

**Margaret M. Cowell, PhD.**  
**Curriculum Vitae**  
**2016**

**CONTACT**

Dept. of Urban Affairs and Planning  
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**EDUCATION**

- 2006 - 2010**            **Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**  
PhD in City and Regional Planning  
Dissertation: *Understanding Resilience Through Regional Responses to Economic Restructuring*  
Committee members: Rolf Pendall (Chair), Susan Christopherson, Kieran Donaghy
- 2002 – 2004**            **SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY**  
Master in Urban Planning  
Thesis: *Modifications on a Theory of Separation: Lessons from the Peacelines of Belfast, Northern Ireland* (Winner, Ibrahim Jammal Prize)  
Specialization in Urban Design
- 1998 – 2002**            **Brown University, Providence, RI**  
Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies  
Minor concentration in International Relations
- 2000**                    **University College Cork, Cork, Ireland, 2000**

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2010 to present**        **Assistant Professor**  
**Virginia Tech**  
Urban Affairs and Planning Program  
Coordinator – Economic Development Certificate
- 2009**                    **Instructor**  
**Cornell University**  
Department of City and Regional Planning, Freshman Writing Seminar
- 2006**                    **Adjunct Professor**  
**SUNY at Buffalo,**  
Lecturer in Department of Urban and Regional Planning

**2002 to 2004**      **Teaching Assistant**  
**SUNY at Buffalo**  
Teaching Assistant  
“Introduction to Urban Studies” and “Introduction to Urban Planning”

## **FUNDED RESEARCH**

- 2016 to present**      Appealing to the Authority of Data: Social Complexity, Fragmented Decision-making, and the Politics of Smart Cities.  
PIs: Susan Sterett, Adam Eckerd, Co-PIs: **Margaret Cowell**, M. Orr  
Sponsor: National Science Foundation  
Amount: \$200,000
- 2016 to present**      Smart, Sustainable, Small Cities (a partnership between Virginia Tech and Hollins University)  
PI: **Margaret Cowell**, Co-PI: Jon Bohland (Hollins University)  
Sponsor: Global Forum for Urban and Regional Resilience  
Amount: \$6,000
- 2015 to present**      Same Ecosystem, Different Entrepreneurs: A proposal to create and pilot an entrepreneurial ecosystem assessment  
PI: Sarah Lyon-Hill, Co-PIs: **Margaret Cowell**, John Provo, Scott Tate, Afroze Mohammed  
Sponsor: Kauffman Foundation  
Amount: \$45,000
- 2014 to present**      Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program (IGEP) in Disaster Resilience and Risk Management  
Co-PIs: **Margaret Cowell**, Yang Zhang, Robert Weiss, Christopher Zobel, Guney Olgun  
Sponsor: Virginia Tech, Graduate School  
Amount: \$20,000
- 2013 – 2016**      D.C. Initiative  
PI: Derek Hyra, Acting Chair: **Margaret Cowell**  
Sponsor: Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment  
Amount: \$100,000 over four years
- 2014 – 2015**      Fostering Community Resilience through Adaptive Learning in a Social Media Age  
PI: Yang Zhang, Co-PIs: **Margaret Cowell**, William Drake, Christopher Zobel, Yuhong Li  
Sponsor: Ridenour Faculty Forum, Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment  
Amount: \$20,000

- 2013 – 2014** Building a Common Language Around the Dynamic Resilience of Coastal Communities  
 PI: Chris Zobel, Co-PIs: **Margaret Cowell**, Guney Olgun, Yang Zhang, Robert Weiss  
 Sponsor: Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment  
 Amount: \$20,000
- 2012** Integrating Planning for Sustainable Economic Development and Transport: Lessons from Cities in Transition in Western Europe and the United States  
 Co-PIs: Ralph Buehler, **Margaret Cowell**  
 Sponsor: Institute for Society Culture and Environment  
 Amount: \$18,000
- 2010 to 2012** DC Innovation Strategy for St Elizabeths: District Planning and Implementation  
 PI: **Margaret Cowell** with Heike Mayer, John Provo  
 Sponsor: DC Office of Planning/Economic Development Administration  
 Amount: \$186,920
- 2012** Resilience of citizen engagement to local disasters.  
 Co-PIs: **Margaret Cowell**, Kevin Desouza  
 Sponsor: Institute for Society, Culture & Environment  
 Amount: \$20,000
- 2012** Building Resilient Regions Sub-award  
 PI: **Margaret Cowell**  
 Sponsor: UC Berkeley, MacArthur Foundation  
 Amount: \$10,000

## RESEARCH

- 2016 to present** **Appealing to the Authority of Data: Social Complexity, Fragmented Decision-making, and the Politics of Smart Cities**  
 Collaborative, interdisciplinary effort focused on small Virginia cities. Investigating how public officials collect, utilize, and interpret data at the local level. Funded by National Science Foundation.  
 PIs: Susan Sterett, Adam Eckerd, Co-PIs: Margaret Cowell, Mark Orr
- 2015 to present** **Smart, Sustainable, Small Cities** (a partnership between Virginia Tech and Hollins University)  
 The collaboration leverages the expertise of partners at Virginia Tech and Hollins University who are engaging in scholarship, outreach, and teaching focused on how small cities become more resilient and sustainable over the next two decades  
 Co-PIs: Jon Bohland and Margaret Cowell

- 2013 to present**      **Interdisciplinary Disaster Risk and Resilience**  
 Research team member  
 Collaborative interdisciplinary effort to produce a well-rounded understanding of the full complexity of disaster risk, resilience, and mitigation.  
 Co-PIs Margaret Cowell, Guney Olgun, Robert Weiss, Yang Zhang, Christopher Zobel, Virginia Tech
- 2013 to present**      **Vacant Properties Research Network**  
 Board member  
 Scholar and practitioner network on the regeneration of legacy cities.  
 Funded by Ford Foundation:  
 PI: Joseph Schilling, Virginia Tech
- 2005 to 2014**      **Building Resilient Regions**  
 Research Network Member  
 MacArthur Foundation Research Network  
 PI: Margaret Weir, UC Berkeley
- 2010 to 2012**      **St. Elizabeths Innovation Project**  
 In cooperation with District of Columbia Office of Planning and Carnegie Mellon University  
 Funded by US Economic Development Administration  
 PI: Margaret Cowell, Virginia Tech and Heike Mayer, University of Bern
- 2005 to 2010**      **Sprawl and Residential Preferences: Investigating and Building Educational Strategies on New Understandings of Sprawl and Land Use**  
 Research Assistant  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture. Hatch and Smith-Lever funds.  
 PI: Joseph LaQuattra, Jr., Cornell University.
- 2002 to 2004**      **Queen City Hub: A Regional Action Plan for Downtown Buffalo**  
 Research Assistant  
 Urban Design Project, SUNY at Buffalo

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2004 to 2006**      **Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Buffalo Branch**  
**Assistant Regional Economist**  
 Designed and conducted research pertaining to upstate New York's economy  
 Produced quarterly newsletter and other publications  
 Conducted outreach to be presented to Federal Reserve's Board of Governors

- 2002 to 2004**      **Urban Design Project (SUNY at Buffalo)**  
**Graduate Assistant**  
 Assisted in the written and visual preparation of report information for local projects  
 Conducted interviews with local and national planning leaders as part of precedence research
- 2003**              **Empire State Development Corporation**  
**Project Assistant**  
 Assisted in the development and maintenance of the Erie Canal Harbor Project plans for development  
 Facilitated public meetings, focus group meetings, information sessions and design charrettes
- 2003**              **AKRF**  
**Summer Associate**  
 Coordinated and conducted visual resources assessment of Wyoming County, NY
- 2001 to 2002**      **The Providence Plan**  
**Project Assistant**  
 Project Assistant for the Community Opportunity Zone Information Network (COZIN), an online information network developed for low-income Providence residents

## **AWARDS**

- 2016 Karen B. Smith Award from the American Planning Association**  
 Our 2015 diversity study was recognized (with APA Virginia) for Outstanding Outreach to the Community.
- 2015/2016 National Capital Region Faculty Association Outstanding Faculty Award and Lecture**
- National Association of Counties Dissertation Fellowship (2009-2010)**
- Cornell Graduate School PhD Fellowship (2007- 2010)**  
 Awarded full tuition and stipend for Doctoral studies at Cornell
- Cornell Graduate School Travel Fellowship (2008)**  
 Awarded funding to conduct research in Detroit, Michigan as part of dissertation fieldwork
- “Rising Star”, PolicyLink Conference and Travel Fellowship (2008)**  
 Selected to attend PolicyLink Regional Equity Summit as Rising Star delegation of graduate students
- Graduate Assistantship, SUNY at Buffalo (2002-2004)**  
 Awarded full tuition and stipend for two years

### **Ibrahim and Vivian Jammal Thesis Award (2004)**

Thesis recognition award for outstanding international research, focused on Belfast's "peaceline" walls

### **AmeriCorps Education Award Project (2001 – 2002)**

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Cowell, M.**, DeSouza, K. (in press). "Micro-scale Disasters and Local Resiliency." In James Bohland and Jack Harrald (Eds.), *The Resiliency Challenge: Transforming Theory to Action*. Charles C Thomas Press.

**Cowell, M.** Mayer, H. (2016). "Anchoring a Federal Agency in a Washington, DC Community: The Department of Homeland Security at St. Elizabeths." In Derek Hyra and Sabiyha Prince (Eds.), *Capital Dilemma: Growth and Inequality in Washington, DC*. Routledge.

**Cowell, M.**, Gainsborough, J, & Lowe, K. (2015). "Homogenized diversity: Economic visions in the Great Recession." *Journal of Urban Affairs*.

**Cowell M.** (2014). *Dealing with Deindustrialization: Adaptive Resilience in American Midwestern Regions*. Routledge.

**Cowell, M.**, Provo, J. (2014). Reshoring and the 'Manufacturing Moment'. In John Bryson, Jennifer Clark, Vida Vanchan (Ed.), *The Handbook of Manufacturing Industries in the World Economy*. Edward Elgar.

**Cowell, M.**, Mayer, H. (2013). Anchor Institutions and Disenfranchised Communities: Lessons for DHS and St. Elizabeths. In Robert Silverman and Kelly Patterson (Ed.), *Re-Thinking Revitalization in the Inner-City: Schools and Other Institutions in the Community Development Process*. Routledge.

**Cowell, M.** (2013). "Bounce Back or Move On: Regional Resilience and Economic Development Planning." *Cities*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2012.04.001>

**Cowell, M.** Gabriel, C., Khan, S., Mayer, H., & O'Brien, P. (2012). *DC Innovation Strategy for Saint Elizabeths*. Professional report. DC Office of Planning.

Mayer, H. & **Cowell, M.** (2012). Capital Cities as Knowledge Hubs: The Economic Geography of Homeland Security Contracting. In Ben DeRudder (Ed.), *Hub Cities in the Knowledge Economy*. Ashgate.

**Cowell, M.** (2012). In Bruce Goldstein (Ed.), Review of "Collaborative Resilience Moving Through Crisis to Opportunity". Columbus, OH: Journal of Planning Literature.

Pendall, R., Foster, K. & **Cowell, M.** (2010). "Resilience and Regions: Building Understanding of the Metaphor." *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 3(1): 71 - 84.

**Cowell, M.** (2010). "Polycentric Regions: Comparing Complementarity and Institutional Governance in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Randstad and Emilia-Romagna." *Urban Studies* 47(5): 945-965.

**Cowell, M.** (2005). "Prison Privatization: Frugal Funding or Investment Scam?" *Progressive Planning*, No. 163: 25-26.

**Cowell, M. & Deitz, R.** (2005). "How New York State's Agriculture Industry Is Staying Competitive" *The Regional Economy of Upstate New York*. Spring.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Cities in Transformation: Processes, Problems, and Policies Conference. "Mimicry and Diversification: Redevelopment Strategy in US Cities." University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, July 2016.

Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference. "Diversity and Planning in Virginia A survey of the current context in partnership with APA Virginia's Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee." San Diego, CA, March 2016.

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. "Regimes at the Fringe: Commodification in Virginia Wine Country." with Eckerd, A. (Author Only), Smart, H. (Author Only), Houston, TX, October 2015.

American Planning Association – Virginia Chapter Annual Conference. "Diversity within Virginia's planning profession." Norfolk, VA, July 2015.

Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference. "Resilience and Mimetic Behavior: Economic Visions in the Great Recession." Miami, FL, April 2015.

Ridenour Faculty Fellowship Conference. "Research Frontiers of Disaster Resilience: Adaptive Learning and Social Media." Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs Arlington, VA. October 2014.

Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference. "The Art of Adaptive Resilience." San Antonio, TX, April 2014.

Virginia Tech Research Symposium 2014, "Economic Restructuring and the Art of Adaptive Resilience." College of Architecture and Urban Studies, Blacksburg, VA, February 2014.

Bruner Loeb Forum on Legacy City Design, "Shrinking Cities in Comparative Perspective." Detroit, MI, November 2013.

Remaking Cities Conference, "Shrinking Cities, Possibilities."Carnegie Mellon University, Remaking Cities Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2013.

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference- Association of European Schools of Planning. "Resilient Urban Regeneration: Situating the Manchester Case." Dublin, Ireland. July 2013.

10 Years of Building Resilient Regions Research Network. "Homogenized Diversity: Economic Visions in the Great Recession" Urban Institute, Washington, DC. June 2013.

Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference. "Sustainable Economic Development and Transport Options for Cities in Transition: Lessons from Buffalo, Lille, and Manchester." San Francisco, CA. April 2013

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference. "The Integration of Planning for Sustainable Transport and Economic Development in Cities in Transition: Buffalo, New York and Lille, France." Cincinnati, OH, November 2012.

Virginia Tech's 3rd Annual Conference on Community Resilience. "Social Media in Community Resilience: A Reality Check?" Davos, Switzerland, August 2012

Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference. "Capital Cities and Anchor Institutions: Anchoring a Federal Agency in the Local Community." Pittsburgh, PA, April 2012

Association of American Geographers Annual Conference. "Capital City Washington, DC: Challenges and Opportunities in Anchoring a Federal Agency in the Local Community", New York, NY, February 2012

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference. "Anchor Institutions and Disenfranchised Communities: Lessons from DHS and St. Elizabeths" Salt Lake City, UT, October 2011

Faculty Research Symposium, College of Architecture and Urban Studies at Virginia Tech, "Innovation Cluster at St. Elizabeths: Leveraging the Homeland Security Economy" Blacksburg, VA, February 2011

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference, "To Bow Out, Bid Down or Bet on the Basics? Understanding Regional Economic Development Responses to Deindustrialization in the Midwestern US" Minneapolis, MN, October 2010

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference, "Responding to Economic Shocks: Elements of Regional Resilience in Metropolitan Detroit" Crystal City, VA, October 2009

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference, "Polycentric Regions: Comparing Economic Complementarity and Institutional Governance in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Randstad, and Emilia-Romagna" Chicago, IL, July 2008

MacArthur Foundation Network on Building Resilient Regions, "Economic Development Decisions and Resilience: Detroit Case Study" Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH, July 2008.

QUCAN Research Conference, "Comparing Complementarity in Polycentric Regions" Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, June 2008.

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference, "The Rust Belt's Pre-deindustrialization Innovation Level: A good corollary of its performance today?" Milwaukee, WI, October 2007



PhD Jamboree, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Graduate student symposium on dissertation research, June 2007.

MacArthur Foundation's Building Resilient Regions, "Regional Resilience: Building Clarity for a Potentially Fuzzy Concept" UC Berkeley, CA, February 2007.

QUCAN Conference on Collaborative Cross-Atlantic Research, discussant on Rural Change panel, Inverness, Scotland, March 2007.

Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference, co-discussant with Rolf Pendall for panel on "Regional Resilience and Leadership" in Ft. Worth, Texas, November 2006.

Upstate APA Annual Conference, presented paper on "*Rural Sprawl in Upstate NY: Observations on Residential Development and Housing Prices.*" September 2006.

## **COMMITTEES AND SERVICE**

**American Planning Association, Economic Development Division**, Student Award Committee Chair (ongoing)

**Virginia Tech, College of Architecture and Urban Studies**, Diversity Committee (ongoing)

**Virginia Tech, Urban Affairs and Planning Program**, MURP Admissions Committee (ongoing)

**Virginia Tech, Urban Affairs and Planning Program**, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2012-2014)

**Cornell University, Department of City and Regional Planning**, Curriculum Committee (2006-2010)

**Women's Planning Forum**, Advisory Committee (2006-2010)  
Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University

**Great Lakes Building Reuse Conference (2008)**  
Organizing committee and panelist, Buffalo, NY

**Planning Students of Color, Advisory Committee (2007)**  
Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University

**"My Neighborhood Marathon" coordinator and co-founder (2007)**  
Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, annual event

**Allentown Association, Board Member (2003-2005)**

**Intersight Journal, Selection Committee (2002 - 2004)**  
University at Buffalo's architecture and planning journal