

# 75 Years of Planning Education at UBC: Celebrating the Past and Preparing for the Future

Mark Stevens RPP, MCIP, James Connolly, Jessica Barudin, Andi Binet, Holly Caggiano (Candidate Member), Kuni Kamizaki, and Theo Lim

Greetings from the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) at the University of British Columbia! We have exciting news to share: SCARP turns 75 years old in 2026, and to celebrate our “Diamond Anniversary” we are currently planning “SCARP 75”, a series of activities and events that spotlight the impacts our alumni and faculty have had on cities over the years by extending the SCARP History Project that began with our 60th anniversary. While we cannot capture it all, we will be gathering and sharing stories from our past with an eye toward lessons for future planning education. Please keep an eye out for these stories and related events on our social media and website.

For now, we would like to update you on recent additions to our School’s faculty. SCARP was a small School from its founding in 1951 into the late 1960s, with 3-4 faculty members during that time. But just as the scope of the planning field has expanded from an early focus on land use and physical design to a contemporary focus on broader issues of social equity, participatory planning, and even decolonization, SCARP too has grown in recent years in both number of faculty and scope of planning-related topics that we study and teach.

We have been fortunate to hire several new faculty in recent years that help to keep us young and (hopefully!) on the cutting edge of planning research and teaching. In fact, our School’s faculty has undergone a major generational transition in recent years to the point that many of our alumni would probably not recognize most of the faces that now occupy SCARP’s classrooms and offices.

Since 2018, we have added seven new Assistant Professors, two Associate Professors, and two (full) Professors, as well as one part-time Assistant Professor of Teaching and one part-time Lecturer. Those of us who have been at SCARP for a while are grateful to witness firsthand the energy and fresh ideas that these new colleagues bring to planning research and education at SCARP, and we would like to share our excitement with the planning



**Theo Lim and his students at Virginia Tech University, facilitating a “serious game” to help Roanoke High School Students explore resident preferences in parks planning**

community in B.C. by briefly introducing you to some of these new folks and the innovative research they are conducting as we speak. In particular, it is our great pleasure to introduce new Assistant Professors Jessica Barudin, Andi Binet, Holly Caggiano, and Kuni Kamizaki, and new Associate Professor Theo Lim, each of whom joined SCARP in the past two years.

Jessica Barudin is Kwakwaka’wakw and a member and elected leader of the ‘Namgis First Nation. As such, she brings personal knowledge and understanding to her teaching in SCARP’s Indigenous Community Planning concentration. Jessica believes in relationship-centered and holistic approaches to community planning and wellness. Her doctoral research involved partnering with Kwakwaka’wakw and other First Nations

women to co-create and implement a culturally-responsive, trauma-informed community wellness program, including a focus on physical movement and yoga. On that note, yoga has become a very important part of Jessica’s community-centred work: she is the co-creator of the First Nations Women’s Yoga initiative that offers a culturally-rooted, trauma-informed yoga curriculum, and she is a founding member of the Indigenous Yoga Collective, which seeks to support the well-being of Indigenous yoga teachers and educators. Jessica has been teaching a SCARP course on urban Indigeneity, and is designing a new course on planning for Indigenous health and wellness.

Andi Binet is a Canadian who joined SCARP via M.I.T., where they co-led a

long-term study on the relationship between gentrification and community health in nine Boston-area neighborhoods. Andi brings to SCARP a commitment to expanding community-engaged research in planning, hoping to make more room for community knowledge to influence planning priorities, processes and interventions. Andi is particularly interested in better understanding how urban environments shape our health, and how planning can be used to address the “crisis of care” and to promote health equity. Their ongoing research explores how planning decisions shape the “urban infrastructure of care,” and how changes in this infrastructure shape the burden of caregiving and the well-being of caregivers. To advance this research agenda, Andi is currently launching a new project studying the role of planning in creating childcare and building an equitable universal childcare system in Canada. At SCARP, Andi teaches two courses in the new BA Urban Studies program, Methods of Community Engagement and the year-long Urban Studies Capstone, and one graduate course, Planning for Health Equity.

Holly Caggiano is a New Jerseyite who was a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University prior to joining SCARP. Holly’s research broadly explores the planning dimensions of climate and energy transitions with attention to how communities navigate technological, social, and environmental change. Her work evaluates both top-down and bottom-up approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation, asking questions about decision-making, governance, and collective action. Holly seeks to work collaboratively with people that are impacted by both climate change and the plans and policies that are developed to help mitigate climate change impacts. Holly has been teaching a SCARP course on sustainability and resilience in planning and a course on planning for just energy and is currently designing a new undergraduate course on planning cities for climate change.

Kuni Kamizaki made his way to SCARP from Japan, via the University of Toronto where he was previously an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning. Kuni is trained as a community-based planner and has more than 10 years of experience in housing, social planning, community development, and social-solidarity economy. In a general sense, Kuni’s research focuses on issues of poverty, displacement, and housing inequality, as well as community-led alternatives for social and racial justice, with a goal of contributing to transformative change with accountability to communities.



**A Collaborative Data Analysis workshop for community researchers, facilitated by Andi Binet**

He is currently engaged in two strands of research: studying the decline of Tokyo and planning responses to nation-wide population shrinkage and aging in post-growth Japan, and community-engaged research exploring the potential of community land trusts to address displacement and to promote housing justice. Kuni has been teaching a SCARP course on city-making from a global perspective, and is currently designing a new course on planning for housing justice.

Theo Lim was an Assistant Professor in the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech University before joining SCARP as an Associate Professor. Theo’s research has focused on climate adaptation in cities and how communities can become more resilient to climate change impacts, whether through state-led policy or grassroots participatory action. He also has an interest in the use of diverse forms of knowledge and ways of knowing in planning, which he has explored in part through a study of how computer models that integrate diverse types of information can be better managed to be useful in evolving policy and scientific knowledge production contexts. Theo has a wide range of professional experience outside the university and the planning field, including having worked as an environmental data scientist in the agricultural technology industry,

a civil engineer focused on sustainable water infrastructure planning and design, and a public health and urbanization researcher in Northeast China. Theo has been teaching a SCARP course on information and analysis in planning, and a course on research design and methods.

We at SCARP look ahead to turning 75 years old in 2026, but we also look around now at the growing uncertainty that communities face in a world characterized by rapid and unpredictable change. As planning researchers and educators, we feel both privileged to welcome Jessica, Andi, Holly, Kuni, and Theo to our School, and better-positioned for the challenge of preparing future generations of planners in B.C. and elsewhere for careers that contribute to the kinds of transformative change that are desperately needed in 21st-century society.

We hope to partner with you in tackling that challenge, and to see you at a SCARP 75 event!

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