



Spring 2021 End of Semester Student Presentations

Tuesday, May 18 @ 6:00 PM via Zoom

Zoom Meeting URL

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82014819947?pwd=Zjd3Umc3ZzZsYmdYU3lrWVBkdDR2QT09>

Meeting ID: 820 1481 9947

Passcode: 487572

6:00 PM	Prof. Joseph Viteritti, Chair
6:10 PM	Prof. Jill Gross, Instructor, URBG 790: Urban Development Workshop
6:15 PM	URBG 790 Presentation: Housing Discrimination in Nassau County: Why don't people file claims with the State Division of Human Rights?
6:30PM	Q&A
6:35 PM	Prof. Laura Wolf-Powers, URBP 737: Urban Planning Studio
6:40PM	URBP 737 Presentation: Faith in Place: A Study and Analysis of Faith-Based Organizations and Real Estate in New York City
6:55 PM	Q&A
7:00 PM	Prof. Lily Pollans, Instructor, URBP 739: Urban Planning Studio 2
7:05PM	URBP 739 Presentation: Working towards Resilience in New York City: an Evaluation of the East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) Project
7:20 PM	Q&A
7:25 PM	End of Spring 2021 Student Presentations

PRESENTATION #1: URBG 790 Urban Development Workshop

Project: Housing Discrimination in Nassau County: Why don't people file claims with the State Division of Human Rights?

Client: New York State Division of Human Rights

Instructor: Professor Jill Simone Gross

New York State has a long and established record in the realm of Human Rights, with laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, age, marital status, gender identity or expression, and lawful source of income. Despite this, housing remains unequally distributed by race, income and gender, even with all the federal, state, and local protections provided by the government. Nowhere is this more evident than in Nassau County. In order for the State to improve fair access to housing, it is essential to understand the barriers New Yorkers face when considering whether to file housing discrimination complaints, and to determine why so many instances of housing discrimination go unreported. During the Spring of 2021, the New York State Division of Human Rights (DHR) sought the help of the Graduate students in the Urban Policy and Leadership program at Hunter College. This project was designed to help the DHR build an understanding of why people are not filing claims with DHR when they experience housing discrimination, to explore the barriers that are preventing New Yorkers from reporting housing discrimination to DHR, and to make recommendations that might begin to remedy this situation.

Presenters: Samantha Banellis, Kiana Davis and Ryan Eboh

PRESENTATION #2: URBP 737: Planning Studio

Faith in Place: A Study and Analysis of Faith-Based Organizations and Real Estate in New York City

Client: Bricks and Mortals (<https://www.bricksandmortals.org/>)

Instructor: Associate Professor Laura Wolf-Powers

Across New York City, houses of faith provide space for essential community functions and services. Even as need increases in their neighborhoods, however, many congregations and their leaders face aging buildings, rising maintenance costs, and declining membership. Other congregations are growing, but they too face challenges associated with real property, such as acquiring buildings, adapting their spaces for greater accessibility, or finding stable rental situations.

The students in Hunter's Spring Planning Studio worked with Bricks and Mortals, a secular, interfaith membership organization dedicated to helping houses of faith stay open, thriving, and mission-consistent in the challenging real estate environment of contemporary New York City. They conducted extensive background research on the historical and present-day context of the relationships between communities of faith and their surrounding neighborhoods. They also built a robust picture of the current dynamics affecting New York City's houses of faith, relying on data analysis and visualization, neighborhood-based field work, and structured interviews with 35 individual faith leaders. Based on their findings, they recommended action steps for city government officials and the client organization, including two hypothetical adaptation/development scenarios for faith properties.

Presenters: Rachel Bondra, Dylan Cepeda, and Rebecca Steiner (presenters)

Additional Studio Participants: Patrick Abelein, Paul Burkholder, Avi Garelick, Larissa Ho, Charlie Houlton-Vinyl, Dana Leventhal, Max Marinoff, Mike Pasquiarollo, Stephane Pierre, Kevin Ritter, Alyana Roxas, Jordan Vogelsang.

PRESENTATION #3: URBP 739: Planning Studio 2

Working towards Resilience in New York City: An Evaluation of the East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) Project

Client: East River Park Action (<https://eastriverparkaction.org/>)

Instructor: Assistant Professor Lily Baum Pollans

Superstorm Sandy transformed planning priorities in New York City. The storm awakened the city to the immediacy of climate threats, and demonstrated just how vulnerable the city's coastline is, and highlighted the inequitable burden of coastal flooding. It also unleashed a flood of federal money dedicated to shoring up the city's valuable coastal assets against sea level rise. The East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) project, one of a series of federally-funded coastal infrastructure projects in NYC, will elevate the East River Park and purports to protect a large region of the lower east side that was inundated during Sandy. The investment is welcomed by many residents, including many occupants of public housing, whose homes were damaged and whose lives were terribly disrupted by the storm. But since the final plan was released, the ESCR project has become increasingly controversial. Many stakeholders question its astronomical cost, the process through which it was developed, and its longterm flood-protection efficacy.

This studio, done in partnership with a community organization that is critical of the plan, asked what kind of resilience the ESCR project will build in the city. Through the lens of this question, the studio undertook a multi-pronged analysis of the ECSR planning process and the plan itself. The team's final report includes extensive analysis of previously published reports, media, and community input as well as new data gathered by studio participants over the last year. The report also offers a series of recommendations targeted towards: a) improving the ESCR project going forward; and b) improving the city's approach to resilience planning.

Presenters: Tess Gutierrez, Christopher Freire, Colin Ryan

Additional studio participants: Francesca Fernandez Bruce, Tomas Izarra, Priya Mulgaonkar, Erica Saunders, Lynne Siringo, Sean Sonnemann, Andrew Wasserman