



College of Architecture, Art, and Planning

Research in the college of Architecture, Art, and Planning covers areas such as:

- case studies on how mid-sized cities manage increasingly diverse populations
- model processes of comprehensive planning that have succeeded in promoting the economic and social needs of the urban poor
- major economic development study of the photonics industry in Rochester, New York
- ways to “discover places”
- analysis of the impact of gender quotas in local government in India
- policy work on the changing geographic scale of financing and provision of government services



Lourdes Beneria, City and Regional Planning, studies the role of informal labor in city neighborhoods.

AAP Social Science Research Draws on Aesthetic Sensibilities, Advanced Technologies, and Political and Economic Theories

A commitment to educate professional practitioners—in architecture, art, real estate, historic preservation, and planning—unifies the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning (AAP). This commitment has obvious implications for the research endeavor, encouraging a close exchange between theory and practice, between idea generation and the application of concrete skills, and between teaching and research. The impulse to forge integrated approaches, drawing on aesthetic sensibilities, advanced technologies, and political and economic theories is unusual in a world that often produces fragmented knowledge and understanding. Thus, the “social sciences” are expressed in a broad frame in the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning.

Reflecting this fruitful interaction is the research of Roger T. Trancik, Landscape Architecture; City and Regional Planning. His work investigates ways to “discover places.” Trancik uses digital technologies to develop analytical methods for visualizing the historical layers of cities. Trancik is completing a book, *The Layers of Rome*, which grew out of research and teaching in the Rome Program of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning. Trancik’s research contributes to planning theory based on the built environment, and it also significantly expands the methodological tools available to researchers and practitioners.

There is a new awareness among economic developers, city officials, and major foundations across the U.S. that the visual and performing arts are central to an economy in which design and communication are key elements. Creative workers from many fields seek out environments where they can be stimulated and inspired. Susan M. Christopherson, City and Regional Planning, is collaborating with Buzz Spector, Art, and Michael A. Tomlan, director of the Historic Preservation Program; City and Regional Planning, and others to develop a cross-college teaching, outreach, and research initiative on “the creative economy.” Their first project in this effort will examine nonmetropolitan applications of what have been, to date, urban “creative economy initiatives,” most prominently in Boston.

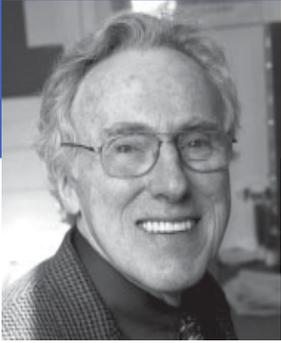
Christopherson is also engaged in a major economic development project on the laser imaging and precision optics—photonics—industry in Rochester, New York. This emerging industry is the successor to the imaging and optical

products industries that supported the Rochester economy into the 1980s. Christopherson’s research and outreach project sponsored a conference in the fall of 2002 at which the business and civic communities were presented with results from a recently completed survey of 90 photonics firms in the Rochester area and an analysis of sectorial economic development models. The research results will be published in 2003. Christopherson, along with Ph.D. student, Jennifer Clark, is extending the results to a comparative study of the photonics cluster in Ottawa, Canada. This research is supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Labor and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Intensified urbanization has led to a surge in the population of mid-sized cities, continued restructuring of the rural–urban interface, new regional spatial formations, as well as challenges in urban governance. Neema Kudva, City and Regional Planning, tackles problems such as these. Trained as an architect and a planner with both U.S. and international expertise, Kudva examines the institutional basis for alternative models of development and change, particularly the role nongovernmental organizations play in processes of democratization. In other international research, she analyzes the impact of gender quotas in local government in India. Kudva’s long-term agenda looks at processes of mid-sized city urbanization in the global south—a topic critical to understanding current migration patterns, rural–urban interfaces, regional spatial patterns, urban governance, and institutional design for planning.

In U.S.–based research, Kudva and Pierre Clavel, City and Regional Planning, are writing a set of case studies on how mid-sized cities manage increasingly diverse populations. They are concentrating initially on studies of Fremont, California, and Portland, Maine.

Clavel is also completing research for his fourth book on community development and urban policy. His work illuminates a change in urban governance in the 1990s, rooted in what he calls “the community option”—new coalitions among neighborhoods and the business community. Case studies of Portland, Maine; Youngstown, Ohio; Boston, Massachusetts; and Chicago, Illinois, provide the groundwork for his research.



Matthew Drennan, City and Regional Planning, studies how the transformation of the U.S. economy has affected metropolitan economies.



Susan Christopherson, City and Regional Planning, studies the emerging photonics industry in Rochester, New York.



Pierre Clavel, City and Regional Planning, studies what he calls "the community option," new coalitions among neighborhoods and the business community.



Kenneth Reardon, City and Regional Planning, studies model processes of comprehensive planning that have been successful in promoting the economic and social needs of the urban poor.

Clavel and Kenneth M. Reardon, City and Regional Planning, are collaborating on a study that examines the role of colleges and universities in distressed urban and rural areas. This work is undertaken for the National Campus Compact under the Pew Charitable Trust's Engaged Scholars Program.

Reardon is engaged in two other foundation-sponsored research projects. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, he is conducting an analysis of model processes of comprehensive planning that have succeeded in promoting the economic and social needs of the urban poor. Funded by the Ford Foundation, Reardon is examining the technical assistance efforts of university-based community development programs. He particularly looks at programs that use participatory action research methods to enhance the capacity of organizational development for community-based planning and development organizations.

With expertise in spatial analysis, Ann-Margaret Esnard, director of the Geographic Information Systems Program (City and Regional Planning), pursues various societal concerns. Environmental hazard assessment and modeling urban growth for the New York Metropolitan Area (in collaboration with the Regional Plan Association of New York) are among them. She also initiated research on decision tools for postdisaster planning (with a Cornell Provost's Social Science Seed Grant). Her goal is to quantify "Quality of Life" as part of postdisaster decision making. Esnard's preliminary research documents the complex set of goals, objectives, values, and trade-offs in group decision making. It also tests the adequacy of multicriteria decision models, concept mapping, and pattern matching to incorporate tangible and intangible quality of life parameters.

Spatially-oriented policy design forms the foundation for the research of Rolf J. Pendall, City and Regional Planning. Land use and environmental planning are foremost among his research interests. Pendall is responsible for providing the social science component of a collaborative five-year National Science Foundation (NSF) project to understand how and why water quality and habitat change in populated watersheds of Upstate New York. He is working with ecologists, hydrologists, microbiologists, and applied mathematicians. This NSF grant is one of only fifteen awarded annually.

Pendall is examining and documenting how Upstate New York communities have changed between 1990 and the early 2000s. This research uses combined qualitative, quantitative, and simulation methods to reveal the sources of rural sprawl and to test how policy interventions might reduce it. A grant from the Brookings Institution supports this project. Pendall also has received support from the Lincoln Land Institute to develop spatial and quantitative models for explaining sprawl at the metropolitan scale.

A national expert on the role of privatization of local government service delivery, Mildred Warner, City and Regional Planning, is researching the impacts of devolution on the financial capacity of local governments to meet the demand for public services. She maintains strong contacts with state and local policymakers and encourages cross-sectorial work linking economic development, social services, and local governance issues. Warner's work demonstrates the potential for market-based solutions in public service delivery. It also raises cautions about the spatially uneven incidence of markets in depressed inner city and rural areas.

How has the transformation of the U.S. economy over the past quarter century affected metropolitan economies, creating both winners and losers? Matthew P. Drennan, City and Regional Planning, is an urban economist who studies this issue. His research on U.S. metropolitan areas shows that a higher level of human capital (measured by educational attainment) is associated with stronger growth in per capita income, a higher level of per capita income, and stronger growth in metropolitan employment. U.S. metropolitan areas with below-average levels of human capital have lagged in income and employment growth. Drennan's new book, *The Information Economy and American Cities*, was published in June 2002 by Johns Hopkins University Press. He also published an article on why wages vary so greatly across metropolitan areas (*Urban Studies*, June 2002).

The first study of women architects in India, as well as the first study of women architects in any non-Western country fills the research slate of Mary N. Woods, Architecture, while on sabbatical leave. Supported by a Fulbright grant,

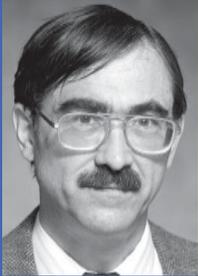
Liz Holmes



Buzz Spector, Art

Buzz Spector, Michael Tomlan, and Susan Christopherson (not pictured), are part of a cross-college research initiative on the "creative economy." They study the importance of environments to creative workers in the visual and performing arts, which are key to an economy.

Frank DiMeo/CU



Michael Tomlan, Historic Preservation Program; City and Regional Planning

Frank DiMeo/CU



Mildred Warner, City and Regional Planning, studies the role of privatization of local government service-delivery.

Nicola Kountouras/CU



Mary Woods, Architecture, conducts the first study of women architects in India and in any non-Western country.

Woods is collaborating with Madhavi Desai, an Indian historian and architect who teaches at the Center for Environmental Planning and Technology in Ahmedabad, in this path-breaking study.

Lourdes Beneria, City and Regional Planning, aims to shed light on how informal labor in city neighborhoods is used to provide public services and how it affects family survival strategies and community life. The research encompasses cities in four countries—Bolivia, Ecuador, the Philippines, and Thailand. The results of this multinational study will be presented in action and policy workshops with local organizations in each of the four countries.

John F. Forester, City and Regional Planning, studies how design professionals foster collaborative problem solving, mediated negotiations, and equity-oriented community participation in diverse settings. His 2002–03 sabbatical, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will focus on environmental and public dispute mediation. *The Deliberative Practitioner: Encouraging Participatory Planning Processes* (MIT Press, 1999) is among his recent publications.

AAP faculty actively engage in both theoretical and policy-oriented social science research on the built environment, the city, the region, spatial scale, and spatial analysis. The college's faculty use a wide variety of research tools, including descriptive and analytical statistical techniques, survey research, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) techniques, and qualitative methods such as ethnography and focus groups. Many research projects are collaborative, involving both faculty colleagues and graduate students. This wide-ranging faculty research agenda reflects the role of AAP as an interdisciplinary college within a university that values interdisciplinary work.

Susan M. Christopherson
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