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Research Interests for New Century Cities Seminar

I am interested in how digital media and information/communication technologies (ICT) are effecting and changing downtowns and neighborhood centers. I am specifically interested in how downtown management organizations (BIDS, business improvement districts, Main Street organizations, downtown development authorities) are incorporating wireless, digitized media and ICTs into downtown revitalization strategies and the overall management of downtowns.

Some questions that I am interested in are:

- Is the use of digitized media and ICT a source of competitive advantage for a downtown? Is this a long-term competitive advantage, or an early-adopter advantage that will dissipate as digitized media, use of intermediated designs, and ICTs become more ubiquitous?

- What is (and could be) the role of downtown management organizations (DMOs) in creating additional value to the downtown using digital media and ICTs?

- Should the public and quasi-public/private (DMOs, for instance) be enablers of the use of ICT and digitized media?

- More specifically, how can we create the necessary electronic infrastructure for digitized media and ICTs so that access and use is more pervasive, than limited?

- What is the role of DMOs in planning and creating the needed electronic infrastructure?

- How do we pay for the initial electronic infrastructure, and for its future operation and maintenance?

- Is this a private developer activity or is it a public good that is financed through collective efforts?

Downtowns seem to be a fitting location to explore how new technologies are merging into and effecting the experience of and use of existing places in the core of the city. In a downtown, there is often both new construction and the retrofitting of existing buildings. One of the tests for new century cities is the integration of technology not just in new mega developments, but the extension and expansion of digitized media and ICTs in the existing urban fabric.