

\*\*\*\*\* CUSS NEWS \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\* Newsletter of the Community and Urban Sociology Section \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\* of the American Sociological Association \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\* Fall/Winter, 2004 \*\*\*\*\*

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**CO-EDITORS' NOTE**

The CUSS Section's membership is on the rise. This edition reflects the various interests of our membership. See our chair's message and feature article on the 2004 U.S. Presidential election as well as an article on federal urban policy. Check out the news about City & Community's new oversight committee. Also, included is a list of all section committees. The ASA 2005 Conference information is available. Look at the new books and dissertations by section members. We hope you find the information useful. Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future issues.

William G. Holt, [william.holt@uconn.edu](mailto:william.holt@uconn.edu), University of Connecticut  
Jennifer A. Stoloff, [stoloff@hud.gov](mailto:stoloff@hud.gov), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

Notes from a blue state: Most of you probably know me as a highly quantitative sociologist, so it may come as a bit of a surprise that I recently engaged in a qualitative form of inquiry (well, sort of). This was a by-product of pre-election political activities that my wife (the sociologist Gwen Moore, in case you don't know) and I undertook in support of the Kerry campaign. Since New York was not in any doubt, we drove one weekend to Scranton, PA, in order to help the canvassing effort there.

Scranton is full of the kind of people I grew up with and continue to know as part of my family: Catholics with ethnic memories, though less frequently with ethnic lives; some located in gritty blue-collar situations and enduring considerable financial stress, others risen to comfortable circumstances but

remembering working-class origins. The level of religiosity varies considerably, but it is quite common, especially in urban areas, to find modest homes with visible signs of religious attachment, such as backyard shrines or statues of the Madonna placed in protective positions.

Our job was to visit the homes of registered Democrats and ask their voting intentions. The data we gathered were entered into a data base to be used in the run-up to Election Day, to get people out to vote. In the course of a weekend, we spoke with more than 100 people, about evenly divided between the suburb where we spent the first day and the working-class urban area where we went the following day. What I find most interesting about the experience is the light it sheds from this corner of America on the connection between Christian religiosity and support for Bush. We found this to be a much more contingent linkage than most post-election discussions indicate and also one strongly shaded by social class and location.

This contingency is brought home by one middle-aged, working-class man we encountered. We were stopping at nearly every home on his street, but as we approached his house I was starting to feel uncomfortable despite my general sense of connection with most of the people we had met. A Madonna stood watch prominently in his front yard, and a high truck, presumably from his work, was parked in his driveway, blocking much of his house from view. He was bustling about, dressed in a rather rough way, with a dirty t-shirt barely covering his paunch. Seeing our badges and note-taking, he called out as we approached, "You comin' to me, too?" When we said, "yes," he went on, "No need. I'm for Kerry all the way." As we walked past his house, we caught sight of a second Madonna, watching over the porch.

The polling data indicate that the majority of white Catholics voted for Bush. Of course, since we only stopped at the homes of Democrats, we missed altogether those Catholics who are registered Republicans. Yet, among the Democrats, there was a connection among class, location, and vote intention that would probably have been even stronger were the Republicans factored in.

Voters supporting Bush were clearly more common in the suburb we visited than in the urban neighborhood and tended to be found in the most affluent-looking homes. Also more common in the suburbs were voters who cited religious reasons, such as right to life, for supporting Bush. In the urban neighborhood, which seemed more heavily Catholic and where religious symbols were more common outside of homes, there were also more Kerry signs. Further, the more dilapidated the house (and many were in obvious disrepair), the more unqualified the expression of support for Kerry seemed to be.

The Columbia historian Simon Schama has characterized the election as a contest between godly and worldly America. Based on my admittedly limited "research" in Scranton, I do not agree. It is certainly tempting, if also a bit self-serving, for intellectuals to view the outcome in this way, and the interpretation fits the geography of results. But it suffers from the ecological fallacy. Religiously inclined voters were perfectly capable of making a decision based on a broad appreciation of the connection between their interests, including moral ones, and party and candidate agendas. I had the sense-it's hard to call it more than that-that voters with union experience were especially likely to see their economic interests as aligned with a Kerry Presidency. Nevertheless, I don't mean to suggest that winning such voters is simply a matter of using general arguments to persuade them where their interests lie: indeed, the critical difference between Republican and Democratic electoral strategies may pivot on precisely this point. Republicans

have discovered that voters are most reachable through meso-level communities such as churches that can translate national candidates and political agendas into more local and personal terms. For this, the Democrats have yet to find an effective counter.

Richard Alba  
The University at Albany, SUNY

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**MEMBERSHIP RISES SHARPLY**

When on September 30 the ASA closed its books on 2004 section membership, the CUSS roster included 696 sociologists. This is a large increase from only two years ago, when the section had 556 members. Although total ASA membership has also risen somewhat, its rise cannot account for but a small part of our increase. CUSS is now the 8th largest section. To attain an additional session at the annual meeting, membership will have to cross the 800 threshold.

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**CUSS COMMITTEES 2004-2005**

\* Nominations Committee  
Chair: Jennifer Lee, UC-Irvine  
Robert Adelman, Georgia State  
Lily Hoffman, CUNY  
Martin Sanchez-Jankowski, UC-Berkeley

\* Lynd Career Award  
Chair: Nancy Kleniewski, Bridgewater State Nancy Naples, U Conn Saskia Sassen, U Chicago Roger Waldinger, UCLA

\* Park Book Award  
Chair: David Halle, UCLA & CUNY  
Ruth Horowitz, NYU  
Barry Wellman, U Toronto

\* Park Article Award  
chair: Regina Bures, U Florida  
Susan Brown, UC Irvine  
Mitchell Duneier, Princeton & CUNY  
Kee Warner, U Colorado at Colorado Springs

\* Graduate Paper Award  
chair: Mario Small, Princeton  
Jerome Hodos, Franklin & Marshall  
Angie Chung, SUNY-Albany

\* Ad Hoc Committee on the Section Website  
chair: Ray Hutchison, U Wisconsin-Green Bay David Halle, UCLA & CUNY Xavier De Souza Briggs, Harvard Jan Lin, Occidental Anne Shlay, Temple Judith Friedman, Rutgers

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**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED FOR CITY & COMMUNITY**

Fulfilling a mandate from the ASA, CUSS is in the process of establishing a seven-member oversight committee for City & Committee. The ASA requires a section that publishes a journal to set up such a committee in order to evaluate the journal annually and make recommendations concerning its editorial leadership. The committee must report its findings to the ASA Publications Committee and to the section Council.

The new committee will come to life in 2005-06, after six of its members are elected this spring as part of the section's regular elections. These individuals will serve staggered terms of one to three years, but thereafter the section will elect two members each year, who will serve three-year terms. The seventh member will come from section Council and be appointed by the section Chair.

The proposal to create the oversight committee was approved by section Council this summer in San Francisco. The ad hoc committee that developed it was chaired by Richard Alba and included Eric Klinenberg and Judith Friedman. The proposal also fixes three-year terms for the City & Community editors and editorial board and specifies the method of their appointment. The text of the proposal will be posted on the section website ([www.commur.org](http://www.commur.org)).

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**ASA 2005 CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

August 12-15  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

SESSIONS AND ROUNDTABLES

1. Title: Roundtables (open submission)  
Organizer: Emily Rosenbaum  
Department of Sociology & Anthropology  
Fordham University  
Dealy Hall 402C  
Bronx, N.Y. 10458  
ph: 718-817-3858  
fax: 718-817-3846  
e-mail: ROSENBAUM@FORDHAM.EDU

2. Title: Gender and Urban Space (open submission)  
Organizer: Daphne Spain  
Department of Urban and Environmental Planning University of Virginia P.O. Box  
400122 Charlottesville, VA 22904-4122  
phone: 434-924-6430  
fax: 434-982-2678  
e-mail: spain@virginia.edu

3. Title: Place and Health (open submission)  
Organizer: Mark LaGory  
Dept. Of Sociology  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Birmingham, AL 35294-3350  
205-934-8677  
e-mail: mlagory@uab.edu



Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) Initiative (Public Law 103-66). This initiative offers geographically targeted funding to distressed communities. Under the initial round of funding announced in December 1994, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded 56 cities across the country 57 Zone designations for a 10-year period. Of these, 49 received an Enterprise Community designation and seven received an Empowerment Zone designation. In addition, the District of Columbia received a special designation of Enterprise Zone that incorporated both the EZ and EC program elements. In 1998, 15 additional cities received Round II Empowerment Zone designations for a 10-year period. This program continues to assist distressed communities become economically self-sufficient under the HUD Community Renewal Initiative. In December 2001 HUD designated 40 urban Renewal Communities and eight new urban Empowerment Zones.

Although the program draws on previous public-private economic development strategies to generate jobs through business incentives, it also requires designated sites to incorporate community capacity building strategies, including a commitment to education, human services, and safe streets. In particular, designated communities must establish community-based partnerships, relationships between local government and the community's religious organizations, neighborhood associations, nonprofit agencies and schools as part of their community capacity building strategy. Each funded community's efforts at Zone transformation are expected to reflect four key principles: (1) economic opportunity; (2) community-based partnerships; (3) sustainable community development; and (4) a strategic vision for change.

But can the sometimes competing interests of business and community work together successfully to help distressed areas become viable? Do such initiatives actually help the residents of these communities exit poverty?

The purpose of this research, which is partially funded by the National Poverty Center Small Grants Program at the University of Michigan, is to systematically address these questions. Using 1990 and 2000 Census data, this research identifies any socioeconomic gains made by the initial 57 urban EZ/EC neighborhoods in comparison to similar non-Zone neighborhoods within each metro area, as well as across them. Specifically, Zone designated and non-Zone neighborhoods are assessed at baseline (1990) and follow up (2000) along a number of key domains including unemployment and poverty rates; education and occupational status; median household income; vacancy rates, and homeownership.

EZ/EC designated areas were severally distressed in 1994. To be eligible, each applicant had to meet the specified criteria in the authorizing legislation concerning economic distress and economic potential. On average, poverty levels of the initially funded EZ/EC exceeded 36% and unemployment 14%. Eligibility required local governments to demonstrate the severity of economic distress for each proposed Zone and commit to an inclusive strategic planning process that targeted the economic potential of the EZ/EC neighborhood. An example of the neighborhoods designated as EZ/EC's in 1994 include East Harlem in New York City, the West, Southwest and South sides of Chicago, portions of South Central, Los Angeles, and the South East neighborhoods of Washington, DC. Aside from experiencing very high poverty and unemployment, the residents of these areas are predominantly black and Hispanic.

Preliminary analysis reveals a reduction in both poverty and unemployment that substantially exceeds that of non-Zone comparison areas, as well as the Central City and Metropolitan areas in their entirety. Specifically, on average, Zone

areas experience a 9% drop in poverty and a 6% drop in unemployment compared to a 1% decrease in poverty and unemployment for the non-Zone comparison areas. Decreases in poverty and unemployment for the Metropolitan areas averaged .53% and .73%, respectively. Central City areas experienced an average decrease in poverty of 2% and unemployment, 1%. The average increase in median household income among Zone areas was \$5,000 versus just over \$1,000 for the non-Zone comparison areas. Increases in percent college education and homeownership averaged 3%. The Chicago Empowerment Zone is representative of these trends. This Zone consists of 95 Census tracts and 199,938 residents. In 1990, the poverty rate was 49.10% and unemployment, 24.57%. The non-Zone comparison area, which is located in the Pilsen and University of Illinois neighborhoods and has just over 100,000 residents, had very similar levels of both poverty and unemployment in 1990. Both the Zone and non-Zone areas were and remain predominantly black. By 2000, poverty level in the Zone area had dropped to 39%, a decrease of 10%, while the poverty level in the non-Zone area only decreased 1.5%. Likewise, while unemployment dropped from 24.57% to 19.35%, a decrease of just over 5%, in the Zone areas, rates remains virtually unchanged in the non-Zone comparison area at 25%. Percent college educated nearly doubled - from 4.70% to 8.89% -- in the Zone area, and homeownership increased by almost 4%. No changes along these domains were found in the non-Zone comparison area.

Although this preliminary analysis finds decreases in both poverty and unemployment rates, it is unclear how to interpret these results. For example, Chicago's Empowerment Zone may have had a 10% decrease in poverty but the rate is still extremely high at 39%. This is more than double the poverty rate for the entire Central City. Likewise, although unemployment has decreased as well, it remains just over 19%, which is double the rate of the Central City and triple that of the Greater Chicago Metropolitan region. More research needs to be done to assess exactly what these decreases mean in terms of how much quality of life has improved for Zone residents.

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Iowa 2004

By Jennifer Stoloff (from an interview with Jennifer Glanville)

Jennifer L. Glanville is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Iowa, Iowa. Benton McCune is a graduate student at the University of Iowa. Both were colleagues of Jennifer Stoloff at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

This year, Jennifer Glanville found herself in the interesting position of living in a state with an early and closely watched caucus in the primary season-and in what was also considered a "swing state" for the general election. Like many of us, Ms. Glanville considered this year's election to be of great importance and she eventually became involved in a local get-out-the-vote effort.

In the caucus, Ms. Glanville, and her husband, Benton McCune, supported Dennis Kucinich. They observed that after the 2000 election Democrats became extremely pragmatic and many wanted to support the candidate had the best chance of beating Bush. However, Glanville and McCune wanted to show support for a more progressive candidate and thought it was an important statement to be made at the caucus.

The caucus they attended was held in a school gym near their house and began at 7:00 PM. There were six delegates at stake in the caucus and each candidate had to have a minimum number of supporters in order to secure a delegate. About 450 people attended the caucus. Initially, attendees stood near signs for their candidates. Those supporting candidates with too few votes to gain a delegate, or with only enough votes for one but not two delegates, could then be approached by other camps and asked to change their votes. There were agreements between some of the candidates about how to handle split delegates. For example, Kucinich and John Edwards had agreed to have their supporters change to the other candidate if either had insufficient votes for a full delegate.

Ms. Glanville found the experience of attending the caucus interesting. Unlike a primary with a secret ballot, she could see how her friends and neighbors were voting. Although it was somewhat awkward, it was a good experience and seemed to promote democracy.

The outcome of this particular caucus was two delegates for Kucinich, two for Dean, one for Kerry, and one for Clark. When Glanville and McCune returned home to watch the results at the end of evening they were surprised to see how different the state results were from their precinct, with John Kerry and John Edwards taking the top two spots.

After the caucus, Ms. Glanville knew that Iowa was still a swing state and would get a lot of attention. Kerry said he would not forget about Iowa and he did not. In the last few weeks it seemed like almost every commercial was a political. Ms. Glanville and Mr. McCune continued to receive numerous calls asking their opinions and requesting their support. Democratic Party targeted them for early (absentee) voting. They eventually decided to vote early and someone came by their house and filled out the appropriate forms and eventually they received the ballot in the mail. Two days after they received the ballots in the mail, the Democrats called and requested to pick up the ballots. They sent a ballot courier especially for this task. The house continued to get calls even after the ballot had been submitted. Ms. Glanville estimates almost 40% of the registered voters in her county participated in "early voting."

Even after voting, many people from MoveOn.org stopped by the house.

Eventually, Ms. Glanville and Mr. McCune decided to work with MoveOn in an effort to get out the vote. MoveOn was targeting newly registered voters who registered as either Independent or Democrat and others who were registered as Democrats but did not always vote. The strategy was to go door-to-door and ask which way the potential voter was leaning. If leaning towards Kerry, the canvasser would encourage her to vote and explain the reasons it was important. If the person were undecided, they would leave pro-Kerry literature. If she was a Bush supporter they were not supposed to try and change the person's mind, simply thank her for her time and move along.

This door-to-door canvassing is a painstakingly slow process as it is difficult to find people at home and occasionally people will not come to the door. The work was done in their own neighborhood, which included single-family homes and more modest student apartments. Gore won Iowa in 2000 by 4,000 votes-which is only 2 votes per precinct-the strategy was designed to work for this small margin. And even though Bush won Iowa this time, there is some evidence that in counties heavily targeted by groups like MoveOn and American Coming Together, these organizing efforts were effective. For example, in Johnson County, where the University of Iowa is located, Kerry won by about 19,000 votes, an increase of about 5,000 over the Gore margin from 2000.

Glanville and McCune also continued to work on Election Day, calling a list of people who were planning to vote for Kerry and checking to see if they had made it to the polls. Previous research suggests that about half of the people who haven't voted yet will say they have voted, so polling place information was given to everyone they reached.

After the election, there were a few disturbing stories about voting irregularities, although there was nothing systematic. In a neighboring town, there was a couple that sent in their absentee ballot and got a call from someone saying that their ballots had been questioned and the ballot was treated as provisional, even though the county auditor agreed that the couple was properly registered. In another case, a student had been sent an absentee ballot to her hometown, though she did not request one. Her family express-mailed it to her so she was able to vote. It is not clear if these are cases of overzealousness, miscommunication or something else.

Overall, there were an impressive number of people volunteering, calling and generally interested in the intentions of Iowa voters.

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#### MEMBERS NEWS

Policy Council member **Xavier de Souza Briggs** will be leaving the Harvard faculty in January 2005, to become Associate Professor of Sociology and Urban Planning at MIT. He is editor of a forthcoming book, *The Geography of Opportunity: Race and Housing Choice in Metropolitan America* (Brookings, May 2005) and will continue to direct The Community Problem-Solving Project ([www.community-problem-solving.net](http://www.community-problem-solving.net)), a resource for practitioners worldwide, and to co-direct a mixed-method study of the Moving to Opportunity (MTO) experiment, which aims to help low-income children and families through access to safer and more prosperous neighborhoods.

Section member **Amitai Etzioni**, former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and the current Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga served as the keynote speakers at the Europe: A Beautiful Idea conference held at The Hague on Sept. 7, 2004. The conference was convened by Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, who also serves as the current President of the European Union. Etzioni focused on the ideas included in his new book *From Empire to Community: A New Approach to International Relations*. The speakers were followed by high-powered panelists, including the Prime Minister of Norway, Kjell Magne Bondevik, and the Turkish Minister of State, Mehmet Aydin. Amitai Etzioni is a University Professor at The George Washington University where he directs the Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies.

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#### NEW BOOKS by SECTION MEMBERS

THE CITY AS AN ENTERTAINMENT MACHINE. T. Nichols Clark , ed. Research in Urban Policy, vol.9. New York: Elsevier, 2004.

This volume explores how consumption and entertainment change cities. But it reverses the "normal" causal process. That is, many chapters analyze how consumption and entertainment drive urban development, not vice versa. How?

People both live and work in cities. And where they choose to live shifts where and how they work. Amenities enter as enticements to bring new residents or tourists to a city. Amenities have thus become new public concerns for many cities in the US and much of Northern Europe. Old ways of thinking, old paradigms - such as "location, location, location" and "land, labor, capital, and management generate economic development" - are too simple. So is "human capital drives development". To these earlier questions, we add: "how do amenities and related consumption attract talented people, who in turn drive the classic processes which make cities grow?" This new question is critical for policy makers. Urban public officials, business, and nonprofit leaders are using culture, entertainment, and urban amenities to (seek to) enhance their locations - for present and future residents, tourists, conventioners, and shoppers.

The book details the impacts of opera, used bookstores, brew pubs, bicycle events, Starbucks' coffee shops, gay residents and other factors on changes in jobs, population, inventions, and more. It is the first study to assemble and analyze such amenities for national samples of cities (and counties). It interprets these processes by showing how they add new insights from economics, sociology, political science, public policy, and geography. Considerable evidence is presented about how consumption, amenities, and culture drive urban policy - by encouraging people to move to or from different cities and regions. The book also explores how different amenities attract the innovative persons who are catalysts in making the modern economy and high tech hum.

DOING DEVELOPMENT IN ARKANSAS: Using Credit to Create Opportunity Outside the Mainstream. Richard P. Taub. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2004.

In 1988, Governor Bill Clinton invited a Chicago-based banking and economic development corporation, the Shorebank Corporation, to come to Arkansas and use credit to encourage economic growth. This is the story of the Southern Development Bancorporation that was the fruit of that effort.

NO THERE THERE: Race, Class, and Political Community in Oakland. Chris Rhomberg. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.

Challenged by Ku Klux Klan action in the '20s, labor protests culminating in a general strike in the '40s, and the rise of the civil rights and black power struggles of the '60s, the city of Oakland, California, seems to encapsulate the broad and varied sweep of urban social movements in twentieth-century America. Taking Oakland as a case study of urban politics and society in the United States, Chris Rhomberg examines the city's successive episodes of popular insurgency for what they can tell us about critical discontinuities in the American experience of urban political community.

POWER, CONFLICT, AND SOLIDARITY. Gilda L. Ochoa. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2004.

On the surface, Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants to the United States seem to share a common cultural identity but often make uneasy neighbors. Discrimination and assimilationist policies have influenced generations of Mexican Americans so that some now fear that the status they have gained by assimilating into American society will be jeopardized by Spanish-speaking newcomers. Other Mexican Americans, however, adopt a position of group solidarity and work to better the social conditions and educational opportunities of Mexican immigrants.

Focusing on the Mexican-origin, working-class city of La Puente in Los Angeles County, California, this book examines Mexican Americans' everyday attitudes toward and interactions with Mexican immigrants—a topic that has so far received little serious study. Using in-depth interviews, participant observations, school board meeting minutes, and other historical documents, Gilda Ochoa investigates how Mexican Americans are negotiating their relationships with immigrants at an interpersonal level in the places where they shop, worship, learn, and raise their families. This research into daily lives highlights the centrality of women in the process of negotiating and building communities and sheds new light on identity formation and group mobilization in the U.S. and on educational issues, especially bilingual education. It also complements previous studies on the impact of immigration on the wages and employment opportunities of Mexican Americans.

RACE AND ETHNICITY IN NEW YORK CITY. Jerome Kruse and Ray Hutchinson, eds. Race and Ethnicity in New York City. Research in Urban Sociology, Vol. 7. New York: Elsevier, 2004.

American cities are today more diverse than at any time in history. The continuing flow of new immigrants has settled in urban and suburban areas that have undergone visible change in population and neighborhoods. While Chicago long served as the convenient and well-studied model for urban sociology, for many Los Angeles has become the focal point for study of the postmodern heteropolis. It is interesting that for sociologists New York City, especially its outer boroughs such as Brooklyn and Queens, has largely remained outside the intense gaze of urban study. As the nation's largest city New York has long had a mosaic of social worlds comparable to that of Chicago, and displays an ethnic diversity comparable to that of Los Angeles. Because New York City presents us with a less easily recognizable mosaic and a more free form scattering of ethnic social spaces, it is seldom thought of as a pre- or post-modern. The eight articles presented in this volume represent both older and established ethnic and racial communities as well as new and emerging groups in New York City. These include Italian communities, African American, as well as newer Jewish, Caribbean, and Asian groups.

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NEW DISSERTATIONS by SECTION MEMBERS

RE-IMAGINING THE CITY: Japanese Natives, Foreign Newcomers, and Community Identity in Nagoya, Japan. Robert Moorehead, University of California, Davis, work in progress.

I plan to conduct an ethnographic study exploring the relationship between Japan's self-identification as a racially and ethnically homogeneous country and the experiences of foreign migrant workers who have recently settled there. Through a neighborhood study in Nagoya, I will explore how the settlement of foreign migrant workers is influencing Japanese residents' views of the identity of their neighborhood, city, and country. Historically Japan has not been a destination for foreign workers and the country is popularly defined as being racially and ethnically homogeneous. My proposal explores at the neighborhood and city level how this identity is influencing the interactions between foreign migrants and native Japanese, including the extent to which foreign migrants are able to integrate into Japanese society. My research breaks from earlier work on migrant neighborhoods in Japan by selecting Nagoya, a major industrial city in central Japan, and by exploring the settlement of a growing foreign migrant

population in the city's previously non-migrant urban neighborhoods. Exploring the integration of foreign migrants into neighborhood life in Nagoya offers a unique insight into the development and adaptation of place identity, collective memory, and migrant assimilation.

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