



Aura Luciana Istrate

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● WORK EXPERIENCE

1 NOV 2020 – 31 MAR 2021 – Singapore , Singapore

RESEARCHER (URBAN PLANNING) – Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

The research concerns resilience and liveability in South-East Asian cities. I focus on mapping approaches and serious games to support urban planning decisions with consideration for ecosystem services. Designing and facilitating workshops to co-produce ecosystem services in Singapore and supporting the development of workshops for the Nature of Cities Festival (expected February 2021) are also part of my responsibilities.

1 SEP 2019 – 31 AUG 2020 – Ostrava , Czechia

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER – University of Ostrava

I joined the University of Ostrava (OU) through the program 'International Mobility of Researchers', particularly undertaking the EU-funded project for 'Strengthening the scientific capacity of OU'. I conducted research on walkability and urban transformation. I particularly assessed the way main streets are perceived by street users in an industrial city. I also served as the contact person at OU for a cross-continental MSCA-RISE project (to obtain funding from Horizon Europe) on planning instruments and ecosystem services trade-offs in peri-urban landscapes.

1 JAN 2018 – 31 JAN 2019 – India

GUEST FACULTY – Amity University Online

I developed the online course of "Design Thinking for Social Innovation", addressed to Postgraduate Students with non-design backgrounds, teaching them how to use design thinking and design research to uncover effective solutions for social innovation. Learning tools included online videos and presentations on defined subtopics, revealing theoretical notions and case studies relevant to design thinking. I emphasized especially visualization and storytelling.

The objectives of the course were: broadening the perspectives of participants towards making the shift from problems to opportunities; and bringing into the participants' attention the importance of contextual understanding in design solutions.

1 MAR 2015 – 30 JUN 2017 – China

TEACHING ASSISTANT – Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU)

My responsibilities included weekly tutorials in the form of workshops, full day studios, field trips and final reviews for the design studio 'Skills in Planning Practice' and the theoretical module 'Neighborhood Planning' for year 2 undergraduate students in urban planning.

1 OCT 2014 – 28 FEB 2016 – China

MAIN URBAN DESIGNER AND PLANNER – SBA GmbH

I was in charge with proposing new Development Strategies for mixed-use areas in China (with offices, commercial and residential functions) as well as Conceptual Designs. I coordinated the team that supported with graphical representations and I often communicated with collaborating companies that supported with media files and architectural details.

1 MAR 2012 – 31 JUL 2014 – China

URBAN DESIGNER AND PLANNER – XWHO-RECON

I was in charge of Urban Design and Masterplanning on a wide range of projects, realised at different design scales. Most requirements included strategic planning, and conceptual designs. The work included presentations of scenarios and concept developments to investors and local authorities as well.

1 FEB 2011 – 29 FEB 2012 – Bucharest , Romania

RESEARCH ASISSTANT (URBAN PLANNING) – Centre of Research, Planning, Expertise and Consulting (CCPEC)

Working on the Territorial Plan of Galati County (PATJ Galati), particularly on the economy and workforce chapters, including both writing and drawing sections.

15 JAN 2010 – 30 OCT 2011 – Bucharest , Romania

URBAN PLANNER AND DESIGNER – ARUA CREATE DESIGN

My responsibilities included: realizing technical design and planning documentation using design software such as AutoCAD, ArchiCAD, AllPlan Nemetschek; conducting discussions with investors and settings project milestones; as well as delivering projects presentations to planning commissions.

1 OCT 2010 – 28 FEB 2011 – Bucharest, Romania

TEACHING ASSISTANT – University of Architecture and Urban Design 'Ion Mincu'

Providing feedback to year 4 Architecture students in Urban Design Studios.

● **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

1 OCT 2013 – 7 MAY 2019 – United Kingdom

DOCTORATE (PHD) – University of Liverpool (UK) and Xi'an Jiaotong University (China)

Field(s) of study

- Architecture (urbanism-focused)

Defining Liveability in a Chinese Context: determining the qualities of liveable streets in Shangha

1 OCT 2008 – 30 SEP 2010

MASTER – University of Architecture and Urban Design 'Ion Mincu', Bucharest, Romania

Field(s) of study

- Urban Planning and Design

9.48 | Railway stations as intermodal nodes in cities: the case of Ploiesti

1 OCT 2005 – 30 JUN 2008

BACHELOR DEGREE – University of Architecture and Urban Design 'Ion Mincu', Bucharest, Romania

Field(s) of study

- Urban Design and Planning

8.80

● **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Mother tongue(s): **ROMANIAN**

| | UNDERSTANDING | | SPEAKING | | WRITING |
|----------------|---------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
| | Listening | Reading | Spoken production | Spoken interaction | |
| ENGLISH | C2 | C2 | C2 | C2 | C2 |
| FRENCH | B1 | B2 | A2 | A2 | B1 |
| SPANISH | B1 | B2 | A2 | A2 | A2 |
| ITALIAN | B1 | B1 | A2 | A2 | A2 |
| SWEDISH | A2 | A2 | A1 | A1 | A2 |
| CHINESE | A2 | A1 | A2 | A2 | A1 |

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

● DIGITAL SKILLS

Microsoft Office | Microsoft Excel | Google Drive | Zoom | Skype | Social Media | Power Point | Google Docs | Microsoft Word | Facebook | Organizational and planning skills | Good listener and communicator | Analytical skills | Written and Verbal skills | Decision-making | Reliability | Team-work oriented | LinkedIn | Presenting | Conflict resolution | Internet user | Motivated | Critical thinking | Strategic Planning | Creativity | Responsibility | Research and analytical skills | Gmail | Flexibility | Excellent writing and verbal communication skills | Detail-Oriented | Microsoft Powerpoint | Data analysis | Teamwork | Problem-solving | Project management | leadership | Good at being proactive and efficient in high stress situations

● PUBLICATIONS

Publications 2011-2020

I have written and contributed to the following publications:

- **Istrate**, Bosák, Nováček & Slach (2020): "How attractive for walking are the main streets of a shrinking city?", *Sustainability* 12, 6060, doi:10.3390/su12156060, available at <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/12/15/6060>
- **Istrate**, Chen, Kadetz, Chang & Williams (2020): "Developing an Analytical Framework for Liveable Streets in Shanghai" (in press in *Urban Design International*) <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41289-020-00144-4> <https://livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk/3088493/>
- **Istrate** & Chen (2021): "Liveable streets in Shanghai: definition, characteristics and design" (in review in *Progress in Planning*)
- **Istrate** (2020): "Liveable and Healthy streets" (forthcoming in Crawford, Kadetz (eds.) *Encyclopedia of Health Humanities*, in review, to be published as hardcopy by Palgrave, Springer in 2022).
- **Istrate** & Bosák (2020): "Liveable and Revitalised Streets" in Pašek, Koppet al. (eds.) *Revitalization of city centres and other public spaces in the Czech Republic: Problems, foreign inspiration, possible solutions* (in Czech, in press)
- **Istrate** (2019): "Defining Liveability in a Chinese context: determining the qualities of liveability at the level of the street in Shanghai", DOI: [10.17638/03037020](https://doi.org/10.17638/03037020)
- **Istrate** & Tai (2017): "Reflections on the importance of water for liveability in Shanghai", for Embrace the Water, a Cities of the Future Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319253066> Reflections on the importance of water for liveability in Shanghai
- **Istrate** (2016): "Theoretical Foundations on Liveability at the Level of the Street in Shanghai", in Heng, Zhang (eds.): "Crossroads: Asian Streets in the Dynamic of Change", pp. 68-75, ISBN 978-981-11-1812-8
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313528241> Theoretical foundations on liveability at the level of the street in Shanghai
- **Istrate** (2016): "Assessing liveability at the level of the community and streets in Asian cities" in proceedings of "Adopting an R-Urban model: empowering local communities to develop sustainable built environments in developing countries", Indonesia
- **Istrate** (2015): "Liveable Streets in High Density Cities of China: the case of Shanghai" for IMCL Conference, UK
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313528065> Liveable Streets in High Density Cities of China the Case of Shanghai
- Imre, **Istrate**, Pakowska, Pietra & Nowicki (2011) "Stakeholder Analysis", in Bergier, Kronenberg & Maliszewska (eds.) "Lodz, European Green Capital by 2020", Challenges of Sustainable Development in Poland 2011, pp.41-50
<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/13459579/lodz-as-european-green-capital-by-2020>
- Conesa, **Istrate**, Latre-Cabrera, Machedon, Mendolicchio & Pața (2011), "Porto Viro Case Study" in Tosi, Anguillari, Bonini Lessing & Ranzato (eds.) "Delta Landscapes – Geographies, Scenarios, Identities" Papiroz Publishing House, pp. 54-59
https://www.academia.edu/2319717/Delta_Landscape_Geographies_Identities_Scenario
<https://www.auraistrate.com/written-articles>