

Elijah Tristan-Thomas Knaap

AY 2015-16 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

School of Architecture

Department of Urban and Regional Planning and

Design Third year doctoral student, RA and TA



At the beginning of an academic career, an assistantship seems like nothing more than a job. It pays the bills and passes the time while you study for classes and prepare a dissertation. After serving seven consecutive semesters as a teaching and research assistant, though, it's hard to imagine the position as anything less than the gateway to a career. The truth is that my assistantships have been, by far, among the most valuable experiences of my graduate education.

Nothing has been more valuable to my education than the ability to work side by side with some of the best scholars in the field, and no amount of studying or coursework can prepare you for the type of challenges encountered when working as part of an interdisciplinary team. I am incredibly grateful to have served as a research and teaching assistant during my time as a graduate student, and I am lucky to have been guided by some of the best faculty members and advisors in the world