

CUSS NEWS

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MESSAGE FROM SECTION CHAIR

Now that summer has begun, the ASA annual meetings are once again in sight. As usual, CUSS is sponsoring a variety of activities at the meetings. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can find line-ups for paper sessions, a preview of award winners, and information about our buffet luncheon reception. Rest assured that there will be plenty to keep urbanists and community scholars occupied in Atlanta.

Hopefully you look forward to these activities as much as I do. My enthusiasm for the section extends back nearly a quarter-century. At that time—thanks to prompting from my graduate school mentor—I joined CUSS, met many of the people whose work I’d been reading, and solidified my decision to become an urban sociologist. CUSS later served as a professional lifeline, its members offering intellectual stimulation and sociability during a period when I had few local colleagues with interests similar to my own. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this experience is hardly atypical. Involvement in CUSS has shaped numerous careers in significant ways.

With that in mind, take a moment to contemplate the meaning of CUSS membership, both for yourself and for others fascinated by urban and community phenomena. Then take action. What can be done, you ask? First and foremost, please remember to check our section's box the next time that you pay your ASA dues. I also encourage you to help return our wayward sisters and brothers to the fold. Since last year's conference in Chicago, 170 individuals have let their CUSS membership lapse—many inadvertently, I suspect, since most are no longer ASA members, either. Nevertheless, they will miss out on section events, future issues of City & Community, and other benefits. (For the record, almost exactly the same number of persons have joined CUSS in the interim, keeping our total headcount stable at 550.)

Finally, be on the lookout for new members. In terms of substantive areas, the ASA sections devoted to culture, race and ethnicity, gender and class, organizations and work, economic sociology, international migration, collective behavior and social movements, and political and comparative sociology exhibit the greatest membership overlap with CUSS and hence may constitute fertile recruiting ground. We should pay special attention to graduate students as well. Of the 42 ASA sections in good standing, 26 currently boast a higher percentage of student members than CUSS does.

Often a few positive comments about the section are all that's needed to pique the interest of prospective members. If you're not the proselytizing type, feel free to pass along recruits' names to me and I will be happy to contact them. Alternatively, you might direct them to the CUSS website (www.commurb.org) or to the membership link at the ASA website (www.asanet.org). Show them a recent issue of our journal. Invite them to our section-sponsored sessions. Better yet, offer to accompany them to the reception.

Notice that I haven't uttered the dreaded words "membership drive." My proposal is much simpler: let's each try to open the CUSS door to one or two newcomers prior to the annual meetings. Through this sort of gentle outreach, I'm convinced that we can make our section even livelier and more welcoming than it already is.

See you in Atlanta at summer's end!

--Barry Lee, 2002-2004 Section Chair

ELECTION RESULTS

Elected to 3-year terms (2003-2006) on CUSS Council: Eric Klinenberg (NYU) and Emily Rosenbaum (Fordham). They'll replace outgoing council members Mary Pattillo and Rob Sampson.

AWARD WINNERS TO BE HONORED AT THE CUSS BUSINESS MEETING

Following are this year's winners of the annual section awards. Please come to the CUSS business meeting at the ASA in Atlanta where our colleagues will be honored. The business meeting will be Saturday, August 16 at 10:30a.m. until 12:10p.m.

Robert and Helen Lynd Award (Career Achievement): Harvey Molotch (NYU)

Robert E. Park Book Award: Eric Klinenberg (NYU) for *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago* (University of Chicago Press, 2002)

Robert E. Park Article Award: Jennifer Lee (UC Irvine) for her 2002 publication "From Civil Relations to Racial Conflict: Merchant-Customer Interactions in Urban America" (ASR 67:77-98).

Student Paper Award/Winner: John Hipp (UNC Chapel Hill) for his paper "If You Don't Do It, Someone Else Might: Volunteering for Neighborhood Associations as a Response to Environmental Change."

Student Paper Award/Honorable Mention: Courtney B. Abrams, Karen Albright, and Aaron L. Panofsky (NYU), "'Things Will Never Be the Same Again': The Reproduction and Production of Normalcy After the Twin Towers Fell."

*****FEATURED ESSAYS *****

Population Diversity in Atlanta

We are pleased to include two essays on Atlanta written for the newsletter by CUSS members. Karyn Lacey's contribution concerns black middle class suburbs and implications for considering class diversity within the African American population. Richard Adelman's contribution describes the increasing ethnic diversity of Atlanta that is attributable to new immigration.

“BLACK SPATIAL PATTERNS IN ATLANTA”
--KARYN LACY, EMORY UNIVERSITY

At first glance, spatial patterns in Atlanta appear to reflect the typical black-white segregation trends characteristic of many large US cities. Upscale Atlanta neighborhoods like Virginia Highlands, Buckhead, and the bulk of Midtown have always been predominately white. Less posh Vine City has always been populated by blacks as was Summerhill before it was partially razed first for construction of the Atlanta Fulton Stadium, then again for construction of Turner Field, the Olympic Stadium. Now Summerhill is a community divided by a symbolic and physical boundary-- Georgia

Avenue. On one side is the old, dilapidated, predominately black Summerhill. On the other is the newly constructed, majority white Summerhill. Yet this racialized portrait of Atlanta does not give sufficient attention to the role of class in these segregation processes. Indeed, class is largely invisible in public discussions of Atlanta's neighborhoods because we do not have an appropriate language to characterize its impact. We do have a language to talk about race, but these scripts tend to gloss over class distinctions, advantages, and inequities *within* a single racial group.

Concealed within this portrait of black-white segregation in Atlanta are important differences between blacks along class lines. The relatively recent spatial patterns of some middle-class blacks in select US cities point to a new social phenomenon that social scientists should be concerned with. These middle-class blacks are beginning to concentrate in middle-class, distinctly black suburban enclaves, apart from poor blacks and middle-class whites. The growing popularity of these black suburban spaces is most apparent in cities with significant concentrations of black professionals, such as Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. One such Atlanta area community is Cascades. Beginning in the 1960s, middle-class blacks from the historically black Auburn Avenue community (home of Martin Luther King, Jr) relocated and middle-class blacks from the West End of Atlanta (near the AU center) spilled over into what is now Cascade Heights. In the 1980s, when developers began to construct new suburban subdivisions, more prominent members of Atlanta's black middle-class as well as black middle-class transplants to the city settled in newer Cascades, an exclusive suburban black community that suffers from none of the stereotypes traditionally associated with black suburbs. If you elect to visit the Cascades community, you will see palatial homes, manicured lawns, luxury cars, and the signature item in middle-class black suburbs – portable basketball hoops.

A drive through Cascade Heights to Cascades reveals the physical transition from lower middle-class to upper middle-class among Atlanta's black population. To observe these changes, start out in the West End on Ralph Abernathy Boulevard. You will see small, weathered but well-maintained homes. Abernathy eventually turns into Cascade Street where the newly constructed subdivisions begin. (You can also travel directly to the newer subdivisions in Cascades by taking 20 west to 285 south to the Cascades exit). In the 1980s, buying a home in Cascades meant that blacks were prioritizing their interactions with other blacks over immediate concerns about property valuation in black communities. A friend who bought there early on struggled to sell his home when his family relocated to another city. But now, the desirability of these black suburban communities coupled with the brisk Atlanta area housing market means that homes in Cascades sell as quickly as homes in just about any other middle-class Atlanta neighborhood.

Even though we see class gradations in our neighborhoods and elsewhere, Americans struggle to find a polite way to talk publicly about within-group class distinctions. This tension is captured in the provocative documentary, *People Like Us*. The documentary's white upper-class speaks with surprising candor about their class position, but only one member of this group targets privileged whites explicitly in order to define himself,

describing a moderately wealthy couple attending an exclusive black tie event with derision, in part because they lack social graces associated with the upper-crust. By his account, the man shows up in an ordinary suit, not a tuxedo, and the couple dances wildly and unabashedly. The documentary's upper-income blacks speak haltingly about balancing pride in their accomplishments with the fear that they will be perceived by less successful blacks as having gotten where they are by stepping on (and perhaps *over*) others. As the film demonstrates, the language employed by upper-income Americans launders a compelling dilemma, namely that we grapple privately with the reality of our various class positions, but we don't really know how to talk about the impact of class in our everyday lives.

Living in a particular neighborhood is a way to signal your class position to others without having to actually articulate it. Clearly, just as *people* assert distinctive personalities, so do *communities*. Both Cascades and Vine City are black communities, but black Atlantans are well aware that Cascades is *not* Vine City. Consider this. After every major rainfall, the Vine City community floods. Distraught homeowners appear on the local news describing in exasperated detail the damage sustained as a result of the deluge. Homes are overrun with water and mud, treasured items are destroyed. Residents frequently hold damaged items up to the news cameras for inspection by viewers. To live in Vine City is to experience a dramatically different lifestyle than the residents of Cascades, or even Cascade Heights, enjoy. You need only live in Atlanta for a few months to begin to appreciate these kinds of neighborhood distinctions.

The Atlanta metro area hosts an array of black communities, ranging from chronically poor to upper middle-class. We typically think of black communities as necessarily disadvantaged, yet Cascades is not disadvantaged, at least, not in the same way that Vine City is. Focusing attention on the class composition of black neighborhoods helps us to understand how the causes and consequences of residential segregation may vary from one black community to the next.

“ATLANTA’S GROWING IMMIGRANT POPULATION”

--ROBERT M. ADELMAN, GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Atlanta has traditionally been dominated by a black-white dichotomy, but, over the last twenty or so years, the area has become an important destination for immigrants. Of course, large metropolitan areas like New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles have been the primary recipients of immigrants, but places like Atlanta are beginning to attract significant numbers of immigrants. Immigrants generally move to American cities in search of economic opportunities, and Atlanta is no exception. The main “pull” factor to Atlanta for native-born persons and immigrants, alike, is the promise of jobs. An immigrant from Columbia who lived in New York City at one time noted that in the Atlanta area, “There are more opportunities for work [compared to New York City]” (*Atlanta Constitution* 2000). Although metropolitan areas like Atlanta do not dominate the international financial industry or have the intense concentration of economic

functions like “global” cities, they certainly share some characteristics and functions of places like New York City and London. For example, there are a number of corporate headquarters in Atlanta (e.g., Coca-Cola; United Parcel Service) that involve high-skilled, professional occupations and low-skilled, service occupations.

Based on Census 2000 data, foreign-born persons made up about 10% (423,105) of the metropolitan area’s population in 2000, up 263% since 1990. Estimates also suggest that the Latino and Asian populations (foreign- and native-born persons) were about 6 percent and 4 percent of the area’s population in 2000, respectively, an increase of 362% for Latinos and 188% for Asians since 1990. Combined with Atlanta’s fast overall growth to about 4 million people in 2000 (up 39% from 1990) and its large black population (up 62% between 1990 and 2000 to 1.2 million people), the growth of Atlanta’s immigrant population suggests research questions about race and ethnicity in the community. For one, what are the jobs like that immigrants obtain? Are immigrants over- or under-represented in certain occupations relative to native-born blacks and whites? Are there differences among the immigrant groups; that is, are Latino immigrants working in different occupations compared to Asian immigrants? Additionally, are immigrants over- or under-represented in certain industries? Does the evidence suggest the development of ethnic niches or enclave economies? Very little research has examined these and other questions about the immigrant population in Atlanta (for an exception see Rosenfeld and Tienda 1999).

During the ASAs, if you are interested in visiting the area in which many recent immigrants are settling, it is known as the “Buford Highway Corridor” (ask how to get to Buford Highway). There are some wonderful restaurants in the area: For great Hong-Kong style Chinese food, try Royal China Restaurant (3295 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road); for delicious Vietnamese food, try Bien Thuy (5095 Buford Highway).

CUSS NEWSLETTER EDITOR SOUGHT

Thought you'd never come across that opportunity just too good to turn down? Well, guess what? Here it is! We are looking for one or two enthusiastic folk who would like to contribute to the section by editing this very newsletter. Mike and Laura have been co-editors for the last two years, and will finish their term in Spring 2004. If you have time and/or interest in having the torch passed to you for Fall 2004, please contact CUSS Chair Barry Lee via e-mail at bal6@psu.edu or by phone at 814/234-0948.

THE SECTION LISTSERV

Listserve guru, Judith Friedman reminds CUSS members that for news between newsletters, you can get messages from the COMURB listserv. Over 450 people do so.

To subscribe: send a message to: listserv@email.rutgers.edu

The message reads: subscribe comurb_r21 your name

Listserve takes your e-mail address from message headers.]

If you want to receive messages in a group, daily, add, after your name: DIG

TRANSITIONS

Jerry Krause retired early (at age 60) from Brooklyn College. "They were so happy to get rid of me that I was designated Professor Emeritus. I am looking for short term, or visiting positions where I can continue my work on visual approaches to community sociology. Such as addresses the question, 'What does community actually look like?'" Jerry, with Chris Toulouse, Tim Shortell, and Mary Howard) are developing the www.brooklynso.org which should be of interest to many CUSS members.

Karyn Lacy will be a Visiting Scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Nancy A. Naples was promoted to Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at the University of Connecticut.

PUBLICATIONS: What's New from CUSS Members

Herbert Gans, *DEMOCRACY AND THE NEWS* (Oxford Univ. Press 2000) is a critical analysis of today's news media and of American democracy. It assesses the roles journalists play in support of democracy and what else they could do, as well as what they cannot do - and what must therefore be left to economic and political changes. Although the book focuses on national news and American democracy it also touches on the relations between journalists and their local communities.

Maria Kefalas, *WORKING-CLASS HEROES: PROTECTING HOME, COMMUNITY AND NATION IN A CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOOD*, University of California Press, 2003, is an ethnographic study of a white, working- and lower-middle class Chicago Neighborhood. "The perspective of working or lower-middle class whites on issues of race and culture is often ignored, misunderstood or treated with contempt by social scientists. Kefalas's perceptive portrayal and penetrating analysis of a white working-class neighborhood in Chicago provides an important and much needed contrast. In this well-written book, Kefalas advances our understanding of the socioeconomic insecurities

of ordinary white Americans in a changing urban world and shows how these insecurities influence their world views and efforts to provide meaning and order in their daily lives."--William Julius Wilson

Naples, Nancy A., and Manisha Desai. **WOMEN'S ACTIVISM AND GLOBALIZATION: LINKING LOCAL STRUGGLES WITH TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS**. New York: Routledge, 2002.

Richard Tomlinson, Robert Beauregard, Lindsay Bremner, and Xolela Mangcu, eds., **EMERGING JOHANNESBURG: PERSPECTIVES ON THE POST-APARTHEID CITY**. Routledge, 2003. Explores the complex transformations experienced by Johannesburg after the 1994 dispensation that marked the end of apartheid. Includes essays on gated suburbs, residential segregation, property development, retailing activity, crime, political conflict, and more.

OPPORTUNITIES

Yuri Kazepov offers a couple of items which might be of the interest to CUSS members:

1) Fellowships for Research and Training on Urban Europe (unfortunately eligibility criteria foresee EU-membership)

All relevant information can be found at the following address:

www.urban-europe.net

2) RC21 conference on "Challenging Urban Identities" to be held in Milan (Italy) on September 25-27, 2003. The topic is not at all limited to Europe.

All relevant information can be found at the following address:

<http://www.shakti.uniurb.it/rc21/conferences.htm>

CALL FOR PAPERS

CITY & COMMUNITY, the journal of the CUSS Section, continues to accept manuscripts on topics that range from the nature of online communities to the economic growth and development of cities. Forthcoming issues will include, among other things, a review essay by David Harvey on several books, including Henri Lefebvre's seminal *The Urban Revolution*. Other articles include Robert Beauregard on cities of superlatives, along with commentaries by Michael Dear and Neil Brenner, and several on racial segregation and inequality. The Journal especially encourages submissions by

younger scholars as well as graduate students. Those interested in subscribing and/or submitting articles should go to the website at Blackwell Publishers or to the website for the Community and Urban Sociology Section: <http://www.commurb.org/>. Other inquiries may be addressed directly to the editor: Anthony M. Orum, CITY & COMMUNITY, Department of Sociology (m/c 312), University of Illinois at Chicago, 1007 West Harrison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607-7140.

WORK AND OCCUPATIONS invites you to submit your manuscripts for peer review and possible publication. WO is a scholarly, sociological quarterly that publishes original research in the sociology of work, employment, labor, and social inequality in the workplace, labor force, and labor market. Consult the latest issue of WO for manuscript formatting and submission instructions. Manuscripts will not be returned. Send three copies of your paper to: Daniel B. Cornfield, Editor, WORK AND OCCUPATIONS, Box 1811, Station B, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235. E-mail inquiries may be directed to the Editor at this address: daniel.b.cornfield@vanderbilt.edu

URBAN STUDIES is another journal to which CUSS members may want to consider submitting their research for consideration. US is an interdisciplinary journal that aims to provide theoretically and empirically informed analysis of the myriad changes affecting the urban and regional condition in the economically advanced nations as well as less developed economies. Submit three copies of your paper to Michael Timberlake, North American Co-Editor, URBAN STUDIES, 380 S 1530 East, Room 301, Department of Sociology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112. Instructions for authors can be found at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/c-authors/cursauth.html>.

CUSS IN ATLANTA

As usual, CUSS members can stay busy with rewarding section activities at the upcoming annual meeting in Atlanta. First, please put the annual SECTION RECEPTION on your meeting calendar. This will be a luncheon reception on Sunday, August 17 at Max Lager's, an eatery near the conference hotel. The reception is scheduled to run from 1 to 2:30 PM, with a menu consisting of a Caesar salad, choice of entree, side dishes, dessert, and beverage. (A cash bar will be available for those so inclined.) With any luck, we can replicate--if not surpass--last year's Chicago reception in terms of turnout and conviviality.

All other CUSS section activities (details below) are slated for Saturday, August 16. These include our business meeting and awards ceremony, paper sessions organized by Lyn Lofland and Lincoln Quillian, and a roundtable session assembled by Chad Farrell and Samantha Friedman at which over 40 scholars will present their work. (Thanks to a tremendous response to a recent call for volunteers, every roundtable now has a president.)

Sunday, 8/15, 1:00p.m.- 2:30p.m.
SECTION RECEPTION, Max Lager's near the hotel.

Saturday, 8/16, 8:30 a.m.--10:10 a.m.
Paper Session: URBAN PUBLIC SPACE

Organizer and Presider: Lyn Lofland, University of California, Davis

"A Garden Grows in Chicago: Rethinking Re-Creation in Urban Terrains"
Gail Satler, Hofstra University

"Constructing Identities Through an Urban Public Space: The Cleveland Cultural Gardens"
Mitch Berbrier, University of Alabama, Huntsville

"Oasis to Epicenter: Battery Park City's Personal Effects and Community Responses to the Destruction of the World Trade Center"
Greg Smithsimon, Columbia University

"Retailing, Sociability, and Public Space in Santiago, Chile"
Joel Stillerman, Grand Valley State University

"Social Control and Community"
Albert Hunter, Northwestern University, and Carl Milofsky, Bucknell University

Saturday, 8/16, 10:30a.m.--12:10 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Presider: Barry Lee

Saturday, 8/16, 2:30p.m.-- 4:10p.m.

Paper Session: PLACE STRATIFICATION: INEQUALITIES ACROSS AND WITHIN COMMUNITIES

Organizer and Discussant: Lincoln Quillian, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Presider: Devah Pager, Northwestern University

"Developing a Theory of Community Building"
James Fraser, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

"Effects of Residential Segregation on Racial Differences in Children's Neighborhood Socioeconomic Status Trajectories"
Jeffrey Timberlake, University of Chicago

"Race, Place, and Homeownership: A Multi-Level Analysis of Racial Disparities in Los Angeles Mortgage Lending Markets"
Vanessa Estrada and David Cort, UCLA

"Dimensions of Social Distance in a Segregated Housing Market: Constraints on Public Housing Relocation in Chicago"
Mathew Reed, Northwestern University

Saturday, 8/16, 4:30p.m.--6:10p.m.

ROUNDTABLE SESSION: Community and Urban Sociology

Organizers: Chad Farrell, Penn State University, and Samantha Friedman, George Washington University

Table Themes:

Levittown and Beyond
Tourism, Revitalization, and Urban Development
Globalization
Sentiment and Symbolism in the Built Environment
Economic Restructuring and Its Impact on Urban America
Transportation and Urban Planning
Poverty, Income Inequality, and Social Networks
Rethinking Conceptualizations of Urban Space
Policing, Social Control, and the Community
Community and Institutional Activism in Addressing Urban Inequality
Community's Decline or Resurgence?
Housing Inequality and Public Policy
Residential Stratification
Educational Issues in Urban America
Sex in the City

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