

MIT e-Planning Seminar, Fall 2023

web.mit.edu/uis/e-planning2023/

Program Summary

Introduction

In 2003, MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) offered the first e-Planning Seminar. Its rationale emerged from the need to study in-depth the impacts of a new generation of information and communication technologies (ICT) on urban planning and local governance. The intent was to improve our multi-disciplinary understanding of ICT-driven changes in our daily lives and the ways in which we construct and regulate our communities. These interests were reflected in formulating the original agenda:

e-infrastructures, e-government, e-governance, e-city & territory, e-citizenship.

20 years later, the concept of e-Planning has matured. At MIT-DUSP, the cross-disciplinary PhD area that had been called "Planning Support Systems" in the 1990's became the "Urban Information Systems" group in the new century. More recently, DUSP worked with MIT's computer science department to construct an "urban planning with computer science undergraduate" degree. This "urban science" initiative was a precursor to the new multi-disciplinary MIT Schwarzman College of Computing. In Portugal, it gave birth to a Joint PhD Program on e-Planning offered by 4 Universities, within an e-Planning Consortium (www.e-planning.org) that also included Institutions in other countries such as Brasil.

The post-covid world has highlighted the centrality of a Digital Transition Agenda, connected also with the need for a Energy Transition. This implies we understand not only the "Digital" facet, but also the "Transition" itself. In other words, besides the engineering and "hard" science of technology, we need also social sciences and humanities; since a Transition requires understanding both where we stand, and where the transition will lead us.

The MIT Fall 2023 events will be a good opportunity to reflect on our framing of e-Planning issues two decades ago and will provide a welcome opportunity to engage a cross-section of our community, academic and practitioners, in further discussion and debate about next steps in the digital transformation of urban planning and local governance. By looking carefully at past and current thoughts about information technology's influence on community life and governance, we hope to foster a deeper look into the impacts and implications of the ongoing "*digital transition*" on social inequality and participatory planning without becoming overly focused on the latest concerns about generative AI and ubiquitous sensing.

Structure

- 1) Monday Lunch Speaker Series on "*Urban Science & Digital Transition: e-Planning twenty years later*", weekly session, 12h30-2PM, with guest speakers and MIT faculty discussants;
- 2) "International Conference on Public Participation & Information Technologies", ICPPIT23 9-10 November 2023, international symposium co-organized with CITIDEP – Research Center on Information Technologies and Participatory Democracy (www.citidep.net);
- 3) MIT joint undergrad/graduate subject "*e-Planning, Urban Science and Digital Transition*", 1.5hr / week, classes on Thursday's

Location & Dates:

Dept of Urban Studies & Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA

14 September - 14 December 2023 (Seminar and Course)

9-10 November 2023 - International Symposium

Participation:

- Open for MIT students, faculty & fellows (no fee)
- Fee-based participation for external participants, by invitation. Interested prospective participants may contact Seminar / Symposium moderators (jf@mit.edu, pfa@mit.edu)

Fees:

Attending International symposium, seminar sessions, plus additional meetings: \$ 2000 * ;

Attending ICPPIT23 only: \$ 475 *; \$ 100 ** students (proof required)

* include social program ** without social program;

Attending social program (open also for non-attendees): \$ 100;

Social program : Conference dinner November 9 + Wine & cheese after-Conference get-together, November 10, 2023

Fees are non-refundable. Late fees may apply (see deadline information on the site).

Please be advised that fees do not cover anything other than your participation. Foreign participants will need an adequate VISA to enter the USA for this activity, which will require an MIT invitation letter. Be sure to include in your plans the time required for this process, both with MIT and with the VISA processing in your country. For payment processing and further VISA information, please contact Margaret Bryan <mlbryan@mit.edu>. Thank you.

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Seminar & Course & Symposium Topics:

(dates & schedule for session topics to be confirmed)

ICT - Information and Communication Technologies

- e-Planning Research Agenda, Roots and Boundaries
- Urban Science & Computing in Planning
- Geopolitics of Development in the Information Society
- Geography of Inequality and the role of Spatial Analysis in Planning
- Digital Sovereignty, Technology Innovation, and Property
- Public Policy, Institutions and Regulation in the context of new ICT
- Public Participation and Decision in Planning in the context of new ICT
- The Cost of Free: new models of Politics and Business
- ICT Ubiquity and the new Digital Social Media
- The Challenge of Privacy & Liberties vs. Efficiency & Security
- Digital Inclusion, Local Government and Citizen Empowerment
- Urban Mobility and Smart Cities
- Climate Change and Energy & Digital Transitions
- New ICT impact in Arts & Humanities
- The Challenges of Transdisciplinarity in Academia
- Teaching and Research Agenda for the Future

Fall 2023 e-Planning Seminar sites:

MIT: web.mit.edu/uis/e-planning2023/ | e-Planning: www.e-planning.org/mit2023/

** Program as of September 1, 2023.*

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