

# SURP 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



School of Urban and Regional Planning | Department of Geography and Planning | Queen's University at Kingston



## Director's Message

The School of Urban and Regional Planning returned to in-person education in 2023, after two difficult pandemic years. The MPL program includes over 50 of the best and brightest students, drawn from across Canada and internationally. The School received re-accreditation with the Planning Standards Board in 2022, with a very positive assessment by the review team. We have rekindled our strong in-person community spirit via field trips (Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal), professional conferences, and the many social activities organized by QGAPS. We thank our many alumni who stepped in as Zoom guest lecturers during the pandemic. This initiative has proven so popular that we have retained it going forward.

All of our MPL students received paid professional planning internships last year. We are also proud to report that over 95% of our graduates have found professional employment soon after graduation. Our international experiential learning opportunities returned, with an exchange to New Zealand and an India project course organized by Professor Agarwal under difficult political circumstances.

The School of Urban and Regional Planning remains committed to offering the very best training and development of future planners, undertaking ground-breaking research on topics of importance to our profession, and engaging with our professional associations. We are forever grateful to our dedicated alumni for their assistance in helping our students to enter a rewarding and challenging career as professional planners.

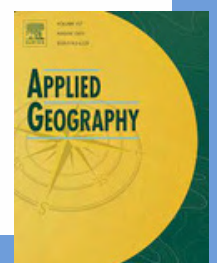
*John Meligrana*

John Meligrana, PhD, RPP, MCIP  
Director, School of Urban and Regional Planning  
Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University



## WELL DONE, RACHEL!

Rachel Barber (MPL graduate and PhD student) published a sole-authored article entitled "[Aging in Place, Stranded in Space: An Analysis of Health Care Access via Public Transportation in Elliot Lake](#)" in *Applied Geography*. Congratulations!



# SURP Alumni Win Major Award for Broadway Plan

In a remarkable achievement, Vancouver's Broadway Plan received the American Planning Association's International Award for Excellence for Urban Design, just two weeks after winning Britain's top international award for planning:

<https://international.planning.org/community/awards/2023results/>

Kudos to Project Lead **John Grottenberg** MPL'08, Stakeholder Engagement Lead **Andrew Misiak** MPL'15, and Planner **Zoe Acton** MPL'19.

The Broadway Plan is a comprehensive 30-year land use plan to integrate new housing, jobs, and amenities around a new subway extension in Vancouver, Canada. The Plan is the product of an extensive 3.5-year planning process involving a wide array of technical work and engagement with a broad range of residents and stakeholders. (APA International Division)



J. Grottenberg



A. Misiak



Z. Acton



## ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS INSTITUTE CONFERENCE 2023

42 SURP graduate students attended the OPPI conference in Ottawa, where they networked and met scores of SURP alumni.

Professors **Patricia Collins** and **Dave Gordon** presented their latest research, as did **Fathimah Tayyiba Rasheed** MPL'23.

Research posters were presented by **Victoria McCutcheon** MPL'24; **Ivy Liang** MPL'24; **Marley Gryfe** MPL'24; **Makenna Humes** MPL'24; and **Fathimah Tayyiba Rasheed** MPL'23.

Thanks to Makenna Humes and Dave Gordon for organizing the trip, and to the GPPL Field Trip Fund for subsidizing the bus.





# Dr. Hartt at the Summit on Healthy Aging



**Dr. Maxwell Hartt** participated in the 2023 RSC G7 Research Summit on Healthy Aging in Niagara Falls from November 13 to 15, 2023. Convened by the Royal Society of Canada, *Healthy People, Healthy Planet* took a global view of healthcare through a Canadian lens, exploring the healthcare system from policy and health perspectives including new medicines, Indigenous ways of knowing, and the state of long-term care facilities. Maxx is pictured here with Queen's University colleagues Dr. Vincent DePaul (School of Rehabilitation Therapy) and Dr. Julia Brook (DAN School of Drama and Music).

## SURP HEADS TO WOLFE ISLAND

SURP Students held a Rural Design Workshop at the Township Office in Marysville Village on Wolfe Island. Over 50 villagers attended the workshop, including the Mayor of Frontenac Islands Township and several council members. The Workshop will help the Township develop land use policies and regulations for Marysville Village. This workshop formed part of the capstone project course under the supervision of John Meligrana, in partnership with the Frontenac County Planning Department.



## SUPPORTING STUDENT WELLNESS

Congratulations to **John Meligrana** for being recognized as a **2023 Champion for Mental Health** as selected by students, for creating a supportive learning and campus environment!







## WELL DONE, FATHIMAH!

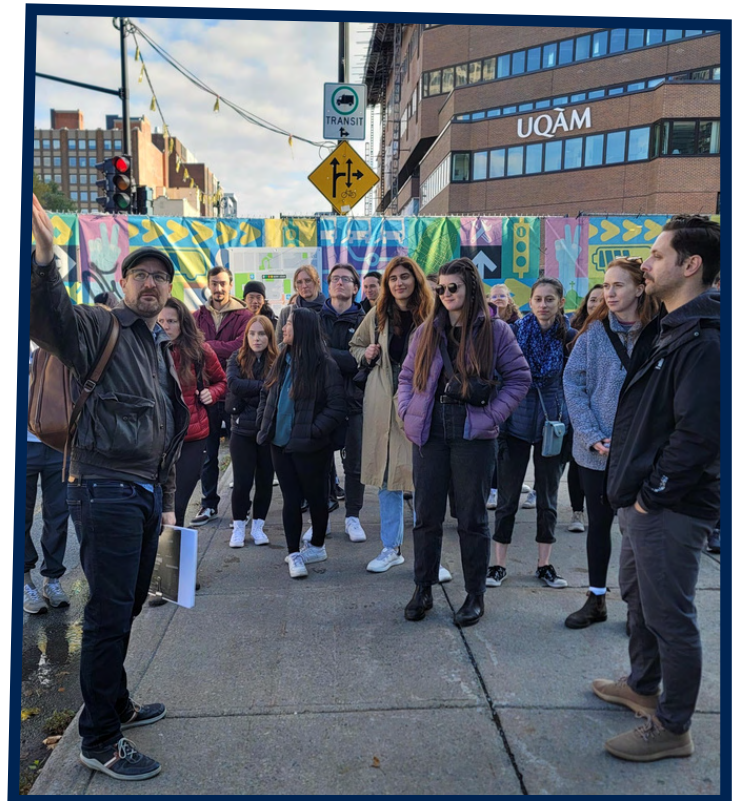
Congratulations to SURP student **Fathimah Rasheed**, who was awarded a scholarship by the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR) of Canada Central Chapter. Fathimah received her award at the “Broker of the Year Awards & Presidents Dinner” in Toronto. Kudos, Fathimah!

## SURP à Montréal

30 SURP graduate students enjoyed a two-day field trip to Montreal with alumni guides **Tyler Wood** MPL'09 (MEM museum) and **Michael Szilagyi** MPL'10 (Re: Public Urbanism).



*Above:* Students at the newly opened MEM museum got a behind-the-scenes tour.



*Top:* Following Frederick Law Olmsted at Parc Mont Royal with Professor Dave Gordon.

*Bottom:* Tyler and Mike touring students through Montreal's Quartier des Spectacles.



# Faculty and Alumni in Plan Canada



The latest edition of *Plan Canada* (the CIP's national professional journal) is a special issue on Smart Growth containing many contributions from Queen's alumni and faculty:

- The issue was co-edited by **Dr. Ray Tomalty**, Arts'79, MPA'88, who held a post-doc at SURP in the 1990s.
- The two lead articles were by **Professor Dave Gordon**, MPL'79 on the American origins of Smart Growth and its current status in Canada.
- **Natalie Pulcine**, MPL'17 was co-author of an article on the City of Ottawa's new 15-minute neighbourhood policies.
- **Eric Aderneck**, MPL'02 wrote the article on Industrial land and jobs.
- **Rachel Barber**, MPL'23 and **Professor Maxx Hartt** are co-authors on the need for "Smart Decline."
- Finally, **Pamela Sweet**, MPL'76 concludes the issue with reflections on whether regional planning is dead.
- The issue is further improved by photographs of **Nick Kuhl**, MPL'18 and **Steph Cantlay**, MPL'23 and **Alyssa Woods**, Artsci '21 accepting the CIP's Emerging Planner Award, Dillon Scholarship, and Adams Scholarship.

<https://www.kelmanonline.com/httpdocs/files/CIP/plancanadafall2023/index.html>

Professor Dave Gordon was also invited to present his Smart Growth research to CIP's national webinar in October, with over 400 registrants from across Canada.

[https://twitter.com/CIP\\_ICU/status/1709570479600611671](https://twitter.com/CIP_ICU/status/1709570479600611671)







Congratulations to SURP students **Homa Jalili Safarian**, **Makenna Humes**, and **Sara Wehbi**, who were awarded second place in the 2023 National Capital Commission (NCC) Urban Design Challenge! The team's proposal was recognized for its innovative approach to place-making as a solution to re-stitching the urban fabric along the Sussex Corridor. The group was particularly commended for their consideration of Indigenous communities, increased opportunities for connections to the Ottawa River, and active mobility improvements. The team presented their proposal at the NCC event on May 24th, 2023. To learn more about the annual competition, please visit the [NCC website](#). And well done Sara, Homa, and Makenna!

## SURP 827 in India

Planning students successfully accomplished an international planning project under the supervision of **Professor Ajay Agarwal**. The students prepared planning guidelines for Auroville Access Road. The project was accomplished in collaboration with the Auroville Foundation. Auroville is a small town located at the outskirts of Pondicherry in southern India. Back on campus, the students presented their project to a full house on January 19, 2024.

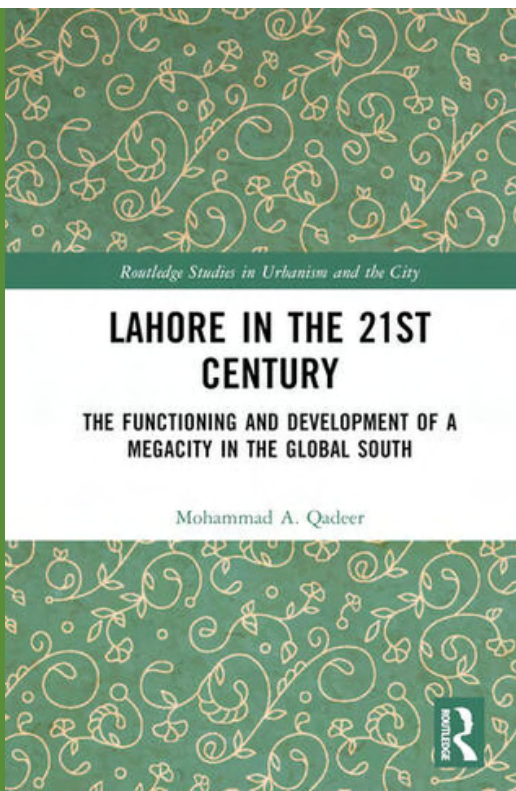


## Dr. Qadeer Publishes New Volume on Lahore, Pakistan

Emeritus Professor **Mohammad Qadeer**'s latest book, *Lahore in the 21st Century: The Functioning and Development of a Megacity in the Global South*, was published by Routledge in 2023. To learn more and obtain your own copy, please visit the [Routledge website](#).

The book is a labour of love for Qadeer's city of formative memories, analysing the evolution of Lahore's social organization, culture, and ideologies since Pakistan's independence in 1947.

Professor Qadeer's book was celebrated at a gathering of SURP alumni in Toronto in June 2023.





# SURP AT THE 2023 CIP/API NATIONAL CONFERENCE

From June 27 to 30, 2023, over 70 Queen's SURP alumni and students attended "Navigation," the 2023 National Conference hosted by the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and Atlantic Planners Institute (API) in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The annual conference is an opportunity for planners and other community builders to share lessons and explore ideas while navigating the complex and interconnected issues facing communities. Congratulations to our conference presenters and award recipients!



Some of the 70+ @QueensSURP Alumni and students who attended the @CIP\_ICU conference in Halifax. Thanks to John Heseltine (MPL'78) and Katie Lobban (MPL'23) for hosting.



Steph Cantlay MPL'23 (Calgary) receiving the Dillon Graduate Scholarship.

Nick Kuhl, MPL'18 (Calgary) receiving the CIP's Emerging Leader Award.



Dave Gordon with two former students: Lily Xu MPL'05 (Ottawa) and Yan Zeng MPL'95 (North Vancouver).



Janice Harper MPL'03 (Charlottetown), addressing the CIP conference as President of the Professional Standards Board.



Blaise Morrison MPL'11 (right) sharing a Halifax Urban Design Award of Merit for the Queen's Marque waterfront project.

# CONGRATULATIONS, MAXX!



**Dr. Maxwell Hartt** has been appointed as an Associate Editor of one of the world's leading planning journals: the **Journal of Planning Education and Research (JPER)**. He and **Dr. Zhixi Zhuang** (Toronto Metropolitan University) are the first Canadian-based editors in the journal's almost 50-year history.

The JPER is a forum for planning scholars and educators to advance planning practice by presenting results from teaching and research in a variety of disciplines, including urban geography, welfare economics, interest-group politics, policy analysis, and a variety of other subjects. Read the full announcement here:

<https://www.acsp.org/news/662365/Meet-the-Incoming-JPER-Editors-2024-2028.htm>

And well done, Dr. Hartt!

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## SURP ALUM WINS PRESTIGIOUS CIP AWARD

Congratulations to **Nick Kuhl**, MPL'18, for sharing the Canadian Institute of Planners' Emerging Planner Award for 2023.

<https://www.cip-icu.ca/Honours-Awards/CIP-Emerging-Planner-Award-Recipients/Recipients/Nicholas-Kuhl-RPP-MCIP>

The CIP Emerging Planner Award celebrates the leaders of tomorrow by recognizing the outstanding professional success and achievement of a Canadian planner within their first ten years of professional planning experience.

Nick joins **Cassandra Caiger**, MPL'13, **David Fitzpatrick**, MPL'08, and **Andrew Sacret** MPL'05 as @QueensSURP grads who have won this award in the past dozen years.

[https://www.cip-icu.ca/Honours-Awards/CIP-Emerging-Planner-Award-Recipients/](https://www.cip-icu.ca/Honours-Awards/CIP-Emerging-Planner-Award-Recipients/Recipients/)

Well done, Nick!





# Professor Gordon on our Suburban Nation



**Professor David Gordon's** research on the suburban landscape of Canada has recently served as the basis for articles in the *Globe and Mail*: "Politicians need to remember that this is a suburban, car-commuting nation," (John Ibbotson) and "Canada may be a suburban nation, but that's because of policy as much as preference" (Rino Bortolin et al). While there is consensus between authors on the classification of Canada as a "suburban nation," each piece leverages Dr. Gordon's research quite differently to argue the contributing factors and implications of Canada's residential complexion. Are we a suburban nation due to public preference, or as a consequence of public policy?

Professor Gordon published the ***Canadian Suburbs Atlas*** in October 2023, updated with 2021 census data and completed while he was a Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto's School of Cities. Dr. Gordon worked with students at the University of Toronto and Toronto Metropolitan University to develop this latest version of the research, which is unique in providing a detailed analysis of large and small cities across Canada.

While the *Canadian Suburbs Atlas* is successful as a comprehensive reference document that illustrates the growth rates of suburban populations from a variety of metrics, Professor Gordon's other research acknowledges the role of public policy in this expansion and describes the multi-pronged planning policy approach that created this suburban nation. Understanding this historical path is essential to achieve a balance of urban and suburban growth in the future. The key turning point in our path to becoming a suburban nation was an obscure 1944 federal post-war reconstruction document, known as the Curtis Report, after its Chair, Professor Clifford Curtis of the Queen's Economics Department.

Dr. Gordon has recently published three refereed articles on this topic, wrapping up a six year SSHRC research study:

- "The Curtis Report as a Critical Juncture in Canadian Urbanism," *Planning Perspectives*; pre-published January 2024, pp. 1-31 (R). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02665433.2023.2296922>
- "The Post-War Revival of Canadian Planning: Assessing the Impact of the Community Planning Association of Canada" *Journal of Planning History*, pre-published January 2024 (with Miranda Virginillo, MPL'22), pp.1-16 (R). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/15385132231222853>
- "The Disappearing Grid: How the Canadian Government Changed Suburban Community Design, 1944-69" *Journal of Urban Design*, pre-published November 2023 (with Matthew Harding, MPL'23) pp. 1-29 (R) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2023.2255150>

Visit the ***Canadian Suburbs Atlas*** and Professor Gordon's affiliate research website, <https://www.canadiansuburbs.ca/>, to learn more about the important research that has sparked a national discourse on Canada's suburban character.

