

Silvano De la Llata, PhD

Assistant Professor in Urban Planning & Design
Geography Planning and The Environment
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Keywords public space, democratization of urban design, participatory community planning, media and internet appropriation, the right to the city, open-source urban systems, urban acupuncture and urban spatial theory

Biography Silvano De la Llata is an architect, an urbanist and an educator. He received his PhD in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University (2014). He has taught design/planning studios and seminars on urban sociology, public space and history at Cornell University, and universities of Tamaulipas and Anahuac (Mexico). For the last 15 years, his research has focused on public space and the study of alternative uses, such as street vending, graffiti, public assembly and protest, as design/planning agents. His dissertation explores alternative planning processes in the context of protest encampments in horizontal social movements. He did research and participated in the Indignados mobilizations in Barcelona, Occupy Wall Street and other social movements in 2011 and 2012. Additionally, he coordinates brainstorming/reading circles on critical theory and philosophy to develop strategies to democratize everyday life in the city.

Qualifications

2014 **Cornell University - PhD**

City and Regional Planning

Spaces of Becoming: Public Space in Transformation in the Context of the Social Movements of 2011 (Lessons and Questions for Planners and Urban Designers)

Committee: Prof. John F. Forester (planning theory), Prof. Jeremy Foster (urban design) and Prof. Bonnie G. MacDougall (cultural landscapes, urban anthropology)

2006 **Universidad Iberoamericana - Masters (Summa cum laude)**

Urban Studies and Planning

Stigmatized spaces: Cultural Landscapes and revitalization proposals for a Tolerance Zone in Puebla, Mexico.

Committee: Prof. Nancy Churchill (urban anthropology) and Prof. Mireia Viladevall (urban and cultural landscapes)

2002 **Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas - Bachelor in Architecture**

School of Architecture, Design and Urbanism.

Municipal government complex and civic plaza in Altamira, Mexico (urban and architectural design)

Academic appointments and courses taught

2015-today **Concordia University - Department of Geography Planning and Environment**
Assistant Professor

Design of syllabi, research, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses, academic advice, thesis guidance, design reviews, organization of community engagement charrettes, coordination of research projects and writing academic articles and reports.

Graduate/under-graduate courses

URBS 333 - Urban Laboratory: Placemaking from interstitial spaces

INDI 620C - Critical Metaphysics

2012-2015 **Cornell University - Department of City and Regional Planning**
Visiting Lecturer/Research Associate

Design of syllabi, research, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses, academic advice, thesis guidance, design reviews, planning of fieldtrips and site visits

Graduate/under-graduate courses

Introduction to Physical Planning (Urban Design) (Fall 2012)

Urban Design Practice (preparation for the ULI-Hines Competition) (ongoing)

Ind. Studies in Urban Planning - On informality in Bogotá, Caracas and Rio (Fall 2012)

Ind. Studies in Urban Planning - On protest encampments in Istanbul, Turkey (Fall 2014)

2006-2009 **Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas - School of Architecture, Design and Urbanism**
Professor/ Founder faculty of the Masters in Urban Development and Planning

Planning of masters program curriculum, design of syllabi, research, teaching of graduate and undergraduate courses, coordination of social service programs in planning and design

Graduate courses

Urban Sociology (Fall 2007, Fall 2008)

Psychology of the Urban Inhabitant (Environmental Psychology) (Fall 2008)

Urban Design Studio with focus on public spaces (Spring 2009)

Under-graduate courses

History of the Urban Form (Spring 2007, Spring 2008, Spring 2009)

Urban Development Seminar (Spring 2009, Summer 2009)

Design Processes Studio (Fall 2007, Fall 2008)

2006-2009 **Anáhuac University - Department of Humanities. Altamira, Mexico.**
Lecturer/ Chair of Design Seminars Committee

Teaching of undergraduate level courses, thesis advisory, participation in academic committees, coordination of the Design Seminars Committee, coordination of urban planning/design competitions and workshops across departments

Under-graduate courses

Urbanism and Ecology (Spring 2007, Spring 2008)

Urban and Community Planning (Fall 2008)

Sustainability and Urban Design (Spring 2009)

Urban/Architectural Studio (Fall 2006)

Architecture Studio (Fall 2007)

Other relevant experience

2010 **Cornell University - College of Architecture, Art and Planning**

Research Associate in the Case Studies in Urban Development on N.Songdo, S. Korea
Collaboration on design and curation of urban design/architecture exhibition, research and writing texts for a symposium.

2002-2009 **BALANCE1.618 | Arquitectura&Urbanismo** (founder), Tampico, Mexico.

Urban Designer/ Chair of local chapter of Architecture for Humanity

Architectural and urban design, urban development research, design/planning competitions, coordination of community planning projects for marginalized communities.

2014 **Article reviewer** in the peer-reviewed journal, *URBAN DESIGN International*

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Honours, Awards and Prizes

- 2015-2017 Concordia University Start-up Funds (Cities X Citizens Project)
- 2011-2012 Clarence S. Stein Institute for Urban and Landscape Studies Award for Research
- 2009-2013 Olin Fellowship
- 2009-2013 CONACYT Scholarship, National Council of Science and Technology, Mexico
- 2009-2013 SEP Scholarship, Public Education Secretary, Mexico
- 2009-2012 UAT Scholarship, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, Mexico
 - 2011 Tinker Grant, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies
 - 2011 CRP Travel Grant, City and Regional Planning Department, Cornell University
 - 2010 International Research Travel Grant, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies
 - 2010 Tinker Grant, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies
 - 2010 CRP Travel Grant, City and Regional Planning Department, Cornell University

Other Awards

- 2009 Distinguished Professor Award, Department of Architecture, Anáhuac University
- 2010 3rd. Prize. Annual Photo Competition, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies
- 2010 Hon. Mention. Annual Photo Competition, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies
- 2005 First Prize. Poetry Competition, National Council of Culture and Arts, Mexico.

Publications - Articles and book chapters

Accepted/ In Press/ In Progress

- 2017 Do not name this! Refusal of representation and the recapture of everyday life in the square movements of 2011-12. Manuscript submitted for review
- 2017 Becoming Others: Refusal, Destituent Power and Creative Resistance (Three radical ideas from the protest encampments of 2011-12) Manuscript submitted for review
- 2017 Spaces of Becoming: The role of boundaries in the production of space and identity (In Progress)
- 2018 The Dilemma of Openness: Challenges of planning in open spaces and communities (In Progress)
- 2018 To Be Continued: Public space as a community platform in transformation (In Progress)
- 2018 Right up your alley: recapturing interstitial spaces through community planning

Existing Publications

- 2017 "#1Dmx and the Mexico City Commune: The right to the city beyond the rule of law in public spaces" (Book Chapter) in Hou, J. and Knierbein, S. (editors), *City (Un)Silenced: Urban Protests and Public Space in the Age of Shrinking Democracy*.

- 2015 De la Llata, Silvano. "Open-ended urbanisms: Space-making processes in the protest of the Indignados movement in Barcelona." *URBAN DESIGN International* 21.2 (2016): 113-130.
- 2014 De la Llata, S. (2014) "Protest Encampments as Urban Laboratories. The 15M Barcelona Encampment: A Space of Resistance and Creativity" in Planners Network (Association) *Progressive planning: The magazine of Planners Network*. No. 199, Spring 2014: 32-35, New York, N.Y: Planners Network.
- 2012 "Accidental Dissidents: Spontaneity as social potential in public spaces" in Falasca, C. *La domanda dello spazio pubblico: tra esclusione e incorporazione*. Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica, (Online edited book), Roma, Italia. 2012 (in English and Italian) (continues in next page)
- 2011 "Urban resistance: Alternative interpretations of public space" (Book Chapter) in Viladevall M. & Castrillo M. (editors), *Public space in the contemporary city: critical perspectives about design, management and preservation* (published in Spain and Mexico) Universidad de Valladolid Press, Valladolid, Spain, 2011. ISBN: 987-84-8448-557-5
- 2009 "Public spaces as scenarios of social revindication" in *Pharus Academiae: Research Magazine* (peer-reviewed) No. 5, November, 2009, Altamira, Mexico. pg. 72-79.
- 2008 "Elements of architectural identity. On the collective spatial imaginary in the information era" in *Pharus Academiae: Research Magazine* (peer-reviewed), No. 2, Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Tamaulipas, Altamira, Mexico. April 2008. pg. 17-25.
- 2007 "The Social Construction of Space in the Sustainable City" in *Ambiente: Arquitectura y Sustentabilidad*. No. 99, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2007. ISSN: 1851-2771

Conference Papers

- 2016 *The Dilemma of openness: Challenges of planning in open communities and social movements*
Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Portland, OR. 2016
- 2016 Destituent Power and The Right to the City: New Radical Theory in the Context of the Social Movements of 2011 and 2012
Conference of the Urban Affairs Association, San Diego CA. 2016
- 2016 *Spaces of resistance and creativity (Stream and panel organizer)*
Conference of Research Committee 21, Mexico City, Mexico. 2016
- 2014 *Turning voices into spaces: Exploring open planning approaches in the context of the 2011 social movements*
Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Philadelphia, PA. 2014

- 2014 *Spaces of Becoming. Destituent power and the protest encampments*
Conference of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Tampa, FL. 2014
- 2014 *Permeable boundaries. The sociopolitical construction of public space in the context of Occupy social movements*
Conference of the Urban Affairs Association, San Antonio, TX. 2014
- 2013 *Legitimacy and Legality: The Right to the City and the Rule of Law in the Context of Occupy Social Movements.*
Conference of the Urban Affairs Association, San Francisco, CA. 2013
- 2013 *Breaking the Law to defend our rights. Geographies of autonomy and the right to the city.*
Conference of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Los Angeles, CA. 2013
- 2012 *Diffuse-outcome Planning: Direct Democracy, Direct Action and Horizontalism as Planning Tactics in the context of Occupy Social Movements.*
Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Cincinnati, Oh. 2012
- 2012 *The Role of Alternative interpretations and practices in the construction of public space*
Conference of the American Association of Geographers, New York, NY. 2012
- 2011 *Accidental Dissidents: Spontaneity as social potential in public spaces.* Biennale dello Spazio Pubblico 2011. INU Rome, Italy.
- 2009 *Urban Resistance and interpretation of public space* in Urban Resistance Symposium Mexican Society of Architects and Engineers, Universidad del Noreste Tampico, Mexico 2008. (continues in next page)
- 2008 *Almost no one, almost nothing: Social effects of urban transformations* in International congress of Virtual Cities and Territories: "Rethink the city", Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico., 2008.
- 2008 *Democratization of public spaces: Dossiers on every day life democracy.* in International Seminar of Sustainable Design II, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, Tampico, Mexico. 2008.
- 2007 *Elements of identity in public spaces* at the Conference of The Mexican Association of Schools of Architecture. Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, Tampico, Mex. (Continues in next page)
- 2006 *Social construction of space: Citizenship praxis as an element of sustainable urban design* at International Seminar of Sustainable Design I, Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas, Tampico, Mexico. 2006.

Selected Design / Creative Work

As principal of **Balance1.618** | Arquitectura&Urbanismo

- Current Strangers and acquaintances: *The planning and social construction of public space*
Film on cultural/design typologies of public spaces: the park, the public square, the esplanade and market place
Stage: In progress (data compilation to edition)
- Current *The Fisherman's barrio project: Spatial integration strategies and urban acupuncture in Tampico, Mexico*
Probono project for Architecture for Humanity
- 2009 *The Fisherman's region project: Sustainable regional plan for informal settlements, seafood market and docklands in the Panuco River Delta, Tampico, Mexico*
Stage: Schematic plan
- 2008-2009 *Hospital esplanades: Public Space Integration Strategies for Public Hospital in Tampico, Mexico*
Stage: Schematic design to design development
Published in the book *Public space in the contemporary city: critical perspectives about its design, management and preservation (2011)*
- 2007-2010 *Plaza Ivy: Office and retail building and café in Tampico, Mexico*
Stage: In construction
- 2007 *Torre del Bicentenario: Sustainable/Self-managed building in Xochimilco, Mexico City*
X International Architecture Competition Arquine 2007
- 2004 *100 studios of 100 m³ for students and artists. Building in Downtown Mexico City*
VII International Architecture Competition Arquine 2004
- 2001 *Casa Garza-Aguilera: Sustainable house with energy saving and bioclimatic technologies*
Mexico City, Mexico - Stage: Design completed

Fieldwork experience

- 2011-2012 Dissertation Field Research. *Spaces of Becoming: Public Space in Transformation in the context of the 15M and Occupy Wall Street Movements.*
Clarence Stein Research Grant/ Einaudi Travel Grant/ Tinker Grant/ Cornell University
Barcelona, Spain and New York, NY.
- 2010 Preliminary Dissertation Field Research
The role of urban informality in the production of public space
Einaudi Travel Grant/ Tinker Grant/ CRP, Cornell University
Barrio de la Barceloneta, Barcelona Spain.

- 2009 Independent Research.
Informality and urban resistance in public spaces of Mexican Late Modernism
Hospital Modernist esplanades and open spaces, Tampico, Mexico.
- 2008 Field Research and Community Development
Community and urban regeneration of Barrio de los Pescadores (Fishermen Barrio)
Architecture for Humanity, Tampico, Mexico.
- 2004-2006 Master Thesis Field Research.
Urban Violence and city landscapes. Barrio of San Antonio, Puebla, Mexico.
Universidad Iberoamericana. Puebla, Mexico

Advised theses and participation in academic committees

- In progress Badi, Heba, *The relationship between the design and use of urban spaces in Cairo*
2020 (PhD Dissertation) Geography Planning and Environment, Concordia University,
Montreal, QC. Prospective graduation 2020
- In progress Arroyo, Victor, *The making of indigenous resistance, land struggle and the forclosure of politics:*
2020 *Geographies of absence and politics.* (PhD Dissertation) Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies
in Society and Culture, Concordia University, Montreal, QC. Prospective graduation 2020
- In progress Cressley, Jennifer, *Building Blocks of the Ineffable: Revealing Public Space through Participatory*
2019 *Performance Interventions* (Masters Thesis) INDI Masters (Individualized program)
Concordia University, Montreal, QC. Prospective graduation 2019
- In progress Novkovic, Anja, *Alley Stories: Uncovering the Hidden Life of an Urban Backstreet*
2019 (Masters thesis) Geography Planning and Environment, Concordia University,
Montreal, QC. Prospective graduation 2019
- In progress Manshaei, Mohammad, *Revisiting utopia in modernist urban development in Montreal*
2019 (Masters thesis) Geography Planning and Environment, Concordia University,
Montreal, QC. 2016
- In progress Baba, Mira, *Cognitive maps as placemaking strategies in Montreal's Sud-Ouest* (Masters thesis)
2019 Geography Planning and Environment, Concordia University, Montreal, QC. 2016
- 2017 Zenasni, Zak, *Public Space in a Digital World: How should a city respond to the increasing
amount of smartphone users in public spaces?* (Honours Thesis)
Geography Planning and Environment, Concordia University, Montreal, QC. 2017
- 2017 Patel, Vivian, *Indifference and Tolerance: The Shaping of Publics and the Public Space
in a Ugandan Marketplace.* (Honours Thesis) Geography Planning and Environment, Concordia
Montreal, QC. 2017

- 2016 Aouad, Patrick, *Community engagement strategies in interstitial spaces in St-Henri, Montreal* (Honours Thesis) Geography Planning and Environment, Concordia University, Montreal, QC. 2016
- 2014 Yetim, Eda, *Horizontal urban design in the protest encampment of Gezi Parki/Taksim Square in Istanbul, Turkey* (Pre-thesis project: advised through Independent Studies course in Architecture and Urban Planning) Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 2014
- 2012 Amaya, Laura, *Stitching: Urban integration strategies through networks of informality. Three cases of informal settlements (favelas) in Bogotá, Caracas and Rio de Janeiro* (Architecture Thesis/Book: advised through Independent Studies in Urban Planning) Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 2012
- 2009 Estevez, Omar, *Pedestrianization project for downtown Tuxpan* Anahuac University (IEST), Altamira, Mexico, 2008.
- 2009 Andrade, Rosaura, *The effects of strip malls in the urban context of Tampico* Anahuac University (IEST), Altamira, Mexico, 2008.
- 2008 Lopez, Cynthia, *The psychological effects of color in public spaces in Tampico* Anahuac University (IEST), Altamira, Mexico, 2008.
- 2008 Lozano, Sandra, *Architectural project of a Rehabilitation Center for drug addicts* Anahuac University (IEST), Altamira, Mexico, 2008.
- 2008 Gonzalez, Marisol, *Hospital for HIV/AIDS terminal patients (Architectural project)* Anahuac University, (IEST), Altamira, Mexico, 2008.
- 2007 Carlos, Lizzet, *Good governance policies in urban planning projects* (Isleta Perez case), Anahuac University (IEST), Altamira, Mexico, 2007.
- 2007 Medina, Juan Ramón *Fine Arts Institute (Architectural project)*, Anahuac University (IEST), Altamira, Mexico, 2007.

Languages

English, Spanish (Native Speaker), **French and Italian.**

Computer Skills

AutoCAD, Google SketchUP, Adobe Software, MS Office

Memberships

- 2016- Research Committee 21
- 2014- Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)
- 2013- American Planning Association (APA)
- 2013- Urban Affairs Association (UAA)
- 2011- American Association of Geographers (AAG)
- 2013- Planner's Network (PN)
- 2007-2009 Architecture for Humanity (AFH) - Founder of local chapter (Tampico, Mex)
- 2007- Mexican Society of Architects and Engineers (SMIA)