

The Cornell Planner

department of city and regional planning

october 28, 2011

Long Beach, Salt Lake, DC, and the halls of Sibley...CRP is everywhere!

Kieran Donaghy Forecasting Impacts of Globalization on Air Quality

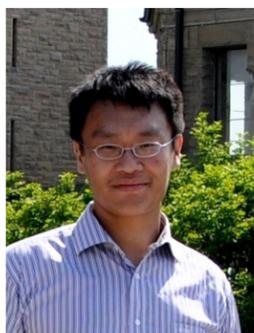


Kieran Donaghy

Even amidst the never-ending duties of the CRP Department Chair position, Kieran Donaghy is managing to contribute to pioneering research efforts that could literally help save the planet, or at least help planners help save the planet.

In 2008, the US Department of Environmental Protection (EPA) solicited assistance with "Future Air Quality Analysis and Decision Support Tools in Light of Global Change Impacts and Mitigation." With colleagues in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and the Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Donaghy responded to the EPA's request and is developing a method for simulating regional air quality outcomes under potential future conditions.

This method is rather complex to say the least, combing multiple simulation models: it links global climate chemistry models and regional air quality models, incorporating dynamic commodity-flow, transportation, and emissions models, so as to account for changes in infrastructure that might result from economic pressures and/or local and national policies. The objective is to be able to predict the interactions of climate, land-use, the economy, transportation infrastructure, technology, power, fuel sources, emissions, and policy decisions.



Jialie Chen

Donaghy's component of the project is focused on the creation of a dynamic commodity-flow model that characterizes the behaviors of shippers and carriers associated with emissions, over space and time. The idea is to use "spatial time-series data" to forecast emissions patterns produced by structural changes. However, a tremendous amount of groundwork has been required to even generate such data and that has been an important aspect of Donaghy's work so far. Seeking out those involved in similar exercises, including graduate students, has helped propel some of this work. In particular, Donaghy notes that the contributions of Jialie Chen, a Ph.D. student in Regional Science, have been invaluable. Donaghy and Chen recently presented preliminary results of their research at the National Urban Freight conference in Long Beach, California.

The project is funded for a period of four years and will culminate with the transfer of all data and modeling techniques to the EPA. For further explanation of the project, speak to Donaghy and his associates, Peter Hess (Biological and Environmental Engineering), Natalie Mahowald (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences) and Max Zheng (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering).

Faculty and Students Mingle at ACSP Conference

Several faculty members and Ph.D. students recently flew to Salt Lake City for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning's (ACSP) 52nd annual conference. Under the theme of "Envision," the conference brought together planning educators from all over the U.S. to learn from one another and discuss the way forward in planning research, pedagogy, and practice. "It's a terrific opportunity to catch up with people and other universities and see what they are doing," said Director of Graduate Studies John Forester.

The conference also provided Cornell faculty a look into the future of our own department. Professors John Forester, Kieran Donaghy, Mildred Warner, Stephan Schmidt, and Neema Kudva each interviewed as many as a dozen candidates for three open faculty positions in CRP. Forester said he was encouraged by the "enthusiastic, productive, first-rate people" interested in the positions. "It's going to be a hard decision to make, which is a great problem to have," he said.

In addition to conducting interviews, sharing their papers, and sitting on panels, CRP faculty enjoyed the chance to meet with Cornell alumni for a reception. Faculty distributed the department's book *Transforming Planning*, edited by Neema Kudva and Ann Forsyth in celebration of CRP's 75th anniversary, to those alumni who missed last year's celebration.

One of Cornell's most recent alumni, Andy Rumbach (Ph.D. '11) shared the conference prize for Best Dissertation. Neema Kudva chaired his dissertation committee, which also included Kieran Donaghy. Rumbach is now on the faculty of the University of Hawaii.

New Display Boards arrive in Sibley



students admire work on the new display boards

The 1st Floor hallway in West Sibley is a little more colorful these days, as a new set of display panels has been installed in the vestibule outside room 115. Professor Jeffrey Chusid designed the exhibit space to provide a much-needed outlet for displaying CRP student and faculty work. The area is also designed to showcase digital work on the LCD screen and has space for pedestals to display texts or models.

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CRP Links

Faculty Updates

Susan Christopherson's CARDI Report "[The Economic Consequences of the Marcellus Shale Gas Extraction: Key Issues](#)" was recently published and brings together many of the policy briefs from her [Green Choices Website](#).

Ann Forsyth's article (with co-author Katherine Crewe) "[Finding Common Ground in the Metropolis: Planned Residential Enclaves as Connection or Exclusion?](#)" appeared in the *Journal of Architectural Planning Research*.

Upcoming Events:

[James Rojas Lecture: Enacted Environments](#)
Friday, October 28th, 12:20pm
Kaufmann Auditorium

OURS Field trip to Syracuse
Friday, October 28th

AAP Young Alumni Mixer
Thursday, November 3rd, 2011: 6pm – 9pm
Chelsea Manor, NYC, 138 W. 25th St.

[Alumni Preservation Symposium at Cornell](#)
Friday, November 4th, 9am-5pm
157 E. Sibley
Colloquium lecture - Kaufmann Auditorium

John Reps Lecture and 90th Birthday!
"How Gotham Got It's Grid: The Inside Story of Manhattan's City Plan"
Tuesday, November 8th, 4:30pm
Kaufmann Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Reception, the foyer of Goldwin Smith

APA Upstate Board Meeting at Cornell
Wednesday, November 9th
More info to follow

[Carl Anthony and Paloma Pavel Lecture: Breakthrough Communities](#)
Friday, November 11th, 12:20pm
Kaufmann Auditorium

Lesli Hoey Wins Paper Competition!

PhD candidate Lesli Hoey's paper was selected along with approximately seven others that will be published as part of a graduate student academic paper competition. The competition was co-sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson Center's Comparative Urban Studies Project, USAID's Urban Programs Team, the International Housing Coalition, the World Bank, and Cities Alliance. Lesli was also one of three authors invited to a November 1st policy workshop in Washington DC where she will meet with policy experts to discuss the paper. The workshop is titled "Reducing Urban Poverty: Innovative Thinking from the Next Generation of Urban Scholars."

Lesli's paper draws from her dissertation research in Bolivia, where she highlights the issues that make urban sites in developing contexts, particularly peri-urban fringes, which are key and unique sites of action for food and nutrition policies. As Lesli noted about the upcoming workshop, "It's encouraging to see that international institutions are increasingly asking development questions through an urban lens. It'll be especially exciting to be a part of this conversation and think about future directions with a cross-section of urban-focused development practitioners, policy-makers and young scholars."



Lesli Hoey in Bolivia

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"Before this, there really was no convenient place to display our projects," said Maren Hill (MRP '13). The new space complements those such as the Hartell Gallery that are curated through the Dean's office, and others intended for the use of the departments of Art and Architecture. Any student or faculty member associated with CRP can organize exhibitions; the panels can also be used for reviews or informal presentations, or to support symposia and other events.

The inaugural exhibit, "Planning Graphics" was unveiled at an opening reception on Wednesday, November 19th, where students and faculty mingled over lunch and drinks and discussed the work on display. The exhibit represented the diverse forms of digital communications common to the planning discipline. Projects from workshops, DesignConnect, the Campus Planning office, and several Design and Planning Competitions were represented at the opening. Viv Li (MRP '12), the student coordinator for the gallery space, remarked "seeing posters from professional conferences is a great way to get acquainted with professors' and students' research projects and interests."

The [West Sibley Gallery Rules and Regulations](#) can now be found on the CRP Resources webpage.



student work on display

Rail-Volution Conference Rolls through DC



a display at Rail-volution

Two weeks ago, Alyson Fletcher (MRP '12) attended Rail-Volution's national conference in Washington, DC. Two years ago, she attended their conference when it was in Boston, when Danny Ferry (MRP'12) was one of the organizers for the conference.

Alyson said she "was thrilled to have the chance to return to Rail-Volution because, unlike many conferences, it has an excellent sense of community and attracts a wide variety of disciplines. The conference even hosts annual meetings with leaders from APA, AIA, and ASLA to talk about how they can bridge their silos to create more livable communities through transit."

The sessions all have a strong emphasis on how to create momentum for action in the advancement of more equitable community goals. Panels discussed tactics on how to make data more accessible to the public, how to foster regional support on challenging issues, and how to proactively tackle equity issues in the event of large investments like transit lines.

Alyson encourages other students to take advantage of this conference's scholarship opportunity (the application is typically due during the summer). Not only do scholarship recipients get generous coverage for admission and travel expenses, but they also get to stay with a host who is highly engaged in the host city community. The conference also does a great job in welcoming participants to the conference through connecting recipients with mentors who discuss topics learned and help with networking. Rail-Volution's 2012 conference will take place in Los Angeles.

Thanks to Alyson Fletcher for contributing to this article

Links and Resources:

Money Blog

by Luiz Martinez

CRP Blog

by Ann Forsyth and Bonnie O'Neill