

## Brent D. Ryan

Department of Urban Studies and Planning  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, room 10-485  
Cambridge, MA 02139

P (617) 324-1874  
bdr@mit.edu  
June, 2019

---

Place of Birth: New Haven, Connecticut, April 14, 1969

### Academic Positions

*Head, City Design and Development Group*  
Department of Urban Studies and Planning, January 2015-

*Associate Professor of Urban Design and Public Policy (with tenure)*  
Department of Urban Studies and Planning  
School of Architecture and Planning  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2016- present

*Associate Professor of Urban Design and Public Policy*  
Department of Urban Studies and Planning  
School of Architecture and Planning  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2013- 2016

*Assistant Professor of Urban Design and Public Policy*  
Department of Urban Studies and Planning  
School of Architecture and Planning  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2009- 2013

*Assistant Professor of Urban Planning*  
Department of Urban Planning and Design  
Graduate School of Design  
Harvard University, 2007- 2009

*Co-Director, City Design Center and Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Policy*  
College of Architecture and the Arts and College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois, 2002- 2007

### Professional Positions

*Senior Urban Planning Specialist*, World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2014-15

*Urban Designer*, New York City Department of City Planning, New York City, 1994- 97  
Zoning and Urban Design Division, 1994- 96; Manhattan Borough Office, 1996- 97

### Education

*Ph.D. in Urban Design and Planning*, 2002  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

Dissertation: "The Suburbanization of the Inner City: urban housing and the pastoral ideal." Advisor: Lawrence J. Vale. Committee: Eran Ben-Joseph, Anne Whiston Spirn, Sam Bass Warner

*Master of Architecture* (M.Arch.), 1994  
Columbia University, New York, NY

*Bachelor of Science* (B.S.) in Biology, 1991  
Yale University, New Haven, CT

### **Research Interests**

Urban Design; Shrinking Cities; Urban Morphology; Urban Design and Planning Theory

### **Honors and Awards**

Committed to Caring Award, MIT Office of the Dean for Graduate Education, July 2014

Best Article of 2011 ("Reading Through A Plan"), *Journal of the American Planning Association*, April 2013

*Planetizen* Top Ten Book of 2012 (*Design After Decline*), December 2012

Linde Career Development Professorship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, July 2009- June 2012

Annual Dean's Research Grant, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, May 2008

First Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Illinois at Chicago Urban Planning and Policy Student Association, May 2006

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Research Fellowship in Planning and Development (with Rachel Weber), November 2004

Curriculum and Instructional Grant, UIC Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (with Rachel Weber), February 2003

Institute for the Humanities Award, UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, December 2002

Student Project Award (supervisor), Massachusetts Chapter, American Planning Association, December 2001

Fellow, Salzburg Seminar #378, June 2000

Outstanding Contribution to the Intellectual Life of the Department Award, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, June 2000

Outstanding Contribution to the Intellectual Life of the Department Award, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, June 1999

Voorhees Doctoral Fellowship, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, 1997-98

### **Publications**

#### *Books*

Ryan, B. D. (2017). *The largest art: A measured manifesto for a plural urbanism*. MIT Press.

Ryan, B. D. (2012). *Design after decline: How America rebuilds shrinking cities*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

### *Refereed Journal Papers*

Ryan, B. D., & Gao, S. (2019). Plan implementation challenges in a shrinking city: a conformance evaluation of Youngstown, Ohio's comprehensive plan with a subsequent zoning code. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, forthcoming.

Jansen, H., & Ryan, B. D. (2019). Retrofitting business suburbia: competition, transformation, and challenges in metropolitan Boston's suburban office parks. *Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability*, 12(2), 203-229.

Liu, L., Zhou, B., Zhao, J., & Ryan, B. D. (2016). C-IMAGE: city cognitive mapping through geo-tagged photos. *GeoJournal*, 81(6), 817-861.

Ryan, B. D., & Campo, D. (2013). Autopia's end: The decline and fall of Detroit's automotive manufacturing landscape. *Journal of Planning History*, 12(2), 95-132.

Ryan, B. D. (2013). Whatever happened to "urbanism"? A comparison of premodern, modernist, and HOPE VI morphology in three American cities. *Journal of Urban Design*, 18(2), 201-219.

Ryan, B. D. (2011). Reading through a plan: A visual interpretation of what plans mean and how they innovate. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 77(4), 309-327.

Ryan, B. D. (2008). The restructuring of Detroit: City block form change in a shrinking city, 1900–2000. *Urban Design International*, 13(3), 156-168.

Campo, D., & Ryan, B. D. (2008). The entertainment zone: Unplanned nightlife and the revitalization of the American downtown. *Journal of Urban Design*, 13(3), 291-315.

Ryan, B. D., & Weber, R. (2007). Valuing new development in distressed urban neighborhoods: Does design matter?. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 73(1), 100-111.

Ryan, B. D. (2006). Morphological change through residential redevelopment: Detroit, 1951-2000. *Urban Morphology*, 10(1), 5.

Ryan, B. D. (2006). Incomplete and incremental plan implementation in downtown Providence, Rhode Island, 1960-2000. *Journal of Planning History*, 5(1), 35-64.

Ryan, B. (2004). Alphaworld: The urban design of a digital city. *Journal of Urban Design*, 9(3), 287-309.

### *Chapters in Edited Books*

"Shrinking Cities, Shrinking World: Urban design for an emerging era of global population decline." Chapter in *The New Companion to Urban Design*. London: Routledge.

"Ukraine's Urban Planning System: Issues and Challenges." (2016) Chapter in *Ukraine Urbanization Review*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

"The Fiscal Topography of the Shrinking City." (2015) Chapter in *Urban Landscape (Critical Concepts in the Built Environment)*, edited by Anita Berrizbeitia. New York: Routledge. With Lorena Bello Gomez (Ryan first author).

"The Metastasizing Megaproject: Urban design and 'monstrous moral hybrids' in the American city." (2013) Chapter in *Megaprojects: A Global Perspective*, edited by Gerardo del Cerro. London: Emerald.

"Rightsizing Shrinking Cities: The urban design dimension." (2012) Chapter in *The City After Abandonment*. Margaret Dewar and June Manning Thomas, eds. University of Pennsylvania Press.

"Reading Through A Plan." (2012) Chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Planning*. Randall Crane and Rachel Weber, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

"From Cars to Casinos: Global Pasts and Local Futures in the Detroit-Windsor Transnational Metropolitan Area." (2012) Chapter in *Rethinking Global Urbanism: Comparative insights from secondary cities*. Xiangming Chen and Ahmed Kanna, eds. London: Routledge.

"Some Thoughts on Desert Urbanism." (2010) Essay in *Invention/Transformation: Strategies for the Qattara/Al-Jimi Oases in Al-Ain*. Jorge Silvetti and Felipe Correa, eds. Cambridge: Harvard Graduate School of Design.

#### *Other Publications*

"Designing for people and place in shrinking cities." Commentary, *Journal of Urban Design* 24:1 (2019), 72-75.

"Urban design in an age of recessions: reflections on a sobered discipline." Commentary, *Journal of Urban Design* 22:2 (2017), 147-49.

"Stadtschumpfung Als Determinante Städtischer Politik: Das Beispiel Flint, Michigan, USA". ("Shrinking Cities as Determinant of City Policy: the case of Flint, Michigan, USA.") *Forum Stadt* 42:3 (2015), 131-150.

"Hard Urbanism". Commentary, *Journal of Urban Design*, 20:3 (2015), 321-22.

"Jane Jacobs in the Neoliberal City." Review essay, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 39:1 (2015), 172-174.

"The Fiscal Topography of the Shrinking City." *Perspecta* 47, *the Yale Architectural Journal: Money*. 47:1, 198-204. With Lorena Bello Gomez (Ryan first author).

Review of *New Deal Ruins: Race, Economic Justice, and Social Housing Policy*, by Edward G. Goetz. *Journal of Urban Design*, 19:4 (2014): 565-567.

"Sustainability and Pluralism." Penn Institute of Urban Research *Urban Link*, January 2014.

*Baltimore Inversions: Shrinking City Urban Design Studio*. MIT School of Architecture + Planning, Fall 2013.

Review of *Good Urbanism*, by Nan Ellin. *Journal of Urban Design*, 18:4 (2013): 142-144.

*Privatopolis: Urban Design Strategies for Sauget-East St. Louis, IL.* MIT School of Architecture + Planning, Fall 2012.

Review of *Distributed Urbanism: Cities after Google Earth*, edited by Gretchen Wilkins, and *The Exposed City: Mapping the urban invisibles*, by Nadia Amoroso. *Journal of Urban Design* 17:1 (2012): 163-165.

"Lands of Opportunity: Cities and Prosperity, a conversation with Edward L. Glaeser." *Architecture Boston*, Summer 2011.

Review of *Residential Landscape Sustainability: A checklist tool*, edited by Carl Smith Andy Clayden, and Nigel Dunnett. *Journal of Urban Design*, 15:1 (2010): 151-153.

"The Once and Future Neighborhood." *Architecture Boston*, Spring 2009.

Review of *Chicago Architecture: histories, revisions, alternatives*, edited by Charles Waldheim and Katerina Rüedi Ray. *Journal of Urban Design*, 13:1 (2008): 147-149.

Review of *The Form of Cities: political economy and urban design*, by Alexander A. Cuthbert. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 22:2 (2007): 125-126.

"What is a Greystone?" In *The Chicago Greystone in Historic North Lawndale*, edited by Roberta Feldman and Jim Wheaton, 85-91. Chicago: UIC City Design Center, 2006.

Review of *The Dictionary of Urbanism*, by Robert Cowan. *Journal of Urban Design*, 11:3 (2006): 367-369.

Review of *Along the Divide: photographs of the Dan Ryan Expressway*, by Jay Wolke. *Journal of Urban Design*, 10:3 (2005): 400-403.

Review of *Behind the Gates: life, liberty, and the pursuit of prosperity in Fortress America*, by Setha Low. *Urban Affairs Review*, 40:5 (2005): 687-690.

"Philadelphia's Center-City District and the privatization of the public sphere." *Projections* 1 (2000): 42-65.

### *Professional Reports*

"Urban Planning and Spatial Development," Chapter Three, *Ukraine Urbanization Review*. Washington: World Bank, 2016)

*Central, Squared: The Mayor's Red Ribbon Commission on the Delights and Concerns of Central Square Final Report*. December 2011.

*Green Schemes: Sustainable design and planning in Garfield Park* (with Penelope Dean and Susanne Schnell.) UIC City Design Center, March 2008.

*Revvig Up The Red Line: Collective community design for the Edgewater neighborhood* (with T. Abraham Lentner.) UIC City Design Center, March 2008.

*East Garfield Park Comprehensive Retail and Urban Design Plan* (with T. Abraham Lentner.) UIC City Design Center, January 2007.

*Chicago Historic Greystone Initiative: Planning Phase Report*. UIC City Design Center, December 2005.

*Village of Burnham Comprehensive Retail Plan*. UIC City Design Center, December 2005.

*Rogers Park Comprehensive Retail Study.* UIC City Design Center, October 2005.

*Washington Park Urban Design Studio.* UIC City Design Center, September 2005.

*City of Whiting Commercial Development Plan.* UIC City Design Center, August 2005.

*Washington Park Housing Charrette.* UIC City Design Center, March 2005.

*Village of Worth Comprehensive Retail Plan.* UIC City Design Center, September 2004.

*US-China Affordable Housing Exchange Review of Selected Projects.* UIC City Design Center, September 2004.

*Projections: the MIT Journal of Planning.* Senior Editor, Volume 2 (Spring 2001).

*Projections: the MIT Journal of Planning.* Founding Editor, Volume 1 (Spring 2000).