

Thomas Shay Hill

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Education

Ph.D., Urban Planning, Harvard Graduate School of Design <i>Ph.D. Secondary field: Computational Science and Engineering</i>	2016 – present
M.A., Urban Planning, Harvard Graduate School of Design	2018
B.A., Urban Studies, Columbia University	2012

Selected Publications

- Hill, Thomas.** "In absence of...alternatives." in *In Absence of...* Canadian Centre for Architecture, 2020. (Forthcoming).
- Picon, Antoine; **Thomas Hill.** "Is the city becoming computable?" *Architecture and the Smart City*. Eds. Sergio M. Figueiredo, Sukanya Krishnamurthy and Torsten Schroeder. Routledge 2020. (Forthcoming).
- Hill, Thomas.** "Northern Virginia: From 'Star Wars' to Cloud Wars." *The Metropole*, Urban History Association. February 6, 2019.
- Keenan, Jesse M., **Thomas Hill**, and Anurag Gumber. "Climate gentrification: from theory to empiricism in Miami-Dade County, Florida." *Environmental Research Letters* 13, no. 5 (2018): 054001.
- Hill, Thomas.** "REITs with Chinese Characteristics: China Socializes Securitization." *Harvard Real Estate Review*, May 15, 2017.
- Hill, Thomas.** "The Securitization of Security: Reorganization of Land, Military and State in the Pentagon's Backyard." *Journal of Urban History*. 2015, Vol. 41(I) 75-92.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University

Designing the American City

Spring 2018, 2019

Head Instructor: Professor Alex Krieger

Contact email: akrieger@gsd.harvard.edu

I taught two sections of 10 undergraduate students in this class, cross-listed between Harvard's Program in General Education and the Graduate School of Design. The course introduces students to the history, theory, and formal analysis of American cities. Our sections meet once a week. I guide students through the analysis and representation of indoor and outdoor spaces (paying attention to such features as light and shade, traffic flow, signage, and greenery) with an emphasis on practices used in architecture and urban planning. I was awarded the Harvard Distinction in Teaching Award by the Bok Center for my performance in this class in Spring 2018.

Theories of Landscape as Urbanism

Fall 2018, 2019

Head Instructor: Professor Charles Waldheim

Contact email: Waldheim@harvard.edu

I teach two sections of 20 students each in this lecture course in the Harvard Graduate School of Design's Masters of Landscape Architecture program. The course surveys historical and theoretical work of importance to the field of landscape architecture. In the lecture component of the class, I assembled and delivered three, 20-minute-long guest lectures on a specific case study illustrating the theoretical content explored in the

readings. In addition to guiding weekly discussion sections, I met individually with students to discuss topics and resources for their final research paper.

Geography: Private Tutorial

Spring 2018

Supervisor: Lisa Laskin, Director of Studies, Special Concentrations

Contact email: elaskin@fas.harvard.edu

I designed and taught an undergraduate private tutorial on the topic of Geography. The student was pursuing a special concentration in geography. Through consultation with the student, I assembled a detailed syllabus with theoretical and empirical works organized into different themes, designed to introduce this broad field. We met once a week for a two-hour discussion; assignments included weekly reading responses and a final reflection.

English for Design Summer Workshop, Lead Instructor

Summer 2017, 2018

Supervisor: John Aslanian, GSD Director of Student Affairs

Contact email: jjaslanian@gsd.harvard.edu

For two consecutive summers, I taught and co-managed the Graduate School of Design's English for Design Summer Workshop. The Summer Workshop is designed to prepare incoming foreign-language students enrolled in the GSD's master's programs for the school's culture of reading-intensive, discussion-based seminars. As Lead Instructor this past summer, I managed a team of three other teachers to update the course's curriculum to more thoroughly emphasize reading techniques, design school vocabulary, methods of visual and textual analysis, and critical thinking skills. The four of us worked collaboratively to identify important scholarly resources for the syllabus and to develop a set of classroom activities and strategies to induce critical discussion. I instituted an evaluation procedure for each session: after each class, I and the three other teachers documented each activity and its successes and failures, and recorded our general observations about class morale. I collected each of these evaluations into a course packet to serve as a foundation for future iterations of the summer workshop. Given the GSD's growing foreign student population, enrollment in English for Design is expected to increase continuously over the coming years; the resources and evaluation procedures I developed with my colleagues this past summer will serve as a mechanism to continuously improve the course.

Princeton in Asia / Singapore Ministry of Education

Fall 2012 – Fall 2013

Supervisor: Ms. Ng Swee Pheng

Contact email: Ng_Swee_Pheng@acjc.edu.sg

Through the Princeton in Asia Fellowship Program, I was given the opportunity to work as an International Education Officer with the Singapore Ministry of Education for a full academic year. I was given three months of teacher training and orientation in the Fall of 2012, before leading two classes of students through the first year of the A-level "General Paper" course at Anglo-Chinese Junior College. General Paper is a current events-based course, designed to foster university-level writing and critical thinking skills through engagement with relevant social, economic, and political issues. I used a combination of lectures, group discussion, small-group activities, audio-visual presentations, and guided individual work to prepare students for their future academic careers as well as for their end-of-year standardized A-level exam. All 39 of my students passed their A-level General Paper exam, against the national average of 94.8%. In addition to my classroom activities, I developed weekly lesson plans for general school use; helped design and implement school-wide curricula, essay topics, and forms of assessment; and delivered lectures on the political, social, and economic issues facing Singapore and the United States.

Professional Experience

Bok Center Learning Lab Fellow

2019 – present

Contact email: l davidson@g.harvard.edu

I am developing a series of tutorials on digital mapping software for use in Harvard College's Program in General Education (Gen Ed). I aim to produce easy-to-follow guides for working with datasets in a range of digital mapping platforms: Google Maps, ArcMap, QGIS, and Kepler.GL. My objective is to create tutorials that students working in the humanities and social sciences can use to complement more traditional forms of scholarship. I plan to integrate these tutorials into the curriculum of the Gen Ed course 'Designing the American City', for which I have been a teaching fellow for the last two years.

Founder, Zonigram

2018 – present

Zonigram is a platform for planners and other land use professionals to test the market effects of zoning laws. Users input the location, area and zoning laws governing a particular lot, and Zonigram determines what the market would deliver in terms of unit mix and pricing based on current market conditions. Users can then toggle the zoning laws for that lot (in terms of maximum building heights, FAR, etc.) to see the impact on the resulting unit mix. Zonigram was selected to participate in the Harvard Innovation Lab's highly competitive Venture Incubation Program in the 2018-2019 academic year.

GSAS Student Center Intellectual and Cultural Events Fellow

2018 – present

Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Contact email: zawalich@fas.harvard.edu

I manage the Intellectual and Cultural events of the GSAS Graduate Student Center (formerly Dudley House) alongside two of my colleagues in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. These events include film screenings, talks by visiting scholars, and various casual discussions on topics of interest to the graduate student community. I coordinate the 14 language tables affiliated with Dudley House, which typically meet weekly and are an opportunity for language learners or native speakers to converse with each other in their chosen language. Our most important events are our five Senior Common Room Dinners. At each of these dinners, we invite a Harvard faculty member to present on his or her research in front of an audience of thirty to forty members of the GSAS community.

Research Assistant to Professor Diane Davis, Harvard GSD

2017 – 2018

Contact email: DDavis@gsd.harvard.edu

I conduct historical research on the politics and economy of St. Louis and the surrounding region, focusing in particular on the period from the city's founding through post-Civil War Reconstruction. My work for Professor Davis has consisted so far of surveying and summarizing the vast body of scholarship in economic history, urban studies, and economic geography on the history of St. Louis and its hinterland; and of locating and summarizing usable primary source material from such sources as the U.S. Treasury Department, local and regional banks, railroad companies, and civic groups.

Research Assistant to Professor Jesse Keenan, Harvard GSD

2017 – 2018

Contact email: JKeenan@gsd.harvard.edu

I conduct statistical analyses on the property market of Miami-Dade County, Florida. My analysis bridges Excel, ArcGIS, Python and R, and has entailed a range of GIS, econometric and machine learning techniques. I have produced a large portfolio of data visualizations, written reports, and GIS maps to illustrate changes in the Miami-Dade property market as they relate to climate change and climate resilience infrastructure.

**Project Manager for DEP Solid Waste Overflow Project
Columbia School of International and Public Affairs**

2016

Supervisor: Ester Fuchs, Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs
Contact email: ef25@sipa.columbia.edu

As project manager of a project funded by New York City's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to analyze the source, quantity, and composition of solid waste overflow (specifically street litter) into New York City waterways, I managed a team of 8 students in collecting, organizing and conducting statistical analysis of data relating to solid waste overflow in New York City. I created a single database combining street-level survey data, climate data, demographic data from the US Census, and various public datasets in order to identify the variables affecting solid waste by location in NYC. I created a series of data visualizations and GIS maps to represent the variation in street-level solid waste across a range of variables and DEP-selected survey sites.

Research Analyst

2014 – 2016

Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group

Supervisor: Ryan Schleis, Vice President of Research and Analytics
Contact email: rschleis@corcoransunshine.com

As an analyst in Corcoran Sunshine's research and analytics team, I analyzed historical city-wide residential sales data to: identify areas of under- and over-supply in the residential real estate market; track various historical trends in the local real estate market; and produce data-driven research to allow clients to make informed decisions on property acquisition, development, and pricing. I built a number of new graphics, platforms and databases to improve our understanding of housing market dynamics in New York City over time.

Awards, Fellowships and Distinctions

Harvard Graduate Society Predissertation Summer Fellowship (2019)

Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) Doctoral Students Program (2019)

Harvard Bok Center Distinction in Teaching Award (Spring 2018, Spring 2019)

Harvard Graduate School of Design Real Estate Research Grant (2018)

Skills

Proficient in Python, R, Tableau, ArcGIS, and Microsoft Office Suite

Proficient in French, Spanish