

Turning Vision Into *Practice*

Tufts
UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Urban and Environmental
Policy and Planning

**The mission of UEP
is to educate a new
generation of leaders –
“practical visionaries”
– who will contribute to
the development and
nurturing of more inclusive,
just, participatory, and
sustainable communities,
regions, and ecosystems.**



Mary Davis, Associate Professor and Chair

Chair's Welcome

Today's world represents a dynamic and interconnected web of environmental and social challenges, complicated by the realities of rapid urbanization and political uncertainty across the globe. The complex problems faced by modern day planners and policymakers cross city, state, and national boundaries, and require creative thinkers with the tools to address these problems head on.

The Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning was founded more than four decades ago around the core values of social justice and sustainability, and we continue to educate and impact policy and planning at the local, regional, and national levels. We encourage free-thinkers and problem solvers, and pride ourselves on educating the next generation “practical visionaries”.

What makes us unique among planning and policy schools? At the heart of UEP is a commitment to social justice and an understanding of the cultural and social implications of policy and planning decisions. Our faculty are a diverse mix of scholars, change agents, and seasoned practitioners, actively engaged in research and practice. Our core courses provide a well-rounded education of critical planning and policy skills, and a flexible set of electives allow students to customize the program to their interests.

We hope that you take a minute to peruse this ‘zine to get a sense of the spaces and spirit of our UEP community. We look forward to connecting with you.

Mary Davis

Associate Professor and Chair

June 2018

An Interdisciplinary Approach

We offer two graduate public policy and planning degrees, founded on an interdisciplinary approach focused on the intersection of urban, social, and environmental issues.

Master of Arts (M.A.)/
Master of Science
(M.S.) in Urban and
Environmental Policy and
Planning

This 14-course degree includes a thesis or capstone in addition to a field project and internship requirement. It is an interdisciplinary public policy program that is also accredited in urban planning. This program usually takes two-years of full-time study. Students may also enroll in the program on a part-time basis.

Ranked #1 in the United States and Canada for Programs Without a Ph.D. by Planetizen Guide to Graduate Urban Planning Programs (5th Edition)

Master of Public Policy
(M.P.P.)

Designed for those with at least seven years of significant professional experience interested in expanding their knowledge of public policy within urban, social, and environmental domains. This ten-course degree can be completed over one year full-time, but most students attend on a part-time basis over the course of two years.

Masters of Science (M.S.)
in Sustainability

Masters of Science (M.S.) in Sustainability
This degree can be completed in 12 months and requires 11 courses and an internship or capstone experience. This program combines socio-ecological systems analysis and quantitative methods with policy analysis and qualitative approaches to sustainability.

UEP partners with other Tufts departments and schools, as well as with Boston College, to offer students access to a diverse range of faculty and courses. These partnerships also provide an opportunity for M.A./M.S. students to earn joint and dual degrees, including an Environmental Economics and Urban Planning Interdisciplinary M.S. Degree, UEP/Engineering Joint Degree, and Dual Degrees with Fletcher School of International Affairs, Friedman School of Nutrition, Public Health, and Boston College Law School and Carroll School of Management.

UEP offers **certificate programs in Management of Community Organizations, Community Environmental Studies, and Program Evaluation.**

Certificate Programs

The first two emphasize participatory strategies for community self-determination and sustainability. The third focuses on design and implementation of effective evaluation strategies. They enable working adults to gain the vital management, community development, evaluation and/or environmental skills necessary to enhance existing careers or move into new professional work.

UEP also offers a **post-master's Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (C.A.G.S.) in Urban Justice and Sustainability**, a low-residency program for accomplished professionals.

For undergraduates at Tufts, UEP administers a combined bachelor's/master's degrees program and the Urban Studies Minor, while also playing a critical role in the Environmental Studies Major.

We Are Practical Visionaries


Field Projects

In their first year, M.A. students work on real-world projects with government, nonprofit, community, and private sector partners. A few examples:

In the spring of 2016 the **Greater Boston Community Land Trust** hosted a UEP team to explore the potential benefits of community land trusts to address gentrification and displacement and develop policy recommendations for Boston decision-makers. The report, *Building a Livable Boston: The Case for Community Land Trusts*, was featured at the public launch of the network in April 2016.

A UEP team worked with the **Fishing Partnership Support Services** to research challenges facing the fishing industry, document the voices of fishermen and their families, and identify opportunities to support fishing communities. Their final report, *On the Hook: Supporting a Healthy Fishing Future in Massachusetts*, won the 2017 Outstanding Planning Award for Best Student Project from the American Planning Association, Massachusetts Chapter.

In spring 2018, the **Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources** commissioned a project to develop strategies and recommendations for the Green Communities Program to reduce the environmental impacts of municipal vehicle fleets. The team produced a report, *Clean Green Driving Machines: Reducing Municipal Vehicle Fuel Consumption*.



Master of Public Policy students bring a wide array of deep experience and connections to the classroom.

Mid-Career MPP Students

Fiona Almeida

brought to UEP her experience working in Karnataka, India, where she manages a health education program with a marginalized group of African Indians.

Bayoán Rosselló-

Cornier, among five Neighborhood Fellows named by the MPP program each year, attended UEP while also serving as a community organizer and planner for the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative .

Dimple Rana, another UEP Neighborhood Fellow, began at UEP as the Manager of the Healthy Community Initiatives for the City of Revere, Mass. She co-Manages Revere on the Move. While attending, she was inspired to run for Revere City Council.

Tom Nash, a former journalist, worked to bring new skills learned at UEP into a policy project aimed at encouraging local government officials to consider autonomous vehicles as tools for transportation equity in Richmond, Virginia.

Student Internships

Community practice and partnerships are integral to UEP. They are a platform for engaged learning and research, developing innovative strategies, and building the pipeline of diverse students. These partnerships help students find engaging internships and complete thesis projects that contribute to various fields. Recent internships have included:

- Ceres, Inc.
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Conservation Law Foundation
- Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
- EcoSecurities (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- The Municipal Art Society of New York
- Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates
- Small Planet Institute
- Stockholm Environment Institute
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- U.S. EPA



The masters thesis is an opportunity for M.A. students to culminate their learning and is often an outgrowth of their Field Projects and internships.

Recent M.A. Thesis
Projects

<i>A Clean Break: Fuerza Laboral's Quest to Incubate a Cleaning Cooperative in Rhode Island – Janaki Blum</i>	<i>Assessing the Impact of Offshore Wind in Massachusetts: An Estimate of CO2 Emissions Reductions – Ryan Bailey</i>
<i>Networked Community Land Trusts: An Analysis of Existing Models and Needs Assessment for the Greater Boston Community Land Trust Network – Ben Baldwin</i>	<i>A world of difference - Stories of planning for diversity from South Africa to Salem – Monique Ching</i>
<i>Food Security and Regional Self-Reliance: A Food Systems Modeling Case Study in the Department of La Paz, Bolivia – Caitlin Matthews</i>	<i>Investing in Water: Assessing the Feasibility of Establishing a Water Sharing Investment Partnership in Texas' Rio Grande Water Market – Lauren Lynch</i>

Learning Together, Community Connected



Bringing the Community into the Classroom

The federal government is failing the poor, said John Barros, and this is a time to rethink what is happening on the local level.

“We need to take a different role locally,” said Barros, Chief of Economic Development for City of Boston. “Something is happening that allows us to rethink this country, reshape capitalism.”

Barros, a Master of Public Policy graduate (2018) and former Executive Director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, held a series of three policy seminars in 2017 at Tufts addressing financial stabilization for Boston families, the wealth gap in Boston, and the challenge of gentrification.

These seminars were part of Barros’ own directed study project, which allowed him to bring in experts from across the government and non-profit spectrum to discuss these issues alongside classmates.



Faculty Change Agents

Julian Agyeman

Professor

For more than two decades, Julian has worked to bring a fuller understanding of environmental and food justice into the urban studies field. Julian coined the term “just sustainabilities” and is widely recognized for his efforts to bring “complete streets” beyond merely physical spaces. His most recent book is *Food Trucks, Cultural Identity and Social Justice: From Loncheras to Lobsta Love* (2017).

Barbara Parmenter

Senior Lecturer
and Student Affairs
Coordinator

As a geographer and historian, Barbara often jokes that her interests are space, place, and time. Her expertise makes her the perfect instructor for Cities, UEP’s core course on history of urban development. Barbara won the 2018 Graduate School Teaching and Mentoring Award, well deserved not only for her classes, but the countless hours she spends supporting UEP students.

Mary Davis

Department Chair,
Associate Professor

The collision between the global economy, environment and human health has been the focus of Mary’s research in locales ranging from coastal Maine to Vietnam. In addition to serving as UEP department chair, Mary recently undertook a Department of Labor-funded study that will examine whether gig economy workers have worse health outcomes than hourly employees. She is known for innovative teaching practices, including an ongoing economics student poetry project.

A deep commitment to the idea of “street-level bureaucrats” and their capacity to effect change drives much of Laurie’s work at UEP, the Somerville community and beyond. Laurie’s courses often focus on various aspects of collaboration and policy implementation, designed to give students skills to bring into their own collaborative projects. Currently, Laurie is in the midst of a multi-year collaboration to learn about gentrification and displacement occurring in Somerville.

Laurie Goldman
Lecturer

Justin’s background in land use and urban design led him to pursue how those topics interact with both technology and our minds. As director of the Urban Attitudes Lab at Tufts, his goal is to show how Big Data can be used in urban planning and policy practice. Justin also is widely known for his work in the field of cognitive architecture, examining how humans respond to their built environment.

Justin Hollander
Associate Professor



Shan Jiang

Assistant Professor

Shan focuses on the interactions among human activities and mobility, the natural and built environment, the society, and their connections with public policy. She bridges data science with urban sustainability issues, moving from data to information, knowledge, and action. Her research has spanned across global cities of Beijing, Bogota, Boston, Chicago, Lisbon, Riyadh, and Singapore.

Sheldon Krimsky

Lenore Stern Professor
in the Humanities and
Social Sciences

Shelly was UEP's first appointed professor. Among his 14 books are *The GMO Deception* and *Race and the Genetic Revolution*. He is a frequent commentator on GMOs and the privacy rights and challenges of using DNA evidence.

Penn Loh

Senior Lecturer and
Director of the Master
of Public Policy Program
and Community Practice

Penn exemplifies one of UEP's core messages: community comes before all else. As the former executive director of the Roxbury-based Alternatives for Community & Environment, he brings a practitioner's focus to the classroom. Penn recently co-published *Solidarity Rising in Massachusetts*, a report that examines worker-owned coops, community land trusts, and community-controlled capital among communities of color.

Ann Rappaport

Senior Lecturer

Ann not only studies and teaches about institutional and corporate responses to climate change, but leads efforts at Tufts to meet campus sustainability goals. She is the author of *Development and Transfer of Pollution Prevention Technology* and co-author of *Corporate Responses to Environmental Challenges* and *Degrees that Matter: Climate Change and the University*.

Shomon's research focuses on the impacts of housing policies and education programs on socioeconomic mobility for low-income families. He has built affordable housing with community development corporations, managed programs at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and analyzed policy at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Shomon Shamsuddin

Assistant Professor

Kristin Skrabut is a sociocultural anthropologist who investigates poverty, statecraft, and family in urban Latin America. Her current book project, *Extreme Lives: The Politics of Poverty and Intimacy in Urban Peru*, examines how international efforts to fight poverty shape livelihood strategies, intimate identities, and unruly patterns of urban development.

Kristin Skrabut

Assistant Professor

Sumeeta teaches the whole array of GIS courses offered at UEP. She has studied cities in India, China, and the U.S., using GIS, remote sensing, statistical and spatiotemporal modeling methods.

Sumeeta Srinivasan

Lecturer

Jon brings a wealth of experience as a practicing planner and lawyer to UEP, where he teaches courses in Land Use Planning, Natural Resource Policy, and Local Government Finance. He has worked with many cities, towns, and Native American Tribes in the US and Canada. He has argued cases in many courts, including the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Jon Witten

Senior Lecturer

Why UEP

Kalila Barnett

Program Officer, Barr
Foundation
MPP Graduate, 2017

“UEP has helped me to pursue my interests in planning and community development by not only educating me about the framework and approaches of traditional planning, but also exposing the ways that those traditional methods leave out important concerns about equity and sustainability.”



Nicholas Dahlberg

Regulatory Analyst,
California Public Utilities
Commission
Joint M.A., Economics,
2017

“I found that the social justice emphasis constantly brought me back to what is most important about the work we will do as planners. The program has given me exactly what I wanted: a theoretical background in planning with hard quantitative skills to match. I feel well-positioned for the future.”

“I came to UEP to enhance my understanding about community economic development, because I am invested in looking for different ways low-income communities can better sustain themselves and push back against issues like gentrification.”

Abrigal Forrester
Director of Community
Action, Madison
Park Development
Corporation
MPP Candidate

“Being at UEP, I’ve taken classes where I have been able to focus on housing policy, especially shared equity housing. The thing about law school is that since it’s such a generalist degree, you can’t focus in on a specific topic. I knew that to get the experience I was looking for, I needed two degrees.”

Stephanie Johnson
Dual MA and JD
program with Boston
College

“UEP equips us, in a lot of ways, to hit the ground running. It integrates practice into courses and connects practice with social justice. Through integrating practice and theory, I see that sustainability must be equitable and equity must be sustainable.”

Caitlin Matthews
Associate Researcher,
Spark Policy Institute
Dual MA, MS Nutrition
2017

“I chose UEP in large part because of the department’s small size and the ability to study alongside other mid-career professionals in the Master of Public Policy program. As a career changer, I also wanted to be sure I enrolled somewhere that valued the practical application of the knowledge and skills we were getting on campus.”

Erika Niedowski
Policy Advocate, Acadia
Center
MPP 2017 Graduate

Alumni Moving Society Forward

UEP alumni are turning vision into practice across the country.

Ina Anderson
Senior Program Officer,
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Kansas City

Ajamu Brown
Community Relations
Manager, **L+M Development Partners**
New York City

Scott Darling
Administrator, **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration**
Washington, D.C.

Lum Fobi
Chief Executive Officer, **Bariatec Corporation**
Los Angeles

DJ Forbes
Program Manager, **The Trust for Public Land**
Minneapolis

Roger Geller
Bicycle Coordinator,
City of Portland
Portland, Oregon

Katrine Herrick
Senior Sourcing
Analyst, **Carolinas HealthCare System**
Charlotte

Jeff Levine
Director of Planning and
Urban Development at
City of Portland
Portland, Maine

Gina McCarthy
US EPA Administrator
(former, under Obama)
Washington, DC

Erin Malcolm-Brandt
Senior Manager, **Center for Sustainable Energy**
San Francisco

Alexandra Oliver-Davila
Executive Director,
Sociedad Latina
Boston

Josh Peters
Land Use Planner,
Loudoun County
Leesburg, Virginia

Heather Schady
Senior Transportation
Planner, **Active Transportation Alliance**
Chicago

Abigail Vladeck
Program Director, Real
Estate Assets at **Office of Governor Charlie Baker**
Boston

Samantha Weaver
Expert Clean Energy
Analyst, **Pacific Gas and Electric Company**
San Francisco

Eric Weltman
Senior Organizer, **Food & Water Watch**
New York City



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Practical Visionaries blog: practical-visionaries.org

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 LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/27059112/

Off the Wall: this weekly e-letter keeps you up to date with UEP announcements, events, and job/internship postings. To sign up, send an email to uep@tufts.edu.

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