Images courtesy of Lesli Hoey and Matthew Silva.

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Office Location: 214 West Sibley Hall
Office hours: Mondays 2-3, Thursdays 10 – noon, or by appointment.
All lectures to be held on SELECTED Fridays, 12:20 – 2:00 in Abby and Howard Milstein Auditorium, Milstein Hall.
SELECTED Fridays are: February 5, February 26, March 4, March 11, March 18, April 8, April 22, April 29. OPTIONAL: May 6.

After all lectures an afternoon refreshments with the speaker will be held from 2:00 – 3:00 in Sibley Room 115. All are encouraged, but not required to attend this after talk session.

This colloquium brings domestic and international experts to Cornell to talk about research and practice aimed at shaping the future of communities and regions. It includes an array of topics that span urban policy, planning practice and research, design, and applied research on technology and society. The course can be repeated for credit and is graded on an S/U basis (pass/no pass).

Student Assistants: David Edmonson, dae67@cornell.edu; Carsten Schmidt, cfs223@cornell.edu; and Binzhe Wang, bw477@cornell.edu. Assistants do not hold office hours. Please talk to them after the seminar or contact them via e-mail with questions related to attendance, access to Blackboard, posted videos of lectures, and other such matters related to the colloquium.
Seminar Requirements

- **Regular attendance.** You are allowed one absence no questions asked (and therefore, no need to send us an email either). Anything beyond that requires (a) listening to the videotaped talk and (b) handing in a brief summary of the main points made in the talk to the student assistants (maximum 2 pages, double-spaced).
- Please arrive PROMPTLY at 12:20pm for lectures, settle in, and sign the attendance sheets so talks can begin on time. Please do not come in late – not only is it rude to the speakers but it also disturbs everyone else in the room.
- **SIGN THE ATTENDANCE SHEET** that is circulated.
- You are expected to stay for the entire duration of the talk.
- If you have a university excused absence, you are still required to listen to the talk online and to submit the talk summary.
- Food in crinkly wrappers is strongly discouraged.

**End of Term Comment** to be submitted as a word doc to BLACKBOARD by **Sunday, May 8, end of day**. It should be well-written and carefully edited. The End of Term Comment should be **no more than 2 pages** (not including the bibliography). It should be in 11 or 12 point font and single-spaced. Please remember to include your name. In the paper, focus on 3-4 key ideas that caught your attention in the seminar presentations; these can be ideas or facts that intrigued you or that you found particularly troubling. Think about the implications of these ideas on planning, and the questions it raises for city and regional planning. The comment **should not** include talk summaries.

**Schedule**

February 5
Lesli Hoey

Reclaiming the Authority to Plan: The Implications of Returning to a Centralized Government after the Legacy of Structural Adjustment

Sponsored by Aline MacMahon Stein Lecture Series

Abstract: Thirty years after structural adjustment policies decentralized developing country governments, signs are emerging of a slow return to centralized state authority, including international aid agreements to support country-led development. Latin American governments in particular are beginning to apply policy, institutional and civil society strategies to “reclaim the role of protagonist that [they] lost as a result of decentralization” (Dickovick and Eaton 2013, 1454). What is not apparent is exactly how and how well national governments can implement actions after reclaiming the authority to plan, and what such changes mean for many of the gains – such as participatory planning – as well as the downsides of decentralization. Bolivia – once a showpiece for structural adjustment reforms – is now a prime example of a government attempting to reestablish state-led development. This talk examines Bolivia’s efforts to do so in numerous sectors, and the mixed implications for natural resource extraction, NGO politics, food systems, health policy and more, using the Zero Malnutrition program as a key example.

Bio: Lesli Hoey is an Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Michigan. She uses food systems as a lens to study the socio-political and institutional factors that mediate the ability of citizen planners and professional planners alike to realize their visions of more equitable, sustainable, and health-enhancing cities and regions. Hoey is particularly interested in the intersection of program design and food policy advocacy, implementation, and evaluation. Her past work, focused on Bolivia and
comparative research, examined strategies for mainstreaming nutrition into national policy agendas, the challenges of multisectoral food policy, factors constraining nutrition interventions in rapidly urbanizing contexts, approaches for integrating evidence-based and experiential knowledge in food and nutrition evaluation, and indigenous methods for implementing "adaptive" food policy (i.e. iterative, collaborative, negotiated). Her current projects examine state-wide collaborative initiatives aiming to equitably reshape Michigan’s food systems, the long-term environmental and socio-political impacts of innovative land redistribution in Bolivia's "soy capital" region, and the interactions between the dual burden – the persistence of undernutrition alongside the rise in obesity – and food security, livelihoods, food environments and household food production in two of Bolivia’s rapidly urbanizing metropolitan regions. Hoey holds an MRP and PhD from Cornell University.

February 26
City and Regional Planning Alumni Panel
Co-sponsors: Organization for Cornell Planners (OCP) and AAP Connect

Ben Cummins
Bio: Ben Cummins (MRP ’13) is an analyst at RSG, a 100-person consulting firm based in Vermont with offices throughout the US. Ben’s focus is on survey research for public transportation. He is responsible for developing questionnaires and sampling plans, directing field data collection, and analyzing and curating data for clients. He works with public sector and nonprofit clients throughout the country, including the New York City MTA, the Northeast Corridor Commission, and TransitCenter among many others.

Ben was the primary author of “Who’s On Board: The 2014 Mobility Attitudes Study,” a TransitCenter-commissioned report which received media coverage in numerous outlets, including Streetsblog, CityLab, and the Chicago Tribune. His paper, “How Close is Close Enough: Statistical Equivalence of Onboard and Online Surveys of Transit Customers” won the William W. Millar award for best paper in public transportation at the 2013 Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting.

Kristen Olsen
Bio: Kristen Olson is a certified Rope Access Technician and architectural historian investigating structures throughout the U.S. and Canada with Vertical Access. She is part of a team of architects, engineers, and conservators performing inspections and in situ testing of buildings, bridges, dams and other structures, both historic and modern. After graduating from Cornell with a Master of Arts in Historic Preservation Planning, Kristen worked for over five years with Historic Ithaca. As Preservation Services Coordinator, she developed educational and other programming, provided technical services, and advocated for Ithaca and Tompkins County’s historic places.

Kristen joined Vertical Access in 2013, and is certified as a Level II Technician by the Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians. When not “on rope,” she is responsible for producing project deliverables and assisting with the development of TPAS, the Tablet PC Annotation System. Following nine years living in downtown Ithaca, Kristen now resides in Freeville, NY (population 523) with her husband, 3-year-old daughter, and cat.

Max Taffet
Bio: Max Taffet is a Senior Project Manager at the New York City Economic Development Corporation in the Ports and Transportation Division. Max is currently working to implement New York City’s first
wetland mitigation bank. Following federally established Clean Water Act guidelines for offsetting impacts to aquatic resources, this 69 acre restoration on Staten Island’s West Shore will generate “credits” that represent the first ever compensatory currency to exist in the Port of NY.

Max's other professional focus includes implementing a website called the NYC “Waterfront Navigator” intended to rationalize permitting of coastal development and maintenance. Additionally, Max works on one of NYC's other ports, the JFK airport, where he works to bolster the City's position as an international gateway for air cargo.

Hailing from Boulder, Colorado, Max received his BA in Vancouver, Canada, at the University of British Columbia, where he studied Political Science and Fine Arts. During and after undergraduate studies, Max spent time in Guatemala and Honduras learning Spanish and teaching. Following Central America and prior to starting at Cornell in 2012, Max worked for a community foundation in Colorado where he focused on philanthropy and community quality-of-life.

A participant in the first year of MRP's based at AAP NYC, Max received his MRP in 2014. Now a resident of Wallabout, Brooklyn, Max's immediate neighborhoods are the resurgent Brooklyn Navy Yard and the rattling Moses-era behemoth, the BQE.

**Tanya Mooza Zwahlen**

Bio: Tanya is a native of Massachusetts and studied English and art history as an undergraduate at Boston College. In 1998, she read The Life and Death of Great American Cities by Jane Jacobs and became infatuated with city planning. After graduating from the MRP program in 2003, she moved to Rochester and spent her free time working on the redevelopment of the South Wedge neighborhood. In 2012, she started a consulting firm, Highland Planning, so she could focus her work entirely on community development and public engagement. In addition to working all the time, Tanya is involved with several side projects. In 2012, she started Young Lion, a company aimed at creating works of art that celebrate Western New York as a place of art, culture, and opportunity. In 2013, she and two friends launched Rochester Love Notes, a letter writing campaign to the Flower City. She also has spent the last two years redeveloping a 7,000 square foot historic church into a fully renovated mixed-use commercial space.

Tanya lives in the Highland Park neighborhood with her husband, two children, three chickens and a cat. In her spare time, she likes to ride her bike, play with the neighborhood kids, and scheme.

**March 4**

**Luisa Sotomayer**

**Socio-Spatial Inequality, Violence and the Emergence of Social Urbanism in Medellín (2004-2011)**

Abstract: Medellín, a city known as one of the most unequal and violent in the world, has recently been praised as an example of urban innovation. Grounded on claims to social justice and democracy, in 2004, the city adopted a policy called social urbanism. With this approach, Medellín expanded infrastructure and social investments to marginalized districts, instituted participatory programs, and sought to integrate precarious enclaves in the “formal” city through transit policy, public spaces, and emblematic architecture. This talk is about the emergence of social urbanism. It will discuss its origins, political rationalities, and tactics on the ground. Through an examination at the neighborhood scale, I will identify the gaps and ambivalences that emerge between the politics of three disparate logics at play: first, goals of development and socio-spatial redistribution; second, the pressures cities face to repair local economies and attract foreign resources; and third, the influence of violent actors, including both organized crime and the repressive arm of the state.
Bio: Luisa Sotomayor is an urban researcher based in Toronto, Canada. She recently completed a PhD in Planning from the University of Toronto. Luisa’s work is divided in two areas of recent, significant planning inquiry: the emergence of regimes of socio-spatial inequality in contemporary Latin American cities, and the potential of land-use planning techniques and urban policy experimentations to reduce the urban divide. At the core of Luisa’s work, is a question about the role that urban planning can fulfill in redressing socio-spatial imbalances and promoting more diverse, inclusive and sustainable urban environments. Luisa research has been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the International Development Research Centre of Canada, and the Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program, among others.

March 11
George Homsy
Strategizing for Sustainability: Local government actions on regional and global issues

Local governments have been thrust to the forefront of sustainability with big cities, such as New York, Boston, and Chicago, garnering a lot of publicity for their successes. However, most Americans live in smaller communities that lack the capacity and/or political will to act on issues of the environment, social justice, and equitable economic development, especially when those issues deal with regional or global commons challenges. In his talk, Homsy will discuss his research into the drivers of sustainability policymaking by local governments. His findings also describe the circumstances and strategies that allow some communities to overcome the hurdles to action.

Bio: George C. Homsy, PhD, AICP is an assistant professor in Binghamton University’s Department of Public Administration. His research explores the drivers of sustainability policy change at the municipal level, strategies for implementation, and evaluation of the results. His interest lies in small- to medium-size cities and towns. He is the co-principal investigator (with Dr. Mildred Warner, Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University) on a research project funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture examining sustainability in rural communities. With Dr. Siobhan Hart (Department of Anthropology, Binghamton University), George explores the nexus of heritage and sustainability, especially at the neighborhood level. George frequently links his academic research to planning and local government practice through collaborations with the International City/County Management Association and the American Planning Association (APA). Previously, George was a planning consultant helping small- and medium-sized municipalities in New York and Massachusetts create environmentally and economically sustainable communities. He began his investigation of the topic as a journalist with the public radio newsmagazine Living on Earth, which he co-founded and co-produced. He was also executive producer for The Cultivated Gardener and has written numerous articles for APA’s Planning magazine. George earned his PhD and MRP from Cornell University and his BS from Tufts University. He has held AICP certification since 2007.
March 18
Matthew Silva
Modern Ruin: A World’s Fair Pavilion
Co-sponsor: Clarence S. Stein Institute for Urban and Landscape Studies

Abstract: The New York State Pavilion, once the shining symbol of the 1964-65 New York World’s Fair, now sits as a haunting reminder of what became of the age of optimism that was the 1960’s. This film tells the story of Philip Johnson’s New York State Pavilion during the glory days of the fair, and chronicles its demise over the past 50 years. The film details its post-fair use as a 60’s concert venue and 70’s roller rink, including the years of neglect and the recent growing advocacy efforts to save and re-purpose the structure.

Bio: Matthew Silva is a teacher, filmmaker, and co-founder of People for the Pavilion, an organization dedicated to preserving the New York State Pavilion. Since 2012, Matthew has worked by way of art and social media to raise interest and change public perception for what is possible with the Pavilion. With support from a strong social media community and a coalition of various New York based civic, advocacy, and cultural institutions, he produced the 2015 documentary film Modern Ruin: A World’s Fair Pavilion which chronicles the history of Philip Johnson’s Pavilion from the fair, through ruin, to present day advocacy.

April 8
Barbara Brown Wilson
Towards Equity: Raising the Bar for Public Interest Design
Cornell Engaged Learning and Research and the Russell Van Nest Black Lecture Fund

Abstract: As extreme climate events continue to plague our cities, 'public interest' design is becoming increasingly en vogue as a method of practice that joins design thinking with participatory planning techniques to better solve complex problems. There is a general sense that community engagement is important to designing resilient places, but what impacts it produces are not yet understood. It is time to elevate the standard of practice for how community engaged design and planning is evaluated and who speaks for the subfield claiming to practice public interest design. This talk will discuss how public- and community-oriented design practitioners and researchers across the globe are reframing their work with an eye toward equity impacts in the communities with which they engage. Drawing from her work as a part of the Equity Collective and as a co-founder of the Design Futures Student Leadership Forum, Wilson will reflect on what tools are needed to design for equity in the face of climate change.

Bio: Barbara Brown Wilson’s research and teaching focus on community led sustainable development and urban environmental history. Her research is often change-oriented, meaning she collaborates with community partners to identify opportunities for engaged and integrated sustainable development that further shared goals in both the realms of research and of practice. She also conducts research on methods of engagement and evaluation in community design practice, with a particular focus on equity impacts. Wilson is a recognized leader in the Public Interest Design, and helped found several educational and practical organizations that influence this movement, including the Design Futures Student Leadership Forum, the University of Texas Public Interest Design Program, and the Austin Community Design and Development Center.
April 22
Lynn Ross
How I Got from Here to There: A Story of 1 Planner, 2 Degrees, 3 Cities, 14 Years, and Lots of Fun

Abstract: What does it take to get from here to there on your post-Cornell career track? In fewer than 15 years, Ross has gone from M.R.P. candidate to serving as a deputy assistant secretary at HUD. She will share her post-Cornell story and lessons learned as a planner moving through the ever changing landscape of planning, community development, and housing policy. Ross will also discuss her current work with HUD’s PD&R by highlighting recent research, outlining plans for setting PD&R’s next research agenda, and sharing how HUD is reflecting on its 50th anniversary as a federal agency.

Bio: Lynn M. Ross, AICP is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development in the Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Appointed in May 2014, Ms. Ross leads the 23-member Office of Policy Development (OPD) team. OPD engages in policy development and analysis, policy-related research and data analysis, and dissemination of policy findings.

Prior to joining HUD, Ross was the executive director of the Terwilliger Center for Housing at the Urban Land Institute where she led research, policy, and technical assistance aimed at the developing mixed-income, mixed-use communities with a full spectrum of housing affordability. From 2007 to 2011, Ross held positions at the National Housing Conference and the Center for Housing Policy first as the director of state and local initiatives and then as the chief operating officer. She oversaw the day-to-day operations as well as executing the education, outreach, and technical assistance strategies directed at strengthening housing policies for states and localities. Prior Ross was with the research unit of the American Planning Association in Chicago, serving as the manager of the Planning Advisory Service, providing customized planning research to more than 1,200 subscribing agencies.

Ross holds a M.R.P. from Cornell University and a B.S. in community and regional planning from Iowa State University. She is a certified planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners and was honored with the 2009 Design Achievement Award by the Iowa State University College of Design.

April 29
Joseph Rukus
Ferguson: MO: A Breakdown in the Participatory Process
Sponsor: Aline MacMahon Stein Lecture Series

Abstract: It could be argued that many of the unfortunate events in Ferguson have their roots in a city decision making process that failed to take into account many of the tenets of participatory planning. In his lecture, Dr. Rukus shows how key decisions made by city government, many in the realm of planners, provided a catalyst for the riots which occurred following the death of Michael Brown. Based on his research, he argues that Ferguson should serve as a case study demonstrating the need for a greater discourse between planners and criminologists. These two disciplines rarely interact with each other on either the academic or practitioner level. Dr. Rukus believes changing this dynamic could better enrich both the practice of planning and criminal justice.

Bio: Dr. Joseph Rukus (MRP ’09) is an Assistant Professor of Criminology at Arkansas State University. His work focuses on social justice issues in the criminal justice system. His most recent research has examined the dynamics behind the riots in Ferguson, MO and the relationship between inter-
generational planning and crime. Prior projects have included an evaluation of work release as an alternative to traditional incarceration and the dynamics behind drug use in the LGBT community. Dr. Rukus recently received his PhD in criminology from the University of Florida.

May 6

Panel of MRP Exit Project Research and End-of-semester Celebration.

Listen to a panel of Master in Regional Planning students who have successfully defended their exit projects. You will be treated to a smorgasbord of planning research and then cake!

NOTE: This is OPTIONAL for students who have attended all of the other lectures. If you have missed a previous lecture, you may attend this session to make up for it (instead of watching the lecture and turning in a make-up paper.)

Event will take place in **B-1: AAP Connect Office.**