

# Planning@LSE

*An annual newsletter bringing you news and views from current students, alumni, past directors and the world of urban planning at the LSE.*

Newsletter

ISSUE 28

## Director's Update

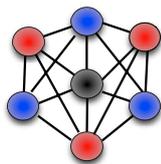
*A few thoughts and ideas about how the year has progressed, updates on the programme and news about planning in London. It has been an eventful year for the programme and the capital!*

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## Events

*Follow what we have done this year to promote and network with our students*

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## Olympic Legacy?

*Professor Andrew Thornley reflects on what legacy the Olympic Games may bring to London. This short article also appears in the Spring 2011 issue of LSE Research Magazine*

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## Planning Society



*Check out what our terrific planning society has been up to!*

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## Alumni Updates

*Wondered what your old classmates were up to? Curious about what RUPS students go on to do? This section is for you!*

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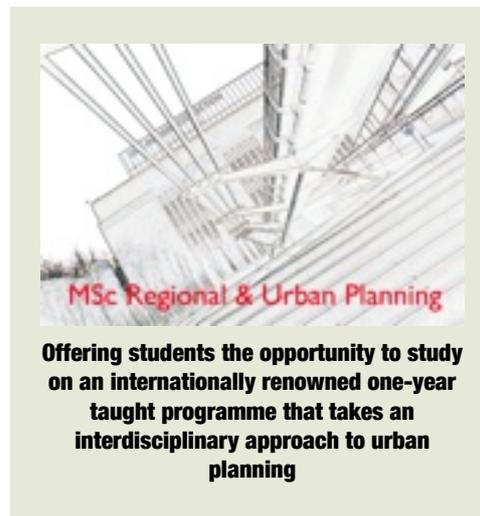


# Director's Update

It has been a very exciting year for the MSc in Regional and Urban Planning Studies and for London! On the programme we have seen a terrific new intake of students who have been fun to teach and exciting to learn from. In London we have seen the Occupy movement take over St Paul's Cathedral and the Capital erupt with the excitement of the Olympic games.

## Field-trips and walks abound!

To begin with the MSc we have tried to build on activities that the students have always told us they valued. We have therefore added to our tried and trusted walks around London with Andy and Derek. This year we also went on guided walks in Covent Garden, King's



**Offering students the opportunity to study on an internationally renowned one-year taught programme that takes an interdisciplinary approach to urban planning**

Cross and the Docklands and a fantastic weekend field trip to Manchester led by Alan Mace and one of this year's cohort of students Zoe Savory. We also returned to Istanbul for the spring!

## Research work for the students

This year also saw us employ a few of our students on some very interesting research into the Value of Conservation Areas, which you can all see if you follow this [link](#). This was very

successful and we hope to repeat this exercise this year with some additional research!

## London in the news

London too saw a great deal of activity in 2011-2012. The Occupy movement came to London in October of 2011 and took over the space surrounding St Paul's Cathedral until February 2012. The Guardian newspaper has some great coverage and a good collection of blogs if you are interested in reading [more](#).

The Olympic games also came to London amongst fears from Londoners that the tube would never cope! But the games were, by all accounts, a success and, from personal experience, people on the tube were never friendlier. Now of course the question is what will the legacy be? Our own Andy Thornley shares his thoughts later in the newsletter.

-Dr. Nancy Holman



# Reflecting on the future

*Real generosity towards the future lies in giving all to the present.*

— *Albert Camus*

Each year we try to bring together past alumni and leaders in planning and property with our current intake of students. We do this through special evening events and through our seminar series *GY450 Planning Practice and Research*, which runs in the Michaelmas Term. We could not do this without the kind generosity of alumni and friends of the programme who give up their time to come and be involved. We would like to give our thanks to these folks here.

## **GY450 Planning Practice & Research**

Our seminar series that offers students the opportunity to hear from people working in planning many of whom are programme alumni - for this we would like to thank:

**Heather Topel**, Director of Planning at AECOM; **Alexander Jan**, Head of Transport at Arup; **Katharine Burgess**, Senior Consultant at Turnberry

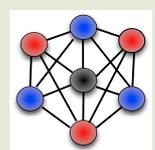
Consulting; **Tom Carter**, Laswell Associates; **William McKee**, Chairman of Tilfen Land; **Stelios Rodoulis**, Transport Planner London 2012; **Anne Koeman**, Associate Director at LaSalle Investment; and **Dr. Margo Huxley**, immanent scholar in planning Queen Mary University London.

## **Meet the Employers Evening**

We also organise an event for students to meet with employers. This is an important networking event where students can hear more about jobs, graduate traineeships and internships with companies specialising in planning and property. We would like to thank our attendees at this year's event:

**Voon Fui Lai**, Senior Associate at Gensler; **Sara Dilmamode**, Director at PolicyDevelopers.com; **Irina Kraicheva**, Analyst at Property Market Analysis; **Rachel Bramwell**, Graduate Planner at AECOM; **Thomas Winter**, Planner at

AECOM; **Katharine Burgess**, Senior Consultant at Turnberry Consulting; **William McKee**, Chairman of Tilfen Land; **Aaron Davis**, Environmental Analyst at EBRD; **Dave Lawrence**, Economist at Roger Tym & Partners; **Alexa Baden-Powell**, Graduate Trainee at BNP Paribas; **Federica Ambosini**, Senior Planner at Jones Lang LaSalle; **Duko Frankhuizen**, Graduate Surveyor at DTZ; and **Meaghan Lomenick**, Assistant Consultant at DTZ



**If you would like to get involved in one of these events please let us know!**

OLYMPIC LEGACY?

---Prof. Andrew Thornley

The potential legacy of the London Olympic Games was a major feature of the original bid, and one of the important elements that contributed to its success. It has been claimed that London's legacy proposals are receiving more attention in the period before the Games than in any other previous host city, but will the expectations be realised? Although we can learn from previous Games, we can only speculate until after London's have taken place. However, [Andrew Thornley](#) argues that the whole issue of legacy is so vague and difficult to assess that we are never likely to get a clear objective conclusion.

**Can legacy be defined and measured?**

There is a long history of cities using the [Olympic Games](#) to obtain some lasting physical benefit for their city. The early examples such as [Rome](#) (1960) and [Tokyo](#) (1964) focused on transport facilities. From around 2000 the [International Olympic Committee](#) itself began to get more interested in the impact of the Games on the host cities and has introduced a detailed system of indicators and monitoring. However, the concept of legacy remains extremely vague and encompasses many different aspects. At a broad level, legacy is discussed in terms of how the Games can change the image of a city, or indeed the country, in which it is located. This can be in terms of allowing a city to escape from an image based upon an outdated industrial past (such as [Barcelona](#)), or enabling a host to demonstrate its modernity and managerial proficiency (such as [Beijing](#) and China). Even so, the success of such an image change will be particularly difficult to quantify in precise terms.

A second dimension of legacy that attracts considerable attention is employment generation. This comprises the short-term jobs in the construction for the Games and the longer-term benefits from changes in economic activity such as tourism. Estimates of the employment impacts of past Games have usually been controversial as they are difficult to determine with accuracy.

Then there is the physical legacy, which can encompass the actual venues and transport facilities as well as the broader notion of area regeneration. In discussing legacy it is therefore necessary to specify what aspects are being included. In this case we will focus on the physical aspects.

It is necessary to acknowledge that there will also be some negative aspects of legacy – sometimes called the “dark side” . These are often ignored and they



are particularly difficult to quantify. For example, there is the issue of the concentration of resources on the Olympic site which

generally involves a shift away from other potential projects and locations. Sometimes, as in Athens, this can create regional hostilities as development resources are diverted to the Olympic programme. The eviction of existing communities also evokes hostilities and needs to be analysed in the legacy assessment.

Most Games have also been the catalyst for a process of gentrification – either through the use of the Athletes' village or through the upgraded image of the surrounding area. In many cases this can be regarded as the most prominent physical legacy. This raises the question of value judgements. For some, this legacy would be regarded as an indication of a highly successful urban regeneration impact as the whole area is transformed with higher quality housing and services, while others would see the



process in negative terms, focusing on the dislocation of the existing communities. Thus any evaluation of legacy is likely to be partial, only covering certain aspects, inconclusive, due to difficulties of measurement, and value laden.

**The Games in broader context**

Another difficulty in assessing the Olympic legacy is that putting on the Games takes place within a broader ongoing financial and planning process. There are interactions between this broader process and the Olympic project, and it is difficult to identify the exact impact of the Games as a discrete entity. One of the lessons of past Games is that in nearly all cases the materialisation of the legacy that has been promised depends greatly on the budget conditions. Nearly all Games underestimate costs at the early stage – perhaps in the hope of improving the chances of winning the bid or pacifying citizens who may not be happy with high expenditure. Then, as the preparation years progress, increasing financial problems arise. The common approach to at least partially solving this problem is to sell off assets after the Games to the highest bidder. This has again and again meant that promised social and public benefits have not materialised.

Another contextual issue that makes it difficult to assess the extent of the urban regeneration legacy is that some or all of the infrastructure construction and other projects might have occurred regardless of the Olympics. Thus, it can be difficult to isolate the direct impact of the Olympics per se. In some cases, the Olympics can be seen as a way of unlocking an existing plan (Barcelona), but in other cases (Beijing) the state would probably have transformed the area anyway. The difficulty in extracting the impact of the Olympic Games project from the broader urban processes and investment means that any assessment will be approximate and open to interpretation and political influence.

**The London Case**

How many of these issues are likely to arise in London? What do the portents look like at this stage? There have been a number of legacy plans over the last five years alongside many institutional changes. In the official bid document, the legacy aspect focused on the urban regeneration of an impoverished part of East London, the creation of a major new park, and 4,300 housing units inherited from the [Athletes' village](#).

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The London Development Agency then commissioned the Legacy Masterplan Framework to provide more detail, and this was published in 2007. The framework proposed removing many of the venues after the Games but retaining the velodrome, the swimming complex and the main stadium. The last would be reduced in size and continue in use as an athletics venue. The framework also included suggestions to transform the media centre into commercial space, to create a secondary school and sports academy in the main stadium, to open an Olympic University, and to construct primary schools and a further 10,000 homes across the site in addition to recycling the Athletes' village.

Since then, however, we have had the financial crisis of 2008, a new London mayor, and a new national government with a programme of public sector cuts. The original plan for the Athletes' village was that it would be built by a private company but that after the Games 50 per cent of the housing would be allocated as "affordable" under the policy of the then-Mayor, Ken Livingstone. But because of the financial crisis the company could not raise money for the development and the government had to underwrite it. The underwriting has been done on the basis that after the Games the housing can be sold on the market to recoup public expenditure. In addition, the new Mayor, Boris Johnson, is not pursuing the affordable housing strategy. Thus London would seem to be following the pattern of past Games in which the promised social legacy becomes lost in the budget calculations.

Meanwhile, the institutional arrangement for the legacy has also been changing. In 2009, a new organisation was set up called the Olympic Park Legacy Company, which is half controlled by central government and half by the Mayor. The new company has been reviewing the Legacy Masterplan Framework; it wants more family housing and is seeking private sector offers for the main stadium. This process saw two bidders for the

stadium: West Ham and Tottenham Hotspur. The decision of the [Olympic Park Legacy company](#) went to West Ham as they proposed retaining the athletics track. Tottenham are currently appealing this decision. It is also presenting the post-Olympics park as a London-wide attraction and suggesting that it could become a major tourist attraction. Some will detect in all of this a shift in the legacy approach – from one that focuses on public housing and urban renewal to one that focuses on market forces and gentrification.

Boris Johnson, meanwhile, has proposed a new authority to take over the legacy function – the Olympic Park Legacy Company would become the [Mayoral Development Corporation](#), which he would control. He has suggested to central government that this should form part of their decentralisation strategy. One of the key tensions over legacy in the coming years will be between the authority responsible for the legacy of the Olympic site itself, whether the Olympic Park Legacy Company or the Mayoral Development Corporation, and the authorities responsible for the regeneration of the wider area – the councils that run the five host boroughs. The former will be focused on making the most of the assets, while the latter will be more concerned about the impact on the poor communities around the site.

At the end of the day, the urban regeneration of this part of London will have less to do with the Olympics than other plans and decisions that have been taken. The plan to regenerate the area preceded the award of the Olympics bid. The area has undergone a massive change in transport facilities and accessibility, including the Jubilee Line extension, Docklands Light Railway, high-speed rail, and Crossrail. These have had a huge impact on the attractiveness of the area for investment and development. For example, the [Stratford City development](#) which gained its planning permission in 2004 – a year before London won the Olympics – has been described as one of the largest development projects in Europe and will include a vast amount of office

space and the third largest retail centre in London.

So what can the Olympics add to this transformation? There will of course be the retained venues and the park, but it could be said that its main contribution will be to the process rather than to the actual physical legacy. The Games will have ensured that all the agencies and levels of government worked together and that land acquisition and reclamation were pursued in a speedy fashion. It will also have ensured that the resources continued to flow to the project even against the background of economic crisis and changes in political leadership at both national and London level.

**Professor Andrew Thornley** is emeritus professor of planning at the London School of Economics and former Director of Planning Studies.





It's hard to believe our degree is already over, but the 2012 RUPS MSc. class have written our last exams, handed in our dissertations, and returned our toppling piles of library books. But, besides completing an academic season, our class's Planning Society has also come to an end. Personally, I couldn't have imagined my year without this extracurricular aspect of our programme. I'd like to take a few paragraphs to share the things we did and some of the memories we created!

A highlight were our walks through London, which were organised in collaboration with the RUPS department. Our first walk with Prof. Andy Thornley meandered us along the Southbank, and our next walk with Prof. Derek Diamond took us through The City. Next, Jim Monahan provided perspective on the history of Covent Garden. Near the end of the Michaelmas Term, Dr. Alan Mace took us on a very informative walk of the King's Cross Area, familiarising us with the changes experienced by the local communities during the site's massive regeneration. Finally, in the depths of London's winter, RUPS alumni Nick Jeffrey took

the crew for a walk from The City into the Docklands, sharing with us the way history, politics and finance have influenced development along the Thames.

Besides exploring London, the Planning Society also went beyond the M25! In January, we went to Manchester for a weekend. On Saturday, we received another excellent tour from Alan Mace regarding the regeneration of the (post-industrial) city centre. That evening, we had a fun dinner out on Curry Mile, before heading back to our hostel in a converted dock area. On Sunday, we visited Salford where we visited The Salford Quays, and heard strong perspectives on the impact the new BBC development has had on the surrounding deprived communities. In between, we managed to visit the Salford Lad's Club!

Manchester was a great preparation for our RUPS annual study trip. This year we went to Istanbul! When Lent Term classes ended, 22 students travelled to the Turkish hub for a week long academic programme. On our first day, we met with one of EMBARQ's

Directors, Sibel Bulay, to learn about the Bus Rapid Transit they have helped implement to relieve the city of its heavy congestion. After a fun ride on the BRT, we headed to the CBRE office for a lecture about commercial real estate in Istanbul from the company's property guru himself, Managing Director Feroze Bundhun. From him, we learned how things like transportation improvements and an appetite for high-quality office space is changing the city's landscape.

Following these presentations, we participated in a four day workshop at the Mimar Sinan Guzel Sanatlar Universitesi (MSGSU), where former RUPS graduate Murat Yalçintan is a professor. Collaborating with local students in small group settings, we investigated the changes happening to the Beyoğlu Peninsula from different perspectives, and reported back to each other at the end of the week. It was a great way to look at issues of gentrification from a different cultural lens, and to learn about local opinions from the students' perspectives.

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It certainly was an informative trip! And on top of all that, we managed to find time to see historic sights, discover the delicious Turkish cuisine, enjoy a Turkish Bath, drink many cups of tea, and find a place or two to dance!

Upon our return to the UK, and as final papers, studying for exams, and writing our dissertations dominated the days, the Planning Society's focus shifted to more social affairs. One highlight was a "pub quiz" organised for the RUPS and Cities students where our quiz masters Ann (RUPS) and Max (Cities) kept us entertained with a series of urban-related questions and tunes. Another highlight was our post-exam congratulatory barbecue. Despite freezing June temperatures and cutting winds, we managed to cook our food by flame and have a lot of fun together! Although many classmates drifted away once the summer started, those of us around enjoyed our biweekly "Dissertation & Drinking" nights, a space to talk about challenges and triumphs associated with our research, before sharing a glass or two! These events certainly helped us feel connected to things other than our laptops and journal articles, and made us feel like we were facing our daunting academic tasks together.

A final great thing about the year was connecting with alumni and other professionals in the field. In Michaelmas Term, we shared drinks with former RUPS students near the LSE and in Lent Term we held a Meet the Employers session on campus. Both these events were an excellent way to get a better idea of what RUPS graduates do, and augmented the in-class alumni presentations and the LinkedIn group. As we now move into the "alumni" category, we hope these traditions can continue so those students still based in London can continue to be involved in RUPS.

Although these more organised social and academic events helped make the year great, the best part was just getting to know the rest of our classmates. From

exploring new places in London, to celebrating each other's birthdays, to support over our ever-active Facebook Group, and to long and distracting talks in S400, we've all come away with new friends around the globe, with whom we'll surely cross paths with again soon. Best of luck to everyone with the next steps, we all are smart and interesting people with many good things ahead. Keep in touch, and we'll dance the night away together again sometime soon!

#### Thank you's

A few of direct thank you's for helping this year be such an excellent one:

**Nancy Holman**, for her guidance and interest in what the Planning Society was up to.

**Alan, Andy, Derek, Nick, and Jim** for their walks and tours.

**Zoe Savory** for spearheading the Manchester trip and introducing us to her connections in Salford.

**Hector Cordero** for coordinating our visit to EMBARQ.

**Max Walmsley** for coordinating our visit to CBRE.

**The Istanbul Trip Planning Committee:** Irène Fossé, Leona Lynen, Hector Cordero, Max Walmsley, David Gundry, Syd Wayman, and Caitlin Allan.

**Ann Gavaghan** for organising the Pub Quiz night and the Dissertation and Drinking sessions.

**David Gundry** for acting as our Student Representative to the Geography & Environment Department

**Irène Fossé** and **Savannah Kuchera** for providing the newsletter photos

And, last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to **Floriane Ortega**, the Society's treasurer, and **Syd Wayman**, the Society's secretary, who were also behind a lot of other details along the way/

--Caitlin Allan, President of the Society



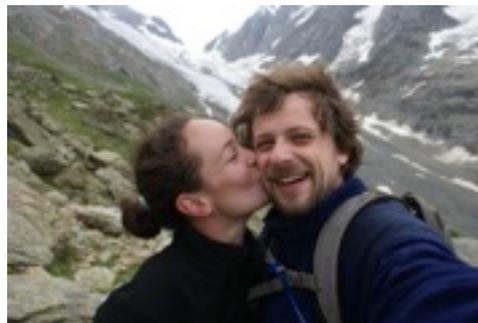
First a quick word on LinkedIn – for those of you who have not yet joined please do consider linking to our bespoke LinkedIn Group. We have 217 members and I think the group is proving useful to members!

**Sarah Zouheir** (RUPS & SciencesPo) has had a very exciting year working with Gilles Kepel to publish a book *Banlieue de la République*. The Economist has published a piece on this.

**Caroline de Francqueville & Teis Hansen** (Both RUPS and pictured above) Will be getting married in Denmark in 2013! The met on the programme and are perhaps one of the sweetest couples ever!

**John Dailey** (URPS) is currently the president of JDA Strategies and a Commissioner for Leon County in Florida.

**Marga Macian-Fillat** (URPS) Is married with two daughters, Itzel aged 3 and Jana who is 9 months old. She worked for 11 years at Barcelona Regional a public company working on planning and transport infrastructure. Unfortunately, with the economic crisis and public spending cuts she was made



redundant. Sobering news about how deeply this crisis can reach.

**Pablo Navarete** (RUPS & SciencesPo) is working as a Transport Planner at the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications in Chile and is teaching courses on Urban Design and Urban Policy at the Universidad San Sebastian.

**Jutta (Schaber) Jungwirth** (RUPS) is working at Obermeyer Planen + Beraten in Munich. Much of her work takes her to China and the UAE. Personally she got married last September to Jorg.

**Johannes Brekke** (RUPS) Is still working for the Norwegian Ministry for Trade but now as the Minister's speech writer.

**Anne Koeman** (RUPS) Anne began a career in property research in 2006, which has kept her in East London where she now lives with her boyfriend. She is currently on her 3rd job now working for LaSalle Investment Management. Here she helps clients and internal investment managers make sense of European commercial property markets. Over time, Anne has become



more of a macro-economist and less of a planner, but she remains passionate about exploring cities.

**William Bacon** (RUPS) is working as a Transportation Planner for the San Francisco County Transportation Authority.

**Iftikhar Ali Shallwani** (RUPS) Is working in Buenos Aires in the Embassy of Pakistan. He has two sons, Hassan and Hamza.

**Aaron Davis** (RUPS) Ended a 10 month consultancy position with EBRD which took him to Russia. He now has taken a job with the Prince's Foundation in the urban design.

**Meaghan Lomenick** (RUPS) is working for DTZ as an Assistant Consultant in the Corporate Real Estate Consulting Team. She works with a range of public and private sector clients producing options appraisals for international portfolios, surplus lease liability disposals and supply chain reengineering.

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**Elisa (Penn) Rose** (RUPS) Finished her law degree in May and presented a paper on legal geography on boundaries, frontiers and indigeneity in film and case law. She begins clerking in the autumn. She and her husband Brian are also building a log cabin in the woods.

**Juliana Estrada** (RUPS) Is working for FINDETER, Columbia's National Development Bank in projects related to social housing for the internally displaced. She is also co-ordinating the Bank's new project called Sustainable Competitive Cities. She has now moved to Jakarta with her boyfriend and will be exploring opportunities there!

**Katharine Burgess** (RUPS) Is continuing her work with Turnberry consulting but is leaving the UK. She will return to the US where she will be charged with growing the office.

**Antoine Pequignot** (RUPS & Sciences Po) is continuing to work for Systra as a transport planning consultant in Paris. He works on a variety of studies including a feasibility study for an aerial tram service to an isolated area in the ile de France; a bicycle masterplan for a city of 270,000 people and a project to improve railway accessibility for users with special needs in Lyon.

**Aashka Shah** (RUPS) is working at the Centre of Excellence in Urban Transport at the University of Ahmedabad, India.

**Stelios Rodoulis** (RUPS) has left a very successful ten month appointment with LOCOG as the London Heathrow Terminal 4 Deputy Venue Transport Manager for a new position with SKM Colin Buchanan as a transport planner. He and his partner Brenda also welcomed new baby Jasmine to the world in January. Please see photo above – proving without a doubt that RUPS babies are gorgeous!

**Hélène Rodriguez Sherman** (RUPS) is still working for Pact an international NGO based in DC. She supports their programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. The work in DRC focuses on minerals traceability

and social and economic development for small scale mining communities. To further prove my point that RUPS babies are really very lovely she and her husband had EK just over a year ago (again see photo!)

**Darinka Czischke** (RUPS) has guest edited a special issue of Housing Studies on the theme of 'social enterprise and hybridity in housing organisations'. She is currently completing her PhD at the Faculty of Architecture, Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands).

**Harshit Magon** (RUPS) still works with Jones Lang LaSalle in India and has been promoted to Senior Executive within the Strategic Consulting division. He provides advisory services on Education, Healthcare and Senior Living Space and is actively involved in transaction management services for corporate clients.

#### News from the Directors

**Nancy Holman** I have continued my work with the Convention on Biodiversity and the creation of the [Cities' Biodiversity Index](#). I serve as one of the technical task force of experts on biodiversity, landscape planning, and urban governance.

I have also had a busy year with research. My colleague Gabriel Ahfeldt and I have just completed a large research project on the value of conservation areas (historic districts) in England. We are taking the qualitative portion of this work further next year with additional case study research.

I have also just published a paper on the localism agenda with Professor Yvonne Rydin on what social capital might tell us about planning under localism. This is currently out in the journal *Local Government Studies*.

**Andrew Thornley** In addition to providing teaching on the MSc Andy has been very busy publishing! His book *Planning World Cities* (written with Peter Newman) was published, in a much-revised second edition, in 2011.

His other book on world cities – a collaborative venture – will be published later this year by University of

Minnesota Press in their Globalization and Community book series.

He has, of course been following the Olympics. A version of his paper on the Barcelona model given at a seminar at the University of Neuchâtel in 2011 was published in *Review Urbanisme* No 383. He also wrote a piece on the legacy of the London Olympics - 'The 2012 London Olympics. What legacy?' *Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure & Events* 4(2) July. This was also the theme of a talk given to the Catalan Observatory at the LSE in May. In May he was invited to take part in a select Workshop organised by the Urban Land Institute and the London Olympic Legacy Corporation that included a guided tour of the Olympic Park in its final stages of construction.

**Derek Diamond** Is now in his 80<sup>th</sup> year and is fully enjoying his retirement!!

**Michael Hebbert** is 'planning ahead' having retired from the University of Manchester in August 2012 after eighteen years as Professor of Town Planning. He keeps a foothold in Manchester as professor emeritus, while continuing to teach and research from a new base at the Bartlett School UCL, where among other things he is editing the Routledge journal 'Planning Perspectives'. Please contact him at [m.hebbert@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.hebbert@ucl.ac.uk) if you have exciting work to publish. Outcomes of his fascinating ESRC-funded research project on the application of urban climatology to urban design can be explored [here](#)



# MSc Regional & Urban Planning Studies

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## A final word...



Doing these newsletters are always a bit intense, as I sit here finalising all the details and adding photos, I am really reminded of how much I love my job. Each year I get to meet 25-30 fantastically interesting people and we go through a journey together learning about cities and urban planning. Moreover, I get the opportunity to stay in contact with lots of you as you go across the globe doing great things - thank heavens for Facebook and LinkedIn! Please do be sure to link up if you have not already!

Keeping the programme successful also relies on our terrific network of contacts from past alumni and friends who are often willing to lend a few hours to give a lecture or network with students over what is often only mediocre wine! So again, thanks to all of you!