



GPEIG Voice

Newsletter of the Global Planning Educators Interest Group

www.gpeig.org

Fall 2007

In this Issue

- Message from GPEIG's Co-Chairs 2
- A Word from the Incoming ACSP President 3
- Updates from GPEIGers 4
- GPEIG News & Announcements 5
- GPEIG Lunch & Agenda for GPEIG Business Meeting 6
- ACSP 48th Annual Conference GPEIG Sessions & Meetings 7
- International Development Planning Track Update 9
- International Development Planning Track Sessions 10

ARTICLES

- **Global Planning Grid Initiative: Riding the 4th Wave in ICT** 13
- Transnational Networking for Environmental Justice 17
- The Laureles Canyon: A Sustainability Laboratory at the Interface of Urban Sprawl and a Nature Preserve in the U.S-Mexico border. 18

AWARDS

- Congratulations to the Gill-Chin Lim Dissertation Award Winner 21
- Student Travel Awards 21

- In Memoriam 22
- See you next summer in Chicago 23

Editors

Michael Hibbard, Ph.D.
University of Oregon
mhibbard@uoregon.edu

Keith Pezzoli, Ph.D.
University of California, San Diego
kpezzoli@ucsd.edu

Design/Layout
Digital Mud Studio, LLC
info@digitalmudstudio.com

Table 1. Examples of mega-scale and global changes that should be taken into account when planning for sustainable city-regions

Global Topic	Transborder impacts and concern
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on precipitation and the supply/distribution of fresh water Impacts on sea level rise and the frequency/magnitude of extreme weather events
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unpredictability and volatility in global energy supplies and markets
Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transnational/transborder pollution caused by acid rain, fires, dust clouds from changes in agricultural practices, urban-industrial emissions, warfare, and flows of hazardous wastes (including e-waste from ICT)
Natural Capital and Environmental Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degradation of planetary ecosystems that provide sources and sinks for human activity Risks and economic costs associated with invasive species and loss of biodiversity worldwide
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hyper-mobility of capital and shifting patterns of investment and disinvestment
Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Globalization of disease vectors through international air travel and shipping that co-mingles flows of people, animals, plants and other organisms worldwide. This raises concerns about possible new pandemics, and the spread of wicked maladies including malaria, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), avian influenza virus, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE, aka mad cow disease), and other public health threats that have spread globally.
Disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-scale natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, floods) and the need for defensive expenditures. Changing patterns of human settlement and poverty greatly exacerbate the impacts of catastrophic disasters.
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stresses on global agri-business and concerns about the globalization of genetically modified crops
Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transnational migration and multicultural challenges

the formation of global cyberinfrastructure and spells out an emerging research agenda for integrated city-region planning/development (Pezzoli, et al. 2007a).

The white paper notes how we are at the beginning of a new phase in the development of research and teaching – the dawn of networked science and pedagogy. At least three major shifts are driving this globalization of science and pedagogy. The three shifts are shown in Figure 1.

The GPG responds to the need for planning pedagogy, research and action to take into account the global trends shown in Figure 1. Another key justification for investing in the formation of Global Planning Grids stems from the rising importance of globalization in local and regional development (Pezzoli, et al., 2007b). Exemplary transborder and global impacts/concerns are listed in Table 1.

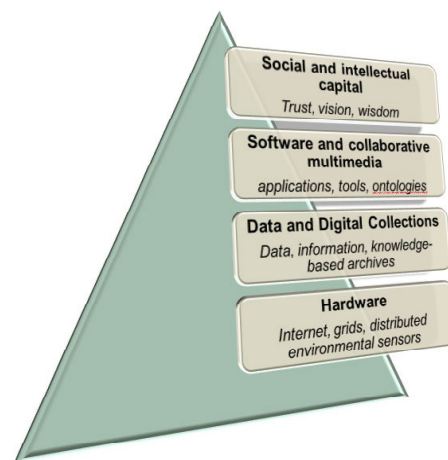
In view of such global dynamics, a world-wide Global Planning Grid (GPG) can be very useful. Grids can be tailored to fit the needs of those who intend to give it life—be it for data mining across distributed resources, for co-developing and sharing archives, for jointly funding expensive software applications and databases, and/or for uploading of completed research. A GPG can provide a gateway to well-organized information, as well as scenarios of how these resources can be used in research and applied field settings in both developed and developing world contexts. Elements of a GPG are shown in Figure 2. The emergence of grid-based systems of this sort constitutes a 4th Wave in the use of ICT in planning.

Beginning in the mid- to late-1990s, the world’s wealthiest city-regions have arguably entered a 4th Wave in the potential and real use of ICT in planning. This 4th Wave—following the advent of mainframe computers and sophisticated models in the 1950s and 1960s (Wave 1), the widespread production and use of microcomputers in

the 1970s and 1980s (Wave 2), and the globe-girdling growth of the Internet during the 1990s (Wave 3)—involves a dramatic expansion of networks and digital connectivity (ubiquitous computing), across fragmented and unevenly-linked geographies (splintering urbanism) (Graham and Marvin, 2001). The 4th Wave is distinguished by the genesis of new cyberspaces and cyberinfrastructure (e.g., E-public services, E-governance, E-business, E-Science, E-education, Grids); creation of large digital collections through the federation of distributed intelligence (i.e., the weaving together of otherwise scattered knowledge-based archives); and experimentation with Integrated Rule-Oriented Data Systems (IRODS) to improve knowledge networking, management and collaboration (Moore et al., 2005, 2006).

How might a GPG best exploit the new 4th Wave capacities?

Elements of a Global Planning Grid



What might a GPG federate in the form of collections when the aim is to bolster the capacity for “globally-minded” sustainable city-region research and planning? This is an open question—and suggestions are welcome. At a meeting held on this topic during the 2006 ACSP annual conference, some participants recommended federating local collections in a way that could help “regionalize” and “localize” measures of progress (or lack of progress) toward meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals. The MDG database includes a list of targets and indicators (<http://www.undp.org/mdg/goallist.shtml>) as well as methods for tracking and reporting individual country progress towards these goals. Material that could be shared includes socio-economic data, case studies, regional planning documents, copies of regional status information such as land use restrictions, observational data on actual land use such as satellite images/orthophoto maps, and links to external data sources. Another option includes selecting a timely thematic focus that explicitly relates the physical and environmental sciences to a planning issue (e.g., climate change and coastal management). Efforts to go down this road and build global-comparative resources are underway at UCSD—led by the new Environment and Sustainability Initiative in conjunction with the Association of Pacific Rim Universities World Institute on Climate Change and Sustainable Cities.

Yet another option for the GPG’s initial collection concentrates on cultural diversity and cultural heritage in local built environments (not just buildings but also civic spaces). This kind of foci suggests interesting possibilities that can fruitfully link contributions of experts in planning, social sciences the humanities. Indeed, some initial conversations are underway to create digital collections that join humanities and planning. Concerns involving history and cultural legacy are increasingly prominent in planning. The creative destruction of ever-turbulent capitalism devours historical space and with it the cultural diversity manifest in older built environments. Planners are getting wise to this, and the field of cultural heritage preservation is on the rise for a number of reasons (economic as well as social). Cities in Europe and the USA include cultural and heritage resources in urban regeneration planning.

Conceptually, two points are worth noting. First, culture is big in planning right now, especially efforts to get outside the ethnocentrism of western modes of thinking in planning research and practice (Friedmann 2005; Sanyal 2005). Second, as culture gets more attention, there is rising interest in untold (invisible) alternative histories; especially those histories that may be instructive for promoting the common good. Richard Marciano’s work on *Regional Planning Chronologies* is a good example: it aims to juxtapose official, hidden/oppressed, and visionary histories in San Diego. Leonie Sandercock is a good example of a scholar who bridges the humanities (especially history, art, and cultural studies) with planning scholarship and praxis (Sandercock 1998, 2003). Sandercock has two books very relevant in this regard. Her intellectual project for the past decade has been to diversify planning theory and history. About her work, she says: “In *Towards Cosmopolis* (1998) I used feminist, postmodern, and postcolonial theories to critique mainstream (modernist) planning theory and the ‘official story’ of planning history. In the edited collection, *Making the Invisible Visible* (1998), I go beyond critiquing the official story, and begin to explore insurgent planning histories, and the hidden or sup-

pressed stories of marginalized social groups.” Sandercock’s work is an important step forward in the cultural critique of urbanism and planning. Along such lines, some hard-hitting planning literature now blasts mainstream forms of culture-led regeneration and place-making as “mirror[ing] the product branding of Nike and Sony, vying with them for consumer and political attention through the use of star architecture and retail strategies that belie their public good/realms and cultural distinctions” (Evans 2003).

There is clear need to enable culture-led regeneration and place-making from a more inclusive and critical standpoint. Part of this challenge requires capturing/mapping/cataloguing extent cultural diversity in the built environment (not just buildings, but also culturally-valued urban-civic spaces) BEFORE it succumbs to the bulldozers of homogenizing modernism or the whitewash of boutique-styled cultural entrepreneurs (public and private). The GPG could undertake such a collection using a comparative, critically reflexive approach that explicitly articulates (and continually improves) the criteria, methods and ontologies necessary to build and sustain such a collection (i.e., a multimedia, testimonial, textual archive of cultural heritage) where the intent includes preservation of urban spaces and multicultural identities. On this score, Reagan Moore and others have profound insights and lessons learned about the “socialization of collections” --a process all too often short-changed in the creation of portals and grids for planning and decision-support purposes.

There is no limit to the opportunities that exist for creating new research environments based upon (4th Wave) cyberinfrastructure and grid-based approaches. But before painting too rosy a picture, it should be noted in closing that, “there are also real dangers of disappointing results and wasted investment for a variety of reasons including under funding in amount and duration, lack of understanding of technological futures, excessively redundant activities between science fields or between science fields and industry, lack of appreciation of social/cultural barriers, lack of appropriate organizational structures, inadequate related educational activities, and increased technological (“not invented here”) balkanizations rather than interoperability among multiple disciplines” (NSF Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Cyberinfrastructure, 2003). This underscores the point that there can be no technical fixes per se. Technology is embedded in a web of socio-economic, political, cultural and value-based systems. Planning researchers, educators and activist intellectuals thus have an important role to play in creating cyberinfrastructure for the common good. This calls for novel collaborative arrangements among planning scholars, ICT experts and a whole host of other entities.

REFERENCES

- Evans, G. (2003) Hard-branding the cultural city - from Prado to Prada, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 27, 417-440.
- Friedmann, J. (2005) Globalization and the emerging culture of planning, *Progress in Planning*, 64, 183-234.
- Pezzoli, K. et al. (2006). 2nd World Planning Schools Congress, Global Planning Grid Report submitted to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), International Division. <http://gpeig.org/wpsc06-report.htm>
- Pezzoli, K. (2006) Global networks in planning education and practice, *American Planning Association* (APA) InfoTEXT, Winter (November), 6-8. <http://gpeig.org/archives.htm>
- Pezzoli, K., Tukey, R., Sarabia, H., Zaslavsky, I., Miranda, M. L., Suk, W. A., Lin, A. and Ellisman, M. (2007) The NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Data Resource Portal: Placing Advanced Technologies in Service to Vulnerable Communities, *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 115 (4) 564-571. <http://www.ehponline.org/members/2007/9817/9817.pdf>
- Pezzoli, K., Ravetz, J., Kingston, R., Deas, I., Pellow, D. N., Moore, R., Marciano, R., Faerman, M. and Pilsbury, D. (2007) Global Cyberinfrastructure and Sustainability: An Emerging Research Agenda for Integrated City-Region Planning, Invited paper submitted to *Progress in Planning*, Sept. 2007, for possible inclusion in a Special Issue on Emerging Research Agendas in Planning.
- Moore, R., A. Rajasekar, M. Wan (March 2005). Data Grids, Digital Libraries and Persistent Archives: An Integrated Approach to Publishing, Sharing and Archiving Data. *Special Issue of the Proceedings of the IEEE on Grid Computing*, Vol. 93, No.3, pp. 578-588. <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/iel5/5/30407/01398012.pdf>
- Moore, R., Marciano, R. and Pezzoli, K. (2006) Global Planning Grid: Creating a shared collection of case studies and course syllabi, GPEIG Voice: *Newsletter of the Global Planning Educators Interest Group*, Winter (November), 11-14. <http://gpeig.org/archives.htm>
- NSF Cyberinfrastructure Council (2005). Cyberinfrastructure Vision for 21st Century Discovery. National Science Foundation, September 26, 2005, Draft Version 4.0. <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oci/CIv40.pdf>
- NSF Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Cyberinfrastructure (2003) Revolutionizing Science and Engineering Through Cyberinfrastructure, National Science Foundation.
- Sandercock, L. (1998) *Making the invisible visible* : a multicultural planning history, University of California Press, Berkeley.
- Sandercock, L. (2003) *Cosmopolis II : mongrel cities in the 21st century*, Continuum, London ; New York.
- Sanyal, B. (Ed.) (2005) *Comparative planning cultures*, Routledge, New York.

KEY WEB SITES MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE

- Global Planning Grid Initiative Web site and Wiki: <http://gpeig.org/GRID-splash.htm>
- Rede Nacional de Ensino e Pesquisa – RNP/ Brazilian National Research and Education Network
- Main RNP site: <http://www.rnp.br/en/index.php>
Metropolitan Optic Network / Rede Optica Metropolitana/ Redecomep, <http://www.redecomep.rnp.br/>
- SUREGEN Workbench: <http://gow.epsrc.ac.uk/ViewGrant.aspx?GrantRef=EP/F007213/1>
- University of California, San Diego:
California Cultures: <http://calcultures.ucsd.edu/>
- Environment and Sustainability Initiative: <http://esi.ucsd.edu/>
- Regional Workbench Consortium: <http://regionalworkbench.org/sequence/>
- San Diego Supercomputer Center, Data and Knowledge Systems (DAKS) <http://www.sdsc.edu/research/ResearchOverview.html>
- iRODS: Rule Oriented Data Systems
- SALT Lab: Sustainable Archives and Library Technologies
- SRB: SDSC Storage Resource Broker
- Superfund Basic Research Program (SBRP), Research Translation: http://superfund.ucsd.edu/support/int_cores/translation_core.php
- Urban Studies and Planning
- Research Methods <http://regionalworkbench.org/sequence/>
- Grand Challenges Database: http://regionalworkbench.org/sequence/?page_id=45
- UK's National Centre for e-Social Science: <http://www.ncess.ac.uk/>
- University of Manchester, Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology <http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/research/cure/>



Part of the cost of the preparation and printing of this newsletter was provided by the Research Translation Core of the UCSD Superfund Basic Research Program.