

Martin Horak

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Research Interests

Professor Horak specializes in Canadian and comparative urban politics, with an emphasis on the dynamics of urban policy-making, multilevel governance, and the governance problems of large cities.

Current Research Projects

1. State Rescaling in Practice: Understanding the Shifting Landscape of Urban Governance in Contemporary Toronto

This project examines recent attempts to spatially shift (or “rescale”) urban governing institutions in Toronto. Results to date suggest that reform of governing institutions in the GTA has moved away from the long-standing focus on comprehensive local boundary reform, and towards task-specific reform of governance in individual policy areas. The project examines how this shift has been spurred by the continued growth and expansion of the Toronto region, which makes boundary-related reforms less feasible and stable over time.

2. The Multilevel Politics of Urban Rail Infrastructure

Professor Horak is conducting comparative research on the politics of building new urban rail lines in Canadian and American cities. His interest is in understanding how the complex multilevel governance of big infrastructure projects leads to changes in the shape and cost of urban rail infrastructure as construction projects move from concept to reality. This project is supported by a three-year research grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Selected Publications

Books

- 2015. With Clarence Stone et al. *Urban Neighborhoods in a New Era: Revitalization Politics in the Postindustrial City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 2012: Edited with Robert Young. *Sites of Governance: Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada’s Big Cities*, McGill-Queens University Press.
- 2007: *Governing the Post-Communist City: Institutions and Democratic Development in Prague*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2014. With Marilyn Dantico. “The Limits of Local Redistribution: Neighbourhood Regeneration Initiatives in Toronto and Phoenix”. *International Journal of Canadian Studies* 49, 135-158.
- 2013: "State Rescaling in Practice: Urban Governance Reform in Toronto". *Urban Research & Practice* 6:3, 311-328.

Book Chapters/ Refereed Papers

- 2012: With Talja Blokland. “Neighborhoods and Civic Practice”. In Susan Clarke, Peter John and Karen Mossberger, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Urban Politics*, Oxford University Press.
- 2012: “Multilevel Governance in Toronto: Overcoming Coordination Challenges in the ‘Megacity’”. In Robert Young and Martin Horak, eds., *Sites of Governance*:

Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada's Big Cities, McGill-Queens University Press.

- 2012: "Conclusion". In Robert Young and Martin Horak, eds., *Sites of Governance: Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada's Big Cities*, McGill-Queens University Press.
- 2008: *Governance Reform From Below: Multilevel Politics and Toronto's 'New Deal' Campaign*. Global Dialogue Series, No. 4. Nairobi: UN-Habitat.

Recent Conference Presentations

- 2015. "Transportation Infrastructure: The U.S. Experience". State of the Federation Conference, Queen's University, Kingston, June.
- 2012: "The Limits of Local Social Policy: Neighborhood Regeneration Programs in Phoenix and Toronto". Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Edmonton, June.
- 2011. "Policy Shift, Institutional Stasis: The Precarious Place of Neighborhood Revitalization in Toronto". Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, March.
- 2010. "Urban Megaprojects in Comparative Perspective: Mapping the Research Terrain". American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC., September.
- 2010. "Understanding Neighbourhood Revitalization in Toronto". Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, June.
- 2010. With Hal Wolman. "Regenerating Urban Neighbourhoods: Placing Neighbourhoods in their Comparative Contextual Setting". Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, April.

Awards and Distinctions

- 2013, 2014: University Student Council Teaching Honour Roll, The University of Western Ontario.
- 2011-12: Visiting Scholar, Center for Urban and Regional Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2009, 2010, 2011: University Students' Council Teaching Honour Roll, University of Western Ontario.
- 2010: Nominated for SSHRC Aurora Prize, an interdisciplinary Canada-wide prize (\$25,000 award) for an outstanding new researcher in the social sciences or humanities. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
- 2008: American Political Science Association Prize for Best Urban Politics Book published in 2007. Awarded for *Governing the Post-Communist City: Institutions and Democratic Development in Prague*.