

**MEREDITH DRAKE REITAN**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

University of Southern California  
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**EDUCATION**

- 2010 Ph.D., Policy, Planning and Development, Price School of Public Policy  
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2009 Graduate Certificate in Visual Studies, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences,  
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 MPL Urban Design and Preservation, Price School of Public Policy  
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- 1992 BA, Spanish Literature  
University of California, Santa Cruz, CA

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

- Jul 2014 – present Associate Dean, Graduate School  
Office of the Provost, University of Southern California
- Apr 2011 - Jul 2014 Assistant Dean, Graduate School  
Office of the Provost, University of Southern California
- Oct 2010 – Apr 2011 Director, Annenberg Fellowship Program  
Office of the Provost, University of Southern California
- Sep 2004 – Dec 2005 Associate Director, Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics  
Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
University of Southern California

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Articles

- 2018 “Kevin Lynch in Los Angeles: Reflections on Planning, Politics and Participation” with Tridib Banerjee *Journal of the American Planning Association* Special Issue, 84:3-4, 217-229 [DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2018.1524307](https://doi.org/10.1080/01944363.2018.1524307)
- 2016 “A Cloud Burst Erupts: Visual Rhetoric and Los Angeles’ Grand Intervention” *Journal of Urban Design* Vol. 21: 6, 802-815, [DOI: 10.1080/13574809.2016.1184563](https://doi.org/10.1080/13574809.2016.1184563)
- 2015 “Picturing Planning: A World Worthy of a New Yorker Cover” *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research* Vol. 32: 3, 199-216
- 2014 “Beauty Controlled: The Persistence of City Beautiful Planning in Los Angeles” *Journal of Planning History* Vol.13: November, 296-321 [DOI: 10.1177/1538513213508078](https://doi.org/10.1177/1538513213508078)

### Book Chapters

- 2015 “Cultural Acropolis” in *Bunker Hill in the Rearview Mirror: The Rise, Fall, and Rise Again of an Urban Neighborhood*, Christina Rice and Emma Roberts, Editors Los Angeles Public Library
- 2012 “Regulating Visual Blight”, “The City as Textbook”, “Tinker Toy Urbanism”, “The Politics of Food and Culture”, “Planning a Great Civic Park” and “Finding Public Space on Private Beaches” in *Planning Los Angeles*, David C. Sloane, Editor, APA Planners Press, Chicago
- 2007 “Historic Preservation Overlay Zones in Los Angeles: Progressive Tools for Neighborhood Development?” in *Hoffnungsträger Zivilgesellschaft? Governance, Nonprofits und Stadtentwicklung in den Metropolregionen der USA*, Uwe Altröck, Heike Hoffmann, Barbara Schönig, Editors Reihe Planungsrundschau, Berlin

### Review Essays

- 2020 “Makers Mark: New Works Deepen the Field of Suburban History” (2020) *Journal of Planning History*. Vol I (6) August <https://doi.org/10.1177/1538513220946035>
- 2020 “Model, Medium and Metaphor: Planning and Design Confront the Natural World” (2020) *Journal of Urban History*, April <https://doi.org/10.1177/0096144220916193>
- 2011 “Visualizing Cities, Past and Present” (2011) *Journal of Planning History*, Vol.10 (2): 164-170. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1538513211405151>

## Other Publications

- 2021 “Before Downtown L.A.’s High Rises, Bunker Hill Was Simply Home” *KCET Lost LA* Blog (July 6, 2021) <https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/before-downtown-l-a-s-high-rises-bunker-hill-was-simply-home>
- 2018 “The Los Angeles Music Center” invited contribution to the Society of Architectural Historians Archipedia site. <https://sah-archipedia.org/detail/content/entries/CA-01-037-0085.xml>
- 2017 “Preserving Law and Order” (September 20, 2017) *Metropole*, invited contribution as part of the *Disciplining the City Series* for the Urban History Association <https://themetropole.blog/2017/09/20/preserving-law-and-order-the-fight-for-los-angeles-parker-center/>
- 2017 Various popular history posts on Los Angeles’ built environment for *KCET’s Lost LA Series* in collaboration with USC’s LA as Subject. <https://www.kcet.org/author/meredith-drake-reitan>
- 2014 “A Planner’s Guide to History: When Wikipedia is Not Enough” (August 31, 2014) *APA Los Angeles Chapter Blog* <http://apalosangeles.org/a-planners-guide-to-historic-research/>

## FUNDED RESEARCH AND AWARDS

### Bunker Hill Refrain

2021 Ahmanson Lab, Sidney Harman Academy for Polymathic Study Collaboratory

Role: Co-Director

Award Amount: \$10,000

Period of Grant: 8/1/2021 – 6/30/2022

2021 USC Undergraduate Research Associates Program

Role: Key Personnel

Award Amount: \$4,400

Period of Grant: 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022

2020 USC Libraries Research Grant

Role: Key Personnel

Award Amount: \$3,000

Period of Grant: 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021

2020 USC School of Architecture Faculty Research Grant

Role: Principal Investigator

Award Amount: \$2,700

Period of Grant: 5/2020 – 6/30/2021

## **Burnett C. Turner Architecture Collection Finding Aid and Exhibition**

2021 Haynes Foundation Archival Grant

Role: Key Personnel with El Pueblo Park Association & City of Los Angeles

Award Amount: \$10,000

Grant Period: 4/5/2021 - 11/12/2021

## **Other Fellowships and Awards**

- 2020 Information Literacy Course Enhancement Grant, USC Libraries
- 2018 John Nolan Research Award, Cornell University Library
- 2010 Historical Society of Southern California, Haynes Award
- 2010 University of Southern California Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
- 2010 ACSP Student Scholars Travel Award
- 2009 Historical Society of Southern California, Haynes Award
- 2009 Oakley Fellowship, USC Graduate School
- 2009 Research Award, Visual Studies Graduate Certificate Program
- 2007 Research Award, Visual Studies Graduate Certificate Program
- 2007 California Council for the Humanities, Digital Dove Fellowship

## **INVITED LECTURES AND TALKS**

- 2020 *More than Municipal Housekeepers: Women's Clubs and the Birth of City Planning in Los Angeles*. Inaugural Betty Croly Memorial Lecture, American Planning Association, California Chapter Conference. September 14, 2020
- 2014 *Art and Billboards: What Do We Want the City of Los Angeles to Look Like?* Westside Urban Forum
- 2012 *A Civic Center in Splendid Isolation: Visualizing the Boundaries of Public Space in Los Angeles*, American Planning Association, Los Angeles Chapter, Wednesdays at the Mercado Conversations
- 2009 *Shaping LA: Maps for Planning, Developing and Resisting the City*, a panel discussion in support of the Photocartographies Exhibition, g727 Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2007 *Towards Creative and Entertaining Cities: Recent Trends in Urban Redevelopment in Berlin and Los Angeles*. ThinkCity, Sponsored by the Center for Metropolitan Studies, Berlin, Germany

## **CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

### **Conferences Organized**

- 2016 Program Committee, Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Cleveland, OH

2015 Chair, Local Host Committee, Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Los Angeles, CA

### **Panels Convened**

2020 *The Didactic Landscapes of Democracy: Theorizing Civic Space in the United States*, Urban History Association, Detroit, MI (Postponed)

2015 *Los Angeles History 2.0: Place-Based Stories in the Digital Age* Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Los Angeles, CA

2013 *From Slums to Smog: The Visual Rhetoric of Urban Problems and Planning Solutions* with Steve Moga, Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Toronto

### **Papers**

2021 “Bunker Hill Refrain: Exploring New Digital Tools for Public History” Works in Progress, Vernacular Architecture Forum, Virtual Conference and Annual Meeting

2021 “Bunker Hill Refrain: Exploring New Digital Tools for Public History and Crowdsourcing” California Preservation Foundation Conference

2019 “Polishing A Diamond: Public Space and Institutional Collaboration in Late-Twentieth Century Los Angeles,” Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Arlington, VA

2018 “Kevin Lynch in Los Angeles: Reflections on Planning, Politics and Participation” with Tridib Banerjee. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Buffalo, NY

2017 “Preserving Law and Order: Losing Parker Center”, Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Cleveland, OH

2015 “Public Space and the Images of Urban Design: Downtown Los Angeles since Kevin Lynch” with Tridib Banerjee, Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Los Angeles, CA

2013 “Graphs and Glooms in the Lost City: The Visual Rhetoric of Smog in Los Angeles,” Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Toronto Canada

2012 “The Planner’s Eye: Digital Visualization Tools in Planning and Urban Design Practice,” Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Cincinnati, OH

2011 “A Civic Center in Splendid Isolation: Visualizing the Boundaries of Public Space in Los Angeles,” Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Baltimore, MD

- 2010 “A Cloud Burst Erupts: Visual Mash-ups and Los Angeles’ Grand Intervention,” Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Minneapolis, MN
- 2009 “Image as Argument: Exploring the Visual Practices of Planning” Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Crystal City, VA
- 2009 “The Rhetoric of Representation: Visualizing Art & Science in Plans for a Civic Center in LA” Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Oakland, CA
- 2007 “Views, Visions and Visuality: Building Place Reflexivity into Planning Theory” with Tridib Banerjee, Association of European Schools of Planning Conference, Naples, Italy
- 2007 “Insurgent and Emergent Citizenship in MacArthur Park” Society for American City and Regional Planning History,

## **TEACHING AND STUDENT ADVISING**

### **Adjunct Associate Professor**

University of Southern California

School of Architecture

Heritage Conservation Policy and Planning (Sp 2019, Sp 2020, Sp 2021)

Price School of Public Policy

Planning History and Theory for a Just Society (Fa 2020)

Shaping the Built Environment (Fa 2017, Fa 2018, Fa 2021)

Planning Theory (Fa 2015, Fa 2016)

Public Space: Theory, Policy and Design (Sp 2011, Sp 2012, Sp 2013)

### **Thesis Committee Member**

Lindsey Mulchahy, *Preservation ‘On the Natch’: Maintenance and Remembrance at the Alcoholism Center for Women*, Master of Heritage Conservation Program, University of Southern California, School of Architecture, anticipated graduation: Fall 2021

Erik Van Breene, *Title TBD*, Master of Heritage Conservation Program, University of Southern California, School of Architecture, anticipated graduation: Fall 2021

Yi Xiao, *Using the UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape Framework: A Case Study of the Pico-Union Neighborhood*, Master of Heritage Conservation Program, University of Southern California, School of Architecture, anticipated graduation: Fall 2021

Zitong Bao, *Heritage Justice*, Master of Heritage Conservation Program, University of Southern California, School of Architecture, Fall 2021

Julia Ressler, *The Combined Power of Adaptive Reuse and Boutique Hotels: A Case Study of the Superior Oil Company Building's Conversion to the Standard Downtown LA Hotel*, Master of Heritage Conservation Program, University of Southern California, School of Architecture, Fall 2020

Kim Tashman, *Weddington Golf: A Case Study in Cultural Relevance and Open Green Space*, Master of Heritage Conservation Program, University of Southern California, School of Architecture, Fall 2020

Lannette Schwartz, *Conserving Historic Commercial Signs in Hollywood, California*, Master of Heritage Conservation Program, University of Southern California, School of Architecture, Spring 2016. Current position: State Historian, California State Parks

### **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

- 2021 Member, Laurence Gerckens Prize for Teaching Excellence and Leadership Committee, Society of City and Regional Planning History
- 2020-present Reviewer, *Southern California Quarterly*
- 2019-present Board Member, Society of City and Regional Planning History
- 2019 Member, Catherine Bauer Wurster Prize Committee, Society of City and Regional Planning History
- 2018-present Reviewer, American Association for University Women, Career Development Grants
- 2013-present Reviewer, National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship Program

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- 2017-present Vice President and Board Member, El Pueblo Park Association
- 2016-2018 AIA|LA Professional Volunteer Program, LA City Planning
- 2010-2015 Board Member and Chair, Preservation Committee Hollywood Heritage, Inc.