

# Robert H.W. Boyer

University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Department of Geography & Earth Sciences, UNC Charlotte  
Assistant Professor of Urban Planning 2013 to present  
Faculty Affiliate, Infrastructure & Environmental Systems Program  
Faculty Affiliate, Public Policy Program

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2009 to 2013  
Masters in Urban Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2007 to 2009  
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis 2002 to 2006

## RESEARCH

### *Dissertation*

*Transitioning to Sustainable Urban Development: A niche-based approach.* Defended March 28, 2013.  
Chair: Dr. Brian Deal, Urban & Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications* (\*UNC Charlotte student)

Caldwell, Kevin\* and **Robert H.W. Boyer**. 2018. Bicycle commuting in an automobile-dominated city: How individuals become and remain bike commuters in Charlotte, North Carolina. Published online May 19, 2018 in the journal *Transportation*. Doi: 10.1007/s11116-018-9883-6

**Boyer, Robert H.W.** 2018. Team-based learning in the urban planning classroom. *Journal of Planning Education & Research*. Published online April 12, 2018. Doi: 10.1177/0739456X18769145.

**Boyer, Robert H.W.** and Suzanne Leland. 2018. Cohousing for Whom?: Nation-wide survey evidence to support the diffusion of socially- and spatially-integrated housing in the United States. *Housing Policy Debate*. Published online March 29, 2018. Doi: 10.1080/10511482.2018.1424724

**Boyer, Robert**. 2017. Recreational Cycling as a “Gateway” Practice for Utility Cycling in Charlotte, North Carolina. *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation*. 12(6). doi:10.1080/15568318.2017.1382622

**Boyer, Robert H.W.** 2017. Intermediacy and the diffusion of grassroots innovations: The case of cohousing in the United States. *Environmental Innovation & Societal Transitions*. Published online August 12, 2017. doi:10.1016/j.eist.2017.08.001

**Boyer, Robert H.W.** and Lewis D. Hopkins. 2016. Acting under the Influence: Plans as Improvisational Gifts. *Planning Theory*. Published online June 24, 2016. doi: 10.1177/1473095216654729

**Boyer, Robert H.W.**, Nicole D. Peterson, Poonam Arora, and Kevin Caldwell\*. 2016. Five approaches to social sustainability and a way forward. *Sustainability*, 8 (9) 878. doi: 10.3390/su8090878

- Boyer, Robert H.W.** 2016. Achieving one-planet living through transitions in social practice: A case study of Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage. *Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy*, 12 (1).
- Boyer, Robert H.W.** 2015. Grassroots Innovation for Urban Sustainability: Comparing the Diffusion Pathways of Three Ecovillage Projects. *Environment & Planning A*. 47 (2): 320-337. doi: 10.1068/a140250p
- Boyer, Robert.** 2014. Socio-Technical Transitions in Urban Planning: A Case Study of EcoCohousing in Tompkins County, New York. *Journal of Planning Education & Research*. 34(4): 451-464. doi: 10.1177/0739456X14554037
- Chakraborty, Arnab, Dustin Allred, and **Robert H. Boyer.** 2013. The effects of zoning on housing foreclosures: Exploring a new link to the subprime mortgage crisis. *Housing Policy Debate*. 23 (2): 431-457. doi: 10.1080/10511482.2013.764916

### ***Publications Under Peer Review***

- Gagné, Sara, Kaitlynn Bryan-Skaggs\*, **Robert H.W. Boyer**, and Wei-Ning Xiang. "The ecological information needed by planners to most effectively conserve biodiversity in their jurisdictions." Submitted to *Landscape and Urban Planning* July 9, 2018.
- Leland, Suzanne and **Robert H.W. Boyer.** "Urban Density and the Sharing Economy: Does where you live influence what you share?" Submitted to *Urban Studies* August 11, 2018.

### ***Conference Papers and Presentations***

- Boyer, Robert** and Suzanne Leland. 2018. Who shares? A nation-wide profile of participation in carsharing, bikesharing, and other sharing economy applications. Accepted for presentation at the 58<sup>th</sup> annual conference for the Associated Collegiate Schools of Planning, Buffalo, New York, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- Gagné, S. A., K. Bryan-Skaggs\*, **R. H. W. Boyer**, and W.-N. Xiang. August 7 2018. What information do planners need to conserve biodiversity in their jurisdictions? Presented in the symposium "Exploring links between cities and surrounding landscapes: can cities enhance regional resilience and biodiversity in an era of climate change and extreme events?". Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.
- Gagné, S. A., K. Bryan-Skaggs\*, **R. H. W. Boyer**, and W.-N. Xiang. July 26 2018. The information planners need to conserve nature in their jurisdictions. Western North Carolina Water Quality Conference, Hickory, North Carolina, USA.
- Boyer, Robert.** 2017. The Medium is the Message: Using team-based learning in the urban planning classroom. Presented at the 57<sup>th</sup> annual conference for the Associated Collegiate Schools of Planning, Denver, Colorado, October 14, 2017.
- Bryan-Skaggs\*, Kaitlynn, **Robert Boyer**, Wei-Ning Xiang, Sara Gagné. 2017. What information do planners need to conserve biodiversity? A poster presented at the Charlotte Research Scholars Symposium. June 26, Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Boyer, Robert.** 2017. "Who is interested in Cohousing in the USA?: Results of a national survey on cohousing and the sharing economy." Presented at the National Cohousing Conference, Nashville, TN, May 21.

Caldwell, Kevin\* and **Robert Boyer**. 2017. "The Social Practice of Bicycle Commuting in Charlotte, North Carolina: Probing the importance of workplace variables." A paper presented at annual conference of the American Association of Geographers, Boston, MA, April 9.

**Boyer, Robert** and Lewis D. Hopkins. 2015. Acting under the influence: Plans as improvisational gifts. A paper presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Associated Collegiate Schools of Planning, Houston, Texas, 22 October 2015.

**Boyer, Robert**. 2015. Square peg in a round hole: hurdles to cohousing in US metropolitan regions. A paper presented at the Canadian Association of Geographers Conference. Vancouver, British Columbia. 2 June 2015.

**Boyer, Robert**. 2014. Improvisational comedy as social learning; Scripted theater as instrumental rationality. A paper presented at the 54<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Philadelphia, PA, November 2.

Gagné, Sara and **Robert Boyer**. 2014. The contribution of landscape ecology to urban land use policy and planning. Presentation at the 2014 Annual Symposium of US Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology. Anchorage, AK, May 19.

**Boyer, Robert**. 2012. Transitioning to Sustainability: The influence of niche ecological communities on urban and regional planning. Presented at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Cincinnati, OH, November 1.

**Boyer, Robert**. 2012. Transitioning to Sustainability: Measuring the influence of niche ecological communities on planning policy. Poster presented at the Urban Affairs Association 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. April 20.

Chakraborty, Arnab, **Robert Boyer**, and Dustin Allred. 2012. The Effects of Zoning on Housing Foreclosures: Exploring a New Link to the Subprime Mortgage Crisis. Paper presented at the Urban Affairs Association 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. April 19.

**Boyer, Robert** and Brian Deal. 2010. Sustainable Land-Use Planning: Tools for a new evaluative framework. Paper presented at the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Minneapolis, MN, October 7-11.

### ***Book Reviews***

Henninger, Claudia E., and **Robert Boyer**. "Handbook of Sustainable Development: A Book Review." *Journal of Cleaner Production* 112, Part 5 (January 20, 2016): 4896–99. doi:10.1016/j.jclepro.2015.06.077.

**Boyer, Robert**. 2015. Book review: Ecovillages: Lessons for Sustainable Community, in *Community Development* 46 (4)(August): 436-437.

**Boyer, Robert H.** 2012. Book review: Droppers: America's First Hippie Commune, Drop City, in *Community Development* 43 (4) (July)18: 533-534.

**Boyer, Robert H.** 2011. Book review: Compassionate Statistics: Applied Quantitative Analysis for Social Services (with Exercises and Instructions in SPSS) in *Community Development* 42 (3) (July): 424–425.

## *Non-peer-reviewed articles*

- Sanguinetti, Angela, Heidi Berggren, Neil Planchon, Diane Margolis, **Robert Boyer**, and Chuck MacLane. 2018. The Cohousing Research Network: A Community Approach to Communities Research. *Communities Magazine*. Fall 2018, Issue #180. Network Communities.
- Boyer, Robert**. 2018. Uber and Lyft are clogging cities, hurting transit. Published on the Plan Charlotte blog, August 6, 2018. <https://plancharlotte.org/story/uber-lyft-increase-traffic-study-finds>
- Boyer, Robert**. 2017. In car-dominated cities, encouraging bicycle commuting may first mean providing more opportunities to ride for fun. Published in the *London School of Economics United States Politics and Policy Blog* December 15, 2017. <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2017/12/14/in-car-dominated-cities-encouraging-bicycle-commuting-may-first-mean-providing-more-opportunities-to-ride-for-fun/>
- Boyer, Robert**. 2017. Survey offers guidance for bike equity in Charlotte. A blog post on *Plan Charlotte*, UNC-Charlotte Urban Institute. March 13, 2017. <http://plancharlotte.org/story/charlotte-bicycle-survey-race-gender-income-and-equity>
- Boyer, Robert** and Rhonda Lambert French. 2015. Intentional communities: Informing the next generation of land use law? *Communities Magazine*. Fall 2015, Issue #168: Communities and the Law, pp 20-21.
- Boyer, Robert**. 2015. Land use regulations, urban planners, and intentional communities. *Communities Magazine*. Fall 2015, Issue #168: Communities and the Law, pp. 38-41.
- Boyer, Robert**. 2014. The Eco Village Concept: Climate Mitigation Might Require Experimentation. *Planetizen: The Urban Planning, Design, and Development Network*. Published online December 8. A blog post accessible at <http://www.planetizen.com/node/72732/eco-village-concept-climate-mitigation-might-require-experimentation>.
- Boyer, Robert**. 2014. Urban Planning and Improvisational Comedy: How Plans Say “Yes, &”. *Integrated Network for Social Sustainability*. Published December 2: A blog post accessible at <https://clas-pages.uncc.edu/inss/blog/2014/12/02/urban-planning-and-improvisational-comedy-how-plans-say-yes/>.

## TEACHING

### **UNC Charlotte, Department of Geography & Earth Sciences, 2013-present**

Introduction to Urban & Regional Planning (GEOG 1110)  
Sustainable Urban Planning Seminar (GEOG 6502/8502)  
Western Culture & Society: Urban Sustainability (LBST 2101)  
Environmental Planning (GEOG 3125)  
Urban Planning Theory & Practice (GEOG 6500/8500)

### **Graduate Thesis Advisor**

*Ph.D. Students (Completed)*

Angel Hjarding, Geography, Dissertation Committee (Member)

*Ph.D. Students (Ongoing)*

Catherine Underwood, Infrastructure and Env Systems, Dissertation Committee (Chair)

Adam Griffith, Geography, Dissertation Committee (Member)

*MA Geography Students (Completed)*

Caché Owens, Masters Project Committee (Member)

Courtney Savannah Gibson, Masters Project Committee (Member)

Kevin Caldwell, Master Project Committee (Chair)  
Amber Reitzel Masters Project Committee (Chair)  
Laura Ornstein, Masters Project Committee (Chair)  
Saidah MacKissick, Masters Project Committee (Chair)

*MA Geography Students (Ongoing)*  
Jeremy Vargas, Masters Project Committee (Chair)  
Wolfgang Zacherl, Masters Project Committee (Chair)

### Invited Lectures

- “Ecological Footprint and Low-Impact Living.” A lecture to the Ann Johnson Institute for Senior Living. Great Wolf Lodge, Concord, NC, October 26, 2017.
- “Intermediacy and the Diffusion of Grassroots Innovation: The Case of Cohousing in the United States.” A lecture to the Faculty of the International Institute of Industrial and Environmental Economics (IIIEE), Lund, Sweden. September 13, 2017.
- “Challenges to Cohousing in US Metropolitan Regions.” A lecture to the Ph.D. Seminar in the Department of City & Regional Planning at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA. November 6, 2015.
- “Five Meanings of Social Sustainability.” A presentation for the Sustainability Project: Infusing Sustainability Into Your Teaching. UNC Charlotte. May 12, 2015.
- “Socio-Technical Transitions as a Local Approach to Sustainable Development.” A seminar sponsored by the Polson Institute for Global Development, Department of Development Sociology. Cornell University. September 8, 2014.
- “A Niche-Based Approach to Urban and Regional Policy.” Presented to NEURUS program participants in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. April 10, 2013.
- “Growing Apart: Regional Land Use Planning in Metropolitan Chicago.” Presented to the Department of Industrial Ecology at the Royal Swedish Institute of Technology (Kungliga Tekniska högskolan), Stockholm, Sweden. June 5, 2012.
- “From ‘hippie freaks’ to innovative niche: The role of ecovillages in climate planning.” Presented to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. March 15, 2011.
- “Living lightly in an Ecovillage. Presented to the University of Illinois Eco-Reps.” Urbana, Illinois, February 7, 2011.
- “Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage: Sustainable Community in Practice.” Presented at the Doctoral Students in Urban Planning Seminar, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 26, 2010.
- “Urban Planning: Creating Healthy, Beautiful, and Just Places.” Presented as a Special lecture to Villa Grove High School. Villa Grove, Illinois: October 27, 2010.

## GRANT APPLICATIONS

- University of North Carolina System Inter-Institutional Planning Grant. Cohousing in North Carolina: A pilot study measuring the energy savings of socially-integrated neighborhood design (Stage 2, pre-proposal). Role: PI. Amount proposed: \$74,000. Status: Declined internal review.
- National Science Foundation: Coupled Natural-Human Systems for Sustainable and Sustained Rural Communities: Quantification and Comparison of Linked Infrastructure-Ecosystem-Governance Systems. Role: Senior researcher. Amount Proposed: \$1 Million. Status: Declined.
- UNC-Charlotte Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund. Bridging the Digital Divide: Can Smart Cities be Inclusive Cities?: Application for a Honorarium for INSS Conference Speakers David Ludlow and Laurenellen McCann. Amount awarded: \$2,000.
- National Science Foundation: S&CC-RCN: Smart Cohousing Research Network. Co-PI, Submitted February 17, 2017 to the Smart and Connected Communities Program. Proposed amount, \$500,000. Proposal declined.
- National Science Foundation: S&CC: Empowering Community Self-Determination through Smart Urban Technologies. Co-PI, Submitted February 17, 2017 to the Smart and Connected Communities Program. Proposed amount, \$100,000. Proposal declined.
- National Science Foundation. IBSS-S: The role of urban design professionals in addressing social disparities in public infrastructure. Lead PI, Submitted December 1, 2015 to the Interdisciplinary Behavioral Social Science Program. Proposed amount, \$281,298. Proposal declined.
- National Science Foundation. Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE). *The Third Pillar: Connecting Engineering and Design with Social Sustainability* (Accepted for full application, declined in second round.
- National Science Foundation. Research Coordination Networks, Engineering and Education for Sustainability track: *Integrated Network for Social Sustainability (INSS): Concepts, Language, and Assessment*. Co-PI, Granted 2012, Co-PI since 2014.
- Faculty Research Grant, University of North Carolina at Charlotte. *On the origin of greenhouse gas reduction goals: Is climate mitigation planning a pragmatic undertaking?* (Lead PI, Granted \$3,552).
- Dissertation Travel Grant, UIUC, Fall 2012-2013 Competition (\$1,135).
- Publisher's Travel Scholarship, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, 2010 (\$400)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- Junior Faculty Development Award, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Fall 2017.
- List of Teachers Ranked As Excellent by Their Students, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Fall 2007, Fall 2008, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013.
- Outstanding Doctoral Student Award, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 2013.
- AICP Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, UIUC, 2009
- Student Planning Organization Service Award, UIUC, 2009

Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Chapter of Missouri, elected 2006

Member, Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honors Society, 2004-2006

## SERVICE

### *Public service*

Member, Bicycle Advisory Committee, City of Charlotte (April 2016-present).

### *University, College, and Departmental Service*

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (UNC Charlotte), Faculty Council Representative for the Department of Geography & Earth Sciences (Alternate representative Fall 2017-Spring 2018, Representative Fall 2018-Spring 2019).

Faculty Recruitment and Hiring Committee for a position in Economic Geography, Department of Geography & Earth Sciences, UNC Charlotte (Fall 2015)

Graduate Advisory Committee, Dept. of Geography & Earth Sciences, UNC Charlotte (Fall 2014-Spring 2016)

Recruitment and Hiring Committee, University Recycling Coordinator, Building and Environmental Services, UNC Charlotte (January 2015)

### *Disciplinary service*

Research Coordinator, Cohousing Research Network (2017-present)

Editorial Board Member, *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society* (Fall 2014-present)

Journal Referee

*Community Development* (2018)

*Environment & Planning A* (2015)

*Env Innovation and Societal Transitions* (2016)

*Environmental Policy & Governance* (2015, 17, 18)

*Environment, Society, and Sustainability* (2017)

*International Review of Social Psychology* (2016)

*Journal of Cleaner Production* (2016, 2018)

*J. Planning Educ. & Research* (2018)

*Journal of Rural Studies* (2018)

*Journal of Urban Management* (2017x3)

*Landscape and Urban Planning* (2017)

*Planning Theory and Practice* (2017)

*Sustainability* (2017, 2018x2)

*Urban Design International* (2015, 2017)

Book Referee, Taylor & Francis (one book, 2014)

## ASSOCIATIONS

Member and co-PI, Integrated Network for Social Sustainability (2014-present)

Member, Sustainability Transitions Research Network (2010-present)

Member, American Planning Association (2007-present)

## FEATURED IN THE MEDIA

Quoted in “9 ways (and more) that Charlotte could be a better city” by Mary Newsom in Plan Charlotte <http://plancharlotte.org/story/jane-jacobs-advice-charlotte-nc-urbanism>. September 11, 2017.

Quoted in “Cohousing’s Diversity Problem” in *City Lab*, August 10, 2017. [https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/08/cohosings-diversity-problem/536337/?utm\\_source=nl\\_link2\\_081017](https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/08/cohosings-diversity-problem/536337/?utm_source=nl_link2_081017)

Quoted in “Is co-living a solution for modern times?” in *Aletia*, April 21, 2017. <http://aleteia.org/2017/04/21/co-living-a-housing-solution-for-modern-times/>

Interviewed on the ‘Talk of the Towns’ Podcast, with Mary Newsom, UNC Charlotte, Urban Institute. May 26, 2016: [Cohousing: Square Peg Development in a Round Hole World](#).

Work featured on the Planetizen blog by Jennifer Cowley. November 1, 2015. [Topics Planners Don’t Often Think About But Should](#).