
CUSS NEWS

Winter 2003

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1. MESSAGE FROM THE CUSS SECTION CHAIR

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2. GUEST ESSAY

A Project: Measuring The Suburbanization of World Cities with Remote Sensing Data
 Christopher Chase-Dunn
 Institute for Research on World-Systems
 University of California-Riverside

John R. Weeks
 Geography
 San Diego State University

The problem of sustainable urbanization is crucial for the human encounter with the consequences of our ballooning environmental footprint. Over half of the human population of the Earth now lives in very large cities, and these have spread rapidly over the land as population densities within cities have decreased and cities have spread into huge city-regions. Our research project is developing a methodology for measuring the rates and the nature of the spatial expansion of world cities and the patterns of decreasing population density in order to know whether or not urban sprawl is accelerating or slowing down. We are also studying changes in the world city-size distribution over the past three decades. The size distribution of world cities has been flattening since the 1950s as megacities in the non-core countries have caught up in terms of overall population size with the global cities of the core. We are examining this trend closely to see if it has leveled off or accelerated. And we are studying differences among the cities of the core and the non-core with respect to the rates and nature of urban sprawl and the changing structure of the built environment.

Our project is developing measures for using satellite data to study changes in world cities over the last three decades. Global coverage, large spatial scale, easily standardized spatial format, and relatively low cost make satellite data attractive for studying world cities and city-regions. The main problem is that the satellite technology has changed very rapidly and so the comparison of early with recent satellite data requires a sophisticated approach to measurement error. In order to develop algorithms for solving this problem our project is focusing on five cities in North America, Africa, and the Middle East where we already have done research and have access to ancillary data on land-use patterns that will enable us to develop techniques for decomposing change into that which is due to measurement error and that which is real change as indicated by the classification of data from the satellite imagery.

The nature of the human built environment has huge consequences for humanity itself and increasingly large impacts on the global biosphere. Social scientists have long studied the emergence of sedentism and the growth of settlements, but only recently has attention been drawn to the relationship between cities and the environment. Our study of the global city system and the suburbanization of world cities has important implications for theories of urban growth and the development of settlement systems, and for the relationship between urbanization and the environment.

The project is producing an educational WORLD CITIES TIME-MAP, a web-accessible spatio-temporal GIS that presents animations of growth and suburbanization of the largest cities on Earth over the period from 1950 to 2005. The WORLD CITIES TIME-MAP is designed to provide information that will be valuable for public and private decision-makers on the issues of sprawl and sustainable urbanization.



3. TRANSITIONS: CUSS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

a. Since his early retirement from Brooklyn College Professor Emeritus JERRY KRASE ran up his air miles presenting illustrated papers: "Imagining Chinatowns and Little Italies: A Visual Approach to Ethnic Spectacles." at The Immigrant Tourist Industry: An ESF Exploratory Workshop on the Commodification of Cultural Resources in Cosmopolitan Cities. Amsterdam, December, 2003; "Seeing Community in a Multicultural Society: Theory and Practice." at the Experience and Perspectives of Multiculturalism: Croatia in Comparison with Other Multicultural Societies Conference. Croatian Commission for UNESCO, Dubrovnik, November 2003; "Imagining Italians and Others: Sharing Public Space," and "Little Italian Ethnic Theme Parks." at The Europeans Program. The University of Western Australia. Perth. July, 2003; and "Italian and Italian American Identity." at the 'Merica: convegno sulla cultura e letteratura degli italiani del nordamerica. Rome, Italy. January, 2003.

b. In 1998, E. Barbara PHILLIPS, professor emerita, San Francisco State University, founded the non-profit Latitude Cultural Center, located in the countryside of southwest France, near Cahors(Lot). Latitude, with headquarters in the 14th century Moulin de La

Toulzanie, offers week-long summer courses (ranging from medieval history and Freud-to-Lacan on Love to landscape painting and writing workshops) in French, in English, or in both languages. In addition, the Center offers a near-weekly series of evening events, including conferences on globalization, local lore, and art history to a guitar jam session and art exhibits. Details at www.latitude.org If members are interested in offering or attending a summer course or evening event, please contact Barbara in La Toulzanie (mid--May to mid-September) or in Berkeley, CA at barbara@latitude.org

4. PUBLICATIONS: BY OR FOR CUSS MEMBERS

a. FEMINISM AND METHOD: ETHNOPGRAPHY, DISCOURSE ANALYSIS, AND ACTIVIST RESEARCH. by Nancy A. Naples. Routledge, 2003.

The work presented in FEMINISM AND METHOD: ETHNOPGRAPHY, DISCOURSE ANALYSIS, AND ACTIVIST RESEARCH represents more than twenty years of investigations and dialogue with other feminist scholars and community activists. Chapters include case studies of women's politicization and community activism, racialization and rural economic development, construction and implementation of social policy.

b. COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION

“We recently published Community-Based Research and Higher Education (Jossey-Bass, 2003), an exciting and innovative ‘how to’ guide for incorporating community-based research (CBR) into academic settings. The book is a long-awaited resource in the field of service-learning that is highly appropriate for announcement in your newsletter and we ask that you consider it.

COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION presents community-based research as a promising new form of scholarship. Unlike traditional academic research, CBR is collaborative, change-oriented, and finds its research questions in the needs of communities. Having emerged in response to the criticism that colleges and universities are insufficiently responsive to the needs of communities, CBR is a bridge between academics and real-world social issues.

As an innovative approach to service-learning, CBR combines classroom education with social action in ways that can ultimately empower community groups to address their own needs and prepare students for active civic engagement. Because it requires working with communities and not for them, CBR represents a true collaboration between communities, faculty and students.

Community-Based Research and Higher Education is written by five academics from different disciplines, with extensive experience in community-based research as teachers,

researchers, administrators, scholars, and community activists. This book is an essential resource for anyone seeking to inspire a new generation of young leaders. Not only does it offer valuable suggestions and insights on how to incorporate CBR into academic courses and curricula, but it presents a wide range of exemplary research projects with diverse community partners.

If you require further information about Community-Based Research and Higher Education, please do not hesitate to contact Sona Avakian at Jossey-Bass (email: SAvakian@JosseyBass.com) or Sam Marullo at Georgetown University (email: marullos@georgetown.edu).”

c. COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS: THE INTERSECTION OF SOCIAL CAPITAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT IN CONTEMPORARY URBAN SOCIETY
Silverman Robert Mark, ed. 2004. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.

d. SPACES OF NEOLIBERALISM: URBAN RESTRUCTURING IN NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE. Edited By: NEIL BRENNER, New York University and NIK THEODORE, University of Illinois at Chicago. Boston and Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.

"...a fantastic, empirically rich and theoretically innovative, exploration of the macropolitical realignment and ongoing spatial restructuring that have taken place since the 1970s. This is cutting-edge urban research: not only students of contemporary cities and their institutional geographies, but municipal policy makers as well as activists concerned with reshaping cities towards more democratic and socially just ends will find this collection indispensable." *Margit Mayer, Freie Universität, Berlin*

This is the first volume to analyse systematically the role of neoliberalism in contemporary processes of urban restructuring.

Includes contributions from leading scholars in the fields of critical urban studies, radical geography and state theory--including Jamie Peck, Adam Tickell, Bob Jessop, Neil Smith, Eric Sheppard, Helga Leitner and Roger Keil.

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Analyses the role of neoliberalism in contemporary processes of urban restructuring.

Synthesizes a variety of new theoretical approaches to key issues in contemporary urban studies.

Incorporates new case study material of ongoing urban transformations in the USA, Canada, the UK and other Western European countries.

e. **CRITICAL EVALUATIONS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.** Edited by LAURA A. REESE and DAVID FASENFEST. Wayne State University Press (forthcoming, Spring 2004). ISBN 08143-29004
<http://wsupress.wayne.edu>.

f. **RURAL COMMUNITIES: LEGACY AND CHANGE.** Second Edition. Cornelia Butler Flora, Jan L. Flora, with Susan Fey. Westview Press. 2003.

Rural America is a complex mixture of peoples and cultures struggling for survival through innovative approaches to their problems. These rural Americans are seldom heard of in the mass media but are deeply reflective of the legacies left by those who settled the land. This revised and updated edition of *Rural Communities* focuses on the various problems of rural America and offers communities and students a framework for understanding rural society based on the concepts and explanations of social science. Issues covered include racial and cultural diversity; governmental, economic, and social resources; and how communities organize for action and change.

Cornelia Butler Flora is professor in the Department of Sociology at Iowa State University. Jan L. Flora is professor in the Department of Sociology at Iowa State University. Susan Fey is at North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, Iowa State University.

g. **COMMUNITIES OF WORK: RURAL RESSTRUCTURING IN LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXTS,** edited by William W. Falk, Michael D. Schulman, and Ann R. Tickamyer. Ohio University Press.

COMMUNITIES OF WORK brings together the two fundamental concepts of community and work in a collection of original studies that portray a rural America that is vibrant, regionally varied, and sometimes heroic. The volume begins with a description of the broad changes in work and economic activities across the United States, then shifts its focus to the interplay of work, family, and local networks that vary in time and place. The case studies reported in this volume highlight how rural people and places are affected by extra-local, increasingly global forces and how they sustain themselves and their communities in response.

h. "Church-State Partnerships: Some Reflections from Washington, D.C."
by Carol J. De Vita and Pho Palmer
http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310865_cnp_14.pdf

Little attention has been paid to whether funding from federal faith-based initiatives is reaching its intended partners, such as congregations in low-income neighborhoods that on a daily basis assist some of the nation's most vulnerable and needy people. Using a sample of congregations in three low-income wards of the District of Columbia, this brief explores how congregations are responding to the initiatives and their experiences in working with government.

i. THE ISRAELI DIASPORA, by Steven J. Gold
University of Washington Press/Routledge, 2002

j. STORIED LAND: COMMUNITY AND MEMORY IN MONTEREY, by John Walton (University of California Press, 2002) is just out in a paperback edition. The CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGY review (September 2002) calls it "a new paradigm for community studies."

5. MEETINGS

a. In the 2004 annual meeting of the ASA in San Francisco, the SOCIOLOGICAL PRACTICE SECTION is going to be presenting several professional workshops for sociologists interested in different ways to work as sociologists. As chair of the Sociological Practice section, I am inviting panel participants to present their guidance, perspective and experience at one of these workshops.

The workshops are listed below. The words in brackets are suggested areas to cover.

1. Professional Workshop
Writing for Larger Audiences (non-scholarly).
[journalism-magazines; business reports, politicians, government staff]
2. Career Workshop
Non-academic Career Search.
[Places, where to look, interviewing, resumes, 'soft skills' and experience.]
3. Career Workshop
Career paths outside the Academy.
[Places and kinds of work: government, private consulting, non profits, industry, others?]

4. Professional Workshop

Public Policy: Methods and Applications.

[policy development, policy evaluation, case studies]

Workshops are 110 minutes long, typically with 3 to 4 panel participants

For more information, contact:

Leora Lawton, Ph.D.

Chair, Sociological Practice Section, ASA

Director of Consumer & Demographic Research

Population Research Systems,

Freeman, Sullivan & Co.

100 Spear Street, 17th Floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 777-0707, fax: (415) 777-2420

leoralawton@fscgroup.com

b. Call for Papers: The Communitarian Summit: An Agenda for the Next Four Years
July 9-11, 2004, Washington, D.C.

On the campus of The George Washington University

The third summit of the Communitarian Network provides an opportunity to meet with scholars and practitioners to discuss communitarian ideas. The general conference theme "An Agenda for the Next Four Years," reflects the upcoming presidential election and the need to determine how communitarians can influence the agenda. We invite paper and panel proposals in keeping with our core themes:

Communitarian Theory and Philosophy

Communitarian Economics: What Is to be Done?

Communitarian Policies

Beyond Relativism: The Moral Agenda -- Communal Obligations and Universal Values

From Empire to Community: Toward a Communitarian Foreign Policy

The Moral Voice, Social Norms (Informal Controls), and the Law

Recapturing our Holidays

Rights and Responsibilities in the Age of Terrorism

Sustaining and Reforming the Community of Communities

The keynote addresses during the conference will be given by noted intellectuals, including Professor Francis Fukuyama of the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.

This summit is organized by the Communitarian Network and is being held in conjunction with an annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. For more information, including fees, registration, and how to submit papers, please visit us online at <http://www.communitariannetwork.org>.

Anne L. Hardenbergh
Assistant Director
Communitarian Network
2130 H Street, N.W., Suite 703
Washington, D.C. 20052
202.994.6118
202.994.1606 (fax)
alharden@gwu.edu

c. CUSS AT ASA ANNUAL MEETING, SAN FRANCISCO

By now you've probably received the 2004 ASA annual meeting call for papers. As you consider where to submit your work, please keep in mind the following four sessions sponsored by our section:

Immigrant Settlements in Emerging and Traditional Gateway Regions
Organizer: Samantha Friedman, George Washington University
E-mail: sam@gwu.edu

Community Reinvestment and Economic Development
Organizer: Anne Shlay, Temple University
E-mail: Anne.Shlay@temple.edu

New Communities
Organizer: Allen Martin, University of Texas at Tyler
E-mail: Allen_Martin@mail.uttyl.edu

Community and Urban Sociology Roundtables
Organizer: Robert Adelman, Georgia State University
E-mail: socrma@langate.gsu.edu

Besides our section sessions, there are a number of regular sessions (some organized by CUSS members) of potential interest. These include:

Communities and Community Development (Gregory Weiss, eiss@roanoke.edu)
Environmental sociology (J. Timmons Roberts, jtrobe@wm.edu)
Homelessness (Talmadge Wright, twright@orion.it.luc.edu)
Housing (Leonard Beeghley, lbeegh@soc.u.fl.edu)
Immigrant Communities (Lourdes Gouveia, lgouveia@mail.unomaha.edu)
Internet and Society (Barry Wellman, wellman@chass.utoronto.ca)
Population Processes (Gillian Stevens, gstevens@uiuc.edu)
Poverty (Martha Gimenez, gimenez@csf.colorado.edu)
Rural Sociology (Angela Mertig, mertig@msu.edu)
Space and Place (John Logan, j.logan@albany.edu)
Transnational Communities (Patricia Landolt, landolt@utsc.utoronto.ca)
Urban Sociology (Angela James, ajames@usc.edu)

The submission deadline for all types of papers is January 15, 2004. You can use the annual meeting link at the ASA website (www.asanet.org) to obtain complete details re: online submission, registration, and the like.