

# SEEMA DESAI IYER, PH.D.

Chief of Research & Strategic Planning  
Baltimore City Department of Planning  
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## PLANNING EXPERIENCE, RESEARCH & TEACHING:

2005-  
present      **Baltimore City Department of Planning**  
*Chief of Research & Strategic Planning*

- Responsibilities of the division include Geographic Information Systems analysis and mapping, cooperative forecasting in coordination with the region's MPO (Baltimore Metropolitan Council), submitting annual challenges to Census population estimates and preparing for the 2010 Census, editing and updating the City's Comprehensive Master Plan, and directing research initiatives in economic development, housing, public health, transportation and environmental planning.

2005      **Department of City Planning and Architecture, Morgan State University**  
*Faculty Lecturer*

- Studio II: Co-taught second-year studio to MCP students. The project aimed to evaluate the effectiveness and impact on residents of a HOPE VI demolition/redevelopment project in east Baltimore (Broadway Homes/Broadway Overlook).

2003-2005      **Department of City and Regional Planning (DCRP), University of Pennsylvania**  
*Faculty Lecturer*

- Planning in Transitional Cities (CPLN 674): Graduate seminar on planning practices in post-socialist countries focusing on Russia, the Former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This class discusses what the planning response has been to several changes in basic urban phenomena (urban land use, historic preservation, public administration) and how planners are incorporating new ideas into the planning process (strategic/fiscal planning, sustainable development, policy analysis using GIS). Also covers lessons learned from technical assistance programs since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
- Introduction to Statistical Reasoning (CPLN 501 & CPLN 521): Taught both an intensive refresher course during the DCRP Summer Institute as well as a semester-long course for beginners in statistical and quantitative reasoning to incoming masters students. Incorporated the use of software for statistical analysis and graphical representation of data.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE:

2002-2003      **Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit, MI**  
*Planning Analyst*

- Assisted in the calibration of the UrbanSim model using Southeastern Michigan test data for regional policy analysis

1996-1997      **Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, State of Tennessee, Unit of Evaluation, Analysis and Decision Support, Nashville, TN**  
*Statistical Analyst*

1993-1995 **Andersen Consulting**, Florham Park, NJ  
*Systems Integration Consultant*

## EDUCATION:

1997-2003 **Ph.D. in Urban & Regional Planning**  
**Graduate Certificate in Russian & East European Studies**  
**University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**  
Dissertation: *The Urban Transition in Post-Soviet Russia: Adjustments to the Planning Process in Different Urban Contexts*  
Chair: Scott D. Campbell

1995-1997 **M.A. in Regional Science**  
**University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**

1989-1993 **B.A. in Mathematics & Russian Studies, *cum laude***  
**University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**

1992 Study Abroad, Russian Language and Culture (ACTR)  
**Moscow Energy Institute, Moscow, Russia**

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS:

2004	<i>Short Term Travel Grant</i>	International Research and Exchange Board (IREX)
2000	<i>Individual Advanced Research Opportunities</i>	International Research and Exchange Board (IREX)
2000	<i>Regional Scholar Exchange Program</i>	American Councils (ACTR/ACCELS)
1997-2002	<i>Rackham Merit Fellowship</i>	Rackham School of Graduate Studies
2000	<i>Graduate Research and Internship Award</i>	Center for Russian and East European Studies at UM
1995-1996	<i>Class of 1939 Fellowship</i>	University of Pennsylvania

## JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS:

“Permanence of the ‘Frost Belt’ in Post-Soviet Russia” in *Immigration, Forced Migrants and Refugees in Central Eurasia*, Cynthia Buckley and Blair Ruble, eds., Woodrow Wilson Center Press (2007)

“Coping with Uncertainty in Planning’ Revisited: A Model for Explaining the Planning Resurgence in Post-Soviet Russia” paper in preparation for review, *Journal of the American Planning Association*.

“Central Place Theory” in *Encyclopedia of American Urban History*, David Goldfield, ed., Sage Publications (2006).

“The Urban Context for Adjustments to the Planning Process in post-Soviet Russia: Responses from Local Planners in Siberia,” *International Planning Studies*, Vol. 8, No. 3 (August 2003), pp. 201-222.

“Increasing Unevenness in the Distribution of City-Sizes in post-Soviet Russia,” *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, Vol. 44, No. 5 (October 2003), pp. 325-344.

## BOOK REVIEWS:

Pickvance, Chris, Local Environmental Regulation in Post-Socialism: A Hungarian Case Study, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, v. 70, no. 4 (Autumn 2004), p. 492.

Candland, C. and Sil, R. (eds). The Politics of Labor in a Global Age: Continuity and Change in Late-Industrializing and Post-Socialist Economies, *Progress in Development Studies*, v. 4, no. 1 (January 2004)

Struyk, Raymond, Making Aid Work, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, v. 64 no. 3 (Summer 1998) p. 378

## CONFERENCES:

“Comprehensive Planning in Urban Areas of Smart Growth States: Baltimore, Miami-Dade and Seattle” American Planning Association meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 2007

“Urban Renewal in Post-Soviet Russia”, Roundtable participant on International Issues on Eminent Domain at Annual Meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Kansas City, MO, October 2005.

“Politics, Planning, and Land Use in Russian Cities Today”, Panel participant at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Boston, MA, December 2004

“The State of the Planning Process in Post-Soviet Russia: Evidence from the Building of the Angara Bridge in the City of Irkutsk”, Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Portland, OR, October 2004.

“Rethinking Migration in the Southern Tier”, Roundtable participant at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Philadelphia, PA, March 2004.

“Migration from North to South in post-Soviet Russia”, Invited presentation at the British Universities Siberian Studies Seminar in Huston, April 2004

“Collapse of 'Vertical Control' in Post-Soviet Russia: Perceptions of Local Planners in Different Urban Contexts”, Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Baltimore, MD, November 2002.

“The Effects of Internal Migration Patterns on the Urban Hierarchy for Different City-Types in Post-Soviet Russia”, Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, CA, March 2002.

“Adjustments to the post-Soviet Planning Process in Different Urban Contexts: Interviews with Local Planners in Siberian Russia”, Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Cleveland, OH, November 2001.

“Maintaining Planning Objectives while Negotiating the Bureaucracy: Interviews with Planners in the U.S. and Russia,” Poster presented at the Annual Congress of the Association of European School of Planning (AESOP), Brno, Czech Republic, July 2000.

“Unraveling Soviet Sociopolitical Geography”, Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Pittsburgh, PA, April 2000.

## ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS:

Urban Land Institute Baltimore—Executive Committee Member (2007-present)

National Center for Smart Growth Research & Education Affiliate (2006-present)

Selection Committee Member, IREX Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program (2005)

Kennan Institute Workshop, Immigration, Forced Migrants and Refugees in Central Eurasia, Wash. DC (2004)

Journal of Planning Education & Research (JPER) Writing Workshop, Portland, OR (2003)

Graduate Student Commencement Speaker, University of Michigan (2003)  
Graduate Women's Leadership Program (2002)  
Co-President, Rackham Student Government 2001-2002 (representative 1999-2001)  
Participant in Ford Foundation Seminar for International Expertise (May 2001)  
AESOP Ph.D. Student Workshop in Brno, Czech Republic (2000)  
American Planning Association (2001-present)  
Association of American Geographers (1999-present)  
American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (2001-present)