I-City: Information and Communication Technologies for Urban Planners:

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ABSTRACT

ICT is becoming a new specialization in the field of urban planning, alongside well-established specialties such as transport planning, land use planning, the planning of housing, or the more recent specialty of planning for sustainable development. It is today impossible to imagine any viable urban development plan that does not integrate ICT in one way or another.

The Urban Planning Program at Columbia University is at the forefront of the emerging field of "Social Communication Planning". This Spring Columbia will be the first American University to offer a planning course focusing on the urban impact of ICT. We suggest that:

> *Social Communication Planning should address the closely interrelated issues of the technological infrastructure and the cultural infrastructure needed for the more effective functioning of a democratic, collaborative social communication process that supports a high quality of life within an open society.*

Much of the drive to open this field of study has steamed from students' initiatives such as the Trading Places Network and the Urban Image Network. Both are projects undertaken by Columbia University Urban Planning students aiming at exchanging ideas and information with other students globally. Trading Places uses the Internet to coordinate traveling conferences in cities around the world (including Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo, New York, Toronto, Mexico City, Bogotá, Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris, and Lisbon), promoting physical exchange and networking. The Urban Image Network is a free gallery of images of cities around the world to be launched this fall.

About myself: I recently graduated from the Masters Program in Urban Planning. As a student I was an active member of the Trading Places Network. I am currently working as a researcher and assistant instructor in the Program. My research areas are communication planning, and the informal economy. I maintain the website on the Urban Planning Program, manage the Urban Image Network project, and work on the new Social Communication Planning course with Professor Thomas Vietorisz.