



Dr. Anthony M. Townsend

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Bio

Dr. Anthony Townsend is a global leader on the future of cities and urban technologies. He is the author of *Ghost Road: Beyond the Driverless Car* (2020) and *Smart Cities: Big Data, Civic Hackers and the Quest for A New Utopia* (2013). As Urbanist in Residence at Cornell Tech's Jacobs Institute he focuses on inclusive and sustainable urban tech. His consultancy, Star City Group, works globally with government, philanthropy, startups, and investors on urban tech foresight, strategy, policy, and planning. (80 words)

Experience

VISITING SCHOLAR, CORNELL UNIVERSITY – 2020-PRESENT

As a founding member of the Urban Tech Hub, help to launch a new venture in New York City that generates applied research, fosters an expanding tech ecosystem, and cultivates the next generation of leaders in urban technology.

PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, STAR CITY GROUP INTERNATIONAL – 2008-PRESENT

Founded and led a global consulting network of strategists and engineers who forecast, code, design, and prototype future-proof urban technologies for clients in industry, and higher ed.

RESEARCH DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE – 2005-2013

Led more than two dozen trend forecasting and scenario development projects for Fortune 500 clients, state and national government agencies, and NGOs in North America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Education, Awards, and Honors

Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Ph.D. Urban & Regional Planning, 2003

New York University – Master of Urban Planning, 1998

Rutgers University – Bachelor of Arts, Urban Studies (Minor: Physics), 1996

Data and Society Research Institute – Inaugural Fellow, 2014-2015

Seoul Development Institute – Fulbright Scholar, 2005

Delft University – Honorary Doctorate, 2017

Public Service

Singapore Urban Redevelopment Authority – International Panel of Experts, 2019-Present
Regional Plan Association – Steering Committee, Fourth Regional Plan, 2014-2018
New York State READY Commission – Telecommunications Working Group, 2012-2013
International Association of Science Parks–Advisory Board, 2011-2014

Books

GHOST ROAD: BEYOND THE DRIVERLESS CAR
(NEW YORK: W.W. NORTON & CO., 2020)

A look beyond the hype at the real hope and horror of self-driving technology, and its potential impact on the landscape, labor, and life in cities.

SMART CITIES: BIG DATA, CIVIC HACKERS, AND THE QUEST FOR A NEW UTOPIA
(NEW YORK: W.W. NORTON & CO., 2013)

A survey of smart city technologies that considers the motivations, aspirations, and shortcomings of the key actors—entrepreneurs, mayors, philanthropists, and software developers—at work in shaping the new urban frontier.

Selected Works

THE FUTURE OF URBAN TECH: A TEN-YEAR HORIZON SCAN (CORNELL TECH: NEW YORK, 2021)

An interactive look at the tech trends that will shape the cities of 2032.
www.futureofurbantech.org

"RETHINKING ROBOTS", IN RETHINK: LEADING VOICES ON LIFE AFTER THE CRISIS AND HOW WE CAN REMAKE A BETTER WORLD (LONDON: PENGUIN, 2021)

Originally aired during the BBC's 2020 "Rethink" series, this essay explores how the pandemic and automation are reshaping our urban future.

MOST IMPORTANT MILE (PERTH: MINDEROO FOUNDATION, 2020)

Developed a set of three scenarios exploring technology and policy levers to create the potential for more equitable last-mile delivery systems.

BIG URBAN DATA: A STRATEGIC GUIDE FOR CITIES / BIG DATA URBANA= UNA GUÍA ESTRATÉGICA PARA CIUDADES (WASHINGTON, DC: INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, 2019)

This maturity model provided a benchmarking and strategic planning tool for cities in Latin America and the Caribbean to develop and evaluate innovations exploiting urban data.