Cornell University  
College of Architecture, Art and Planning  
Department of City and Regional Planning

CRP 5850: Applied Methods for International Development Planning  
Fall Semester, 2014

Images: (1) informal housing; (2) community-based planning meeting; (3) International Development Planning Workshop class mapping.

Instructor: Victoria A. Beard  
Office: 200 W. Sibley Hall  
E-mail: vab57@cornell.edu

Day and Time: Tu/Th 2:55 to 4:10  
Location: SBL 115  
Office hours: Thursdays at 12:30-2:00

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to give you an understanding of how data are collected, analyzed, and used in international development planning practice. The course is taught as a graduate seminar with a focus on qualitative inquiry. The course is divided into 4 parts. The first part reviews three paradigms: (i) social science research (positivism and post-positivism), (ii) monitoring and evaluation and (iii) action research. It is important to understand the assumptions that underlie each of these paradigms and how they shape what is accepted as valid, reliable, robust and generalizable knowledge and information appropriate for policy making and planning. The second part of the course reviews strategies of inquiry commonly employed by each of these paradigms. Strategies link the problem, question, hypothesis, program or intervention you wish to understand to a rationale about a particular set of investigative activities. The third part of the course reviews commonly used methods for collecting data: literature reviews, analysis of administrative records, observation, interviews, timelines and questionnaires. The fourth part of the course discusses how to code and analyze this data. Next, the course reviews how to communicate and represent your findings. The last part of the course engages ethical issues relate to power dynamics and the projection of research subjects. The course is strongly recommended as preparation for students who plan to participate in the international development planning workshop course.

Course Format and Expectations
The course is designed for graduate students and uses a seminar format. Throughout the semester students are expected to stay current on the required reading, play an active role during class meetings, including making presentations and leading discussions. Office hours are Thursday afternoons between 12:30 and 2:00. There is a sign-up sheet posted on my office door with slots for 20-minute appointments. If you are unable to make my
regular office hours, please send me an email for an appointment. In your email, please include 3 times that you are available to meet.

Assignments
Throughout the semester you will complete 4 assignments and a final project designed to engage the concepts presented in the course. Each assignment will be somewhat tailored to the individual student’s planning and development interests, so the precise format of the assignment will be discussed and agreed upon with the instructor. You will work on a proposal or manual throughout the semester that will culminate in your final project. The first assignment is a logic model for a planning or development program. For the second assignment, you will write a literature review (3 to 5 pages) related to your proposal or manual. The third assignment is an interview guide (3 pages). The fourth assignment is a draft proposal or manual, and the final project is a revised proposal or manual (8 to 10 pages). Your proposal or manual should include a complete list of references cited. Below is list of due dates for each assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Logic model</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Literature review</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Interview guide</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Draft proposal or manual</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Final proposal or manual</td>
<td>Thursday, December 4</td>
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All assignments are due in hard copy on or before the beginning of class on the designated due date. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. After the beginning of class, late assignments will be marked down half a grade for each day the assignment is late.

Evaluation and Grades
Your grade is based on three areas of evaluation: (1) participation in class activities, discussions, and presentations; (2) performance on the assignments; and (3) performance on the final project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of evaluation</th>
<th>Percentage of course grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation, discussions, presentations</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Assignments</td>
<td>40% (10% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final proposal or manual</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</table>

Because part of your grade is based on participation, you cannot receive full credit for classes you miss.
Course Materials
The syllabus lists the required readings for each week. These readings should be completed before the first class meeting of each week to facilitate informed discussion. Students will be asked to present the readings and actively engage in discussion in class. The required readings are on Blackboard (http://blackboard.cornell.edu/) organized by week.

Academic Integrity
Each student in the course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the code, (http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html). Any work submitted by a student in the course should be the student’s own, original work.

Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Paradigms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>Social science research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>Action research</td>
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<tr>
<td>II. Strategies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>Ethnography and case studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>Logic modeling and program evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>Participatory action research and appraisal</td>
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<tr>
<td>III. Methods and Data</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>Secondary data and meta-analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>Observation and visual information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>Interviews, narratives and oral histories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>Timelines and questionnaires</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV. Analysis, Communication and Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>Coding and interpreting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>Validity, replication and generalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>Communication and representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
I. Paradigms

Week 1—Introduction


Week 2—Social science research


Week 3—Monitoring and evaluation


Week 4—Action research


II. Strategies

Week 5—Ethnography and case studies


Innovations for Successful Societies uses case studies to support public servants, citizens and scholars http://www.princeton.edu/successfulsocieties/index.xml

Week 6—Logical modeling and program evaluation


Week 7— Participatory action research and appraisal


III. Methods and Data

Week 8—Secondary information and meta-analysis


Week 9—Observation and visual information


**Week 10—Interviews, narratives and oral histories**


**Week 11—Timelines and questionnaires**


**IV. Analysis, Communication and Ethics**

**Week 12—Coding and interpreting**


**Week 13—Validity, replication and generalization**


**Week 14—Communication and representation**

Cahill, Caitlin and Mari Elena Torre. 2007. Beyond the journal article: representation, audience, and the presentation of Participatory Action Research. In Sara Kindon, Rachel Pain and Mike Kesby (Eds.), *Participatory action research and approaches and methods: connecting people, participation and place.* London: Routledge, pp. 196-205.

**Week 15—Ethics**
