



SAPER End of Project Meeting

Wednesday 9 December 2020





Welcome!



Discussion blocks

▶ **Block 1: The SAPER project from start to end**

- ▶ The SAPER project: from start to end (Lauren)
- ▶ Reflective journey 1- What we learnt & achieved (Lorena & Rouve)
- ▶ Reflective journey 2- What we found & achieved (David & Phil)

Q&A

▶ **Block 2: Being a planning educator and practitioner in South Africa... A zoom into the key results of the SAPER project**

- ▶ Planning success and failures of planning education and practice in South Africa (Stuart)
- ▶ SAPER end of project (South Africa) (Stuart)
- ▶ Key Lessons (Elsona, Martin, Verna & Stuart)

Q&A

▶ **Block 3: Future research directions and collaborations (Open Debate)**

The SAPER project: from start to end



An amazing scientific and human journey

- ▶ We started in February 2017! Initially for 30months
- ▶ Changes in the leadership team, new additions, careers' moves, no babies but two weddings 😊
- ▶ Partners and Advisory Group: always there... Thank you!
- ▶ Set-backs and adjustments (incl. COVID-19)



What we aimed ... and tweaked a little bit:

- ▶ The project's addresses five key objectives:

O1: To investigate the social and economic value of planning education in SA particularly questions of equity and diversity in HE destination choices, graduation rates and employability outcomes.

- ▶ **O2:** To deconstruct how the development and delivery of the urban planning undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum addresses issues raised by a changing post-colonial context in SA.

- ▶ **O3:** Drawing on O2, to assess to what extent issues raised by a changing colonial context is considered and addressed in the UK undergraduate and postgraduate planning curriculum. By doing so and reflecting on lessons from O1, the research will explore the implications for urban planning lecturers in the UK when working with students from Africa and the wider Global South.



What we aimed ... and tweaked a little bit:

- ▶ The project's addresses five key objectives:

O4: To create a platform for ideas-sharing between SA academics, professionals and students across the world in order to connect and inform curriculum shaping, teaching methods and wider HE strategies for planning education (especially via SACPLAN)

- ▶ **O5:** To develop a set of evidence-based resources for HE planning strategies that can address the Global South challenge in SA and across the wider continent.



What we achieved

- ▶ In 2017, we undertook a survey with 219 planning practitioners across the country, with questions ranging from concerns relating to work satisfaction, to rank the usefulness of planning competencies learned in planning accredited courses.
- ▶ In 2018, we undertook 89 interviews with SA planners across the country, in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.
- ▶ In 2018, we conducted 13 interviews with planning educators teaching on RTPI-accredited planning courses in the UK coupled with an online survey (Seventy-two responses)
- ▶ Supported the data collection for 4 PHDs

What we achieved

- ▶ The SAPER project has been focusing on understanding the needs and challenges of planning practitioners in South Africa, and what implications this has for planning education, before and after graduation.
- ▶ Urban planning is considered as a scarce skill in the country and is playing a key role in tackling spatial and social segregation, inherited from apartheid, while addressing other challenges (e.g. housing provision, health and wellbeing).

What we achieved

- ▶ We have been identifying gaps in the training provision, pre and post-graduation and developing a range of recommendations in order to better address skill shortages, the unbalanced distribution of planners across the country and find ways to better support and mentor early-career practitioners.
- ▶ The profession is already suffering from a shortage of qualified planners and not doing anything will reinforce this gap, with planners quitting the profession due to lack of support and motivation.



What we achieved

- ▶ We produced a range of outputs from:
 - ▶ Academic papers (Urban Studies, Regional Studies, Town Planning Review, Planning Practice and Research, ...)
 - ▶ Book chapters
 - ▶ International and local conference presentations
 - ▶ Videos (available on the SAPER website): e.g. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4Mw_9Y1qQU&feature=youtu.be
 - ▶ Platform for international student collaboration: <http://www.saperproject.com/collaborate.html>
 - ▶ CAP good practice platform: <https://www.commonwealth-planners.org/good-practice-platform>
 - ▶ SACPLAN discussion forum (soon available)

Commonwealth Association of Planners good practice platform

Developed in association with the SAPER project

Interactive guide to planning projects [f](#) [t](#) [l](#)



CAP Awards 2020

CAP YP Essays 2020

CAP Members

CAP Awards 2019

CAP YP Essays 2019



Aditya Varm



Wendy Jo Mifsud



Kloe Ng



Maddi Marks



Ezekiel Ufuoma Lucky



Ojelade Olumuyiw



Esri, HERE, FAO, NOAA



SAPER dedicate webpage on SACPLAN website

The screenshot displays the SACPLAN website interface. At the top, the browser address bar shows 'sacplan.org.za'. The website header includes the SACPLAN logo and navigation links: HOME, ABOUT US, LATEST NEWS, DOWNLOADS (highlighted in orange), CONTACT US, and LOGIN. A search icon is also present.

On the left side, there is a vertical menu with orange buttons for various services: COVID-19 Documentation and Information, Jobs, SACPLAN Newsletters, Town and Regional Planning Journal, Resources / Forums, Tariff of Professional Fees, Registered Planners, Verify Registration Certificate, Links, Voluntary Associations, and Bursaries.

The main content area features the SAPER logo, which consists of a silhouette of a city skyline above the letters 'SAPER'. Below the logo is an orange button labeled 'Visit SAPER website'.

Three article listings are shown, each with a 'View document' button:

- Article – Theory versus Practice in Planning Education: The View from South Africa (S. P. Denoon-Stevens, L. Andres, P. Jones, L. Melgaço, R. Massey & V. Nel)**
- Article – Planning, temporary urbanism and citizen-led alternative-substitute place-making in the Global South (Lauren Andres, Hakeem Bakare, John R. Bryson, Winnie Khaemba, Lorena Melgaço & George R. Mwaniki)**
- Article – Negotiating polyvocal strategies: Re-reading de Certeau through the lens of urban planning in South Africa**

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Key knowledge contributions

- ▶ Some of the key themes this project has tackled include:
 - ▶ the role of power relations in planning,
 - ▶ success and failure of planning reform post-apartheid,
 - ▶ development control,
 - ▶ challenges for young graduates and issues around professional continuous developments,
 - ▶ alternatives and temporary forms of planning and severe resource discrepancies between major urban centres and the rest of the country.



Practical contributions

- ▶ Engagements with SACPLAN, SAPI, South African Local Government Association (SALGA), CAP
- ▶ Briefing notes (on SAPER website)
- ▶ Events (including latest end-of-project event in South Africa)



What we are still doing

- ▶ Connecting with other research projects:
 - ▶ ASAP-East Africa; African Centre for Cities (Cities of Integrity: Urban Planning and Corruption in Africa), COVID-19 Lebanon
 - ▶ COVID-19/Health initiatives (TPR " Calling for responsible inclusive planning and healthy cities in Africa" <https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/cp-cloudpublish-public/p6/5f64bc3be7d2e.pdf>)
 - ▶ CAP (Young Planners and Women in Planning)
- ▶ Ongoing activities:
 - ▶ SACPLAN Discussion Forum and mentoring scheme
 - ▶ 2021 AAG Conference (2 papers)
 - ▶ Ongoing publications (papers, book chapter, book proposal)
 - ▶ UCL/Global Engagement Fund: Planning for and learning from crisis to deliver SDGs: a critical and interdisciplinary interrogation of what shifts in skills and training are needed.



This isn't the
end of a
project for
sure...

