

An aerial photograph of Austin, Texas, showing the city skyline with various skyscrapers and buildings. The Colorado River flows through the city, with several bridges crossing it. The foreground shows a large green park area with trees and a building with a curved roof. The sky is clear and blue.

Community and Regional Planning  
MSCRP  
Fall 2021

Bjørn Sletto  
Graduate Adviser  
[bjorn@utexas.edu](mailto:bjorn@utexas.edu)

# Agenda



1. Welcome to CRP!
2. Sources of information
3. Our curriculum
4. Annual student reviews
5. Professional Report/Thesis
6. Internship
7. Dual Degrees, Stackable Certificates, and Portfolio Programs
8. Events and activities
9. Health and safety
10. Reminder of key dates



WELCOME TO CRP!

# “To train future leaders in planning and related fields”

- ▶ *Theory*: What role should planning play in shaping cities? What do we know about the causes of current problems? About solutions?
- ▶ *Skills*: How do we project population growth? Run a public meeting? Assess neighborhood conditions? Create maps, posters?
- ▶ *Experience*: Addressing real-world situations through Practicums

# “To train future leaders in planning and related fields”

## Our graduates work at:

- ▶ Federal, state and local agencies
- ▶ Planning consulting firms
- ▶ Private development firms
- ▶ Nonprofit organizations
- ▶ Higher education
- ▶ Governance and public policy

# Our research

## Social equity:

How do we create communities that meet the sometimes conflicting needs of different segments of the population?

How can we ensure planning doesn't deepen social divides?

What do we need to preserve for our cities to remain livable and socially meaningful places?

# Our research



## Sustainability and resilience:

How can we make our cities more socially and environmentally resilient in the face of disasters and climate change?

What constitutes infrastructure in socially resilient and environmentally sustainable cities?

How do transportation options relate to other planning goals in cities today?

# Our research



## Design:

How does design relate to access to and uses of public spaces?

## Methods:

How can we use information technologies to learn about planning needs and facilitate responses?

How can we finance and incentivize development consistent with public planning goals?



# Our research



## Community engagement:

How do we ensure that all stakeholders can and do participate fully in important planning decisions?

How can the planner become a catalyst of more respectful, impactful, and generative interactions between government and the public and among diverse stakeholders?



# SOURCES OF INFORMATION

# Sources of information

## **Website**

Our website provides general information about the program. It is not updated as frequently as the Canvas site.

## **Canvas**

The Canvas site is the source of updated Program information. You are required to accept your invitation to the Canvas site and consult it frequently.

## **CRP Program Handbook**

The Handbook provides important information about registration, funding, and administrative processes at the School and University level. Available in the SOA folder on Canvas.



# OUR CURRICULUM

# Core course requirements

2-Year Program

48 Credit Hours in Total

Planning History, Theory and Ethics

Foundations of Planning Law

Quantitative Methods

Sustainable Land Use Planning

Qualitative and Participatory Methods

GIS/Visual Communications

Public Economics and Finance

A 6 hour Practicum

Professional Report or Thesis

# Typical curriculum: Year 1

FALL - YEAR 1	HOURS	SPRING - YEAR 1	HOURS
<b>Core 1:</b> CRP 380F-1 Planning History, Theory, and Ethics	3	<b>Core 3:</b> CRP 386-9 Sustainable Land Use Planning	3
<b>Core 2:</b> CRP 380F-2 Foundations of Planning Law	3	<b>Method 2:</b> Qualitative and Participatory Methods course	3
<b>Method 1:</b> CRP 386-6 Introduction to Viz-Com and GIS	3	<b>Method 3:</b> CRP 381M-1 Quantitative Methods	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
<b>SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS:</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>12</b>

Summer: PR/Thesis research...and internship? Summer courses?

# Typical curriculum: Year 2 PR option

FALL - YEAR 2	HOURS	SPRING - YEAR 2	HOURS
<b>Method 4:</b> 380F-3 Public Economics and Finance	3	<b>CRP 398R Professional Report</b>	3
CRP 685D Planning Practicum/Studio**	6	Elective	3
		Elective	3
Elective <b>OR</b> CRP 397- Internship	3	Elective	3
<b>SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS:</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>12</b>

# Typical curriculum: Year 2

## Thesis option

Please contact me ASAP if you want to do a thesis!

FALL - YEAR 2	HOURS	SPRING - YEAR 2	HOURS
CRP698A Thesis A	3	CRP 698B Thesis B	3
Method 4: 380F-3 Public Economics and Finance	3	Elective	3
CRP386 Research Design	3	Elective	3
CRP395C: Practicum*	3	CRP 395D: Practicum*	3
<b>SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS:</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>12</b>



# Core class in Qualitative and Participatory Methods

We aim to foster planners who value and seek to serve the public interest, are able to work effectively in diverse contexts and cultures, and who engage all stakeholders with compassion, professionalism, honesty, and dedication.

You select one course among 3-4 course offerings each year.

Each course provides deep and rigorous training by focusing on specific methods, offering students opportunities to practice engagement methods and receive feedback on their work.

Take this course in your first year (first or second year for dual-degree students).

# Core class in Qualitative and Participatory Methods

**Spring 2021**

CRP 381M ARTS BASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
Instructor TBD

CRP 390 URBAN POLITICS AND PLANNING  
Dr. Elizabeth Mueller

CRP 381M PUBLIC SPACES  
Dr. Bjorn Sletto

More course may become available. Information will be provided prior to spring registration this fall.

# Practicums!

In the Practicum, students apply the skills they have learned to address real world planning problems, often in partnership with a client.

You take the Practicum in your second year.

The Practicum is 6 credit hours: either 6 credits in fall semester 3 credits each semester for two semesters.

A list of Practicum options will be distributed prior to registration for fall semester. We will also hold an orientation session in the spring.

Studio courses in other SOA programs may count as CRP Practicums. See instructions in the CRP Student Handbook.

**You need permission of Graduate Adviser to receive Practicum credits for classes outside CRP.**

# Electives! Yes, you have choices!

Example of  
professional  
lecturer

A partial list for this fall:

Intro to urban ecology (Coyne)

Affordable housing planning (Mueller)

Design for planners (Smith)

Right to the city (Sletto)

Philanthropy and social change (Lentz)

Transportation planning and policy (Rosenbloom)

<https://soa.utexas.edu/courses/fall-2020>

Example of  
“cross-listing;”  
with LBJ  
School

- You can also take electives in other programs in SOA and in other departments at UT!
- You need Graduate Adviser approval for electives outside SOA
- You can take a maximum of two electives outside CRP (6 credits) on a credit/no credit basis.
- You can not take CRP electives on a credit/no credit basis.

# Curriculum flexibility (yes, really!)

## ▶ CORE COURSE WAIVER

- ▶ Possible with any core course
- ▶ Course instructor's approval (test-out exam may be required)
- ▶ Graduate Adviser's approval
- ▶ SOA Graduate Coordinator recording
- ▶ **DOES NOT** reduce number of hours needed for MSCRP

## ▶ CHANGE IN SEQUENCE

- ▶ Course instructor's approval
- ▶ Graduate Adviser's approval

## ▶ INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES

- ▶ 6 credit hours maximum



# ANNUAL STUDENT REVIEWS

# Annual Student Reviews



- ▶ The Graduate School requires each program to annually review the progress for all students.
- ▶ You will only be contacted if we have any questions about your progress.
- ▶ The goal is to track your progress to make sure you are meeting all the requirements for graduation.
- ▶ You will receive a copy.
- ▶ The Graduate Office will maintain the official copy in your file.



# PROFESSIONAL REPORT/ THESIS



# What's the difference between a Thesis and a PR?

- ▶ A **professional report** involves documenting and analyzing a specific, real-world planning issue or case, drawing on planning concepts and literature you have learned in class.
- ▶ Original data collection is limited and developed together with your first reader.
- ▶ It's a good idea to develop your PR on the basis of an internship experience.
- ▶ Most students choose to do a PR.
- ▶ Most PRs are between 50-70 pages.

# What's the difference between a Thesis and a PR?

- ▶ A **thesis** involves in-depth research of a complex, planning-related problem. You need to conduct a literature review of previous research both inside and outside planning, develop a research design, and collect extensive, original data.
- ▶ The data can be quantitative, qualitative or both. You select the research methods appropriate for your study.
- ▶ A thesis is highly recommended for students considering doctoral studies or research-oriented professional work.
- ▶ Theses are typically around 100 pages.
- ▶ You need to attend the Research Design class.

# Thesis or PR? Implications for your coursework

- ▶ **PR students** enroll in one, 3 credit-hour PR course (final semester), leaving time for more electives.
- ▶ **Thesis students** enroll in two, 3 credit-hour Thesis courses (Thesis A and B; during the final 2 semesters). They must also take Research Design as one of their electives. They **must plan carefully** when to take a practicum to balance their course load in the second year.
- ▶ **PR/Thesis workshops** will be offered in the Fall and Spring semester of your first year, and in fall of your second year. **All students (whether you choose the PR or Thesis option) must attend these workshops in order to receive full consideration for CRP scholarships.**

# PR/Thesis schedule

Students must meet all these requirements to receive full consideration for CRP scholarship funding, including travel funding for the APA conference.

## FALL SEMESTER YEAR 1

1. Meet with your assigned Faculty Mentor (August 28, 2pm)
2. Attend PR/Thesis Workshop 1 (October)
3. Develop your PR/Thesis **idea**
4. Continue meeting with your Mentor and relevant faculty (November)

## SPRING SEMESTER YEAR 1

5. Attend PR/Thesis Workshop 2 (February)
6. Submit your PR/Thesis **abstract** (February-March)
7. Matching and meeting with your readers (March)
8. Attend PR/Thesis Workshop 3 (March-April)
9. Submit **preliminary proposal** to your readers (April)
10. Follow-up meetings with readers (April-May)

## SUMMER: CONDUCT PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

# PR/THESIS SCHEDULE

Students must meet all these requirements to receive full consideration for CRP scholarship funding, including travel funding for the APA conference.

## FALL SEMESTER YEAR 2

1. Keep meeting with your First and Second Reader (September)
2. Submit your PR/Thesis **final proposal to be able to register for PR in Spring (October)**
3. Submit at least one chapter of your PR/thesis to your First Reader (By last day of class)

## SPRING SEMESTER YEAR 2

4. Submit your **complete PR/Thesis draft** to your First and Second Reader (early April)
5. Submit your **final PR/Thesis** to the Graduate School (Last day of class).

# Clarifying some terms

- ▶ You have already been paired with a **Faculty Mentor** based on your interests as indicated in your application. Meet with your mentor on **Friday, August 27 at 2pm** (**Zoom link: <https://utexas.zoom.us/j/92465657553>**). **Email to confirm.**
- ▶ After submitting your PR abstract in the spring, you will be paired with two faculty members who will serve as your **First** and **Second Reader**. The First or Second Reader may, or may not, be your Faculty Mentor...it depends on your evolving research interests.
- ▶ The three of you decide which faculty member will serve as First and who will serve as Second Reader.
- ▶ Think of your First Reader as your “adviser.” S/he works most closely with you as you develop your research.

# And don't forget...

You are always welcome to meet with me, Samantha Bernacki ([samanthabernacki@utexas.edu](mailto:samanthabernacki@utexas.edu)), Graduate Program Coordinator Natalia Morgan ([nmorgan@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:nmorgan@austin.utexas.edu)), and any faculty members! Come to office hours and/or send us an email!

# INTERNSHIP



# Should I do an internship?

- ▶ Internships are not required but can help you define your career goals, and they may even lead to a job!
- ▶ Requires 300 hours of work, enrollment in a 3 credit Internship course, submission of a report, and a form signed by your supervisor before after the internship.
- ▶ Remember, you can develop your PR based on your internship! See the Thesis and PR Guidelines web page.
- ▶ There's also a 1-credit internship option, but that does not provide you with course credits.
- ▶ You can only take the 3-credit internship once for credit towards your MSCRP degree.
- ▶ Our Career Services Center can help you find internship opportunities: <https://soa.utexas.edu/resources/career-services>



DUAL DEGREES,  
STACKABLE GRADUATE  
CERTIFICATES,  
AND  
PORTFOLIO PROGRAMS

# Dual-degree options

CRP + Urban Design (contact Dean Almy)

CRP + Sustainable Design (contact Matt Fajkus)

CRP + Latin American Studies (contact Bjørn Sletto)

CRP + Public Affairs (contact Michael Oden)

CRP + Law (contact Bjørn Sletto)

- You must apply and be admitted separately to both programs
- Yes, you can apply for admission to the second program after starting your first degree program
- For application materials, see the Graduate Office
- For more information, see <https://soa.utexas.edu/programs/community-and-regional-planning/dual-degree-programs>

# CRP/Urban Design

MS in Community and Regional Planning (M.S.C.R.P.)  
& MS in Urban Design (M.S.U.D)

Total credit hours: 66

- ▶ CRP: 33; UD: 33
- ▶ Joint Terminal Projects: PR and Urban Design Project
- ▶ Three years

DUAL DEGREE FACULTY ADVISER:

Dean Almy, [dja3@utexas.edu](mailto:dja3@utexas.edu)

# CRP/Sustainable Design



MS in Community and Regional Planning (M.S.C.R.P.) & MS  
in Sustainable Design (M.S.S.D)

Total credit hours: 66

- ▶ CRP core: 27; SD core: 18; Electives: 15
- ▶ Thesis: 6
- ▶ Three years

DUAL DEGREE FACULTY ADVISER:

Matt Fajkus, [matt.fajkus@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:matt.fajkus@austin.utexas.edu)

# CRP/Latin American Studies

MS in Community and Regional Planning & MA in Latin American Studies (M.A.)

Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS)

Total credit hours: 66~69

- ▶ CRP: 30; LLILAS: 30~33
- ▶ PR + Internship or Thesis: 6
- ▶ Three-year program

DUAL DEGREE FACULTY ADVISER (FROM CRP):

Dr. Bjørn Sletto, [bjorn@utexas.edu](mailto:bjorn@utexas.edu)

# CRP/LBJ School of Public Affairs

MS in Community and Regional Planning  
(M.S.C.R.P. & Master of Public Affairs (M.P.Aff.)  
Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs (LBJ)

Total credit hours: 69

- ▶ CRP: 33; LBJ: 33
- ▶ Joint PR: 3
- ▶ Three years

DUAL DEGREE FACULTY COORDINATOR (FROM CRP):  
Dr. Michael Oden, [oden@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:oden@austin.utexas.edu)

# CRP/ School of Law

MS in Community and Regional Planning (M.S.C.R.P)  
& Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.)  
University of Texas School of Law

Total credit hours: 122

- ▶ CRP: 30; Law: 86
- ▶ Thesis: 6

DUAL DEGREE FACULTY COORDINATOR (FROM LAW):

Professor Eden E. Harrington, [eharrington@law.utexas.edu](mailto:eharrington@law.utexas.edu)



# Stackable Graduate Certificates

- ▶ SOA offers 10 “Stackable Graduate Certificates” to provide an opportunity for students to receive a “**transcriptable credential**” to convey a more in-depth study in a specialization within our fields.
- ▶ Stackable Graduate Certificates require three classes.
- ▶ For example: Building Technology, Digital Technology, Environmental Equity Design, Latin American Architecture, etc.
- ▶ For more information, contact Natalia Morgan and see: <https://soa.utexas.edu/life-work/student-affairs/graduate-office/stackable-graduate-certificates>

# Portfolio Programs

- ▶ Obtain credentials in a cross-disciplinary area of inquiry. The portfolio program will appear on your transcript.
- ▶ Usually consists of four thematically related graduate courses...no additional courses are required.
- ▶ The program may require a research presentation or evidence of a related, practical experience. **Contact each program representative for details.**
- ▶ Most common choices among CRP students:
  - ▶ Dispute resolution
  - ▶ Nonprofit studies
  - ▶ Integrated watershed studies

<https://gradschool.utexas.edu/academics/programs/portfolio-programs>

# Re-cap

Take initiative!! Think about your program of study. What do YOU want to get out of the program?

Portfolio and stackable certificate options

Internship

PR or Thesis

Dual degree

## First semester courses

History/Theory/Ethics

Intro to Vizcomm/GIS

Planning Law

An Elective!

Read the CRP Handbook!

And regularly check the CRP Canvas site

# And don't forget...

You are always welcome to meet with me, Samantha Bernacki ([samanthabernacki@utexas.edu](mailto:samanthabernacki@utexas.edu)), Graduate Program Coordinator Natalia Morgan ([nmorgan@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:nmorgan@austin.utexas.edu)), and any faculty members! Come to office hours and/or send us an email!



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

# Other things going on around SOA...

- ▶ City Forum speaker series—2 times a month on Friday, noon-1:30.
- ▶ SOA Lectures—1-2 times per week. Evenings.
- ▶ Goldsmith talks—more informal, faculty and student led talks.
- ▶ Center for American Architecture and Design lunch talks. Fridays, free lunch with reservation.
- ▶ Competitions! ULI, AICP, HUD, etc., etc.!
- ▶ Join PSO! Join the *Planning Forum* journal team! Participate in PSO social events!



# HEALTH and SAFETY

# Health and Safety Resources: SOA

## SOA Student Support Services

Charlton Lewis, Associate Dean for Student Affairs

[charltonlewis@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:charltonlewis@austin.utexas.edu)

<https://soa.utexas.edu/headlines/covid-19-student-support-services>

## Care Counselor

Abbey Simpson

<https://soa.utexas.edu/life-work/student-affairs/care-counselor>

(512) 471-3115



# Health and Safety Resources: UT

## S.U.R.E. Walk

- 7 days a week from 8:30 pm – 2 am
- Fall, spring, and summer semesters
- 512-232-9255 – Program the number into your cell
- [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyMYQrhtiSivW2LV7N-ZZ\\_LtosIQ7cOMCaBKtriFx7ozLOHA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyMYQrhtiSivW2LV7N-ZZ_LtosIQ7cOMCaBKtriFx7ozLOHA/viewform)

# Health and Safety Resources: UT

- ▶ Behavior Concerns and COVID 19 Advice Line (BCCAL)

24-Hour Hotline: Call 512-232-5050

<https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line>

- ▶ Online reporting

24/7 Crisis Line (UT students only)

512-471- CALL (2255)

<https://cmhc.utexas.edu/24hourcounseling.html>

- ▶ Student Emergency Services

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>

# Health and Safety Resources: UT

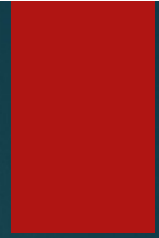
- ▶ For pandemic updates oriented towards students go to:  
<https://coronavirus.utexas.edu/students>
- ▶ For general campus updates on the pandemic:  
<https://protect.utexas.edu/>
- ▶ For UT SOA COVID updates, go to:  
<https://soa.utexas.edu/headlines/utsoa-covid-19-campus-updates>
- ▶ For UT safety protocols, see:  
<https://protect.utexas.edu/>

# Health and Safety

## Resources: UT

- ▶ Getting vaccinated is the best protection we have against COVID-19. Walk-in vaccinations will continue to be available at UT Health Austin to all people ages 12 and older.
- ▶ Face masks are strongly recommended inside university buildings for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Free face masks will be available to students at the Student Activity Center and the Texas Union hospitality desks.
- ▶ During the first two weeks of the fall semester, faculty members have the discretion to conduct in-person classes at reduced density to allow for greater social distancing, and will also be incorporating online sessions.

STAY IN  
TOUCH!



# Lists

**Athenaeum:** students, faculty and alums. Jobs and internship opportunities are often posted on this list. Subscribe at <http://soa.utexas.edu/athenaeum>.

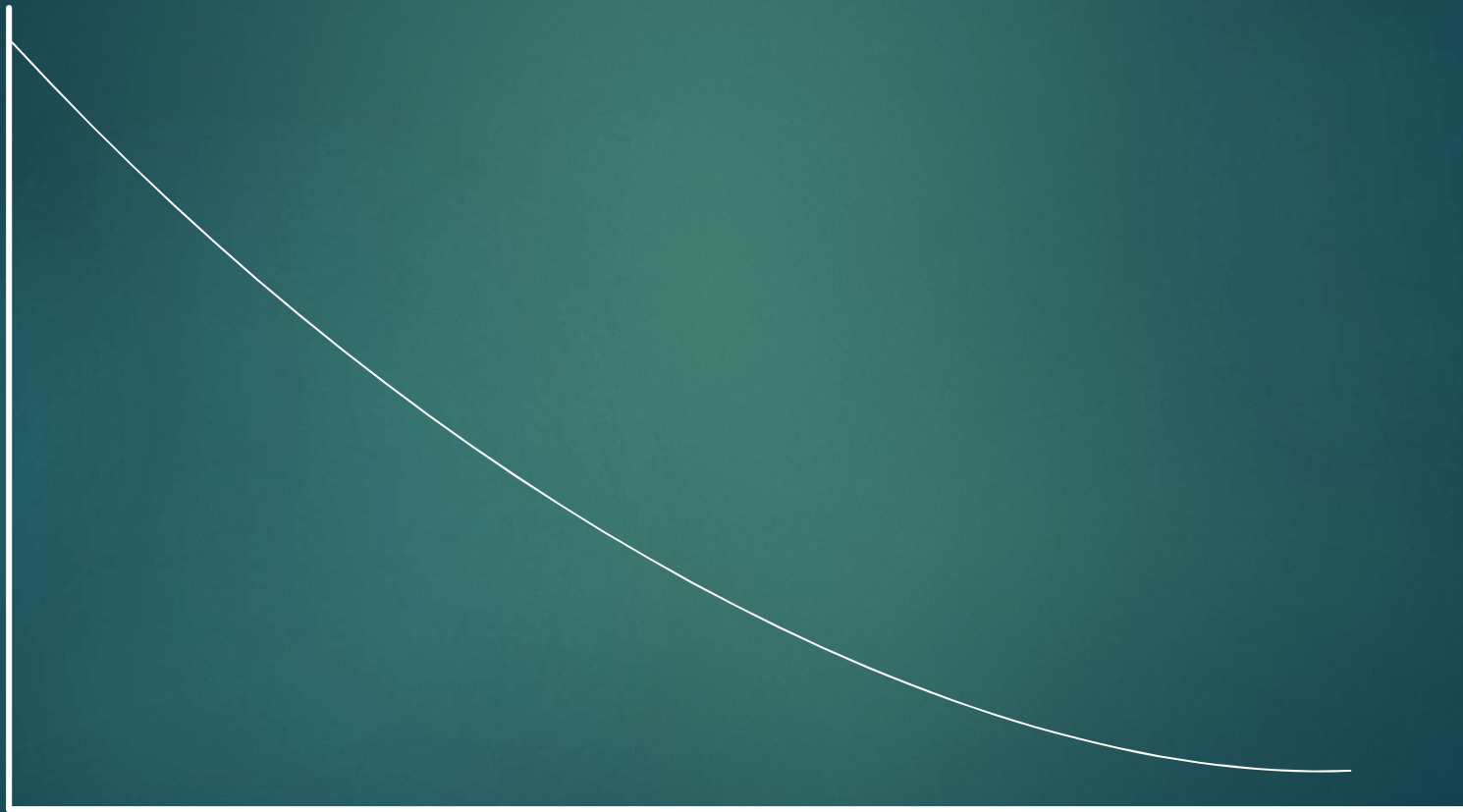
**Current student email lists:** for official notifications. **Read all messages from Graduate Program Coordinator carefully!**

**CRP Student-only lists and groups:** CRP students only. PSO organizes this.

**LinkedIn: join our UT CRP Alumni Group!**

# The stress equation

Stress level



Attention to Natalia's emails

# Graduate Adviser



## **More questions?**

Come see me!! Or email me or Samantha with questions!

## **My office hours:**

Tuesday and Thursday 1-2:30

## **My office:**

Sutton Hall 3.124B

## **NOTE:**

I am also available for meetings at other times! Please email and set up a time to chat via Zoom. If you wish to meet in person, we will find a place to meet outside Sutton.



# Key contacts

**Natalia Morgan**, Graduate Coordinator  
[nmorgan@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:nmorgan@austin.utexas.edu)  
Sutton Hall 2.130

**Samantha Bernacki**, Graduate Assistant  
[samanthabernacki@utexas.edu](mailto:samanthabernacki@utexas.edu)

**Dr. Bjørn Sletto**, Graduate Adviser  
Sutton Hall 3.142B  
[bjorn@utexas.edu](mailto:bjorn@utexas.edu)

**Dr. Ming Zhang**, CRP Program Director  
Sutton Hall 3.124A  
[zhangm@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:zhangm@austin.utexas.edu)



# FINALLY: REMINDER OF KEY DATES

# Reminder of key dates

## **Friday, August 20**

**IF YOU ATTENDED THIS PRESENTATION:** Your bar will be lifted so you can register for classes starting Friday, August 20.

**IF YOU DID NOT ATTEND THIS PRESENTATION:** Contact me so we can arrange for you to see this presentation and have your bar lifted.

## **Friday, August 27, 2pm**

Meet with your Faculty Mentor. Make sure to email and confirm. Zoom link: <https://utexas.zoom.us/j/92465657553>