



Cornell University: ICMA Student Chapter

2016-2017 Report

Members of cICMA, Cornell's ICMA student chapter, come both from Cornell's masters programs in the City and Regional Planning Department (CRP) and its Institute of Public Affairs (CIPA). Chapter officers come from both CRP and CIPA, and the chapter leverages a wider reach in collaborative relationships with the Organization of Cornell Planners (OCP), the Cornell Public Affairs Society (CPAS), and several other student organizations from both programs. The chapter advisor is Professor Mildred E. Warner and the chapter mentor is Tompkins County Administrator Joe Mareane.

Fall Semester (2016)

Chapter officers were: co-chairs, Hannah Bahnmitter (CRP) and Zhehao Jin (CIPA); outreach chair, Apoorva Kumar (CRP); and treasurer, Jiaying Zhou (CIPA). The officers met biweekly to plan chapter outreach and programming.

On October 20, the chapter sponsored an informational interdepartmental mixer for students from both CRP and CIPA. Almost 50 students attended, enjoyed pizza, sodas, beer and conversation. Attendees also learned about cICMA and ICMA, and got weblinks and the password for student membership to the national organization.

On November 1st, the chapter sponsored a local government research panel entitled 'Local Gov't Panel: Research Topics and Methodologies.' Moderated by our advisor, Mildred E. Warner, we had three PhD students (Yunji Kim, Lu Liao, and Yunasho Xu) present their research regarding local government sustainability, service delivery, fiscal stress, and decentralization. Almost 25 students were in attendance, and a rich conversation took place about the fundamentals of local government for students new to the field.

The graphic features four vertical bars of different colors (red, orange, blue, green) with the following text written vertically inside them: Sustainability, Service Delivery, Fiscal Stress, and Decentralization. To the right of these bars is a dark blue box containing the event details.

**cICMA LOCAL GOV'T PANEL:
RESEARCH TOPICS AND
METHODOLOGIES**

Join ICMA for a discussion based research panel with **Dr. Mildred Warner** and PhD candidates **Yunji Kim, Lu Liao, and Yuanshuo Xu**.

This panel will overview the participants' current research topics, their approaches and challenges, and exciting future research possibilities.

**Tuesday, November 1st
5:00 pm in Sibley 115**
Light refreshments will be provided

This event is sponsored in part by GPSA and is free and open to the grad student community.

Spring Semester (2017)

Chapter officers were: co-chairs, Austin Aldag (CRP) and Sarang Mangi (CIPA); outreach chair, Yixin Zhang (CIPA); and treasurer, Steven Greco (CIPA). The officers met monthly to plan chapter outreach and programming events.

Spring 2017 was a building semester here for us at Cornell. With a new transition, we are currently trying to better connect with other student chapters in New York State and the greater NE region. In particular, we have forged a strong relationship with our colleagues at Brockport University. In the future, we would like to coordinate travel to local government conferences in the state and elsewhere.

On March 24th, the Chapter co-sponsored the CRP Student Organization Dinner along with 4 other student groups. Over 50 students were in attendance, and they learned about cICMA.

From May 22 – May 24, the Chapter hosted the annual New York State City/County Management Association conference on campus. This event had over 65 attendees. Panels on local government service delivery, state-to-local fiscal stress, healthcare, and the NYS Tax Cap were all part of the program. The Chapter, along with NYSCMA, also organized a professional development panel and round table discussion on the last day of the conference. Local government professionals held mock interviews and answered questions graduate students had regarding employment in local government.



Lastly, a number of our students plan to travel to the 2017 annual ICMA conference.

Planned Events for 2017-2018

We would like to hold two panel discussions and invite two groups of both local government research specialists and professional speakers to campus. The professional group will be locally focused on Ithaca and Tompkins County with topics such as Ithaca Downtown Alliance development, housing, walkability, and other current issues. The second group will be Cornell faculty and students presenting their current research in the realm of local government. We just conducted a new survey of local governments in the state and have many research findings to share.

We would also like to host at least two department mixers to give students a chance to meet peers from other programs on campus. The mixer this year with CIPA was very successful and participants enjoyed meeting students from a department that they do not usually interact with. We would like to do this again and work with other departments in addition to CIPA and CRP.

Lastly, we are planning to host another local government conference on campus in early December. We are trying to build upon our relationships with Brockport University and others in the state to make it a robust, student focused event on local government.