This seminar brings together DUSP faculty to introduce and debate key issues in applied planning theory, while providing a parallel opportunity for incoming doctoral students to consider a range of ideas and perspectives that cover many aspects of planning and development. Sessions focus on questions of livability, territoriality, governance, and reflective practice. These four overarching ideas form the framework used in the required text, *Planning Ideas That Matter*, edited by Bishwapriya Sanyal, Lawrence J. Vale, and Christina D. Rosan (MIT Press, 2012). The intent of the seminar is to identify some of the “planning ideas that matter” while opening up the question of just what a “planning idea” might actually entail. Seminar sessions will include visits from several DUSP faculty who will help introduce the department’s six approved PhD “First Fields” (i.e., the ones that students typically choose among when devising their General Exam). These sessions have two goals: 1. To give each student a sense of the things one thinks about when pursuing each of these fields; and 2. To help students connect each of the First Fields to “Planning Ideas That Matter” in a double sense: by showing how each exam field is linked to “Planning” (given that you are enrolled in a “Planning” department) and by asking how/why do (or should) such ideas matter for society.

This fall, in addition to our regular Thursday sessions, we will also have three Department-wide Faculty Debates about the relationship of climate and planning through the lenses of infrastructure (September 25); institutions and institutional change (October 16); and place (November 13). These debates will be open to the whole department. Each debate will be facilitated by one or more faculty in DUSP, each of whom will join the seminar, if possible, for the meeting following the debate.

This seminar cannot be either a full “history of planning theory” or, for that matter, a “theory of planning history,” but instead offers multiple windows into thinking about what such
frameworks ought to include. My central goal is to encourage incoming doctoral students to identify the “planning ideas” that matter most to each of you.

Intended solely for first-year doctoral candidates in DUSP, this subject has several goals:

1. Introduce you to a wide range of DUSP faculty in a setting where they are being asked to discuss their ideas;
2. Clarify for you the department’s intellectual range;
3. Improve your facility in developing succinct responses to the arguments made by others, while developing your own intellectual voice;
4. Encourage you to identify unexpected intellectual intersections and foster new areas of excitement as you begin your program;
5. Assist you in thinking about the fields where you may take your exams, by helping you glimpse what the fields furthest from your own interests might offer you.

Assignments:

1. Readings and questions

All 1st-year PhD. students receive the book, Planning Ideas That Matter: Livability, Territoriality, Governance, and Reflective Practice, edited by Bishwapriya Sanyal, Lawrence J. Vale, and Christina Rosan (MIT Press, 2012) as a gift during orientation. All other readings will be provided as pdf files or web links to articles.

Complete the assigned readings in advance of each Thursday’s sessions. And, for the three Debate sessions on September 25, October 16, and November 13, develop at least one good question that you would like to pose to the speakers. Please email me this question (or two) no later than the Tuesday before the Debate (by 10pm). I hope that at least some of you will get to ask that question at the Wednesday debates, and we will grapple with the other questions collectively as part of the Thursday follow-on seminars.

2. Reflection memo

After the Faculty debates on September 25, October 16, and November 13, write a 1 or 2-page reflection memo, including response to the following:
1) What do you consider to be the key points made in the debate?
2) What did the debates trigger you to think about in terms of your own curriculum goals at DUSP?
This response is due in hard copy at the beginning of the Thursday class following the debate (September 26, October 17, November 14). Be prepared to discuss the memo during that Thursday’s class.

3. **Lead discussion on selected topics**

I have designated five class sessions for our own collective agenda setting intended to expand and clarify “planning ideas that matter.” At the first of these (September 26) we will collectively propose ideas that are interest to members of the class and, at the fifth of these sessions (December 5) we will collectively try to identify topics that seem to be missing from the realm of planning theory. For the middle three sessions (October 17, November 14, and November 21), I would like each student (working in a group of 2 or 3) to lead a discussion of a “planning idea” that is not otherwise listed on our syllabus. I offer some suggestions below, but am also open to ideas of your own choosing. Some possibilities include:

1. Authoritarian High Modernism (reading from James Scott, *Seeing Like A State*)
2. Sustainable Development (reading by Timothy Beatley in *Planning Ideas That Matter*, or other)
4. Self-Help Housing (reading by Peter Ward in *Planning Ideas That Matter*, or other)
5. Good Governance (reading by Merilee Grindle, in *Planning Ideas That Matter*, or other)

**September 5**: What is a “Planning Idea” and How Might it Matter?

Reading:

**September 12**: Planning Ideas About Planning Practice

Reading:
September 19: Overview of PhD First Field #1: City Design and Development
Guest: Prof. Larry Vale

Reading:

And, please look over: City Design and Development, First Field Readings and Field Overview (2014)

September 25: Planning and Climate Matters I
DUSP Faculty Debate: Infrastructure and Climate
Panel [TBA]:
Moderator: David Hsu
Reading: TBA

September 26: Reflection on September 26 debate with David Hsu (Invited)
And discussion of student-generated “Planning Ideas That Matter;” students divide into 3 groups (containing 2 or 3 students each) to choose topics and plan presentations for October 17, November 7, and November 14 sessions.

October 3: Overview of PhD First Field #2 Public Policy and Politics, and First Field #3: International Development
Guests: Prof. Janelle Knox-Hayes and Prof. Bish Sanyal (Invited)

Reading:
• And, please look over: Public Policy, First Field Readings and Field Overview (2014) and International (Economic) Development First Field Readings and Field Overview (2007, to be updated)

October 10: Overview of PhD First Field #4: Urban Sociology
Guest: Prof. Justin Steil (Invited)

Reading:
• Justin Steil and Aditi Mehta, “When Prison is the Classroom: Collaborative Learning about Urban Inequality,” *Journal of Planning Education and Research* (published electronically, October 2017); https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X17734048
• And, please look over: Urban Sociology, First Field Readings and Field Overview (2014)

**October 16:** Planning and Climate Matters II
DUSP Faculty Debate: Planning, Climate, and Institutional Change
(Note: this also coincides with our DUSP Open House for Prospective Doctoral Students)
Panel [TBA]:
Moderators: Mariana Arcaya and P. Christopher Zegras
Reading: TBA

**October 17:** Reflection on October 16 debate with Mariana Arcaya and P Christopher Zegras (Invited)
And Student Led Discussion #1: discussion with first team of a planning idea that matters to YOU.
Reading TBA based on student-driven topic

**October 24:** No Class due to ACSP Conference in Greenville, SC (you should consider attending/presenting in 2019 and thereafter); in lieu of our class, you may wish to consider attending Devin Bunten’s class, “Housing Markets, Policy and Social Stratification” 11.S946 (meets in 9-450A)

**October 31:** Overview of PhD First Fields #5: Urban Information Systems
Guest: Prof. Sarah Williams

Reading:
• And, please look over: Urban Information Systems, First Field Readings and Field Overview (2014)
**November 7:** Student Led Discussion #2: discussion with second team of a planning idea that matters to YOU.
Reading: TBA based on student-driven topic

Reading:
- And, please look over: Urban and Regional Economics, First Field Readings and Field Overview (2014)

**November 13:** Planning and Climate Matters III
DUSP Faculty Debate: How do planners plan for place in the face of climate change?
Moderator: Brent Ryan
Reading: TBA

**November 14:** Reflection on November 13 debate with Brent
And Student Led Discussion #3: discussion with third team of a planning idea that matters to YOU.
Reading: TBA based on student-driven topic

**November 21:** Overview of PhD First Fields #6: Urban and Regional Economics
*Guests: Prof. Siqi Zheng (Invited)*

**November 28:** Thanksgiving: No Class

**December 5:** Discussion about: What’s Missing from Planning Theory?

Readings: