Name(s) *

Please use this input to add the name(s) of those seeking funds.

Joseph Ferreira, Bish Sanyal, and Larry Vale

Applicant Type *

Please use this input to indicate if you are applying as a faculty member or as a student group.

Faculty

Proposal Narrative *

Please use this input to upload a brief proposal narrative that describes:

- *the format and forms of engagement,*
- *expected deliverables,*
- *contribution to intellectual discourse,*
- *and intended impact.*

Attach file (see description included below)

Grant Amount Requested *

Faculty funding will range up to $5000-$20,000 and will depend on:

- *The number of proposals received*
- *The number of activities we would like to host within the academic year*
- *The nature of the budget submitted and the identification of additional funding sources to supplement/match Bemis grants*

$15,210

Budget *

Please use this input to upload a budget detailing how you plan to use the funds requested (amount indicated above). Budgets should include a breakdown of costs, total amount requested, and other funding if available. It should also include others requests such as an allocation of departmental RA slots to help with the project.

Attach file (see description included below)

Objectives *

Please use this input to select the objectives this request will address. You may select multiple objectives. Select an option

- To promote and increase DUSP's 'intellectual capital' and visibility while demonstrating advances in one or more of DUSP's strategic priorities. 1
- Document DUSP's contributions and disseminate the information through mass media and publications 2
- Advance and generate exposure to DUSP junior faculty work, research, and intellectual discourse 3

Strategic Priorities *

Please use this input to select the strategic priorities this grant request will address. You may select multiple priorities where applicable.

- Achieving Racial Justice
- Enhancing Multi-Racial Democratic Governance
- Achieving Climate Integrity
- Closing the Wealth Gap

Proposal Narrative *

We propose offering a seminar series and linked symposium on "**Digital Transition and Urban Planning: e-Planning twenty years later,**" to (re)examine the impact of information technologies on community life and governance. Fall 2023 will be the 20th anniversary of our first 'e-Planning Seminar,' offered as a Speaker Series with guest talks and MIT faculty as discussants, an accompanying weekly for-credit seminar, plus an International Conference on "Information Technologies and Public Participation." That conference plus the weekly for-credit seminar, was organized by Dr. Pedro Ferraz de Abreu shortly after he finished his DUSP PhD. All three of us (Joe Ferreira, Bish Sanyal, and Larry Vale) worked with Pedro and participated in the 2003 events. The webpages listing the topics and speakers for the 2003 International Symposium are still available online at: http://web.mit.edu/uis/icppit03/

The proposed Fall 2023 events will be a good opportunity to reflect on our framing of e-Planning issues two decades ago and, indeed, to reflect on DUSP's 40-year engagement with computing since the early days of Project Athena and our founding of the Computer Resource Lab and the Planning Support Systems group. The events will also provide a welcome opportunity to engage a cross-section of our on-campus community in further discussion and debate about next steps in the digital transformation of urban planning and local governance. By looking carefully at past and current thoughts about information technology's influence on community life and governance, we hope to foster a deeper look into the impacts and implications of the ongoing 'digital transition' on social inequality and participatory planning without becoming overly focused on the latest concerns about generative AI and ubiquitous sensing.

The proposed Fall 2023 events will deliver:

- A for-credit weekly seminar for undergrads as well as graduate students with outside as well as MIT speakers and discussants every other week during a 14-week period of the Fall 2023 semester,
- A 1.5-day international symposium in late October or early November on this agenda,
- Cross-fertilization with e-Planning researchers abroad (via zoom for the seminar series and possibly in-person for symposium).
- A timely opportunity for DUSP to reflect on its framing of e-Planning issues at a time when there is limited consensus about the content and scope of 'urban science.'
- A book or monograph containing chapters selected from presentations plus reviews and reflections written by symposium organizers.

Since the 2003 Symposium, Pedro Ferraz de Abreu joined the faculty of Portuguese universities and was the principal organizer of what has become a cross-university e-Planning graduate program. This program collaborated with other Portuguese-speaking universities in Brazil and Africa and brought PhD students to Portugal to work with Portuguese students. Much of their research has focused on the multi-disciplinary study of how information technology could be used to improve the everyday lives and governance of less advantaged communities. Engaging with Pedro and his colleagues through the Fall 2023 seminar and symposium will enrich DUSP's discussion of the social justice and local political implications of digital technologies within international development settings.

The Fall 2023 seminar and symposium will also benefit DUSP's undergrads. Our current computer-related offerings tend to focus on technical and analytic skill-building or on critiques of technical approaches due to data limitations, misinterpretations, and algorithmic biases. The proposed events will complement these activities by emphasizing the politics of technology-driven disruption and examining multi-disciplinary perspectives on the community planning and local governance implications of the ongoing digital transition.

Budget:

These events and related activities will require some funding and are only possible in full if Pedro Ferraz de Abreu is funded or otherwise sponsored to come to MIT to take the lead in running the Fall term seminar and organizing the 1.5 day international symposium. We have submitted separate proposals to Fulbright and to a Portuguese foundation to cover Pedro's visit to MIT for the Fall. He is only seeking funding to cover his travel and living costs while at MIT. The $15k budget presented below explains the other costs that we anticipate to organize and run the seminar series and symposium.

For the six luncheon seminars with special guests, we would provide a modest lunch for an estimated 30 people at $12/person. We budget $500 for each of 4 non-MIT speakers who we anticipate might need to have their domestic travel costs covered. For the 1.5 day symposium, we will avoid using the good but expensive MIT conference services (at $75 per participant) to handle registration. Instead, we propose handling registration internally and charging a nominal registration $75 fee that is waived for speakers and MIT participants and will help reduce meeting expenses. We expect to organize one symposium dinner at an additional cost to all who are not symposium speakers. We also anticipate having 2 foreign speakers who will need more than $500 in travel expenses and we budgeted $1250 each. To provide an added incentive for selected speakers to turn their talks into notable book chapters, we have budgeted a $600 honorarium for up to 9 completed chapters. $300 is budgeted for publicity and incidental expenses and $1200 for undergrad assistance at $15/hour. We propose devoting the Fall research assignment of one MCP student to assisting with the design and execution of the seminar series and symposium. We also anticipate hiring 4 DUSP undergrads for 20 hours each to help with hosting guest speakers and running the symposium.

Budget for e-Planning Symposium and Seminar - Fall, 2023

Description	Unit-Cost	Units	Total-Cost
Food at bi-weekly talks	$360	6	$2,160
Travel for non-MIT guest speakers	$500	4	$2,000
Food at symposium	$25	70	$1,750
Travel for foreign speaker	$1,200	2	$2,400
Book chapter honorarium	$600	9	$5,400
Publicity (flyers, website, ...)	$300	1	$300
Fall semester MCP RA		1	$0
Undergrad hourly help	$15	80	$1,200
			$15,210