

# Ren Thomas

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## Education

### **Doctor of Philosophy, Community and Regional Planning**

University of British Columbia, 2011

Dissertation: *Resiliency in Housing and Transportation Choices: The Experiences of Filipino Immigrants in Toronto*. A mixed-methods case study of Filipino immigrants using interviews and principal components analysis

Supervisory Committee: Dr. Penny Gurstein, Dr. Tom Hutton, and Dr. Elvin Wylie

### **Master of Arts, Community and Regional Planning**

University of British Columbia, 2007

Thesis: *Social Travel Patterns of Youth and Young Adults*. An exploratory study of the travel patterns of participants aged 17-25 in Vancouver and Surrey, using focus groups and mapping

### **Bachelor of Landscape Architecture**

University of Toronto, 2000

## Research & Teaching Experience

### **Researcher**

University of British Columbia School of Population and Public Health / British Columbia Non-Profit Housing Association, Vancouver, 2011

Developed program evaluation framework for an Aboriginal non-profit housing provider: logic model, indicators to be measured, tenant and staff surveys

### **Instructor and Course Designer, PLAN 425: Introduction to Contemporary Planning Issues**

University of British Columbia School of Community and Regional Planning, Vancouver, 2008 and 2009

Developed course syllabus, reading list and assignments, co-taught course with another Ph.D. candidate

### **Researcher**

Mustel Group, Vancouver, 2007

Project management for several transportation studies: created sampling plan, wrote surveys, managed telephone interviews, briefed and coordinated on-site interviewers, wrote research reports

## **Student Transit Planning Assistant**

TransLink, Vancouver, 2006

Facilitated focus groups for the South of Fraser Area Transit Plan, created and illustrated options for the frequent transit network, edited sections of the 2007 Transportation Plan

## **Research Assistant, Sustainable Planning and Development**

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Ottawa, 2002-2005

Research and analysis of alternative street patterns, contributing research for the *Landscape Guide for Canadian Homes* (2004), edited bilingual *About Your House* and *Research Highlights* publications

## **Urban Research & Planning Consultant**

Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Ottawa, 2002-2003

Wrote and edited French and English web content dealing with cycling, walking, and public transit for the Active Transportation Knowledge Network

## **Landscape Architect**

1997-2002

Designed multi-use paths, plazas and parks in Canada, the US and the UK, wrote Environmental Impact Assessments, wrote design guidelines for municipalities

## *Scholarships & Fellowships*

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship, 2008-2011 (\$20,000/yr)

UBC Four Year Fellowships for Ph.D. Students, 2009-2011 (\$16,000 + tuition/yr)

Amacon Beasley Student Award for Excellence in Urban Planning, 2010 (\$1,500)

Coriolis Consulting Scholarship: Innovative Ideas for Improving Cities, 2008 (\$1,000)

Transportation Association of Canada Provinces/Territories Scholarship, 2007 (\$5,000)

School of Community and Regional Planning Graduate Entrance Scholarship, 2007 (\$6,000)

## *Peer-Reviewed Publications*

Thomas, R. 2010. "Why can't we get around?" Travelling under constraints in Metro Vancouver. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 19(1) Supplement: 89-110.

Thomas, R. 2009. Tomorrow's transportation demographics: Youth and young adults. *Plan Canada* 49(4): 22-25.

Thomas, R. 2008. Engaged or disinterested? Youth political and civic participation in Canadian transportation planning. *Critical Planning* 15(1): 121-139.

## *Other Publications*

Thomas, R. 2011 (in press). Municipal Governance in Canada's Provinces (book review). *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 20(1) Supplement.

## *Invited Lectures*

Demographic shifts and transit provision. Canadian Urban Transit Association Youth Summit on Sustainable Urban Transportation. Vancouver. August 21, 2011.

The need for a Canadian perspective in planning. UBC School of Community and Regional Planning Lecture Series. March 9, 2011.

Mixed method approaches in urban planning. Urban Analysis (GEOG 450), UBC Department of Geography. January 11, 2011.

Housing, transportation, immigration and the city. Urban Studies (URB 200 / GEOG 250), UBC Department of Geography. December 2, 2010.

Youth transportation trends in Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal. TransLink, Simon Fraser University and Vancouver Cycling Coalition: John Pucher Lecture. May 15, 2008.

Social travel patterns of youth and young adults. Qualitative Methods (PLAN 515), UBC School of Community and Regional Planning. February 13, 2008.

## *Conference Presentations*

The Filipino case: Insights on immigrants' transportation choices and resiliency. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference. Salt Lake City. October 12-16, 2011.

The use of qualitative methods in studies of immigrants' housing patterns. Canadian Geographers / Association of Canadian University Planning Programs conference. Calgary. May 31-June 4, 2011.

Lessons learned from a housing-transportation case study. Metropolis Conference on Immigration and Migration. Vancouver. March 23-26, 2011.

Integrating housing and transportation using structural change: A case study of Filipino immigrants in the Toronto CMA. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference. Minneapolis. October 7-10, 2010.

Housing and transportation choices of Filipino immigrants in Toronto. Metropolis Conference on Immigration and Migration. Montreal. March 18-21, 2010.

Integrating housing and transportation policy in BC: Implications for immigrant communities. Symposium on Challenges to Affordable and Sustainable Housing. UBC. October 16, 2009.

A shift towards youth in transportation planning. International Making Cities Livable Annual Conference. Santa Fe. June 1-5, 2008.

The impact of neighbourhood food choices and acculturation on immigrant diets. World Planners Congress. Vancouver. June 17-20, 2006.

## *Professional & University Service*

Organized session, "Transportation Mode Choice and Behaviour Among Immigrants" for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference, 2011

Organized session, "Theorizing Growth in the Just Metropolis" with Susan Fainstein and John Friedmann, for the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning Symposium, 2011

Organized session, "Planning innovation and multiscale change in the global city" for the Association of American Geographers Annual Congress, March 2009

Reviewer, *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* (University of Winnipeg Institute of Urban Studies), 2011

Reviewer, *Journal of Youth Studies*, Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group), 2008-present

Grant Review Committee, Active Communities Grants, BC Recreation and Parks Association, 2007-2011

Integrated Planning and Design Facility Working Group, UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, 2011

Event Planning for the Graduates & Alumni Reception, UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, 2008-2011

Undergraduate Teaching Committee, UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, 2008-2011

Masters Admissions Committee, UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, 2008