UC Berkeley
Berkeley Planning Journal

Title
DCRP Class of 2008

Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1k69p8s8

Journal
Berkeley Planning Journal, 21(1)

Author
Editor, BPJ

Publication Date
2008

DOI
10.5070/BP321112745

Copyright Information

Recent Doctoral Dissertations, Master's Theses, Professional, and Client Reports

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The Politics of Benevolence: Homeless Policy in San Francisco

Stacey Murphy
Spring 2008

Abstract

Faced with the highest per-capita rate of homelessness in the country, San Francisco has struggled to address its homeless problem for more than twenty years. Until recently, the city relied primarily upon criminalization tactics to manage the problem, issuing criminal citations for sleeping outside, loitering, panhandling, and other activities. In 2003, the newly elected mayor, Gavin Newsom, ushered in a new policy regime designed to "truly help" the City's homeless: converting cash assistance into housing and services, phasing out troubled shelters, and involving non-homeless residents in large, city-coordinated volunteer initiatives. Although still deeply contested, these programs have transformed the city's system of homeless service delivery and have been hailed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a nationally replicable model of best practice. My research uses the case of San Francisco's system of homeless services to examine the emergence of a new paradigm of American poverty management and its material implications for the city's homeless. Relying upon an in-depth case study methodology consisting of semi-structured, participant and non-participant observation, and archival research, I have learned that, while the benevolence embodied in San Francisco's current approach mitigates some of the harsher aspects of prior interventions, it nonetheless introduces a set of exclusions to the realm of homeless policy, including new definitions of the deserving and undeserving poor, institutional mechanisms of control, and geographies of homeless marginalization.

Computers and the Promise of Development

Joyojeet Pal
Spring 2008

Abstract

ICTD, an acronym increasingly common in international development circles, refers to Information and Communications Technologies for Development. Since the mid-1990s, technology projects aimed at human resource development in underserved regions of the developing world have comprised an important portion of development spending. This dissertation explores the origins of interest in technology and regional development to place the current discourse of enthusiasm with technology as a means of poverty alleviation in historical perspective. To approach this question, I look at public computer access projects to evaluate the impacts of such technology deployments, and create a narrative of ideas on technology, specifically computers, that such projects encounter in the field. I use empirical evidence from three projects - the first, a computer center project in the slums of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the second, an e-literacy telecenter project in Kerala, India, and last, a computer-aided learning project in public primary schools in Karnataka, India. Despite the initial projections of enthusiasm about computers, many projects like the three studied here did not get the kind of sustained usage from community members, especially adults, as they had expected. This dissertation shows the gap between such stated preferences for computer-related projects in rural areas among local residents and the post-deployment usage, and finds the lack of immediate livelihood relevance is a key impeding factor in technology adoption. The supporting research on narratives about technology documents an environment of great mystique and expectation about the potential of technology to transform lives in rural areas of India. This discourse around technology feeds into the enthusiasm with which such projects are welcomed into communities. In conclusion, this dissertation proposes that the rural enthusiasm about computers is a reflection of an aspirational urban discourse both in India, and in a newly emerging development community worldwide that sees technology as playing an important role in reducing critical gaps in development.

Defining, Measuring, and Quantifying Path Walkability, and Testing Its Impact on Transit Users' Mode Choice and Walking Distance to the Station

Sungjin Park
Spring 2008

Abstract

The major purpose of this research is to test the effects of street-level urban design attributes on travel behavior. There are two goals: (1) operationalizing path walkability, which includes developing a walkability measurement instrument and quantifying path walkability, and (2) testing the effect of path walkability on transit users' access mode choice and walking distance to the station.

A case study was conducted in the station area of Mountain View, California. In 2005, three different surveys were done. A station user survey was conducted by distributing self-administered, mail-back questionnaires to the entering transit users at the gates of the station. The user survey collected access mode choices, trip origins, and socio-economic data from 249 transit users who provided their routes. A walker perception survey was conducted with 68 transit users who walked to the station. This on-board survey asked them to score their walking routes. Based on the routes identified by both surveys, this research selected 270 street segments. For each segment, 30 street elements were measured by using a two-page survey instrument. The surveyed street data produced more than 40 path walkability indicators.

The first part of this dissertation conducted a factor analysis with the path walkability indicators derived from the 249 surveyed routes, and found four path walkability factors: "sidewalk amenities," "traffic impacts," "street scale and enclosure," and "landscaping elements." With the four factor scores as new variables, a pair of logit analyses was conducted. All four path walkability variables significantly influence transit users' mode choice decision – good walkability increases the transit users' chance of walking over driving to the station. The second part created a composite walkability index based on the walker perception survey result. The walkability index was also tested in mode choice models, which confirmed that good path walkability increases the chance of walking. The third part conducted a regression analysis of transit users' walking distance, and found that a traveler's walking distance increased by more than 300 feet for every 0.5 increase in the composite walkability

score. This research also found a donut-shaped critical walking zone, where walkability mattered more.

MASTER OF CITY PLANNING

Mason Austin, *Client Report*
Diaspora as Urban Policy: A Dispersal Simulation Model for Minneapolis-St. Paul, Philadelphia, and the San Francisco Bay Area

Fred Bauermeister, *Client Report*
Looking Forward: The 2008 Habana Vieja Development Strategy

Jaclene Begley, *Professional Report*
Hotel Ownership Structure in a Changing International Tourism Environment

Laura Cacho, *Client Report*
Asset Management of the City of Emeryville's Homeownership Loan Programs and Below Market Rate Units

Marissa Ellis Plouin, *Professional Report*
Petaluma General Plan Update: Fiscal Impacts of the Draft General Plan 2025

Peter Frankel, *Professional Report*
Modeling Regional Development in the Visitacion/Guadalupe Valley Watershed

Trudy Garber, *Professional Report*
Fresh Kills Landfill to Landscape: Communicating with the Public Sector

Bradley Goya, *Professional Report*
Work-based Learning and Social Enterprise for Learning Projects as Strategies for Developing Meaningful City-School Partnerships

Jedidiah Horne, *Client Report*
> **Models of Civic Participation in Recovery Planning Post-Katrina: A Tale of Two Neighborhoods**

Vinita Huang, *Client Report*
> **Urban Waterfront Promenades and Physical Activity: San Francisco**

Yoshifumi Komada, *Client Report*
> **A Study of the Growth and Decline of Suburban Employment Centers in the San Francisco Bay Area**

Alissa Kronovet, *Professional Report*
> **Youth Participation in the Civic Process - A Case Study in Emeryville, CA**

Alexis Lynch, *Client Report*
> **Connecting Transportation Funding and Smart Growth: State and Regional Best Practices**

Jme McLean, *Professional Report*
> **Leveraging Urban Planning and Development Strategies to Advance Public Health: A Study of Emerging Practices in the San Francisco Bay Area**

Jason Meggs, *Professional Report*
> **Sidewalk and Bikeway Feasibility Study, Hearst Ave from Arch to Euclid, North Campus, UC Berkeley**

Justin Mortensen, *Client Report*
> **Dwell@901: A case study in building workforce housing in the Bay Area**

Tessa Munekiyo, *Client Report*
> **Neighborhood Parks as Social Seams in Mixed-Income Communities: A Case Study of Garfield Square Park**

Anh Nguyen, *Thesis*
> **Mapping the Spatial Patterns of Vietnamese Communities**

Kristin Perkins, *Thesis*
   The Geography of Foreclosure in Contra Costa County, California

Dana Perls, *Professional Report*
   Community Organizing with California's "Show Me the Water Laws"

Sebastian Petty, *Professional Report*
   Improving Performance on AC Transit's 51 Bus Line: Assessing External Sources of Delay and Evaluating Potential Solutions

Jennifer Phelps-Quinn, *Client Report*
   Chinatown in a New Era: An Economic Development and Tourism Strategy for Chinatown, San Francisco

Maxwell Richardson, *Professional Report*
   Establishing a Broader Analysis Framework for the Impacts of Walking as a Travel Mode

Rebecca Sanders, *Professional Report*
   The Effects of Transportation Corridors' Features on Driver and Pedestrian Behavior and Community Vitality

Gregory Siebert, *Professional Report*
   Safe Routes to School in Albany: Model Programs for the Pedestrian Master Plan

Eric Simundza, *Professional Report*
   Economic Development Marketing in an Information Era

Krute Singa, *Professional Report*
   Travel and Spending Patterns of Visitors to Major Shopping Districts in the San Francisco Bay Area

Brooke Ray Smith, *Thesis*
   Re-Thinking Wastewater Landscapes: Constructed Wetlands for Urban-Ecological Mutualism in San Francisco

Hagerenesh Solomon, *Client Report*
   International Planning and Development Programs: Johannesburg, South Africa

Peter Stair, *Professional Report*
   How to Create and Implement Healthy General Plans

Trina Walker, *Client Report*
   **The Affordable Housing Symphony: A developer's resource
   guide to low-income rental housing**

Jane Wardani, *Thesis*
   Stewardship Stories for Watershed Justice

Rebecca Whitney, *Professional Report*
   **A Cost Analysis of the Photovoltaic Systems on Oak Street
   Terrace, Sacramento Senior Homes, and Ashby Lofts**

Anja Wodsak, *Thesis*
   **Building Arts, Building Community? Informal Arts Districts and
   Neighborhood Change in Oakland, CA**