



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit <http://penniur.upenn.edu> for more details.

**JANUARY 22, 2014**

**Penn IUR Public Interest Event**

**The Legacy of Urban Renewal**

**National Building Museum, Washington D.C. | 6:30pm – 8:00pm**

With cities across the United States once again gaining population and building large-scale projects, this panel will discuss the long-term impact of 1950s and '60s urban renewal with a special focus on D.C.'s Southwest development. Timed to coincide with the publication of *Ed Bacon: Planning, Politics and the Building of Modern Philadelphia*, the panel will look at how other cities, such as Philadelphia, have learned from their experiences. Panelists include Eugénie Birch, Co-Director of Penn IUR, and Greg Heller, Senior Advisor at Econsult Solutions, Inc. This program is presented in partnership with the Urban Land Institute. Prepaid registration required. Walk-in registration based on availability. Register at the National Building Museum website: <http://nbm.org>.

**JANUARY 24, 2014**

**MUSA Lunch Speaker**

**Geospatial Technology and Careers in GIS**

**Meyerson Hall, G12 | 12:00pm – 1:30pm**

Brian Smith, Director of Commercial Solutions, and Adam Conner, Senior Application Developer of GeoDecisions, a leading international geospatial IT company, will discuss the current state of the industry and present an overview of how GIS technologies are evolving for applications in multiple professional disciplines and industry sectors. Highlighting current projects at GeoDecisions, the session will provide a look at current and cutting-edge technologies as well as describe skill sets that employers seek. The session will include a Q&A around current and future innovation in geospatial software, business applications, and related skill sets. Lunch will be provided. This event is free and open to the public. Space is limited; registration required.

**JANUARY 29, 2014**

**Penn IUR 10th Anniversary Event**

**Urban Book Talk: *Revitalizing American Cities***

**Houston Hall, Ben Franklin Room | 5:30pm – 7:00pm**

*Revitalizing American Cities*, the latest release from Penn IUR's City in the 21st Century book series with the University of Pennsylvania Press, emerged from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's "Reinventing Older Communities: Building Resilient Cities" conference in 2012. It explores the historical, regional, and political factors that have allowed some industrial cities to regain their footing in a changing economy. This panel will feature the book's editors and contributors including Paul Brophy, Principal at Brophy & Reilly, LLC; Steven Cochrane, Managing Director of Moody's Analytics; Catherine Tumber, Visiting Scholar at Northeastern University's School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs; Kim Zeuli, Senior Vice President and Director of Research and Advisory Services, Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC); and Eugénie Birch and Susan Wachter, Co-Directors of Penn IUR and editors of *The City in the 21st Century* book series. Co-sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Press and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. This event is free and open to the public.

**March 27-28, 2014**

**10th Anniversary Research Retreat**

**Sustainable Urbanization: Place Matters**

Penn IUR Faculty Fellows, Scholars, and other urban experts from academia, practice, and university-based urban research centers worldwide will meet to explore how to use place-based strategies to address the critical challenges of resilience, social inequality, and economic development. Participants include Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology, Columbia University; Anthony Yeh, Dean, Graduate School, University of Hong Kong; Abha Joshi-Ghani, Director, Knowledge Exchange and Learning, the World Bank Institute; faculty from Penn's twelve schools, and others. Supported by The Rockefeller Foundation. On the evening of March 27, retreat participants will engage in a public panel discussion, sharing the outcomes of the retreat with a wider audience.

**APRIL 5 -11, 2014**

**Penn IUR Exhibition at the World Urban Forum**

**Medellín, Columbia**

Penn IUR will mount an exhibition showcasing our latest research and publications at the 7th World Urban Forum. The event will bring together national leaders, slum dwellers, cabinet ministers, United Nations representatives, women's groups, mayors, youth, academics, diplomats, community and business leaders, parliamentarians, local government groups, urban activists, and more; in short, all who share the vision for better and smarter cities of the future are brought together to discuss the theme of urban equity and how to shape cities. For more information on the World Urban Forum visit <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=767>.

**APRIL 22, 2014**

**Penn IUR 10th Anniversary Event**

**MUSA Earth Day Lecture**

**Meyerson Hall, Lower Gallery | 5:30pm – 7:30pm**

To celebrate Earth Day, panelists will examine rapid population growth and the institutional, technological, and behavioral innovations impacting the ability of the Earth to sustain future human settlement. Speakers to be announced.

**MAY 12-14, 2014**

**National Impact Conference**

**Reinventing Older Communities: Building Prosperity in American Communities**

**Loews Hotel, Philadelphia**

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia will host its 6th biennial conference on issues facing older industrial cities. This year's conference theme is "Bridging Growth & Opportunity," and Penn IUR is organizing the research component, with sessions focused on how to promote inclusive economic growth. To register, visit <http://www.phil.frb.org/community-development/events/2014/reinventing-older-communities>.

**MAY 15, 2014**

**Healthy Cities, Healthy Women: The Global Future**

**Zellerbach Theater, Annenberg Center | 11:00am – 3:00pm**

Experts, practitioners, and activists speak on issues affecting the health of women living in cities worldwide, such as trafficking, interpersonal violence, access to healthcare, and the physical barriers of city spaces. Presented with the School of Nursing.



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: LISA MITCHELL

Lisa Mitchell is an Associate Professor and Graduate Chair of the Department of South Asia Studies and the Director of the South Asia Center. She is an anthropologist and historian of southern India. Her interdisciplinary research and teaching interests include democracy and public space; the city in South Asia; technology, media, and discourse networks; knowledge production and intellectual history; language politics; colonialism and empire; and Telugu language and literature. Her book *Language, Emotion, and Politics in South India: The Making of a Mother Tongue* (Indiana University Press 2009 and Permanent Black 2010) was a recipient of the American Institute of Indian Studies' Edward Cameron Dimock, Jr. Prize in the Indian Humanities.

### **1. You are a scholar of southern India, with a particular interest in public space, political protest, and cities. How did you become interested in these areas?**

Like many Americans, I grew up in an extremely monolingual context. Unlike four out of every five Americans, however, I did not grow up in an urbanized area, but instead grew up in a series of rural small towns in the Midwest, which may explain my interest both in cities and in multilingual cosmopolitanisms. When I went off to college, I was very much looking forward to expanding my knowledge of the larger world. I was somewhat disappointed, however, at the Euro-American focus of most of my courses in college—in literature, history, political science, etc. In my second year, I took a government class on North-South relations (which at the time was the politically correct way of referring to countries that had earlier been described as “developed” and “developing”). I thought a course on North-South relations would introduce perspectives from both types of nations and help to address some of what I felt was missing in my education up to that point. I expected that we would read some authors from “northern” countries, and some from “southern” countries, but instead we read entirely American authors, with the exception of one British author—not exactly a balanced perspective. At that point I decided to seek out some sort of opportunity that would help me to gain some insight into other perspectives on

history, politics, literary production, and culture, and I enrolled in the University of Wisconsin's College Year in India program. I spent a summer in Madison, Wisconsin studying the Tamil language, followed by ten months in Madurai, a city of about one million people in southern India. While there, I continued my Tamil language study at Madurai Kamaraj University. During our term breaks, I had a chance to travel to other cities in India, including Madras (now Chennai), Hyderabad, Bangalore, Calcutta (now Kolkata), Delhi, and Varanasi, and also Kathmandu in Nepal.

It was while I was in Hyderabad and Bangalore that I was struck by how commonplace multilingualism was in urban India. Domestic household workers with little or no education would routinely move in and out of three, four, even five different languages. This was so different from my experience of language use and acquisition in the United States that I chose to examine language ideology and multilingualism in three cities in India for my MA thesis. Today there are over 1,600 different languages recognized by the decennial Indian census, with 30 languages in India spoken by more than one million speakers. Out of these, 22 are recognized by the Indian constitution as official languages. In the mid-1950s, the division of Indian states was redrawn along linguistic lines. My first book grew out of this earlier research to focus on historical changes in ideas about and representations of language during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that helped lead to the creation of the first linguistic state in independent India in 1953. Of central importance in contestations over linguistic statehood in India was the status of cities. Madras (Chennai), Bombay (Mumbai), and even Bangalore are all examples of cosmopolitan, multilingual cities that have experienced heated contestations between speakers of different languages over who should control the city, and Hyderabad is currently at the center of conflicts over the creation of yet another new state, Telangana. So although my first book project, *Language, Emotion, and Politics in South India: The Making of a Mother Tongue*, was ostensibly concerned with language, it also began to investigate the role of politics and public space in contemporary urban India. This has led to my second and current book project on *Public Space in the*



*History of Indian Democracy*, a project that really grew out of the first book.

### **2. What is your new book about?**

The new book looks at the spaces of transportation networks, particularly roads, railways, and the intersections and junctions that connect them. However, it treats them not as forms of transportation, but rather as mediums of communication, with particular attention to how they have helped to enable new forms of politics in India.

As part of the last chapter of my first book, I interviewed many people (at the time mostly in their seventies and eighties) who had been young men in the 1950s during the movement that led to the creation of the first linguistic state in independent India. In these conversations, I was struck by how important railway stations had been to the political activism of the 1950s (and to earlier political movements). Upon closer examination, I realized that all of the activists who had been killed in police crackdowns on the linguistic state protests (in at least four different towns) had been killed in or adjacent to railway stations along the main Madras-Calcutta railway line. Indeed, railway stations tended to be central meeting places for political gatherings, something hardly surprising when you consider that they were natural gathering places anyway, and political mobilizations tended to spread along this main transportation artery. Newspapers, exam results, and the mail all arrived by train, and many people would

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routinely meet their friends at the station for their morning or evening cup of tea or coffee, and catch up on and discuss that day's news. Whenever a rumor was circulating, people would make a beeline for the station to learn more. Since radio broadcasts were government-controlled and newspapers were seen to reflect the interests of particular political factions, people considered news collected from travelers getting down from a train arriving from the place where something had just happened to be the most reliable form of news. Stations were the links with the outside world.

Each chapter of the book takes up a different form of political practice involving public space and traces a longer history of that practice. Most histories of Indian democracy begin only with Indian independence in 1947, or, if they make any reference to democracy prior to independence, refer only to formal democratic institutions and processes like municipal elections or the establishment of legislative proceedings. But if scholars of Europe like Jürgen Habermas can consider the coffee houses of England or the salons of Paris as fundamental to the emergence of Western forms of democracy, then it's equally important for us to recognize other forms of public spheres that have inflected the ways in which democracy has emerged in a context like India. As the world's largest democracy, it's inadequate for us to analyze democracy in India simply as an institutional transplant from elsewhere and evaluate it against the ways that democracy functions in America or Europe. Instead, my book advocates close examinations of existing forms of political practice that span both the pre- and post-independence periods. I trace the ways that specific forms of political practices changed during the colonial and post-colonial periods, but also examine continuities that bridge the moment of independence. The book looks closely at activities like political processions; M. K. Gandhi's addresses to crowds that would gather in railway stations as he traveled by train throughout India during the anti-colonial movement; road and rail blockages used to telegraph political messages over long distances to political leaders; ticketless travel to political rallies; and dharnas or sit-down strikes, popularized on the global stage by Gandhi, but clearly already in use long before his birth. The project has been an exciting one, as it's enabled me put into conversation theoretical approaches to the study of public space

and the built environment, ethnographic approaches to the mapping of discursive, communicative, and political networks, and historical approaches to the significance of public space within the success of anti-colonial movements and the development of democracy.

### 3. What are some of your other research interests?

With my second book now nearly complete, I've recently begun a new project on the cultural history of cement in India, provisionally titled *Three Bags of Cement: Concrete Dreams in the New India*. I've been intrigued by the role of cement and concrete in India for some time now. Way back in the early 1990s, I remember travelling by bus from the city of Chennai (at that time called Madras, the capital of the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu) to the temple city of Tirupati in the neighboring state of Andhra Pradesh. As we crossed the state border from Tamil Nadu into Andhra Pradesh, I remember that the only way I could tell we'd crossed the border is that the advertisements for cement (King and Coromandel brand, in particular) switched from Tamil script to Telugu script, reflecting the dominant language in each state. At the time I was struck by the fact that cement was virtually the only commodity that was being advertised in the countryside. Whenever we'd approach a town, you'd see other kinds of advertisements, but in the countryside, it was almost exclusively cement advertisements, and I was a bit puzzled by this.

Then two summers ago at the end of a research trip to Hyderabad for my project on public space and Indian democracy, I found myself traveling on the airport AeroExpress bus back to Hyderabad's new airport, twenty-two kilometers outside the city. In the time since I'd last been in Hyderabad, a new, elevated expressway had been constructed to connect the city with the airport. And what was the number one commodity being advertised on both sides of this new expressway? Once again, it was cement—this time, at least fifteen or twenty different brands. At that point I knew that cement had to be part of my next project. I spent this past summer doing some preliminary groundwork for the new project to identify specific locations for my research. This involved interviewing and spending time with people at each point along the cement commodity chain. I spent a day touring a cement factory in Nalgonda district, tracing cement's manufacture from

limestone quarry to bagging, loading, and dispatch. I interviewed and spent time with distributors and cement salesmen; real estate developers, contractors, and builders; site managers, masons, and laborers; architects and interior designers; and various types of consumers of cement, both domestic and commercial. I also talked to those involved in protests against bauxite and laterite mining (used in manufacturing cement), illegal river sand mining (combined with cement to make concrete), and the construction of Hyderabad's outer ring road, which has involved appropriation and rezoning of agricultural land and sparked rampant land and real estate speculation.

What I eventually plan to do is trace three bags of cement through their production, circulation, and consumption processes, using each to illuminate various economic, social, and cultural processes at work in contemporary India, as well as key sites of conflict and contestation (e.g., land, minerals and other natural resources, labor). One bag of a particular grade might end up in a road construction project or a big dam, a second in domestic real estate construction, and a third in commercial construction, illuminating three different domains central to processes of urbanization and the creation of built environments in India today.

### 4. You helped plan the "India as a Pioneer of Innovation" conference held at Penn in November. What were some of the key findings that came out of this conference?

One of the highlights of the conference was its true interdisciplinarity. Zeke Emanuel, the Vice Provost for Global Initiatives, was committed to making it possible to bring scholars and policy experts from different schools at Penn and from outside the academy together in order to create conversations between groups who don't often speak to one another. As the director of the South Asia Center, I'm looking forward to the Center's role in building on these conversations to enable Penn's long-standing expertise on India (and the South Asian region more generally) to be made more available to broader audiences outside of the University. Penn's commitment to the study of India emerged over a century ago, and the University was the first to establish a dedicated academic department devoted to the study of the South Asian region after the Second World War. Currently we're about to unveil a new set of research priorities that fur-

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# LESSONS FROM DETROIT: LIFE AFTER BANKRUPTCY

On September 10, Penn IUR and the Social Science Policy Forum (SSPF) hosted a panel discussion on the municipal bankruptcy of Detroit and the implications for other American cities. Entitled “Bankrupt: Lessons from Detroit’s Fiscal Crisis,” the panel included speakers Gilles Duranton, Professor of Real Estate and Chair of the Real Estate Department at The Wharton School; Robert P. Inman, Professor of Finance, Economics, and Public Policy at The Wharton School; Jeremy Nowak, President of J. Nowak and Associates, LLC and Chair of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; and Thomas J. Sugrue, Professor of History and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania and Director of SSPF. Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter moderated.

The panel began with a discussion of the history of Detroit’s decline since the 1950s. Panelists traced the effects of shifting demographics, a declining city population, and job losses in the manufacturing industry that led to a population decrease of 65 percent since 1950, from 1.8 million residents to about 700,000 residents. These major demographic shifts have had a dramatic effect on the landscape of the city, shrinking tax revenues and stretching city services that have been growing more expensive to provide. During this period of decline, the city accumulated mounting debt, a problem not unique to Detroit. Panelists pointed out that the political incentive structure that has confounded Detroit is one that exists in most cities; it favors borrowing funds for short-term needs at the expense of long-term fiscal health. City governments can borrow money in a variety of ways, including traditional bond markets but also other, off-balance-sheet borrowing practices that Detroit has used to finance its day-to-day operations for some time. Robert Inman said, however, that “Detroit’s fiscal crisis is the most serious of any city” and explained that no other municipal bankruptcies compare to the scope of Detroit’s current situation. This left two large questions for the end of the discussion: Will Detroit emerge from this bankruptcy in a better position to address the problems facing the city? And what does the Detroit bank-

ruptcy teach us for other cities experiencing serious fiscal issues? The panelists had a variety of opinions.

Duranton was particularly pessimistic, saying that the most recent economic shocks could lead to a renewed out-migration, with some residents remaining simply because of the extremely low cost of housing. He compared the current situation in Detroit to that of Liverpool and Leeds in England, cities that began manufacturing decline in the 1920s and have yet to stop population decline, a comparison that does not bode well for the Motor City.

Nowak was more optimistic and suggested using place-based investment strategies to boost the few areas of the city that still have market traction, expecting a trend of increasing in-migration of young residents. However, he acknowledged that the city has a very limited political capacity to address its issues and coordinate interventions.

Panelists offered their views on the lessons other cities can learn from Detroit’s ongoing fiscal crisis. Inman warned against three forms of off-balance-sheet debt: underfunding

pensions, rolling over debt, and not paying for infrastructure repair and maintenance. By not making pension payment contributions, a city gets a subsidized employee in the immediate term, but pays with interest over the long term. Second, cities need to control their borrowing. Cities will often run a deficit and roll over the short-term debt into the next fiscal year or will borrow debt in excess of actual project costs and use surplus revenues to finance operating expenses. These practices lead to serious problems if used over long periods of time. Cities will also need to address infrastructure repair and maintenance on schedule rather than deferring those costs. However, these fiscal lessons alone won’t solve the problems facing Detroit; reducing municipal costs through consolidation of service provision and spurring economic development is also necessary. Nowak expanded on the need for economic development building from strengths in the educational and medical sectors. (See article on page 1 for additional discussion of eds and meds.)

**Detroit’s Crisis:** The abandoned Packard Automotive Plant in Detroit. Photo credit: Albert Duce via Wikimedia.



# PENN GIS DAY EXPLORES THE GEOSPATIAL REVOLUTION

The availability of remotely sensed, real-time, high-resolution satellite data is transforming the potential of earth imagery. Kumar Navulur, Director of Next Generation Products at DigitalGlobe, demonstrated how this is happening in his keynote address at Penn's celebration of GIS Day on November 20.

In his address, Navulur described the transformative potential made by the availability of higher-resolution satellite imaging and other remote sensing data. Advancing technology, he noted, makes access to satellite images nearly real-time. Navulur called upon the new generation to realize the incredible possibilities inherent in such technological advances.

A panel session entitled "City of Data—Civic Innovation in Philadelphia," explored the development and future direction of "open data" and geospatial data applications in the city. Presenters included Mark Headd, Chief Data Officer with the City of Philadelphia; Brian Ivey, GIS Manager at the City of Philadelphia's Office of Innovation and Technology; Lauren Gilchrist, Manager of Research and Analysis at Philadelphia's Center City District (CCD); Sarah Low, Philadelphia Urban Field Station Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service; and Grant Ervin, Public Safety GIS Program Manager from Philadelphia's Deputy Mayor's Office of Public Safety.

"Lightning Talks" highlighted GIS resources at Penn. Panelists, including Tara Jackson, Executive Director of Penn's Cartographic Modeling Lab, Paul Amos, Managing Director of the Wharton GIS Lab, and Christine Murray, Social Sciences Data Librarian at Van Pelt/Penn Libraries, presented overviews of their programs' capacities.

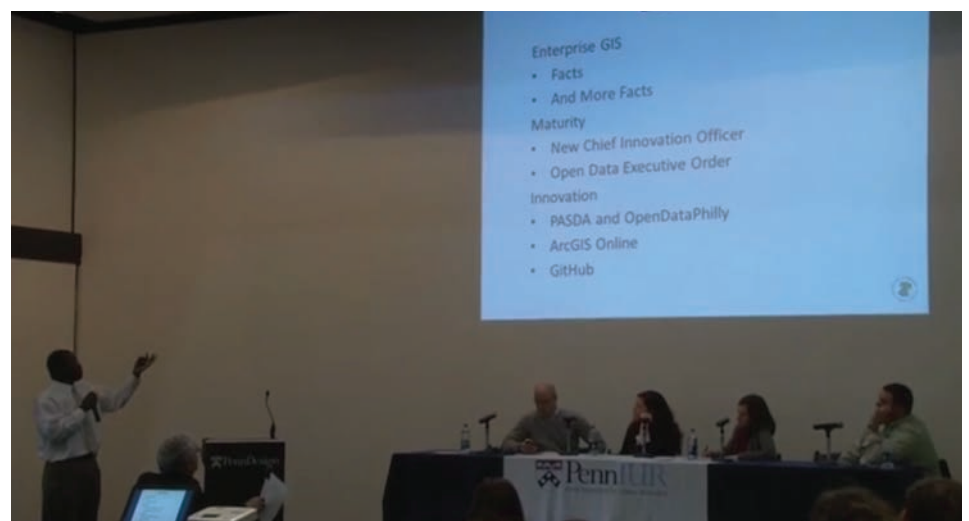
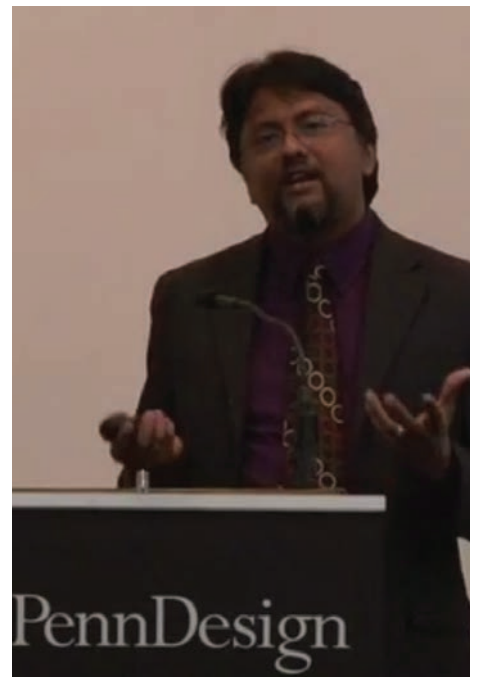
The afternoon panel explored findings in GIS-based urban research. Charles Branas, Professor of Epidemiology at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine and Director of the Cartographic Modeling Lab, discussed the results of his ongoing research showing the association between vacant properties and crime, highlighting potential place-based interventions ("cleaning and greening") as strategies for improving public health and revitalizing neighborhoods. Ken Steif, Doctoral Fellow in the City and Regional Planning Department at the School of Design, presented geo-statistical models esti-

imating the real estate value of shuttered public school properties in Philadelphia. Eugene Brusilovskiy, Statistician and Director of GIS Analytics in the Rehabilitation Research Lab at Temple University, presented his evaluation of associations between psychiatric disability and the availability of neighborhood amenities. More than 100 GIS experts, practitioners, students, academics, and other members of the Penn GIS community took part in Penn IUR's celebration of GIS Day.

The School of Design's Dana Tomlin, Professor of Landscape Architecture; Amy Hillier, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning; and John Landis, Crossways Professor of City and Regional Planning, co-hosted the event.

Video footage of each session and PDF slideshows by each presenter may be accessed on Penn IUR's website at: <http://penniur.upenn.edu/news/2013/12/06/penn-gis-day-explores-the-geospatial-revolution>.

**GIS DAY:** Above, Kumar Navulur, Director of Next Generation Products at DigitalGlobe, gave the keynote address at Penn's GIS Day. Right, building outline shapefiles available at [opendataphilly.org](http://opendataphilly.org). Below, Brian Ivey, GIS Manager at the City of Philadelphia's Office of Innovation and Technology, gives an overview of Philadelphia's geospatial data capabilities. Participants Mark Headd, Chief Data Officer with the City of Philadelphia; Lauren Gilchrist, Manager of Research and Analysis at Philadelphia's Center City District (CCD); Sarah Low, Philadelphia Urban Field Station Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service; and Grant Ervin, Public Safety GIS Program Manager from Philadelphia's Deputy Mayor's Office of Public Safety, are on the panel.





## REVITALIZING AMERICAN CITIES RELEASED

**R**e*vitalizing American Cities*, the latest volume in Penn IUR's and Penn Press's City in the 21st Century series, explores the rise and fall of former industrial hubs and the factors that have allowed many of these cities to reinvent themselves for the twenty-first century. Edited by Susan Wachter and Kimberly Zeuli, the volume provides a detailed look at the potential to strengthen the resilience of American cities.

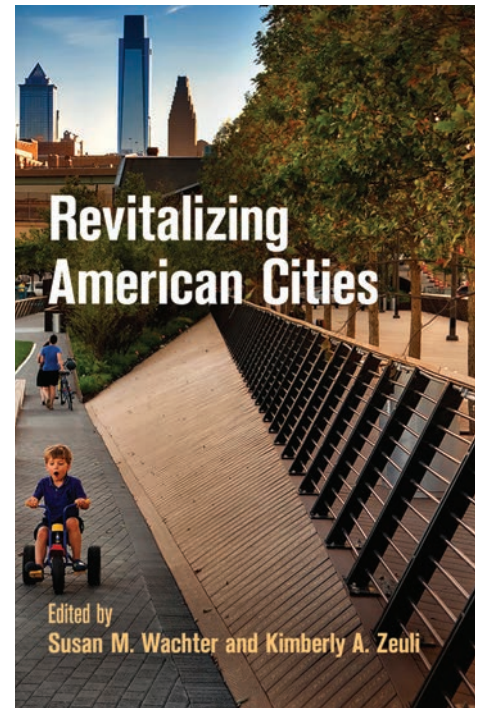
The book emerged from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's conference "Reinventing Older Communities: Building Resilient Cities" in 2012. Penn IUR organized the research track with sessions during that gathering.

The small and midsize cities on which the book focuses were once thriving centers of America's nineteenth-century industrial economy. But in the twentieth century, they lost their industrial base and, with it, their population. In the twenty-first century, many of these once-declining cities have adopted

innovative policies and have become pioneers of postindustrial urban revitalization.

Contributors to this book examine both the causes of and the responses to decline to uncover why some cities are able to reinvent themselves while other continue to struggle. They analyze national patterns and drivers of growth and decline, present case studies and comparative analyses of decline and renewal, consider approaches to the problems that accompany the vacant land and blight common to many of the country's declining cities, and examine tactics that cities can use to prosper in a changing economy.

The City in the 21st Century book series includes twenty-eight volumes that encompass the depth and breadth of contemporary urban scholarship across a wide range of topics including globalization, anthropology, planning, sociology, economics, architecture, urban design, political science, and history. A full list of titles can be found here: <http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/series/C21.html>.



## AUTHORS EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR LEGACY CITIES

**O**n November 11, Penn IUR hosted a panel discussion celebrating the release of *The City After Abandonment*, edited by Margaret Dewar and June Manning Thomas. The book, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press as part of Penn IUR's City in the 21st Century series, investigates the conditions of disinvested places and why some improvement efforts have greater impact than others.

The event featured Margaret Dewar, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and three contributing authors: Laura Lawson, Professor and Chair of Rutgers University's Department of Landscape Architecture; Dale Thomson, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan-Dearborn; and Robert Beauregard, Professor of Urban Planning at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch moderated the discussion.

Birch began by advocating for the use of the term "legacy cities"—rather than the commonly used term "shrinking cities"—

to describe the many cities in the American Northeast and Midwest that have lost population and jobs in the post-war era. She pointed out that these places face challenges inherited from previous generations, but also harbor artifacts that offer opportunities. The term shrinking cities overemphasizes the obstacles and ignores the potential for reinvention.

With that as a premise, Dewar presented two overarching questions to the panelists: What does a city become after abandonment? What determines a city's possible futures?

Lawson discussed the need to reuse the vacant land so often characteristic of legacy cities, citing urban agriculture as perhaps the most visible form of reuse. Referencing projects in Detroit and St. Louis, she illustrated how gardens can serve very different purposes depending on context. She noted that projects in Detroit largely occur in isolation and are often tied to food insecurity while projects in St. Louis tend to be tools for community organizing and strategic planning. In both cities, however, urban agriculture returns land to active use and tended space.

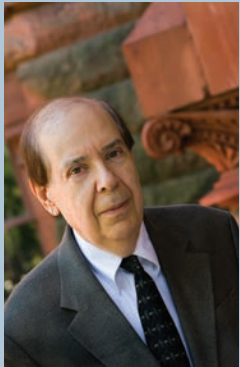
Thomson discussed using strategic geographic targeting—mapping and prioritizing

for effective resource allocation—to improve development outcomes in transitional neighborhoods. While BID and CDCs have been using geographic targeting for a decade or more, for governments its use is relatively new. He argued that the approach, which attempts to stabilize neighborhoods and then stimulate investment, could be especially effective with central administration by a municipal government.

Beauregard shared lessons from the neighborhood lifecycle model, which describes an arc from a community's early growth to its eventual abandonment. The model suggests that a neighborhood will need different interventions at different points in its lifecycle and stresses the importance of planning across all stages.

The conversation focused on challenges that legacy cities face at the neighborhood scale. Panelists recognized, however, that while public leaders, planners, and policymakers are increasingly focusing on developing localized approaches to combat disinvestment, a thorough understanding of long-term macroeconomic forces remains as important as ever in determining the goals of a legacy city's strategic plan.

# Penn IUR Faculty Fellows News and Awards



## Jonathan Barnett Presents MOOC

Jonathan Barnett, Emeritus Professor of Practice in City and Regional Planning in the School of Design, along with Gray Hack and Stefan Al of the School of Design faculty, have been presenting *Designing Cities*, a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on the Coursera platform. The nine-week course, which has drawn almost 30,000 participants from all over the world, has also featured appearances by other Penn faculty including Dean Marilyn Taylor and Professors Chris Marcinkoski, David Gouverneur, and Randy Mason. The course has created an international conversation about cities through its online forums.



## David R. Bell Publishes New Book

David R. Bell, Xinmei Zhang and Yongge Dai Professor of Marketing at The Wharton School, has a book coming out in 2014 entitled *Location is (Still) Everything* (New Harvest 2014). In it, Bell argues that the way we use the Internet is largely shaped by the physical world that we inhabit.



## Eugénie Birch Speaks Widely

Eugénie Birch, Lawrence C. Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research, Department of City and Regional Planning in the School of Design, and Co-Director, Penn IUR, gave a number of talks including “What Does an Urban-Focused Scholar Do?” at the Municipal Arts Society in New York City in September; “The Who, Why, What, and When of the World Urban Campaign” at the EcoCity World Summit on Sustainable Cities in Nantes, France, also in September; “Anchor Institutions in Philadelphia: Eds and Meds and Drivers of the New Economy” at CityAge in Philadelphia in November; three talks in December at the United Nations, including “Place Matters” at the Experts’ Workshop on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements, “Accelerating Action Towards Sustainable Urbanization: Some Thoughts” at the Role of Private Urban Partnerships in Catalyzing Change conference, and “How Cities Transfer Knowledge” at the Habitat University Initiative conference; and “Equity in Urban Design” at the Social Science Research Council, also in December.



## Joe Gyourko Publishes Data Series

Joseph Gyourko, Martin Bucksbaum Professor of Real Estate, Finance and Business Economics & Public Policy at The Wharton School, has published the Wharton/NUS/Tsinghua Chinese Residential Land Price Indexes (CRLPI), a new data series on constant quality land prices across thirty-five major markets in China. Data are available for download from Gyourko’s web site: <http://real.wharton.upenn.edu/~gyourko>. National, regional, and twelve city-level land price indexes will be updated regularly. Gyourko also was named a Trustee of the Pension Real Estate Association (PREA).



# Penn IUR Faculty Fellows News and Awards



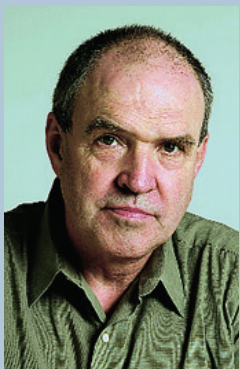
## Janice Madden Named President of the NARSC

Janice Madden, Professor of Regional Science, Sociology, Urban Studies, and Real Estate, and Associate Chair, Department of Sociology in the School of Arts and Sciences has been named President of the North American Regional Science Association (NARSC) for 2014. She will deliver the Presidential Lecture at the 2014 meetings in Washington, D.C. in November 2014.



## Laura Perna Elected President of ASHE

Laura Perna, Professor in the Graduate School of Education, was elected President of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). President-elect now, Perna will be President November 2014-15. She also published a new edited volume, with A. Jones, entitled *The State of College Access and Completion: Improving College Success for Students from Underrepresented Groups* (Routledge 2013).



## Witold Rybczynski Publishes

Witold Rybczynski, Emeritus Professor of Urbanism in the School of Design, has published a new book, *How Architecture Works: A Humanist's Toolkit* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux 2013). He has lectured on the book at the University of Houston, University of Texas at Austin, McGill, Columbia, Carnegie Mellon, and the University of Pennsylvania. Given starred reviews by *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, and *Publisher's Weekly*, *How Architecture Works* was also named one of the best art and architecture books of 2013 by Amazon.



## Heather J. Sharkey Edits New Volume

Heather J. Sharkey, Associate Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations in the School of Arts and Sciences, published an edited volume entitled *Cultural Conversions: Unexpected Consequences of Christian Missionary Encounters in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia* (Syracuse University Press 2013). Following her time as a visiting

professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris in 2012-13, she also published an article, in French, in the journal *Afrique Contemporaine*, which is a publication of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). Entitled “Le Soudan, un pays indivisible, dual, ou pluriel?” (“One Sudan, Two Sudans, or Many Sudans?”), this article appeared in the journal’s recent special issue assessing the status of South Sudan in light of its secession and independence in 2011.



## Brian Spooner Develops Cross-Disciplinary Course

Brian Spooner, Professor of Anthropology and Museum Curator for Near East Ethnology at Penn Museum, is one of a group of Penn faculty to develop a cross-disciplinary course coming out of Penn IUR’s March 2013 “Feeding Cities: Food Security in a Rapidly Urbanizing World” conference. With funding from the Provost’s Cross Currents program,

Spooner has been working with Marjorie Muecke, Assistant Dean for Global Health Affairs in the School of Nursing, and colleagues in the Schools of Arts and Sciences, Nursing, Veterinary Medicine, and the Dental School on a spring 2014 course entitled Global Food Security for Ten Billion. Twelve faculty members are contributing, and the course will have both graduate and undergraduate sections.

# Penn IUR Faculty Fellows News and Awards



## Dominic Vitiello Publishes

Dominic Vitiello, Assistant Professor in City and Regional Planning in the School of Design, has several new publications including: *Engineering Philadelphia: The Sellers Family and the Industrial Metropolis* (Cornell University Press 2013), “The Politics of Immigration and Suburban Revitalization: Divergent Responses in Adjacent Pennsylvania Towns” in the *Journal of Urban Affairs* (online September 2013), and, with Bethany Li, Andrew Leong, Domenic Vitiello, and Arthur Acoca-Pidolle, “Chinatown Then and Now: Gentrification in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia” (Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund report). He has also organized a themed issue of the *Journal of Planning History* on food system planning (online October 2013) and contributed to it, with Catherine Brinkley, “The Hidden History of Food System Planning”, and “From Farm to Nuisance: Animal Agriculture and the Rise of Planning Regulation.”



## Barbra Mann Wall Publishes with Former UURC Collaborator

Barbra Mann Wall, Associate Professor and Evan C. Thompson Endowed Term Chair for Excellence in Teaching and Associate Director of the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing in the School of Nursing, will publish, with Lauren Johnson, “Women, Religion, and Maternal Healthcare in Ghana, 1945-2000” in an upcoming issue of the journal *Family and Community Health*. Wall and co-author Johnson worked together on an Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium (UURC) project in 2012.



## Susan Wachter Publishes *Revitalizing American Cities*

Susan Wachter, Richard B. Worley Professor of Financial Management and Professor of Real Estate and Finance at The Wharton School and Co-Director of the Penn Institute for Urban Research, published a co-edited volume entitled *Revitalizing American Cities* along with Kim Zeuli. The book is part of The City in the 21st Century series, published by

Penn Press, and will be featured in a program on January 29 (see pages 2 and 7 of the newsletter for further information.) Wachter also presented the keynote address at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland’s 2013 Policy Summit “Housing, Human Capital, and Inequality” in September and in November presented a paper on the role of mortgage securitization in the international housing crisis at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas’s “Housing, Stability, and the Macroeconomy: International Perspectives” conference. Finally, Wachter gave interviews on housing policy and the financial market, appearing on NPR, CNBC, and Bloomberg.



## Laura Wolf-Powers Publishes Paper, Chapter

Laura Wolf-Powers, Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning in the School of Design, published “Teaching Planners to Deal: The Pedagogical Value of a (Simulated) Economic Development Negotiation” in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research* in fall 2013. She also authored a chapter for the book *Toward a Twenty-First Century City for*

*All: A Progressive Agenda for New York*, edited by Brad Lander and John Mollenkopf, and spoke at a November conference that accompanied the release of the book.





# PENN IUR IN SPRING 2014

Throughout the year, Penn IUR will host special events to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the many individuals and institutions that have helped shape Penn IUR and its signature interdisciplinary programs and publications over the last decade.

For more information and to RSVP for these events and others, please visit [penniur.upenn.edu](http://penniur.upenn.edu).



01.29.14

## REVITALIZING AMERICAN CITIES

The editors and contributors of *Revitalizing American Cities* uncover the historical, regional, and political factors that have allowed former industrial cities to regain their footing in a changing economy.

*Co-sponsored by University of Pennsylvania Press*



02.27.14

## CITY SOUNDSCAPES: MUSIC, WORDS & IDENTITIES IN URBAN AMERICA

In this Sound and the City Seminar, Nick Spitzer, producer of Public Radio's *American Routes* and professor of American studies and anthropology at Tulane University, will discuss the intersection of cities, music, and civic life with a line-up of special guests.

*Co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, School of Arts and Sciences*



03.27.14

## SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION: PLACE MATTERS

With expert voices from around the globe, this panel will explore the challenges and opportunities of place-based strategies for achieving urban sustainability and implications for urban research.

*Support provided by The Rockefeller Foundation*



04.22.14

## MAPPING OUR GLOBAL FUTURE

The 2014 MUSA Earth Day Lecture will examine rapid human population growth and the institutional, technological, and behavioral innovations impacting the earth's carrying capacities.

*Co-sponsored by the School of Design*



05.15.14

## HEALTHY CITIES: HEALTHY WOMEN THE GLOBAL FUTURE

This symposium features experts, practitioners and activists speaking on issues affecting the health of women living in cities worldwide such as trafficking, interpersonal violence, access to health care, and the physical barriers of city spaces.

*Presented with the School of Nursing*

## HUMANITIES, URBANISM, AND DESIGN INITIATIVE TAKES OFF

The Mellon Foundation granted the School of Design and the School of Arts and Sciences \$1.3 million last spring to create the Penn Humanities, Urbanism, and Design (H+U+D) initiative. Co-directed by Eugénie Birch, Lawrence C. Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research and Education and Chair of the Graduate Group in City Planning in the School of Design and Co-Director of Penn IUR, and David Brownlee, Frances Shapiro-Weitzenhoffer Professor and Chair of the Graduate Group in the History of Art in the School of Arts and Sciences, this five-year initiative is a unique, multi-faceted program intended to bridge the gaps among urbanists in the humanities and design disciplines.

To this end, the initiative's co-directors have convened both a nineteen-member steering committee and a twenty-one-member inaugural colloquium of faculty from multiple departments in both the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Design. The steering committee oversees the implementation of the overall initiative while the colloquium engages in a series of activities that foster interaction between traditionally siloed disciplines in the humanities and de-

sign programs at Penn. Each year, the co-directors will identify new faculty members as needed to fill out the colloquium, whose participants are appointed for one- and two-year appointments. This past fall, H+U+D colloquium members met biweekly to read and discuss texts. They also visited and met with curators at the Museum of Modern Art in New York to discuss the exhibition "Le Corbusier: An Atlas of Modern Landscapes" and at the Philadelphia Museum of Art to discuss the "Léger: Modern Art and the Metropolis" exhibit. Through activities like these, the initiative is creating a unique community, based on overlapping interests and new friendships, that crosses fields typically isolated from one another. Already, the initiative has given younger faculty members opportunities to consult more established scholars and has sparked plans to co-teach courses and collaborate on projects. Plans for spring 2014 colloquium activities include excursions, networking opportunities, and research presentations.

Additionally, the H+U+D initiative will sponsor two courses in the spring that will integrate knowledge from both the humanities and design fields. The undergraduate course—

URBS 210: The City (Philadelphia), co-taught by Michael Nairn, Lecturer in Urban Studies, and Eric Schneider, Assistant Dean and Associate Director for Academic Affairs and Adjunct Professor of History—will examine Philadelphia in a detailed, multidisciplinary way. The graduate course—ARCH 712/ARTH 581: Architects, Historians, and the Invention of Modern Architecture, co-taught by Daniel Barber, Assistant Professor and Associate Chair of Architecture, and David Brownlee—is the first iteration of H+U+D's annual "Problematics Seminar," which will engage graduate students from the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Design in structured dialogues about the creation of architectural literature, emphasizing the diversity of its authors at the intersection of design practice and humanities scholarship. These courses will be offered annually, along with a seminar that explores an international city both in the classroom and on the ground.

Over the next five years, H+U+D will continue to promote integrated knowledge through its colloquium participants, research and publications, public events, and courses.

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## PENN URBAN DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM

MAY 16, 2014

Inn at Penn, Regent Room/St. Marks Room | 11:00am – 2:00pm

Co-sponsored with Penn's Urban Studies program, this symposium celebrates the work of graduating urban-focused doctoral candidates. Graduates present and discuss their dissertation findings.

Graduating doctoral candidates please contact Penn IUR to schedule your presentation.  
Meyerson Hall, G-12 | penniur@pobox.upenn.edu | (215) 573-8386

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# LEADERS EXPLORE ROLES OF URBAN UNIVERSITIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

institution (entities that are geographically rooted and offer the jobs, services, entertainment options, and other amenities that help sustain urban productivity and quality of life).” Noting that “eds and meds (university-associated medical centers)” are not only invested in their neighborhoods and cities through their ownership of real estate, attraction of students and staff, and pursuit of their respective missions, but also are the sources of breakthrough ideas, new technologies, and entrepreneurial activities that contribute significantly to regional economies. Through these roles, she observed, universities—especially those in places like Philadelphia, New York, Cambridge, Chicago, and Baltimore—exercise important, but often unrecognized, leadership.

For an hour and a half, the panelists shared their aspirations, motivations, and visions for their work in neighborhoods and cities. For Penn’s Carnaroli and Johns Hopkins’s Frank, substantial disinvestment, high rates of crime, and general decline within their neighborhoods motivated them to craft long-term, multi-pronged

revitalization plans that encompass rehabilitation and new construction of residential and commercial properties, grade school sponsorship, targeted employment and purchasing, and improvement of the public realm. For Chicago’s Chinniah and Harvard’s Lapp, service and amenity gaps inspired their approaches, leading to substantial investments in strategically located retail, residential, and hospitality/entertainment projects. Chinniah, in admitting that his “light bulb” moment was the discovery that he could not buy an ice cream cone for his daughter anywhere near the University, drew knowing laughter from the audience.

The panelists also discussed university roles in creating or strengthening innovation districts. Consultant Gayle Farris, known for her work with MIT, focused on evolving real estate trends in knowledge-cluster campuses, while Robert Steel discussed New York City’s widely publicized applied sciences competition aimed at attracting top-tier, technology-focused universities to broaden the city’s economic base. Carnaroli and Lapp also presented Penn’s and Harvard’s visions for multi-acre

tech parks that connect classrooms and labs to private entrepreneurs and investors.

The following day, the panelists, joined by executive vice presidents from Columbia, Johns Hopkins, and Cornell NYC Tech, met for the traditional PRAI session, a closed-door meeting dedicated to mutual problem-solving. Each participant detailed a key issue for which he or she received advice from the group. While the participants acknowledged that their strategies (like the institutions and communities they are tailored to fit) are unique, their shared values, broad knowledge and experience, and collegial advice brought out common themes during the proceedings. At the conclusion of the day-long meeting, the participants noted their appreciation for having time for reflection and gaining new insights away from the everyday pressures of their respective campuses. The lessons generated by PRAI will be documented in a forthcoming publication to be added to the PRAI/Livingston Case Studies on museums, performing arts centers, libraries, and ballparks on Penn IUR’s website (<http://pennur.upenn.edu>).

## ELECTRICITY PRICE TICKER TRACKS VOLATILE ELECTRICITY PRICES

The graphic below illustrates the astonishing volatility of the wholesale price of electricity over the course of just a few days in early 2014. While the price normally hovers around \$20 per megawatt hour (Mwh), at one point in early January it hit \$1520 per Mwh. That price peak reflects the extraordinary levels of demand for electricity that accompanied several very cold days in January.

This volatility stems from new shortage pricing rules implemented in October 2013 by PJM Interconnection, the regional electricity transmission organization

that maintains the high voltage electricity transmission system for Pennsylvania and twelve other states as well as the District of Columbia (local distributors, such as PECO in Philadelphia, get that electricity to consumers). The new rules were put into place in response to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission policy that, when energy reserves fall short, the wholesale price should respond to that lack of supply. Because PJM must hold in reserve sufficient energy resources to ensure the electricity system’s reliability even under extraordinary circumstances (such as when a large-scale generator breaks down

or when the system experiences very high levels of demand), the extremely high demand for electricity in January caused the wholesale price to spike as the energy reserves diminished.

You can track the real-time wholesale price of energy by viewing the Electricity Price Ticker that Penn IUR developed for PJM. Visit our website at <http://pennur.upenn.edu> to see the price on the Ticker in the upper right. If you would like your own Electricity Price Ticker, you can download and install a free app developed by Penn IUR at <http://www.powerisknowledge.com>.

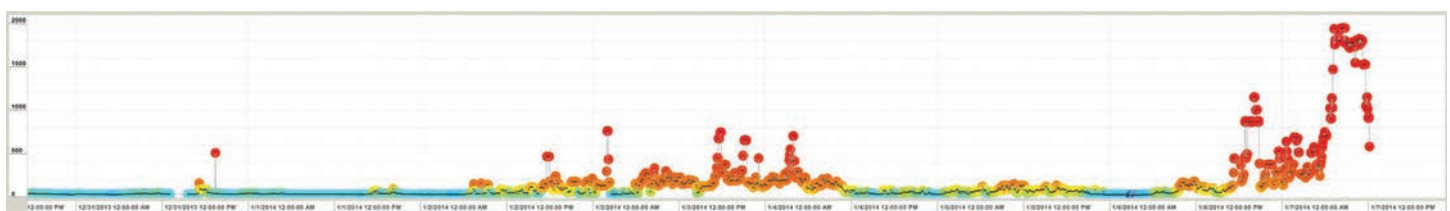


Image credit: Ryan Hinkel Design

# CONGRATULATIONS 2014 UURC TEAMS

The Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium (UURC) is an advanced research seminar for undergraduates working on urban-focused research. Students team up with a faculty mentor with expertise in their areas of interest. Students and faculty pairs come from academic departments throughout the University.

**Margaret Buff, Health and Societies**  
**Mary Summers, SAS**  
*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits Access in Philadelphia*

**Filippo Bulgarelli, Sociology**  
**Matthew Steinberg, Education**  
*The New Educational Accountability: Understanding the Logic and Landscape of Teacher Evaluation in the Post-NCLB Era*

**Tan Chan, Environmental Studies**  
**Ariel Ben-Amos, SAS**  
*Nursing Practice and Patient Outcomes in Urban Hospitals*

**Marco Herndon, Urban Studies & Political Science**  
**Michael Johaneck, Education**  
*School Reform and Head Start at Norris Square Civic Association*

**Kristen Kelly, Sociology and Urban Studies**  
**Fariha Khan, SAS**  
*Asian American Communities in Philadelphia: Development and Contemporary Issues*

**Amalia Lund, Comparative Literature**  
**Naomi Waltham-Smith, SAS**  
*A Comparative Study of Urban Street Sound and Aural Flanerie*

**Paul Marvucic, Urban Studies**  
**Ariel Ben-Amos, SAS**  
*Assessing the Potential for TOD in Philadelphia*

**SoYoung Park, Urban Studies and Computer Science**  
**Eugénie Birch, Design**  
*Daedeok Innopolis in Korea and the Philadelphia Innovation District Initiatives*

**Sheila Quintana, Anthropology**  
**Domenic Vitiello, Design**  
*Immigrant Community Issues in Harrisburg, PA*

**Samaira Sirajee, Wharton**  
**Elaine Simon, SAS**  
*Grassroots Resistance to Market Based School Reform in Philadelphia*

**Melanie Young, Urban Studies**  
**Rebecca Maynard, Education**  
*Developing an Assessment of College Access Programs in Philadelphia*

## UNLOCKING VALUE IN REGIONAL LEGACY ASSETS

While new development projects grab more attention, it's our legacy assets—the inherited artifacts of past generations—that offer the greatest opportunities for innovation. The “Legacy and Innovation Conference: Unlocking Value in Regional Energy Assets”—held October 11 at the University of Pennsylvania and sponsored in part by Penn IUR, the School of Design, and others—explored this nexus between legacy and innovation using as a platform the Philadelphia region's active discussion of how to leverage its large collection of legacy assets into an economic development strategy.

The conference held a spotlight to post-industrial Philadelphia, a region with a long list of legacy assets, albeit many of them in disrepair. Panelists pointed out that it is just

this decay that is driving so much innovation. An example offered by Howard Neukrug, Commissioner of the Philadelphia Water Department, early in the day illustrated this point: the relic of combined sewer infrastructure (in which both stormwater and sanitary sewage flow into the same sewer pipes, causing overflows of untreated wastewater during heavy rainfalls) has provided Philadelphia, somewhat perversely, with the opportunity to become a leader in “green” stormwater design (using natural methods to treat rainwater before it enters the sewer system).

In the second half of the day, the discussion broadened to consider legacies beyond the city's physical assets, recognizing that the city's existing social, cultural, and institutional networks also play a role in economic

productivity. Other conversations centered on the complicated issue of Philadelphia's growth, with panelists acknowledging that, while Philadelphia is attracting the coveted millennial generation—lauded for its innovation—the city's growth pattern appears to be unsustainable, as it continues to lose people to the suburbs.

“Legacy and Innovation” was a riveting event that opened audience members' imaginations to the possibilities offered by legacy assets, challenging them to look past today's successes and towards a sustainable future.

Did you miss the conference? The video of the keynote speech by Bruce Katz of the Brookings Institution and of the four panels is available on YouTube (search for “legacy and innovation”—include quotation marks).



# HEARING URBAN AFTERLIVES: SENSING THE PAST IN APPALACHIAN OHIO

On November 25, Penn IUR welcomed Marina Peterson, Associate Professor of Performance Studies at Ohio University, to lead a discussion on sound in the urban environment. The discussion was the first of three seminars in Penn IUR's Sound and the City series and part of the Provost's Year of Sound, a University-wide exploration of sound.

The talk drew extensively on an audio excerpt from Peterson's recording of the Moonshine Festival parade in New Straitsville, Ohio. New Straitsville is archetypical of Appalachia, a region composed of small cities in decline that were usually formed by mining companies for the extraction of coal. This economic background laid the material foundations of their modern built environment. The annual Moonshine Festival commemorates the product for which the town became famous after the coal companies left in the 1880s following a labor struggle and a coal fire.

Using the Moonshine Festival as an illustration, Peterson guided the group through an exploration of how soundscapes from public events can reveal relationships between past and present and how audio recordings of such events can be used in ethnography.

Following the talk, Peterson was joined by a panel including Gary McDonogh, Professor in the Growth and Structure of Cities Department at Bryn Mawr College; Mimi Sheller, Director of the Center for Mobilities Research & Policy and Professor of Sociology at Drexel University; and Thaddeus Squire, Founder and Managing Director of CultureWorks Greater Philadelphia. Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch moderated.

The discussion that followed explored how sound contributes to a sense of place and how sound ethnography is being used in urban areas. Audio recordings—while historically uncommon—are increasingly being used for ethnographic research and information collection. Sound, while ephemeral, plays a role in the creation of place: users experience places in part based on the sounds present.

Peterson's seminar was co-sponsored by Penn's Urban Studies Program and Committee on Folklore. Penn IUR will be hosting two additional Sound and the City events in 2014. Details will be available on the Penn IUR website (<http://penniur.upenn.edu/events>) as they become available.



**Moonshine Festival:** Marina Peterson's photographs of New Straitsville, Ohio.

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: LISA MITCHELL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ther highlight India's significance within the history of global capitalism and business enterprise, India's role in the development and circulation of scientific and other systems of knowledge, the history of South Asian urbanization and the role of both formal and informal urban economies, and the crucial role of the Humanities in all of these processes.

A second highlight was the way the conference placed contemporary innovations in India into broader historical and socio-political contexts. The unique history of British colonial law's impact on business practices in India, particularly the influence of colonial legal structures on kinship and family networks, is an example of the significant but often overlooked forces necessary for understanding contemporary India, as are the artisanal roots of contemporary industrialization, and the role of the informal urban economy in innovation in Indian markets and within the state. The conference helped bring these forces back into conversation.

## **5. You teach a class on the city in South Asia and are currently working on a reader on this topic. What makes this topic timely now? What deficits in the literature of urbanization in the region would you like to see filled?**

People are often surprised to learn that South Asia has been urbanizing at a much slower rate than many other places in the world, with India and Nepal both having urban populations of around 31 percent, Pakistan 36 percent, Bangladesh 28 percent, and Sri Lanka only 15 percent (compared with Indonesia and China at 51 percent, Russia at 74 percent, the United States at 82 percent, and Brazil at 85 percent). Seasonal and cyclical migration also plays a more significant role in processes of urbanization than in many other parts of the world. Still, with one-fifth of the world's population (now over one 1.6 billion), this still means that the region is faced with comparatively large urban populations. When I first started teaching my course on the city, scholarship on India was still largely fixated on its villages. The global attention to India's economy over the past decade has redirected attention to a few major cities in South Asia, reflecting what

Saskia Sassen has identified as the growing spatial concentration of many highly specialized professional activities and control operations. This has prompted a surge of interest in urban India within the academy as well. My class, for example, now attracts students from across the University, including Wharton, Engineering, and the College, and from a wide range of majors, including students who would previously most likely not have sought out a course on South Asia. Although we're starting to see some excellent studies of a few specific major cities in South Asia (Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Lahore, and Karachi, to name a few), there has been little effort so far to address urban themes that cut across or are shared by multiple cities in the region. I had a difficult time finding academic work that could do this, particularly scholarship that could be used with an audience not already familiar with the region. In the seven years I've been at Penn, I've slowly been able to put together a series of readings that help students understand not just particular cities in the region but also more general issues, trends, and challenges that are shared across multiple cities, placing them in the broader context of South Asia's unique social, cultural, economic, and political history.

## **6. What do you see as the biggest challenges this region faces in terms of urbanization?**

Educational and employment opportunities for a demographically youthful population with rapidly expanding aspirations are one of the major challenges facing India's cities. India, like other South Asian nations, has one of the largest proportions of people in younger age groups in the world, with more than 40 percent of its population currently under the age of eighteen. At the same time, due to the liberalization of the economy in the early 1990s, and the rapid expansion of mass media in India over the past two decades, this younger generation has grown up with aspirations and expectations vastly different from their parent's generation. Although private educational institutions are currently a growth industry in India, both the quantity and quality of educational opportunities have been unable to keep pace with demand, leading to a gen-

eration of young people who are unable to gain the skills they need for the jobs they desire. The lack of desirable opportunities in turn feeds into and fuels much of the urban unrest that South Asian cities have experienced in recent decades, something that frequently presents itself as linguistic, ethnic, or religious conflict. Untrained observers sometimes assume that such conflicts are due to "age-old" differences in identities but, in fact, much of the identitarian conflict in contemporary South Asia has actually grown out of frustrations over the lack of opportunities and been further stoked by political interests.

## **7. As Director of Penn's South Asia Center, you are very familiar with cross-University centers like Penn IUR that develop and promote programs, activities, and research across departments and schools. You are Penn IUR's newest Faculty Fellow—how do you think Penn IUR can help further your work?**

I'm trained as an anthropologist and historian, but didn't initially start out as an urban studies scholar. My increasing engagement with urban issues in South Asia has already benefitted from my engagement with Penn IUR and my colleagues here. I'm particularly pleased to be involved with the Humanities, Urbanism, and Design (H+U+D) Initiative that was launched here at Penn this year with a major grant from the Mellon Foundation. Not only have I been introduced to important bodies of literature by my urban studies, planning, and design colleagues in Penn IUR, but a number of my graduate students have also benefitted from opportunities to present their work in Penn IUR colloquia and poster sessions. I also hope to co-teach a course with another IUR colleague in the future as a way of putting our respective areas of expertise more directly in conversation. The South Asia Center has just launched a new modular study abroad initiative called "C.U. in India," in which students can do part of their coursework in a classroom at Penn, followed by an intensive two-week study trip in India over the winter break. I would love to co-teach a course on Indian or Comparative Urbanisms with a colleague from Penn IUR and have it culminate with a hands-on trip to India.



## PANEL EXPLORES CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIAN CITIES

Penn IUR organized a panel on innovation in Indian cities at the conference “India as a Pioneer of Innovation: Constraints and Opportunities,” held November 14-15 at Penn and November 18 at Wharton’s San Francisco campus. The conference was hosted by Penn Global.

The Penn IUR-organized panel on innovation in Indian cities, entitled “Innovation in Urban Cores in India,” featured Aromar Revi, Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements; Chetan Vaidya, Director of the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi; and Brian English, Director of Program Innovation for Global Communities. Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch moderated, introducing the discussion with a startling statistic that provided context for the discussion that followed: India is 30 percent urbanized today, which means that roughly 340 million people live in Indian cities, a population exceeding that of the entire United States.

Revi began the panel presentations with a discussion of the enormous culture change that corresponds with India’s shift from an agrarian society to an urban society, arguing that current political leaders are generally products of the old agrarian

culture. He pointed out, though, that younger voters may select innovative political leaders in the next election to confront urban challenges. He argued that most innovation in India is occurring in social and political spaces, developments that are often overlooked in favor of innovations in the commercial realm. Revi pointed to housing settlements in Indian cities, which are often considered a scourge; these settlements, he argued, actually improve mobility and create access to formal and informal employment.

Vaidya followed, arguing that—while progress is occurring in many cities—many others are failing to evolve. Too much innovation, he said, is happening in isolation. In his talk, he drew from his experience with the National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM), an urban infrastructure investment program for sixty-seven eligible cities. Founded in 2005, NURM’s goal is to invest \$20 billion in urban infrastructure over nine years. This process includes identifying innovations and determining whether they are sustainable, replicable, and scalable; measuring the capability of existing institutions to implement solutions; and finding opportunities to form partnerships.

English then discussed how market-based solutions often speak to the failure of government as much as to the innovation of the private sector. Slums, he argued, are the result of failures of government institutions, land and housing markets, and political will. He gave as an example Global Communities experience in Bangalore, which has a metro population of about 8 million people and produces about 4,000 tons of trash each day. In Bangalore, an informal network of scrappers was recycling about 600 tons of garbage daily, 15 percent of the city’s total waste. This was benefiting the environment, helping the city, and providing work for residents, but it was considered illegal. In partnership with the municipal government, Global Communities helped to secure seven recycling centers. The network of informal scrappers has formed a coalition and is now recognized by the municipal government as “Green Force.”

India’s population, which exceeds 1.2 billion today, is expected to reach 1.6 billion by 2050, with much of that increase urban. The panelists agreed that, to help India make this transition, a combination of innovative place-based and people-based strategies will be needed.



Photo credit: B. Krist for Visit Philadelphia

Bridging **GROWTH**  
& **OPPORTUNITY**

May 12-14, 2014

Loews Hotel  
Philadelphia, PA

<http://www.phil.frb.org/community-development/events/2014/reinventing-older-communities>

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia



# ENVISIONING FUTURE CITIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

urbanization will create opportunities and challenges—especially in filling critical gaps of public goods delivery (chiefly basic infrastructure, adequate housing and social services)—that will require locally tailored, multi-sectoral, integrated, systemic approaches as remedies. Prior to the meeting, staff from Forum for the Future used the concept note as a foundation for participant interviews, seeking their opinions on its premises and on the identification of trends that will affect future urban development. They registered the responses in a web-based application, Futurescaper, which synthesized and mapped the collected views, demonstrating consensus and shared opinions with dramatic visualizations. In addition, Penn IUR worked with the Economist Group to publish a special issue of *The Economist* as background reading. Based on this work, the participants began the meeting in agreement with the concept note and with three key trends:

- the tendency of governments to be overwhelmed by the immediate challenges of rapid urbanization, resulting in poor planning and short-termism,

- the growing vulnerability to climate change accompanied by the increasing frequency and force of floods, tsunamis, heat waves, and storms, with particular concern for the burgeoning populations in coastal cities, and
- the increasing inequity and division within cities.

At the meeting, the invitees worked in plenary sessions and in small collaborative groups to craft and test future scenarios based on the trends and to propose and develop concrete solutions to help cities respond to the trends while promoting social inclusion and environmental resilience. Among the projects they explored were: decentralizing services to empower informal settlements; accessing big data to inform public and private decision-makers in delivering public services in rapidly urbanizing places; exploiting urban rooftops for greening, green house gas mitigation, and other purposes; and unlocking land for public good—planned urban extensions—in the city of Lusaka, Zambia, a city whose population is exploding. The Forum for the Future facilitated the discussions while the Economist Intelligence Unit took the

lead in delivering wrap-up sessions and compiling a capstone report. Penn IUR is developing a longer report and edited book.

Participants included Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT; Hon. Nicholas Banda, Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing, Zambia; Jinsong Du, Managing Director, Real Estate Credit Suisse; Sameh Wahba, Sector Manager, Urban Development Unit, World Bank; Sheela Patel, Founder Director of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) and Board Chair, Shack/Slum Dwellers International; and Ferdous Jahan, Professor of Public Administration, University of Dhaka. Also in attendance were several Rockefeller Foundation officers, including Judith Rodin, President; Ashvin Dayal, Managing Director, Asia Office; Claudia Juech, Managing Director, Research Department; and Robert Garris, Managing Director, Bellagio Center Programs. A full listing of the participants, reports from the Economist Intelligence Unit and Penn IUR, along with other products from the meeting, are publically available at <http://www.visionariesunbound.com/events/transforming-cities>.

**Transforming Cities:** Left, Sheela Patel, Founder Director of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC), at a breakout session. Right, participants discuss how they will incorporate ideas from the conference into their own work.



## The City in the 21st Century book series

Eugénie Birch and Susan Wachter, Series Editors  
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The City in the 21st Century is a heterodox, interdisciplinary series of books addressing both topical and long-range issues confronting the world's cities, from disaster response to cultural coexistence, from civic engagement to urban revitalization.

Visit <http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/series/C21.html> for a list of books in the series.

## DOMINIC VITIELLO SPEAKS ON BOOK ON INDUSTRIAL CITY

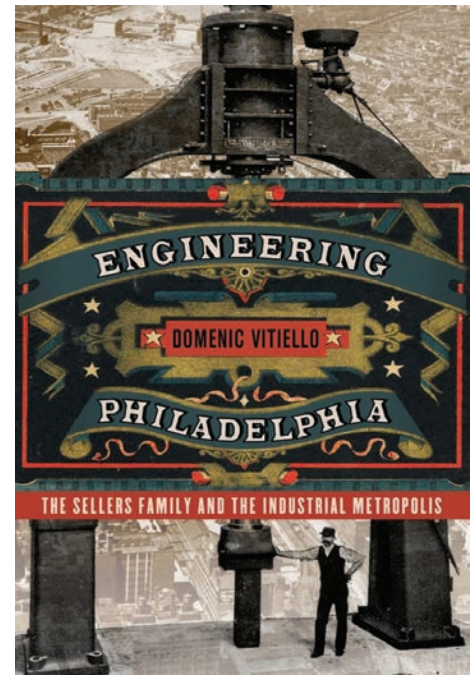
On December 5, Dominic Vitiello, Penn IUR Faculty Fellow and Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning in the School of Design, spoke on his recently published book *Engineering Philadelphia: The Sellers Family and the Industrial Metropolis* to an audience of about fifty people at a book talk sponsored by Penn IUR.

Vitiello's book examines the development of industrial capitalism and its interrelationship with the evolution of urban America by following one inventive family through several generations in Philadelphia.

The Sellers family included "millers, mechanics, manufacturers, engineers, and a corporate titan or two." By following this

family (particularly the men) from the colonial era through World War II, Vitiello traces the influential networks of people, businesses, and institutions with which the Sellers were involved and, in the process, illuminates how patterns of urban and economic development were established. While the book focuses on Philadelphia, the broader story Vitiello tells reveals how industrial cities grew and declined and illustrates these cities' changing place in the world.

Vitiello began his research for this book while a doctoral candidate in history at Penn, presenting his dissertation research on this topic as part of the first group of students to participate in Penn IUR's first annual doctoral symposium.



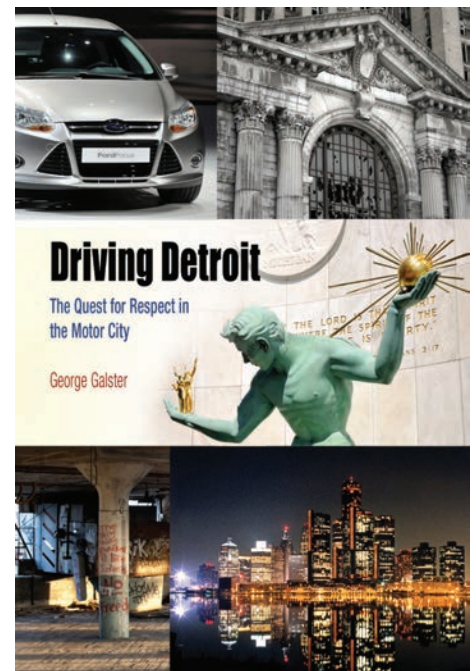
## QUEST FOR RESPECT IN DETROIT

George C. Galster, Clarence Hilberry Professor of Urban Affairs at Wayne State University, spoke to a packed audience at Penn about his latest book, *Driving Detroit: The Quest for Respect in the Motor City*. On October 14, students, faculty, and Philadelphia residents gathered to hear Galster's poignant and poetic take on the racial, social, and economic drivers behind the radical decline of the once-great industrial hub of America.

Galster reviewed the three main systemic problems that have been frustrating the native Detreater in his quest for respect (defined by him as the ability to feel comfortable and thrive): economic anxiety brought on by the decline of the motor industry; a "housing disassembly line," or the devaluation of urban housing by excessive suburban development; and dual

dialects of power, in the form of capitalist leaders versus their labor force and black communities versus white communities. As Galster explained, individuals make rational adaptations to their frustrations through individual or group mechanisms (unionization in reaction to poor working conditions, for example, or racial banding in reaction to widening income gaps); over time, however, these rational short-term adaptations frustrate everyone's efforts to gain.

Born and raised in Detroit, Galster is personally involved in developing solutions to the ubiquitous effects of abandonment in the city. At the talk, he offered a unique perspective: simultaneously objective and subjective on the plights and potential of his hometown. The book is available for purchase here: <http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15027.html>.





# PennIUR

PENN INSTITUTE *for* URBAN RESEARCH

## About Penn IUR

The Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR) 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 twenty-first-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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