

Cities News

Cities Programme newsletter issue 11
Lent Term 2013

MSc student news



Hats on... Graduates (from top left) Mirjam Wurtz, Joshua Simoneau, Francis Moss, Anna Dekker, Bethania Soriano, Caitlin Amos (pictures courtesy of Francis Moss)

Our graduates from the MSc City Design and Social Science 2011-12 achieved great results all round: five Distinctions were awarded and everyone else achieved a Merit. Particular congratulations go to **Max Pollock** and **Adriana Valdez Young**, who were jointly awarded the Cities Prize for Academic Achievement 2012, and to **Guy Trangos**, who was awarded the Cities Prize for Outstanding Contribution 2012 in recognition of his contribution to the programme both in academic terms and in respect of collegiality and collaborative working.

Adriana also swept the board with the Sociology Department's annual Hobhouse Memorial Prize, winning Best overall performance on the Master's Programmes in Sociology and Best overall dissertation on the Master's Programmes in Sociology plus Best overall performance with Distinction MSc City, Design and Social Science.

For more on our recent (and not so recent) graduates see **Alumni news** below.



...and off!

This year's **City Design Research Studio** is on the theme of 'Local City: a studio exploration of Hackney Central and the Pembury Estate', and asks 'What does it mean to be 'local' in a global city? The question is addressed from the base of a dense, inner city area in east London, which sustains established and emerging forms of economic and social vitality, while simultaneously surfacing contestations around urban transformations and rupture. This year Dr **David Madden** joins **Fran Tonkiss** and **Suzi Hall** to teach on the Studio course. The international field trip in March 2013 will be to Bucharest.

Current student **Carina Arvizu Machado** is involved with the forthcoming TEDxLSE conference on 9 March on the power of innovation, and how critical thinking and leadership can promote meaningful change in the world.

This year, TEDxLSE takes the concept of cross-cutting innovation to a new level by creating a full-day conference around the theme of 'Rethink Your Definition'. Inviting speakers who have challenged themselves to think beyond their usual limits, the 2013 TEDxLSE conference showcases the fact that the best innovation is borderless.

Faculty:

Ricky Burdett
Suzanne Hall
David Madden
Philipp Rode
Fran Tonkiss
Savvas Verdis

Michaelmas Term expert seminars: Sarah Sackman

Masterclasses: Edward W. Soja

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Anna Livia Johnston

Nick Kaufman has been involved in the campaign by local residents on the Carpenter's Estate in Stratford, UCL students and academics to stop UCL's plans to expand into the area. An open letter from faculty at UCL Urban Lab and the Bartlett School of Architecture has been sent to UCL management in opposition to the proposal, which would lead to residents being moved out of their homes to make way for the new campus.

Expert seminars in Michaelmas Term were given by barrister and expert in public law, planning and environmental law **Sarah Sackman**, on the legal regulation of urban space. Professor **Edward W. Soja** returned from the US to hold three graduate masterclasses on metropolitan regions and spatial justice.

PhD student news

Michelle Cullen has been made a Smarter Cities Visiting Fellow at Virginia Tech's Metropolitan Institute, where she gave a graduate lecture on smart cities and urban governance in late October. In early 2013, she'll present at a National Academy of Environmental Design workshop on the social and political implications of smart technology adoption in urban environments.

As part of the Theatrum Mundi/Global Street project at LSE Cities, **Adam Kaasa** co-organised two symposiums for the 2012 Venice Biennale for Architecture, chairing a session on 'Common Ground: Between Art and Urban Practice', and presenting the paper 'Urban Elegies: The case for mourning as collective urban politics' as part of 'Making collective values visible' at the Biennale's Finissage event. Theatrum Mundi explores the relation of urban and art practice: see www.theatrum-mundi.org

In October 2012, **Adam** presented 'Building an urban future: Temporal rhetoric in Mexico City modern' at the Workshop on Time and Globalization held at McMaster University; <http://www.socialscience.s.mcmaster.ca/institute-on-globalization-and-the-human-condition/time>

In November, **Adam** led a panel on 'Chromazones: Colour and the City' at RIBA, and on 27 February 2013 he will be speaking on 'Lighting the Future' as part of the 'Light Show' exhibition at the Southbank Centre.



Towering above Mexico City, the Centro Urbano Presidente Aleman by architect Mario Pani, image courtesy of Adam Kaasa

Katherine Robinson, along with LSE and Goldsmiths colleagues, is co-organising the 2012 NYLON conference, London 16-18 March.

The conference brings together NYLON's international network; its innovative format features papers and experimental workshops, including this year an exploration of Elephant and Castle market led by **Ed Wall** and Antonia Dawes.

Alumni news

Mark Atkinson (Class of 2006), Markets Development Officer for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, was awarded runner-up Market Officer of the Year by the National Association of British Market Authorities in September 2012. In October he was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Place Management.

Lawrence Bird (2000) assisted with Schematic Landscape Design on Phase 1A & 1B of the Transit-Oriented Development Yards at Fort Rouge, in Winnipeg, Canada. This project repurposes a former rail-yards for mixed-use residential use integrated with active transit and the recently completed first leg of Winnipeg's rapid transit system: <http://goo.gl/xxEWK>.

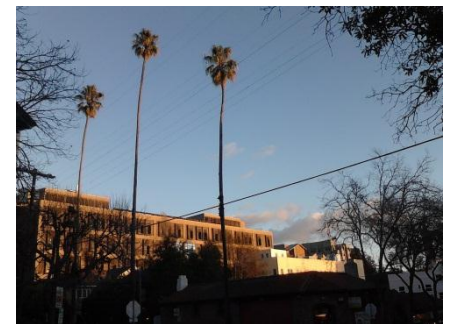
Lawrence also took part in Re-Imagining Winnipeg, a series of public presentations for new visions of the city (<http://goo.gl/FPLSy>). His proposal - the Post-Prairie Park - addressed vacant inner-city sites along with monocultural suburban malls and parking lots, proposing redevelopment of these sites as mixed-use, publicly-held parks integrating residential, recreational, commercial and light industrial space with urban agriculture and indigenous landscape.

Roberto Burgos Mann (2009) is involved in a technology project in Chile called "Citisent". This platform for social research in online media will be launching in March 2013. The project is supported by the International Innovation Funding programme of the Innovation Office of the Ministry of Economy of the Government of Chile, and is being incubated at the Universidad Austral.

Mirjam Wurtz (2012) has joined Clear Village to work on a community development project in Tottenham.

Julia Day (2012) is working with Central on a transport and movement charette for the Elephant and Castle, and the Independent Transport Commission on research into the spatial effects of high speed rail. She works part-time for Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners and co-leads Open Streets, an initiative to bring a multi-day 'open street' event to London and build greater civic, business, and political support for the city's long-term sustainability goals.

Angelica Figueroa (2011) has been awarded an ITEC Scholarship from the Government of India to travel to New Delhi this February to study a course in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiently at The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI). She is currently working as a researcher in urban studies at the Chilean Chamber of Construction.



Berkeley palms, image courtesy of Alasdair Jones

Alasdair Jones (PhD 2008) is currently completing a US-UK Fulbright Commission 'all-disciplines scholarship' at the Center for Urban Ethnography, UC Berkeley. For this scholarship Alasdair is undertaking a review of uses of qualitative research methods to generate data amenable to social network analysis. At the end of this study, Alasdair will be re-joining the City Futures research centre (University of New South Wales) to complete his visiting fellowship there. Together with colleagues from the LSHTM and UCL, Alasdair has also recently published a number of articles from the 'On the buses' study of the public health impact of concessionary bus travel for young people in London: <http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/hsrp/buses/publications/index.html>.

Francis Moss (2012) presented his LSE masters dissertation "*Green Beans in the Global City*" at both the *UCL International Conference on Urban Sustainability and Resilience* and the *Urban Transcripts London Conference*. He also tutored a week long workshop entitled "*Lunch, A Critical mapping of everyday consumption in London*" at the Urban Transcripts International Workshop. Francis is currently collaborating with Design for London on a visual ethnographic study of production in a part of London undergoing regeneration.



Urban Transcripts workshop, image courtesy of Francis Moss

Olivia Muñoz-Rojas (PhD 2009) was invited as a guest speaker to *Wars and Cities*, the 22nd Summer Course of the Instituto de História Contemporânea, co-sponsored by Lisbon City Council and held in Lisbon 26-29 September. Her article 'Granite remains: Francoist monuments today' was recently published in the peer-reviewed journal *Public Art Dialogue* (Vol. 2, Issue 2). Her chapter, 'Rethinking brutalist buildings: their soul is in their making', co-authored with Chris Wall and Linda Clarke, will soon be published in *Monstrous Geographies. Places and Spaces of Monstrosity* (I-D Press).

Trenton Oldfield served a six month prison sentence in the latter half of 2012 for his protest against elitism and government cuts. His organisation This Is Not A Gateway holds its 4th inter-disciplinary conference 26-27 January 2013, in London. *Critical Cities Volume 3* was published in October 2012.

Max Pollock (2012) is now working at the Urban Institute, a Washington, D.C.- based policy and research think tank, where he is helping to manage a multi-site study about housing access.

Dr Hyun Shin (MSc 2000; Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Environment, LSE) has a new paper in the journal *CITY: 'Unequal Cities of Spectacle and Mega-events in China'* can be viewed at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13604813.2012.734076>.

Hyun has also signed a contract for a new book on gentrification in the Global South, to be published by Polity Press in 2014 and entitled *Global Gentrifications*.

Hyun is organising a session on 'Mega-events and Cities of Spectacle in the Global South' at the forthcoming RGS-IBG Annual Conference, London, 28-30 August 2013. Interested participants are invited to submit paper abstracts of no more than 250 words to Hyun (h.b.shin@lse.ac.uk) by 1 February 2013. More information on the session can be found on <http://urbancommune.blogspot.co.uk/2013/01/rgs-2013-cfp-mega-events-and-cities-of.html>

Adam White (2010) and a team from University of Nairobi, Columbia University and MIT are currently working on a research and development project to improve urban mobility in Nairobi, Kenya. The year-long project aims to bridge formal and informal aspects of urban transport in Nairobi via new technology-based tools, including citizen sensors and mobile phones.



Minibuses in Matatus, Nairobi, image courtesy of Adam White

Faculty news

Dr Suzi Hall gave a keynote lecture on 13 December 2012 on "Street Commons: Crisis and Cohesion post 2008" at the Post Crash City Conference at the Centre for Urban Research, University of York.

In October 2012, **Dr Fran Tonkiss** presented on 'The make-shift city and the austerity economy' at the *Make-Shift* symposium on critical spatial practice at the Technical University, Berlin, co-organised by KunstWerke and Urban Drift. In the same month she spoke on 'The post-capitalist city' at the Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, as part of the *Warsaw under Construction: City for Sale* festival. In November, she took part in the *La Ville: mode d'emploi* festival organised by the Villa Gillet, Lyon, including a symposium on 'The individual and society: finding a place in the contemporary city' and a public conversation on the theme of 'Où s'arrête la ville?'

Savvas Verdis was project leader for an LSE Cities Advisory report on the future of the North Randstad in the Netherlands. A panel of experts, including **Ricky Burdett** and **Philipp Rode**, discussed the current growth plans for the city of Almere and the impact on the region's competitiveness. This is the second piece of research and advisory work that LSE Cities has carried out for the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment.

For more on LSE Cities see lsecities.net.

Visitors and associates

The International Planning History Society and the journal *Planning Perspectives* awarded their 2012 bi-annual best paper prize to Professor **Aysegul Baykan** for 'Politics and culture in the making of public space: 'Taksim Square, 1 May 1977, Istanbul'', published while she was at LSE as a Visiting Professor (Aysegul Baykan & Tali Hatuka, January 2010, *Planning Perspectives* 25/1: 49-68).

Professor **Aykut Karaman** from Istanbul's Mimar Sinan University joined the Cities Programme as a Visiting Fellow from 1 September 2012 to 31 January 2013. During his stay he researched urban regeneration projects in London, focusing on the Olympic, King's Cross and Nine Elms projects, analysing these transformations in their social, economic, planning and design contexts.