

CONVENING

Urban Leadership Forum and Award Winners



Urban Leadership Award Winners: Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyers of Freetown, Sierra Leone, and Mayor Marvin Rees, of Bristol, England

Penn IUR presented Urban Leadership Awards on April 6, 2021 to two mayors who have set an example for their peers by rallying their cities around comprehensive plans. Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyers of Freetown, Sierra Leone, and Mayor Marvin Rees, of Bristol, England, received the

awards at Penn IUR's 16th Annual Urban Leadership Forum in recognition of the transformative power of local leaders to guide cities toward a vibrant future.

Aki-Sawyers and Rees "have been exemplary in their leadership of their cities and in promoting their cities

as examples of sustainable urban development that encompasses all the elements of sustainability—social sustainability, economic sustainability, and environmental sustainability," said Penn IUR Co-Director Eugenie L. Birch.

(CONTINUED ON P. 18)

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Ken Steif (1982-2021)

By Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch

When it came time for him to choose the subject of his dissertation that I had the honor of supervising, he knew what he wanted, he knew how to get it and in no time, he did it. He was the perfect director of the MUSA program. He had the same approach as with his dissertation, he knew what the students would need to be competitive in this emerging field, he knew how to get it, and in no time, he did it.

The MUSA alumni are now engaged in important work in many venues, all employing the knowledge he so generously gave them. Beyond his lovely family, this is one of his most important legacies. Ken was a masterful leader of the University-wide MUSA Advisory Committee with whom he shared his guidance of the MUSA program. He brainstormed the multiple workshops and master classes to which he brought hundreds of students to the Lower Gallery to learn the latest from practitioners and researchers from around the country.

Besides these extraordinary accomplishments, Ken was the bravest man on the planet. He faced his disease with calm determination and even humor. Remarkably, he continued his personal and professional pursuits without interrupting his stride.

Ken talked with us this spring, sharing his passion for social impact, for informing public-sector decision-making with advanced data analytics, and his students. To learn more about Ken's contributions to his chosen field, please read the interview with him starting on page 3. WHY? also published a moving tribute to Ken that I hope you'll read. I know we will remember him with great admiration and affection and wish that he had more time.

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Fall Events

VISIT [PENNIUR.UPENN.EDU/EVENTS](https://penniur.upenn.edu/events) FOR DETAILS AND TO REGISTER.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

RETHINKING THE THEORETICAL DIVIDE: URBAN INFORMALITY IN THE GLOBAL NORTH

LIVESTREAM

11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Join the Penn IUR Forum on Urban Informality for a discussion on urban informality in the Global North. Panelists **Robert Fairbanks II** and **Noah Durst** will draw from their previous work and experience to discuss informality in North American cities, and its implications for the way we understand the category itself.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

CITY FORM FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

LIVESTREAM

11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Join Penn IUR and World Bank experts for a discussion on the new report “Pancakes to Pyramids: City Form to Promote Sustainable Growth,” which demonstrates links between an ongoing increase in global urban density and productivity.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

EXTREME HEAT IN CITIES: THE SILENT KILLER

LIVESTREAM

1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

Join Penn IUR for a Climate Week at Penn event on the topic of extreme heat, the deadliest climate-related hazard. This session will address the effects of heat in cities, and how it particularly affects the most vulnerable.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

THE EMPLOYMENT PARADOX: HIGH JOB OPENINGS AND THE UNDOCUMENTED LATINX

LIVESTREAM

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Join the Penn IUR Forum on Urban Informality for a discussion on employment and the undocumented Latinx immigrant community in Philadelphia.

OCTOBER 12, 2021

COMMUNITY COLLEGE: WHO SHOULD PAY?

LIVESTREAM

11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Join the Penn Institute for Urban Research for a virtual discussion on tuition-free community colleges. Panelists will identify key issues in the tuition-free community college movement, explore current initiatives across all levels of government related to community college tuition, and discuss recommended approaches.

OCTOBER 12, 2021

DATA AND TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEMS FOR SOCIAL GOOD

LIVESTREAM

8:00 P.M. – 9:15 P.M.

Join the Penn MUSA program for the first MUSA lecture of the semester featuring **Aaron Bean**, Managing Partner, Asemio.

OCTOBER 21, 2021

SPECIAL BRIEFING ON THE BIDEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN: UNMET NEEDS AND STATE OF PLAY

LIVESTREAM

11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Join Penn IUR and the Volcker Alliance for a virtual briefing to discuss the infrastructure needs across the U.S. and the potential federal response.

OCTOBER 21, 2021

GOVERNING LOCALLY: INSTITUTIONS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION IN INDIAN CITIES

LIVESTREAM

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Join Penn CASI, the South Asia Center, and Penn IUR for a seminar featuring **Suraj Jacob**, Political Economist, Azim Premji University, and **Babu Jacob**, Former Member, Indian Administrative Service, who will discuss their book *Governing Locally: Institutions, Policies, and Implementation in Indian Cities*.

OCTOBER 26, 2021

REDLINED FOREVER: THE RACIST PAST OF TODAY'S LAND USE REGULATIONS

LIVESTREAM

5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Join the Penn Program on Regulation for a lecture by **Jessica Trounstein**, Foundation Board of Trustees Presidential Chair, Professor of Political Science, University of California, Merced, on how land use regulations have generated segregation along race and class lines.

OCTOBER 27, 2021

LIVABLE CITIES

LIVESTREAM

12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Join Penn IUR for a virtual discussion featuring experts from across the University to celebrate and expand upon the new Audible book by Penn IUR Faculty Fellow **Mark Alan Hughes**, *Livable Cities*.

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

SPECIAL BRIEFING ON CLIMATE CHANGE, FEDERAL AID AND STATE AND LOCAL STRATEGIES

LIVESTREAM

11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Join Penn IUR and the Volcker Alliance for a virtual briefing to discuss the impact of climate change on state and local finances as well as the role the federal government may play under measures proposed by President Biden.

DECEMBER 7, 2021

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

LIVESTREAM

10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Join Penn IUR for a virtual discussion on the role of the federal government in promoting equitable education and workforce outcomes.

Faculty Spotlight: Ken Steif



Penn IUR interviewed Ken Steif in the spring of 2021. With his family, friends, students, and colleagues, we are mourning his loss. We wish to give readers a chance to learn more about Ken and his incredible work at the forefront of data-driven public policy. As the Program Director for the MUSA program, an Associate Professor of Practice in City and Regional Planning, and Penn IUR Faculty Fellow, he combined technical knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and applied statistics with a true passion for improving the way public policy decisions are made. As MUSA Director, Ken shifted the program's emphasis from GIS to civic technology, empowering students to develop technology and governance solutions to solve complex public policy problems.

YOUR RECENT BOOK, *PUBLIC POLICY ANALYTICS: CODE & CONTEXT FOR DATA SCIENCE IN GOVERNMENT*, TACKLES THE CHALLENGES OF APPLYING DATA SCIENCE TO PUBLIC SECTOR DECISION-MAKING. DATA-DRIVEN, EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING IS COMMON IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF INCORPORATING DATA SCIENCE INTO GOVERNMENTAL DECISION-MAKING?

Data Science, defined as data-driven decision making, has taken over the private sector because algorithms make businesses more money. While economic bottom lines are paramount in business, negative externalities are often a distant concern. Not so in government. Government programs and the algorithms that increasingly power them must hit on multiple, often disparate bottom lines—like equity, politics, and social cohesion.

This is one of the great challenges of data science in the public sector, and I hope one of the juxtapositions that makes my new book *Public Policy Analytics* so engaging. Statistics are precise—but their application in the delivery of government services requires a deep domain expertise.

CAN YOU GIVE US AN EXAMPLE OF HOW A LOCAL DECISION-MAKER—A CITY PLANNER, FOR EXAMPLE—MIGHT SHIFT THEIR TRADITIONAL APPROACH TO PROGRAM DESIGN OR SERVICE DELIVERY TO INCORPORATE A DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH?

The first step is to understand whether a government program is providing value. Next, delve into the demographic, place-based, and outcome data collected to administer the program. Not only do these data help understand what drives success, but also how to predict success. If prediction is feasible, it may be possible to develop some planning tools to better allocate resources.

YOU WRITE ABOUT POTENTIAL BIAS IN ALGORITHMS. CAN YOU EXPLAIN HOW

THIS MIGHT COME ABOUT IN A SEEMINGLY “OBJECTIVE” ALGORITHM?

The bottom line is that when government discriminates, discrimination is baked into government data. If that data is then used to make decisions, it is possible for those decisions to be discriminatory, even if unintended. This is a legal concept called “disparate impact” and it is a core theme of the book. Readers learn how to “open the black box” of their algorithms, identify discrimination, and then communicate shortcomings and solutions to non-technical policymakers.

YOU PROPOSE THE CONCEPT OF “ALGORITHMIC GOVERNANCE” AS A WAY OF ADDRESSING POTENTIAL BIAS. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THIS FRAMEWORK?

The main theme of the book is that government programs and algorithms are one in the same—they both allocate resources and deliver services. Algorithmic Governance advocates that algorithms be designed in the same way as programs—with transparency and community engagement at the fore.

There are four steps. First, evaluate the current program. Second, engage stakeholders in the existing program and the use of an algorithm. Third, do not procure a black box algorithm from a private company but develop a transparent, open-source solution, in house. Finally, evaluate the algorithmic service delivery against the “business-as-usual” approach to understand the value add.

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO WRITE THIS BOOK?

This is a text I have been developing over the last three to four years to accompany my course also called *Public Policy Analytics*. Each chapter is a different use case that students take on in one- to three-week modules. Over time, I have developed some consistent narratives both around the development of analytics and their application in

government. The real challenge was to weave these themes throughout the book, again, given that each chapter poses to the reader a unique challenge.

There are lots of data science books, but none written for those working in government. I hope that I have created a resource to fill this gap.

YOU RUN THE MASTER’S IN URBAN SPATIAL ANALYTICS (MUSA) PROGRAM, WHICH PENN IUR CO-ADMINISTERS WITH PENN DESIGN, WHICH TRAINS STUDENTS IN THE THINKING AND IN THE TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES YOU WRITE ABOUT IN THIS BOOK. YOU ARE ALSO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE IN CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING AND, AS A PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE, YOU FOUNDED AND LEAD URBAN SPATIAL, A CONSULTANCY THAT COMBINES DATA SCIENCE WITH PUBLIC POLICY. HOW DO YOUR TEACHING, CONSULTING, AND WRITING INFLUENCE ONE ANOTHER?

As an educator and as a business owner, my goal is social impact. The demand for civic technologists in government is greater than the supply and, as an educator, I want to help grow the needed human capital. As a consultant, my goal is to develop and share new best practice widely and with minimal friction. Nearly everything we do at Urban Spatial is open source, meaning we post our computer code online for anyone to use.

Open source brings a social return on investment, not a monetary one. Our greatest victories have been when others pick up our tools and do something amazing with them.

Public Policy Analytics: Code & Context for Data Science in Government, with all the code and data, can be accessed online here. The print version can be ordered here. To watch a video of Ken discussing his book with a panel of experts, visit the Penn IUR website. To read more about Ken’s life and impact, read Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch’s remembrance on page 1 and WHY’s tribute online.

RESEARCH

Electrifying Accra, Ghana

“Powering the Slum: Meeting SDG 7 in Ghana’s Informal Settlements” reports on a 2019-20 study, sponsored by Penn’s Kleinman Center for Energy Policy (KCEP), by a research team composed of local researchers and headed by Penn IUR Fellow James Mensah, Chief Resilience Officer, Accra Metropolitan Assembly and lecturer, University of Ghana, and Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch. Published in April 2021, the Policy Brief reviews conditions in Accra, Ghana’s informal settlements and recommends policies for meeting Sustainable Development Goal 7 to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.”

The research team held focus group interviews in three of Accra’s slum communities: Agboghloshie, Chorkor, and Avenor. These areas are the city’s most deprived, characterized by high rates of poverty and large agglomerations of dilapidated housing. People in these settlements lack tenure security, basic infrastructure (water and sewer), and services (education, fire, police) and are regularly exposed to eviction, disease, and violence.

The team documented how the residents secured electricity. They found that the ECG, the national electricity utility of Ghana, requires a customer to produce a land title, site plan, and building permit—documentation that slumdwellers do not have. Consequently, those who live in informal settlements turn to illegal means. For example, some pay a middleman to acquire a meter. Often that household will then “rent” access to it to their neighbors, who tap into it with nails and wires (a particularly unsafe, fire-prone method). The result: high, unstable pricing for electrical power and a dangerous situation for all. Electrical fires occur frequently in informal settlements.

Since electricity is expensive, people limit its use, reserving it for lighting, ironing, freezing food, and powering television—but not for cooking. Instead, they burn charcoal or wood for cooking, which is another health hazard not only conducive to fires but also to respiratory disease from the smoke.

The research team offered several recommendations for improving the situation:

- Provide legal recognition of informal settlements (i.e., tenure security)
- Relax the rigorous prerequisites for securing meters (reforms might include maintaining building codes necessary for the safe delivery of electricity but eliminating others that have little relevance to energy access)
- Re-organize the meter sales and tariff rates (ECG’s current pre-paid system is cumbersome and may encourage illegal connections)
- Rely more on renewable energy (e.g., off-grid options such as solar or waste-to-energy systems)

Based on this research, KCEP is sponsoring a 2020-21 follow-up study on how to implement the recommendations.

This informal settlement in Accra, Ghana lacks basic infrastructure of which electricity is one element. Note the fragile and irregular electrical lines. Photo by Eugénie L. Birch.



INSTRUCTION

Penn IUR Instructional Support During an Extraordinary Year

Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and consequent continuation of remote learning, Penn IUR maintained its support of graduate and undergraduate students over the spring semester. Leveraging digital convenings and publications, Penn IUR continued to provide instructional activities so that urban scholars at all stages could continue to benefit from—and contribute to—urban scholarship at Penn.

NEW IDEAS IN URBAN RESEARCH

Penn IUR celebrated the achievements and research contributions of graduating doctoral students whose dissertations are on urban-related topics in the May “New Ideas in Urban Research” issue of Urban Link. Contributors shared the key findings from their dissertations and identified novel policy recommendations for the urban research and policy communities. They included:

- Mark Bookman, East Asian Languages and Civilization, School of Arts and Sciences (“Politics and Prosthetics: 150 Years of Disability in Japan”)
- Maryam Khojasteh, City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design (“Healthy Placemaking: How Do Immigrant Food Entrepreneurs Contribute to Community Wellbeing in a Multiethnic Community?”)
- Jacob Krimmel, Applied Economics, The Wharton School (“Essays in Urban and Public Economics”)
- Elaine Leigh, Higher Education, Graduate School of Education (“Confronting the System: How Local Cross-Sector Education Collaborations Address Barriers to Postsecondary Access & Attainment”)
- Desen Lin, Economics, School of Arts and Sciences (“Housing Search and Rental Market Intermediation”)
- David Stanek, City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design (“Socioeconomic Neighborhood Change in Local Historic Districts of Large American Cities, 1970-2010: A Mixed Methods Approach”)
- Xiao Betty Wang, Applied Economics, The Wharton School (“Essays in Urban and Real Estate Economics”)
- Tali Ziv, Anthropology, School of Arts and Sciences (“Chasing Recovery: Governance, Accumulation, and Mobility in Philadelphia’s Drug Treatment Network”)

PENN IUR FORUM ON URBAN INFORMALITY

Penn IUR hosts the Forum on Urban Informality, a group graduate and post-graduate researchers across disciplines and institutions. To read more about the forum, see page 8.

#MUSAMASTERCLASS

The #MusaMasterClass is an annual community lecture and workshop hosted by the Master of Urban Spatial Analytics program (MUSA), Penn IUR, and the Weitzman School of Design. The spring 2021 Master Class on March 26, 2021 was led by Dr. Paula Moraga, Assistant Professor of Statistics at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) and the Principal Investigator of the GeoHealth Research Group.

Moraga spoke on informing public health and policy with disease risk modeling. Essential to informing public health policy-making, disease risk modeling and visualization can be used to quantify disease burden, understand geographic and temporal patterns, identify risk factors, and measure inequalities. She taught participants in this workshop specific techniques in the programming language R for estimating disease risk, quantifying risk factors, and developing interactive dashboards using spatial data. She noted that, while the examples covered in the workshop focused on health applications, the methods she demonstrated are applicable to other fields that use spatial data, including ecology, demography, and criminology.

Moraga drew workshop materials from her book: *Geospatial Health Data: Modeling and Visualization with R-INLA and Shiny* (2019, Chapman & Hall/CRC). To view the projects completed by event participants, see the Twitter hashtag #MusaMasterClass. Tutorial materials and recordings of the 2020, 2019, and 2018 MUSA Master Classes can be found here.

UNDERGRADUATE URBAN RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Penn IUR sponsored the 17th annual UURC in Spring 2021. This advanced research seminar for undergraduate scholars with an interest in urban-focused research pairs each student with a faculty mentor with expertise in their area of interest. Each session, faculty from different schools visited the class virtually to introduce students to a variety of ways to conduct urban-centered research. Students learned about Penn’s research resources; how to design a research project; and about methods of collecting, analyzing, and presenting both quantitative and qualitative data.

At the end of each spring semester, UURC students typically present the research they pursued over the course of the semester. In this extraordinary year, instructors asked students to reflect on how the pandemic impacted the city in an audio/visual blog. The three students and their reflections this year were:

- Ailbhe Yasmin Wallism, “The Gold Green Space Standard: Equitable, Accessible, Beautiful”
- Julie Mitchel, “Alone in the Crowd: Urban Social Isolation During and Beyond the Pandemic”
- Adam Goudjil, “Cultivating a Lively Street in the Age of COVID-19”

UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS IN URBAN LEADERSHIP

Penn IUR’s undergraduate Fellows in Urban Research engages a small cohort of selected students from across the university with high-level local, regional, and national leaders drawn from government, business, and civil society to discuss decision-making in urban places. Fellows gathered virtually in spring 2021, with guest lectures from:

- Jamie Gauthier, Philadelphia City Councilmember, District 3;
- Rebecca Rhyhart, Philadelphia Controller;
- Anne Fadullon, Director, Planning and Development for the City of Philadelphia;
- Anne Bovaird Nevins, President, Philadelphia Industrial Development Corp (PIDC).

“Civic Engagement” Photo Contest Winners

As part of the University’s 2020-2021 academic theme year, Penn IUR held a photo contest on civic engagement in cities around the world. Participants were asked to capture the ways that urban community engagement has adapted to altered social circumstances and working conditions amid a year of unprecedented public need.

The top images were sorted based on adherence to the theme and composition quality. Guest judges included Ira Harkavy, Associate Vice President and Founding Director, Barbara and Edward Netter Center

for Community Partnerships; Ken Lum, Marilyn Jordan Taylor Presidential Professor and Chair of Fine Arts, Weitzman School of Design; and Akira Drake Rodriguez, Assistant Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design.

The winning photo, by Avijit Ghosh, “*Together We Fight, Together We Win*”, shows a volunteer sanitizing a COVID-positive family’s home in Kalkota, India. The three runners-up and remaining finalists are featured below”



MEMORIES FROM AN UNUSUALLY SUNNY AND WARM NOVEMBER 7TH OF LAST YEAR BY YEONHWA LEE

Runner Up

As if everyone knew where to be, masked West Philadelphia residents came together on 43rd & Baltimore by the neighborhood's Clark Park and erupted in spontaneous cheers and dancing after the Biden-Harris win was declared by major news outlets. It was a rare moment of collective joy and celebration, especially after a particularly difficult and isolating string of months.

Location: Philadelphia, PA.
Date: November 7, 2020.



WARRIOR IN WHITE BY SUDIP MAITI

Runner Up

A member of a volunteer organization sanitizes a house in a local community in West Bengal, India. After the second wave of the coronavirus, the Indian public health system was overwhelmed. As a result, people were afraid to go to hospitals for minor symptoms, instead choosing to quarantine themselves in the safety of their homes, which could lead to the rapid spread of the virus. Local volunteers battled this situation with community sanitization.

Location: West Bengal, India.



OAKLAND'S FRUITVALE DISTRICT IN CALIFORNIA BY HARVEY CASTRO

Runner Up:

Oakland's Fruitvale District in California is home to the largest Mayan Mam community outside of Guatemala, which has been heavily impacted by COVID-19. To bridge this gap in awareness about protection measures, the Alameda County Public Health department teamed up with the local Street Level Health Project. On August 15, 2020, Street Level Health held an outreach event where members of the Mayan Mam community hit the streets to distribute PPE equipment, including hand sanitizer, along with informational pamphlets and posters for local businesses.

Location: Oakland, California.
Date: August 15, 2020.



SYLHET METROPOLITAN POLICE RAISING AWARENESS BY MOHAMMAD RAFAYAT HAQUE KHAN

Finalist

Sylhet Metropolitan Police raising awareness and providing sanitizer to people as a precautionary measure against the spread of COVID-19.

*Location: Sylhet, Bangladesh.
Date: March 26, 2020.*



RESEARCH

Knowledge Exchange on Urban Informality

Penn IUR launched a new research initiative—the Penn IUR Forum on Urban Informality—that fosters cross-disciplinary exchange among early-career researchers on the topic of urban informality. Part of the Penn IUR Lab on Sustainable Development and Informality, the forum was formed in late 2020 but became fully established in the spring of 2021.

The forum convenes graduate and post-graduate researchers across disciplines to explore the way informality is shaping sustainable urban development. “Right now we meet monthly for peer review of research in progress,” said Kimberly Noronha, a founding member of the Forum and doctoral candidate in City and Regional Planning at the Weitzman School of Design. “We want the group to evolve organically to meet the needs of its members,” she added.

In addition to the monthly research exchanges, the Forum began holding seminars, structured as dialogues on informality between academics and practitioners, in the summer of 2021. Since June 2021, the Forum has hosted three seminars, all open to the public:

June 18, 2021: “International Waste Chains: Tracing the Supply Chain from Formal Waste Collection to Informal Waste Processing”

- Silpa Kaza, Senior Urban Specialist at the World Bank, presented an overview of the scale of the waste management challenge, how it relates to urban informality, and what the World Bank does in relation to it.
- Dagna Rams, PhD candidate in Social Anthropology, University of Lausanne (UNIL) in Switzerland, and Visiting Fellow, NYU and the Max Planck Institute, presented on electronic waste processors in Ghana, their financial networks and commodity chains, and the hazards that they face.

July 23, 2021: “Bridging Gaps in Energy Access: Intersections Between Basic Service Provision, Public Health, and Climate Action”

- Deepti Chatti, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Affiliate Faculty with the Schatz Energy Research Centre at Humboldt State University, presented her insights from nearly a decade of ethnographic research on cookstove use in urban and rural households in the Indian Himalayas.

September 3, 2021: “Rethinking the Theoretical Divide: Urban Informality in the Global North”

- Robert Fairbanks II, Lecturer and Fellow, Urban Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania, presented his ethnographic work on the informal processes characterizing the housing industry and poverty survival strategies in the Kensington area in a post-industrial Philadelphia.
- Noah Durst, Assistant Professor, Urban and Regional Planning School of Planning, Design, & Construction, Michigan State University, outlined his findings on informal housing in the United States, identifying different housing regulatory regimes and the varied manifestations of informal housing within these contexts.

Currently, the Forum totals about 40 members who come from schools across the University of Pennsylvania as well as from other institutions. Membership is open to any graduate or post-doc studying informality. To learn more or to join, visit the Penn IUR website or email Indivar Jonnalagadda.

CONVENING

Third Annual Jeremy Nowak Lecture

On April 20, 2021, Penn IUR and the Reinvestment Fund hosted the third annual Jeremy Nowak Memorial Lecture. Every year, this event highlights Jeremy Nowak's enduring work to integrate public, private, and nonprofit expertise to achieve collective urban prosperity and gives students and professionals the opportunity to hear from experts on topics that manifest the connections between the academic and the applied aspects of urban development, a combination that Jeremy exemplified.

This year's discussion focused on the role of community development financial institutions (CDFIs) in promoting equitable economic recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Speakers discussed the challenges and possibilities for CDFIs to increase access to loans and grant capital for small businesses, which have suffered disproportionately since the first state shutdown measures in March 2020.

Speakers included Dudley Benoit, Executive Vice President, Alliant Capital; Raquel Favela,

Central Team Leader, National Development Council; Everett Sands, CEO, Lendistry; and Theresa Y. Singleton, Senior Vice President, Community Development and Regional Outreach Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Donald Hinkle-Brown, President and CEO, Reinvestment Fund, served as moderator.

To stream a video of the event, visit the Penn IUR website.

PUBLICATION

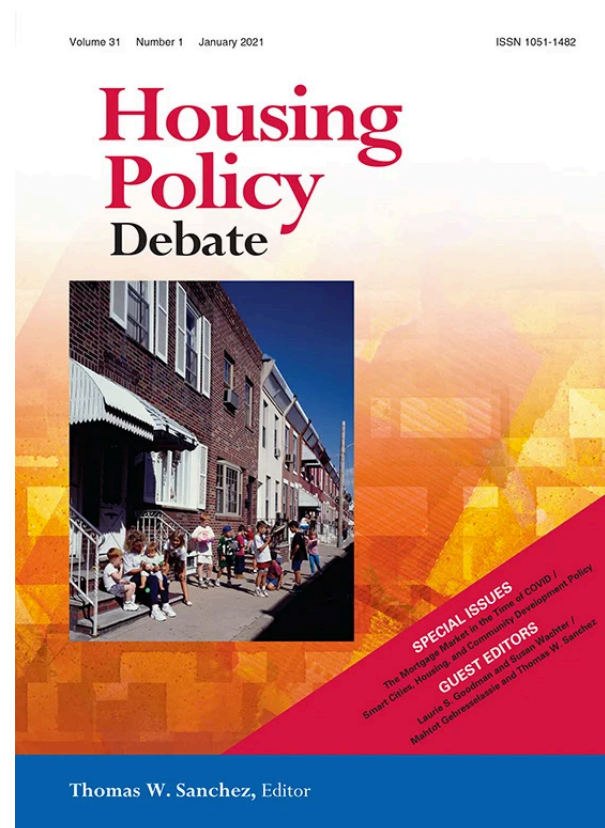
Reforming the GSEs

Urban Institute Vice President Laurie Goodman and Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter edited a set of papers in *Housing Policy Debate* that reflect on strategies to maintain and advance the reforms that have strengthened the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs). The peer-reviewed articles in the January 2021 special issue address both the current and future performance of the GSEs along several themes.

"GSEs: Their Viability as Public Utilities," by Richard Cooperstein, Ken Fears, and Susan Wachter, offers a vision of the GSEs' future as mortgage utilities. Already operating as de facto utilities, the paper posits that if the GSEs are privatized without prior agreement the maintenance of reforms will be in question. Alternatively, under a utility model, the authors demonstrate with a Monte Carlo-type analysis, the GSEs can remain profitable and can maintain rates low enough to promote broad access to the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage.

Two papers, "FHFA's Capital Rule is a Step Backwards," by Jim Parrott, Bob Ryan, and Mark M. Zandi, and "Analysis of the Proposed 2020 FHFA Rule on Enterprise Capital," by Edward Golding, Laurie Goodman, and Jun Zhu, also address privatization and critique the proposed 2020 capital rule that has been put forth in contemplation of this. Parrott, Ryan, and Zandi say that the FHFA's proposal misapplies the Basel-like bank capital regime in a way that would undermine the purpose of the GSEs, unnecessarily leading to higher mortgage rates and a less stable housing finance system. Goodman, Golding, and Zhu agree that such a regime is the wrong approach to GSE capital and offer a package of special adjustments that will better align capital with risk.

While the combination of Federal Reserve policy, the CARES Act, and enhanced loss mitigation efforts has helped stabilize mortgage markets during COVID-19, more can be done. One effective tool in the 2008 Financial Crisis could be implemented as a more effective policy intervention: streamlined refinancing. The refinance market in particular has benefited borrowers in this low rate environment. Two papers, "The Mortgage Market as a Stimulus Channel in the COVID-19 Crisis," by Edward Golding, Laurie Goodman, Richard Green, and Susan Wachter, and "Evaluating the Benefits of a Streamlined Refinance Program," by Kristopher Gerardi, Lara Loewenstein, and Paul Willen, present benefits of further streamlining the refinancing process, designed to improve the transmission of monetary policy through



the mortgage market and better position borrowers to reduce the long-term risk of mortgage default.

The papers help to move discussion forward on the structure of the GSEs, collectively taking a step closer to resolving the unfinished business of the financial crisis. They are available online at *Housing Policy Debate* and on the Penn IUR website.

Penn IUR Faculty Fellows News & Awards



AMMON WINS NEH GRANT

Francesca Russello Ammon, Associate Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning and Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, Weitzman School of Design, won a National Endowment for Humanities Grant for her digital humanities project *Sunset over Sunset*. The project will tap the vast body of streetview photographs by Los Angeles artist Ed Rusch to analyze small-scale urban change; Ammon and her collaborators, Brian Goldstein and Garrett Dash Nelson, will build an interactive website and develop toolkits scholars and others can use to study the history of the built environment.



BARNETT WRITES ON MEGAREGIONS AND MANAGING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Jonathan Barnett, Professor of Practice Emeritus, Department of City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design, wrote *Designing the Megaregion: Meeting Urban Challenges at a New Scale*, which was published in 2020 by Island Press. In it, he describes how to redesign megaregional growth using existing governmental organizations and normal business practices, without having to wait for massive government funding or new governmental structures. Jonathan Barnett is also the co-author, with Weitzman School colleague Matthijs Bouw, of the forthcoming *Managing the Climate Crisis: Designing and Building for Floods, Heat, Drought, and Wildfire*, which Island Press will publish in the spring of 2022.



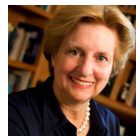
BARBER PUBLISHES ON DESIGN AND CLIMATE CONTROL

Daniel Barber, Associate Professor of Architecture, Weitzman School of Design, wrote *Modern Architecture and Climate: Design before Air Conditioning* (Princeton University Press, 2020), which charts the ways that twentieth century architects incorporated climate-mediating strategies into their designs before the widespread use of air conditioning.



BERRY CITED WIDELY IN NATIONAL NEWS

Mary Frances Berry, Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of History and Africana studies, School of Arts and Sciences, has been widely cited in media outlets including the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *NBC*, *CBS*, *PBS*, and others for her insights into the impact of the coronavirus, the Black Lives Matter movement, the push for reparations, the January 6, 2021, attack on the capital, and more. She spoke at the Penn College of Arts & Sciences' graduation celebration in May 2021.



BIRCH RESEARCHES GLOBAL URBANIZATION

Eugénie Birch, Penn IUR Co-Director and Lawrence C. Nussdorf Chair of Urban Research and Education, Weitzman School, is developing a guidance tool for local leaders to gauge the enabling environment for securing loans and grants for climate-resilient infrastructure projects with a focus on Ecuador and Indonesia through the The Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) award co-led by Penn IUR, Perry World House, Kleinman Center Visiting Fellow Mauricio Rodas. For the Wilson Center and the Korean Housing Urban Guarantee Corporation, she is researching best practices related urban resilience and, separately, a comparative study on affordable rental housing in the Netherlands and Germany. For the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation, she is creating trainings for local governments to foster innovation, especially around the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.



BURKE-WHITE AUTHORS REPORT ON U.S. GLOBAL STRATEGY

William Burke-White, Richard Perry Professor, Penn Law School, authored "A Strategic Roadmap for Reentry 2021 and Beyond: Advancing Institutional Commitments in a New Geostrategic Environment," a report coming out of an October 2020 workshop of the same name convened by the Brookings Institution and Penn's Perry World House. The report proposes six "Philadelphia Principles" to guide the U.S. toward more effective multilateralism.



CANNUSCIO LEADS PANDEMIC CONTROL EFFORTS LOCALLY

Carolyn Cannuscio, Director of Research, Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI), and Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, Perelman School of Medicine, has led coronavirus contact tracing, outbreak investigation, and pandemic control efforts locally and has been widely consulted and featured in the press, including in *The New York Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The Atlantic*.



CULHANE INFORMS COVID RESPONSE

Dennis Culhane, Professor and Dana and Andrew Stone Chair in Social Policy, and Co-Principal Investigator, Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy, wrote (with co-authors Dan Treglia and Ken Steif from Penn, Randall Kuhn from UCLA, and Thomas Byrne from Boston University) "Estimated Emergency and Observational/Quarantine Capacity Need for the U.S. Homeless Population Related to COVID-19 Exposure by County; Projected Hospitalizations, Intensive Care Units and Mortality," which informed efforts to address COVID-19 locally, regionally, and nationally. He has been widely cited in research reports on, and national press coverage of, coronavirus and homelessness.



DANIELS INAUGURATES CLIMATE COURSE

Tom Daniels, Crossways Professor, City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design, offered a new course in spring 2021: "Planning Responses To Climate Change: Mitigation And Adaptation." His recent publications include "Re-designing America's suburbs for the age of climate change and pandemics" (in *Socio-Ecological Practice Research*, 2021), "Protected Land Management and Governance in the United States" (with D. Moscovici, in *Society & Natural Resources*, 2020), and "Assessing the performance of farmland preservation in America's farmland preservation heartland" (in *Society & Natural Resources*, 2020).



DRAKE RODRIGUEZ PUBLISHES BOOK

Akira Drake Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design, published the book *Diverging Space for Deviants: The Politics of Atlanta's Public Housing* (University of Georgia Press, 2021), which explores the often-overlooked positive role of public housing in facilitating social movements and activism. She also contributed a chapter to *Perspectives on Fair Housing* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020) and spoke on the education panel in the Penn IUR Livestream series of the same name. She is a Fellow at the McHarg Center's "climate + community project" (ccp), launched in 2020, where she authored "A Green New Deal for Public Schools," a summer 2021 policy proposal.



DURANTON ON URBAN DENSITY AND CLASSIFICATION

Gilles Duranton, Dean's Chair in Real Estate Professor and Chair, Department of Real Estate, The Wharton School, edited the September 2021 issue of the *Journal of Urban Economics* on the delineation of places and their aggregation into larger units (such as cities or metropolitan areas). His recent research exploring the appropriate measurement of density, and whether and how policy should target density, was published in the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. In addition, he is regularly consulted by the national and popular press, including by the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *NPR's Marketwatch*, and *Reason* magazine.



GLANZ WORK FEATURED IN NATIONAL MEDIA

Karen Glanz, George A. Weiss University Professor, Professor of Epidemiology in the Perelman School of Medicine and Professor of Nursing in the School of Nursing, continued to publish widely in journals including *JAMA Network Open*, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Health and Place*, *Preventive Medicine*, and *Environment and Behavior*. She was featured in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on racial and health disparities and in *The Atlantic* on exercise during the pandemic.

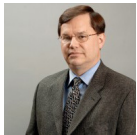
Penn IUR Faculty Fellows News & Awards

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GUERRA RECEIVES TEACHING AWARD

Erick Guerra, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Department of City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design, and Director, Cm2 University Transportation Center, received the G. Holmes Perkins Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award for Standing Faculty. With grants from the U.S. DOT, he is investigator on projects related to overbuilding of roadways, vehicle travel and ownership among older adults, and license-plate-based driving restrictions. In fall 2020 he completed a study of the impact of ride-hail services on transit usage and travel behavior in the Philadelphia region.



GYOURKO QUANTIFIES COST OF ZONING ON SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING

Joseph Gyourko, Martin Bucksbaum Professor, Professor of Real Estate, Professor of Finance, Professor of Business Economics & Public Policy, and Nancy A. Nasher and David Haemisegger Director of the Zell/Lurie Real Estate Center, wrote, with Jacob Krimmel, the July 2021 NBER paper “The Impact of Local Residential Land Use Restrictions on Land Values Across and Within Single Family Housing Markets.” The paper, which quantifies the cost of land use regulations on single-family housing, has garnered attention from outlets such as *City Journal*, the Brookings Institution, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He also reported in the *Journal of Urban Economics* on a new index of regulatory constraint in residential housing markets. The paper, written with Jonathan Hartley and Jacob Krimmel, “The Local Residential Land Use Regulatory Environment Across U.S. Housing Markets: Evidence From a New Wharton Index” is an update on an original 2008 index; the new data can be downloaded [here](#).



HANDBURY CITED ON PANDEMIC'S URBAN EFFECTS

Jessie Handbury, Assistant Professor of Real Estate, The Wharton School, was quoted in the *New York Times* (“If Restaurants Go, What Happens to Cities?”) and spoke with Knowledge@Wharton (“COVID-19 and the Myth of Urban Flight”) on the impact of the pandemic on urbanization. Her recent papers report findings from studies of the private market response to the National School Lunch Program, the use of smartphone data to measure movement and social contact, and a paper in the *Journal of Urban Economics* entitled “Urban Revival in America.”



HOLOD RECEIVES MENTORING AWARD

Renata Holod, Professor Emerita of History of Art and Curator of the Near East section of the Penn Museum, is the recipient of the 2020 Mentoring Award from the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), an award that recognizes exceptional contributions retired faculty have made to the education and training of others.



HUGHES PUBLISHES AUDIBLE BOOK

Mark Alan Hughes, Professor of Practice, Department of City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design and Faculty Director, Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, wrote and performed the Audible Original lecture series *Livable Cities*, which explores why we seek out cities and how they create the conditions that allow us to meet our fundamental needs as individuals and as a human community.



INMAN WRITES *DEMOCRATIC FEDERALISM*

Robert Inman, Richard King Mellon Professor Emeritus of Finance, Professor Emeritus of Business Economics & Public Policy, The Wharton School, wrote (with Daniel Rubinfeld) *Democratic Federalism: The Economics, Politics, and Law of Federal Governance* (University of Princeton Press, 2020). He has been featured in national media outlets on COVID-19's effect on the economy, such as *The Washington Post*, *The Hill*, and *Bloomberg Tax*, and his conversation with John Landis about infrastructure in the U.S. was featured on the PennToday podcast "Understand This...."



JACKSON RELEASES FILM

John L. Jackson, Jr., Richard Perry University Professor and Walter H. Annenberg Dean, Annenberg School for Communication, will release the ethnographic film, "Making Sweet Tea," in December 2021. Co-directed with GSE and SAS PhD student Nora Gross, the film accompanies southern-born, black gay scholar and performer E. Patrick Johnson on his journey home to the South to confront his past and narrate the lives of several black gay men whose stories he studies and performs.



JENSEN RESEARCHES URBAN SAFETY AND VIBRANCY

Shane Jensen, Professor of Statistics and Data Science, The Wharton School, has over the past year published on health, safety, and urban environments in a wide variety of journals including *PLOS One*, *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*, *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, *International Journal for Parasitology*, and *International Journal of Forecasting*, among others. He was awarded the Wharton Teaching Excellence Award in 2020 for the second year in a row.



LEATHERBARROW WRITES *BUILDING TIME*

David Leatherbarrow, Professor Emeritus of Architecture, Weitzman School of Design, wrote *Building Time: Architecture, Event, and Experience* (Bloomsbury, 2020), which offers a series of close readings of buildings, both contemporary and classic, to demonstrate the centrality of time in modern architecture.



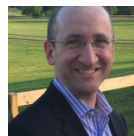
LIN RESEARCHES CHINESE CITIES

Zhongjie Lin, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design, is completing a new book examining contemporary urbanization in China. As part of Penn in China Faculty Speaker Series, he shared highlights from his research in the fall 2020 panel "The Past, Present, and Future of Chinese New Cities," presented by Penn Global, Penn Alumni Relations, and the Penn Wharton China Center. He is organizing an exhibition on modern Chinese architecture which will open at Penn in January 2022.



LUM FEATURED IN *NEW YORKER*

Ken Lum, Marilyn Jordan Taylor Presidential Professor and Chair of Fine Arts, Weitzman School of Design, was featured in *The New Yorker* for Monument Lab, the public art and history project he led with Paul Farber. His work was also featured in the Philadelphia Museum of Art's show *New Grit: Art & Philly Now*, the first exhibition in a new set of PMA galleries. Additionally, the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam, where Lum had his first solo exhibition, was renamed *Kunstinstituut Melly* in honor of work he created for his first (1990) show. He also had a solo museum show at the Middelheim Museum in Antwerp, Belgium in the spring and summer of 2021.



MACDONALD WINS AWARDS FOR EXPERIMENTAL CRIMINOLOGY AND BEST BOOK ON COMMUNITIES AND PLACE

John MacDonald, Professor of Criminology and Sociology, School of Arts and Sciences, is part of the team (that includes Penn IUR Faculty Fellows Charles Branas, Douglas Weibe, and Eugenia South) that won the 2020 Outstanding Experimental Field Trial Award from Division of Experimental Criminology (DEC) and Academy of Experimental Criminology Awards. The award recognizes the team's investigation of the effects of standardized, reproducible interventions that restore vacant land on rates of violence, crime, and on perceptions of fear and safety. MacDonald and coauthors (Charles Branas and Robert Stokes) won the 2020 James Short Senior Scholar Award from the Communities and Place Division of the American Society of Criminology for their book *Changing Places*.

Penn IUR Faculty Fellows News & Awards

(CONTINUED)



MARCINKOSKI'S FIRM CONTRIBUTES TO CHICAGO BIENNIAL

Christopher Marcinkoski, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, Weitzman School of Design, is co-founder (with Andrew Moddrell) of PORT, a multi-discipline public realm design firm that is one of 29 global practices selected to contribute to the 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial which opened in September 2021. In February of 2020, PORT was recognized by the Architectural League of New York with their Emerging Voices Award—an honor given to North American design practices with a significant body of realized work and the potential to meaningfully influence their field in the coming years. Among PORT's current work is the design of a new 100-acre central park for Bentonville, AR as part of the Walton Family Foundation's Design Excellence Program.



MASON HEADS CPCRS

Randall Mason, Historic Preservation and City and Regional Planning Professor, is the first Faculty Director of the Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites (CPCRS), a Penn initiative established in 2020 that advances the understanding and sustainable conservation of heritage places commemorating American civil rights histories and Black heritage.



PERNA APPOINTED VICE PROVOST

Laura Perna, GSE Centennial Presidential Professor of Education and Executive Director of the Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy (AHEAD), was appointed Vice Provost for Faculty in July 2020. Her recent publications include papers in *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, *AERA Open*, and *Improving Research-Based Knowledge of College Promise Programs*, edited with Edward J. Smith, among others.



PONCE DE LEÓN PUBLISHES FIRST BOOK

Jennifer Ponce de León, Associate Professor of English, published her first book, *Another Aesthetics Is Possible: Arts of Rebellion in the Fourth World War* (Duke University Press, 2021), which examines socially engaged art and social movements in Argentina, Mexico, and the United States. She also won the 2020 Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching by an Assistant Professor, which recognizes a member of the junior faculty who demonstrates unusual promise as an educator.



REINA WORK RECEIVES NATIONAL ATTENTION

Vincent Reina, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design, and Faculty Director of the Housing Initiative co-edited volume, *Perspectives in Fair Housing*, was published in the Penn Press/Penn IUR City in the 21st Century series (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020). The Housing Institute at Penn, which he leads, recently released an interactive report—"Exploring a Universal Housing Voucher"—that examines the impacts of making housing vouchers (portable subsidies that households can use to rent a housing unit in the private market) universal.



RYERSON CITED ON SAFER STREETS

Megan Ryerson, UPS Chair of Transportation and Associate Dean for Research, Weitzman School of Design, published papers on evaluation of transportation safety in *Accident Analysis and Prevention* and *Issues in Science and Technology*. Her work with Penn IUR on designing safer streets has received coverage in *Fast Company* and *Penn Today*.



SERVON TO LEAD CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR CONSUMER FINANCIAL LIVES IN TRANSITION

Lisa Servon, Kevin and Erica Penn Presidential Professor and Chair of City and Regional Planning at the Weitzman School, has been appointed research fellow at the Madison, Wisconsin-based Filene Research Institute, where she'll lead the new Center of Excellence for Consumer Financial Lives in Transition, a four-year research project focusing on strengthening credit unions' capacity to adapt to consumers' changing financial lives.



SHARKEY EDITS NEW BOOK

Heather Sharkey, Professor and Chair, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, School of Arts and Sciences, edited (with Penn's Jeffrey Edward Green) *The Changing Terrain of Religious Freedom* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021). Coming out of a series in the Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy, the volume offers theoretical, historical, and legal perspectives on religious freedom while examining its meaning as an experience, value, and right.



SOUTH CITED WIDELY ON NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT AND HEALTH

Eugenia South, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine, as well as the Faculty Director for the Penn Urban Health Lab, is working on several projects, including an evaluation of the impact of abandoned building remediation on chronic stress, and an evaluation of NatureRx, a park prescription program aimed at increased youth exposure to urban green space. Her recent publications include papers in *JAMA*, *Environmental Research*, *Journal of Urban Health*, and *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, among other journals and compendiums. She has been widely cited in media outlets such as *CNN*, *NBC*, *National Geographic*, and the *Washington Post*, among others, on how neighborhood context affects health and the impact of COVID-19 on urban communities.



STEINHARDT RECEIVES ALICE DAVIS HITCHCOCK AWARD

Nancy Steinhardt, Professor, East Asian Art Curator of Chinese Art, Penn Museum, received the 2021 Alice Davis Hitchcock Award from the Society of Architectural Historians for the best book in architectural history. *Chinese Architecture: A History* (Princeton University Press, 2019), is the first fully comprehensive survey of Chinese architecture in any language. the second year in a row.



VUCHIC OFFERS MOOC ON URBAN TRANSIT

Vukan R. Vuchic, Emeritus Professor of Transportation Systems Engineering in the School of Engineering, and of City and Regional Planning in the Weitzman School of Design, launched the free edX course "Urban Transit for Livable Cities" in January 2021. The online course includes lectures about transit systems and their roles in creating productive, socially and environmentally sound cities with high quality of life.



WACHTER'S *THE GREAT AMERICAN HOUSING BUBBLE* WINS AWARD

Susan Wachter, Penn IUR Co-Director and Albert Sussman Professor of Real Estate, and Professor of Finance, The Wharton School, authored with Adam Levitin, *The Great American Housing Bubble: What Went Wrong and How We Can Protect Ourselves in the Future* (Harvard University Press, 2020), which won the Axiom best real estate book award for 2021 and was featured in a *New York Times* article on how to navigate the Covid-19 crisis; Wachter presented findings to the FDIC in September 2021. She published co-authored papers "Price Discovery Limits in the Financial Crisis" in the *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, and "The Mortgage Market as a Stimulus Channel in the COVID-19 Crisis" and "GSEs: Their Viability as Public Utilities" in *Housing Policy Debate*. She was also recently invited to join the Advisory Board of the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the US Department of Commerce.



WELLER INDUCTED INTO CELA ACADEMY

Richard Weller, Martin and Margy Meyerson Chair of Urbanism, Professor and Chair of Landscape Architecture and Co-Executive Director of The McHarg Center at the Weitzman School of Design, was inducted into the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture's (CELA) Academy of Fellows in 2020. He co-edited (with Dr. Tatum Hands) the book *Beautiful China: Reflections on Landscape Architecture in Contemporary China*, the first serious consideration of "Beautiful China," the Chinese government's broad policy to preserve the aesthetics of Chinese culture was published in 2020 by ORO Editions. He was also selected to present his research at the 2021 Venice Biennale for which he launched two associated websites: Hotspots Cities Project, on a project that documents the global conflict between urban growth and biodiversity, and World Park Project, which sets out Weller's proposal for the ecological restoration of over 160,000 km² of land across 55 nations in regions where the world's most important biodiversity is threatened with extinction.

CONVENING

Penn IUR Convenes Experts on State and Local Finance



New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy presenting the keynote address at the Special Briefing: State and Local Leadership Challenges in the Age of COVID-19.

In Spring 2021, Penn IUR continued its monthly webinar series on the impact of COVID-19 on the fiscal outlook of state and local governments. Hosted in partnership with the Volcker Alliance, the ongoing series was launched in July 2020. The webinar series features experts and leading government officials including speakers such as Mark Zandi, Torsten Slog, Governors Idaho and New Jersey, Congress members Blumenthal and Beaumont, Mayors Nutter and Baraka..

Free and open to the public, the spring events attracted hundreds of listeners from around the world. Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter and Penn IUR Fellow William Glasgall, Volcker Alliance Senior Vice President and Director of State and Local Initiatives, introduced and moderated the discussions. A description of each event's topic and guest speakers follows, along with a link to video of the webinar:

“The Year Ahead for States and Municipalities” took place January 14, 2021 and focused on the outlook for further federal stimulus and aid to state and local governments amid the nationwide rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. This briefing featured presentations by Shelby Kerns, Executive Director, National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO); Eric Kim, Senior Director and Head of U.S. State Ratings, Fitch Ratings; Vikram Rai, Managing Director and Head, Municipal Strategy Group, Citigroup; and Mark Zandi, Chief Economist, Moody's Analytics.

“The COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout and the Impact on States and Municipalities” took place February 11, 2021 and focused on the Biden Administration's COVID-19 vaccination plan, the likely path of the pandemic, and the impact on office work and state and local tax revenues and operations. The event featured Greg Brown, Executive Director, Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School; Matthew D. Chase, CEO/Executive Director, National Association of Counties; Toluse Olorunnipa, White House Report Reporter, The Washington Post; and Torsten Slog, Chief Economist, Apollo Global Management.

“State and Local Leadership Challenges in the Age of COVID-19,” took place on March 11, 2021 and focused on the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and discussion of strategies for effective governance amid the rollout of vaccines and pending economic recovery measures. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy gave the keynote address. The event also featured Wendell Pritchett, Provost and James S. Riepe Presidential Professor of Law and Education; Richard Ravitch, former Lieutenant Governor, New York State, and Volcker Alliance Director; Tom Davis, Former Member, United States House of Representatives; Elizabeth Kellar, Director of Public Policy, International City/County Management Association; Michael Nutter, former Mayor, City of Philadelphia; and Michael Useem, William and Jacalyn Egan Professor of Management, The Wharton School. William Glasgall, Penn IUR Fellow and Volcker Alliance Senior Vice President and Director of State and Local Initiatives, and Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter served as moderators.

“State Budgeting, the COVID-19 Recession, and What Comes Next” took place April 15, 2021. Structured around the Volcker Alliance's new report, Truth and Integrity in State Budgeting: Preparing for the Storm, the webinar featured discussion of fiscal reforms that many states put in place before the 2020 recession as well as the role of trillions of dollars in federal aid in restarting the economy and stabilizing state budgets. This special briefing featured presentations by Erica MacKellar, Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures; Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst, State of California; Juliette Tennert, Chief Economist, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute; and Lisa Washburn, Managing Director, Municipal Market Analytics.

“The \$2.3 Trillion American Jobs Plan and State and Local Infrastructure Needs” took place May 20, 2021 and focused on President Joe Biden's proposed 15-year financing strategy, and the plan's potential to rejuvenate the economy as the nation recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. Panelists included U.S. Deputy Transportation Secretary Polly Trottenberg; National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial; Reason Foundation Transportation Policy Director Robert Poole; and Volcker Alliance Director Richard Ravitch, the former New York Lieutenant Governor who also headed the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

“COVID-19, the American Rescue Plan, and 2022 State and Local Budgets” took place June 17, 2021. Panelists included Shelby Kerns, Executive Director of the National Association of State Budget Officers, Mark Zandi, Chief Economist at Moody's Analytics; Hughey Newsome, Chief Financial Officer of Wayne County, Michigan; and Kim Norton, Mayor of Rochester, Minnesota.

“The Biden Infrastructure Plan: Resilience, Equity, and Federal Investment” took place July 15, 2021 and focused on social equity and climate resilience implications of the infrastructure spending proposed by the Biden administration. Panelists included Municipal Market Analytics (MMA) President Thomas G. Doe, Idaho Governor Brad Little, U.S. Representative Carolyn Bourdeaux, and Nassau County, New York Executive Laura Curran.

This series, which will continue in this academic year, began in April 2020. To stream a video of individual events, click on the above hyperlinks. For more information visit Penn IUR's event listings for upcoming events in the series and for videos of past events.

PUBLICATION

Data Science in City Planning and Education

Ken Steif, Program Director for the MUSA program, Associate Professor of Practice in City and Regional Planning, and Penn IUR Faculty Fellow discussed his book *Public Policy Analytics: Code and Context for Data Science in Government* (CRC Press, 2021) at a May 6, 2021 book talk hosted by Penn IUR and the Department of City and Regional Planning.

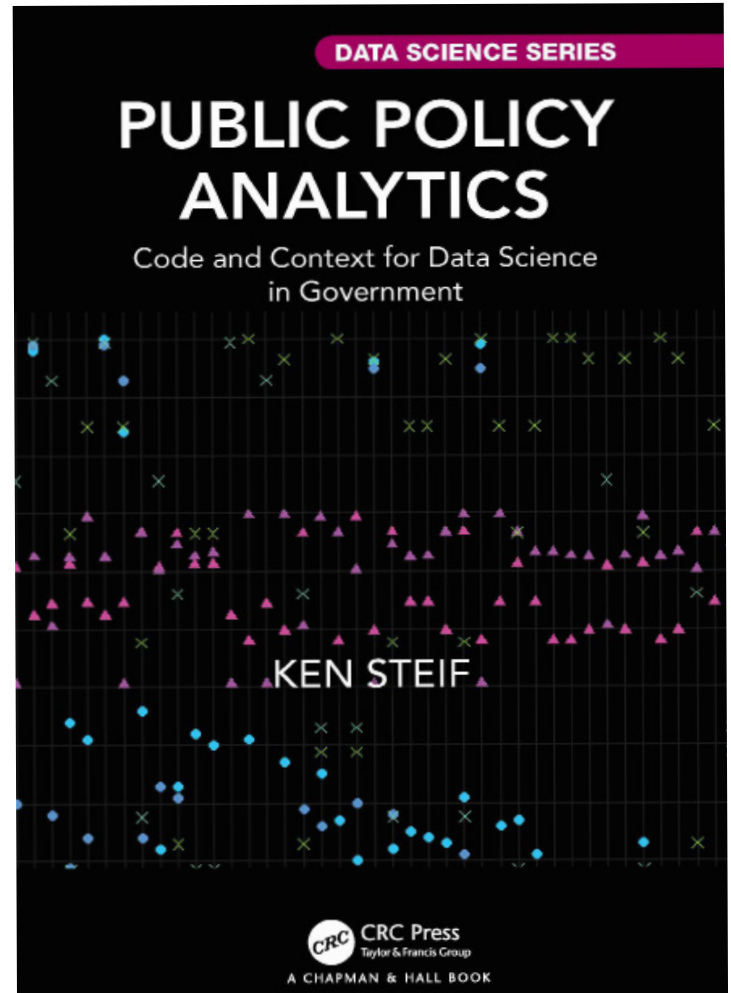
Following his presentation, Steif was joined by a panel of experts featuring Robert Cheetham, President and CEO, Azavea; Stacey Mosley, Founder and CEO, Sstepwise; Michael Schnuerle, Director of Open Source Operations, Open Mobility Foundation; and Tony Smith, Professor Emeritus, Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering, Penn School of Engineering and Applied Science, with Dennis Culhane, Professor and Dana and Andrew Stone Chair in Social Policy, Penn School of Social Policy and Practice, serving as moderator.

“Data science is increasingly becoming a big part of the discipline of city planning, and thus obviously must become an important part of planning education,” said Steif, summarizing the overarching theme of his talk. He explained that the field has changed enormously because of the availability of new data sets—and planners and planning educators need to change too. No longer must planners rely largely on census data; now, they have access to real-time, very precise, and often machine-readable data.

The skills for working in this new world are different. “Planners need to transition from being data analysts to being data scientists,” he said. He called the new way of working “data-driven decision-making.”

While promoting the benefits of such an approach, Steif also offered caution: algorithms can be discriminatory, often unintentionally. One of the major themes in his book is how planners can “open up the black box” of an algorithm to avoid discriminatory data science and achieve “algorithmic fairness.”

Public Policy Analytics is available for purchase from the publisher or for free online. Availability for free was “a condition he insisted on and that gives you some important insight into his character and values,” said Lisa Servon, Chair of the Department of City and Regional Planning and Penn IUR Faculty Fellow, in her introduction at the start of the event.



To stream the video of this event, visit the Penn IUR website. To learn more about Steif, his work, and the impact he had on public policy decision-making and on planning education, see Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch's remembrance on page 1 and Penn IUR's May 2021 interview on page 3.

The City in the 21st Century Series

Published by the University of Pennsylvania Press and edited by Eugénie Birch and Susan Wachter, *The City in the 21st Century* is an interdisciplinary series addressing both topical and long-range issues confronting the world's cities, from disaster response to cultural coexistence, from civic engagement to urban revitalization.

For a full list of books in the series visit

www.upenn.edu/pennpress/series/C21.html

RESEARCH

Urban Regeneration Research

Penn IUR launched the third phase of a study of urban regeneration practices in South Korea and the United States by initiating research on two case studies: one on urban resilience and the other on affordable housing. Penn IUR is developing these case studies as part of a partnership with the Korean Housing and Urban Guarantee Corporation (HUG), a national public company, and the Wilson Center, a nonpartisan policy think tank headquartered in Washington, D.C.

The partnership was established to compare South Korean and U.S. practices for implementing urban regeneration projects and examining various models for public-private partnerships to revitalize struggling older neighborhoods and former industrial centers. U.S. and Korean researchers have developed case studies in both South Korea and the United States to investigate and compare how public agencies, private developers, civic organizations, and other actors form and fund partnerships that lead to successful projects and community investments.

A 2020 case study of Atlantic Yards (now called Pacific Park) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, was written by Penn IUR's Program Director of Global Research Initiatives Amanda Lloyd and released in September 2020; the report details the challenges of an ambitious public-private partnership with the State of New York. In 2019, Penn IUR developed two case studies on the value of business improvement districts (BIDs) in Philadelphia, detailing how two public space projects (Dilworth Plaza and The Porch) created amenities that attracted local workers and residents, spurred private investment, and increased surrounding land values.

Lloyd kicked off research on the next two case studies in the spring of 2021. Penn IUR anticipates releasing reports on this research in the winter of 2021-22.

Urban Leadership Forum and Award Winners

(CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

"Both of them have been active in their city and in the global arena promoting the ideas of what makes a green and just society."

Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter noted that both have built coalitions across the private and civic sector for long-run inclusive and sustainable growth at the local level. The mayors spoke of the value of getting input from a variety of constituencies to craft plans with attainable goals, and of the need to take the lead in sustainability efforts within their regions as more people migrate into cities.

"For many years I and others have been talking about the inter-dependence of both the environment and social justice and by extension of that, when we talk about sustainability, it has to mean social sustainability alongside environmental sustainability," Rees said. "If we don't deliver one, we will severely undermine the other. And we also know that the impact of environmental destruction falls first and hardest on the shoulders of the most vulnerable people."

Aki-Sawyerr became Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone in May 2018 with a commitment to transform Freetown using an inclusive, data-driven approach to address challenges in the city. Her three-year Transform Freetown Plan, launched in January 2019, details 19

concrete targets across 11 sectors and covers issues ranging from waste management and housing to improving urban planning, tackling environmental degradation, and facilitating the creation of jobs in the tourism sector.

A finance professional with over 25 years of private sector experience in strategic planning and management, Mayor Aki-Sawyerr's public sector engagement began with her work as the Director of Planning at the National Ebola Response Centre during the Ebola epidemic of 2014-15 and her subsequent role as Delivery Team Lead for the President's Recovery Priorities—the second phase of a multi-stakeholder program to drive socio-economic recovery in Sierra Leone after Ebola. Her advocacy and charity contributions include campaigning against the trade in "blood diamonds" during the Sierra Leone civil war and, in 1999, co-founding the Sierra Leone War Trust for Children (SLWT), which continues to support disadvantaged children in Sierra Leone today.

Rees was sworn in as Mayor of Bristol, England in May 2016, becoming the first person of Black African-Caribbean descent to be elected mayor of a major European city. With a commitment to creating a fairer and more inclusive city, his priorities are to tackle Bristol's housing crisis by building more homes, to improve transportation

and mobility, to ensure early intervention in health, and to progress social mobility through education and supporting business to identify and connect with talent from disadvantaged communities. His One City Plan for Bristol brings together the organizations and groups with the largest footprint in the city to better work together and agree to overarching shared city aims and coordinate solutions to the challenges facing the city as a whole. Under Rees' leadership, Bristol has built 9,000 new homes, doubled the frequency of bus service, and invested 1 million euros (\$119 million) in bio-methane fueling stations.

He began his career with Tearfund, one of the UK's leading international development agencies, subsequently working in Washington, D.C. on the response of faith-based organizations to President Clinton's Welfare Reform Bill. He later worked in both public health and radio broadcasting, becoming a journalist at BBC Radio Bristol. He founded the City Leadership Programme in 2012, which invests in the development of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, and continues as its director.

To stream a video of the event, visit the Penn IUR website.

INSTRUCTION

H+U+D Supports Inclusive, Diverse, Urbanism

The Penn Humanities, Urbanism, and Design (H+U+D) Initiative, funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation, proceeded virtually during the Spring 2021 semester, bridging the divide between the humanities and design disciplines in the study of cities through frequent interdisciplinary exchanges, student research awards, and graduate and undergraduate courses.

The H+U+D colloquium—a group of 15 scholars from across the university who meet bi-weekly to share research, foster collaboration, and build relationships—is a signature component of the initiative. One highlight of the colloquium's spring semester meetings was H+U+D Faculty Fellow Daniel Barber's discussion of his recent book *Modern Architecture and Climate: Design Before Air Conditioning* (Princeton University Press, 2020) with a panel of guest scholars including Dorit Aviv, Assistant Professor of Architecture, Weitzman School of Design, and Alexandra Quantrill, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University.

Hearing from H+U+D student awardees, who presented their research in January and February, constituted another semester highlight. Student research topics included urban gardeners in Philadelphia, musical responses to the Manchester Arena Bombing, the impact of Sufism on Cairo's eighteenth and nineteenth century cityscape, urban forms in Hyderabad, India, and colonial oversights in post-abolition Puerto Rico.

H+U+D sponsored five courses in Spring 2021: an anchor institution seminar, a city seminar, a problematics graduate seminar, and two seminars taught by H+U+D Junior Fellows, scholars who have recently completed their doctoral

work at another institution. As a result of the pandemic, the city seminars did not include a travel component as they have in past years and H+U+D student awardees were more limited in their ability to travel for their research, though several used technology in creative ways to interview subjects remotely and carry out their research from a distance.

H+U+D is a joint project with the Weitzman School of Design and the School of Arts and Sciences, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to foster integrative considerations of the relationship between the humanities and the design professions in the analysis and shaping of the built environment. In 2020-21, H+U+D was co-directed by Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch, Nussdorf Professor, City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design, and Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Andrea Goulet, Professor of French and Francophone Studies, Department of Romance Languages, Penn School of Arts and Sciences. In 2021-22, the initiative will be co-directed by Goulet and Franca Trubiano, Associate Professor of Architecture, Weitzman School of Design. Trubiano is substituting for Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Daniel Barber, Associate Professor and Chair of the Graduate Group in Architecture, Weitzman School of Design, who is on leave in 2021-22. Birch will continue working with the initiative in an advisory role.

Following the successful completion of the project's first five-year period, Mellon renewed the grant for a second five-year period beginning in 2018. Under the renewed grant, the Initiative takes "The Inclusive City: Past, Present, and Future" as its theme, focusing on issues of inclusivity and diversity. For more information on the Initiative and its programs visit www.humanitiesurbanismdesign.com.



Broad Street by M. Edlow for Visit Philadelphia

About Penn IUR

THE PENN INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH

is dedicated to advancing cross-disciplinary urban-focused research, instruction, and civic engagement on issues relevant to cities around the world. As the global population becomes increasingly urban, understanding cities is vital to informed decision-making and public policy at the local, national, and international levels. Penn IUR has a strong focus on research that informs the sustainable and inclusive 21st-century city. By providing a forum for collaborative scholarship and instruction at Penn and beyond, Penn IUR stimulates research and engages with urban practitioners and policymakers to inform urban policy.

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