

symposium: CONVERGENCE

The Symposium section of *Agora* acts as a unique platform that highlights salient issues within urban planning. Over the years, this section of the journal has focused on planning for crises, addressing police brutality, and investigating what makes a place “refugee ready.” This year, we turned to our own experiences as students of urban planning. In academia, we have been lucky enough to learn about, criticize, embrace, and debate the theoretical underpinnings of the urban planning field. From day one, we have recognized that answers to the problems of urban planning are rarely clear cut. Yet as we come closer to becoming “masters” of our program and moving into our professional lives, we are frantically trying to grapple with the growing gap between our trainings, values, interests, and the constraints of reality. Surely, others at the University are grappling with their own convergences.

This year’s Symposium gives voice to this notion:

As people who care about the places in which we live, we face a multiplicity of tensions and see them converge in the fields of housing, transportation, land use, economic development, sustainability, and other areas of urban interest. How do your theoretical trainings and values conflict with the political, legal, and structural realities of your field of urban interest? How can we as people who influence and transform the places in which we live navigate these tensions?

Our aim is to not only identify these convergences, but also to spark dialogue and normalcy around them. The Symposium section explores two unique intersections that we face as planners and stimulates critical reflection. Where “The Space of Bad Faith” inspires us to act, “When Resilience Turns to Resistance” fills us with hope and reminds us to persevere. We hope these pieces spark you, too.

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Symposium Directors