

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

CRP 3900/CRP 7850

City and Regional Futures Colloquium: Planning Practice, Policy and Design aka “Colloquium”

Instructor: Jennifer Minner, PhD

E-mail: j.minner@cornell.edu

607.255.5561

Office Location: 214 West Sibley Hall

Office hours: Mondays, 10 am – noon or e-mail for appointment.



Top left image from Rolf Pendall. Bottom left image from Samina Raja. Bottom right image from Robert Lake.

All lectures to be held on **SELECTED Fridays, 12:20 – 2:00 in 165 McGraw Hall.**

SELECTED Fridays include: August 28, September 11, September 25, October 2, October 30, November 6, November 13, November 20, and December 4.

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

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.

Student Assistants: David Edmonson, dae67@cornell.edu; Dylan Tuttle, dft34@cornell.edu; Jieun Kim, jk2632@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 taped 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.
- 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.
- An attendance sheet will be available. Please sign it.
- Food in crinkly wrappers is strongly discouraged.

End of Term Comment to be submitted as a word doc to BLACKBOARD by class time Friday, December 4. It should be well-written and carefully edited. The End of Term Comment should be no more than 1,500 words (not including the bibliography). It should be in 11 or 12 point font, double or single spaced is acceptable. 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

The following are abstracts and bios for each lecture and information about our final meeting on December 4.

August 28

Carissa Slotterback - Institutionalizing Innovation in Communities: Complete Streets in Action

Abstract:

Communities across the U.S. are organizing around complete streets as a way of advancing innovative transportation planning and providing transportation choices for their residents. We are now seeing an increasing number of examples of communities that are moving from complete streets plans to constructing projects. The presentation will highlight findings from a recent study of complete streets implementation efforts in 11 communities, emphasizing that a successful move from complete streets concept to implementation relies on a tailored approach that strategically responds to key aspects of the community context. Further, implementation relies on building new decision making processes, restructuring organizations, and engaging key stakeholders to support innovative practice. Critical roles that planners can play in institutionalizing innovation in their communities, including in emerging complete streets efforts will be a focus.

Carissa Slotterback is an associate professor of urban and regional planning in the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Her research and teaching are focused on public engagement and environmental planning. She is particularly interested in how stakeholders perceive impacts and use information in making decisions, focusing on impact assessment, collaborative decision making, and sustainability planning approaches. In addition to her faculty role, she serves as director of research engagement in the university's Office of the Vice President for Research, where she leads efforts to advance interdisciplinary research and collaboration with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. She founded, and for three years served as director, of the Resilient Communities Project, a community-university engagement project that connects local government sustainability and resilience projects with students and faculty at the University of Minnesota.

Slotterback serves as a regional representative and is incoming secretary on the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Governing Board and is also active on state and national committees of the American Planning Association. She has experience as a planner in the public and private sectors and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Slotterback holds a master's degree in city and regional planning from Clemson University and a Ph.D. in urban and regional planning from Florida State University.

Cosponsored by the Russell Van Nest Black Lecture Fund and Cornell Engaged Learning + Research.

September 11

John Grabowski

At the Western Edge of the East: An Examination of the Historical Identities of Cleveland, OH
12:20 p.m. 165 McGraw Hall

Abstract:

Cleveland, Ohio's landscape, cultural diversity, and politics are a consequence of its position as a borderland between the East and the Midwest. This lecture provides an overview Cleveland's history,

which centers upon its transformation from a trans-Appalachian mercantile outpost of New England into an industrial polyglot city and, most recently, its post-industrial revival as a center of medicine, education, and culture. While shifts in size and purpose have been significant, each has anchored a particular set of competing and complementary continuities that remain visible in its architecture, politics, philanthropic traditions, and its sense of itself as a place that is unique. This latter claim is highly suspect given that the patterns of urban history in Cleveland are reflective of others throughout the nation. The core of the session addresses the history of a city that became a global entrepot, situated on the geologic border between the East and the Midwest.

John J. Grabowski holds a joint position as the Krieger-Mueller Associate Professor of Applied History at Case Western Reserve University and the Krieger-Mueller Historian and Senior Vice President for Research and Publications at the Western Reserve Historical Society. He has taught at Cleveland State University, Kent State University, and Cuyahoga Community College. During the 1996–97 and 2004–05 academic years he served as a senior Fulbright lecturer at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey.

His publications include, *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, *The Dictionary of Cleveland Biography*, and *Cleveland: A Tradition of Reform*, all of which he coedited with the late Dr. David D. Van Tassel. He is also the author of *Sports in Cleveland: An Illustrated History*; and coauthor of *Polish Americans and Their Communities in Cleveland*. He and his wife Diane are the authors of *Cleveland: A History in Motion*, and *Cleveland: Then and Now*. They, along with Professor David Hammack, are the editors of *Identity, Conflict & Cooperation: Central Europeans in Cleveland, 1850–1930*. He has also written numerous articles relating to immigration history and to archival issues. His research interests center on American immigration, public history, and the disjuncture between “academic” and “popular” history.

Grabowski received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in history from Case Western Reserve University.

September 25

Samina Raja

Over Regulation and Underinvestment: Local Governing Planning Response to Problems in the Food System

12:20 p.m. 165 McGraw Hall

Abstract:

As calls to strengthen communities’ food systems continue to grow, local governments have begun to respond by deploying a host of planning and policy tools. Some are preparing comprehensive food systems plans; others are offering tax incentives to foster community food businesses. This is, some would argue, a heady time for food systems planning. Yet this turn warrants great caution and clarity about the *purpose* and *means* by which public policy is used to intervene in the food system.

Overregulation and underinvestment — the current mode of local government intervention in the food system — is unlikely to address its problems. This presentation draws on a decade-long qualitative study of Buffalo, New York and reviews trends nationally to illustrate the possibilities and pitfalls of using local government planning to strengthen food systems. It highlights the important, if challenging, role of community engagement in developing and implementing food policies and plans.

Dr. Samina Raja is an associate professor of urban and regional planning and the principal investigator of the Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York. Her teaching and research focus on the role of planning and policy in building healthy communities and sustainable food systems. She currently directs Growing Food Connections, a five-year

federally funded research grant focused on building capacity of local governments to connect small-and medium sized farmers with low-income consumers.

Raja is a recipient of Western New York's 40 Under Forty Award given for professional success and commitment to the community and the 2014 Dale Scholar Prize for excellence in urban and regional planning scholarship. Food systems and healthy community plans prepared in her graduate planning classes have won numerous local and national awards, including the Best Studio Award from the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Cosponsored by the Russell Van Nest Black Lecture Fund and Cornell Engaged Learning + Research.

October 2

Samuel Zimmerman - Transportation in Developing Cities: Issues, Challenges, and a Strategic Approach to Addressing Them

Abstract:

In this lecture, Zimmerman will outline an approach to strategic urban transport planning. In the past 70 years, cities in the West have developed in ways that reflect the implicit assumption that there will always be enough resources to sustain them. Transport, particularly in the U.S., suffers because land development and transport investments reflect that assumption, though it is increasingly not the case. There are limits on land, water, energy, and financial resources even in "rich" countries. There are also environmental, health, and social pathologies that have arisen, in part, from poor, uncoordinated land use and transport planning and ineffective if not counter productive investment choices. On the other hand, developing cities are growing much faster because of higher fertility rates and the migration of people from poor rural areas to cities.

Samuel Zimmerman has been an urban transport planner for more than 45 years. He worked at the U.S. Department of Transportation in various capacities including, codirector of planning for the Federal Transit Administration for 28 years. He was principal for AECOM in urban transport planning for eight years. In addition, Zimmerman worked for the World Bank in various capacities for the past 10 years including senior urban Transport Specialist/urban transport advisor and currently as a consultant. Prior, he was an adjunct professor at three Washington area universities — Howard University, the University of Maryland, and George Washington University — and has published numerous papers on a variety of urban transportation technical and policy topics. Zimmerman received his bachelor and master degrees in civil engineering from Cornell University

Cosponsored by the Cornell Program on Infrastructure Policy.

October 30

Robert W. Lake - Justice as Subject and Object of Planning

Considerations of justice have moved to a central place in planning theory following Susan Fainstein's (2010) eloquent plea to elevate justice as the principal criterion for the evaluation of planning practice. Justice in this understanding is the object of planning, the normative end that planning practice should strive to achieve. This lecture explores the implications for planning theory and the practice of making justice the subject rather than the object of planning. This formulation places justice at the center rather than the outcome of practice. In this view, planning is the practice of justice rather than the justice of planning practice. A planning process with justice as its subject is anti-foundational and contextual rather

than universal, anticipatory rather than reactive, generative of solutions rather than evaluative of outcomes, and culturally encompassing rather than project-delimited. Examples from a variety of sources illustrate the practice of justice as the subject of planning.

Robert W. Lake is a professor in the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and a member of the graduate faculty in geography at Rutgers University. He holds a Ph.D. in urban geography from the University of Chicago. His current work focuses on the politics of urban land markets, collaborative and community-based planning, the privatization of public policy, and pragmatist approaches to the politics of knowledge production. His previous research examined the intersections of race and housing, community development, and environmental conflict.

Lake was graduate director and director of the doctoral program in planning and public policy (2009–15); acting director (1997–98) and associate director (1998–2000) of the Center for Urban Policy Research; codirector of the Rutgers Community Outreach Partnership Center (1998–2005); coeditor of *Urban Geography* (1984–2008); and director of the Center for Urban Policy Research Press (1989–2011).

Cosponsored by the Cornell Center for the Study of Inequality.

November 6

Rolf Pendall - Building Inclusion into the Millennial City

Abstract:

The U.S. city was built for the Baby Boom. Its bones were formed when the U.S. was in its final decades of legal apartheid and fleshed out over four decades of rising inequality. The Baby Boom is still here and will continue to shape cities, suburbs, and rural areas. But we now need to accommodate a new generation—the Millennials—whose coming of age will require millions of new rental housing units. Where will this housing be built? How will established housing and communities adapt to meet their needs while also allowing Baby Boomers to live comfortably well into old age? How do the answers to these questions differ depending on where we look? Pendall discusses recent trends, charts out national future prospects, suggests alternative scenarios for local areas, and identifies policies, practices, and incentives that could make Millennial Cities more inclusive in 50 years than Baby Boomer cities are today.

Rolf Pendall is director of the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. In this role, he leads a team of more than 40 experts on a broad array of housing, community development, and economic development topics, consistent with institute's nonpartisan, evidence-based approach to economic and social policy. Pendall's research expertise includes metropolitan growth trends; land-use planning and regulation; demographic change; federal, state, and local affordable housing policy and programs; and racial residential segregation and the concentration of poverty. He directs the institute's Mapping America's Futures project, a platform for exploring implications of future demographic change at the local level. Other recent projects include Urban Institute's evaluation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods demonstration; a HUD-funded research study on the importance of cars to housing choice voucher users; and long-standing membership in the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on Building Resilient Regions. Between 1998 and mid-2010, Pendall was an associate professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University, where he taught courses and conducted research on land use planning, growth management, and affordable housing.

Cosponsored by the Cornell Population Center.

November 13

Lynn Ross - How I Got from Here to There: A Story of 1 Planner, 2 Degrees, 3 Cities, 14 Years, and Lots of Fun

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.

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 (HUD). Appointed in May 2014, 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.

November 20

Bjorn Sletto - Radical Planning and Studio Pedagogy in Informal Settlements: Working in the Forgotten Corners of Los Platanitos, Dominican Republic

Informal settlements such as Los Platanitos in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, are excluded from formal planning yet subject to discourses of responsibility and disciplinary forms of neoliberal governance. However, decentralized governance under neoliberalism provides opportunities for residents to forge new and supportive relationships, including with educators and radical planners, and to develop alternative approaches to community development. In the case of Los Platanitos, students and faculty members from the University of Texas at Austin have, since 2008, conducted research in order to address infrastructure challenges in partnership with neighborhood organizations, civil society partners, and government representatives. The work has focused on building resident capacity, assisting in the development of community-based projects, and furthering organizing efforts and democratic relationship with external actors. However, such collaborative planning in international contexts places planners and educators in complex, negotiated and contingent positions, requiring critical awareness of the potential implications of knowledge production and representation.

Bjørn Sletto focuses on indigenous land rights, environmental and social justice, and alternative planning approaches in Latin America. As the director of the Institute of Latin American Studies' (LLILAS) Research Initiative in Participatory Mapping, Sletto works closely with partner institutions in South America to further international scholarship on representational politics, indigenous territoriality, and social justice. He is also engaged with research on informality and community development in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, focusing on the role of critical pedagogy for democratic and inclusive planning in low-income neighborhoods that have long been excluded from formal development processes. He teaches international service learning courses where students work closely with community members, activist organizations, and public officials in Santo Domingo in order to address environmental and social vulnerability in the informal settlement of Los Platanitos, focusing in particular on issues of gender and development. His work in the Dominican Republic has been funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. National Science Foundation, and his students have twice won the national AICP Award for Best Applied Research Project. Sletto received his doctorate in city and regional planning from Cornell University

Cosponsored by the Russell Van Nest Black Lecture Fund and Cornell Engaged Learning + Research.

December 4 - FINAL DISCUSSION – WRAP UP

Come to class ready to discuss what you learned this semester. Your End of Term Comment should be submitted to be Blackboard by the beginning of class (see directions above.) You should also bring a paper copy for your own reference to aid in the class discussion.