

Fall 2015
Department of Urban Studies and Planning
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

11.910 Planning Ideas That Matter

Units: 3-0-3, graded pass/fail

Meets: Thursdays 11:00am-12:30 pm, in 9-450B, starting Sept 10, as well as selected Wednesdays 12:30-2 pm in 9-450 on Sept. 16, 30, Oct. 14, 28, and Nov. 18 and December 2

Coordinators: Prof. Larry Vale and Prof. Jinhua Zhao

This experimental series of sessions brings together DUSP faculty and others to 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 debates is to identify *some* of the “planning ideas that matter” while opening up the question of just what a “planning idea” might actually entail. The debates and associated seminar cannot be either a full “history of planning theory” or, for that matter, a “theory of planning history,” but instead can provide windows into thinking about what such frameworks ought to include. We want to encourage participants to identify the “planning ideas” that matter most to them.

The subject is required for first-year DUSP PhD candidates, but the six debate sessions are open to the full department community. PhD1 students taking the subject for credit will also attend a parallel set of sessions that follow each of the debates (one day afterwards) and discuss related readings.

Debate Sessions (open to all) W 12:30-2 (meets Sept. 16, 30; October 14, 28; November 18 and December 2 in Room 9-450)

Seminar (for 1st-year DUSP PhDs) R 11-12:30 (starting Sept. 10, in Room 9-450B).

For first-year doctoral candidates, 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

The primary reading is 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). We will provide the book to all 1st PhD. students 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 week's Wednesday/Thursday sessions, and develop at least one good question that you would like to pose to the speakers at the Wednesday seminars. Please email Larry and Jinhua this question (or two) on Tuesday night (by 10pm). 1 or 2 of you will be called upon to ask that question at the Wednesday debate, and we will grapple with the other questions collectively as part of the Thursday follow-on seminar.

2. Reflection memo

After each Wednesday debate, 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 research agenda at DUSP?

This response is due in hard copy at the beginning of the Thursday classes. Be prepared to discuss the memo during the Thursday classes.

3. Lead discussion on selected topics

We have designated four class sessions for our own collective agenda setting intended to expand and clarify "planning ideas that matter." At the first of these (September 24) we will collectively propose ideas that are interest to members of the class and, at the fourth of these sessions (December 10) we will collectively try to identify topics that seem to be missing from the realm of planning theory. For the middle two sessions (October 8 and November 12), we would like each student (working in a group of 2 or 3, with two groups assigned to each date) to lead a discussion of a "planning idea" that is not otherwise listed on our syllabus. We offer some suggestions below, but are also open to ideas of your own choosing. Some possibilities include:

- Authoritarian High Modernism (reading from James Scott, *Seeing Like A State*)
- Spatial Justice (reading from Susan Fainstein and/or Edward Soja)
- Sustainable Development (reading by Timothy Beatley in *Planning Ideas That Matter*, or other)

- Public-Private Partnerships (reading by Lynne Sagalyn in *Planning Ideas That Matter*, or other).
- Self-Help Housing (reading by Peter Ward in *Planning Ideas That Matter*, or other)
- Good Governance (reading by Merilee Grindle, in *Planning Ideas That Matter*, or other)
- Reflective Practice (reading by Raphaël Fischler in *Planning Ideas That Matter*, or other)

September 10: What is a “Planning Idea” and How Might it Matter?

For September 10, read:

- Susan Fainstein and Scott Campbell, “Introduction: The Structure and Debates of Planning Theory,” in *Readings in Planning Theory* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), pp. 1-20.
- Bishwapriya Sanyal, Lawrence J. Vale, and Christina D. Rosan, “Four Planning Conversations,” in Sanyal, Vale, and Rosan, eds., *Planning Ideas that Matter* (2012), pp. 1-29.

September 16: City Design: Are Planners Designers? Are Designers Planners?

Speakers: Brent Ryan

Eran Ben-Joseph
Hashim Sarkis (TBC)
Miho Mazereeuw (TBC)

Readings:

Kristof Van Assche, Raoul Beunen, Martijn Duineveld, and Harro de Jong, “Co-evolutions of Planning and Design,” In Susan Fainstein and James DeFillipis, eds., *Readings in Planning Theory*, 4th edition (Wiley: forthcoming, 2016), 51-74.

Kevin Lynch on “City Design: What It Is and How It Might Be Taught,” in Tridib Banerjee and Michael Southworth, eds., *City Sense and City Design: Writings and Projects of Kevin Lynch* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1990) and 652-659.

September 17: Reflection on Sep 16 Debate

September 24: Larry and Jinhua lead discussion of student-generated “Planning Ideas That Matter;” students divide into 4 groups (containing 2 or 3 students each) to choose topics and plan presentations for October 8 and November 12 sessions.

September 30: Resilient Cities: Clarifying Concept or Catch-all Cliché?

Speakers: Larry Vale

Jim Wescoat (TBC)

Justin Steil

Anne Spirn

Kian Goh, Northeastern

Reading: Lawrence Vale, "Resilient Cities: Clarifying Concept or Catch-all Cliché?" *The Cities Reader*, 6th edition (forthcoming 2016).

October 1: Reflection on Sep 30 Debate

Additional Reading: *Brendan Gleeson*, Disasters, Vulnerability and Resilience of Cities. In Susan Fainstein and James DeFillipis, eds., *Readings in Planning Theory*, 4th edition (Wiley: forthcoming, 2016), pp. 241-272.

October 8: Student Led Discussion #1: 2 groups of students each discuss a Planning Idea That Matters to them (each discussion lasts 40 minutes)

October 14: Good City Form: Can One Plan For Flux?

Speakers: Gary Hack, University of Pennsylvania, and MIT

Ann Forsyth, Harvard

Dennis Frenchman

Alan Berger

Reading: Gary Hack on "Urban Flux" from Tridib Banerjee and Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, eds. *Companion to Urban Design* (Routledge, 2011), 446-462.

October 15: Guest: Gary Hack, Reflection on October 14 Debate and Planning Education

Additional Reading:

Gary Hack, "Good City Form," from *Planning Ideas That Matter*

Gary Hack, "Designing Cities and the Academy," from *Journal of the American Planning Association* (2015).

October 22:—No Seminar due to ACSP Conference

October 28: Regional Planning: Can Climate Change Adaptation Revive It?

Speakers: Michael Teitz, UC Berkeley)

Janelle Knox-Hayes

Balakrishnan Rajagopal

Amy Glasmeier

Reading: TBA

October 29: Guest Michael Teitz, Reflection on Oct 28 Debate

Additional Reading: Michael Teitz, "Regional Development Planning," in Sanyal, Vale, and Rosan, eds., *Planning Ideas that Matter*, pp. 127-152.

November 5: No Seminar

November 12: Student Led Discussion #2: 2 groups of students each discuss a Planning Idea That Matters to them (each discussion lasts 40 minutes)

November 18: Healthy Cities: Have Planners been Marginalized?

Speakers:

Mariana Arcaya

Phil Thompson

Bish Sanyal

Reading: TBA

November 19: Reflection on Nov 18 Debate

November 26: Thanksgiving: No Class

December 2: Urban Information Systems: a Pathway to Social Inclusion?

Carlo Ratti

Joe Ferreira

David Hsu

Sarah Williams

Chris Zegras

Jennifer Light

Moderator: Jinhua Zhao

Reading: TBA

December 3: Seminar: Reflection on Dec 2 Debate

Additional Reading: TBA

December 10: Jinhua and Larry will lead a group discussion on: What's Missing from Planning Theory?

Readings:

- John Friedmann, "The Uses of Planning Theory: A Bibliographic Essay," *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 28, 2 (Winter 2008), pp. 247-257.

- June Manning Thomas, "Social Justice as Responsible Practice: Influence of Race, Ethnicity, and the Civil Rights Era," in Sanyal, Vale, and Rosan, eds., *Planning Ideas that Matter*, pp. 359-385.
- Bent Flyvbjerg, "Bringing Power to Planning Research," in Fainstein and Campbell, *Readings in Planning Theory*, pp. 292-314.
- Leonie Sandercock, "Towards a Planning Imagination for the 21st Century," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 70 (2004, 2): 133-41.