

# Austin M. Aldag

Ph.D. Candidate  
City & Regional Planning  
Cornell University

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## EDUCATION

- Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY Anticipated: 2024  
Ph.D. in City & Regional Planning  
Dissertation: *Intergovernmental Relations for US Local Governments: Intermunicipal Cooperation, State Preemption, and Federal Grants*
- Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY 2018  
Master of City & Regional Planning  
Thesis: *A New Framework for Local Government Shared Services: Agreement Duration & Costs*
- Illinois Wesleyan University**, Bloomington, IL 2016  
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science; Minors: Economics & History  
*Summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi  
Honors Thesis: *The Local American Voter: Mayoral Election Turnout in Midsized Cities*
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## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Cornell University**, Department of City & Regional Planning Aug. 2018 – Present  
*Sage Fellow & Teaching Assistant*  
*Research Assistant, Warner Local Government Restructuring Research Lab*
- Cornell University**, Department of City & Regional Planning Aug. 2016 – Aug. 2018  
*Graduate Teaching & Research Specialist*
- City of Peoria, IL**, Office of the City Manager Winter, 2017  
*Special Assistant to the City Manager*
- City of Bloomington, IL**, Department of Public Works Dec. 2015 – July 2016  
*Miscellaneous Technician*
- Illinois Wesleyan University**, Department of Political Science Sept. 2013 – Dec. 2015  
*Lead Research Assistant*
- The University of Maryland: College Park**  
Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM)  
*Junior Fellow* Summer, 2014
- United States House of Representatives**  
Office of Congressman William L. Enyart  
*Legislative Intern* Summer, 2013

## PUBLISHED ARTICLES IN PEER-REFEREED ACADEMIC JOURNALS

- Warner, Mildred E. and **Austin M. Aldag**. (2023). "Pandemic Relief Spending by New York Local Governments" *Journal of Rural Studies* 104. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2023.103157>.
- Shi, Linda, William Butler, Tisha Holmes, Ryan Thomas, Antony Milordis, Jon Ignatowski, Yousuf Mahid, and **Austin M. Aldag**. (2023) "Can Florida's Coast Survive its Reliance on Development? Fiscal Vulnerability and Funding Woes Under Sea Level Rise" *Journal of the American Planning Association*. DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2023.2249866
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. "Inter-Municipal Cooperation and Agreement Formalization." *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*. DOI: 10.1080/17487870.2023.2244628
- Hartley, Kris and **Austin M. Aldag**. (2022). "Governance Effectiveness on Economic Development: Insights from the Vietnamese Provincial Competitiveness Index 2007-2017." *Journal of Southeast Asian Economies* 39(2): 111-126.
- Warner, Mildred E., **Austin M. Aldag** and Yunji Kim. (2021). "Privatization and Intermunicipal Cooperation in U.S. Local Government Services: Balancing Fiscal Stress, Need and Political Interests." *Public Management Review* 23(9): 1359-1376 doi: 10.1080/14719037.2020.1751255
- Kim, Yunji, **Austin M. Aldag** and Mildred E. Warner. (2021). "Blocking the Progressive City: How State Pre-emptions Undermine Labor Rights in the U.S.A." *Urban Studies* 58(6): 1158-1175. doi: 10.1177/0042098020910337
- Warner, Mildred E., **Austin M. Aldag** and Yunji Kim. (2020). "Pragmatic Municipalism: U.S. Local Government Responses to Fiscal Stress." *Public Administration Review* 81(3): 389-398. doi: 10.1111/puar.13196
- Kim, Yunji, **Austin M. Aldag** and Mildred E. Warner. (2020). "A Balanced View: US Local Government Managers' Perceptions of Fiscal Stress." *Public Administration Quarterly* 44(2): 172-200. doi:10.37808/paq.44.2.2
- Aldag, Austin M.**, Mildred E. Warner and Germà Bel. (2020). "It Depends on What You Share: The Elusive Cost Savings from Service Sharing." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 30(2): 275-289. doi: 10.1093/jopart/muz02
- Warner, Mildred E. and **Austin M. Aldag**. (2019). "Re-municipalization in the U.S.: A Pragmatic Response to Contracting." *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*. doi: 10.1080/17487870.2019.1646133
- Aldag, Austin M.**, Yunji Kim and Mildred E. Warner. (2019). "Austerity Urbanism or Pragmatic Municipalism? Local Government Responses to Fiscal Stress in New York State." *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* 51(6): 1287-1305. doi: 10.1177/0308518X19844794
- Aldag, Austin M.** (2019). "Who Votes for Mayor? Evidence from Midsized American Cities." *Local Government Studies* 45(4): 526-545. doi: 10.1080/03003930.2019.1571997
- Aldag, Austin M.**, Mildred E. Warner and Yunji Kim. (2019). "Leviathan or Public Steward? Evidence on Local Government Taxing Behavior from New York State." *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 49(4): 671-693. doi: 10.1093/publius/pjy035
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. (2018). "Cooperation, Not Cost Savings: Explaining Duration of Shared Service Agreements." *Local Government Studies* 44(3): 350-370. doi: 10.1080/03003930.2017.1411810

## JOURNAL ARTICLES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- Hartley, Kris and **Austin M. Aldag**. “Public Trust in Technology-enabled Government Services: Evidence from Hong Kong’s COVID-19 Mobile Phone Tracking Application.” (Revise and resubmit requested. -*Cities*)
- Hartley, Kris and **Austin M. Aldag**. “Quantifying the Technology-policy Trust Paradox: Public Perceptions of Smart Cities in Singapore.” (Under review).
- Aldag, Austin M.** “State Partisanship, Institutions and State Preemption: A Mixed-Methods Approach.” (Under development).
- Aldag, Austin M.** “Federal Dollars Left on the Table: Is Policy or Process More Important?” (Under development).
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## GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS *(selected)*

- “Surging Seas, Fiscal Stress: A Study of US Fiscal Vulnerability and Policy Responses to Climate Change,” Cornell Inst. for the Social Sciences. (PI: Linda Shi) \$5,000, (2019).
- Thomas W. MacKesey Award for academic achievement and excellence, Cornell University (2018).
- Upstate New York APA Award for Outstanding Student Project, Cornell University (2018).
- “Fiscal Stress in New York State,” Engaged Community Opportunity Grant (PI: Mildred E. Warner) \$5,000, (2018).
- Edward B. Rust Jr. Academic Fellowship, Illinois Wesleyan University (2016).
- Todd Zoellick Social Entrepreneurship Fellowship, \$1,500, (2015).
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## PROFESSIONALLY REVIEWED & EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS *(selected)*

- Bravo, Natassia, Mildred E. Warner and **Austin M. Aldag**. (2020). “Grabbing Market Share, Taming Rogue Cities and Crippling Counties: Views from the Field on State Preemption of Local Authority.” Dept. of City & Regional Planning, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Available at: [https://labs.aap.cornell.edu/sites/aap-labs/files/2022-08/Bravo%20et.al\\_2020.pdf](https://labs.aap.cornell.edu/sites/aap-labs/files/2022-08/Bravo%20et.al_2020.pdf)
- Aldag, Austin**, Yunji Kim and Mildred Warner. (2018). “Meeting Service Needs with Tight Resources: Local Governments Employ a Range of Tools to Address Challenges.” *PM Magazine – Local Government Review*, International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Washington, D.C.
- Aldag, Austin M.** (2018). “Local Governments in a Restructuring Economy.” International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Washington, DC. <https://icma.org/blog-posts/local-governments-restructuring-economy>
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. (2018). “Fix the Cap.” Dept. of City & Regional Planning, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. <http://cms.mildredwarner.org/p/281>
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. (2017). “Causes and Responses to Fiscal Stress: Impacts for Cities and Villages.” New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials Magazine, Albany, NY.
- Aldag, Austin M.**, Mildred E. Warner and Yunji Kim. (2017). “Cornell Survey Reveals NYS Local Government Fiscal Stress.” New York State Association of Counties, *News Magazine* 38(3): 17-18, Albany, NY. <http://www.nysac.org/files/NYSAC%20News%20Fall%202017.pdf>

- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner (2017). “Stressed Out: Causes of Local Fiscal Stress and Local Governments’ Responses.” The Association of Towns of New York State, *Talk of the Towns Magazine*: 9-12, Albany, NY.
- Aldag, Austin M.**, Natassia Bravo, Mark Cassidy, Alfie Rayner and Zach Small. (2017). “Linking Fiscal Stress and Social Equity: A Municipal Toolbox.” Dept. of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. <http://cms.mildredwarner.org/p/280>
- Aldag, Austin M.**, Mildred E. Warner and Yunji Kim. (2017). “What Causes Local Fiscal Stress? What Can Be Done About It?” Dept. of City & Regional Planning, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. <http://cms.mildredwarner.org/p/268>

## CONFERENCES PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES (*selected*)

- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “The Costs of Intermunicipal Cooperation: Agreement Formalization, Duration, and Service Characteristics.” The Urban Affairs Association (UAA) 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, Nashville, TN (April 26-29).
- Natassia Bravo, Mildred E. Warner, and **Austin M. Aldag**. “Closing the Broadband Infrastructure Gap: How States Are Allocating Grant Funds to Support Deployment” The Urban Affairs Association (UAA) 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, Nashville, TN (April 26-29).
- Aldag, Austin M.** “Contextualizing the Political vs. Managerial Dichotomy: Structural, Institutional, and Policy Choice Variables.” Delivered at the 106<sup>th</sup> Annual [virtual] Conference of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), September 3, 2021.
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “Privatization & Intermunicipal Cooperation in US Local Government Services: Balancing Fiscal Stress, Need, and Political Interests.” Delivered at the 106<sup>th</sup> Annual [virtual] Conference of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), September 3, 2021.
- Linda Shi and **Austin M. Aldag**. “The Climate Squeeze: How States Constrain Local Adaptation in Response to Sea Level Rise.” Delivered at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual [virtual] Fall Research Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), on November 12, 2020.
- Aldag, Austin M.** “How Will U.S. and Chinese Cities Respond to the Fiscal Stress Crisis of 2020? Lessons from the Great Recession.” Cornell University Department of City & Regional Planning Research Colloquium, on Sept. 11, 2020.
- <https://aap.cornell.edu/news-events/how-will-us-and-chinese-cities-respond-fiscal-crisis-2020-lessons-great-recession>
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “Pragmatic Municipalism: US Local Governments’ Responses to Fiscal Stress.” Delivered at the 105<sup>th</sup> Annual [virtual] Conference of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), September 23-26, 2020.
- Aldag, Austin M.** “The Trouble with Tax Caps.” Delivered at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual [virtual] Conference of the New York Government Finance Officers’ Assoc. (NYGFOA), on June 12, 2020.
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “The Costs of Cooperation: Formalization, Council of Governments, and Time.” The Urban Affairs Association (UAA) 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference [*paper accepted but conference later cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns*].
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Linda Shi. “Rising Sea and Fiscal Decline: The Role of State Policies in Shaping Vulnerability and Adaptation to Sea Level Rise.” Delivered at the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) annual conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, on January 9, 2020.
- Aldag, Austin M.** “The Tax Cap and Shared Services: Evidence from Academic Research.” Delivered at the annual meeting of the Public Employer Risk Management Association (PERMA), Geneva, NY, on October 22, 2019.
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “Shared Services: It’s About More than Cost Savings.” Delivered at the 6<sup>th</sup> Workshop on the Ostrom Workshop (WOW) hosted at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, on June 19, 2019.

- Aldag, Austin M.** “Creatures of the, Chaotic, State: Institutions and Preempting Local Government Authority.” Delivered at the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Urban Affairs Association (UAA), Los Angeles, CA, on April 25, 2019.
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “How Does Sharing Affect Service Expenditures? An Analysis of 20 years of Cost Data?” Delivered at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Nelson D. Rockefeller Institute of Government Research and Practice in Progress Briefing on Local Government in New York, Albany, NY, on March 14, 2019.
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “State Rules and Local Reality: Evidence from Inter-local Cooperation in New York State.” Delivered at the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), Washington, D.C. on March 9, 2019.
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “State Rules and Local Reality: Evidence from Inter-local Cooperation in New York State.” Delivered at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Deil S. Wright Symposium, Washington, D.C. on March 8, 2019.
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “Fragility in Voluntary Regionalism: Efficiency Myths and Impacts for Equity.” Delivered at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), Buffalo, NY on Oct. 25, 2018.
- Kim, Yunji, Mildred E. Warner and **Austin M. Aldag.** “State Preemptions and Local Government Fiscal Stress.” Delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> National Convening of State Preemption Researchers, Phoenix, AZ, on Oct. 2, 2018.
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “The Life-cycle of Shared Service Delivery: Differentiating Opportunities, Goals, Collective Mechanisms and Transaction Costs.” Delivered at the International Public Policy Association (IPPA) 1<sup>st</sup> Annual International Workshop on Public Policy, Pittsburgh, PA, on June 27, 2018.
- Warner, Mildred E. and **Austin M. Aldag.** “Results of ICMA’s 2017 Alternative Service Delivery Survey.” Delivered at the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Baltimore, MD, on Sept. 24, 2018.
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred Warner. “Shared Service Delivery: Costs, Values and Impacts for Equity.” Delivered at the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Baltimore, MD, on Sept. 23, 2018.
- Aldag, Austin M.,** Natassia Bravo, Alfie Rayner and Mark Cassidy. “What Can City Managers Do to Address Fiscal Stress & Social Equity: A Toolbox.” Delivered at the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Baltimore, MD, on Sept. 23, 2018.
- Aldag, Austin M.,** Yuanshuo Xu, Christine Wen, Natassia Bravo and Mark Cassidy. “Linking Fiscal Stress and Social Equity: A Municipal Toolbox.” Delivered at the New York State City/County Management Association (NYSCMA) Annual Conference and Training Program, Ithaca, NY, on May 10, 2018.
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “Making Inter-municipal Cooperation Last: Explaining Shared Service Agreement Duration.” Delivered at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Urban Affairs Association (UAA), Toronto, Canada, on April 7, 2018.
- Aldag, Austin M.,** Mildred E. Warner and Yunji Kim. “The Impact of State Austerity on Local Governments in New York State.” Delivered at the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), San Antonio, TX, on Oct. 22, 2017.
- Aldag, Austin M.** and Mildred E. Warner. “Cooperation, Not Cost Savings: Achieving Stability in Shared Service Arrangements.” Delivered at the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Rural Sociological Society (RSS), Columbus, OH, on July 29, 2017.
- Aldag, Austin M.** “The Local American Voter: Mayoral Election Turnout in Midsized American Cities.” Delivered at the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, IL, on April 8, 2016.

**Aldag, Austin M.** “Local Political Participation in Mayoral Elections: Evidence from the Midwest.”  
Delivered at the Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Council Annual Conference,  
Waverly, IA, on March 12, 2016.

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## **INVITED REVIEWER FOR ACADEMIC JOURNALS**

*American Politics Research*

*Annals of Cooperative Economics*

*Cities*

*Environment and Planning A: Econ. & Space*

*International Public Management Journal*

*International Review of Administrative Sciences*

*Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

*Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*

*Journal of Urban Affairs*

*Local Government Studies*

*Public Administration*

*Public Administration Review*

*Public Management Review*

*Public Performance & Management Review*

*Publius: The Journal of Federalism*

*State and Local Government Review*

*Urban Affairs Review*

## **MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- American Planning Association (APA)
- American Society of Public Administration (ASPA)
- Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)
- International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
- New York State City/County Management Association (NYSCMA)
- Urban Affairs Association (UAA)



## REFERENCES

### *Academic:*

#### **Dr. Mildred E. Warner**

Professor of City & Regional Planning  
Professor of Global Development  
Cornell University  
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#### **Dr. Tari Renner**

Professor of Political Science  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
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#### **Dr. Carl W. Stenberg**

James E. Holshouser Jr. Distinguished Professor of Public Admin. and Government  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
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### *Professional:*

#### **Patti Dwyer**

Executive Director  
New York State City/County Management Association (NYSCMA)  
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