

CUSS Newsletter

American Sociological Association • Community & Urban Sociology Section • Spring/Summer 2009/10

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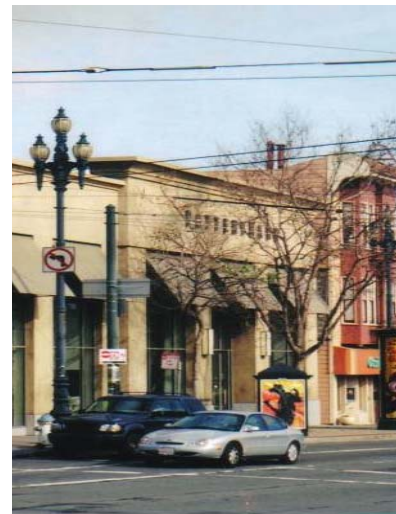
Editor's Note • 17

Conducting LGBTI Community Studies

William G. Holt
Vermont Law School

In the last *CUSS Newsletter*, Japonica Brown-Saracino called for a study of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersexed (LGBTI) individuals that would consider communities outside the larger gentrifying urban centers. Through a grant from the Larry Kramer Foundation at Yale University, I conducted a study of four LGBTI communities both inside large central cities as well as a small city in a rural area and suburban town: San Francisco's Castro District; Chicago's Boys Town; Northampton, Massachusetts; and Decatur, Georgia.

For over a century, sociologists have conducted community studies to examine issues of stratification within society. Drawing



LGBTI enclaves like the Castro District in San Francisco are becoming increasingly gentrified with chain stores like this Pottery Barn. Photo: William Holt

from a Weberian theoretical base, these studies explore issues of wealth, prestige, and power within neighborhoods as well as in the larger urban areas.

In 1900, W.E.B. DuBois published the first community study, *The Philadelphia Negro*, illustrating how race impacted everything in society from jobs to marriage. In 1918 William Thomas' *The Polish Peasant* was the Chicago School's first community study.

CONTINUED, Page 4

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

David A. Snow

University of California-Irvine

Greetings again from southern California, where the sun continues to shine as it did in the Fall, but not so brightly as it is shrouded by a lingering cloud. This one is not attributable to smog or some natural cloud-generating process, however; rather, it is due to the financial meltdown and economic recalibration that has spread across the globe during the past 10 months to a year. Although no institution, community, state, or nation has been spared from the fallout of this meltdown, some have been hit harder than others. Such is the case with California and its system of higher education. The University of California system alone, with its 9 sister universities, is experiencing a shortfall of nearly \$800 million for the current and upcoming fiscal years. And what of the various cities and communities throughout California, and their local residents? They too are experiencing a great deal of economic pain, as are communities and cities across the country. So the 4,000 plus sociologists who descend upon San Francisco in August will be a welcome economic jolt, albeit a small one. But hopefully the sun will shine through a bit so San Francisco doesn't feel as it was allegedly described by a famous writer after a summer visit: "the coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco" (The exact authorship of this quote is uncertain, but it is often attributed to both Twain and Hemingway.) But far more than that, perhaps the coincidence of the financial crisis with the ASA meetings in San Francisco will stimulate discussion of the economy of cities and the relation of their economies to larger, global economic trends and connections. Certainly there is precedent for such discussion among urban scholars, ranging from Jane Jacobs' *The Economy of Cities*, through John

Logan and Harvey Molotch's *Urban Fortunes*, to Saskia Sassen's *Cities in a World Economy*. Although none of our four open paper sessions for the upcoming meetings focus directly on the economic contexts and operation of cities, one of the sessions (Disasters, Cities and Communities) does include a paper addressing the impact of economic crises on neighborhoods in Turkey, and two of the scheduled roundtables do address aspects of the economy of cities – one is titled "Economic Patterns" (organized by Miriam Greenberg) and the other is "Housing Inequality and Affordability" (organized by Jesus Hernandez). It is also worth noting that the focus of one of the open paper sessions on the intersection of disasters, cities, and communities (organized by Maggie Kusenbach) provides a context for expanding, perhaps, our conceptualization of disaster to include the kind of economic calamities that have gripped much of the world over the past year and that currently plague California in ways not experienced heretofore. Food for thought and discussion.

Onto CUSS matters of the house-keeping kind. First, the **ASA meetings in San Francisco** from August 8 through August 11. This issue includes a detailed schedule of our section events and sessions (see page 8). As noted, our **section day** is Monday, August 10. However, not all of our sessions occur on Monday, since we have 5 rather than our allotted 4 sessions because of a joint session with and carried by the International Migration Section. Still, Monday is packed with section activities, from 8:30 am to 6:10 pm., including our **council meeting** at 10:30, the **business meeting** at 11:20, and the Irish Pub lunch **reception** at 12:30. I encourage you to attend the business meeting to meet and congratulate our **2009 award winners** (Tony Orum, Miriam Greenberg, Robert Sampson, and Laura Tach), who are acknowledged in this issue (see pages 3-4), and to join

them and other section members at the reception to socialize and celebrate over a bite to eat and a pint or two of beer or some other beverage (see page 17 for reception location and details).

In addition to our ASA meeting section activities and award winners, I want recognize and congratulate our **newly elected section officers**: Chair-elect Lily Hoffman, City College of New York; Council members Maria Krysan, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Deirdre Oakley, Georgia State University; and Publication Committee members Susan K. Brown, University of California, Irvine, and Richard D. Lloyd, Vanderbilt University. They will all begin working in behalf of the section following the San Francisco meetings. Thanks to these newly elected officers for running for election as well as to the other section members who threw their hats in the ring and stood for election. **Thanks** also to the section members who sat on the four award committees, and particularly the **award committee chairs** – Barry Wellman, Bruce Phillips, Susan Brown, and Maggie Kasenbach (see pages 3-4), and to the **meeting session and roundtable organizers** – Michael Ian Borer, Eric Fong, Maggie Kasenbach, Nicole Marwell and Michael McQuarrie, and Melinda Milligan and Simon Weffer (see pages 8-11).

Finally, as most of you know, **editorial change** is under way as Tony Orum and his right-hand assistant and Managing Editor, Zach Neal, are in the process of turning over the editorial reins of *City & Community* to the new editor, Hilary Silver of Brown University. Again our hats off to Tony and Zach for their unwavering commitment to and professional management of the section's journal, and our congratulations and best wishes to Hilary, as we all look forward to her stewardship as she builds on Tony's excellent editorship.

I hope to see you all in San Francisco, populating the section sessions and attending our business meeting and reception.

ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the newly elected section officers. New officers will assume their positions after the business meeting at the August 2009 ASA meetings in San Francisco. Thanks to the other section members who stood for election and for their willingness to do so. The new officers are:

Chair-Elect

Lily Hoffman

City College of New York

Council Members

Maria Krysan

University of Illinois- Chicago

Deirdre Oakley

Georgia State University

Publications Committee

Susan K. Brown

University of California, Irvine

Richard D. Lloyd

Vanderbilt University

SECTION AWARDS

- Robert and Helen Lynd Award
(Lifetime Achievement and Service)

2009 recipient:

Anthony (Tony) Orum

University of Illinois-Chicago

Committee

Barry Wellman (Chair)

University of Toronto

Sharon Zukin

City University of New York, Graduate Center

Mark LaGory

University of Alabama-Birmingham

SECTION AWARDS (continued)

- Robert Park Award
(Formally, the Park Book Award for the best book published in the past two years)

2009 recipient:

Miriam Greenberg

University of California-Santa Cruz
Branding New York: How a City in Crisis Was Sold to the World, New York: Routledge, 2008.

Committee

Bruce Phillips (Chair)
Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles
Mary Pattillo
Northwestern University
Bruce Haynes
University of California, Davis

- Jane Addams Award
(Best Article published in past two years)

2009 recipient:

Robert J. Sampson **Harvard University**

"Moving to Inequality: Neighborhood Effects and Experiments Meet Social Structure," *American Journal of Sociology* 114:189-231, 2008.

Committee

Susan Brown (Chair), University of California-Irvine
Matthew Marr, Florida International University
Todd Goodsell, Brigham Young University

- Student Paper Award
(Best paper/article by a graduate student in the past two years)

2009 recipient:

Laura M. Tach, Ph.D. Candidate, Harvard University

"More than Bricks and Mortar: Neighborhood Frames, Social Processes, and the Mixed-Income Redevelopment of a

Public Housing Project" (forthcoming in *City & Community*).

Honorable mention:

Alexandra K. Murphy

Princeton University
"The Symbolic Dilemmas of Suburban Poverty: Challenges & Opportunities Posed by Variations in the Contours of Suburban Poverty."

Committee

Maggie Kasenbach (Chair)
University of South Florida
Robert Grantham
University of Massachusetts-Lowell
Yuki Kato
Tulane University

LGBTI Communities - from page 1

Queer theory emerged in the late 1980's as sexuality became a lens through which to analyze society (Kirsch, 2000). Developing during the postmodern turn in the social sciences (Turner, 2001), queer theory attempts to avoid rigid classifications and boundaries. Much work focuses on the individual experiences of people examining their sexuality and coming out experiences (Armstrong, 2002). Other research (Bernstein, 1997; D'Emilo, 1983) explores social and political mobilizations by gay and lesbian communities. While other studies take a symbolic boundaries approach examining the development of collective identities through community events (Gamson, 1996, 1997). Because these studies are rooted in sexuality studies, there is very little overlap with urban sociology except for a few neighborhood histories (Boyd, 2003; Beemyn, 1997; Kaiser, 1997; Castells, 1983). By conducting this community study, the rich diversity of these neighborhoods as well as their similarities to other communities organized around identity can be explored.

Today, local LGBTI communities are at the forefront of legal change and progressive politics. Unlike the 1950's and '60's civil rights legislation that the federal government instigated, municipal and state courts are now the focus. The rural state of Vermont became the first state to legalize civil unions. Prompted in part by the LGBTI community's political influence, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom legalized gay marriage (albeit a few months before Proposition 8 was passed in November, 2008 and upheld by the California Supreme Court in 2009. There are debates within the LGBTI communities over the emphasis on marriage legislation at the expense of other legal issues such as workplace equality.

This study bridges this gap in urban sociological research by analyzing neighborhoods organized around sexuality. I selected San Francisco's Castro District; Chicago's Boys Town; Northampton, Massachusetts; and Decatur, Georgia. I chose these case studies because they provide a variety of variables from which to compare and contrast. Each represents a distinctive region of the United States. The Castro and Boy's Town are urban neighborhoods. Northampton is a rural community while Decatur is an older Atlanta suburb. These case studies are of places in various stages of neighborhood development within these LGBTI communities. The Castro community draws on a tradition of sexual tolerance in San Francisco dating back to the early 1800's while the area that became Boy's Town emerged on Chicago's North Side in the 1920's. The Northampton lesbian community traces its origins to establishment of women's colleges in the mid-1800's while Decatur's community emerged in the late 1980's containing a large number of women of color. These case studies permit the study of neighborhood coalescence as well as dispersion as sexual minorities receive greater housing and job options moving out of

these areas and as the general population discover these areas as attractive places to live.

The research involved two components: on-site archival work and personal interviews. I conducted on-site archival research in San Francisco at the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center at the San Francisco Public Library and the Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Historical Society of California; in Chicago at the University of Chicago archives of original 1920's and '30's interviews conducted with gay men by Ernest Burgess and other Chicago School researchers; in the Northampton area at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst's Valley Women's History Collaborative; and in Decatur at the DeKalb County Public Library. In addition, the study included twenty in-depth interviews with community residents representing a cross-section of each neighborhood's subcultures. These interviews focused not only on the internal neighborhood organizations and institutions but also how these neighborhoods interact with those in the respective city and metropolitan regions.

Based on the initial results, I found that many of the larger trends influencing the metropolitan regions were impacting these communities as well. The Castro emerged in the late 1940's as a gay, male place. Market forces coupled with social change make this once "gay ghetto" once of the city's most up and coming neighborhoods. Individuals talked about the possible end of the Castro as a gay place noting the increased number of straight couples along with chain stores and high-end condominiums. Gentrification coupled with skyrocketing home prices make the Castro too expensive for many young LGBTI residents as well as local shops and bars. Now older gay men who once came to the Castro for liberation now complain over the LGBTI youths living on the streets and disrupting business. The social pressure that forced ghettoi-

zation of LGBTI individuals as changed since World War II when the community coalesced. Now, LGBTI individuals can live throughout the Bay Area while the Castro serves as a central place for organizations and events.

The Bay Area's large LGBTI community breaks down along ethnic lines as well due in part to the large number of LGBTI individuals in the area. While political issues bring the community together, the various groups socialize separately. The Director for Transgender San Francisco lamented that the organization's membership divided along ethnic group issues within the Chinese, Korean, and Japanese communities than within the transgender community.

Similar trends are seen in Chicago's Boys Town neighborhood located in the Lakeview district. Looking through the boxes of Ernest Burgess' students' ethnographic studies from the 1920's and 1930's in the Regenstein Library at the University of Chicago, I found numerous stories of underground parties and meetings within the LGBTI communities. In 1998 after consulting with residents, the City of Chicago installed a streetscaping project along North Halsted Street which included eleven pairs of Art Deco bollards encompassing the rainbow Pride colors. The Center on Halsted has just completed a community center reinforcing the area as the center of LGBTI life in Chicagoland.

However, the community is suburbanizing. Just north of Boystown, Andersonville has become an affordable community primarily for partnered lesbians with children. The trans community is focused in suburban Chicago. Many transgender males to females as well as drag queens and straight married men who openly cross dress organized a vibrant community organization. The Chicago Gender Society focuses on gender oppression issues by providing social activities and educational information. The society holds monthly events attracting participants from southern

Wisconsin to down state Illinois. Also, the society lobbies for workplace equality legislation.

Just as Brown-Saracino noted, there is very little research on LGBTI communities in rural and suburban areas. On the surface, Northampton, Massachusetts appears to be an LGBTI utopia nestled in the Berkshires. Since the mid-1800's lesbian couples have migrated to the area making it a very feminized lesbian place. By the 1970's feminist bookstores and lesbian bars could be found in downtown. Today, the town has an openly lesbian mayor. However, many of the same class struggles that characterized this Berkshire industrial town are still present in the post industrial tourist city. The strong town/gown divide between Northampton and Smith College, the all-women's institution, still impact this area.

As Northampton has gentrified and become a central place in Western Massachusetts, the town attracted large numbers of wanna-be Yuppies from New York and Boston as well as students who remained after graduating. Many working class lesbians felt marginalized by these newcomers. Following what can best be viewed as a "model minority" approach to acceptance; many newcomers have married, bought homes, and had children to become "upstanding" citizens. Female to male transgenders and cross dressers that do not desire this lifestyle are seen as deviants. Many felt that by embracing masculinity they were ostracized. Working class black and Latina lesbians who have moved from Springfield, the urban center just fifteen miles south, to Northampton felt that the white lesbian community did not welcome them. Some choose to return to Springfield.

Decatur, Georgia is a former trolley car suburb of Atlanta. This county seat experience economic and population decline as DeKalb County integrated in the 1960's. The development of the MARTA rail line in the 1970's basically

killed off what remained of the original downtown shops. In the 1990's Decatur began resurgence. As metro Atlanta sprawled its way to 5.7 million people, older downtown centers became attractive again.

Atlanta has long been a center for southern LGBTI individuals to escape. In the 1960's the "tight squeeze" area along Peachtree Street in Midtown became an alternative hippie district. During Mayor Andrew Young reign in the 1980's, this area redeveloped as a high-end office area. The Little Five Points community became a center for alternative groups with places like Charis Bookstore that functions as a community gathering spot. Later, LGBTI's discovered Decatur and became a key part of the suburb's rebirth.

Unlike the other three sites, Decatur does not have one focal point for the LGBTI community. In fact, many participants in the Atlanta area discussed the fact that the metro region does not have one central gay place. Many in the LGBTI community referred to being inside or outside the Perimeter (the I-285 beltway about fifteen miles outside downtown Atlanta). Some Decatur lesbians discussed how their exurban friends refer to themselves as "post-gay" living in some of the most conservative areas of the country. Organizing around electronic communications, groups meet throughout the region.

During the 1960's civil rights movement, Atlanta marketed itself as the "City Too Busy to Hate." However, the post-Jim Crow era is still in the separate black and white Pride festivals. The white festival is held during June while the Black Gay Pride is in September. The clubs and bars are also segregated along racial lines. Groups like ZAMI an organization for lesbians of African descent provide community organizing as well as college scholarships for the young lesbian community.

When I first saw the original volumes of *Yankee City* sitting on the shelves in

Sterling Memorial Library, I knew there was no way that this project would follow the old approaches. I had even wondered that in this age of individuals, if a community study would be antiquated. Also, the LGBTI "umbrella" encompasses numerous groups and individuals with similar as well as competing interests. Within these communities transgender and bisexual individuals may feel marginalized even within this "umbrella."

We have moved long past the era of *The Philadelphia Negro* or *Middletown*. The Larry Kramer Initiative was established to get LGBTI issues into the core of academic research with a concern that these issues would be marginalized into queer studies. This project is one early attempt at exploring LGBTI issues within a community studies approach.

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2009 ASA CONFERENCE PANELS & ROUNDTABLES

At this year's ASA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CUSS Section Day will be on Monday, August 10. CUSS events at the conference include four sessions, roundtables, section council meeting, section business meeting as well as annual reception. This year's events are listed below:

• CUSS Council and Business Meetings

Monday, August 10
Council Meeting: 10:30am -11:20am
Business Meeting: 11:20am - 12:10am
Parc 55 Hotel

• CUSS Reception

Monday, August 10, 12:30pm - 2:00pm
The Chieftain Irish Pub & Restaurant
198 Fifth Street (5th & Howard)

• CUSS Panel Sessions

• **SESSION ONE: The City, Communities and Immigration** (co-sponsored with the Section on International Migration)
Saturday, August 8, 10:30am - 12:10pm
Hilton San Francisco

Session Organizer: Eric Fong, University of Toronto

President: Eric Fong, University of Toronto
Papers:

-*The City as Context: How Religion Influences Reception in New Immigrant Destinations*

Peggy Levitt, Wellesley College; Bernadette Nadya Jaworsky, Yale University; Sara R. Curran, University of Washington

-*Ecological Context and Immigrants's Earnings: English Ability as a Mediator*

Juan Xi, University of Akron; Sean-Shong Hwang and Yue Cao University of Alabama-Birmingham

-*The Success of Racial Minority Immigrant Offspring: A Comparative Study*

Jeffrey G. Reitz and Naoko Shida, University of Toronto; Heather Zhang, McGill University;

-Contextual Interaction and Stigma Management: Construction of Asian American Identities of Taiwanese 1.5 Generation Immigrants

KuoRay Mao, University of Kansas

Discussant: Mary J. Fischer, University of Connecticut

• **SESSION TWO: Cities, Communities, and Disaster**

Monday, August 10 - 8:30am - 10:10am
Parc 55 Hotel

Session Organizer: Maggie Kusenbach, University of South Florida

President: Maggie Kusenbach, University of South Florida

-*The Impact of Economic Crises on Neighborhoods: The Case of Turkey*
 Bruce Rankin, Koc University; Isik Aytac, Bogazici University; Burçin Erarslan, Bogazici University
 -*Sustainability as Community Catalyst: Rebuilding a Greener Greensburg, Kansas*
 Heather Elizabeth Marsh, University of Maryland-College Park
 -*Grassroots Social Justice Movement Activity After Hurricane Katrina: Opportunities and Constraints*
 Rachel E. Luft, University of New Orleans
 -*In the Shadow of Katrina: Hurricane Rita, Non-Government Organizations, and Organizational Continuity*
 Discussant: Melinda J. Milligan, Sonoma State University

• **SESSION THREE: Formal Organizations and Urban Transformations**

Monday, August 10, 2:30pm – 4:10pm
 Parc 55

Session Organizer: Michael McQuarrie, University of California-Davis
 Session Organizer: Nicole P. Marwell, City University of New York-Baruch College
 Presider: Harvey L. Molotch, New York University

-*Bringing Conflict and Representation Back into Participation: Intermediation and Collective Action as Participatory Institutions*
 Debbie Becher, Princeton University
 -*Participation in Context: Neighborhood Diversity and Organizational Involvements in Boston*
 Alison Denton Jones, Harvard University; Christopher Winship, Harvard University; Van C. Tran, Harvard University
 -*Resources, Infrastructure, and Leadership: Tenants' Rights Mobilization in Los Angeles, 1976-1979*
 Benjamin Elliott Lind, University of California-Irvine; Judith Stepan-Norris, University of California-Irvine
 Discussant: Joseph Galaskiewicz, University of Arizona

• **SESSION FOUR: Leisure Practices and Urban Community Building**

Session Organizer: Michael Ian Borer, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 Presider: Michael Ian Borer, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

-*Scenes, Creative Cities, and Urban Development*
 Daniel Silver and Terry Nichols Clark, University of Chicago
 -*Primary Groups and Cosmopolitan Ties: The Rooftop Pigeon Flyers of New York*
 Colin Jerolmack, New York University, Harvard University
 -*Settlement and Bar Socializing: Success and Succession Among San Francisco's Homosexual Enclaves*
 Greggor Mattson, Oberlin College
 -*Territory, Authority, and Pickup Soccer: Claiming Space and Legitimizing Order in a Public Park*
 David Trouille, University of California-Los Angeles
 Discussant: David Grazian, University of Pennsylvania

• **REFERRED ROUNDTABLES**

Roundtables Organizers: Melinda Milligan, Sonoma State University; Simon Weffer-Elizondo, University of California-Merced
 Monday, August 10, 4:30–6:10 pm, Parc 55

Table 1: Economic Patterns

Presider: Miriam Greenberg, University of California-Santa Cruz

-*A World-System Approach to Post-Catastrophe International Relief*
 Lynn Ann Letukas and John Barnshaw, University of Delaware
 -*Tolerance and Economic Performance: The Importance of Diversity to Economic Development in American Metropolitan Areas*
 Xinxiang Chen, University of Minnesota
 -*Unequal Neighborhoods: Trends in Spatial Concentrations of Affluence*
 Claudia Dina Solari, University of California-Los Angeles

Table 2. Gender, Family, and Housing

Presider: Krista Paulsen, University of North Florida

-*The Other Projects: A History and Auto-ethnography of Public Housing Defense Homes in WWII*
 Albert Hunter, Northwestern University
 -*Gender in Housing Policy and Research: Implications for Studying Katrina Housing Policies*
 Megan Reid, University of Texas-Austin

-Understanding Changes in Families and Households Pre- and Post-Katrina
Diana B. Elliott, University of Maryland
-Attempts to Change HOPE VI Residents Aspirations and Behaviors
Corey Bunje Bower, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

Table 3. Housing Inequality and Affordability

Presider: Jesus Hernandez, University of California-Davis

-Good Neighbors, Not Affordable Housing: Framing Housing “Problems” in a Growing Metropolitan Area”
Leslie Martin (Boise State University)
-Fair and Affordable Housing? Racial-Ethnic Segregation and Inequality in New York City Housing Programs
Judith R. Halasz, SUNY-New Paltz
-Housing Inequality in The U.S: A Decomposition Analysis of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Homeownership
Yuval Elmelech, Bard College, and Sanjaya DeSilva, Bard College

Table 4. Immigration and Citizenship

Presider: Tomas Jimenez, Stanford University

-Global Cities and Citizenship: The Politics of Recognition and Redistribution and Immigrant Inclusion
Vojislava Filipcevic, Columbia University
-Performative Citizenship Towards a trans-scalar conception of Citizenship
Filipe Carreira da Silva, University of Lisbon
-Immigration, Race, and Labor Market Structures in American Metropolitan Areas
Joong-Hwan Oh, City University of New York-Hunter College, and Byung-Soo Kim, University of Missouri

Table 5. New Developments in Urban Theory

Presider: John Dale, George Mason University

-A Philadelphia State of Mind: Chicago, LA, New York, and a DuBoisian Urbanism
Marcus Anthony Hunter, Northwestern University
-The Urban Underclass Dispute: Formulations of Empirical Testing of Theories
Ningxi Zhang, Cornell University

Table 6. Place and Community

Presider: Maggie Kusenbach, University of South Florida

-Conceiving Community Planning as a Way to Civic Organizational Development
Jae-Mahn Shim, University of Chicago, and Eun Jung Shin, Seoul National University
-Building Community: A Tale of Two New Urbanist Developments
Robert L. Cavazos and Regina M. Bures, University of Florida
-A Mixed Method Analysis of Homeownership and Place Attachment
Elena Windsong, University of New Mexico

Table 7. Race and Community

Presider: Daniel Malero Malpica, Sonoma State University

-Listening Through White Ears: Cross-Racial ‘Dialogues’ About the Harmful Effects of Gentrification
Emily M. Drew, Willamette University
-Do Whites Hold Color-Blind Attitudes in Racially Integrated Neighborhoods? A Case Study
Meghan Ashlin Rich, University of Scranton
-Senseless’ Violence: Making Sense of Murder
Waverly Duck, Yale University

Table 8. Residential Mobility

Presider: Jon Norman, Loyola University-Chicago

-Johannesburg: Demographic Patterns from the City that Swallowed its Suburbs
Eric J. Petersen
-Negotiating Neighborhoods and Evaluating Alternatives: Residential Mobility Decisions of Low-income Families
Peter Rosenblatt, Johns Hopkins University

Table 9. Residential Segregation

Presider: Kendra Bischoff, Stanford University

-Ethnic Residential Segregation in 1880: Irish and Germans in 66 Cities
John R. Logan, Brown University; Weiwei Zhang, Brown University; and Hyoung-jin Shin, Brown University
-The Racial Residential Segregation of Black Single Adults Living Alone
Kris Marsh, University of Maryland, and John Iceland, Penn State University

-Suburbanization, School District Fragmentation, and School Segregation
Kendra Bischoff and Sean F. Reardon,
Stanford University

Table 10. Space, Place, and Health

Prsider: Shannon Monnat, University of Nevada-Las Vegas

-Slums and Disadvantage: Infant and Child Death and Health in India

Valerie A. Lewis, Princeton University

-Sense of Control in Rural and Urban Contexts: To What Extent Does Locality Type Matter?

Jessica Leigh Collins, University of Toronto

-New York: Runner-Friendly City?

April Dawn Henning, City University of New York- Graduate Center

Table 11. The Culture of Communities

Prsider: Japonica Brown-Saracino, Loyola University-Chicago

-Immigration to the U.S. Southwest and the Context of Receiving Society: A Case of "Cottonville", Arizona

Haruna Miyagawa Fukui, Arizona State University

-Urban-Rural Structural Interdependence, Rural Simulacra, and Cultural Innovation

Brian M. Lowe and Alexander R Thomas, SUNY College at Oneonta; and Gregory Malone Fulkerson, North Carolina State University

-Global Citizenship, Transnational Identity, and Claiming of Rights to the City

June L. Gin, Fritz Institute

-Community as Resource or Hindrance?

Narratives of (mis)Trust in the Governance of Local Regeneration

Heike Doering, Cardiff University, UK

Table 12. Understanding Neighborhoods

Prsider: Jonathan Wynn, Smith College

-People Out of Place: Homeless in Search of Neighborhood Attachment

Andrew Deener, University of Connecticut

-Where is Bolton Hill?: Drawing, Stretching, and Contracting Neighborhood Boundaries

Yuki Kato, Tulane University

-The Digital Neighborhood Concept

Michel S. Laguerre, University of California – Berkeley

Table 13. Urban Life and Culture

Prsider: Bruce Haynes, University of California-Davis

-Malocchio: The Presence of Storefront Psychics in New York City

Karen Gregory, City University of New York- Graduate Center

-Roaming Through Order and Disorder in Long Island City

Luis F. Nun, New School for Social Research

-Mobility, Strategies, and Tactics in the Post-Industrial City

Jeffrey Lowell Kidder, University of California-San Diego

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• The Feliks Gross Seminar in Visual and Urban Ethnography at the CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences announces the establishment of "The Feliks Gross Seminar in Visual and Urban Ethnography." The seminar is designed to bring together young scholars and junior faculty working in the interdisciplinary fields of Visual and Urban Ethnography to present and discuss their work with senior CUNY faculty and recognized scholars outside of CUNY.

The Seminar will meet at the CUNY Graduate and University Center at least once a year, and otherwise at the colleges in the CUNY system. The first meeting will take place in the late Spring at Brooklyn College, with regular meetings, at the discretion of members, to begin in the Fall of 2009. The Feliks Gross Seminar in Visual and Urban Ethnography is co-sponsored by The Brooklyn College Sociology Department. For further information please contact CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences Board member Jerome Krase, Emeritus and Murray Koppelman Professor at: jkrase@brooklyn.cuny.edu. For further information about the CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences Board please visit at:

<http://www.cunyufs.org/academy/index.html>

NEWS & NOTES

- **Joe Galaskiewicz**, University of Arizona, recently received \$162,274 from the National Science Foundation to fund his project, "Organizations and their Impact on the Urban Community." This funding helps Joe continue his research on the distribution of organizational resources across the Phoenix metropolitan area, their effect on what children do in the free time on the weekends, and how organizations migrate across the metropolitan community in response to demographic shifts, changes in zoning laws, and competition among organizational providers. The research looks at a broad range of establishments that serve community residents including parks, recreation centers, churches, retail outlets, restaurants, bowling and fitness centers, barber shops, department stores, malls, theatres, and many, many more local establishments. For some of Joe's preliminary results, go to: <http://www.childresearch.net/RESOURCE/RESEARCH/2007/GALASKIEWICZ.HTM>

- **Kevin Gotham and Miriam Greenberg's** article "From 9/11 to 8/28: Post Disaster Recovery and Rebuilding in New York and New Orleans" was published in the December, 2008 edition of *Social Forces*. This article examines the process of post-disaster recovery and rebuilding in New York City since 9/11 and in New Orleans since the Hurricane Katrina disaster (8/29). As destabilizing events, 9/11 and 8/29 forced a rethinking of the major categories, concepts and theories that long dominated disaster research. We analyze the form, trajectory and problems of reconstruction in the two cities with special emphasis on the implementation of the Community Development Block Grant program, the Liberty Zone and the Gulf Opportunity Zone, and tax-exempt private activity bonds to finance and promote reinvestment. Drawing on a variety of data

sources, we show that New York and New Orleans have become important laboratories for entre-preneurial city and state governments seeking to use post-disaster rebuilding as an opportunity to push through far-reaching neoliberal policy reforms. The emphasis on using market-centered approaches for urban recovery and rebuilding in New York and New Orleans should be seen not as coherent or sustainable responses to urban disaster but rather as deeply contradictory restructuring strategies that are intensifying the problems they seek to remedy.

- **Jerry Krase**, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, has three new *Visual Sociological* articles: "A Visual Approach to Multiculturalism," *Beyond Multiculturalism*, G. Prato (ed), "Contested Terrains: Visualizing Glocalization in Global Cities," *Open House International*, A. Datta (ed), and "Sucesión étnica en Little & Big Italy," *Bifurcaciones*, <http://www.bifurcaciones.cl/008/Krase.htm>

- **Reuben A. Buford May**, Associate Professor of Sociology, at Texas A&M University has been promoted to full professor effective September 2009. Also, May was named a Fellow at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. May will be in residence at Harvard in the fall of 2009 working on his project, "Race, Class, Culture, and Urban Social Space." This is an ethnographic study of the ways in which individuals negotiate public and semi-public space. May uses the case of the downtown party scene in Athens, Georgia to examine how race and culture influence interactional dynamics across categories of space users. This project will articulate the taken-for-granted rules that individuals follow in sharing the integrated, yet segregated urban space.

NEW BOOKS

- **Jeremy R. Porter**, Rice University, recently received a postdoc / graduate

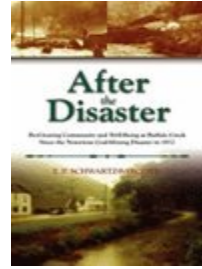
student paper award from the American Statistical Association's Social Science Section. The paper is entitled "Using Multivariate Spatial Statistics in the Spatio-Temporal Modeling of Rate-Based Diffusion Processes: A Replication and Extension of Cohen and Tita's Univariate Method?"

- **Susan Stall**, Northeastern Illinois University, spoke on "Civic Sociology" for her Presidential Address at the Midwest Sociological Society meetings in Des Moines, Iowa on April 2, 2009.

• **Rachael A. Woldoff**, West Virginia University, and **Seth Ovadia**, Bowdoin College, have a new article in *Urban Affairs Review* entitled "Not Getting Their Money's Worth: African-American Disadvantages in Converting Income, Wealth, and Education into Residential Quality." The abstract is as follows: Previous research has established that racial/ethnic residential inequalities in the United States are due to a combination of resource disadvantage and discrimination. This article builds upon past work by using a new dependent variable (census tract median housing value), examining the effects of wealth, and including interactions between race/ethnicity and resources. The authors find that the Black-White gap in neighborhood quality is explained by the combination of Blacks' relative disadvantage in resources and the smaller benefits they gain from having those resources. In contrast, Latinos who are not recent immigrants are similar to Whites in both neighborhood quality and their ability to translate resources into residential quality.

- *After the Disaster: Re-creating Community and Well-Being at Buffalo Creek since the Notorious Coal-Mining Disaster in 1972*. Cambria Press, 2008.

T. P. Schwartz-Barcott, University of Rhode Island

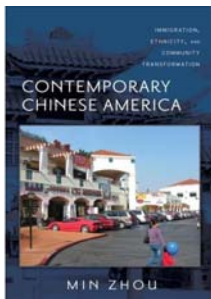


After the Disaster is much more than just a book about the long term consequences of what is probably, to many members of the ASA, the most famous disaster-struck community in the U.S.

between 1950 and September 11, 2001 -- the now notorious "Buffalo Creek disaster." This book objectively re-examines and graciously amends the extensive scholarly literature about small rural communities and disasters, with particular attention to the work of distinguished sociologist, and former ASA President, Kai Erikson (whose book, *Everything in Its Path: Destruction of Community in the Buffalo Creek Flood*, won the Sorokin Award of the ASA). In doing this, *After the Disaster* carefully re-considers and refines enduring core concepts in sociology (including "community," "communality," "neighbors," "neighboring," "individual well-being" "social well-being," "social disruptions," "disasters," "recovery," "resilience," and "social change") in the light of fresh, provocative data that the author collected during six years of field studies in a variety of rural settlements, including the former sixteen coal camps that comprised Buffalo Creek. The history of social communities in the Buffalo Creek Valley is thereby extended from the 1970s into the 21st Century. This book also develops new theoretical material, such as the "social destruction

perspective" and the "social re-creation perspective" on disaster-struck communities, and demonstrates how these concepts help us compare and contrast disasters as distinct, historically, as the volcanic destruction of Pompeii in 79 AD, the Indonesian tsunami in 2004, and Hurricane Katrina's devastation of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in 2005.

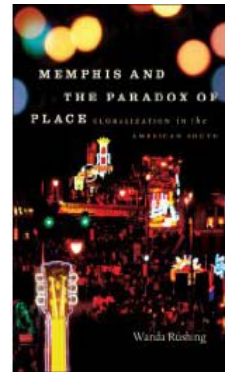
- Contemporary Chinese America: Immigration, Ethnicity, and Community Transformation. Temple University Press, 2009.
Min Zhou, UCLA



This book offers the most comprehensive sociological investigation of the multifaceted experiences of Chinese immigrants and their offspring in the United States and provides an excellent grounding for

understanding emerging trends, issues, and debates in the 21st century Chinese American community while also posing some of the most important questions in the field of Chinese American Studies and the field of comparative immigration. The book aims to inform readers of the broader social transformations in American society that have historically affected (and continue to affect) the people of Chinese descent. It includes findings on causes and consequences of emigration from China and remigration from the Chinese Diaspora, patterns of residential mobility, community transformation, ethnic organizations, entrepreneurship and the ethnic enclave economy, gender and work, Chinese language media, Chinese school, the immigrant family, the new second generation, and identity.

- Memphis and the Paradox of Place: Globalization in the American South. University of North Carolina Press, 2009.
Wanda Rushing, University of Memphis



Celebrated as the home of the blues and the birthplace of rock and roll, Memphis, Tennessee, is where Elvis Presley, B. B. King, Johnny Cash, and other musical legends got their starts. It is also a place of conflict and

tragedy—the site of Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1968 assassination—and a city typically marginalized by scholars and underestimated by its own residents. Using this iconic southern city as a case study, Wanda Rushing explores the significance of place in a globalizing age. Challenging the view that globalization renders place generic or insignificant, Rushing argues that cultural and economic distinctiveness persists in part because of global processes, not in spite of them. Rushing weaves her analysis into stories about the history and global impact of blues music, the social and racial complexities of Cotton Carnival, and the global rise of FedEx, headquartered in Memphis. She portrays Memphis as a site of cultural creativity and global industry—a city whose traditions, complex past, and specific character have had an influence on culture worldwide.

The New Urban Renewal.
University of Chicago Press, 2008
Derek S. Hyra, George Washington
University



Two of the most celebrated black neighborhoods in the United States—Harlem in New York City and Bronzeville in Chicago—were once plagued by crime, drugs, and abject poverty. But now both have transformed into increasingly trendy and desirable neighborhoods with old buildings being rehabbed, new luxury condos being built, and banks opening branches in areas that were once redlined. In *The New Urban Renewal*, Derek S. Hyra offers an illuminating exploration of the complicated web of factors—local, national, and global—driving the remarkable revitalization of these two iconic black communities.

How did these formerly notorious ghettos become dotted with expensive restaurants, health spas, and chic boutiques? And, given that urban renewal in the past often meant displacing African Americans, how have both neighborhoods remained black enclaves? Hyra combines his personal experiences as a resident of both communities with deft historical analysis to investigate who has won and who has lost in the new urban renewal. He discovers that today's redevelopment affects African Americans differentially: the middle class benefits while lower-income residents are priced out. Federal policies affecting this process also come under scrutiny, and Hyra breaks new ground with his penetrating investigation into the ways that economic globalization interacts with local political forces to massively reshape metropolitan areas.

As public housing is torn down and money floods back into cities across the

United States, countless neighborhoods are being monumentally altered. *The New Urban Renewal* is a compelling study of the shifting dynamics of class and race at work in the contemporary urban landscape.

The Integration Debate: Competing Futures for American Cities.
New York: Routledge, 2009
Chester Hartman, ed., Poverty & Race Research Action Council, and Gregory D. Squires, ed., George Washington University

Racial integration, and policies intended to achieve greater integration, continue to generate controversy in the United States, with some of the most heated debates taking place among long-standing advocates of racial equality. Today, many nonwhites express what has been referred to as "integration exhaustion" as they question the value of integration in today's world. And many whites exhibit what has been labeled "race fatigue," arguing that we have done enough to reconcile the races. Many policies have been implemented in efforts to open up traditionally restricted neighborhoods, while others have been designed to diversify traditionally poor, often nonwhite, neighborhoods. Still, racial segregation persists, along with the many social costs of such patterns of uneven development. This book explores both long-standing and emerging controversies over the nation's ongoing struggles with discrimination and segregation. More urgently, it offers guidance on how these barriers can be overcome to achieve truly balanced and integrated living patterns.

Shanghai Rising: State Power and Local Transformations in a Global Megacity. University of Minnesota Press, 2009.

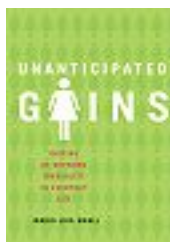
Xiangming Chen, ed., Trinity College



Until around 1990, Shanghai was China's premier but sluggish industrial center. Now at the beginning of the twenty-first century, the joint impact of global forces and state power has turned Shanghai into a dynamic megacity.

Shanghai's remarkable growth in economy, infrastructure, and global presence has prompted questions about the Shanghai "miracle." This collection places the city's unprecedented rise in a rare comparative examination of U.S. cities, as well as with Asian megacities Singapore and Hong Kong, providing a nuanced account of how Shanghai's politics, economy, society, and space have been transformed by macro- and micro-level forces. A Chinese edition will be published simultaneously by Horizon Media Co. and the People's Press of Shanghai.

•Unanticipated Gains: Origins of Network Inequality in Everyday Life. Oxford University Press, 2009. Mario Small, University of Chicago



Social capital theorists have shown that some people do better than others in part because they enjoy larger, more supportive, or otherwise more useful networks.

But why do some people have better networks than others? *Unanticipated Gains* argues that the an-

swer lies less in people's deliberate "networking" than in the institutional conditions of the churches, colleges, firms, gyms, childcare centers, schools, and other organizations in which they happen to participate routinely. The book illustrates and develops this argument by exploring the experiences of New York City mothers whose children were enrolled in childcare centers.

Unanticipated Gains examines why scores of these mothers, after enrolling their children in centers, dramatically expanded both the size and usefulness of their personal networks, often in ways they did not expect. Whether, how, and how much the mothers' networks were altered---and how useful these networks were---depended on the apparently trivial but remarkably consequential practices and regulations of the centers, from the structure of their PTOs, to the regularity of their fieldtrips to amusement parks and zoos, to their ostensibly innocuous rules regarding pick-up and drop-off times.

Relying on scores of in-depth interviews with mothers, quantitative data on both mothers and centers, and detailed case studies of other routine organizations (from beauty salons and bath houses to colleges and churches), *Unanticipated Gains* shows that how much people gain from their connections depends substantially on institutional conditions they often do not control, and through everyday process they may not even be aware.

Out the Middle: The Rural Brain Drain and What it Means for America, 2009. Boston: Beacon Press. Maria Kefalas, St. Joseph's University, and Patrick J. Carr, Rutgers University.

Books like Richard Florida's *The Rise of the Creative Class* celebrate the wave

of highly productive and creative workers moving to the cities for the assets of arts, culture, diversity and tolerance that they offer. Good jobs await them there. But what happens to the people who are left behind?

That's the question that sociologists Maria Kefalas and Patrick J. Carr set out to answer in their new book, *Hollowing Out the Middle: The Rural Brain Drain and What it Means for America*. In order to understand the cost of the so-called "rural youth exodus" they spent 18 months in Iowa, a state that typifies the troubles of small towns across the American heartland.

They discovered that in spite of being hit hard by the loss of talented young people, these small towns put enormous resources and energy into encouraging them to go. Motivated by the best of intentions, they watch those who are most likely to succeed leave to make their fortunes elsewhere. But while bemoaning the fact that young people are their most valuable export, they invest little to nothing in the young people who choose to stay behind. And it is those young people who are their best chance for a future.

Talented people have always left small towns for bigger cities and brighter opportunities. But at the dawn of the twenty-first century the loss of educated young adults could spell the end of small-town America. Maria Kefalas and Patrick Carr suggest that there are signs of hope for the future of the rural town, but that it is a future that will look very different from the present.

You can see the book trailer at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/BeaconBroadside> and the book will be available in September 2009 from Beacon Press

NEW DISSERTATIONS

Evacuation, Extended Displacement and Recovery: Survival Responses of Low-income Women to the Hurricane Katrina Disaster.

Jessica W. Pardee (University of Central Florida), Tulane University, 2009

This study examines the lived experiences of 51 low-income, former and current public housing residents from New Orleans, Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Using a mixed-methodology, I assess women's capacity to evacuate, survive displacement and recover following the Hurricane Katrina disaster. Primary findings include that women were able to evacuate, despite their poverty. For those who did not, this was most commonly a choice, based on their assessment of the risk. There was not sufficient evidence to support the claim that their poverty prevented evacuation, since most women were able to pool resources with others in their social network to overcome their individual monetary barriers to evacuation.

Once evacuated, women's regular poverty survival mechanisms of aid-based, kin-based and work-based assistance were partially dismantled in the disaster context, with kin assistance helping for short durations, and aid-based assistance being the most utilized in the longer term. This pattern occurred, in part, because work-based survival was dismantled by split labor markets and labor discrimination in communities receiving the evacuees in this sample.

Lastly, the assessment of disaster recovery finds that women were living in more precarious poverty circumstances than before the storm, largely dependent on time-delimited disaster relief programs to pay their bills. In sum, short-term recovery was not available to these women and long-term recovery remained questionable at best.

Who Rules the City? How Growth Coalition Elites Believe They Influence Decision-Making
Colin Olson
University of New Mexico, 2009

This study explores the cultural and structural processes through which urban elites seek to control the destiny of an American city. I first provide a sketch of how growth coalition elites come to understand power in the community and how they believe they influence decision-making. Understandings and beliefs are decidedly cultural realms. In this study, culture is defined as situated or positional knowledge, in that what becomes knowledge is determined by the position actors occupy in the social structure. To rule the city, what must be won are not just proposals and programs, but the city itself, as a cognitive structure. Which positional culture of the city will prevail? Which is prevailing, and why? Second, I link this cultural account to a structural account of how elites rule, drawing on social network analysis techniques in order to bring to the fore the ties of influence that work to weave together the city's various apparatuses of control. Ultimately, these two themes seek to establish the relationship between elite network arrangements and their positional cultures that together condition action, and are conditioned by action. To carry out this study, 95 interviews were conducted with community elites that were identified through inter-organizational affiliation and prestige networks of a city with a population of over 500,000 people. Respondents

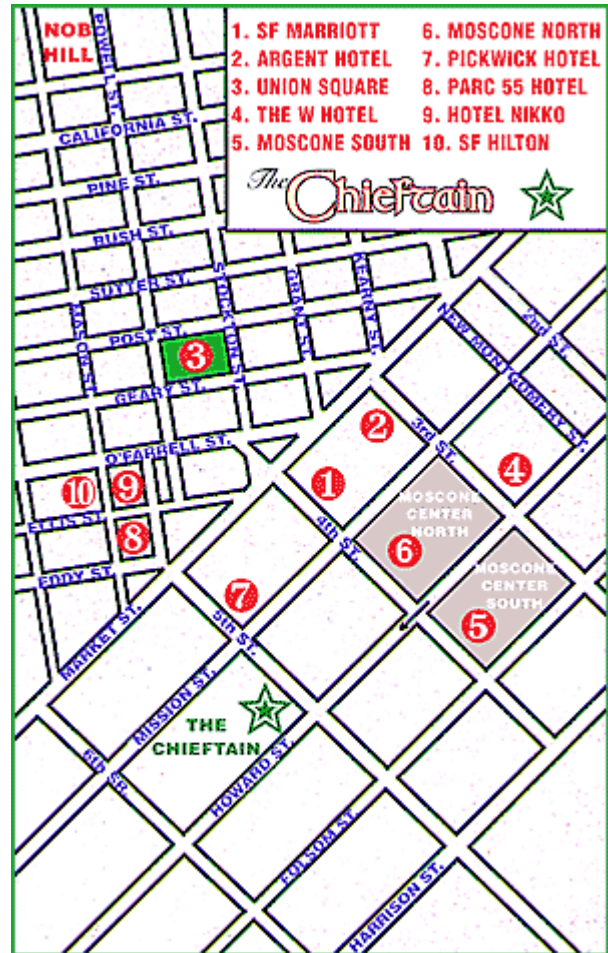
were asked to comment on their involvements in the city as well as identify their associates and affiliations in the city.

CUSS ASA MEETING RECEPTION

When:
Monday, August 10, 12:30-2:00

Where:
The Chieftain Irish Pub & Restaurant
Location: 198 Fifth Street (5th & Howard)

In keeping with what appears to be an emerging tradition, our 2008 reception will be a lunch-time affair at a local pub situated near the two major ASA convention hotels (the San Francisco Hilton and the Parc 55). The pub – The Chieftain Irish Pub and Restaurant – is a short walk from the convention hotels (4 blocks from the Hilton, 3 blocks from the Parc 55 -- see map). Food will be provided – assorted sandwiches (both vegetarian and mixed meats), cheese plates, mini quesadillas, and baskets of fries, but section members will pay for their libations.



Editor's Note

As we move into the 2009-10 academic year, the *CUSS Newsletter* is actively seeking articles for future editions. Let me know if you have any ideas or comments. Please send all correspondence to: wholt@vermontlaw.edu.

Best, William Holt
Editor, *CUSS Newsletter*