

AHMAD BONAKDAR, Ph.D.

Senior Director of Research at the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

York University • Toronto, Canada

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EDUCATION

- 2020 **Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Public Policy**
University of Texas at Arlington, TX
- 2011 **M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning**
University of Art, Tehran
- 2007 **B.A. in Urban Planning**
University of Art, Tehran

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Aug 2023 – onward **Senior Director of Research**
Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, York University, Toronto
- Feb 2022 – Aug 2023 **Director of Research**
Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, York University, Toronto
- May 2023 – onward **Sessional Lecturer**
Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto
- Jan 2021 – Jan 2022 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, York University, Toronto
- Sep 2017 – May 2020 **Instructor, Urban and Public Affairs Minor Program**
University of Texas at Arlington, TX
- Feb 2012 – Aug 2015 **Lecturer, Urban Planning Undergraduate Program**
University of Art, Tehran

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Gaetz, S., **Bonakdar, A.**, Ecker, J., MacDonald, C., Ilyniak, S., Ward, A., Kimura, L., Vijayarathnam, A., & Banchani, E., (2023). Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Housing First for Youth Intervention for Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Canada: Protocol for a Multisite, Mixed Methods Randomized Controlled Trial. *JMIR Research Protocols*. 2023;12: e46690.
<https://doi.org/10.2196/46690>

Bonakdar, A., Gaetz, S., Banchani, E., Schwan, K., Kidd, S. & O'Grady, B. (2023). Child Protection Services and Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Findings of the 2019 National Youth Homelessness Survey in Canada. *Children and Youth Services Review*. 153 (October 2023) 107088 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2023.107088>

Bonakdar, A. (2023). Reflective Practice in Homelessness Research and Practice: Implications for Researchers and Practitioners in the COVID-19 Pandemic Era. *International Journal on Homelessness*. 3(1), 124–136. <https://doi.org/10.5206/ijoh.2022.2.15090>

Granpayehvaghei, T. & **Bonakdar, A.** (2022). What Makes for a Creative-friendly Community? Untangling the Location Attributes of Creative Clusters. *International Journal of Cultural Policy*. 28(5), 621-636. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10286632.2021.1988082>

Bonakdar, A. & Audirac, I. (2021). City Planning, Urban Imaginary, and the Branded Space: Untangling the Role of City Plans in Shaping Dallas's Urban Imaginaries, *Cities*, 117(103315). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2021.103315>

Weinreich, D. & **Bonakdar, A.** (2021). Opting Out of Transit: How Does Strong Local Autonomy Impact Allocation of Transit Service in a Multi-Jurisdictional Transit Agency? *Public Works Management & Policy*. 26(4), 283-209. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1087724X20973045>

Bonakdar, A. & Audirac, I. (2020). City Branding and the Link to Urban Planning: Theories, Practices, and Challenges, *Journal of Planning Literature*, 35(2), 147-160 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0885412219878879>

Hamidi, S., **Bonakdar, A.**, Keshavarzi, G. & Ewing, R. (2020). Do Urban Design Qualities Add to Property Values? An Empirical Analysis of the Relationship Between Urban Design Qualities and Property Values. *Cities*, 98(102564). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2019.102564>

Granpayehvaghei, T., **Bonakdar, A.**, Zandiatashbar, A. & Hamidi, S. (2019). The Quest for Creative Industries: A Multilevel National Study of the Impacts of Urban Form on the Geography of Creative Industries. *Transportation Research Record*, 2673(8), 157–168. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0361198119843470>

Hamidi, S., Zandiatashbar, A. & **Bonakdar, A.** (2019). The Relationship Between Regional Compactness and Regional Innovation Capacity: Empirical Evidence from a National Study. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 142, 394–402. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2018.07.026>

Peer-reviewed Book Chapters

Bonakdar, A. (Forthcoming, 2024) Homelessness and the Manifestation of Social and Geographic Inequities: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic. In R. Schiff, A. Wilkinson, S. Cullingham, & K. Buccieri (Eds). *Pandemic preparedness and homelessness: International lessons from COVID-19*. Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

MacDonald, C., Sohn, L., **Bonakdar, A.**, & Traher, C. (2023). A Roof Over Your Head Is Not a Home: Youth homelessness in Canada. In C. Traher, & L. J. Breen (Eds). *The Routledge International Handbook of Child and Adolescent Grief in Contemporary Contexts (1st Ed.)* (pp. 180-191). <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003221692-20/roof-head-home-cora-macdonald-jacqueline-sohn-ahmad-bonakdar-carrie-traher>

Magazine Articles

Bonakdar, A., MacDonald, C., & Gaetz, S. (2023). Does housing first for youth work in Canada? Emerging 24-month findings from making the shift housing first for youth demonstration project. *Parity* 36 (7), 48–50.

<https://search.informit.org/doi/abs/10.3316/informit.462458992874707>

Naidoo, K., **Bonakdar, A.,** Sohn, J., & Gaetz, S. (2023). Connecting the Dots: Rethinking Youth Homelessness Prevention During the COVID-19 Pandemic Using an Upstream Approach in the Canadian Context. *Parity* 36(2), 49–51.

<https://search.informit.org/doi/abs/10.3316/informit.020913472969142>

Blog Posts

Somefun, O. Sangiuliano, C., Wei, S., David, A., Mar, L. & **Bonakdar, A.** (November 2023). *Exploring the Impact of Family and Natural Supports Interventions: Insights from Youth, Families, and Service Providers.* <https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/exploring-impact-family-and-natural-supports-interventions-insights-youth-families-and-service>

Bonakdar, A., Busulwa, P. MacDonald, C. & Gaetz, S. (November 2023). *Does Housing First for Youth Work in Canada? Preliminary Findings from a Pilot Study.*

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/does-housing-first-youth-work-canada-preliminary-findings-pilot-study>

Bonakdar, A. (September 2023). *The Relationship Between Youth Homelessness and Child Protection Services* <https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/relationship-between-youth-homelessness-and-child-protection-services>

Somefun, O., **Bonakdar, A.,** & Mar, L. (March 2023). *The Family and Natural Supports Approach to Preventing Youth Homelessness – Early Learnings and Outcomes.*

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/family-and-natural-supports-approach-preventing-youth-homelessness---early-learnings-and>

Bonakdar, A. (February 2023). *What is Reflective Practice? Some Lessons for Researchers and Practitioners in the Homelessness Sector during COVID-19.*

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/what-reflective-practice-some-lessons-researchers-and-practitioners-homelessness-sector-during>

Bonakdar, A. (January 2022). *Pathways into Youth Homelessness.* Toronto, ON: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/pathways-youth-homelessness>

MacDonald, C., & **Bonakdar, A.** (August 2021). *Prototyping and Evaluating a Housing First for Youth Aftercare Support Model.* Toronto, ON: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness:

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/prototyping-and-evaluating-housing-first-youth-aftercare-support-model>

Bonakdar, A. & Gaetz, S. (July 2021). *Push the Optimism Forward: Destigmatizing Homelessness and What We Can Do About it.* Toronto, ON: Canadian Observatory on

Homelessness: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/blog/push-optimism-forward-destigmatizing-homelessness-and-what-we-can-do-about-it>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto

2023 – onward	Sessional Lecturer
Winter '24	PLX 111 Imagining the Creative City (In-Person)
Fall '23	PLX 111 Imagining the Creative City (In-Person)
Summer '23	PLX 111 Imagining the Creative City (In-Person)

York University, Toronto

2022 – 2023	Co-Supervisor
Fall/Winter '22/'23	ANTH 4130 placement/experiential education course (Hybrid)

University of Texas at Arlington (UTA)

2017 – 2020	Instructor in Urban and Public Affairs Undergraduate Program
Spring '19/'20 Fall '18/'19	PLAN 4310 Planning the American City (Hybrid)
Fall '17/ Spring '18	PLAN 1301 Intro to Urban Life
2015 – 2020	Enhanced Graduate Teaching Assistant
Spring '19/'20	PLAN 5303 Planning Theory, History, and Ethics
Spring '16/'17	CIRP 5310 Planning, Urban Development & Structure CIRP 6311 Urban Form: Spatial Theory and Policy
Fall '15/'16	CIRP 5309 Land Use and Transportation Analysis & Modeling CIRP 6346 Advanced Data Analysis

University of Art, Tehran

2012 – 2015	Lecturer in Urban Planning Undergraduate Program
Spring '15	Final Project (Thesis)
Fall '13/'14 Spring '12/'13/'14	Urban Planning & Design Studio II

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- 2023 **Imagining the Creative City**
Overhauled a core/hybrid course for the Creative Industries program at the Toronto Metropolitan University International College. This course provides an overview of the role of creativity in cities, at the intersection of art, culture, and community.
- 2021 **Urban Mobility**
Proposed an elective course covering smart city concepts i.e., autonomous vehicles, hyperloops, and app-based, on-demand transit services, with a particular focus on the City of Toronto and the Sidewalk Lab project.
- 2020 **The City and the Urban Imaginary**
Developed an elective course tailored for senior undergraduate and graduate-level students majoring in urban studies, examining the city's transition from dystopia to utopia drawing on films and documentaries accompanied by relevant readings.
- 2018 **Planning the American City**
Developed and taught an elective course (PLAN 4310) in the Urban Affairs Minor Program at UTA that explores the role of planners and the policymaking process in shaping social, economic, and environmental outcomes in communities.
- 2017 **Introduction to Urban Life**
Overhauled and taught a core course (PLAN 1301) in the Urban Affairs Minor Program at UTA that focuses on the importance of public spaces and their role in shaping urban dwellers' quality of life.

TEACHING CERTIFICATES

- Sep 2023 **Teaching Adult Learners Online (TALO)**
The Chang School of Continuing Education
- May 2023 **Designing Active Learning**
Teaching Excellence at Navitas North American Program

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2021 – 2022 Post-Doctoral Fellowship, The Making the Shift (MtS), Networks of Centres of Excellence of the Government of Canada (NCE) – \$55,000
- 2015 – 2020 The Office of the Provost and the Office of Graduate Studies, University of Texas at Arlington, Enhanced Graduate Teaching Assistantship (EGTA) Program – \$60,000

2019 The Office of Graduate Studies Dissertation Research Enhancement Grant, University of Texas at Arlington – \$2,000

AWARDS AND HONORS

2019 Member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

2019 Recipient of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Student Award

2018 Recipient of the Center for Transportation Equity, Decisions & Dollars (CTEDD) Travel Award

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2023 **The 2023 Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness National Conference [CAEH]**

Somefun, S., **Bonakdar, A.**, Banchani, E., & Naidoo, K. (November 10). *Black Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Interaction with the Criminal Justice System*. Research and Policy Session. Halifax, NS.

Bonakdar, A., MacDonald, C., & Gaetz, S. (November 9). Housing First for Youth Demonstration Project: Emerging 24-month Findings. Prevention Session, Halifax, NS.

Somefun, S., Mar., L. & **Bonakdar, A.** (November 8). *Strengthening Family and Natural Supports to Prevent Youth Homelessness: An Evidence-Based Approach*. Paper Presentation, Prevention Session, Halifax, NS.

2023 **3rd International Housing First Webinar Series: Housing First for Youth**

Bonakdar, A., MacDonald, C., & Gaetz, S. (May 2). *Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) Demonstration Project: Emerging 24-month Findings*. Webinar Presentation, Ottawa, ON.

2023 **1st the first conference of the International Journal on Homelessness [IJOH]**

Somefun, O., Mar, L., & **Bonakdar, A.** (March 21). *Preventing Youth Homelessness through Family and Natural Supports*. Paper Presentation, Concurrent Session 1. Chicago, IL.

2022 **62nd Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning [ACSP]**

Bonakdar, A., Gaetz, S. (November 5). *Unfolding the Discourse on Pathways into Homelessness: Implications for Research Scholarship and Policy Interventions*. Paper Presentation, Housing Track. Toronto, ON.

- 2022 **The 2022 Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness National Conference [CAEH]**
- Star, C., Lusted, M., **Bonakdar, A.** & Naidoo, K. (November 3). *Reflective Practice in Homelessness Research and Practice: Firsthand Experiences of Researchers and Practitioners When Working with Youth with Lived/Living Experience of Homelessness*. Paper Presentation, Research Underpinning Making the Shift Session, Toronto, ON.
- Bonakdar, A.** (November 2). *Child Protection Services and Youth Homelessness: Findings of the 2019 National Youth Homelessness Survey in Canada*. Paper Presentation, Thinking Beyond the Homelessness Sector Session, Toronto, ON.
- 2021 **61st Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning [ACSP]**
- Bonakdar, A.** (October 22). *Reflections on City Planning and Place Branding in an American Entrepreneurial City in the 20th Century*. Paper Presentation, Planning History Track (online).
- 2020 **60th Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning [ACSP]**
- Bonakdar, A.,** Granpayehvaghei, T. & Audirac, I. (November 6). *Social Media and the Digital Public Discourse: Examining the Role of Crowd-culture in Portraying Place Branding and Stigma in Dallas, TX*. Paper Presentation, Analytical Methods and Computer Applications Track (online).
- 2019 **59th Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning [ACSP]**
- Bonakdar, A.** & Audirac, I. (October 26). *City Planning, Place Branding, and the Urban Imaginary: Untangling the Stigma of the Past and Uncovering Dallas Emerging New Urban Imaginary*. Paper Presentation, Economic Development Track. Greenville, SC.
- 2019 **98th Annual Meeting of Transportation Research Board [TRB]**
- Weinreich, D., Hamidi, S., **Bonakdar, A.,** Sardari, R. & Moazzeni, S. (January 15) *Serving the Riders that Need it: Understanding the Causes of Service Inequity in Multijurisdictional Transit Agencies*. Poster Presentation, Environmental Justice Session. Washington, DC.
- Granpayehvaghei, T., **Bonakdar, A.,** Zandiatashbar, A. & Hamidi, S. (January 14). *The Quest for Creative Industries: A Multilevel National Study of the Impacts of Urban Form on the Geography of Creative Industries*. Paper Presentation, Transportation Accessibility Session. Washington, DC.
- Hamidi, S., **Bonakdar, A.,** Keshavarzi, G., & Ewing, R. (January 14). *Urban Design Premiums in New York: An Empirical Analysis of the Relationship Between Urban Design Qualities, Walkability and Property Values*. Paper Presentation, Transportation Accessibility Session. Washington, DC.

- 2018 **58th Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning [ACSP]**
- Granpayehvaghei, T., **Bonakdar, A.**, Zandiatashbar, A. & Hamidi, S. (October 26). *The Quest for Creative Industries: A Multilevel National Study of the Impacts of Urban Form on the Geography of Creative Industries*. Paper Presentation, Economic Development Track. Buffalo, NY.
- Bonakdar, A.** & Audirac, I. (October 25). *Unfolding City Branding Strategies: Evidence from the City of Dallas*. Paper Presentation, Economic Development Track. Buffalo, NY.
- 2018 **97th Annual Meeting of Transportation Research Board [TRB]**
- Weinreich, D. & **Bonakdar, A.** (January 10) *Advocacy in Regional Transportation Funding Referendums*. Transportation Issues in Major Cities Session. Washington, DC.

INVITED LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2023 "Child Protection Services and Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Findings of the 2019 National Youth Homelessness Survey in Canada". Practice and Research Together [PART] Canada. September 7, 2023
- 2023 "Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) Demonstration Project: Emerging 24-month Findings". The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, York University – September 12, 2023.
- 2023 "Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) Demonstration Project: Emerging 24-month Findings." International webinar series on Housing First: Housing First for youth. The Center for Addiction and Mental Health – May 2, 2023
- 2023 "Reflective Practice in Homelessness Research and Practice". The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, York University – March 14, 2023.
- 2022 "The State of Homelessness and Youth Homelessness in Canada". The Ontario Public Interest Research Group at York University [OPIRG York] – November 28, 2022.
- 2022 "HOMELESSNESS: the rise of a social problem and what we can do about it" Department of Urban and Regional Planning, San José State University – October 6, 2022.
- 2022 "HOMELESSNESS: the rise of a social problem and what we can do about it" Department of Urban and Regional Planning, San José State University – February 16, 2022.
- 2022 "Child Protection Services and Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Findings of the 2019 National Youth Homelessness Survey in Canada". The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, York University – September 13, 2022.

- 2022 "Preliminary Findings of the 2019 National Youth Homelessness Survey in Canada". The Post-doc Speaker Series, Faculty of Education, York University – March 22, 2022.
- 2022 "Homelessness and the Rise of a Social Problem, and What We Can Do about It". Department of Urban and Regional Planning, San José State University – February 16, 2022.
- 2021 "Mendeley Workshop: Getting started with Mendeley Reference Manager". The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, York University – February 23, 2021.
- 2020 "Planning for Equity". Book review panel, Department of Planning and Public Affairs, University of Texas at Arlington – April 16, 2020.
- 2019 "New Urbanism: Ideology or Theory – Promises and Pitfalls of New Urbanism for the American Community". Planning Theory and History, Department of Planning and Public Affairs, University of Texas at Arlington – April 9, 2019.
- 2019 "Delivering a Structured and Engaging Presentation". Department of Planning and Public Affairs, University of Texas at Arlington – February 2, 2019.
- 2018 "Reference Management Workshop". Center for Transportation Equity, Decisions & Dollars (CTEDD), University of Texas at Arlington – November 11, 2018.

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

- 2023 Moderated the session on "Preventing Youth Homelessness" at the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) conference.
- 2022 Served as a panelist on "Building the City We Want: Housing Justice in a Gentrified Toronto", held by the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG), a student funded, student-run, nonpartisan organization housed at York University.
- 2022 Moderated the session on "Role of Data and Planning in Homelessness Prevention" at the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) conference.
- 2022 Provided research support for Nisa Homes, a not-for-profit charity based in Mississauga, ON that provides support services for women experiencing violence, poverty and/or seeking asylum.
- 2022 Provided research support for BGC Okanagan to chart out their vision and mission as part of implementing the Upstream Project in Kelowna, BC.
- 2021 Moderated the session on "Understanding Homelessness Data" at the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) conference.
- 2019 Served as a guest Jury on Smart City Concept competition held by the American Planning Association for high-school students in North Central Texas.
- 2018 Directed a short [documentary movie](#) featuring "MILO", an autonomous shuttle bus operating in the City of Arlington, TX. The documentary was made for the Women's

Transportation Seminar (WTS) UTA Chapter.

2017 Served as a student member of the Center for Transportation Equity, Decisions & Dollars (CTEDD) search committee for hiring post-doctoral research associates.

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSION

- 2023 Served as a member on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee, at the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH), York University.
- 2023 Reviewed research papers for peer-reviewed journals with high impact factors, including International Journal on Homelessness, Cities, Journal of Urban Affairs, and Journal of Planning Literature.
- 2022 Served as a panelist on "Affordable Housing Problems and Data Requirements" panel hosted by the School of Cities, University of Toronto.
- 2020 Assisted faculty with developing rubrics and course effectiveness plans at UTA based on the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) guidelines.
- 2019 Designed promotional flyers for the Urban Planning and Public Policy Ph.D. Program at UTA, providing information for prospective students.
- 2019 Co-led and co-implemented the presence of the Planning Program in CAPPa Splash Day at UTA, the first annual event showcasing students' professional, scholarly, and creative works.
- 2018 Contributed to the Master of City and Regional Planning Program accreditation review process at UTA. Designed a series of posters and met with the Planning Accreditation Board team.
- 2015 Assisted with preparing a Self-Study, Academic Program Review for the Urban Planning and Public Policy Ph.D. Program at UTA.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Center for Transportation Equity, Decisions & Dollars [CTEDD]
University of Texas at Arlington

June 2017 – Aug 2018 Urban Researcher and Policy Analyst

- Analysed research findings and developed policy briefs; drafted reports, policy frameworks, and planning initiatives for municipal staff, researchers, and key community organizations.

Hamsoorazan Consulting Engineers, Tehran

Feb 2011 – Aug 2015 Urban Planner and Designer

- Conducted research and drafted policies; prepared official development plans, zoning by-laws, and urban design guidelines; coordinated public meetings with the city staff, stakeholders, and the general public.

AFFILIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2016 – present Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning [ACSP]

SOFTWARE AND COMPUTER SKILLS

QSR International **NVivo** • IBM **SPSS** Statistics • Adobe **InDesign** | **Illustrator** | **Photoshop** • Microsoft Teams | **Word** | **PowerPoint** | **Excel** • **Zoom** Video Communications • SSI Hierarchical Linear Modeling (**HLM**) • ESRI ArcView | **ArcGIS** • Elsevier **Mendeley** Reference Manager | **Zotero** | **EndNote**