

Class of
2016

Urban Studies Certificate Graduates

Mira Ahmad
Pelin Asa
Audrey Berdahl-Baldwin
Ye Eun "Charlotte" Chun
Azza Cohen
Danielle Ellis
Victoria Gruenberg
William "Luke" Hamel
Yuriko Inaba
Angeline Jacques
Victoria Kizza
Caroline Lovaglio
Lu Lu
Isabella Peraertz
Brandon Scott
Jamie Simpson
Sol Taubin
Emily Wiebe
Alexandra "Zoë" Zabor

Congratulations!

Mira Ahmad is a History concentrator with a certificate in Urban Studies. Raised in Palo Alto, California, Mira developed an early interest in urbanism after spending her summers traveling to India and Pakistan, where her parents Kavita Ramdas and Zulfiqar Ahmad are from. At Princeton, she began to explore both History and Urban studies in a more academic manner, looking on topics ranging from slum tourism in the Bombay Port Trust slum to the reconstruction of downtown Beirut in the aftermath of the Lebanese civil war. Mira's interest in global history extended to Tangier, the topic of her Senior Thesis, and she travelled to Madrid, Spain, in order to conduct primary source research in the National Historical Archives to pursue this project. Next year, she will be working as the Business Development Coordinator for Abt Associates Consulting in Washington, DC. In her free time Mira enjoys photography, travelling and reading mysteries.

Advisor: Gyan Prakash

Pelin Asa is a Civil and Environmental Engineering major with an Architecture track and a certificate in Urban Studies. A native of Turkey, Pelin tried to use Princeton's ample resources for domestic and international travel to pursue her interests in exploring cities and cultures, and engaging in socially conscious projects by spending a summer in Uganda making films for the non-profit organization 1000 Shillings, leading a Pace Center Breakout trip on participatory urban planning to Philadelphia and studying abroad at the University of Melbourne in Australia. She spent the previous two summers in China working on a rammed earth village center project of Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology, and exploring rural rammed earth buildings. Having grown an interest in non-conventional and sustainable construction materials and traditional building techniques after her experiences in China, she studied the durability of rammed earth and earth as a refugee shelter material for her thesis. Pelin received the Henry R. Labouisse '26 fellowship to collaborate with Refugee Open Ware in Jordan next year to bring together their work in advanced technology to provide humanitarian relief to the refugees with her research on earthen construction to further investigate earth as a construction material in conflict and disaster areas.

Advisor: Maria Garlock

Audrey Berdahl-Baldwin is a History major with certificates in Urban Studies, African American Studies, and American Studies. Originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, Audrey is passionate about understanding and addressing how the carceral sphere—specifically policing and incarceration—shapes racial inequality. On campus, she has participated in many programs through the Pace Center for Civic Engagement, including the Pace Council for Civic Values, Community Walk, and Students for Education Reform. After graduation, Audrey plans to study US and UK penal policies as a Marshall Scholar by pursuing a History MA at the University of Manchester and an MSc in Comparative Social Policy at Oxford.

Advisor: Alison Isenberg

Ye Eun Charlotte Chun is a Politics major with a concentration in political theory and a certificate in Urban Studies. She is particularly interested in the way urban development in developing countries impacts their democratic transition. Born and raised in Seoul, South Korea, Charlotte is passionate about the way cities develop, and how best to promote economic growth without compromising social welfare and the wellbeing of urban citizens. As a political theory concentrator, Charlotte focused her previous independent work on the resource curse and its implications for democracy, and illiberal democratic theory. She is interested not in how democracies rise and sustain themselves, but how they fall due to internal politics. On an extra-curricular level, Charlotte is the founder and former Editor-in-Chief of the Princeton Undergraduate Law Review; as well as a member of the Princeton Debate Panel and Korean American Student Association. Next year, Charlotte will be attending University of California, Berkeley Law School, obtaining a JD and Masters in Politics.

Advisor: Jan-Werner Mueller

Azza Cohen is a History concentrator with certificates in Urban Studies and South Asian Studies. Before her freshman year, she participated in the University's Bridge Year Program in India, where she volunteered for the organization Guria, which fights human trafficking through legal and educational intervention. Her proudest achievement is *Specks of Dust*, a documentary film which profiles the brave work of Guria. On campus, she danced on the Princeton Bhangra team, served on the executive board of the Breakout program, created short documentaries for 1080princeton, and wrote an opinion column for *The Daily Princetonian*. Her academic work focused on borders – physical, national, emotional – and the systems which separate populations. Her interest in Urban Studies was sparked her freshman year when she took URB 202: Documentary Film and the City with Purcell Carson, who is her certificate advisor. She is immensely grateful for Professor Carson's guidance, patience, and encouragement; Azza would not be a filmmaker without her. Next year, Azza will be pursuing graduate study in history and film at the National University of Ireland at Galway.

Advisor: Purcell Carson

Danielle Ellis is a Psychology major with a certificate in Urban Studies. She grew up in Columbia, Maryland, a planned community outside of Baltimore, which sparked her interest in learning about city planning. At Princeton, she combined this curiosity with her interest in Psychology by taking a combination of anthropology, social psychology, and environmental courses. Danielle also studied French throughout her time here and spent a semester studying in Paris, as well. She is just beginning to learn Portuguese but hopes to continue learning the language after graduation.

Advisor: Patricia Fernandez-Kelly

Victoria Gruenberg is an English major from Orlando, Florida with certificates in Theater and Urban Studies. She approaches Urban Studies mainly through the avenues of community-based theatre and performance studies. She was director for Theatre Intime and the Princeton Shakespeare Company, an active performer in Triangle and the Theatre Department, Vice President of the Princeton Tower Club, and an Alumni Ambassador. A firm believer in the ability of theater to deconstruct conflicts and propose solutions, most of her academic and extracurricular interests centered around a passion for sociopolitical problem-solving through political theatre.

Advisor: Bill Gleason

Luke Hamel is an Architecture major from Severna Park, Maryland. Through certificates in Hellenic Studies and Urban Studies, he pursued a better understanding of city change and informality in Athens, Greece. Previously the House Manager of Terrace F. Club, he worked this semester as an intern for Rosenberg Kolb Architects in Princeton. In the coming months, he will move to Philadelphia and start a summer job as a designer at Historic Building Architects in Trenton, New Jersey.

Advisor: M. Christine Boyer

Yuriko Inaba is a concentrator in Operations Research and Financial Engineering with a certificate in Urban Studies. She is from northern New Jersey, but has also lived in Japan when she was younger. Her favorite city is Manhattan, which is where she will be working next year as a software engineer. Academically, she likes problem solving and mathematics, and is also interested in architecture and studying issues in urban areas. One of her favorite classes at Princeton was Architecture, Globalization, and the Environment, where she learned about climate change and social issues in relation to architecture and globalization. At Princeton, she was a member of the figure skating club as captain of its competitive synchronized skating team, and was involved with planning several USG events and has served as an officer of the Princeton Charter Club.

Advisor: Esther de la Costa Meyer

Angeline Jacques is a concentrator in Architecture with a certificate in Urban Studies. Originally from New Hampshire, her interest in architecture and urban design was sparked by trips to Boston and New York City growing up. At Princeton, she developed an interest in the urbanism of post-modern megacities. In 2014, she traveled to Accra, Ghana, to study the timeline of African cities with professor Simon Gikandi, and in 2015 she spent spring break in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro with Mario Gandelonas and Bruno Carvalho's interdisciplinary seminar on Brazilian urbanism. The overwhelming urbanism of São Paulo inspired her senior thesis, an examination of the role of urban rivers through multiple historical and theoretical lenses and a speculative narrative of the future of São Paulo's river system. Outside of classes, Angeline has served as a class representative on the Department of Architecture's student advisory board and on the Urban Studies board, and as a peer academic advisor. She is also a proud member of the Princeton University Band, Ellipses Slam Poetry, and Lobster Club Improv Comedy. Next year, she will be pursuing a four-year, dual Master's program in Architecture and Urban Planning, where she will continue to pursue her interest in the intersection of urban design, architecture, and history.

Advisor: Bruno Carvalho

Victoria Nakitende Kizza is a concentrator in Architecture, with a certificate in Urban Studies. Growing up in Uganda, she has always been interested in the improvement and completion of existing structures that are already in use, especially in schools. She has also been inspired by an international education since high school to seek to understand global social and environmental issues. In her academic work at Princeton, she has chosen classes and research projects focusing on social issues in the world's cities and the environmental implications of human activity, and her studio work has aimed to combine different social, geologic, and geographic environments around the world. In her choices of extracurricular activities, Victoria has sought to focus on improving student welfare, serving as Mentorship Co-Chair for Princeton's Gap Year Network, and as an Academic Adviser in Whitman College. She has also sought to improve her knowledge of the world with many international student groups. To better grasp the world's social and urban issues and divisions, as well as its geologic and environmental regions, she has benefited from student employment opportunities during both the academic year and the summer in the Princeton Map and Geospatial Information Center. To discern the requirements for the improvement, renovation, and completion of existing structures, Victoria has taken advantage of summer internships at architecture firms in Uganda. Advisor: Christine Boyer

Caroline Lovaglio is a Politics major, pursuing International Relations as her primary field with certificates in Urban Studies and Environmental Studies. Caroline grew up on Long Island and has lived close to New York City her entire life, which sparked her interest in the dynamics of urban areas. She is also passionate about the environment and contributing to the sustainability of society, so she has combined these interests in her academic work, as well as in her internship experiences with urban conservation initiatives. On campus, Caroline has served as a Project Coordinator for SVC Tiger TAILS, the student-run animal shelter volunteer group, among other activities. In her senior thesis, Caroline researched the influence of civil society organizations on international climate policy negotiations, and incorporated her urban studies knowledge by utilizing theories of democratic architecture to analyze the spaces provided for NGOs at the UN climate conference in Paris and investigate how architecture can shape participation and deliberation.

Advisor: Jan-Werner Mueller

Lu Lu is a Civil and Environmental Engineering major with a certificate in Urban Studies. Her academic interests lie in the interdisciplinary exploration of structural engineering, architecture, urban planning, and sustainable development. She is passionate about technologically driven engineering innovation and socially minded design. Her thesis seeks to integrate architectural design and structural engineering through performing a parametric structural analysis of a sustainable bamboo hypar gridshell, currently under construction at an ecological park in the city of Cali, Colombia. Over the summers she studied German through the Princeton in Munich program, worked as a documentary photographer in eastern Uganda as a recipient of Ferris' 1899 Grant for Journalism, and interned in structural engineering firms in China and New York.

Advisor: Sigrid Adriaenssens

Isabella Peraertz is a concentrator in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, with certificates in Urban Studies and Latin American Studies. A native of the DC-Metro Area, she has always been mission-driven and passionate about policy work. However, once she got to Princeton, she became interested in urban studies after taking a global seminar in Rio de Janeiro, which showed her how urban planning has a strong influence on the way people connect amongst themselves and with their surroundings, setting the stage for a certain policy environment. Delving further into urban studies in her research projects, she honed in on themes within transportation policy, such as airport management and Bus Rapid Transit system operations. Through her extracurricular work at the University, she has continued with her passion for service: serving as Program Coordinator for ESL El Centro, an English as a Second Language program at a Latin American community center in Trenton, and serving as Community Service Chair within the Princeton Inter-Club Council. Isabella also expanded her travel horizons at Princeton, spending a semester studying abroad in Barcelona and two summers in Rio de Janeiro: the first with the global seminar, and the second doing research with a public health NGO through the Princeton International Internship Program. Next year, Isabella is planning on beginning a two-year journey with a start-up in a developing city in the US, as a Venture for America Fellow.

Advisor: Bruno Carvalho

Brandon O. Scott is an independent concentrator who likes to spend most of his time reading, writing and running. These days much of what he reads and writes concerns art history, literature and philosophy the subjects that make up most of his concentration in Aesthetics, in which he focuses on how objects are interpreted, as well as the art history of the senses. The running too adds to his aesthetic studies, but in a more practical way. Though (or perhaps because of) from a small town of about 343 people he very much likes cities, particularly from the angle of the built and constructed aspects of cities, and also the relationship between cities and photography. By 2017 he hopes to continue his undergraduate studies in graduate school in areas concerning the body, sensory experience and interpretation.

Advisor: Purcell Carson

Jamie Simpson is a major in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, completing the Architecture and Engineering concentration. She is also obtaining certificates in Urban Studies and Environmental Studies. Jamie is interested in the surrounding effects of the built environment. At Princeton, she has incorporated these interests in her academic work— her thesis combines engineering, architecture, and urban and environmental studies. Next year, Jamie is planning to pursue her Master's in Structural Engineering.

Advisor: Maria Garlock

Sol Taubin is a major in Civil & Environmental Engineering with certificates in Urban Studies, Latin American Studies, and Environmental Studies. Interested in urban development, social justice, and environmental policy, she has been awarded grants from the Princeton Environmental Institute, Princeton Class of 1978 Foundation, and Princeton Council on Science & Technology to pursue independent projects relating to urbanization and socio-environmental justice in Mato Grosso, Brazil, Providence, RI, and the greater Buenos Aires region, in Argentina. On campus, Sol has served as a Fellow at the Carl A. Fields Center for Equality & Cultural Understanding for the last three years, as well as on the Undergraduate Student Government as a U-Councilor, co-founder of the Conversations Project and Diversity & Equity Committee, and lead on the Background & Opportunity Report. She has also been heavily involved with activism on campus, as a founding member of the Black Justice League and Latinx Collective, executive board member of Princeton Latinos y Amigos, and chair of the 2014 Latinx Ivy League Conference. Sol has worked as a research assistant for both the International Panel on Social Progress and the Science, Technology & Environmental Policy Programs at the Woodrow Wilson School, and been heavily involved with the Pace Center throughout her time at Princeton as well, serving as a program coordinator for Community House Crossings and the Big Sibs '16 Service Learning Initiative, and with various SVC groups at different points during her Princeton career.

Advisor: Peter Jaffe

Emily Wiebe is an Art and Archaeology concentrator with certificates in Urban Studies and American Studies. Originally from San Francisco, she has combined her interests in architecture and urban planning to explore how these combined factors affect citizens' experiences of cities. Specifically, she is interested in capital cities. Emily wrote her second Junior Paper on Brasília, Brazil's modernist ex nihilo capital and perceptions of the city based on its grand plan and photographs of its construction before exploring Washington, D.C.'s plan and its evolution over 120 years in her thesis. She is a member of the Princeton Women's Crew Team and an officer of Cloister Inn, her eating club.

Advisor: Esther da Costa Meyer

Zoë Zabor is a concentrator in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs obtaining a certificate in Urban Studies. Originally from New Jersey, Zoë has focused her studies on the intersection of urban planning policy, globalization, public space, and disaster mitigation. During her undergraduate years, she studied abroad at the London School of Economics and at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona. During her summers, Zoë worked in the fields of art media, urban research, consulting, and business analytics. Next year, Zoë will join IBM as a Global Business Services consultant in Manhattan. She hopes to continue her hobbies of high-altitude trekking and biking in her future travels.

Advisor: Aaron Shkuda