



The Urban Studies Newsletter

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edited by Nicola Ho'18, Emma Phillips'18 & Dietrich Neumann

Sean Scott'16 works on Abidjan and Hong Kong at UPenn

I am currently living in Powelton village, near Philadelphia. It is a nice neighborhood, very residential, though I feel like a gentrifier and it's slowly eating me alive, so I am thinking of moving next year to someplace in Center City.

In my graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania I am currently working on an analysis of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, and a case study on Mixed Intensity Land Use and comparing vertical cities with podium/high-density block developments across the globe (Hong-Kong, USA, Latin America).

Before graduating from Brown, I wasn't sure how I could get a job I wanted in urban planning and design without a masters, so graduate school was really my only option, but I would encourage current undergraduates to explore the job market that is available to them now, or perhaps look for internships with firms if they are interested in design, and DEFINITELY try and take a couple RISD courses in design if you want to be an urban designer.

The field is very diverse and accommodates a lot of specialties and interests, i.e design, private development, community economic development, advocacy, even academic research, so there truly is something out there for everyone. I underestimated how much planners, and the people here who study planning procedures, have a certain sense of equity that pervades the work, though it eventually boils down to which agents within the system in which we are operating will advocate and take the political risks necessary to achieve equitable and progressive goals, be it environmental justice or sufficient affordable housing.

I will say, do not take graduate school lightly as it is a HUGE time commitment, and you will end up working non-stop more often than not.

If anyone wants to talk about PennDesign, Planning, graduate school, or my time at Brown, my email is seascott@design.upenn.edu.



Ayanda Collins'16 studies Regional and Urban Planning at the LSE

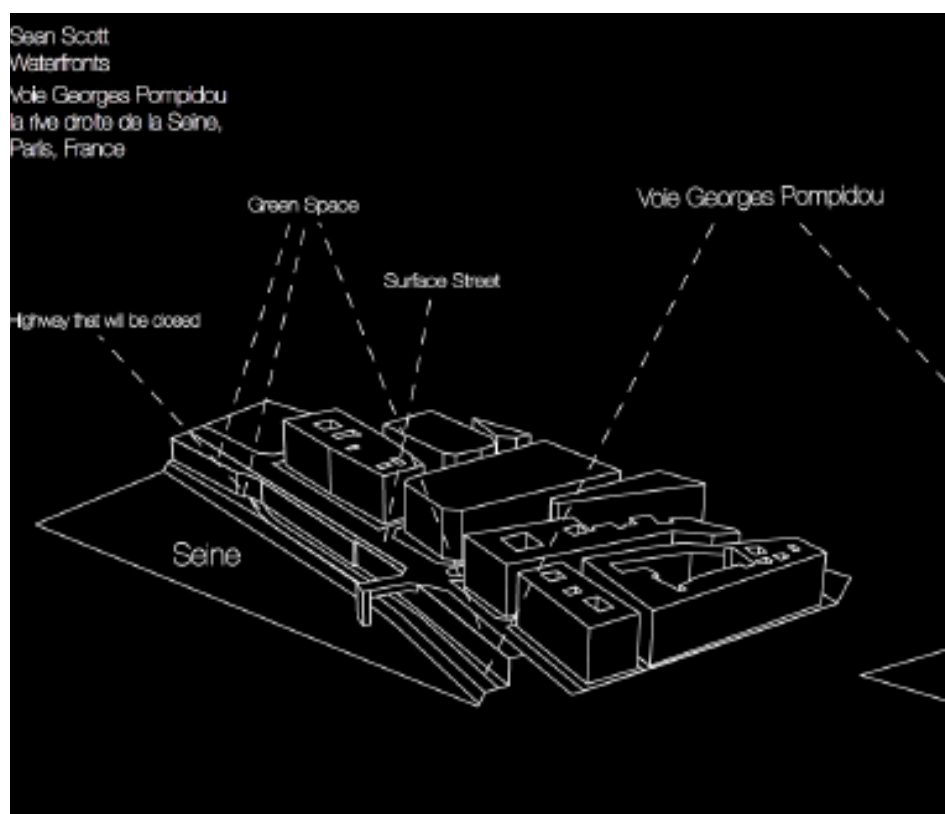
I am attending the London School of Economics and Political Science doing an MSc in Regional and Urban Planning Studies. My degree is a combination of Urban Economics classes, Spatial Economic Analysis and Comparative Urbanism. My 30 classmates are from about 25 different countries and are all passionate about the potential of Urban Planning to reduce inequality globally.

Urban Planning provides an effective framework and discourse for those like myself who believe that government intervention in the market can play a critical role in improving people's lives. I am excited to become a certified city planner and join others working on urban challenges in the developing world. During my time at Brown in the Urban Studies department, I realized how the future of cities is the future of the world. I became more and interested in the potential of effective policy to address inequality and increase inclusively in our cities. One of the most rewarding things I did at Brown was working for the City of Providence in the department of Planning and Development, first as a spring semester intern and then as Mayoral Fellow for the summer. I joined a talented group of

planners working to develop the city's alternative proposal on the future of the route 6/10 connector as well as on some Brown held redevelopment projects. In general, Brown and the Urban Studies degree prepared me for grad school by teaching me how to think critically about cities and the history of planning in America.

An important piece of advice is to push yourself at Brown out of your comfort zone in terms of your class selection. Even though I am a much more qualitative person courses in which I learned GIS, STATA, SPSS, and Python really ignited a passion for data, which I would never have expected and I am so grateful that I have that foundation to build on in grad school!

A planning degree is a very multidisciplinary degree that is useful for a wide range of careers. I urge those who are interested in pursuing a degree in planning to start thinking about it while at Brown and to contact me if you have any questions! I can be reached at collinsayanda@gmail.com.



"...a man himself is a city, beginning, seeking, achieving and concluding his life in ways which the various aspect of a city may embody - if imaginatively conceived - any city, all the details of which may be made to voice his most intimate convictions..."

William Carlos Williams, Paterson (1926ff)

Urban Studies at Brown in the Fall of 2016

Urban Studies looks back at another busy and successful semester, with record student enrollments, more bus tours and a substantial number of events and lectures. We welcomed three new faculty members: Prof. Joerg Gleiter, Dean of the Architecture Department at Berlin's Technical University and a professor of architectural theory stayed with us for one semester and taught a class on Architectural and Urban Theory. Mariam Kamara, an Urban Planner from Niger, West Africa, is currently teaching a new class about the history and presence of West African cities and their informal urbanism. Catalin Berescu, a professor from Bukarest, Rumania, has joined Urban Studies as a research fellow through the Fulbright Program. He gave a wonderful lecture in our introductory course "The City" and takes part in many of our activities.

We held a moving farewell party for our outgoing faculty member Hilary Silver. She had been at Brown for more than three decades, and is now chair of the Sociology Department at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Our classes have become some of the largest at Brown University. The introductory course "The City" (in which all faculty members speak) doubled in size from 65 to 125. Stefano Bloch's course

"Crime and the City" had to be capped at 400, as we were running out of TAs. Currently Urban Studies has thirty-three graduating seniors and a total of sixty-three concentrators. As you can see below, our Departmental Under-

graduate Group (DUG) has been very active, helping with the organization of our bus tours, representing US at campus events - and designing a new bumper sticker (thank you Eddie Mansius!!), see above.



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As you will see in the pages of this newsletter, we continued our US Bus tour series, "Providence seen through the eyes

of an Urban Studies Professor" – which continues to be a great way to reach out to students, faculty and the public – all tours were again sold out. One introduced us to the world of Graffiti artists in Providence (Stefano Bloch), on an-

URI and RIC.

The Harriet David Goldberg '56 Endowment made these bus tours possible and allowed several of our students to participate in the conference of the New England Chapter of the 'Congress of New Urbanism' in the fall and 18 students to attend the "Better by Design Conference" jointly sponsored by Brown and RISD, for free. Our graduating senior Johanna Kramer conducted fascinating research in Jerusalem, others are currently at work on theses on New York's South Street Seaport, Urban Surveillance in London and city growth in Charlotte, SC. Two of our faculty members published books this year, Josh Paczewicz turned his PhD thesis into "Partisans and Partners" (University of Chicago Press) – an in depth look at American politics on the local level of two Iowa towns. We held a book launch for our faculty member Sandy Zipp, who, together with a colleague, edited the writings of Jane Jacobs, an important writer and activist about urban issues.

We look forward to another eventful and exciting semester.

Dietrich Neumann
Director of Urban Studies

From the DUG: Eddie Mansius and Tynesia Fields

Hello from the Urban Studies DUG! As your DUG leaders this semester, we are excited to see you around campus this spring and to welcome you to all of the exciting events we have planned. Last semester, we held our semesterly Welcome Back luncheon, brought students down the Hill to a home tour in the West End, and hosted an urban development-focused bus tour with Professor Bob Azar.

At the Welcome Back event, we took advantage of our bright and spacious seminar room in Macxy Hall to bring concentrators and faculty together to catch up after the summer. Over pizza, cookies, and coffee, everyone in the

department had the chance to share all the great experiences they had during the three months since the spring semester, as well as the goals and aspirations for their studies this academic year.

In early October, senior concentrator Ethan Blake came to the DUG with the idea to send interested students to the West Broadway Neighborhood Association's 3rd annual "Historic House Tour: Courts and Cottages." With generous support from the Urban Studies Program, the DUG purchased 10 tickets to the event, which opened up ten historic, well-preserved West End homes to the public. Despite the dreary (and

characteristic for Providence) weather, concentrators and their guests ventured to the neighborhood and thoroughly enjoyed the diverse historic housing stock on display, marveling at the inventiveness of some of the homes' use of space and means of rehabilitation.

The bus tour, covered more in-depth elsewhere in this issue was a continuation of the perennially-popular series of tours sponsored by the Urban Studies Program. For this one in particular, both concentrators and community members alike were able to hear the knowledgeable perspective of Professor Bob Azar, Deputy Director of the

City's Department of Planning & Development. Always a fantastic source of development insight, Professor Azar captured the imaginations of the attendees as the bus drove through various sections of Providence undergoing – or poised to undergo – meaningful physical change.



Dean of Berlin's School of Architecture teaches in Urban Studies

Professor Jörg Gleiter, a visiting Professor from the Technical University in Berlin, taught a course on Theory of Architecture and Urbanism in the fall. In our conversation, he reflected on the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, the future of cities, and his current book project.

You're on sabbatical in Providence to take a break from your usual duties as Dean of the architecture school and focus on writing your next book. What will it cover?

It is an introduction to architectural theory, but not just for architecture students or architects - It's for artists, for architectural historians, but also the general public. It spans from the 19th century to today, and its protagonists will mostly be architects who also wrote. Their writings are the basis of the primary chapters.

In the course I'm teaching, the students come from a variety of backgrounds, and I've talked about topics I'm writing about. It was very helpful to teach this class, as it provided me with views and reactions from outside of the field.

You've written extensively about the intersection of architecture and philosophy, specifically about Nietzsche as flaneur and the influence of the built environment on his work. Could you elaborate on how the city itself transformed Nietzsche's thinking?

Nietzsche is always considered a philosopher who went for long walks outside the city, in the countryside, in southern Switzerland, he was very attached to nature. I want to show that for the last phase of his life that changed - this is totally unknown.

This happened in the city of Turin, Italy. He came there by coincidence because he had to change trains. He stayed the night, and ended up spending almost a year in the city, (with the exception of his usual vacations in Switzerland). He started to become a city dweller, a flaneur. He talks in his diaries about the long walks he takes and how nice the city is; he says you can walk ten kilometers in the arcades with protection from sun as well as from rain. He sees Turin as the ideal city. He found something there that fascinated him. At the time the city was very much codified by French culture. It's about modernity, and he ends up shifting his affinities from German to French. Turin facilitated that. He connected with the French concept of modernity, of Paris and painting.

In the age of digital industrialization

and communication, is the need for the city a residual attachment from a bygone era? Do you envision an exodus to the rural?

I don't foresee any return, exactly, to the pastoral. Perhaps there will be a return to the countryside, but not in a nostalgic way. It's the next phase of revitalization. It is digital.

But the city is about culture. All culture is created in the context of the city. Never in the countryside, another part of society. Culture needs the tension, friction between different mentalities. Where you have no cultural settings, there is nothing happening. You need friction. Old money, new money. Where they clash, this is where culture is created. In this country, a lot of music is created to release the tension. It's fantastic. There must be competition. Friction is political; it's about gender issues, race issues, ethnicity.

The clash of different level of societies. The educated and the uneducated. Those who recently arrived from the countryside and those from the great universities.

The city both replicates and remedies these problems. It creates the tension. New York, for instance, is a city of immigrants, it is full of life - and problems which are part of its richness. The French mani-

festation of the city as modernity no longer holds true. Clearly in the 19th century the most modern metropolis was Paris or London, maybe New York. Then came Berlin. Now it's not about Europe or North America anymore, but about Africa and Asia, where you find demographic growth.

But still, Berlin right now is very fascinating. When I talk to old friends of mine from New York, their children are all going to Berlin now, because has become a different kind of melting pot. It is very open, very diverse, and there are a lot of possibilities. Prices are still low. If you travel on the subway in Berlin, you hardly hear any German. Sometimes you only hear Arabic, because we have such a large refugee population. I think there are currently 100,000 people from Syria and West Africa. And the city is growing by about 150,000 people each year. This creates a very positive atmosphere of growth. There are business opportunities. You open a café, and you cannot fail. You would have to do something really wrong not to be successful in Berlin nowadays.

Interview: Emma Phillips

West Africa: Urbanism, Informality, Materials. A new seminar in Spring '17

Mariam Kamara is an architect from Niamey, Niger, who is teaching a seminar on informal housing, architecture and urbanism in West Africa in the spring. She holds a BSc in Information Systems with a minor in Fine Arts from Purdue University, a Master in Computer Science from New York University, and a Master of Architecture from the University of Washington.

How did you come to Brown?

I got to Brown almost by accident. My husband took a position in the Computer Science Department. I came along, ended up meeting with Dietrich Neumann, and one thing led to another. Urban Studies expressed an interest in me teaching. My practice inherently involves research because I am constantly trying to find new answers. African cities carry the legacy of colonization. Especially the capital cities were planned by Western planners. From the beginning they were disconnected from the local culture and history and now we have to navigate and make a life in them. It creates all kinds of strange dynamics. I have been to many developing countries, and it is the same everywhere. The city is not adapted to the cultures that exist in it. That is why I am interested in rethinking it, all the way down to the cellular, architectural level, which is my main focus. Knowing, for example, where the edges between the sacred home and public life exist is not as straightforward as: oh there's a wall, this is my front door, this is where my house starts. You have to zoom out to the urban level and how everything interconnects. That's where my research comes in in terms of space and cultural behavior and the lack of connections.

The second aspect of my research is dedicated to materials. I come from a desert country, it's often a 110 degrees. Cement and concrete are insane to use - you literally cook in your house, but many think that's the way to do it. In most African countries, this issues emerges from confusing modernity with western technology and western culture. So it's about finding contemporary expressions, contemporary solutions that are based on what we have on hand and what truly makes sense with the local culture.

In cities that are still reflecting the colonial project, how do you use architecture to undo that violent history?

It's very difficult, because the problem is that the inhabitants of the cities don't realize what is going on. In an informal economy, people might just find a spot along a road and sit there and sell their wares. Instead of imagining a perfect, ideal vision of that initial colonial plan without street sellers, we now try to figure out ways to integrate them into the design process. We try to embrace what exists and respond to it. Let's say in a community weddings typically spill out into the street and block traf-

fic for days, then we accept that fact and integrate it into our planning approach. Or, we want to find a way for women to be in the street without being questioned or endangering their reputation. You have to be very careful, sensitive to the culture and not dogmatic. Otherwise you might suggest something, and it ends up not working because it is just too uncomfortable for the inhabitants. We favor a gentler way of slow change, not overnight. Little baby steps that seem completely benign and then slowly it starts becoming normal for people to see women walking or sitting in the street.

Do you utilize a model of participatory design?

Yes. I worked for some time with a group of local teenagers from a middle school. At the beginning I wasn't trying to get at anything, we just let them talk how they feel about their daily life and their walk from home to school. I gave them disposable cameras, and they documented their itinerary. It was interesting to see what they took pictures of, the things they paid attention to, enjoyed or disliked. We had fascinating dialogues about their comfort levels in different parts of the city. It is time to rethink how we live in a very fundamental way. Architects and urban designers have an important role to play there. I'm interested in exploring that at Brown. Too often architecture and urban design serves self-glorification - "Oh look, I made this cool thing" - instead we should be looking at human needs on a basic level and design for that, and speak to that.

Can architecture, as a historically western and male practice, integrate these inclusive designs that reimagine the very system that created it?

I think the way to approach that, is by not dwelling on it. Essentially, it is irrelevant at this point, whether it is male dominated or it has been a certain way. What matters more is what we are going to do moving forward. I actually do not spend any time thinking about that. I

do not cast myself as a woman architect. I am an architect. Period. I happen to be a woman, just like I happen to be black. None of that matters. A lot of times it ends up being counterproductive to dwell on the difference. It's not going to stop me from doing what I want to do. The urban design project that I did which explored gender issues, happened by accident. I didn't mean to focus on gender. I was just thinking about the experience I had as a teenager and how it would be so interesting, and that was that.

Interview: Emma Phillips

See Mariam's Blog at: <http://www.atelier-masomi.com/blog>



Alumni

Ceara O'Leary'06: urban planning in Texas and SW Detroit

How did Brown spike your interest in community design?

During my first semester in college I took Dietrich Neumann’s course on contemporary architecture and learned about the work of Rural Studio in Alabama. It’s a program founded my Samuel Mock-bee that uses the work of the students to build communities and resources. Learning about how architecture and design was doing good, something clicked in me, and from that point on I knew that was the path I wanted to pursue.

Then I went straight to grad school, and I have a Master’s degree in archi-tecture and city planning. It was im-portant for me to get a design degree that was situated in the larger conver-sation of politics and policy. My thesis work was related to community de-velopment and design in post Katrina New Orleans. When I was there, I went to Biloxi, Mississippi

My work in Biloxi was a year long. At the time, there weren’t many jobs in community design, but I got a job in the lower Rio Grande Valley. What was amazing about it is we were plug-ging into such a strong and well-root-ed network of community individuals.

We were doing planning work in the "Colonias," which are informally devel-oped neighborhoods where the devel-oper preys upon residents, and they don’t get the resources they deserve. It was also flooding and hurricane re-lated work because the colonias are situated on planes.

There are hundreds of colonias all along the border in Texas. Developers will build out the subdivision, but will exclude streetlights, proper drainage, and other basic necessities. Resi-dents will buy the homes under land contracts, and will not fully get the deed to their home, so the developer has no incentive to finish supplying the services, because they’re legally unincorporated.

So how did you end up moving from the Rio Grande into Detroit?

I was awarded the Rose Fellowship, it’s one of the most amazing early career opportunities for community designers. It’s a three-year position and that’s when I came to the Detroit Design Center. At the end of the fel-lowship I continued on and I’ve been here since.

Can you touch on the tension between old and new detroit, and using design as a project to revitalize without gentrify-ing?

There are so many people that have been fighting the good fight for de-cades. DCDC has been in action for 23 years, and I was able to plug right into some strong relationships. We’re at a mo-ment of transition, because community organizations were filling the gap that would normally be needs met by the city. The work that has been done has been phenomenal but it never makes up for the work done by a city government, but now we have a fully staffed planning department. That is once again playing the role that planning should play and bringing visionary projects to Detroit neighborhoods.

At the same time there are people that are excited to move into the cre-ative scene. So there is a little bit of a rub, people who have been here for a long time and have been working re-ally hard, and people who have come, myself included because they see a role for themselves here.

What is lucky about my job, and aligns with my own beliefs is that we, at the design center, prioritize collab-orative, participatory, and community engaged processes. It’s our job to cel-ebrate what’s come before while plan-ning for new projects. It’s really about intentionally building on what’s come before.

Could you share a bit about the project that you’re working on at the moment that uses participatory design?

We’re working at the moment in south-west Detroit, with Young Nation, a group that focuses on creating opportunities for youth in the neighborhood. It’s a mostly Latino neighborhood, one with gang activity, so Young Nation is all about creating outlets. So they hired us to redesign a small commercial build-ing and transform it into a community and business space. This group is most-ly known for the ally project, a project where they converted an empty lot into a street art and gallery space. It’s creat-ing a safe space for graffiti artists in the neighborhood.

We’re trying to bring that energy into the building.

Young Nation is so intentional about rep-

resentation. We have a working group of people that represent all types of people in the community. Seniors, skateboard-ers, artists. We meet monthly, and work through the process. We then go back as designers and develop the next itera-tion, there are many different layers of engagement in the process.

As Detroit occupies this alluring space of forbidden, post industrial, gritty revival-ist fruit, and creatives begin moving in, do you feel like repopulation is moving towards the creation of an equitable city, or is it developing in a segregated way?

Right now we are still losing population. Most people in Detroit would say we’re not at risk of displacement. We have a lot

of vacant land. A lot of people are of the position that we are a long way of from gentrification, we are talking a lot about cultural displacement. It’s more like our neighborhood seeing a whole new style of economic development that is not as inclusive. I think we have to be inten-tional to plan so there won’t be displace-ment in the future. The key is to ensure that affordable housing is integrated into all projects in the future.

Interview: Emma Phillips’17



Ceara O’Leary graduated from Brown in 2006 and went on to earn Masters degrees in Architecture and City & Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley. Ceara is now a Senior Project Manager at the Detroit Col-laborative Design Center (DCDC), where she held the En-terprise Rose Architectural Fellowship from 2012-2014. At DCDC, Ceara has worked on a range of community de-sign and development projects, including citywide plan-ning processes, neighborhood-scale ecodistricts, corridor revitalization projects and community gathering spaces.



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Faculty News

Robert Azar



Last fall, Visiting Associate Professor of the Practice in US, and Deputy Director of Planning of the City of Providence Robert Azar taught his class on "Downtown Development" and gave a guest lecture in the introductory course "The City." He also led one of our Urban Studies Bus Tour focusing on potential development sites in Providence. Professor Azar is teaching "Transportation: an Urban Planning Perspective" in the spring. In his day job as Providence's deputy planning director, he is working on the plan for the reconstruction of the 6-10 Connector highway, wrapping up the construction of the Downtown Circulation project, an initiative to improve mobility for vehicles, bikes and pedestrians throughout Downtown, and overseeing the review of several new development projects in the I-195 Redevelopment District.

Rebecca Carter

Assistant Professor of Urban Studies and Anthropology, Rebecca Carter is currently a fellow at Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study where she is completing a book examining the religious rituals of African Americans in New Orleans as they mourn and memorialize the dead, in particular the young black men who are most frequently the victims of homicide.



Howard Chudacoff



At the beginning of 2016, Howard Chudacoff published his latest book, "Changing the Playbook: How Power, Profit, and Politics Transformed College Sports," (U. of Illinois Press), and recently he completed work on the 11th edition of A People and a Nation. In the fall, he taught the first segment (1600-1870) of his sequence of lecture courses on American urban history. The second segment, in the fall of 2017, will cover the period 1870-1965.

Dietrich Neumann

Last semester, lectured in Barcelona in October, at a conference celebrating the 30th birthday of Mies van der Rohe's rebuilt Pavilion and in Kuwait City in December - about Kuwaiti Urban Planning and Architecture. From the 1940s onwards, thanks to the oil boom, the city experienced an Urban Renewal campaign more radical and thorough than anything happening in the US at the same time. On his way there, while changing planes in Doha, Qatar, Neumann came across a sibling of our Bluno! There are only three in the world. This one sits in the main hall of Doha Airport, a central hub for the Gulf region.



Hilary Silver



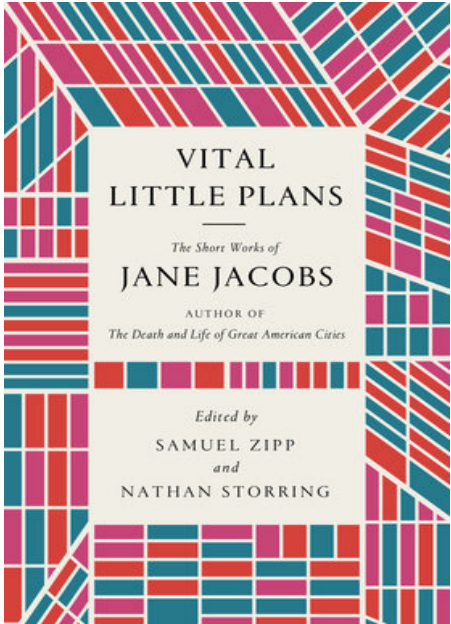
Hilary Silver accepted a position as chair of the Sociology Department at the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences at George Washington University. She came to Brown in 1984 with a PhD from Columbia and worked on urban sociology, housing and social policies, comparative stratification, social exclusion and poverty, both globally and locally. Her much acclaimed 2009 PBS documentary film "Southside: The Fall and Rise of an Inner-City Neighborhood" was followed in 2016 by a film about homelessness in Providence. She will remain involved in the department as Emerita and a member of PhD committees.



Farewell Party for Professor Hilary Silver on December. 10, 2016

Book launch at Ada Books on Westminster Street: Zipp Storing Jacobs

11.19.2016. No one did more to change how we look at cities than Jane Jacobs, the visionary urbanist and economic thinker whose 1961 book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* started a global conversation that remains profoundly relevant more than half a century later. *Vital Little Plans: the Short Works of Jane Jacobs* is an essential companion to this volume, as well as Jacobs's other books on urbanism, economics, politics, and ethics. It offers readers a unique survey of her entire career in forty short pieces that have never been collected in a single volume, from charming and incisive urban vignettes from the 1930s to the raw materials of her two unfinished books of the 2000s, together with introductions and annotations by editors Urban Studies Professor Samuel Zipp and Nathan Storing.



to universal health care.

Readers will find classics here, including Jacobs's breakout article "Downtown Is for People," as well as lesser-known gems like her speech at the inaugural Earth Day and a host of other rare or previously unavailable essays, articles, speeches, interviews, and lectures. Some pieces shed light on the development of her most famous insights, while others explore topics rarely dissected in her major works, from globalization to feminism

With this book, published in Jacobs's centenary year, contemporary readers—whether well versed in her ideas or new to her writing—are finally able to appreciate the full scope of her remarkable voice and vision. At a time when urban life is booming and people all over the world are moving to cities, the words of Jane Jacobs have never been more significant. *Vital Little Plans* weaves a lifetime of ideas from the most prominent urbanist of the twentieth century into a book that's

"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

"[Jane Jacobs] was one of three people I have met in a lifetime of meeting people who had an aura of sainthood about them. . . . The ability to radiate certainty without condescension, to be both very sure and very simple, is a potent one, and witnessing it in life explains a lot in history that might otherwise be inexplicable."

—Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*

"Jane Jacobs saw the city like no other, and her observational genius, practical wisdom, and moral courage are on full display here, making this brilliantly curated book essential reading."

—Matthew Desmond, New York Times bestselling author of *Evicted*



The book launch at Ada Books, 717 Westminster Street. on November 19, 2016: Urban Studies Professor Sandy Zipp and his co-author Nathan Storing took turns reading from Jane Jacobs short essays to a full house of enthusiastic listeners.

Urban Studies Bus Tours

12.9.2016: "Hard Hat Tour" of South Street Landing Power Station

The tour focused on the South Street Landing Project, the spectacular restoration of the old South Street Power Station on the Providence River Front, consisting of approximately 265,000 square feet of academic and office space divided evenly between Brown University's Administrative Offices, the Nursing Education Center for Providence College and URI. Some of the interior spaces are absolutely breath-

taking (for example the lightshafts bringing daylight from the roof into the center), and so are many of the views toward Providence (for example from the former Turbine Hall, the future cafe). In the image on the right is the entire group on the roof terrace in front of the Providence skyline. (Led by Dietrich Neumann, Director of Urban Studies)



11.18.2016: Making Space, Making Place: Graffiti, Street Art, and Murals in Providence

November 18, 2016: This tour considered the community context and historical connotations of graffiti, as well as the aesthetic and political implications of the demarcations of legality. Bloch, in conversation with Alice of the Avenue Concept, Providence's legal graffiti yard, fleshed out the ramifications of privileging some forms of street art over others, and what it means to sanction or criminalize an aestheticization of space.

community members to reconsider the lens through which certain modes of marking space are criminalized or devalued while others are reified or actively endorsed by state actors.

(Led by Stefano Bloch, Presidential Diversity Fellow in Urban Studies)

While sharing the history of graffiti in Los Angeles, and invoking examples grounded in Providence, Bloch invited



10. 28. 2016: Development Opportunities in Providence

This tour provided an overview of exciting new projects on the drawing board or under construction in downtown Providence and several adjacent neighborhoods. Six new hotels are currently being planned or built. The first one to get off the ground is a Hilton's Homewood Suites on the triangular lot at Burnside Park, Memorial Boulevard and Exchange Street, the second one, a Residence Inn by Marriott will replace the soon to be demolished Fogarty Building on Sabin Street. There are plans for a Best Western Glow on Washington

Street and a Holiday Inn Express on Pine Street. The group also looked at and discussed several sites for future development on the former I195 land, such as the Wexford Technology Center and a residential project right behind the Iron & Russel Building at Chestnut and Clifford Streets, which is currently being renovated.

(Led by Robert Azar Visiting Associate Professor of Practice in Urban Studies and Deputy Director of Planning for the City of Providence.)



Robert Azar (foreground) and Dietrich Neumann on Azar's bus tour through Providence on October 28, 2016)

Undergraduate Students

Kyle Tildon'19: The Racial Map of Baltimore



Tildon is a Sophomore and hopeful Afriicana and Urban Studies concentrator from Baltimore, Maryland. He has such an interest in Urban Studies because space is the one thing in existence that everyone has no choice but to interact

with and be shaped by. By studying those influencing factors and what creates the space that is so crucial in influencing identities, groups and even nations, he hopes to better understand human behavior as well as to begin rein-

venting space to work to the advantage of those most disenfranchised by it.

These are his reflections on race relations in the city he calls home.

The forceful movement of Black Baltimoreans through racist segregation ordinances that Baltimore's government pioneered, and were quickly copied by many other Southern cities, have left lasting marks on Baltimore's racial geographic makeup. The west side of the City is still overpopulated in the very locations (the 17th Ward specifically) where Black residents were forced to move.

Comparing Baltimore's racial map today with the racial map that has been described of 1910-'17 the similarities are shocking. With the initial push of the Baltimore Negro Segregation Ordinances (BNSO'S) to sequester Black families to the Northwest side of the City, lasting impressions on the city were made. The urban squalor that these ordinances promoted by forcing the rapidly growing Black population into small and

constrained sections of the city while also not providing quality and affordable housing perpetuated the cycle of systematic disenfranchisement of Blacks in Baltimore for the monetary gain and comfort of white Baltimore.

It is also no coincidence that the areas most directly effected by the Protests coincide perfectly with the areas where the BNSO's forced Black Baltimoreans to live. Uneven development was propagated through these racist ordinances and maintained to today, where we can see the underdevelopment of land with vacant properties and high density living environments on the West side of the city.

Melissa Isidor'17: Vertical Farming

This fall semester, I have been involved in a Departmental Independent Study Course on vertical farming. Through my courses as a senior urban studies concentrator, I have been exposed to the growing demands for urban agriculture and localized food systems. Vertical farming, which is defined as the indoor growing of plants in vertically stacked units, is a relatively new industry—particularly in the United States. Over the semester, my course partner Sierra Clark and I have been exploring the social, environmental, and economic potential of the vertical farming in an evolving food industry.

The DISP was designed to break away

from a writing based format and focus on more experiential learning. Over the course of the semester, Sierra and I have incorporated field trips, presentations, and meetings with professionals in the industry.

In October we traveled to Chicago to visit the Plant, which is a facility in a repurposed warehouse. Below you see Sierra outside the building. In addition, Sierra and I also took a trip up to Boston to visit Freight farms, a company that is building vertical farms in repurposed shipping containers.

Through the course, we also conducted a "Lunch and Learn" series in which we

hosted multiple presentations to engage with other students and faculty about our study, ranging from presentations focusing on the mechanical components of a vertical farm to their social implications in urban neighborhoods.

As the course wrapped up, we hosted a final panel event with Dickson Despommier, author of "The Vertical Farm: Feeding the World in the 21st Century" and David is President, CEO, and Director of Indigo, a Boston based start-up focused at the intersection of biotechnology and agriculture. For our final project we built a prototype of a vertical farm model.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about this DISP, feel free to email me at, melissa_isidor@brown.edu.



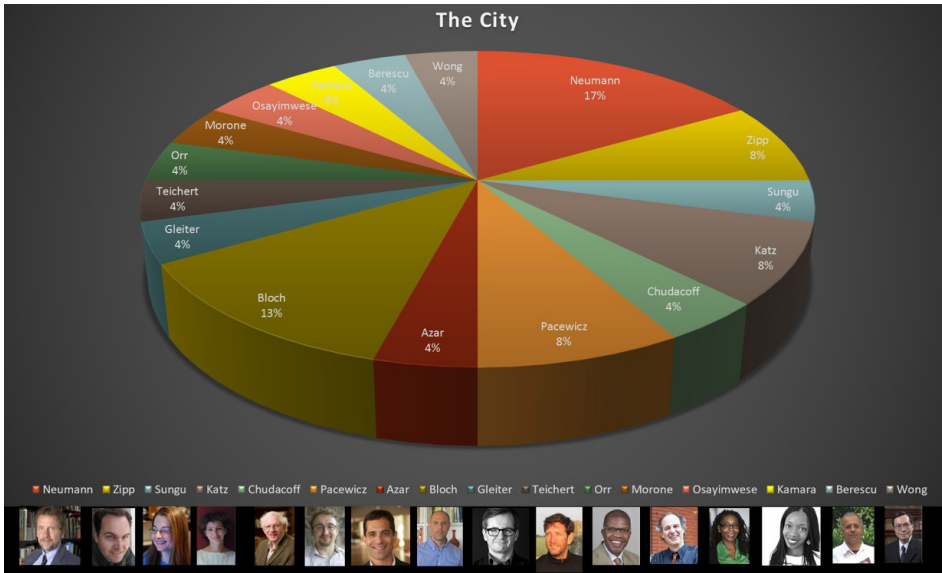
Fall 2016 Courses & Events

Setting a record - 16 professors in one class: URBN 0210 "The City"

Urban Studies Faculty

This introductory course to Urban Studies was taught this past fall for the second time in its new format and it doubled its enrollment from 65 to 125. Led by Prof. Neumann, it included lectures by all Urban Studies faculty who presented their views of the field. It thus offered an interdisciplinary approach to the history, physical design, spatial form, economy, government, cultures, and social life of cities worldwide. The 16 different speakers addressed questions such as: which are the most urgent issues facing cities today? How will continued

urban growth affect the environment? How can we learn from historic approaches to urban planning? Which are the most promising solutions to relieve urban inequality? What can be learned from 'informal housing' developments? We looked at examples from the US, Africa, Asia, Europe, at the history of Urban Planning and the international style of urban poverty in informal settlements around the world. At the same time, we explored solutions in places as different as Capetown, Bogota and Delhi.



URBN 1000: Fieldwork in the Urban Community

Josh Pacewicz

This one of our program's signature classes, as it connects students with the real issues of the urban world they live in. Each student undertakes a fieldwork project in close collaboration with a government agency, a nonprofit association, or a planning firm, thereby simultaneously engaging with community and learning qualitative research methods

skills. In weekly seminar meetings, the class examines a series of urban issues and discusses fieldwork methodology. Outside of class, students scheduled regular individual appointments with the instructor and produce a final research paper and report.

URBN 1220: Planning Sustainable Cities

Yesim Sungu-Eryilmaz

What does sustainability mean in the context of degraded urban areas? Can sustainable development be achieved in cities? This course offers a comprehensive, yet critical understanding of the competing theories and practices of

sustainable development as applied to cities. Topics include sprawl, energy-efficient transportation, brownfields, community land trusts, green architecture, renewable energy, air and water pollution, and waste recycling.

Record numbers in URBN 1230: Crime and the City

Stefano Bloch

This course focuses on crime and the making of urban space, as well as how the making of urban space helps to create and categorize criminal subjects and the concept of cultural criminality. In addition to looking at the geography of race, class, and power in a contemporary US setting, this past semester the course also focused on gang identity and performance, police tactics and territoriality, graffiti as an act of spatial transgression,

homelessness, and notions of socio-spatial justice. As Stefano Bloch points out, studying crime is about studying space, and vice versa.

In the fall of 2016, the course had a record enrollment of 400 students - capped due to the number of available teaching assistants.

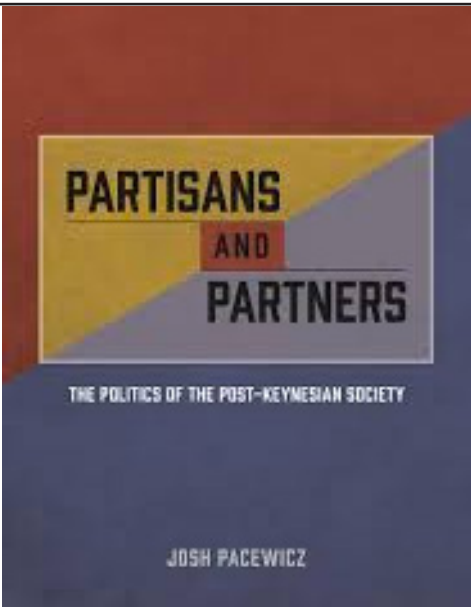
For more information, visit:

<https://www.brown.edu/academics/urban-studies/courses>

Book Panel: Monday October 3, 2016

Josh Pacewicz

The Politics of the Post-Keynesian Society (University of Chicago Press, 2016). Josh had another book launch on November 7, 2016 at NYU's Institute for Public Knowledge in New York City.



Lecture: Thursday, October 20, 2016

Jonathan Coppage
Death by Chain? New England's Endangered Local Retail and Small Business

Lecture: Thursday, October 27, 2016

Rashad Shabazz
Spatializing Blackness: Architectures of Confinement and Black Masculinity in Chicago



Lecture: Friday, November 11, 2016

Matthew Heins
Detroit, Inequality and New Forms of Displacement

Lecture: Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Stefano Bloch
Revanchist Injunctions: Do Civil Gang Injunctions Reveal a Race-Based Gentrification?

