayes, Robin Scheffler, Jessika Trancik, Brian Anthony
- 11.111 The Art and Science of Negotiation: Advanced Applications

- 11.159/11.259 Entrepreneurial Negotiation, Larry Susskind
- 11.S938 Solving for Carbon Neutrality at MIT, Julie Newman, Tim Gutowski
- 11.S939 Landscape and Storm Water Management on the MIT Campus, Peter Del Tredici
- 11.S940 Southern Urbanism, Gabriella Carolini
- 11.S945 Prototyping for Informal Urban Markets: Methodologies for Understanding and Responding to Livelihood Generation in Public Spaces, John Kennedy and Kate Mytty
- 11.S948 Seeing the City Afresh: Writing About the Modern City, Garnette Cadogan
- 11.S949 Technology and Future Cities, Carlo Ratti and Ricardo Alvarez

The department engaged in practicum/studio/workshop classes around the world.

*Fall 2017 Workshops:*

- 11.360: Somerville, MA, Community Growth and Land Use Planning Practicum (Szold, Abolina)
- 11.S938: Re-Designing Disaster-Resilient Communities and Housing in Saurashtra, India Practicum (Ryan, Adams, Gomez)
- 11.S940: Nodal Economic Development: Building Life Sciences Capabilities across the City and its Urban and Suburban Hinterland Practicum (Glasmeier, Lynch)
- 11.S939: TOD en Guadalajara Practicum (Zegras, Ryan, Flores)

*Fall 2017 Studios:*

- 11.332: Urban Design Studio, Boston (Berger, Segal)

*Spring 2018 Workshops:*

- 11.304: Austin, TX, Site and Environmental Systems Planning (Ocampo, Susskind)
- 11.438: Economic Development Planning (Seidman)
- 11.S939: Landscape & Storm Water Management on the MIT Campus (Del Tredici)
- 11.246J / 4.246J: DesignX Accelerator (Frenchman, Rosenzweig)
- 11.381: Energy & Infrastructure Planning for Puerto Rico (Hsu)
- 11.S938: Environmental Protection and Socio-Economic Development, Mocoa, Colombia (Thompson)

*Spring 2018 Studios:*

- 11.332: NYC Urban Design Studio (Law-Adams)
- 11.303: Real Estate Development Studio: Complex Urban Projects (Frenchman, Shen)

## Major Events and Speakers

### DUSP Faculty Research Lightning Talks

Two times this year, DUSP continued its tradition of hosting department-wide “lightning talks” to showcase faculty and student research. During each event, approximately a dozen different DUSP faculty are given three minutes each to explain one of their research projects in layperson’s language.

### DUSPx

On November 8, nearly 200 DUSP alumni/ae, faculty, staff, and students gathered for an evening of sharing their work and ideas. DUSPx: MIT Connections was the fifth in a series of annual DUSPx events aimed at promoting connections both among alumni as well as between alumni and current faculty and students.

### CDD Forum: Conscripting Climate

In the spring semester, doctoral candidates Hannah Teicher and Aria Finkelstein organized a symposium, “Conscripting Climate: Environmental Risk and Defensive Urbanism,” to foster debate about the risks and opportunities in the defense establishment contributing to urban mitigation and adaptation. The first panel addressed framing climate security and engaged in a robust debate about the potential for democratic inclusion under such a lens. While coming from perspectives both within and outside of the national security establishment, panelists eventually agreed that inclusion and addressing the “democratic deficit” in the country would be essential to successful adaptation. The second panel addressed the practice of climate security, highlighting the complexities of current urban/defense relationships in a context where only a miniscule percentage of Americans are involved in the military. They agreed that adaptation efforts need to be framed to bolster the military’s central mission while also including more community outreach.

### Departmental Lunch Talk Series

Additional fall and spring speaker series included the following:

- Environmental Policy and Planning Lunch Speaker Series: The group hosted a series of lunch discussions with distinguished faculty across and outside the institute, with a focus on exploring and demonstrating the connections and opportunities for collaboration from within and beyond the Institute.
- Planning Ideas That Matter: In the fall, Professors Larry Vale and Jinhua Zhao offered their popular series of bi-weekly planning debates.
- SPURS Series: The department’s SPURS Program hosted a fall series on the topic of “Myths of American Planning.”
- Awards and Research Highlights

### Commencement Awards

At the departmental commencement celebration on June 7, 2018, DUSP was pleased to welcome back Bomee Jung (MCP ’07) as its commencement speaker. Jung is currently serving as the vice president of energy and sustainability for the New York City

Housing Authority, where she is coordinating the development of an Authority-wide comprehensive sustainability agenda.

In addition to hearing from Jung, the following year-end awards were announced at the event.

### Departmental Awards

- Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis: Yanisa Techagumthorn, “Social Movements and Interstate Highways: A Study on Anti-Highway Revolts in Boston and Beyond”
- Outstanding PhD Dissertation: Aditi Mehta, “The Politics of Community Media in the Post-Disaster City”
- Outstanding PhD Teaching Assistant: Lilian Bui
- Outstanding MCP Thesis: Winner: Jonathan Tarleton, “The Power of Equity: Private Motivations and Public Implications of Dissolving Affordable Housing Cooperatives;” Honorable Mention: Nneka Deandra Sobers and Ayna Delivrans Verella, “Community Empowerment, Technology and Access Through Peer to Peer Systems: Blockchain Concept and Case Study in Accra, Ghana”
- Flora Crockett Stephenson Writing Prize: Max Missner Budovitch
- American Institute of Certified Planners Outstanding Student Award: Reed Kuennen Jordan
- Outstanding Contribution to the Intellectual Life of the Department: Tiffany Marie Ferguson
- Student Departmental Service Award: Jessica Wolff
- O. Robert Simha Prize: Kelly Blynn, Douglas Dominick McPherson, and David Tisel
- Rolf R. Engler Award for Outstanding Service: Nimfa V. de Leon, assistant director, SPURS/Humphrey Program; Patricia M. Foley, administrative assistant II

### Student Council Awards

- Excellence in Advising: Gabriella Carolini
- Excellence in Teaching: Marie Law Adams
- Excellence in Teaching by a Teaching Assistant: Lily Bui, Yonah Freemark, and Hongmou Zhang
- Staff or Faculty Contribution to Student Life: Ellen Rushman
- Hebbert Award for Student Contribution to DUSP: Laura Krull

### Additional Awards and Highlights

In January, David Hsu was named the new chair of MIT’s Energy Minor Oversight Committee, responsible for shaping curriculum development and the creation of educational programs associated with the energy studies minor.

In February, Lawrence Bacow '72, professor emeritus, was named the next president of Harvard University.

Anne Whiston Spirn, professor of landscape architecture and planning, was one of the 10 honorees for the 2018 National Design Awards from the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum. She also delivered keynote lectures to the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and the Washington Society of Landscape Architects and served on the visiting committee for the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University.

Professor J. Phillip Thompson was appointed as deputy mayor for strategic policy initiatives for New York City.

The American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) awarded a team of 16 graduate students from the Department of Urban Studies and Planning an AICP Student Project Award. The annual awards recognize outstanding class projects or papers that advance the field of planning.

Balakrishnan Rajagopal, associate professor of law and development at MIT, was elected as a counsellor to the American Society of International Law. In this role, he will advise the advancement of international law scholarship and education in the United States and around the globe.

Gabriella Carolini, Susan Murcott, Justin Steil, and Jinhua Zhao were all awarded 2017–2018 Committed to Caring Awards. Carolini, Steil, and Zhao are DUSP faculty members, Murcott, a D-Lab faculty member, has taught and mentored many DUSP graduate students at MIT.

Professor Justin Steil was awarded the 2018 Paul E. Gray Award for Public Service from MIT. The selection committee unanimously and with great enthusiasm selected Steil as the first recipient of the award, recognizing a member of the MIT faculty who exemplifies building “a better world” through teaching, research, advising, and service.

Dennis Frenchman, the Class of 1922 Professor of Urban Design and Planning, was named the new faculty director of the MIT Center for Real Estate. He assumed the role on July 1.

Professor Brent Ryan published *The Largest Art: A Measured Manifesto for a Plural Urbanism* (MIT Press).

Professor Alan Berger published *Infinite Suburbia* (edited, with Joel Kotkin; Princeton Architectural Press).

Lecturer Bruno Verdini published *Winning Together: The Natural Resource Negotiation Playbook* (MIT Press).

In November, MIT launched the China Future City Lab, a unique urban research and innovation program focused on advancing the quality of city life in urban China. DUSP's Siqi Zheng, associate professor of real estate development and entrepreneurship, is the head of the new lab and sees it as an opportunity for cultivating global collaborative



projects and for sharing the best of MIT and China with each other and other rapidly urbanizing nations.

### Obituaries

John de Monchaux, professor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning and former dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, died April 30, 2018, at the age of 81.

Martin Rein, professor in DUSP from 1970 until his retirement in 2011, died October 15, 2017, at the age of 89.

### Graduate Degree Program Enrollment and Activities

In AY2018, the department's graduate programs enrolled 72 new MCP students, no new SM students, and seven new doctoral students. The department granted 63 MCP, three SM, and 10 PhD degrees. The following table reports data on the AY2018 admissions cycle for the department.

**Department Admissions Statistics by Degree Programs, AY2018**

Degree	Applications	Admitted students	To be enrolled
MCP (including dual)	415	78	61
SM	1	1	1
PhD	133	10	8

### Undergraduate Program

In AY2018, two students graduated with a SB from DUSP, while six undergraduates declared a Course 11 major, bringing the new total to 21 majors for the coming year.

Together with Course 6, the department received approval for a new joint 11-6 major in urban science and planning with computer science.

### Doctoral Program

The department graduated 10 new PhD students. The following dissertations were completed in AY2018:

- Alpen Suresh Sheth, "Cultivating Risk: Weather Insurance, Technology and Financialization in India"
- Devanne Elizabeth Brookins, "Reform from Above, Reinterpretation from Below: State Making and Institutional Change in Ghana"
- Mitchell Jarrod Cook, "Information Technology Governance and Local Public Financial Management Reform: The Case of Bangalore, India"
- Ella Jisun Kim, "Frames and Games: Testing a Public Health Orientation to Climate Adaptation Planning"
- Aditi Mehta, "The Politics of Community Media in the Post-Disaster City"
- Jingsi Xu Shaw: "Household Moving and Tenure Behavior: Translating Retrospective "Recent Mover" Surveys into Prospective Moving Decisions"

- Melissa Yvonne Chinchilla, “Community Integration Among Formerly Homeless Veterans”
- Gregory Joseph Falco, “Cybersecurity, Urban Science and Infrastructure Management”
- Alexis Schulman, “Sustainable Cities and Institutional Change: The Transformation of Urban Stormwater Management”
- Christopher D Smith, “Enhancing Trust in Nuclear Waste Management Institutions”

Doctoral student editors in the department issued a call for papers for two issues of *Projections, the MIT Journal of Urban Planning*:

- *Projections 13: Conscripting Climate: Environmental Risk and Defensive Urbanism.*  
Editors: Aria Finkelstein and Hannah Teicher.  
As adaptation to climate change has become a concern for municipalities, resilience has largely replaced sustainability as the dominant environmental framing in planning discourse (Fainstein 2015, Vale 2014). This shift towards the “securitization of nature” (Davoudi 2014) coincides with the elevation of climate change on military agendas. In the military’s conception, climate change will not only contribute to security issues from resource wars to refugee crises, but will act as a “threat multiplier,” magnifying all existing forms of risk (Vergano 2015). In the US, for instance, the military has been assertive in planning for climate change long before the federal government made it a policy priority. This potential alliance between planners and the military seems an unlikely one, but there is a long history of planners shaping urban form to meet security needs and appropriating military technologies and systems. Still, given the current iteration of urban risk, planners must reconsider the relationships between security, urban form, and ecological risk.
- *Projections 14: New Uses for Old Rivers: Rediscovering Urban Waterways.*  
Editors: Andrea Beck and Isadora Cruxen.  
The goods and ecosystem-based services provided by rivers have been indispensable for the emergence and development of many cities. The first urban civilizations arose on the floodplains of large rivers thousands of years ago. As documented by environmental historians and urban political ecologists, however, from the mid-18th century onwards, urban rivers in much of the industrializing world served predominantly as shipping arteries, flood control channels, hydropower sources, and sinks for urban wastes in the quest for modernity and industrial growth. In the process of industrialization and urbanization, many rivers were being “pushed around” by planners and engineers, and many experienced morphological changes to such an extent that they came to resemble canals more than natural streams. Stretches of some urban rivers were even diverted into underground tunnels, paved, or filled—making them disappear entirely from the cityscape.

**Eran Ben-Joseph**  
Head  
Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning