

11.s189 (undergrad) & 11.s955 (graduate)  
**e-Planning, Urban Science & Digital Transition**  
3-credit mini-class

**Purpose:**

- Explore ways to harness ICT more effectively to improve urban planning and local governance.
- Examine multi-disciplinary perspectives on human behavior and governance that are needed to design and manage more effective ICT-driven changes

**Instructors:**

Pedro Ferraz de Abreu ([pfa@mit.edu](mailto:pfa@mit.edu)) & Joe Ferreira, [jf@mit.edu](mailto:jf@mit.edu)

**Class sessions:** Thursdays, 2:30 – 4:00 pm, in 9-217 (starting **Sept. 14**)

Linked to: Monday Lunch Talks & Nov. 10 all-day Symposium

## 11.s189 / 11.s955 mini-class

- **Goal:** explore ways to harness ICT more effectively to improve urban planning and local governance.
- **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of first 2003 e-Planning Seminar
  - Time to revisit earlier expectations with eye to future
- **3-credit class provides added time** for readings and discussion linked to other Fall 2023 e-Planning activities
  - **Kickoff event**, Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 4:30
  - **Monday lunch talks**, 12:30 – 2 in City Arena (9-255)
    - Beginning **October 16** (with lunch at 12:15)
  - **All-day Symposium**, Friday, Nov. 10

# Motivation

- Information and communication tech (ICT) have promised:
  - more efficient delivery of urban services
  - broader public participation
  - more empowerment of diverse constituencies
  - improved government transparency
- Yet, ICT-disruption has contributed to:
  - Worsening social inequality and wealth concentration
  - Meager action on climate integrity
  - Risks from who collects & controls new data
    - privatizing public goods
    - Increasing intrusive surveillance
    - threatening democratic governance.
- ICT-driven disruption continues, so opportune time
  - To reflect on digital transition
  - To do better at addressing our strategic priorities.

## Format for 3-credit class

- **Thursday** (2:30 – 4:00 in 9-217 beginning Sept. 14)
  - International flavor with links to Brasil & Portugal
  - Small group discussion of Monday lunch talks and International Symposium
- **Requirements**
  - Attend Thursday discussion
  - Attend lunch talks and symposium (or view videos)
  - Short writeup (different for undergrad & grads)
- **More details on e-Planning website**
  - <http://mit.edu/uis/e-planning2023>





Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Dept. of Urban Studies and Planning

Fall 2023 Seminar on



www.e-planning.org

## e-Planning

### Welcome

Introduction  
&  
General  
information

Fall 2023, Sept-Dec

### Lunch Speaker Series

**"Urban Science and  
Digital Transition:  
e-Planning, twenty years  
later"**

Monday's, 12-2PM

### Associated Class

*"e-Planning, Urban  
Science & Digital  
Transition"* 11.S955  
(grad) S189 (undergrad)

Thursdays, 2h30-4PM

### Associated Symposium

*International Conference on  
Public Participation and  
Information Technologies*

9-10 November 2023

**Local Index:** [Introduction](#); [Guidelines](#); [Dates & Schedule](#); [Participation](#); [Moderators](#); [Speakers](#); [Topics](#); [Research Questions](#); [Science Committee](#); [Book](#); [REGISTER](#)

## Urban Science and Digital Transition: e-Planning, twenty years later

updated: 2 September 2023 (reload page for last update)



### Introduction

The Department of Urban Studies & Planning (DUSP) at MIT is offering this fall 2023, this Lunch Speaker Series Seminar on *"Urban Science and Digital Transition: e-Planning: twenty years later"*, on Mondays, 12h30-2 PM, City Arena, Room 9-255. The kick-off, welcome session, will be Tuesday 4 PM, October 3, 2023

This Seminar is associated with a Joint undergrad / graduate for-credit course ("*e-Planning & Digital Transition*"), and linked to an international symposium (ICPPT23), to (re)examine the impact of information technologies on community life and governance, anticipate the implications for urban futures, and debate relevant DUSP strategies for the next twenty years.

# Co-Instructor: Pedro Ferraz de Abreu

- DUSP PhD, 2002, in urban information systems
  - ❖ Alum of Media Lab and SPURS in 1980s
  - ❖ Organized 2003 e-Planning seminars
- During 1974 Portugal revolution
  - ❖ Student leader of opposition to Fascist regime
  - ❖ Worked with African Anti-Colonial leaders
- As Professor at U. Lisbon
  - ❖ organized cross-university e-Planning PhD program
- His formula for “e-Planning”
  - ❖ revolution activism + 2 Eng degrees + Media Lab Masters + DUSP PhD = e-Planning

Photo mosaic from  
2003 e-Planning  
seminars

Pedro in 2003





# Co-Instructor: Joseph Ferreira

- DUSP Professor (Post-tenure) in urban information systems
  - ❖ MIT lifer: Bachelor's EECS, Masters & PhD Operations Research
  - ❖ Co-organized the 2003 seminars
- Used to teach GIS, urban analytics...
  - ❖ Represented DUSP & Arch on Project Athena (educational computing)
  - ❖ Started Computer Resource Lab (now CRON)
  - ❖ Headed cross-discipline group
    - ❖ Planning Support Systems -> Urban Information Systems
  - ❖ Helped start 11-6 undergrad 'urban science' degree

Photo mosaic from  
2003 e-Planning  
symposium

me in 2003



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**For more information**

Fall 2023 e-Planning website: <http://web.mit.edu/uis/e-planning2023>



# Prep for next Thursday

What do we mean by 'e-planning' & 'urban science'?

- MIT Tech Review (cities issue, 2021)

<https://www.technologyreview.com/magazines/the-cities-issue>

- ❖ Acuto, M., S. Parnell, & K. Seto, (2018) "Building a global urban science," Nature Sustainability, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-017-0013-9>

- ❖ Bettencourt, L., & G. West, (2010) "A unified theory of urban living," Nature, 467, pp912-913, <https://www.nature.com/articles/467912a>

- Ching, TY. & Ferreira Jr., J. (2015) "[Smart cities: Concepts, perceptions and lessons for planners](#)", **Planning Support Systems and Smart Cities**, Gertman, Ferreira, Goodspeed, Stillwell (editors). 145-168.

- Ferreira Jr., J., (1999). "Information Technologies that Change Relationships between Low-Income Communities and the Public and Non-profit Agencies that Serve Them", Ch. 7 in **High Technology and Low-Income Communities**, MIT Press, Schon, Mitchell, Sanyal (editors), MIT Press

- ❖ Read these two and browse the other 3

- ❖ PDFs for non-public articles are on [canvas.mit.edu](https://canvas.mit.edu)