

## Donovan Finn, PhD

Environmental Design, Policy & Planning  
Sustainability Studies Program  
School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences  
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### EDUCATION

PhD - Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2009  
Master of Urban Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2005  
B.S in General Studies, University of Kansas, 2000

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2010 – Present: Lecturer, Sustainability Studies Program, Stony Brook University  
2007 – 2010: Adjunct Assistant Professor, Urban Affairs and Planning, Hunter College - City University of New York  
2009 – 2010: Adjunct, Milano Graduate School of International Affairs, Management & Urban Policy, The New School  
2009 – 2010: Adjunct, Parsons The New School for Design, The New School

### SPECIALIZATIONS

Urban resilience and sustainability policy  
Disaster planning and recovery  
Physical planning, land use and environmental design  
Community-based planning

### PUBLICATIONS

#### • Refereed Publications

Finn, D. and Brody, J. (2014) "Community Design at Middle Age: Idealism and Entrepreneurship Revisited." *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*, 31:3, 181-200.  
Finn, D. (2014) "DIY Urbanism: Implications for Cities." *Journal of Urbanism*, 7:4, 381-398.  
Finn, D. and McCormick, L. (2011) "Urban Climate Change Plans: How Holistic?" *Local Environment*, 16:4, 397-416.  
Kaza, N., Finn, D., and Hopkins, L.D. (2010) "Updating plans: a historiography of decisions over time" *Journal of Information Technology in Construction*, 15, 159-168.  
Finn, D., Hopkins, L.D. and Wempe, M. (2007) "The Information System of Plans Approach: Using and Making Plans For Landscape Protection" *Journal of Landscape and Urban Planning*, 81:1-2, 132-145.

#### • Edited Publications

Finn, D., Chandrasekhar, D. and Xiao, Y. (2016) "Planning for resilience in the New York metro region after Superstorm Sandy" in edited collection *Spatial planning and resilience following disasters: International and comparative perspectives*, Greiving, Ubaura & Tesliar eds. Bristol: Policy Press. (Publication scheduled 6/1/2016).  
Finn, D. (2016) "Introduction to the special issue." *Journal of Urbanism*, 9:2, 99-100.  
Finn, D. (2015) "Finding Opportunity Through Chaos: The New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program." *Natural Hazards Observer*, 40:1, 12-14.  
Finn, D. (2014) "Introduction to the special issue on DIY urbanism." *Journal of Urbanism*, 7:4, 331-332.  
Finn, D. (2013) "New York Neighborhoods Fight Land Grabs: Public Parks Going to Professional Teams." *Progressive Planning Magazine*. 194: Winter, 4-9.

Finn, D. (2011) "Growing Greener in the City: Open Space Advocacy for Environmental Justice in Jackson Heights" *Progressive Planning Magazine*. 187: Spring, 13-16.

Finn, D. (2007) "Wichita, KS," entry in David Goldfield, Ed. *Encyclopedia of American Urban History*. Vol. 2, p. 873-874. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Finn, D. (2007) "Empire State Building," entry in David Goldfield, Ed. *Encyclopedia of American Urban History*. Vol. 1, p. 242-243. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

#### • Conference Proceedings

Finn, D. (2006) "A Collaborative Approach to Sustainable Land Use Planning in McHenry County, Illinois." *Beyond Conflict: Proceedings of the Environmental Design and Research Association, 2006 Annual Conference*. 99-106.

#### • Book Reviews

Finn, D. (2013) Review of *Building Like Moses with Jacobs in Mind: Contemporary Planning in New York City*, by Scott Larson. *Journal of the American Planning Association*. 79:4, 345

Finn, D. (2012) Review of *Creating Recovery: Values and Approaches in New York After 9/11*, by David Mammen. *Journal of Planning Literature*. 27: 462-463.

Finn, D. (2009) Review of *Planning Support Systems for Cities and Regions*, by Richard K. Brail. *Journal of Planning Literature*. 24, 37-38.

#### • White Papers and Funded Professional Reports

Chandrasekhar, D. and D. Finn (2013) "Influence of Household Recovery Capacity and Urgency on Post-Disaster Relocation: A Case Study of The Rockaways, NY after Hurricane Sandy." Funded by Natural Hazards Center, Boulder CO.

Finn, D. (2008). *PlaNYC2030: Does Greener Really Mean Greater?* Hunter College Center For Community Planning & Development, "Sustainability Watch" working paper.

Finn, D. and Kaza, N. (2005). *McHenry County Legacy Planning: A Process-Based Approach to Resource Protection*. Funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Department of Agriculture, and McHenry County, IL.

#### • Public Scholarship

Finn, D. (2014) "Give residents more say in land use and planning." Op-Ed in *The Queens Chronicle*. January 30.

#### • Pending/In-Review Publications

Finn, D., "Flushing Meadows Land Grab: The Battle for the Heart of a Borough," Chapter in edited collection *Immigrant Crossroads: Globalization, Incorporation and Placemaking in Queens, NY*, Ron Hayduk and Francois Pierre Louis eds. (Chapter accepted, publisher commitment pending for collection).

Finn, D., Reflecting on the risks of DIY urbanism. *Curb Magazine* (City-Region Studies Centre at the University of Alberta). Manuscript accepted, publication pending, 2016.

#### EDITORSHIPS

Guest editor, 2014 special issue of *Journal of Urbanism*, Topic: "Do-It-Yourself Urbanism" 7:4.

Guest editor, 2016 special issue of *Journal of Urbanism*, Topic: "Do-It-Yourself Urbanism 2" 9:2.

#### PRESENTATIONS

##### • Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

Finn, D., Chandrasekhar, D. and Xiao, Y. (2015). Rebuilding, recovery and resilience: Innovations in post-disaster planning after Sandy. The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) 2015, 55th Annual Conference, Houston, TX. October 2015. Submitted and accepted for presentation.

Chandrasekhar, D., Finn, D. and Xiao, Y. (2015). Timeliness of disaster recovery aid response in post-Hurricane Sandy New York City. The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) 2015, 55th Annual Conference, Houston, TX. October 2015. Submitted and accepted for presentation.

- Xiao, Y., Chandrasekhar, D. and Finn, D. (2015). The Interdependence of Household and Business Recovery Decisions after Hurricane Sandy. The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) 2015, 55th Annual Conference, Houston, TX. October 2015. Submitted and accepted for presentation.
- Finn, D. and Iuchi, K. and Olshansky, R. "The utility of planning in solving crisis problems: A comparison of government responses to Hurricane Sandy and the Tohoku-Oki earthquake." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning conference, Philadelphia, PA, October 31, 2014.
- Chandrasekhar, D., Finn, D. and Xiao, Y. "The effect of recovery capacity on household decisions to stay or relocate after Hurricane Sandy." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning conference, Philadelphia, PA, October 31, 2014.
- Xiao, Y., Chandrasekhar, D., Finn, D. and Comparing recovery of households and businesses in post-Hurricane Sandy New York. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning conference, Philadelphia, PA, October 31, 2014.
- Finn, D. "A Simulation Game for Teaching Sustainable Urban Development." Sparks of Innovation: The Future of Teaching and Learning, conference at Stony Brook University. April 12, 2013.
- Finn, D. and Dwyer, C. "Sustainable Development in the Birthplace of Suburbia: Comprehensive Planning for Long Island, New York." From the Outside In: Sustainable Futures for Global Cities and Suburbs, conference at Hofstra University, March 8, 2013.
- Finn, D. "Do-it-yourself Urbanism: Opportunities and Challenges for Planners." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning conference, Cincinnati, OH, November 3, 2012.
- Finn, D. "Real (Green) America: Sustainable Planning in Pragmatic Times" Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning conference, Salt Lake City, UT October 2011.
- Finn, D. "Measuring Sustainable Development Success: The Case of Early Adopter Cities" Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning conference, Minneapolis, MN, October 9, 2010.
- Finn, D. and McCormick, L. "Are Green Plans Good Enough? Analyzing the Economic and Social Impacts of Urban Environmental Initiatives" Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning conference, Crystal City, VA, October 4, 2009.
- Kaza, N., Finn, D. and Hopkins, L.D. "Updating Plans: A Historiography of Decisions Over Time" COST-21 Conference on Ontologies for Urban Development, Liege, Belgium, March 9-10, 2009.
- Finn, D. "New York City's PlaNYC Initiative: Does Greener Really Mean Greater?" Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning / Association of European Schools of Planning joint conference, Chicago, IL, July 10, 2008.
- Finn, D. "Who Plans the Sustainable City?" Urban Affairs Association 38th Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, April 24, 2008.
- Finn, D. "Between Uncertainty and Sustainability: Locating the Role of Plans in Urban Development Decisions" Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, 2007 Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI, October, 19, 2007.
- Finn, D. and Brody, J. "Assessing Challenges, Finding Rewards: Lessons From Community Design Centers" Environmental Design and Research Association, 2007 Annual Conference, Sacramento, CA, May 31, 2007.
- Finn, D. and Deal, B. "Sustainable Land Use Strategies: A Simulation Based Scenario Planning Approach." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, 2006 Annual Conference, Fort Worth, TX, November, 12, 2006.
- Finn, D. "From the Rhineland to the Heartland: Translating the German Passivhaus Approach for Sustainable Low Income Housing in Illinois." Planners Network Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, June 10, 2006.
- Finn, D. "A Collaborative Approach to Sustainable Land Use Planning in McHenry County, Illinois." Environmental Design and Research Association, 2006 Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, May 4, 2006.
- Finn, D., Hopkins, L.D. and Wempe, M. "The Information System of Plans Approach: Using and Making Plans in McHenry County, Illinois." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, 2005 Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO, October 28, 2005.
- Finn, D. and Crowther, A. "University-Community Partnerships and the Research Process: A Case Study From the East St. Louis Action Research Project." US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of University Partnerships National Conference, New Orleans, LA, April 1, 2004.

### • Invited Presentations and Lectures

- Finn, D. "New York After Sandy: Lessons, Questions and Planning For Resilience," National Parks Service, Herbert Johnson Memorial Lecture Series, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY. November 20, 2013.
- Finn, D. "Follow the Bouncing Ball: Resilience Thinking in a Post Sandy New York," National Parks Service, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NY. July 19, 2013.
- Finn, D. "The Flushing Meadows Land Grab," The City Club of New York. July 18, 2013.
- Finn, D. "Zealous Overdevelopment and Social Inequity," Neighborhood Up: A Citywide Forum on Culture and Community, El Museo del Barrio, New York City, May 30, 2013.
- Finn, D. "Livable Streets: Queens Style" The Future of Your Neighborhood: Who Decides? lecture series, Flux Factory, Long Island City, NYC. August 14, 2012.
- Finn, D. "Reclaiming Public Space for Active Design." New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, Partnership for A Healthier NYC Active Design Training, July 27, 2012.
- Finn, D. "A Greener Big Apple: How Citizens And Government Are Creating a More Sustainable Gotham." New York Public Library (Invited lecture in recognition of World Environment Day). June 5, 2012.
- Finn, D. "Community Planning and Organizing for Environmental Justice," Municipal Art Society of New York City, 2012 Livable Neighborhoods Training Summit. New York City, May 12, 2012.
- Finn, D. "Collaboration and Community Based Advocacy Planning." In Our Back Yards: Guide to Getting Green Done in NYC. Sheila C. Johnson Design Center. New York, NY. November 7, 2011.
- Finn, D. and McCormick, L. "The Triple Bottom Line Approach in City Development Policy" Hunter College Center for Community Planning and Development. New York, NY. December 2, 2009.
- Finn, D. and McCormick, L. "Are Green Plans Good Enough? Economic and Social Impacts of Urban Environmental Initiatives" Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Race to the Top Symposium. Cambridge, MA. Sept. 11, 2009.
- Finn, D. "Scenario Planning and Sustainable Growth Patterns," Eighth Annual Illinois Planning Institute. Urbana, IL. March 1, 2007.

### GRANTS AND RESEARCH FUNDING

#### • National: Awarded

- National Science Foundation, "Interdependency in decision-making: A holistic approach to understanding community recovery from catastrophes," award #CMMI 1335109. Co-PI with Yu Xiao (Texas A&M Univ.) and Divya Chandrasekhar (Texas Southern Univ.), collaborative grant total \$390,093. Project period 2013-2016.
- Natural Hazards Center - University of Colorado Boulder, Quick Response Grant Program, "Influence of household recovery capacity and urgency on post-disaster relocation: A case study of the Rockaways, NY after Hurricane Sandy," 2013. Co-PI with Divya Chandrasekhar (Texas Southern Univ.) \$1,500.
- Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Race to the Top initiative, "Is Green Good Enough? Sustainability, Equity and Economy," 2009. Co-PI with Lynn McCormick (Hunter College, CUNY) \$10,000.

#### • National: Not Funded

- US Department of Health and Human Services, "The Path to Resilience: An Integrated Analysis of Community Recovery from Catastrophes," submitted July 2013. Co-PI with Yu Xiao (Texas A&M Univ.) and Divya Chandrasekhar (Texas Southern Univ.), \$479,000 requested.

#### • Regional: Awarded

- Sustainable Long Island, "Analysis of Long Island Recycling Policies," funded research report, 2015. \$500

#### • Regional: Pending

- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), "New York barrier island-backbay system: Integrated modeling for coastal community adaptation and resilience planning," submitted May 2016 with Ali Farhadzadeh (SBU) and Anthony Dvaskas (SBU). \$300,000 requested.

• **Institutional: Awarded**

Stony Brook University, Office of Teaching and Learning Technology TALENT Project (Teaching and Learning Enhancements with New Technology), 2012 (PI, \$6,000)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Graduate Scholar Summer Research Fellowship, 2006. (PI, \$5,000)

**HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS (SELECTED)**

New York Public Library, Scholar in Residence at the Wertheim Study Center, 2011- 2013.

The City Council of New York City, Citation for Exemplary Community and Professional Service, 2011.

Outstanding Planning Award for Student Team Project. St. Louis Metropolitan Section of the Missouri Chapter of the American Planning Association. 2005. (Co-Instructor)

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Graduate Award. Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. May, 2004.

**ACADEMIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)**

Session discussant, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference. 2010.

Organizer and moderator of conference session: "Race to the Top: Investments in Human, Social, Cultural, Political, and Environmental Capital as Economic Development Strategies." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference. October 4, 2009

Session moderator and discussant, Urban Affairs Association 38th Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, April 24, 2008

Co-Organizer. *Symposium on Using Plans: Celebrating the Career of Lewis D. Hopkins*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. September 6-8, 2007

Manuscript reviewer: *Journal of Planning Literature*, *Journal of Urbanism*, *Journal of Planning History*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *CITY*, *Global Environmental Change*, Island Press, CQ Press, Sage Publications, Anthem Press, Environmental Design and Research Association (EDRA) Annual Conference

**PRO-BONO AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)**

Member, Planning Committee, The Municipal Art Society of New York, 2014-Present.

Project Advisor, New York Hall of Science: Climate and Urban Systems Partnership Program (National Science Foundation Climate Change Education Partnership program, award #1043371). 2011-2014.

Co-Founder and Steering Committee Member, Fairness Coalition of Queens, 2012-present.

Member, Queens Community Board 3, City of New York. Appointed by Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, 2011-2013. (Member of Land Use subcommittee, Transportation subcommittee and Parks subcommittee)

Member, Board of Directors: Jackson Heights Green Alliance, 2008-Present.

Pro-bono technical assistance, *A Green Agenda for Jackson Heights*, Queens, NY, 2008.

Pro-bono planning, programming and design assistance. A&O Development Corporation/Architecture For Humanity affordable housing development. Urbana, IL, 2006-2007.

Co-Curator. *Mind In Matter: Constructions of the Built Environment*, exhibition at OPENSOURCE community art cooperative, Champaign, IL. 2005