Promoting Recentralization in Ambivalent Political and Economic Times: An Analysis of Metropolitan-scale Plans

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1-2 PM
Room C-20, Snyder-Phillips (in the basement)

Growing dissatisfaction with the present dispersed urban form and generalized reliance on the automobile has resulted in the formulation of planning models attempting to substitute recentralization to dispersed development. A survey of planning documents with a metropolitan focus, originating from U.S. and Canadian urban regions with a population exceeding one million, reveals widespread support for urban recentralization. The paper addresses the tension between this enthusiasm for recentralization and a difficult implementation environment for transformative urban planning, characterized by constrained public sector finances and neoliberalism-induced scepticism about government intervention.

Pierre Filion is a professor at the School of Planning of the University of Waterloo in Canada. His areas of research interest include metropolitan-scale planning, downtowns, suburban areas, and risks facing cities. He has written over one hundred articles and chapters and has served on the National Capital Commission (Ottawa) Planning and Real Estate Advisory Committee, the International Joint Commission (for the Great Lakes) Scientific Advisory Committee, and the Ontario Government Central Zone Panel, which has generated the ideas included in the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, a region focused on Toronto.

Light refreshments will be provided.

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