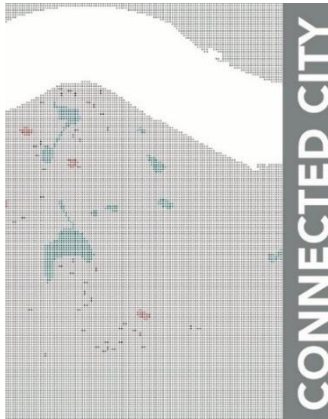


Cities News

Cities Programme newsletter issue 20
Summer 2017



MSc student news

On 6 June 2017 MSc City Design students, staff, alumni and guests celebrated the launch of the latest Cities Studio publication *Connected City*, edited by current students **Rachel Brain** and **Ravi Anand Loknath**.

This year the Studio focused on differing forms of connection in **Thamesmead**, responding to the varied scales at which the site is severed from the rest of London and the Thames. Thamesmead also provided a context to consider new connections, accompanied by a predicted substantial population growth and large-scale construction of new forms of housing.

Working in interdisciplinary groups, our students explored how different forms of physical and social connections provide networks and systems for thinking about emerging micro-economies, everyday patterns of mobility, relations between civic life and the politics of social housing, alternative logics for managing public space, and the underlying asset of water that has historically shaped the site. These explorations are located in the context of growing urban inequalities and definitive shifts in how urban resources are financed and distributed.

Connected City is available to read (as a PDF for each chapter) from the Cities Programme webpages: [Cities Studio publications](#).

Congratulations to **Rachel Brain**, **Rosemary Havener**, **Stephanie Lai** and **Vivian Zhu**, who submitted their Studio project on Hydro-Urbanism to the Creative Conscience Awards and won a Silver Award in the Architecture, Engineering and Interior Design category.

The potential of the underused lakes and canals in Thamesmead are explored whilst also proposing a holistic strategy that integrates ecological restoration with social and economic development. You can read more from their [Creative Conscience winners webpage](#).



Ideas for Thamesmead water system (detail), image courtesy of Rosemary Havener.

Congratulations too to **Bridget Ackeifi**, **José Cesar Faria**, **Ghadeer Mansour**, **Oliver Tovatt** and **Ignacio Uliarte**, who were selected to present their Studio project "Mapping Thamesmead's Economic Landscape: An ethnographic approach to self-employment and invisible economies in south east London" at the 10th International Forum of Urbanism: The Entrepreneurial City, in Hong Kong in December this year.

The research explores employment trends within Thamesmead, a historically low income community. In an attempt to understand employment and local economic opportunity, the research found a significant number of self-employed

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residents and small, "invisible" businesses within the area. Through mapping, census data analysis and semi-structured interviews with local "invisible" business owners, the research focused on understanding these "invisible" businesses and reveals and explores three key characteristics of the interactions between them and the urban landscape of Thamesmead.

At the same conference, **Ignacio Uliarte** was selected to present his dissertation called "Work in Progress: Mapping the urban economy of co-working spaces in London". This research explores how new technologies have disrupted our urban economies, re-arranging both production and consumption chains, in a way that citizens can be part-time producers, suppliers and/or providers. It is a spatial analysis of co-workspaces and their relationship with urban space; trying to figure out how London's labour landscape is changing due to entrepreneurialism and co-working spaces, and to what extent those new ways of labour can be seen as a tool to tackle economic exclusion.

For this year's international field trip our students visited **Naples** from 13-17 February, accompanied by Dr Suzi Hall and Dr David Madden. Their programme was put together by Italy-based Neapolitan expert Dr Nick Dines, who also accompanied them on their visit.



MSc City Design students and staff in Naples, February 2017. Image courtesy of Bridget Ackeifi.

Alumni news

Francis Aguillard (Class of 2016) is completing his Master of Architecture at Rice University and will be Editor-in-Chief of the next issue of the school's independent student journal, PLAT. The topic for this issue will be *Sharing*. The journal hopes to investigate issues related to the built environment and the so-called sharing economy. In James Ponsoldt's new film, *The Circle*, employees of a tech company shout, "Sharing is caring!" during a TED conference style all-company meeting. This issue of PLAT will investigate if this ubiquitous phrase, first trademarked in the 1950s by the Salvation Army, is still relevant today. If so, how? And regardless, what does it all mean for architecture and urbanism?

Feel free to get in touch with Francis and the team (editor@platjournal.com) with any questions. Also check out the website, platjournal.com, for the full call for submission and submit your projects, thoughts, rants, and anything else that you think needs to be heard.



Warm and fuzzy? Cover of Plat issue 7, courtesy of Francis Aguillard.

Cristian Gil (2016) was invited to the regional convening for Latin America organised by The Young Scholars Initiative of The Institute for New Economic Thinking in Mexico City from 17-21 June to present his independent project concerned with economic diversity in secondary cities. Cristian has been part of the City Resilience Profiling Program of UN-Habitat until July 2017.

Juergen Kufner (PhD 2012) presented a paper entitled "Rescuing Consensus: Societal Transformation in a Post-political Condition", at the AESOP Annual Congress 2017 in Lisbon: Spaces of Dialogue for Places of Dignity: Fostering the European Dimension of Planning in July 2017. He demonstrated the possibility of recognising the potentials of consensus for transforming conflictual relations. This is part of a series of papers that develop an approach of planning as sociation, based on Georg Simmel's social theory.

Magdalena Morel (2012) is project manager at the non-profit Casa de la Paz in Santiago, Chile, and is heading the community engagement process for the redesign of the city's 12km main avenue, the Alameda-Providencia. Over 4,000 people have participated in consultations and workshops, discussing the dilemmas surrounding this project which aims to improve conditions for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists.

Ximena Ocampo (2012) is currently developing (together with [dérive LAB](http://derive-lab.com)) a new cultural centre dedicated to architecture, arts and urban topics in Querétaro, Mexico called [BEMA](http://bema.space). What were once squash courts and a ball room, will become a building open for exhibitions, workshops and lectures that will also offer a residency for artists, architects and other professionals to work with the neighborhood for short periods of time. BEMA will open its doors at the end of 2017! More info: <http://bema.space>.



BEMA space. Image courtesy of Marcos Betanzos.

Anna Bray Sharpin (2013) has joined the World Resources Institute's Ross Center for Sustainable Cities in Washington DC as a Transportation Associate. She is working on research and direct engagement to help cities improve safety for people walking and cycling. A key focus of her work is reducing vehicle speeds in cities - which she [wrote about](http://www.cityfix.com) on the CityFix website. Prior to joining WRI, Anna was a Non Motorized Mobility specialist with the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) in Mexico City. While working there, she coordinated and co-authored a guide to improving safety for people riding bikes in Mexican cities, [Más Ciclistas. Más Seguros](http://www.masbiciclistas.org) (*More Cyclists, Safer Cyclists*) which was published by the Mexican Department of Health.

Sarah Ichioka (2003) is curating an exhibition on Urban Eco-villages within the inaugural Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism--themed "Imminent Commons"--which will run from 2 September - 5 November 2017: <http://seoulbiennale.org/en/>

Sarah is also serving on the jury of the Resilient by Design Bay Area Challenge, a year-long initiative that invites teams to "proactively reimagine a better future by creating a blueprint for resilience that harnesses Bay Area innovation and serves as a model for communities around the world."

<http://www.resilientbayarea.org/the-challenge/>

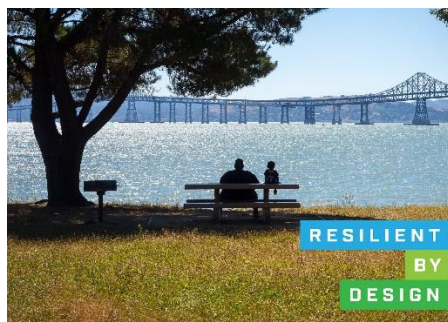
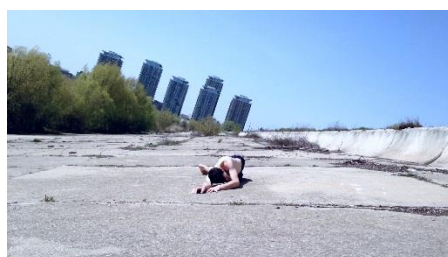


Image courtesy of Sara Ichioka.

Alejandro Sajgalik (2013) has released a performative/reflexive documentary called *Holy Delta*, about his journey inside an uncompleted lake in Bucharest, during which he unravels the inner workings of utopian desire. The short film is in distribution with Video Out (Vancouver).



Holy Delta, image courtesy of Alejandro Sajgalik.

Joshua Simoneau, AIA (2012), an architect and urban designer at Utile in Boston, was selected as the recipient of the Boston Society of Architects (BSA) [2017 Earl R. Flansburgh Young Architects Award](#), which recognizes design excellence by an architect under 40. The selection committee noted that Josh is "a rare and exceptional person with an admirable dedication to design excellence and community participation." His portfolio is in keeping with the spirit of Flansburgh (a Boston architect who was an advocate for emerging professionals and guided by the philosophy that a well-designed building improves the quality of our

lives) with a focus on thoughtfully designed public spaces and ownership of civic responsibility. Congratulations to Josh, who will receive his award at the BSA Design Awards Gala in February 2018.

Urban designer and architect **Claudia Sinatra** (2014) is involved in a project called [What the Street!?](#), a dataviz project by moovel lab for the interactive exploration of mobility space in cities around the world. It compares how fairly cities allocate urban space towards cars, bikes and public transportation. The project also illustrates how, according to recent scientific insights, 93% of all parking space could be regained by the efficient use of self-driving cars, amounting to 6 Central Parks in New York City. What the Street!? uses OpenStreetMap data from 23 world cities, including London, Beijing and Singapore, to create unique, comparative data visualisations of massive parking and movement spaces. Blog: <http://lab.moovel.com/blog/about-what-the-street>

Faculty news

Dr **Suzanne Hall** recently published an article on 'Mooring Super-diversity to a brutal migration milieu'. The article was commissioned for the *Ethnic and Racial Studies* journal's 40th anniversary. Suzi also chaired a panel on social inclusion at RIBA's international conference on architecture and the New Urban Agenda.

Dr **David Madden** published an article in the journal *Urban Studies* titled "Pushed Off the Map: Toponymy and the politics of place in New York City," examining struggles over neighbourhood renaming as ways to understand the politics of housing and urban space.

David wrote a blog post for *The Sociological Review* about the Grenfell Tower disaster of 14 June: [Deadly Cityscapes of Inequality](#). He also wrote an editorial about the disaster for issue 21.1 of the journal *CITY: Analysis of urban*

trends, culture, theory, policy, action, and was interviewed by the BBC World Service about housing issues raised by the Grenfell Tower fire.

David presented a plenary lecture at the annual conference of the Housing Studies Association, and also gave talks and lectures at Warwick University, the Geography Department at LSE, the Royal Academy of Art, and the offices of Karakusevic Carson Architects.

LSE Cities news

Experiencing Density is a project jointly led by LSE Cities and LSE London that explores resident experiences of life in London's new high-density housing. Following on from a 2004 report by LSE Cities on high-density housing as an emergent trend, this interdisciplinary study explores who lives in high-density developments, how different residents experience life in high-density accommodation, and what spatial, design and demographic factors make them work well (or not).

The research directors are **Ricky Burdett** and **Philipp Rode** from LSE Cities with Kathleen Scanlon and Tony Travers (LSE London). The researchers are **Julia King**, Mel Nowicki and Tim White. Read more from the LSE Cities webpage: [Experiencing Density](#).

News from the Editor:

I'm finally leaving the Cities Programme after nearly 10 very happy years! I'll still be based in the Department of Sociology at LSE though, in a new role as Knowledge Exchange and Impact Officer from 1 September. I've really enjoyed meeting so many interesting and committed people from around the world who have joined the programme as MSc and PhD students (and teachers), and keeping in touch with many of them as alumni. I hope that the programme and all connected with it will continue to thrive as the Cities 'family' grows.

Best wishes to all of you – Anna

Thanks from the Director:

I'd like to express enormous appreciation for all Anna has done for the Cities Programme and its students and staff over her time as Programme Manager. Anna has been a steadfast, calm and caring presence in the Programme. She has seen hundreds of students dash through at the last minute with essay and project submissions, and has maintained consideration and humour throughout. Both Fran and I have found her to be a hugely supportive colleague and friend in our respective roles as Director. I'm personally relieved that Anna will still have a strong presence in the Department, and will have to restrain myself from calling on her for on-going advice. From all of us Anna, a huge thank you, and our very best wishes for your next role as Knowledge Exchange and Impact Officer.

Suzi