

IPHS Prizes and Awards 2020: Awardees and Citations

Sir Peter Hall Award for Lifetime Achievement in Planning History

Committee chair: Professor Rob Freestone

Recognizes sustained excellence for a body of published work that has made an outstanding contribution to international scholarship and conveyed the relevance of planning history to contemporary planning challenges. The principal criteria for the award are:

1. Quantum of published writings (books, book chapters, journal articles, conference papers, reports, other writings) forming a distinctive and coherent contribution to planning history.
2. Evidence for a sustained engagement with scholarship of theoretical and/or empirical excellence.
3. Evidence of wider impact of research contributions on planning practice and/or policy.
4. Evidence of international impact.

Awardee: Professor Helen Meller

Citation

Helen Meller is the only surviving member of that first generation of British historians who, during the 1960s and early 1970s, established the sub-discipline of modern planning history as we now know it. Along with those other pioneers, she established the validity of planning as a legitimate subject for scholarly historical inquiry at a time when this potential was not widely recognised. Completing her doctoral studies at the University of Bristol in 1968 before moving to the University of Nottingham the same year, she understood planning and related urban policies as much more than an impersonal structural response to the immanent realities of mass urbanisation. Rather they grew out of conscious, collective social, cultural, political - and personal – actions and ultimately of varying ideals leavened but also limited by practical realities. This perspective was apparent in her first book, *Leisure and the Changing City 1870-1914: a study of Bristol*, first issued in 1976 (and republished in 2013), and in an edited compilation on Victorian urban idealism, *The Ideal City* (1979).

An explicit focus on planning was already central to her concerns. During the early 1970s, she began her definitive study of the Scottish botanist, sociologist and planning advocate, Patrick Geddes. In so doing, she set the benchmark for the highest standards of historical scholarship in the field. Of the many books on Geddes, Helen's (published in 1990 as *Patrick Geddes: social evolutionist and city planner*) was the first to properly engage with the breadth and depth of his work across the world. Her extensive use of his writings, drawing from widely dispersed archives in multiple countries and her personal contacts with those still then alive who had known Geddes, remains inspirational for all historical scholars of planning.

Further important research followed, mentioning particularly Helen's works on European urban planning, *European Cities 1890-1930s: history, culture and the built environment* (2001) and *Planting New Towns in Europe in the Interwar Years: experiments and dreams for future societies* (co-edited with Heleni Porfyriou, 2016). A significant shorter work was her Economic History Society-commissioned book on British planning, *Towns, Plans and Society: the history of town planning in twentieth century Britain* (1997). There were other studies on open space, gender, culture and the history of Nottingham and its University. Helen is currently working on a study of the settlement movement at the University of Bristol.

Helen has presented many papers and major lectures at planning and urban history conferences globally. She delivered the Gordon Cherry Memorial Address at the IPHS Chicago Conference in 2008. Commencing with the predecessor Planning History Group in the 1970s, Helen has been one of the principal builders of the International Planning History Society, serving both in key official capacities including as IPHS treasurer from 2007 to 2014.

As a conspicuously successful editor of the IPHS-associated academic journal *Planning Perspectives* (2006-2012), Helen took it to a higher level by gaining wider citation recognition. This has been critical in dramatically raising the number of author submissions to the journal and winning high international

recognition for its scholarship. Most recently she was for seven years from 2011 the founding editor and driving force of the book series *Studies in International Planning History*, overseeing the republication of 25 classic historic planning works from across the world, with new introductory scholarly commentaries by leading international planning historians.

Not the least of Helen's impacts on planning history has been in building the intellectual 'spaces' and networks within which it occurs for others. Apart from her long and distinguished teaching career, and mentoring of young scholars, the planning history field has further benefited by her wider mission to raise the profile of women as historians as well as historical subjects and actors. Helen has also applied her historical knowledge and sensibility about cities and planning to advance the cause of conserving historic cities, especially in Italy and Jerusalem.

Across multiple important contributions to advancing the understanding of planning history and the generosity of spirit towards all planning historians, Professor Helen Meller over a lifetime's work is a very worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

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IPHS Book Prizes

Committee chair: Professor Heleni Porfyriou

IPHS First Book Prize

The most innovative book in planning history, written in English and based on original new research. Books must have been published in the previous two calendar years to the conference (2018-2019).

Awardee: Hou Li, *Building for Oil. Daqing and the Formation of the Chinese Socialist State* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2018)

Citation

Involving and innovative, Hou Li's book *Building for Oil* deals with China's industrialization under Maoism and the building of a socialist model city. It provides a unique grassroots perspective of the Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, and the processes involved in the development of the Daqing Oil Field, and associated settlements. The author writes in a double register (personal and historical) of the city's building, using a female planner's oral account and official documentation, describes the complex planning processes of the sixties – seldom studied either at home or abroad - having a total command and often intimate perspective of the topic. "My purpose is", she writes "to show how communist ideology, political conflicts, urban planning discipline, and popular attitudes were all articulated in the creation of the model city of Daqing, as lived and experienced on a daily basis and as a political entity – a space of control and coercion but also of dissidence and contestation." Strong in its sources, rigorous and critical in its methodology, with a narrative gaining texture from the personal feelings of the female planner's account "representing the true interests of the workers and peasants" the book offers a unique version of building a socialist city rooted as the author says on "vivid and contradictory memories." "The tensions of life, the conflicts between collective and individual interests, the distance between the urban and the rural and between ideal and the reality (that) exhausted both the people and the land" are the real protagonists of Hou Li's book aiming to "help readers understand China and [...] contemporary Chinese value their own past and think more cautiously about their future".

IPHS Third Book Prize

Best planning history edited work or anthology (in English). Books must have been published in the previous two calendar years to the conference (2018-2019).

Awardee: Mary Corbin Sies, Isabelle Gournay and Robert Freestone (eds), *Iconic Planned Communities and the Challenge of Change* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019)

Citation

Dealing with 23 iconic planned communities, built in six continents from the early nineteenth to the late twentieth centuries, the book addresses the issue of how visionary spirit comes to terms with reality and the challenges of change. Fascinating in its historic scope and drawing on the broad interdisciplinary perspective of the 25 prominent authors involved, the book not only encourages comparative analysis but also argues that in the future the cross-fertilization of the strategies deployed by single cases may contribute to achieve ongoing liveability and resilience, thus sustaining these planning legacies.

Although the third book prize is awarded to the editors, we would like to remember on this occasion the beautiful and inspiring contribution of Sandra Annunziata to this book on the history and gentrification of the Roman neighbourhood, Garbatella. An outstanding academic and dedicated researcher Sandra passed away suddenly last year. She was a young, uncompromising, and immensely talented scholar, who served as a reference for a whole generation of urban researchers in Italy.

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Planning Perspectives Prize

Committee chair: Professor John Gold

Awarded for the best paper produced in 'Planning Perspectives' during the calendar years 2018-19

Awardee: H  l  ne Vacher, 'From *miseenvalueur* to cooperation: Ponts-et-Chauss  es engineers overseas and the rise of planning expertise in the twentieth century' (*PP*: 34.1, 2019)

Citation

The paper is a substantial contribution to the literature on planning history in the French colonies after the Second World War and into the later decades of the twentieth century. The author uses primary archival as well as published sources from a wide range of authors. The mix, variety and quality of the sources contribute to the richness of the paper. So does its focus and scope. Although the author draws on a number of familiar themes – including the history of planning and allied areas in colonial and postcolonial contexts, the transmission/diffusion of ideas and the role of government agencies and of individuals in those processes, and the mission of town and regional planning – she takes a novel approach to her study.

Focusing on a discrete group of engineers, the Corps des Ponts-et-Chauss  es (CPC), the paper examines a previously unexplored aspect of the CPC, namely its work and contributions at the local level and in specific colonies, including through the career and involvements of selected individuals. In addition to the new knowledge and insights that the paper provides about France's motivations and ambitions for and approach to postwar planning and development in its colonies, it is appealing for the way in which the author not only elucidates the role, contributions and impacts (successful and otherwise) of the CPC, but also underscores the role of engineers, and why and how that role diversified to develop 'territorial planning' and 'planning expertise' in the colonies studied. At the larger level, the paper reveals how a planning history study can be and can reveal a pot-pourri of drivers, actors, influences and outcomes.

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Bosma Prize in Planning History Innovation

Committee chair: Professor Carola Hein

Recognizes the authors of books (monographs or edited volumes), major articles or other academic contributions (including innovation in the digital field) developed by single authors or groups, that question accepted views and break away from the standard histories, expanding and modifying planning history, and enhancing its critical potential. Submissions must be published or developed in the two calendar years before the conference (2018-19)

Awardee: Conrad Kickert, *Dream City: Creation, Destruction and Reinvention in Downtown Detroit* (MIT Press, 2019)

Citation

The committee finds that the book *Dream City – Creation, Destruction and Reinvention in Downtown Detroit* is excellent, innovative, and well-deserving of the Bosma Prize. The committee praised your meticulous research that addresses Detroit with the respect, complexity, and depth that the case deserves. Committee members commented on the structural choice of seasonality, and how it further complicates the many fates and cycles of the Downtown and its metropolitan circumstance. The conclusion in particular, “A New Beginning: The Past as the Future,” underscores the complexity of conjugating urban pasts (fabric, economy, social groups, politics, etc.) forward. The Downtown as a locus for a forced chronological recognition demonstrates precisely the hubris, and ensuing crisis, of a Fordist pattern of urban production. The committee also recognizes the additional efforts in grant writing that enabled the high-quality maps and images. They are superb. The work is as insightful as it is challenging, and truly exemplifies the qualities that the Bosma Prize celebrates.

Awardee: Ian Morley, *American Colonisation and the City Beautiful: Filipinos and Planning in the Philippines, 1916-35* (London, Routledge, 2019)

Citation

The committee finds that the book *American Colonisation and the City Beautiful: Filipinos and Planning in the Philippines, 1916-35* provides an excellent analysis of City Beautiful planning within the complex transition period of Spanish and U.S. Colonialisms in the Philippines. The committee praised your in-depth research of hidden histories of the ‘Americanization’ of the Philippines in the early years of the twentieth century. The book portrays the forging of the Philippine planning profession within this context, conjugating City Beautiful dictates with those of the Spanish Law of the Indies. The committee recognises the depth of research with original primary material as an important work on a subject for which, heretofore, little attention has been dedicated. In this way, the committee celebrates the book’s strengths, along with its place within broader planning history knowledge. The book also contributes a fascinating case study to the rich study on how planning and plans travel through international networks. The committee, thus, awards the Bosma Prize for the book’s high-quality and innovation.

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Anthony Sutcliffe Dissertation Award

Committee chair: Professor José Luis Sainz Guerra

The best dissertation in the field of planning history written in English and completed during the two years preceding the conference (2018-19).

Awardee: CHEN, Yongming

Thesis title: 'From the Cold War Front Line to the Global City: Everyday Politics in Urbanization of Boat People's Settlement, Xiamen' (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Citation

The research work that Yongming Chen has developed in his thesis is of great interest for several reasons. He summarises the purpose of the thesis as looking “Through the lens of urbanization to understand Socialist China’s transformation: how institutions think”. The thesis incorporates a research methodology that connects the reality of urban development with the complexities of Chinese society, and reveals how spaces have been gradually produced and transformed over time. Starting from a specific example, the Xiamen Harbor, as a case study he develops a vision that begins with the fishing port and which, without losing sight of the political transformations in the region, evolves through the social transformations of China. The thesis describes how the population of a small fishing village is transformed into an urban population, showing how the urbanization process of a fishing settlement in Xiamen Harbor in different periods is articulated in parallel with changes that take place in the political organization. The Xiamen Harbor study reveals the multiple relationships between culture, economy and society. At the same time, the analysis and vision of contemporary China is enriching for the reader and helps them to better understand today’s China.