THE PENN INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH (PENN IUR) is a university-wide body that informs urban decision-making and public policy on issues of sustainable urban growth and development based on multi-disciplinary research, instruction, and outreach. 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. Affiliated with all 12 schools of the University of Pennsylvania and with the world of practice, Penn IUR fosters collaboration among scholars and policymakers across disciplines to address the needs of an increasingly urbanized society. 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.
A Message from the Provost and Vice Provost for Research

We are pleased to share this year’s annual report, which demonstrates the enduring impact of Penn IUR across our campus—and across the landscape of urban research around the world.

Penn IUR exemplifies Penn’s mission to bring together innovative knowledge across multiple areas of inquiry, in the service of addressing challenging global issues of both the present and the future. Penn IUR’s programs this year illustrate how the challenges facing our rapidly urbanizing world intersect in increasingly complex ways. This year’s novel focus on “informality” generated a new Lab on Urban Informality and Sustainable Urban Development; the symposium Why Cities? Informality as a Way of Life: Challenges to Sustainable Urban Development, which formed part of the University’s theme year “The Year of Why”; and partnerships with Perry World House, the Weitzman School of Design, and the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, among others, to curate and disseminate research about informal urbanization in metropolises across the world.

The Institute’s interdisciplinary reach this year encompassed such wide-ranging areas as tax incentives, flood risks, and urban migration, indicating the broad scope of vital contemporary topics touched by urban research. In particular, Penn IUR has been a leader in considering essential issues of diversity and inclusion in urban areas. Last fall, the Humanities+Urbanism+Design Initiative, with funding from the Mellon Foundation, launched the Inclusive City: Past, Present, and Future program, designed to bring together innovative multidisciplinary work across the School of Arts and Sciences and the Weitzman School of Design.

This was the inaugural year of the Fellows in Urban Leadership, Penn IUR’s exciting new program for undergraduates, which pairs a competitively selected group of juniors and seniors with high-level local and regional urban leaders, who provide first-hand insights into the daily operation of cities and the maintenance of communities. This new program, which will welcome its second cohort in the fall of 2019, forms a vital new part of Penn IUR’s initiatives to support students at all stages of their academic careers, including the Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium, Master of Urban Spatial Analytics, and Urban Doctoral Symposium.

We look forward to the growth of all these new programs in the year ahead, along with the ongoing research and community that continue to be the invaluable contribution of Penn IUR to every dimension of urban research around the world.
A Message from Penn IUR’s Co-Directors and Advisory Board

Throughout its history, Penn IUR has endeavored to transcend boundaries between the academic world and decision makers in cities around the world. As the programs from this past year show, this principle remains central to the Institute’s mission. Penn IUR prides itself on its ability to produce research initiatives, publications, and convenings that appeal to scholars and policy makers while also being accessible and relevant to professionals, students, and the public.

While Penn IUR has long been committed to analyzing the complex problems and potentials of cities at all stages of development, this year’s research initiatives sharpened this attention to issues critical to the current moment, including inclusive cities; sustainable urban development and urban informality; innovating cities; and climate change, disaster, and resilience in urban landscapes. Penn IUR delivered timely research through a variety of projects and events, including an international symposium on addressing informality and sustainable urban development with support from Perry World House; a research symposium on the Community Reinvestment Act, in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; and a Swedish–U.S. exchange in New York City on smart cities and sustainability in collaboration with KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm.

Penn IUR’s publications also strive to communicate important new research, in multiple formats, to those invested in the future of cities. Penn IUR published two new books in the City in the 21st Century (C21) series with Penn Press this year: Transforming the Urban University: Northeastern 1996–2006, by Richard Freeland, and Iconic Planned Communities and the Challenge of Change, by Mary Corbin Sies, Isabelle Gournay, and Robert Freestone. While the C21 series addresses focused issues in great depth, Penn IUR also quickly disseminates research in response to pressing matters on cities through its web-based publication channels, such as the bi-weekly Social Science Research Network Urban Research eJournal, the monthly Penn IUR Urban Link, and special issue briefs like “Race and Policy: 50 Years After the Fair Housing Act.” Penn IUR also maintains the “State and Local Public Finance Links” website—one of several active initiatives associated with its Municipal Finance Working Group—which aggregates state and local public finance information for researchers and related organizations.

Penn IUR’s numerous public and expert convenings provide a crucial interface between the academy and field on a number of pertinent issues. Often these engagements serve as the impetus for further inquiry and constructive partnerships. One such event was the November 2018 roundtable “Opportunity Zones and Inclusive Community Development,” which brought together leading scholars, policy makers, and award-winning musician John Legend (C’99) to discuss the various interpretations of the Opportunity Zones tax incentive and how this legislation could be utilized to promote investment in underserved communities. Building on the success of this convening, Penn IUR held a follow-up set of panels in April of 2019 on the implementation and effects of Opportunity Zones in the cities of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Newark, assembling key industry experts and scholars working in these cities and on the subject at large.

Penn IUR’s ability to produce work of this broad scope over the 2018–19 year was only possible due to the many meaningful contributions made by its community of scholars, practitioners, and students. From welcoming the inaugural class of the Penn IUR Fellows in Urban Leadership, who met with a diverse array of civic luminaries throughout the year, to presenting joint research with the Wilson Center to the Korean Housing and Urban Guarantee Corporation in Busan, South Korea; Penn IUR continues to pursue new projects that engage with the greater community of urban experts in innovative ways. These accomplishments are also the product of the committed advocacy and guidance of Penn’s President, Amy Gutmann, and Provost, Wendell Pritchett; Penn IUR’s Advisory Board and Executive Committee; its many grantors and donors; and centers like the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, the McIlharg Center for Urbanism and Ecology, and Perry World House. We are honored to be the recipients of so much generosity and support, and we are excited for what this will allow us to accomplish.
CURRENT RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Penn IUR’s research initiatives investigate how cities across the globe can become more sustainable, resilient, and equitable. Through several activities, Penn IUR generates new scholarship and promotes the exchange of knowledge across disciplines, professions, and continents.
Sustainable Urban Development and Urban Informality

Today's metropolises are expanding rapidly—cities of the Global South are experiencing annual growth rates sometimes exceeding three or four percent—and this growth is coinciding with the proliferation of informality in all aspects of life. This year, Penn IUR studied informality in cities and the connection between informality and sustainable urban development. As part of its ongoing collaboration with the United Nations' development work, Penn IUR has been deeply involved with the implementation activities related to Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda, and other associated global agreements. Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch has had numerous speaking engagements at the UN focusing on the urban SDG and serves as co-chair of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) "Sustainable Cities Inclusive, Resilient, and Connected" group. She also serves as president of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), an international platform supporting the localization of urban focused programs. In May, Birch led the PENN IUR delegation to the first UN-Habitat Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, which represented Penn in several side events. At that meeting, UN-Habitat appointed her to the 16-member Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise to advise the Executive Director. Further, Penn IUR is represented through Professor Birch on the World Economic Forum's Future Council on Cities and Urbanization as well as the UN Global Compact-Cities program.

In furthering cross-disciplinary collaboration, Penn IUR joined other Penn organizations—including the McHarg Center for Urbanism and Ecology, the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, the Initiative for Global Environmental Leadership, and Perry World House—in supporting SDG localization in the United States. It co-sponsored the student-led Sustainable Solutions competition, joined the SDSN USA Network, and participated in campus-based convenings.

In November, Penn IUR co-sponsored the competition, "Localizing the SDGs." Launched by the student-led organization Sustainable Solutions, this project aims to identify and financially support innovative pilot projects that tackle aspects of the SDGs. Also involved were the Wharton-led Initiative for Global Environmental Leadership, the Green Program; Esquity North America, and the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy. Students worked in teams of two to six to address the most urgent environmental and sustainability issues in Philadelphia. Ten teams submitted ideas to a faculty jury who announced the results in June. The winners were four SAS juniors: Stefan Cornwall, Faraz Sanal, Jesse Gui, and Weihan Zhang. Their project, called "SoleProvider," is an automated texting system that allows homeless residents to submit a particular need (e.g. a size-10 black shoe for a job interview) for a pool of users on the other end to fulfill.

In April, Penn IUR's Urban Leadership Forum focused on sustainable urban development globally and locally. Penn IUR also contributed to Perry World House’s "Global Shifts Colloquium: A Changing Climate, A Changing World!"

Also in April, building on a growing body of work on the topic of informality including the publication of Slums, How Informal Real Estate Markets Work (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016) and Beyond Mobility: Planning Cities for People and Projects (Island Press, 2007), Penn IUR hosted "Why Cities? Informality as a Way of Life: Challenges to Sustainable Urban Development.” This daylong roundtable aimed to align current research and initiatives on informality and included a photo contest on the theme of urban informality that garnered over 300 submissions from around the globe. For more on the conference, see page 64; for more on the photo contest and images of winning photos, see pages 13–17 and 64.

In May, Penn IUR and the Weitzman School of Design launched the Lab on Urban Informality and Sustainable Urban Development, a project that consolidates and promotes efforts throughout the University of Pennsylvania to explore the way informality is shaping urban places. The Lab, led by Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch and Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Erick Guerra, aims to generate knowledge about informality in all its forms. It considers multiple interpretations of informality: a form of marginalization from formal society; a semi-integration into formal society; a rational form of survival within state-sanctioned institutional arrangements. As such, it looks at the systematic forces that drive informality and examines how these forces manifest themselves in various sectors, including housing, employment, transport, energy, and service delivery. The Lab will formally integrate, consolidate, and promote the University’s recent and future data collection and research to develop new knowledge in this area.

Among the speakers at Penn IUR’s informality-related convenings this year were: Mauricio Rodas, Mayor, Quito, Ecuador; Anuradha Chandra, Chair of a successful laundry business in dry on wires connected between two buildings on a narrow lane. Through the Launderer’s Lane by Amitava Guerra, Chandra’s success story offers hope. Through a successful laundry business on dry on wires connected between two buildings on a narrow lane. Through the Launderer’s Lane by Amitava Guerra, Chandra’s success story offers hope. Chandra’s success story offers hope.
ABOVE: Lifestyle of Boat Laborers by Rayhan Ahmed. Day laborers enjoying a brief moment of rest during their break from work. Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh.

RIGHT: The Fish Market by Nafis Ameen. Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Mymensingh Road by Rafayat Haque Khan. Entrepreneurs from different locations of Bangladesh travel on the roof of a train with fish and other products to sell in the capital city of Dhaka. Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh.
LEFT: Illegal Marketplace by Oleg German. Older women selling their household goods on an istreet.
Location: Moscow, Russia.

BELOW: The Coconut Seller by Suvajit Mukherjee. Location: Barishal, India.

TOP: Bamboo Slum by Mohammad Rakibul Hasan. Most of the slums around Dhaka are built illegally to accommodate low-income workers who come seeking opportunities from different parts of Bangladesh. Canals, open spaces, and streets are occupied by floating villages, which are often subject to unsanitary conditions.
Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh.

BOTTOM: Untitled by Syed Mahabubul Kader. Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Inclusive Cities

In 2018–19, Penn IUR undertook several initiatives examining inclusivity in cities, ranging from public lectures to faculty colloquia. In October, it sponsored the inaugural Jeremy Nowak Memorial Lecture, “The Citizen and the City: Creative Urban Solutions for All.” Close friends and associates reflected on Nowak’s impactful career following his passing in July 2018. Speakers included Patricia Smith, President and CEO, The Funders’ Network; Ira Goldstein, President, Policy Solutions, The Reinvestment Fund; and Edward Rendell, former Governor of Pennsylvania and Mayor of Philadelphia, who recalled Nowak’s fierce dedication to addressing the complex issues of community development in Philadelphia and beyond. FOR MORE ON THIS EVENT, SEE PAGE 70.

Over the course of the year, Penn IUR helped lead the Mellon Foundation-funded project “Inclusive City, Past, Present, and Future,” under the direction of Penn IUR Faculty Fellow David Brownlee, Shapiro-Weitzenhoffer Professor of History of Art, School of Arts and Sciences (SAS), and Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch. This $1.5 million five-year grant brings together students and faculty to examine the intersection of the humanities and design disciplines and to share research through teaching, conferences, and publications. In the fall, 15 new faculty members joined the Humanities+Urbanism+Design (H+U+D) Faculty Colloquium for two-year terms, during which they will share their research, explore urban institutions via field trips, and mentor graduate and undergraduate researchers. In addition, H+U+D provided funding for three undergraduate courses. An anchor institution seminar focused on Philadelphia’s Eastern State Penitentiary was co-taught by Professor Brownlee; Sara Jane Elk, President, Eastern State Penitentiary; and Sean Kelley, Vice President, Eastern State Penitentiary. A seminar focused on the city of Philadelphia, “Urban Communities and the Arts,” was co-taught by Molly McGlone, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, SAS, and Derek Rigby, Artist, Institute of Contemporary Art. The seminar “Paris Modern: Spiral City” was co-taught by Ken Lum, Professor and Director, Fine Arts Undergraduate Program, Department of Fine Arts, Weitzman School of Design, and Jean-Michel Rabaté, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Department of English, SAS. Finally, H+U+D provided research funding for doctoral, masters, and undergraduate students, course development support for faculty, and sponsored public lectures and conferences. For more on the Inclusive City Project, see page 80.

Also in November, Penn IUR participated in “Navigating Sanctuary: City Responses to Shifting Immigration Policies,” a forum presented jointly by Perry World House and the City of Philadelphia, which convened city solicitors and directors of offices of immigrant affairs from New York, Baltimore, the District of Columbia, Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Clara County, Austin, Charlotte, Denver, San José, and Philadelphia. A particular focus of the meeting was examining the unique role of the City of Philadelphia in providing refuge and opportunity for asylum seekers in recent years.

In the spring semester, Penn IUR focused on contemporary housing finance issues. The papers presented at the conference will be published in a forthcoming issue of Housing Policy Debate, co-edited by Lei Ding and Susan Wachter. In February, Penn IUR and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia co-hosted “Research Symposium on the Community Reinvestment Act,” which examined the federal legislation mandating that financial institutions help meet the credit needs of low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. In March, Penn IUR saw the publication of “Symposium: The Fair Housing Act at 50,” a special issue of Cityscape edited by Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Vincent Reina, Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design, and Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter. The collection of essays demonstrates the importance of and challenges involved in implementing the laws that prohibit discrimination in the housing market. In addition, Wachter, Reina, and Provost Wendell Pritchett are co-editing a forthcoming volume on the Fair Housing Act, to be published by Penn Press.
Penn IUR partnered with Penn’s Master of Urban Spatial Analytics (MUSA) program to sponsor two programs featuring groundbreaking technologies this year. The first program, a master class held in November in collaboration with the software company Socrata, convened more than 100 students, civic technologists, and data scientists from around the world to work with Dr. James Cheshire, Senior Lecturer in Quantitative Human Geography, Department of Geography, University College London, to create custom maps from publicly accessible data sets. The second program, an election analytics workshop held in April, featured Chris Sahilov, Project Manager, Draw the Lines Project, and Jonathan Tannen, Founder, Sixty-Six Wards. They guided participants through tutorials on the suite of digital tools known as District Builder to explore the effects of gerrymandering as well as the programming language R to create representative voting districts using local demographic data.

In February, Penn IUR joined a team of researchers from the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., and the Korean Housing and Urban Guarantee Corporation (HUG) to compare innovative practices in urban regeneration in the United States and South Korea. The team looked at public-private partnership models for regenerating declining residential neighborhoods, commercial centers, and former industrial areas. Penn IUR developed case studies focused on recent public space projects by two Philadelphia business improvement districts: Dilworth Plaza at City Hall, by Center City District, and The Porch at 30th Street Station, by University City District. Penn IUR and the Wilson Center presented these case studies at the HUG headquarters in Busan, South Korea, in June.

Innovating Cities

Some of the most pressing challenges facing contemporary urban leaders include learning to harness innovation through the use of big data and technology and forming new kinds of partnerships to guide city development from the local to the global scale. Penn IUR has long identified these issues as important topics for research and instruction, devoting particular attention to what training is needed for city leaders to make the most effective use of this information and how both public and private decision makers can implement these new approaches. During the 2018–19 year, Penn IUR participated in several projects devoted to the intersection of urban issues and technology.

In October, Penn IUR participated in the two-day Swedish–U.S. exchange, “Smart and Sustainable Cities,” in New York City. Experts from both countries participated in presentations, site visits, and a public panel discussion to share best practices from their cities on the use of technology in public-goods provisioning, energy-efficient buildings, supporting innovative start-ups for advanced manufacturing and retail activity, graduate training, and stakeholder engagement. Site visits included the Swedish Residence; HUB at Grand Central Terminal, Kings County Hospital, New Lab, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Center for Architecture, Mastercard Tech Hub, and Cornell Tech/Roosevelt Island. A committee consisting of Global Futures Inc., NYC Economic Development Corporation, Regional Plan Association, and Penn IUR organized the visits. Among the Swedish delegation were: Alan Larson, former Minister of Finance; Olga Kordas, Professor and Director, Viable Cities, KTH Royal Institute of Technology; and Sibia Will, Head, International Business & Strategy, SWECO.
Climate Change, Disaster, and Resilience

Due to their density and tendency to be located near large bodies of water, urban areas are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Many are also at the forefront of developing resilience strategies to combat the effects of global warming. Penn IUR worked with partners at Penn and beyond to explore the ways in which cities can be positive vectors for change over the crucial years to come.

In September 2018, Penn in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLAC), advised by an interdisciplinary team of University entities including Penn IUR, held its fourth-annual conference, “Climate Change, Resilience, and Environmental Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean.” The conference aimed to investigate climate change as it relates to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the projected mean warming for Latin America through the end of the century ranges from 1 to 4°C. This warming, already experienced through more frequent extreme weather events, has major social, political, economic, environmental, health, and financial implications. The program focused on how the region is tackling these complex challenges and implementing resilience initiatives to overcome catastrophic weather-related events in order to protect its most vulnerable populations.

In October 2018, with the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center and Fannie Mae, Penn IUR published “Flood Risk and the U.S. Housing Market,” which addresses the U.S. housing market’s exposure to flood risk and suggests directions for future research and action. Flooding is the most frequent and costliest natural disaster in the United States, and scientists predict more serious flood losses in the future due to the combined forces of increasing development in areas subject to flooding and climate change—including both changing storm and precipitation patterns and sea level rise. The authors analyze the stresses these forces are likely to cause in housing markets in many locations over the coming decades. Along with providing a detailed examination of both the nature of flood risk in the United States and the methods employed by FEMA and catastrophe modeling companies for assessing flood risk, the authors analyze the reasons why homeowners often do not voluntarily protect themselves financially against floods. They also describe current federal flood risk management programs, noting that many communities affected by extreme events fall outside of official flood regions, are subject to unmapped stormwater flood risks, or rely on maps compiled with outdated data or methods. The authors suggest that the lack of widespread take-up of flood insurance will not only impose financial strain on families but could also have spillover effects in adjoining communities and may trigger foreclosures. After examining the interaction between mortgage and housing markets and flood risk, they provide a roadmap for future research and action. SEE PAGE 52 FOR AN EXCERPT FROM THIS STUDY.
Disseminating research is central to Penn IUR’s mission and a core part of all its activities. Penn IUR disseminates research in print and online publications as well as by creating spaces—both physical and virtual—for knowledge exchange among researchers and practitioners. Publications include The City in the 21st Century (C21) book series published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, the SSRN Urban Research eJournal, Urban Link, and a variety of special reports and articles. Penn IUR manages two online platforms for knowledge exchange: the Global Urban Commons and State and Local Public Finance Links.
The City in the 21st Century Book Series

Penn IUR’s Co-Directors Eugénie Birch and Susan Wachter edit The City in the 21st Century series published by University of Pennsylvania Press, which now includes 40 volumes. The series explores the depth and breadth of contemporary urban-focused scholarship across a wide range of disciplines, including anthropology, planning, sociology, economics, architecture, urban design, political science, and history. The series represents a cross-section of research and experience on the city across the developed and developing world.


Transforming the Urban University: Northeastern, 1996–2006, published in May, reviews how Northeastern University in Boston, historically an access-oriented, private urban university serving commuter students from modest backgrounds and characterized by limited academic ambitions and local reach, transformed itself into a selective, national, and residential research university. Having served as president during a critical decade in this transition, Freeland recounts the school’s efforts to retain key features from Northeastern’s urban history—an emphasis on undergraduate teaching and learning, a curriculum focused on preparing students for the workplace, its signature program of cooperative education, and its broad involvement in the life of the city—while at the same time raising admission standards, recruiting students on a regional and national basis, improving graduation rates, expanding opportunities for research and graduate education, and dramatically improving its U.S. News ranking.

To read excerpts from Transforming the Urban University: Northeastern, 1996–2006, see page 44.

Iconic Planned Communities and the Challenge of Change, published in June, explores the contemporary fortunes of planned communities around the world. Drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives, the editors and contributors examine what happens to planned communities after they become vulnerable to pressures of growth, change, and decline. Beginning with Robert Owen’s industrial village in Scotland and concluding with Robert Davis’s neotraditional resort haven in Florida, Sies, Gournay, and Freestone document the effort to translate optimal design into sustaining a common life that works for changing circumstances and new generations of residents. Basing their approach on historical research and practical considerations, the book’s contributors argue that preservation efforts succeed best when they build upon foundational planning principles, address landscape, architecture, and social engineering together, and respect the spirit of place. Presenting 23 case studies located in six continents, each contributor considers how to preserve the spirit of the community and its key design elements, and the ways in which those elements can be adapted to contemporary circumstances and changing demographics.
The City in the 21st Century series is below.

*The University of Pennsylvania Press publishes its volumes in hardcover, paperback, and electronic versions.*

**HC** = HARD COVER  |  **PB** = PAPERBACK  |  **EB** = E-BOOK

- *How Place Matters in Modern America.* (HC 2016, 2019)
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- *Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Jobs in Metropolitan America.* (HC 2013, 2015)
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- *Smarter Growth: Activism and Environmental Policy in Metropolitan Washington.* (HC 2011, 2015)
- *Why Don’t American Cities Burn?* (HC 2013, 2015)
- *Sustainability in the Twenty-First Century.* (HC 2013, 2015)
- *Preparing Today’s Students for Tomorrow’s Jobs in Metropolitan America.* (HC 2013, 2015)
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- *Preparing Today’s Students for Tomorrow’s Jobs in Metropolitan America.* (HC 2013, 2015)
- *Smarter Growth: Activism and Environmental Policy in Metropolitan Washington.* (HC 2011, 2015)
Social Science Research Network (SSRN)
Urban Research eJournal

Penn IUR's Urban Research eJournal, published twice weekly through the Social Science Research Network (SSRN), gathers and distributes new research that addresses the governance, policy, economics, design, and social issues that surround global urbanization. The eJournal highlights the urban-focused research of scholars worldwide. Edited by Penn IUR Co-Directors Eugénie Birch and Susan Wachter and overseen by an advisory board of preeminent urban scholars, it accepts abstracts, working papers, and recently published articles. Recent scholarship includes: “Where is the Opportunity in Opportunity Zones? Early Indicators of the Opportunity Zone Program’s Impact on Commercial Property Prices” by Alan Sage and Alex Van de Minne, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Mike Langen, Maastricht University; “Building Delhi A Sustainable Approach” by Garima Prashad, Supreme Court of India; “Racial Segregation in Housing Markets and the Erosion of Black Wealth” by Prottoy Akbar, Sijie Li, Allison Shertzer, and Randall Walsh, University of Pittsburgh; “Immigration and Preferences for Redistribution in Europe” by Alberto Alesina, Harvard University, Elie Murard, Institute of Labor Economics, and Hillel Rapoport, Paris School of Economics; and “Measuring the Impact of Ride-Hailing Firms on Urban Congestion: The Case of Uber in Europe and the United States” by Xavier Fageda, University of Barcelona.

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Urban Link

Urban Link is Penn IUR’s monthly online publication that features expert commentary on urban topics and highlights Penn IUR news and events. Launched in November 2012, Urban Link has more than 5,600 subscribers. Penn IUR’s Faculty Fellows and Scholars author Urban Link’s articles, allowing Penn IUR to disseminate the groundbreaking scholarship of its associates. This year, Penn IUR Faculty Fellows and other scholars and practitioners contributed the following features.

PENN IUR EMERGING SCHOLARS
“New Ideas in Urban Research.” August 2018.

EUGÉNIE BIRCH AND SUSAN WACHTER

JEREMY NOWAK

HOWARD KUNREUTHER, SUSAN WACHTER, CAROLYN KOUSKY, AND MICHAEL LACOUR-LITTLE

TO READ THE JANUARY ISSUE OF URBAN LINK, SEE PAGE 34.
Launched in 2015, Penn IUR’s briefs and special reports offer in-depth research and analysis on timely urban topics from Penn IUR faculty fellows and scholars. In Spring 2019, Penn IUR generated two major publications in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act: a *Cityscape* issue entitled “Symposium: The Fair Housing Act at 50,” and “Race and Policy: 50 Years After the Fair Housing Act,” a series of commentaries authored by prominent scholars and housing experts in response to the *Cityscape* issue.

“Symposium: The Fair Housing Act at 50,” *Cityscape* (March 2019), co-edited by Vincent Reina and Susan Wachter, included the following articles:

- **ARTHUR ACOLIN** of the University of Washington and **DESEN LIN** and **SUSAN WACHTER** of the University of Pennsylvania, “Endowments and Minority Homeownership”
- **KATHERINE M. O’REGAN** of the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University, and Ken Zimmerman of the Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy, New York University, “The Potential of the Fair Housing Act’s Affirmative Mandate and HUD’s AFFH Rule”
- **EDWARD GOETZ, ANTHONY DAMIANO,** and **RASHAD WILLIAMS** of the University of Minnesota, “Racially Concentrated Areas of Affluence: A Preliminary Investigation”
- **VINCENT REINA** and **ERICK GUERRA** of the University of Pennsylvania and **JAKE WEGMANN** of the University of Texas at Austin, “Are Location Affordability and Fair Housing on a Collision Course? Race, Transportation Costs, and the Siting of Subsidized Housing”

“Race and Policy: 50 Years After the Fair Housing Act,” edited by Reina and Wachter, includes the following articles:

- **JUSTIN STEIL** of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “Changing Dynamics of Urban Development and Threats to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule”
- **ELIZABETH K. JULIAN** of the Inclusive Communities Project, “The Fair Housing Act’s Affirmative Mandate at 50: Power, Promise, and Potential Unrealized”
- **KEVIN CHAVERS** of the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, “The Fair Housing Act and Persistence of Low Minority Homeownership, Indeed”
- **GARY DEAN PAINTER** of the University of Southern California, “Commentary: Endowments and Minority Homeownership”
- **OLATUNDE JOHNSON** of Columbia University, “Consider Segregated Affluence”
- **AMY T. KHARE** and **MARK L. JOSEPH** of Case Western Reserve University, “Promoting Equity and Inclusion through Problematizing Concentrated White Affluence”
- **CASEY DAWKINS** of the University of Maryland, “Commentary: Are Location Affordability and Fair Housing on a Collision Course?”
- **LISA T. ALEXANDER** of the University of Pennsylvania, “Timing is Everything—Commentary: Are Location Affordability and Fair Housing on a Collision Course?”

Every year, Penn IUR queries its leading experts and scholars on an issue that will be important in the upcoming year and publishes their responses in the first Urban Link issue of the year. This year, in conjunction with Penn’s Year of Why, we asked nearly a dozen urban experts, “Why cities?” In particular, we asked them to reflect on any or all of the following questions: Cities throughout the world are growing in population and expanding in size—why is this? What are the most critical forces that are driving the new importance of urban centrality? How do they differ across the globe? How will urbanization impact inclusivity and sustainability? What are the common forces in global urbanization trends? How long will these trends last?

At right are the titles of the responses included in the issue.

TO READ THE FULL RESPONSES FROM THESE URBAN EXPERTS, VISIT THE “PUBLICATIONS” SECTION OF THE PENN IUR WEBSITE: pensiur.upenn.edu/publications

**JANUARY 2019 URBAN LINK**

- **SOLLY ANGEL**
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Global Urban Commons

Penn IUR manages the Global Urban Commons (The Commons), a publicly accessible online directory of urban research centers from around the world, a source for information about global urban research, and a home base for the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), the multi-stakeholder engagement platform created to support the Habitat III conference and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Created in 2014 with seed funding from the University of Pennsylvania Press and the Rockefeller Foundation, Penn IUR continued in 2018–19 to manage this site’s searchable directory of urban research organizations and resources related to global urbanization. As a communications arm for the GAP, the site documents the work of 17 separate partner groups and provides a directory of its more than 1,100 organizational members.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: globalurbancommons.org

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State and Local Public Finance Links

State and Local Public Finance Links is an online resource for planners, policy makers, and researchers to access recent analysis and information about state and local public finance in the United States. Developed and maintained by Penn IUR with input from its Municipal Finance Working Group, a group of leading industry experts and policy makers, this online library focuses primarily on issues around the financial challenges state and local governments face with the need to repay accrued liabilities such as retiree pensions and health benefits. Updated monthly, the database contains news articles, research publications, and reports from researchers and organizations specializing in these issues.

ACCESS THE RESOURCE AT: penniurpublicfinance.com

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ACCESS THE RESOURCE AT: penniurpublicfinance.com
IN FULFILLING ITS MISSION to inform urban decision-making and public policy on issues of sustainable urban growth and development, Penn IUR affiliates publish books, briefs, journal articles, reports, and online publications. Here are excerpts from the 2018–19 year.
In 1968, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act (FHA), prohibiting discrimination in the housing market in a significant reversal from federal and local policies of the past. More recently, in 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court clarified the scope of the law, ruling that the FHA also applies to policies that have a disparate impact on members of protected classes. Although illegal, discrimination and segregation persist half a century later, along with their resulting long-term economic impacts.

In recognition of this important anniversary, Penn IUR Faculty Fellows Vincent Reina and Susan Wachter guest co-edited Cityscape Volume 21, Number 1, entitled “Symposium: The Fair Housing Act at 50.” The series of articles gathered for this special publication cumulatively show the importance of the FHA and the many challenges that remain to truly achieve its original mandate.

Below are brief summaries of each of the Cityscape articles.

In “Endowments and Minority Homeownership,” Arthur Acolin of the University of Washington and Desen Lin and Susan Wachter of the University of Pennsylvania examine changes in homeownership rates by race since 1970, quantifying the persistent gap in homeownership between Blacks and Whites and finding that homeownership rates for Blacks and Hispanics in 2018 are similar to what they were in 1970. The authors additionally point to the important implications of homeownership for wealth and human capital creation. The results also show that the gaps can be divided into shares that are explained by differing “endowments” of minority relative to majority households and unexplained factors. The paper shows a striking decrease in gaps in the period after the implementation of the Community Reinvestment Act and subsequent increases in the gaps.

In “Black–White and Hispanic Segregation Magnitudes and Trends from the 2016 American Community Survey,” John Landis of the University of Pennsylvania implements a range of methods to quantify and analyze segregation trends over time. Using a dissimilarity index, he finds a slight reduction in Black–White segregation but also notes that segregation today remains high. These quantifiable realities raise the question: how can we take action to ameliorate these observable disparities?

In “The Potential of the Fair Housing Act’s Affirmative Mandate and HUD’s AFFH Rule,” Katherine M. O’Regan and Ken Zimmerman of New York University provide an overview of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule and its importance and limitations. Their article underscores the complexity of policies aimed at addressing discrimination and segregation.

In “Racially Concentrated Areas of Affluence: A Preliminary Investigation,” Edward Goetz, Anthony Damiano, and Rashad Williams of the University of Minnesota study racially concentrated poverty and racially concentrated affluence in the largest 50 metropolitan areas in the United States. While many of our policies have targeted deconcentrating the poor and desegregating people of color, the authors note that few emphasize the converse—reducing racially concentrated areas of affluence that perpetuate separatism and exclusion. This article contributes to the fair housing debate by questioning the underlying assumptions in many of our existing policies.

In “Are Location Affordability and Fair Housing on a Collision Course? Race, Transportation Costs, and the Siting of Subsidized Housing,” Vincent Reina and Erick Guerra of the University of Pennsylvania and Jake Wegmann of the University of Texas at Austin analyze potential tensions between location affordability and fair housing, asking whether incorporating transportation costs in the siting of new subsidized housing could actually exacerbate racial and economic segregation. The authors offer recommendations for how location affordability can be used as one of several factors considered in the siting of affordable housing.

Combined, the articles in the Cityscape issue show that many of the challenges our society faced when the Fair Housing Act passed 50 years ago are unfortunately still present. Thoughtful policies that pay attention to the importance of history, local context and market dynamics, and institutional barriers when these policies are implemented will be essential to addressing our fair housing goals going forward to ensure that the intent of the Fair Housing Act is realized.
In 1970, two years after the adoption of the Fair Housing Act, 66 percent of non-Hispanic White households owned their homes, whereas 42 percent of Black households, 54 percent of Hispanic households, and 48 percent of Asian households were homeowners (based on census data; IPUMS, 2017).

These disparities reflect less favorable socioeconomic conditions for minority households and decades of individual and structural barriers that prevented minority access to homeownership. Barriers included discriminatory actions government entities took, such as the Federal Housing Administration limiting minority access to mortgages for financing home purchases by redlining minority neighborhoods; the Fair Housing Act and other legislation address these actions (Schill and Wachter, 1995; Wachter and Acolin, 2015; Rothstein, 2017).

Despite legislative initiatives, homeownership rates for Black and Hispanic households did not increase until the second half of the 1990s. The Black homeownership rate rose from 42 percent in 1990 to 49 percent in 2000 and continued to rise to 50 percent in 2004. The Hispanic homeownership rate rose from 42 percent in 1990 to 46 percent in 2000 to 50 percent in 2005. Homeownership rates did increase slightly for Asian households from 1990, from 48 percent to 49 percent, and then increased to 53 percent in 2000 and 60 percent in 2004. Homeownership rates for White households increased from 66 percent in 1990 to 69 percent in 1990, to 74 percent in 2000, and peaked at 76 percent in 2004. Homeownership rates increased from the mid-1990s to 2004–2005 for all groups, and disparities in homeownership decreased.

Decreases in homeownership gaps and increases in the homeownership rates for all groups are consistent with a heightened impact of the CRA due to increased bank merger activity (Bostic and Surette, 2001) and public access to data on CRA ratings, along with more emphasis on government sponsored enterprise (GSE) affordable housing goals (Gabriel and Rosenthal, 2008). The increases in minority homeownership rates reversed in the aftermath of the financial crisis.

As of the second quarter of 2018, the homeownership rate is 42 percent for Black households and 47 percent for Hispanic households, at or beneath their 1970 levels, whereas the homeownership rate is 73 percent for non-Hispanic White households and 58 percent for Asian households, both higher than in 1970 (U.S. Census, 2018). With demographic shifts toward a “minority-majority” nation, the aggregate homeownership rate for the U.S. in coming decades is projected to decline if the homeownership attainments of minority groups remain at these levels (Acolin, Goodman, and Wachter, 2016).

In this article, we decompose the attribution of minority-majority homeownership gaps, using AHS data, to differences in household endowments, particularly permanent income, and to unobserved residual factors. We find that the pattern of changing homeownership rates is consistent with estimated changes in the impact of permanent income by group. The findings on the changes in the levels and impacts of permanent income on homeownership suggest a weaker ability of minorities to achieve consumption smoothing through self and social insurance than their White counterparts, particularly, in 2013 when gaps widened significantly.

Permanent income differences are found to be associated with homeowner outcomes, in 1989, 2005, and 2013, and may affect access to homeownership through income, asset and credit effects. We also find an increasing gap in homeownership from 2005 to 2013 for Black households which is unexplained, and which may be consistent with an increased impact of tightened credit, relative to White households, in this period, as well as due to other institutional factors which we cannot observe. For Hispanic and Asian households, we find that citizenship is an important contributor to White-minority homeownership gaps for the years for which we have data (2005 and 2013), consistent with the literature.

Permanent income and unmeasured wealth differences and their impact on the ability to access homeownership especially through intergenerational down payment assistance, may be continuing effects of discrimination. Differences in wealth and credit quality may also result from the effects of historical inequalities in the ability of minority families to access and build wealth through homeownership.
By the time I became the institution’s president in 1996, however, demographic and competitive realities had made it clear to the University’s leaders that the school’s long-standing pattern of operations was no longer viable. For a variety of reasons, it was evident that Northeastern’s future depended on redefining itself as far more regional and national in reach, far more selective in admissions, and far more demanding and ambitious in its academic work. But there was also a desire, deeply embedded in the culture of the institution and compelling to me personally, to maintain the school’s tradition of engagement with the city. It became my job as president, working with the Trustees, my administrative team, and the campus community, to accomplish this transition. The story of how Northeastern transformed itself into a top-tier national university between 1996 and 2006, and what this change meant for its urban character, is the focus of this book.

As we began our work my team and I had to address a number of fundamental questions, some of which paralleled the issues that challenged other city-based universities, especially private ones, during the latter years of the twentieth century. Two of these questions related specifically to our urban character: Which of the educational, research, and service practices that linked us closely to Boston continued to make sense and which did not? And, were there new ways to leverage the special educational and scholarly opportunities of our location and to contribute to the well-being of our city that were more compatible with our new academic aspirations?

…Northeastern had historically taken pride in basing its priorities on social needs and the dictates of its particular mission rather than on conventional academic ideas or notions of status, and my team and I sought to emulate this perspective as we shaped the new Northeastern. We were also much taken with the advice of one of the consultants with whom we worked in the early days, Robert Zemsky, who counseled that we needed to be not only “mission driven” but also “market smart.” My personal goal became to reposition the University as the academically competitive, highly regarded national institution it needed to be while also maintaining its urban character. To this end my team and I embraced a simple formula that framed much of our work during the ten years of my presidency: to seek excellence as a “national research university that is student centered, practice oriented and urban.” Members of the campus community soon began referring to this phrase as the “Mantra”; it committed us to being distinctive among national research universities in three ways that ran counter to conventional thinking about how to enhance the stature of an academic institution.

…Our decision to highlight Northeastern’s urban character was …[a] feature of our repositioning strategy that challenged conventional academic wisdom. The negative associations with the term “urban” that had caused the Association of Urban Universities (AUU) to fall apart in 1977 remained powerful within American culture in the 1990s. There were strong indications, however, that young people of the type we hoped to attract increasingly favored city-
As we sought to contribute to the city, we could simultaneously take maximum advantage of the educational opportunities it offered, not only through co-op placements with private and public employers and community-based organizations but also through new opportunities for community service and service learning and new programs, like architecture and public policy, that benefited from our setting.

Northeastern was not alone in the 1990s in its determination to reinvent the idea of an urban university. Indeed, some of the country’s leading schools that had turned away from an urban identity in the 1960s and 1970s were reengaging with their host cities in these years, reflecting a growing realization that the interests of city-based universities and those of their surrounding communities were inextricably intertwined. The University of Pennsylvania was the national exemplar of this new attitude. During the presidency of Judith Rodin, Penn aggressively deepened and celebrated its involvement in the life of Philadelphia, not only with the school’s immediate neighborhood but also at the level of civic leadership and municipal government. A similar pattern was evident at the University of Chicago and at Columbia, two institutions that had been aggressive in gentrifying their neighborhoods during the urban renewal years. Both were now forming partnerships with their neighbors to promote mutually beneficial patterns of development. By the 1990s, it seemed clear that the wheel had come full circle from the early years of the century when the AUU was founded. Top-ranked schools that had been part of that movement and had later distanced themselves from their local communities were now reconnecting, even as the cities themselves, much like Boston, were beginning to recover from the pattern of decline that had dominated urban America from the 1950s to the 1970s. Once again, it now seemed, a university could aspire to be both academically distinguished and explicitly urban. We intended to place Northeastern in the forefront of this movement.
We have carefully considered whether and how to characterize our preservation goals for iconic planned communities with the term resilience. A contested concept, resilience has a range of definitions, but for our purposes, we define it in two ways: (1) the capacity of a community to experience stress or acute trauma while retaining function, structure, communal activity, and identity and/or (2) the capacity to change and adapt in order to maintain signature planning features and, therefore, identity and sense of place.

Recurring stresses in the context of iconic planned communities include rising housing costs, inadequate transportation links, loss of open space, deteriorating infrastructure, development pressures, crime, adaptation to changing fashions, and community conflict. Acute traumas encompass infrastructure failures, loss of symbolic landscapes or structures, planning violations (such as highways bisecting communities), dramatic changes in political structure, and economic collapses caused by recessions or deindustrialization. Resilience is a process that happens in context, where, as our case studies will show, the devil is in the details and no single formula can foster resilience in every location.

The constant contextual factor for iconic planned communities is their distinctive planning legacy, environmental and social, which effective resilience planning has to acknowledge. For that reason, we insist that preservation must become a central component of how we think about resilience, despite the fact that heritage considerations are frequently omitted from discussions about planning for resilience or sustainability. In iconic planned communities, protecting heritage promotes resilience by contributing to cultural identity, social cohesion, stakeholders’ sense of place, and, in some communities, economic vitality, as long as the original planning features continue to enhance livability and the needs and well-being of community members.

Heritage also expresses culture’s important role in ensuring the effectiveness and inclusiveness of resilience planning because cultural action is required to lay the groundwork for a resilient and sustainable community: Timon McPhearson advocates that planners link resilience to sustainability, so that the former helps communities move toward the latter aim of securing a world that can continue to provide future generations with a satisfactory quality of life. Jon Hawkes goes so far as to embrace culture as the “fourth pillar” of sustainability alongside economic development, ecological responsibility, and social equity. He argues that “a sustainable society depends upon a sustainable culture” with a shared sense of meaning and purpose. Cultural values and practices give a community identity, cohesiveness, and meaning; thus, the cultural pillar plays a vital role in activating a community’s will to achieve sustainability. Heritage has a strong role to play in that process.

According to Rohit Jigyasu, UNESCO Chair Professor at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, cultural heritage is increasingly instrumental in influencing the resilience and well-being of communities: “The acknowledgment and conservation of the diversity of cultural heritage, fair access to it and equitable sharing of the benefits deriving from its use enhance the feeling of place and belonging, mutual respect and sense of collective purpose, and ability to maintain a common good, which has the potential to contribute to the social cohesion of a community and reduce inequalities.” Mary, though by no means all, iconic planned communities articulated social compacts like these in their original planning, and many scholars have pointed out how important the maintenance of cultural diversity and genuine civic engagement are for any strategy to build resilience. With appropriate understanding and encouragement, each iconic community’s planning heritage should feature prominently in its ability to mobilize action and improve the structures and functions that make it vital, livable, and adaptable to change.
Thus, the concept we expound here is a critical resilience, as Larry Vale defines the term: an approach that addresses contested questions in our communities. Who decides how to deal with stresses and traumas? Who controls the funding? Who benefits from those decisions? Which places and people suffer or get overlooked? For Tom Slater, a British urban geographer, resilience and sustainability, for that matter, are pernicious buzzwords, veiling neoliberal policies that return cities to “the desired status quo of capital accumulation and elite wealth capture” while dispossessioning the middle class and dedicating the poor. Critiques of neoliberal urban policies have relevance for iconic planned communities, some of which have seen the social equity of their original planning ethos eroded by gentrification or economic restructuring. Several contributors in this book raise troubling questions about equity, diversity, and runaway consumerism as they ponder questions such as the following: Who are the stewards overseeing heritage preservation and in whose interests are they acting? How are multiple heritages—either endemic to the design of iconic planned communities or introduced by demographic changes—preserved and interpreted? Do garden city forms, which guided many twentieth-century planned communities, still provide for equitable and livable places?

In connecting the importance of heritage preservation to contemporary wellbeing, social cohesion, and sustainable development, we advocate a critical resilience that provides an equitable sharing of the benefits of living. The critical resilience we envision is flexible and adaptable, and it has several components, beginning with the study and adjustment of the essential structure of the planning so that it can function accountably and continue to meet the needs of the stakeholder community today and in the future. Achieving resilience in these communities requires robust participation from stakeholder groups living or doing business there. The kind of grassroots planning needed is not tokenism toward different segments of the community but an inclusive effective engagement that mines cultural perspectives and knowledge bases as vital resources for achieving resilience. As Michele Grossman has argued, “ethnocultural diversity,” and we would add class diversity, “needs to be understood and incorporated into resilience planning as an asset to be built upon or a resource to be valued and mobilized, rather than a problem to be surmounted or redressed.”

Effective critical resilience planning strives to be inclusive regarding who decides these matters and draws on community building and place-specific identity resources inherent to the original planning. Where appropriate, communities may debate how to acknowledge and provide for multiple kinds of uses, understandings of identity, and interpretations of cultural meaning and heritage.
Today, many homeowners are uninsured against flood damage. For example, approximately 20 percent of homes in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey had flood insurance and only 12 percent of homes in East Baton Rouge Parish, LA were protected with flood insurance in August 2016 when severe storms caused widespread flooding. Federally backed or regulated lenders require flood insurance on loans collateralized with property in the 100-year floodplain as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). However, these insurance policies are often held for only a few years. Moreover, flood damage can occur in communities outside this region from more extreme events (e.g., Baton Rouge and Houston), unmapped stormwater flood risks, or because the maps are using outdated data or methods. The lack of widespread take-up of flood insurance will not only impose financial strain on families but could have spillover effects in adjoining communities and may trigger foreclosures that hurt lenders. Among those with insurance, properties that experience repetitive losses pose an additional problem.

This paper describes the U.S. housing market’s exposure to flood risk and suggests directions for future research and action. The first section characterizes the nature of flood risk in the United States. Section 3 describes how FEMA, as well as catastrophe modeling companies, assess flood risk. Section 4 discusses why homeowners often do not voluntarily protect themselves financially against floods. Section 5 describes current federal flood risk management programs in the country. Section 6 examines the interaction of mortgage and housing markets and flood risk. Section 7 concludes with a summary and a roadmap for future research and action.

**Flood Risk and the U.S. Housing Market**

**HOWARD KUNREUTHER, SUSAN WACHTER, CAROLYN KOUSKY, AND MICHAEL LACOUR-LITTLE**

This selection is from “Flood Risk and the U.S. Housing Market,” published jointly by Penn IUR and the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center in October 2018.
Urban Form, Transit Supply, and Travel Behavior in Mexico’s 100 Largest Urban Areas

ERICK GUERRA

Between 1990 and 2010, Mexico’s largest 100 urban areas added 23 million new residents, a more than 50% increase. Nearly all of this new growth has been in densely populated suburban neighborhoods, comprised of informal housing or—more recently—large, dense, publicly subsidized, and peripherally located commercial housing developments.

This shift in urban spatial structure has likely contributed to the rapid increase in vehicle fleets and vehicle travel in Mexico. National and local government agencies have attempted to contain sprawl and its associated costs—such as pollution, long and expensive commutes, congestion, and traffic fatalities. For example, the National Housing Commission (Comisión Nacional de Vivienda, CONAVI) recently developed an Urban Growth Containment Program to promote more centralized construction of publicly subsidized housing. The Federal government’s recently approved 2016 New Human Settlements Law will allow for higher densities and mixed-use development throughout Mexican neighborhoods starting in 2018. Nonetheless, between 1990 and 2010, the vehicle fleet tripled in Mexico’s largest 100 urban areas.

Despite the rapid growth in vehicle fleets, Mexico’s urban areas remain highly multimodal, with 49% of residents commuting to work by transit, 28% by car, and 23% by foot or bicycle. Public transit is the most common way for people to access work and accounts for between 12% and 67% of trips in each urban area. Public transit mode share includes buses, minibuses, microbuses, minivans, workplace shuttles, and all types of taxis (shared or unshared), in addition to trains, metro, and bus rapid transit (BRT). In some cities, such as Tijuana, shared taxis are particularly important to the public transportation system. In northern cities with a high share of employment in large factories, such as Juárez and Chihuahua, worker shuttles are particularly important and support around a quarter of all work commutes. Only 1% of commuters relied entirely on a mass rapid transit system like BRT or rail. Another 3%, mostly in Mexico City, relied on a combination of informal transit and a mass rapid transit system.

To inform academic understanding of this issue and contribute to policy debates in Mexico, my coauthors and I collected data and estimated models to examine whether and to what extent measures of urban form and transportation supply relate with how people commute to work in Mexico’s 100 largest urban areas. Although there is a large and growing body of literature on the relationship between urban form and travel behavior, little evidence comes from Latin America and virtually none from smaller cities. As in other low- and middle-income countries, however, nearly all of Mexico’s recent and projected population and economic growth is now occurring outside of its largest cities (United Nations Population Division 2014). How smaller cities grow will help determine national car ownership levels, total vehicle travel, pollution levels, and traffic safety records.

We found that Mexico’s urban commuters are much more likely to travel by transit in dense cities, with spatially clustered job centers, limited roadway, and good transit supply. Urban areas with similar features, but a more even balance between jobs and population and perhaps also a compact, circular shape, tend to favor commuting by foot or bike. Low-density cities with poor transit service and substantial amounts of roadway almost certainly and unsurprisingly favor driving. Overall, population density, roadway density, and...
local transit supply are more strongly and consistently related with mode choice than the other measures of urban form. In a car-
friendly urban area—as estimated using the 25th percentile values of the metropolitan measures associated with lower probability of commuting by car—we expect 37% of work commutes to be by car, compared with 29% in a typical city, and 18% in an urban area more suited to transit, walking, and biking. Most of the modal substitution is from cars to transit and transit to cars. In the 75th percentile car-friendly urban area, 42% of commutes are by transit, compared to 57% in the 25th percentile car-friendly urban area. That a 75th percentile car-friendly city has twice the expected driving rates as a 25th percentile one suggests that changes in urban form and transportation supply have the potential to result in economically, socially, and environmentally important shifts in driving rates over time.

While we conclude that land use and transportation supply relate to commuter patterns as strongly as household attributes like income and size, we find that current trends and national policies are likely to drive increased automobile in the coming decades, as well as associated changes in congestion, emissions, and traffic collisions. Despite stated intentions to increase the use of public transport rather than motorized modes, existing land use and transportation policies are almost certainly contributing to the growth in car ownership and car travel. The most important land use policy of the past 20 years has publicly subsidized the creation of large low-to-moderate income housing developments on the urban periphery, far from existing job centers or transit supply. Simultaneously, public investments have strongly favored road infrastructure, with the occasional centrally located high-capacity transit investment. Together, these two policy shifts have converged to support the substantial growth of vehicle use in Mexico’s cities. Stemming the tide of rising motorization will require a concerted shift in public policy.

The research in this article first appeared in the October issue of Transport Policy.

FOR THE FULL RESEARCH ARTICLE, SEE:

Despite stated intentions to increase the use of public transport rather than motorized modes, existing land use and transportation policies are almost certainly contributing to the growth in car ownership and car travel. The most important land use policy of the past 20 years has publicly subsidized the creation of large low-to-moderate income housing developments on the urban periphery, far from existing job centers or transit supply.
This selection is from the February 2019 issue of Urban Link.

Cities’ Role in Climate Governance and Global Policy: A Dispatch from the Urban 20

As an acoustic cover of Queen’s “We Are the Champions” drifted over the Buenos Aires Convention Center’s speakers at the close of the inaugural Urban 20 (U20) Mayoral Summit, we were left pondering who were the champions—and of what?

In anticipation of the annual Group of 20 (G20) Summit in November 2018, the U20 brought together mayors, city officials, and municipal stakeholders to address critical issues affecting not only cities, but the world as a whole. Climate change, at the forefront of the news and (some) international leaders’ priorities these days, was certainly on that list. Such discussions are no doubt a good first step, but how much do they affect real policy change or move the needle forward on mitigating climate change?

As evidenced at the inaugural U20, many cities (or their leaders) see themselves at the forefront of global policy engagement, particularly in the climate space. On some issues cities act as advocates—akin to NGOs—raising issues and keeping them visible within wider policymaking circles. In these cases, cities often act as “lobbyists,” prodding federal authorities to act—for example, by encouraging them to abide by their country’s Paris Agreement commitments. At other times, cities are direct policy makers and implementers on issues within their respective jurisdictions that have global implications. For example, cities might devise building codes, impose transportation regulations, or implement local clean energy solutions. At the U20, cities were playing both roles at once—advocating to national leaders who would meet the following month in Buenos Aires, and sharing best practices and new municipal-level implementation ideas.

Cities have taken important steps to combat climate change through diplomacy (such as Chicago’s Climate Charter) and direct action (for example, New York City’s decision to align with the Paris Climate Agreement). The U20 plays an important role in engaging cities on these issues and facilitating direct action and lateral collaboration among cities. However, the U20 should also consider direct engagement with and distribution of the summit’s communiqué to other international organizations whose cooperation may advance the agenda, including the C40 Cities, World Bank, UNFCCC, and other UN bodies, as well as with local partners and municipal authorities positioned to implement change locally.

Beyond these discussions, direct local implementation of the urban agenda may be the fastest pathway to move policy forward, independently of national government action. This may be most effective within such policy areas as climate mitigation, adaptation, and urban sustainable development, by which cities will be disproportionately affected. That’s more, cities can have a major impact in these policy areas given their position as home to a majority of the world’s people and centers of economic activity (as well as producers of CO2 emissions).

Although questions remain, cities are certain to continue competing and partnering with states and international organizations to shape global policy. Moving from competition to cooperation is another critical next step. Cities may have seen themselves as the champions at the close of the U20 Summit, but ultimately they need the tools for collaborative policy development and implementation if the global community is going to come out ahead on the issue of climate change. The Tokyo U20 Summit in September 2019 should provide the next data point in this unfolding story.

As we look forward to the Tokyo summit and beyond, we must continue to ask: when it comes to climate change, who were the champions—and of what? The answer is complex, but it is clear that any real solution must include cities—as advocates, policy makers, implementers, collaborators and—importantly—innovators.
Penn IUR’s Expert Events bring together scholars, policy makers, and decision makers to exchange and advance ideas and research. In 2018–2019, Penn IUR hosted two events focused on the Opportunity Zones tax incentive, a symposium on the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), and a roundtable on urban informality.
Opportunity Zones

In November, Penn IUR hosted an expert roundtable titled “Opportunity Zones and Inclusive Community Development” in conjunction with the Quattrone Center, Enterprise Community Partners, and Friends at Work. The central focus of this event was to examine the efficacy of the Opportunity Zone tax legislation as a community development tool. To this end, 30 participants—representing a cross-section of industry and academic experts, including public policy leaders, community development representatives, and professors as well as real estate developers, owners, and investors—engaged in a broad discussion on how to ensure that the benefits of Opportunity Zones are inclusive and that investors engage with community stakeholders to identify metrics for success. After reviewing the details of the legislation and its intended impacts, the participants discussed how the incentive’s slack of formal guidance on community development could offset by preexisting requirements at the municipal level. The participants also pointed to the need to address the persistence of racial segregation and the role of underlying prejudice in preventing neighborhood integration.

The roundtable highlighted the potential of anchor institutions in Opportunity Zones to incentivize a diverse range of residents to invest in their communities, so long as policy makers provide measures for protecting against discrimination. The roundtable preceded a one-hour public panel moderated by musician and activist John Legend.

In April, in partnership with PIDC, Enterprise Community Partners, the Weitzman School of Design, and the Wharton Social Impact Initiative, Penn IUR brought together experts from three cities—Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Newark—to discuss local OZ implementation in a follow-up event titled “Opportunity Zones: Transforming America’s Disinvested Communities for a Better Future for All.” Three panels featured academics, practitioners, and government officials from these cities who discussed the potential implications of the Opportunity Zone incentive, including its ability to transform disinvested urban neighborhoods and provide greater opportunities for local residents and business owners. Throughout the day, panel participants detailed the strengths and weaknesses of how the new tax incentive can promote social inclusion and economic development, as well as the methods and limitations for measuring its outcomes to incentivize accountability and foster community engagement. Participants noted that while the Opportunity Zone tax incentive does not include guidelines or enforcement mechanisms, socially conscious builders should not feel the need to hold back on implementation and development. Paired with careful efforts to ensure transparency and community engagement, the tax incentive has the potential to transform disinvested urban neighborhoods and provide greater opportunities for local residents and business owners.

Key discussion topics included how to utilize the Opportunity Zones incentive most effectively to promote social inclusion and economic development and how to measure outcomes to incentivize accountability and community engagement. Opportunity Zone investments from Newark, NJ, Philadelphia, PA, and Baltimore, MD, demonstrated aspects of the program that are working as intended and highlighted unforeseen challenges that have arisen since the legislation became active.

The event featured the following panelists: Tai Cooper, Managing Director, Policy and Advocacy, New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Asha Glover, President and Chief Executive Officer, Newark Alliance; Anne Boyard Nevins, Chief Strategy and Communications Officer, PIDC; Vaughn Ross, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor’s Office, City of Philadelphia; Ben Segel, Opportunity Zones Coordinator, Baltimore Development Corporation; Brian Barry, Senior Vice President, LCOR; Ron Beit, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, RBH Group; David Bramble, Managing Partner, MCB Real Estate LLC; Della Clark, President, The Enterprise Center; Egbert Perry, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The Integral Group LLC; Nancy Wagner-Hopla, Chief Investment Officer, Reinvestment Fund; Evan Weiss, Senior Analyst, HJK Strategies; Kevin Chavers, Managing Director, BlackRock; Anne Fadullon, Director of Planning and Development, City of Philadelphia; Lisa Green Hall, Fellow-in-Residence, Beeck Center for Social Impact + Innovation; Bart Harvey, Former Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, Enterprise Community Partners; and Ari Shalam, Managing Director, RWN Real Estate Partners LLC.

For more on Penn IUR’s Opportunity Zones programming, see page 18.
Research Symposium on the Community Reinvestment Act

In February, Penn IUR and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia held “Research Symposium on the Community Reinvestment Act,” an event dedicated to the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) featuring expert discussions on the use of metrics for evaluating performance, updating assessment areas, and improving the effectiveness of the CRA. Participants engaged in conversations with panelists and audience members about ideas for modernizing the CRA. Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter offered opening remarks and moderated a panel discussion titled “Effectiveness of the Community Reinvestment Act: Past, Present, and Future.” Federal Reserve Governor Lael Brainard followed with a presentation titled “Strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act: What are We Learning?” Brainard highlighted the symposium as an important starting point for the Federal Reserve’s outreach effort for gathering input on how to improve the implementation of the CRA. The Federal Reserve will look to promote more CRA activity in the coming years and hopes to use feedback from the symposium to simplify and clarify regulations as well as strengthen local community engagement. Research presented at the symposium will be published in a forthcoming issue of Housing Policy Debate.

Why Cities? Informality as a Way of Life: Challenges to Sustainable Urban Development

On April 24, 2019, Penn IUR, along with the Weitzman School of Design and Perry World House, hosted “Why Cities? Informality as a Way of Life: Challenges to Sustainable Urban Development,” a daylong conference highlighting current research and policy initiatives on informal urbanism. Panelists discussed how varied interpretations of informality are shaping efforts to pursue sustainable urban development, both on the local and international scales. Analyzing the diverse methods for measuring urban informality, panelists also examined how decision makers at various levels of leadership are incorporating informality into their policies and programs.

Panelists included Martha Chen, Affiliated Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Senior Advisor, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO); James Kwame Mensah, Chief Resilience Officer, Accra Metropolitan Assembly; Janice Perlman, author, Favela: Four Decades of Living on the Edge in Rio de Janeiro; Patricia Holly Purcell, Head of Partnerships, UN Global Compact Cities Programme; Frederick Steiner, Dean, Paley Professor, Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania; Christopher Williams, Director, New York Liaison Office, UN-Habitat; and Theresa Williamson, Founding Director, Catalytic Communities. Support for this program was provided by the Penn Global Engagement Fund and the Office of the Provost University Research Fund in recognition of the Penn Year of Why.

In conjunction with this event, Penn IUR organized a public photo contest for images capturing the ways that people in urban areas create or utilize informal systems to survive and thrive. Submissions highlighted many aspects of informality, including housing, work, transportation, food production, and education. SEE THE WINNING IMAGES AT RIGHT AND ON PAGES 13–17.
PENN IUR ENGAGED SCHOLARS, practitioners, faculty, students, and the general public through a diverse array of lectures, seminars, and panel discussions throughout the year. These programs highlighted key topics in urban research and best practices of relevance to Philadelphia, the nation, and the global community.
Penn IUR 15th Annual Urban Leadership Awards

On April 11, Penn IUR hosted its 15th annual Urban Leadership Forum, “Just and Inclusive Cities,” presenting awards to Egbert Perry, Co-Founder, Chair, and CEO of Integral, and Mauricio Rodas, Mayor of Quito, Ecuador. The Urban Leadership Awards recognize exemplary thinkers who have demonstrated the vision to revitalize urban centers, respond to urban crises, and champion urban sustainability in the United States and around the globe.

Egbert Perry, who founded Integral in 1993 with a mission to create value in cities and build/rebuild the fabric of communities, has helped the company become a premier provider of sustainable real estate and community solutions in mature and emerging markets across the United States and internationally. With Integral in the mid-1990s, he built Centennial Place, transforming the site of the first public housing project in the U.S. into the country’s first mixed-income housing development. He also helped create the legal, regulatory, and financial model that made it possible to incorporate public housing-eligible units into mixed-income housing developments. From 2001–2008, he served on the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and from 2014–2018 he served as Chairman of the Board of Fannie Mae.

Mauricio Rodas was mayor of Quito, Ecuador, from 2014 to 2019, and at the time of taking office was the youngest mayor in the city’s history. During his time in office, he oversaw the construction of Ecuador’s first subway system; initiated a plan to bring zero emissions transit into Quito’s Old City, the world’s first UNESCO site; and incorporated more than twenty informal settlements into the official map of the city. As a board member of the Cap Cities Climate Leadership Group, he committed Quito to the Paris Climate Accord, helped craft the Bonn–Fiji Commitment of Local and Regional Leaders at COP23, and spearheaded the efforts of the Global Covenant of Mayors to integrate local authorities into national climate investment plans. He hosted Habitat III, the United Nations Conference of Urban Sustainable Development, in Quito in 2016 and launched the Global Climate City Challenge in 2017.

Penn IUR Public Interest Series

This year, Penn IUR featured 12 programs investigating a diversity of topics ranging from exploring the role of technology in making cities equitable and sustainable to analyzing the community impact of the Opportunity Zones tax incentive.

September 28, 2018
Penn IUR Co-sponsored Event
Climate Change, Resilience, and Environmental Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean
Speakers:
Gonzalo Casaravilla, President, Uruguay Power Authority
Ilana Pagán-Teitelbaum, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Latin American Film, Department of Languages and Cultures, West Chester University
Fernando Chang-Muy, Thomas O’Boyle Lecturer in Law, University of Pennsylvania
Host: Penn in Latin America and the Caribbean

October 1, 2018
Penn IUR Public Interest Event
Roundtable Discussion: Local and Global Solutions to Housing Affordability
Speakers:
Todd Sinai, David B. Ford Professor, Professor of Real Estate and Business Economics and Public Policy, The Wharton School
Vincent Reina, Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design
Ariadna Reyes Sanchez, Global Shifts Post-Doctoral Fellow, Perry World House
Host: Perry World House

October 3, 2018
Penn IUR Public Interest Event
Jeremy Novak Memorial Lecture: The Citizen and the City, Creative Urban Solutions for All
Speakers:
Ira Goldstein, President, Policy Solutions, The Reinvestment Fund
Patricia Smith, President and CEO, The Funders’ Network
Edward Rendell, Former Governor of Pennsylvania

October 17–18, 2018
Penn IUR Co-sponsored Event
Building Smart and Sustainable Cities and Regions: Current Trends Globally, Nationally, and Locally
Speakers:
Allan Larsson, Chair, Viable Cities
Richard Voith, President, Econsult and ESI Thought Lab
John Farmer, Director, Technology and Civic Innovation, Microsoft
Co-sponsors: Regional Plan Association and the Consulate General of Sweden

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On October 3, Penn IUR hosted a memorial lecture for path-breaking social innovator Jeremy Nowak, titled “The Citizen and the City: Creative Urban Solutions for All.” The event was a reflection and conversation about Nowak’s enduring work. As founder of the Reinvestment Fund, Nowak coordinated Philadelphia’s Neighborhood Transformation Initiative and championed the financing of community development as a solution for struggling neighborhoods. Integrating public, private, and nonprofit expertise to create shared social and financial good, his work set a precedent and template for building collective urban prosperity.

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Nowak’s emphasis on “New Localism,” which advocates for a world in which urban institutions finance the future through smart investments in innovation, infrastructure, and children, while urban intermediaries adapt and tailor solutions from one city to another with speed and precision. His book, *The New Localism: How Cities Can Thrive in the Age of Populism*, co-authored by Bruce Katz and published in 2018, highlights the power of cities to create change, and identifies how local actors can address social, economic, and environmental challenges.

Patricia Smith, President and CEO, The Funders’ Network, spoke about Nowak’s work and his emphasis on the role of government as part of the solution for improving cities. “Nowak often talked about this concept of smart subsidy, which at its essence meant: use public resources, which are very scarce, to stimulate and activate market development in a way that is equitable,” said Smith. “Nowak’s arc of thinking was to create sustainable change through organized communities—remember, he started out as an organizer of people—and organized capital. Nowak built his career working with mayors, organizing the capacity of cities to deliver sustainable change.”

On November 8, award-winning musician and activist John Legend moderated “Opportunity Zones and Inclusive Community Development,” a panel presented jointly by Penn IUR, Penn Law’s Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice, and Enterprise Community Partners. Legend, a ’99 College graduate and a Quattrone Center advisory board member, discussed his experiences advocating on behalf of those “who are often overlooked and not heard.” Describing the lasting impact of “where we live and where we work” on life outcomes, Legend expressed hope that the Opportunity Zones incentive could spur development without causing displacement.

The panelists explored the potential of supplementing the legislation with new and existing systems, policies, and procedures to encourage equitable and inclusive development. Panelists emphasized the additional need for measures that connect all residents to affordable housing, jobs, healthcare, and community justice programs. The discussion also addressed the persistence of racial segregation and the role of underlying prejudice in preventing neighborhood integration. Panelists cited the potential of anchor institutions in Opportunity Zones to incentivize a diverse range of residents to invest in their communities, so long as policy makers provide measures for protecting against discrimination.

Legend was joined by Margaret Anadu, Managing Director at Goldman Sachs; Louis Dublin, Partner at Redbrick LMD; John Lettieri, President and CEO of the Economic Innovation Group; Terri Ludwig, CEO of Enterprise Community Partners; Michael Nutter, former Mayor of Philadelphia and current David N. Dinkins Enterprise Community Partners; Michael Nutter, former Mayor of Philadelphia and current David N. Dinkins Enterprise Community Partners; and Jim Sorenson, Chairman of the Sorenson Impact Foundation.
WHY CITIES? INFORMALITY AS A WAY OF LIFE: CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

On April 24, along with the Weitzman School of Design, Perry World House, the Penn Global Engagement Fund, and the Office of the Provost University Research Fund in recognition of Penn’s Year of Why, Penn IUR hosted “Why Cities? Informality as a Way of Life: Challenges to Sustainable Urban Development.”

As part of the event, two panels were arranged featuring case studies prepared by expert researchers and policy makers as well as current Penn students. The first case-study panel, titled “Programs and Policies Incorporating Informality: From Vending to Property Transactions,” included student presentations on informal real estate in Mumbai, India; street vending in Johannesburg, South Africa; social enterprise policies in Monrovia, Liberia; and mobile banking in Nairobi, Kenya. Expert presentations were given by James Kwame Mensah, Chief Resilience Officer, Accra Metropolitan Assembly, on the Accra government’s recent attempts to incorporate informality into its programs and policies; Emily Moholo, Regional Leader, South African Federation of Poor, on government–citizen cooperation; Sarah Reed, Research Associate, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WEIGO), on organized street vendors in Monrovia, Liberia; and Theresa Williamson, Founding Director, Catalytic Communities, on the history and heritage of favelas in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

The second case-study panel, titled “Programs and Policies Incorporating Informality: Settlements to Education,” included student presentations on motorbike usage in Jakarta, Indonesia; community organizations in Nairobi, Kenya; informal employment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and urban villages in Beijing, China. Expert presentations were given by Jane Anyango, Founder and Director, Polycom Development, on women-empowerment initiatives in the Kibera settlement of Nairobi, Kenya; David Gouverneur, Associate Professor of Practice, Weitzman School of Design, on the role of planning in informal settlements; Judith Hermanson, President and CEO, IHC International, on global urban development organizations; and Maisy Wong, Associate Professor of Real Estate, The Wharton School, on urbanization in emerging markets.

The Penn student presenters also collaborated to prepare a “Declaration of Urban Informality” to be presented at the UN Habitat meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in May 2019. Key discussion points were the importance of changing stereotypes around informality and incentivizing the sharing of resources; supporting historically and culturally sensitive developments; implementing policies and programs specifically designed for city residents living with forms of informality; improving data collection, dissemination, and use; and facilitating greater integration and coordination of stakeholder institutions.
Penn IUR Provides Opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students at all levels of study pursuing urban scholarship. Additionally, in 2018–19, Penn IUR fostered cross-disciplinary collaboration among both students and faculty through its administration of Penn’s Humanities, Urbanism, and Design (H+U+D) Initiative.
Penn IUR Undergraduate Support

Penn IUR engages with urban-focused undergraduate students through the Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium (UURC) and the Fellows in Urban Leadership program. These programs provide students with opportunities to form connections with mentors in academia and practice.

Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium

Each spring semester, Penn IUR sponsors the Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium (UURC), an advanced research seminar for undergraduate scholars with an interest in urban-focused research. The program pairs students with faculty mentors with expertise in their areas of interest. Students and faculty teams come from academic departments throughout the University, with students receiving credits through the Weitzman School of Design’s City and Regional Planning Department or the School of Arts and Sciences’ Urban Studies Program.

In Spring 2019, Penn IUR sponsored the 15th annual UURC. Over the course of the semester, students learned about existing research resources at Penn, visited the Architectural Archives, attended community meetings relevant to their individual research, and learned about systematic research process by refining their research design, collecting data, and presenting their results. Each session, faculty from different schools visited the class to introduce students to a variety of ways that urban-centered research can be pursued. Students learned about conducting historical research using public and private archives, establishing relationships with community partners for community-based research, and using spatial analysis to inform public policy. The semester ended with a presentation on how academic research can be translated into practice through actionable intelligence.

The seven student–faculty teams and their topics of study this year were:

A Comparative Ethnographic Study on Employment Practices at Local Urban Universities

STUDENT: SAMANTHA STEIN (SAS)
MENTOR: AARON LEVY (SAS)

Community Engagement in City-Based Human Service Funding Decisions

STUDENT: KAVYA SINGH (SAS)
MENTOR: MEGAN FARWELL (SP2 PhD Candidate)

The Construction of Histories of James Town: Oral, Written & Mapped

STUDENT: ANUNYA BAHANDA (SAS)
MENTOR: KIMBERLY NORONHA (Design PhD Candidate)

Local Accountability Effects in Philadelphia

STUDENT: AARON SOO PING CHOW (SAS)
MENTOR: HAISHENG YANG (GSE PhD Candidate)

Restoring the Scale of Death: Thirteen Reasons Why We Need “Small Stories” in Urban Education

STUDENT: PINAR GOKTAS (Nursing/SAS)
MENTORS: EMILY PLUMMER & JOSH COLEMAN (GSE PhD Candidates)

Smart Cities

STUDENT: PATRICK TEES (SAS), RACHEL CHU (SAS), SOPHIA YE (Wharton)
MENTOR: ALLISON LASSITER (Design)

The Role of Teachers in Creating Positive School Climate In The Context of Low-Income and Conflict-Affected Countries

STUDENT: ADAMSEGED ABBE (SAS/SP2)
MENTOR: CHRISTIANA KALLO (GSE PhD Candidate)

Penn IUR Undergraduate Fellows in Urban Leadership

In 2018–19, Penn IUR launched the Fellows in Urban Leadership program. The program provides a competitively selected cohort of outstanding Penn undergraduates with the opportunity to engage with and learn from high-level local and regional urban leaders drawn from government, business, and civil society. The program provides students with a unique opportunity to understand cities, what it takes to run them, and how to be active contributors to their communities in whatever careers they pursue.

The first cohort of 14 Fellows attended monthly meetings from September 2018 to May 2019, beginning with an orientation session led by the Penn IUR co-directors and members of the Penn IUR Advisory Board. Following the orientation, the Fellows participated in seven off-the-record meetings with individual leaders drawn from the public, private, and civil society sectors, including: Michael Nutter, former mayor of Philadelphia; Inga Saffron, architecture critic; Paul Levy, CEO of Center City District; Shawn McCarney, President of William Penn Foundation; Bruce Katz, co-author of The New Localism and Director of the Nowak Metro Finance Lab; Anne Fadullon, Director, Philadelphia Department of Planning and Development; Mark Kizer, Penn University Architect; and Anthony Sorrentino, Assistant Vice President, Penn Office of the Executive Vice President. In addition, the Fellows were invited to attend Penn IUR Advisory Board meetings, where they received additional informal mentoring from board members with mutual interests. At the program’s final meeting, the Fellows shared their reflections on their experience.

The program is open to rising juniors and seniors; outstanding rising sophomores may also apply. The second cohort of fellows will be announced in September 2019 and will attend meetings with various urban leaders over the course of the 2019–20 academic year.
Master of Urban Spatial Analytics (MUSA)

Penn’s Master of Urban Spatial Analytics (MUSA) is a one-year graduate program that teaches students how to use spatial analysis and data science to address pressing issues in urban policy and planning. Penn IUR contributes to the MUSA program through convening its advisory board and hosting events that connect students to experts who are applying these methods to a variety of real-world problems.

Students

In order to complete the degree, students must complete a capstone project that applies spatial analysis to an urban content area. Examples of research projects students completed in spring of 2019 include: Predicting Fire Risk in Louisville, KY; Predicting Illegal Rentals in Philadelphia, PA; Recidivism Prediction in Guilford County, NC; and Predicting Building Code Violations in Syracuse, NY.

Programming

Every year, Penn IUR partners with MUSA to provide a variety of programming for MUSA participants, including dailong workshop events as well as a series of lunchtime talks. On November 15, 2018, the MUSA program hosted a master class that brought together civic technologists and data scientists from around the world to gain expert knowledge within the rapidly evolving field of spatial analytics. Dr. James Cheshire, a Senior Lecturer in Quantitative Human Geography at the University College of London’s Department of Geography, led the workshop-style event. Cheshire specializes in the use of “big” and open datasets for the study of social science and has published in a range of journals on a variety of topics, including the use of cycle-fire schemes, the spatial analysis of surnames, and new ways to visualize population data.

On October 12, 2018, MUSA held a workshop with Ross Bernet and Nathan Zimmerman of the Philadelphia-based software company Azeaza to learn the essential elements of PostGIS, a popular database management software for geospatial processing. Workshop participants examined Pennsylvania voter registration and census data to model voter trends in recent elections.

On April 22, 2019, MUSA hosted a master class on voting districts. Chris Satullo, former WHYY News Director and current Draw the Lines Project Manager, discussed gerrymandering as well as District Builder, a suite of digital tools that allows people to create their own election maps. In addition, demographer Jonathan Tannen, founder of Philadelphia election analytics site Sixty-Six Wards, gave an interactive tutorial on predicting elections in R, a programming language. Lunchtime talks throughout the academic year included: autonomous vehicle regulation and remote sensing with Rahul Mangharam, Professor of Electrical and Systems Engineering, School of Engineering and Applied Science; policy development using behavioral science tools with Dan Hopkins, Professor of Political Science, School of Arts and Sciences; applying machine learning to the criminal justice field with Richard Berk, Chair, Department of Criminology, School of Arts and Sciences; and data-driven portfolio development with Sydney Goldstein, Data Science Fellow, Urban Spatial Analysis.

Penn IUR Urban Doctoral Activities

Penn IUR fosters the work of urban-focused, doctoral-level researchers by creating opportunities for students to share their research and to make connections with other urban scholars across disciplines.

In addition to taking part in Penn IUR doctoral events, a number of doctoral students go on to become part of Penn IUR’s Emerging Scholars network. See page 90 for more on Penn IUR Emerging Scholars.

Doctoral Symposium and Poster Session

On May 17, Penn IUR celebrated three of its graduating Affiliated PhD Students during the annual Penn Urban Doctoral Symposium. Co-sponsored by Penn’s Urban Studies program, this symposium highlights the work of graduating urban-focused doctoral students. Graduates present and discuss their dissertation findings and celebrate their work with family, friends, and faculty. The following three students participated in this year’s symposium:

Credit Constrained? How the Cost of Capital Affects District Resources and Student Achievement
CAMERON ANGLUM, Graduate School of Education, Education Policy

Institutions, Social Networks, and the Production of Neighborhood-Level Racial Justice Activism
JAMES MORONE, School of Arts & Sciences, Political Science

Influence of Landscape Spatial Patterns and Land Use Planning on Grassland Bird Habitat Occupancy in Chester County, Pennsylvania
M. ZOE WARNER, Wistarman School of Design, City & Regional Planning

Doctoral symposium presentations addressed topics such as the impact of land use planning on bird habitats (top); in the middle, neighborhood-level racial justice activism (center); and students still engaged in coursework presented posters and discussed their research with audience members (bottom). Top photo by Meguerian, via Flickr.
Penn's Humanities, Urbanism, and Design (H+U+D) Initiative

The Penn Humanities, Urbanism, and Design (H+U+D) Initiative was a five-year project, funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation, exploring the intersection of the humanities and design disciplines around cities that concluded in the spring of 2018. A joint project with the Weitzman School of Design and the School of Arts and Sciences, the H+U+D Initiative convened a faculty colloquium composed of faculty from the humanities and design disciplines and sponsored several other educational and research activities.

In Spring 2018, the Mellon Foundation awarded Penn a second round of funding ($1.53 million) to build on the success of the first H+U+D Initiative. Entitled “The Inclusive City: Past, Present, and Future,” this five-year project began in the Fall of 2018, emphasizing the importance of undergraduate research and instruction while also honing its focus on inclusion in its many forms.

Penn IUR has provided administrative and programmatic support to the H+U+D Initiative from its inception. Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch leads the initiative along with Penn IUR Faculty Fellow David Brownlee, Frances Shapiro-Weitzenhoffer Professor of 19th Century European Art and Chair, Graduate Group in the History of Art, School of Arts and Sciences. Alisa Chiles, a PhD candidate in the History of Art, manages the project.

Each year, the initiative welcomes a new group of faculty members and invites two Junior Fellows (scholars from other institutions who have recently completed their doctoral work) to participate in the H+U+D Colloquium, which meets biweekly to share research and inspire collaboration.

In Fall 2018, The Inclusive City Project announced 15 faculty members, drawn from both the School of Arts and Sciences and the Weitzman School of Design, appointed to the colloquium for two-year terms. The 2018–20 Colloquium faculty members include: Rita Barnard, Professor, English; David Barnes, Associate Professor, History and Sociology of Science; Ma Bay, Assistant Professor, History; Herman Beavers, Professor, English and Africana Studies; Jennifer Ponce de Leon, Assistant Professor, English; Simon Richter, Professor, Germanic Languages and Literatures; Mantha Zarmakoupi, Assistant Professor, History of Art; Daniel Barber, Associate Professor, Architecture; David Hartt, Assistant Professor, Fine Arts; Sophie Hochhaus, Assistant Professor, Architecture; Zhongjie Lin, Associate Professor, City and Regional Planning; Michelle Lopez, Assistant Professor, Fine Arts; Ken Lum, Professor, Fine Arts; Vincent Reina, Assistant Professor, City and Regional Planning; and Franca Trubiano, Associate Professor, Architecture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE H+U+D INITIATIVE, VISIT: humanitiesurbanismdesign.com

EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY COURSE

Each year the H+U+D initiative sponsors two undergraduate City Seminars, one devoted to a North American city and the other to a city overseas. In spring 2019, H+U+D offered its first “anchor institution seminar”; it focused on the history and management of Philadelphia’s famous Eastern State Penitentiary.

The seminar, held at Eastern State, was designed and led by H+U+D Co-Director David Brownlee. Taught in partnership with staff at Eastern State—namely, Sally Elk, President and CEO, and Sean Kelley, Senior Vice President and Director of Interpretation—the Eastern State seminar included 15 undergraduate and graduate students from Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences and Weitzman School and explored a range of topics about the site’s management and mission, including strategic planning, interpretation of the site, program design, architectural planning and conservation, fundraising, and engagement with diverse constituencies and neighborhoods.

As part of this interdisciplinary focus, students were asked to undertake final projects of their own choosing related to the site. Research topics included everything from religion and public health in prison to the role of baseball at Eastern State. According to Brownlee, one of the major goals of the class was for students to use the history of Eastern State as a way to address contemporary issues related to incarceration and criminal justice.
Penn IUR’s Academic and Professional Networks promote exploration of urban issues across disciplines and sectors, while its advisory boards help shape its programs and initiatives. Penn IUR honors the many experts who collaborate with Penn IUR on research and programming through six honorific categories: Faculty Fellows, Scholars, Emerging Scholars, Fellows, Visiting Scholars, and Affiliated Doctoral Students. Through these networks, Penn IUR aims to foster an environment that encourages cross-disciplinary connections and nurtures a collaborative spirit across the University and beyond.
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Urban and Regional Planning, Instituto de Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento, Universidade do Vale do Paraíba, São José dos Campos, Brazil

YUNNIS YI
Environmental Planning Institute, Seoul National University, South Korea

Penn IUR Affiliated Doctoral Students

Doctoral candidates from across Penn’s campus investigating urban issues

JANE ABEEL
Graduate Group in Anthropology, School of Arts and Sciences

IRTEZA BINTE-FARID
Graduate Group in Anthropology, School of Arts and Sciences

MICHAEL BRINLEY
Graduate Group in History, School of Arts and Sciences

VERONICA BROWNSTONE
Graduate Group in History, School of Arts and Sciences

ELIZABETH BYNUM
Graduate Group in Ethnic Musicology and Anthropology, School of Arts and Sciences

LAURENT CORROYER
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design

LEE ANN CUSTER
Graduate Group in Art History, School of Arts and Sciences

MATT DAVIS
Graduate Group in Applied Economics, The Wharton School

CHANDAN DEUSKAR
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design

XIAOXIA DONG
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design

SAMUEL GELDIN
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design

CAITLIN GORBACK
Graduate Group in Applied Economics, The Wharton School
SA MIN HAN
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning,
Weitzman School of Design

MARYAM KHOJASTEH
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning,
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CHAEKI KIM
Graduate Group in Applied Economics, The Wharton School

JACOB KRIMMEL
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning,
Weitzman School of Design

AUSTIN LEE
Graduate Group in Sociology, School of Arts and Sciences

ELAINE LEIGH
Graduate Group in Education, Graduate School of Education

SHENGKIO LI
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning,
Weitzman School of Design

MUIRA MccAMMON
Graduate Group in Communication, Annenberg School for Communication

JAMES MORONE
Graduate Group in Political Science, School of Arts and Sciences

KIMBERLY NORDHMA
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning,
Weitzman School of Design

Megan reed
Graduate Group in Sociology/Demography,
School of Arts and Sciences

JEFFREY SHARLEIN
Graduate Group in Social Welfare, School of Social Policy and Practice

PARK SINCHAISRI
Graduate Group in Operations, Information, and Decisions, The Wharton School

DAVID STANEK
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning,
Weitzman School of Design

XIAO (BETTY) WANG
Graduate Group in Business Economics and Public Policy, The Wharton School

JOSHUA WARNER
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning,
Weitzman School of Design

M. ZOE WARNER
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning,
Weitzman School of Design

JENNIFER WHITAKER
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning,
Weitzman School of Design

VIVIANA WU
Graduate Group in Social Welfare, School of Social Policy and Practice

RUI YU
Graduate Group in Applied Economics, The Wharton School

PATRICIO ZAMBRANO-BARRAGAN
Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning,
Weitzman School of Design

Penn IUR Consultative Boards

Penn IUR is advised by internationally renowned urban experts. The Penn IUR Advisory Board is comprised of innovative practitioners in such fields as real estate, governance, arts and culture, urban planning, finance, communications, and philanthropy. The Penn IUR Executive Committee is composed of deans, faculty, and University administrators from across Penn’s 12 schools.

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Penn IUR Staff and Contact Information
1. **The Rise of the City in China**
Penn IUR is working with scholars from across the University to delve into various aspects of historical and contemporary urbanization in China.

2. **Year of Data**
Throughout the academic year, Penn IUR will host experts from the academy and field to explore the role of data in understanding cities in conjunction with the Provostial theme for 2019–2020, Year of Data.

3. **The Affordable Housing Challenge**
Penn IUR has assembled a research team of faculty and students to envision alternative solutions to the housing crisis in major U.S. cities.

4. **Implementing SDG7 in Informal Settlements: The Case of Accra, Ghana**
With support from the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, Penn IUR will investigate how electricity delivery and use in informal settlements will impact nations’ ability to meet Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all), using Accra, Ghana, as a case study.

5. **The Fair Housing Act at 50**
Fifty years after the passing of the Fair Housing Act, Perspectives on Fair Housing, a forthcoming C21 book with Penn Press, looks closely at the policy and its legacy from four distinct academic disciplines—history, economics, sociology, and law—to show how essential fair housing is to equity and integration in the United States.

6. **Cities Investment and Financing Initiative with Mauricio Rodas**
Along with Perry World House, Penn IUR will co-host Mauricio Rodas, immediate past mayor of Quito, Ecuador, as a joint visiting fellow. While at Penn, Mayor Rodas will incubate the “Cities Investment and Financing Initiative,” with a special focus on climate change, including research on regulatory frameworks, best practices, and innovation worldwide; stakeholder meetings; and a graduate level course.

7. **Continuing the Conversation on Opportunity Zones**
Through expert roundtables, Penn IUR will continue to foster dialogue about Opportunity Zones and the impact this new tax incentive is having on urban communities across the country.

8. **State and Local Public Finance**
With the help of leading industry experts, policy makers, and scholars, Penn IUR will continue to explore issues around the financial challenges faced by state and local governments, such as the need to repay accrued liabilities like retiree pensions and health benefits, and the economic ripple effects this has on cities.

9. **Connecting Penn Research to the Sustainable Development Goals**
Penn IUR is surveying disciplines across the University for current research that is pertinent to the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, using Global Urban Commons as a dissemination platform. Penn IUR will also publish Cities Localizing the SDGs, Paris Agreement, and the New Urban Agenda, a collection of papers looking at how global compacts are put into practice at the local level.

10. **The Community Reinvestment Act**
Building on Penn IUR’s CRA reform symposium held in conjunction with the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank and the Federal Reserve Board, research papers will be published in a forthcoming special issue of Housing Policy Debate.

11. **Lab on Urban Informality and Sustainable Urban Development**
In partnership with the Weitzman School of Design, the Lab will formally integrate, consolidate, and promote efforts across the University to explore the way informality, in all of its forms, is shaping urban places.