

Carolyn Ristau – 2022 Kathy A. Possinger Housing Policy Fellow

Carolyn Ristau is a Land Use Planner with Michael Baker International specializing in zoning and land development ordinances. She writes and edits reports, plans, proposals, and ordinances that are readable and implementable through plain language and storytelling. Prior to joining Michael Baker, she worked in the City of Pittsburgh's zoning division and at several local non-profits focused on housing development and community engagement.

Inspired by her work experiences, Carolyn is researching morality, zoning, and redevelopment. She is a Visiting Scholar at the Remaking Cities Institute where she is building an inventory of former religious buildings as case studies and opportunities for adaptive reuse. Her other major research explores how morality is built into zoning code regulations both overtly in the purpose section of many cities' ordinances and covertly in the actual regulations themselves. This research is currently supported by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's 2022 Kathy A Possinger Housing Policy Fellowship.

Carolyn graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012 with a BA in Urban Studies. She is also the author of "Zoning Adventures: A Home Addition Paper Chase."

