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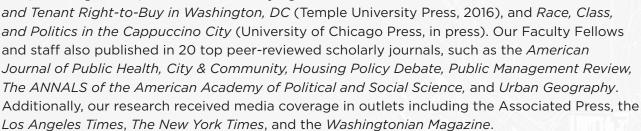
Washington landmarks at night

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Director's Message

The Metropolitan Policy Center (MPC) had an extremely productive second year. We thank all of you who helped us advance a "DC School" of knowledge and impact critical policy debates.

In the past year, MPC had several accomplishments. Some highlights include supporting the publication of three important books on Washington, DC: Capital Dilemma: Growth and Inequality in Washington, DC (Routledge, 2016), The Politics of Staying Put: Condo Conversion and Tenant Right-to-Buy in Washington, DC (Temple University Press, 2016).



We also enhanced American University's (AU) urban studies reputation in a number of ways. We designed and implemented the DC Area Survey and secured a major external research grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. MPC awarded \$30,000 to seed three AU faculty collaborative research projects. Lastly, we had 14 urban experts at our Urban Speaker and Public Engagement Series and hosted Harvard University Professor Edward Glaeser at our Annual Spring Lecture.

In the years to come, MPC will expand our research efforts, and we hope you will partner with us as we tackle the country's most pressing urban and metropolitan challenges.

Sincerely,

Derek Hyra

Perch Hz



Who We Are

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American University Schools

CAS College of Arts and Sciences SOC School of Communication
KSB Kogod School of Business SPA School of Public Affairs
SIS School of International Service WCL Washington College of Law

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American University

POTTER'S HOUSE

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What We Do

MISSION

MPC's mission is to understand the intersections among various social, economic, and political processes, at multiple levels, that influence metropolitan and urban landscapes. MPC utilizes mixed methods to uncover, explain, and recommend solutions to important 21st century metropolitan and urban issues including affordable housing, economic and neighborhood development, racial and ethnic diversity, urban politics and regional governance, and nonprofits.



The School of Public Affairs at American University

OBJECTIVES

MPC has three important objectives: To cultivate innovative cross-disciplinary metropolitan and urban research that helps to improve public policy and people's lives; to garner sufficient external university grants from governments, private foundations, and corporate institutions to support collaborative research projects; and to increase American University's engagement with the Washington, DC metro area and beyond.

STRATEGIES

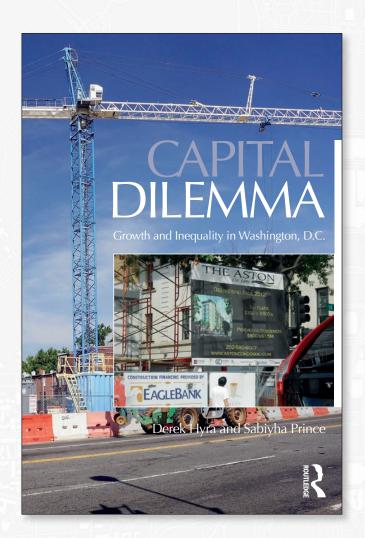
MPC achieves its mission and objectives through three strategies. First, we conduct and support complex, innovative metropolitan and urban scholarly work across disciplines and research methods. Second, we present such research through campus-wide events on important metropolitan and urban topics. Third, we promote community engagement and cultivate strategic partnerships with nonprofits, businesses, community groups, and other research centers both locally and abroad.

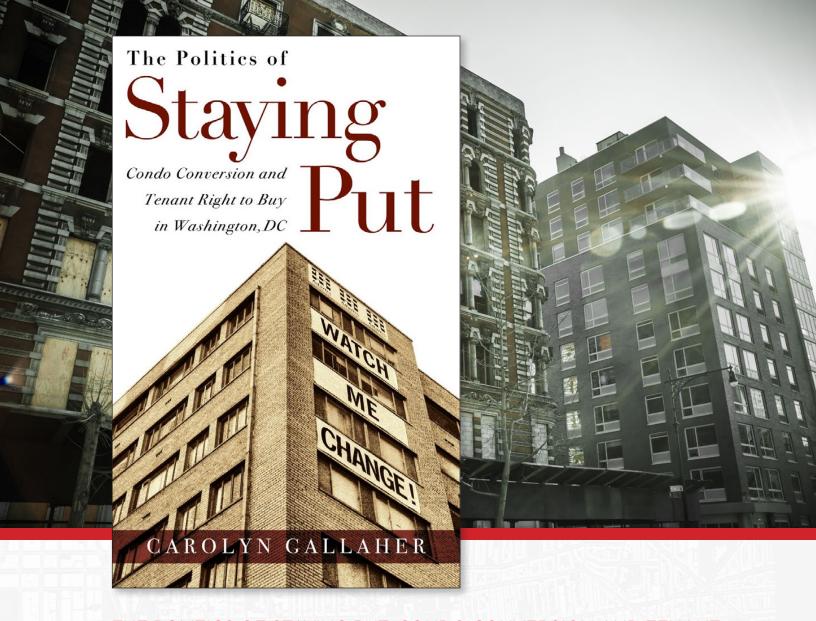
Advancing the DC School

Urban studies scholars have long relied on New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago as the bases for their research and approaches to metropolitan and urban policy. We believe Washington, DC offers an equally compelling case for understanding today's urban dynamics and challenges. By conducting rigorous research in the Washington, DC region, we have greatly contributed to advancing a "DC School" of knowledge. Below are some of the projects we supported that focused on Washington, DC as an innovative space to gain insights into urban America.

CAPITAL DILEMMA: GROWTH AND INEQUALITY IN WASHINGTON, DC

Capital Dilemma: Growth and Inequality in Washington, DC is the most comprehensive volume on the contemporary economic conditions in DC. We released the book on February 25, 2016 to a packed audience. At the event, editors Derek Hyra and Sabiyha Prince spoke about the complex circumstances driving the recent economic advancement of Washington, DC as well as how the city's history of inequality relates to its current pattern of neighborhood gentrification. The book launch also featured Parisa Norouzi of Empower DC and Dominic Moulden of ONE DC who provided insights into how the book's findings could be translated to practical, equitable development policy responses to mitigate the city's growing social and economic inequalities. The Capital Dilemma for DC, and other major cities, is how to produce economic development and growth that is more equally shared among its residents. Since the book launch, several of the contributing authors have spoken about the book at DC venues including Busboys & Poets, The Potter's House, All Souls Church, the Anacostia Smithsonian Community Museum, and the Historical Society of Washington, DC. The book has also been incorporated into classes focused on the development of the nation's capital at Georgetown University, American University, and the University of Maryland.





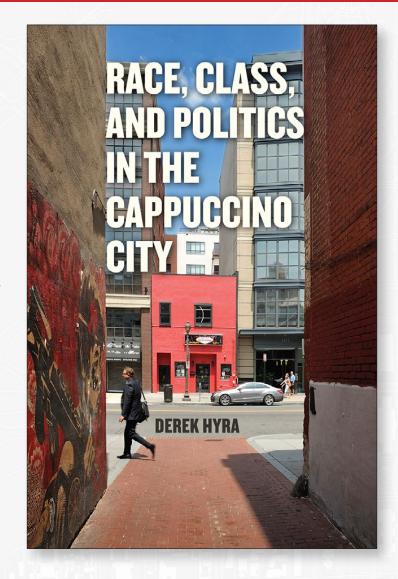
THE POLITICS OF STAYING PUT: CONDO CONVERSION AND TENANT RIGHT-TO-BUY IN WASHINGTON, DC

MPC launched Faculty Fellow Carolyn Gallaher's book, *The Politics of Staying Put*, at its Urban Speaker Series on March 1, 2016. The book notes that when cities gentrify, working-class and low-income residents are often displaced. Rising rents and property taxes make buildings unaffordable, or landlords may sell buildings to investors interested in redeveloping them into luxury condos. In her engaging study, Gallaher focuses on a formal, city-sponsored initiative—The Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA)—that helps people keep their homes. This law, unique to the District of Columbia, allows tenants in apartment buildings contracted for sale the right to refuse the sale and purchase the building instead. In the hands of tenants, a process that would usually hurt them—conversion to a condominium or cooperative—can instead help them. This book, the most comprehensive study of the TOPA law to date, highlights that while TOPA helps current tenants benefit from redevelopment, the law can also contribute to a decreased number of affordable housing units for the city. Since its release, the book has sparked an important policy conversation about gentrification and affordable housing in DC.

RACE, CLASS, AND POLITICS IN THE CAPPUCCINO CITY

For long-time residents of Washington, DC's Shaw/U Street, the neighborhood has become almost unrecognizable in recent years. Where the city's most infamous open-air drug market once stood, a farmers' market now sells grass-fed beef and homemade duck egg ravioli. On the corner where AM.PM carryout used to dish out soul food, a new establishment markets its \$28 foie gras burger. Shaw is experiencing a dramatic transformation, from "ghetto" to "gilded ghetto," where white newcomers are rehabbing homes, developing dog parks, and paving the way for a third wave coffee shop on nearly every block.

Race, Class, and Politics in the Cappuccino City is an in-depth ethnography of this gilded ghetto. Derek Hyra captures here a quickly gentrifying space in which long-time black residents are joined, and variously displaced, by an influx of young, white, relatively wealthy, and/or gay professionals who, in part as a result of global economic forces and the recent development of central business districts, have returned to the cities earlier generations fled decades ago. As a result, America is witnessing the emergence of what Hyra calls "cappuccino cities." A cappuccino has essentially the same ingredients as a cup of



coffee with milk, but is considered upscale and double the price. In Hyra's cappuccino city, the black inner-city neighborhood undergoes enormous transformations and becomes racially "lighter" and more expensive by the year. This book offers several policy recommendations to make mixed-income, mixed-race communities more equitable and just.

OUTE GHOSTS

ROXING CLUB

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PHAIDON

FREEDOM

PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STRUGGLE

SELMA 1965

A Field Guide to American Houses



Virginia Savage McAlester



THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPIDER MARTIN 🐞



DC ARFA SURVEY

The DC Area Survey, led by Faculty Fellow Michael Bader, centered on understanding racially and ethnically diverse communities in DC and its surrounding counties. The 2016 survey of 1,200 households concentrated on attachment to place, health, safety, trust in local organizations, and governance, with a focus on two relatively new types of neighborhoods: Latino neighborhoods and "quadrivial neighborhoods." Latino neighborhoods exist all over the DC metropolitan area, but mostly in the immediate Maryland and Northern Virginia suburbs. "Quadrivial neighborhoods," with populations of at least 10 percent White, Asian, African-American, and Latino, appeared in the past 20 years, reflecting the increased racial integration of the DC area. This survey is the first of its kind and it provides a detailed snapshot of the social realities and inequalities that exist within the DC region's most diverse communities. The study was a collaborative effort among several centers and units at American University including the Metropolitan Policy Center, the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, the Center for Health, Risk and Society, the Office of the Provost, the School of Public Affairs, and the Kogod School of Business.

THE ROADMAP INITIATIVE

The Roadmap for the Washington Region's Economic Future was an initiative that investigated key aspects of the Washington area's regional economy. This region remains overly dependent on federal spending as its principal driver of high wage employment growth. The research investigated the region's core, non-federally dependent industrial clusters, highlighted the main business constraints across these clusters, and assessed the current state and local economic development policy landscape that targets these business growth sectors. The research concludes with policy reforms to advance the DC regional economy.

MAKING THE JUST CITY

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, under its Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program, supports MPC's gentrification research. MPC director Derek Hyra leads a three-person project team with Mindy Fullilove, a professor at The New School, and Dominic Moulden, the resource organizer for Organizing Neighborhood Equity – ONE DC. Their project entitled, "Making the Just City: An Examination of Organizing for Equity and Health," investigates, over a three-year period, different processes designed to reduce health disparities in two communities currently experiencing gentrification: Orange, NJ and Shaw, DC. The research team's objective is to discover, document, and assess community-level mechanisms in different contexts that help make mixed-income communities more vibrant engines of healthy living, particularly for low-income people.

EITC EFFECTS IN WASHINGTON, DC

Faculty Fellow Bradley Hardy's research uses administrative tax data to assess the effects of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program and its DC supplemental program on poverty, employment, and income dynamics within Washington, DC. The supplemental DC EITC program, first implemented in 2001, has expanded from 10 percent of the federal credit to 40 percent as of 2009. At the federal level, the EITC is the nation's largest cash transfer program for low-income families. In preliminary work with coauthors, Hardy finds that the combined EITC raises employment, lowers longer-term poverty, and reduces instability from income declines.

Other Ongoing Research

At MPC, our work goes beyond Washington, DC. Below are a few of the ongoing studies that uncover important metropolitan and urban phenomena occurring across the country.

POLITICAL DISPLACEMENT

In many neighborhoods, gentrification — defined as neighborhood change caused by the influx of middle-class residents — does not result in residential displacement, but rather *political displacement*. A sizable proportion of long-term, low-income residents are able to stay in place because of policies that promote greater affordable housing. These new mixed-income neighborhoods, however, often lead to a loss of political voice for long-time residents. Minority groups who were well-represented at the local levels might find themselves losing seats on city councils, county commissions, and community boards as new constituencies and coalitions form among the newcomers. This study analyzes the relationship between newcomer influx and political loss in 100 US cities that contain some of the country's fastest gentrifying neighborhoods. Using 20 years of local election data, we identify and measure the extent to which political displacement has occurred alongside inner-city neighborhood redevelopment. This study will help determine how the contemporary wave of gentrification relates to changing urban political shifts.



Urban Renewal and Unrest

In the 1960s many American cities burned as social unrest was ignited by urban renewal, police brutality, and an economy that expanded but did not sufficiently reach certain vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. While we have experienced much stability in urban America since the riots of the 1960s, in 2014, 2015, and 2016, three major riots occurred in Ferguson, Missouri, Baltimore, Maryland, and Charlotte, North Carolina, all triggered by police action. Since these more recent riots, we have witnessed urban protests around the country and calls for an end to police brutality targeting African Americans. This research seeks to understand how other 21st century dynamics, beyond police action, undergird today's riots, protests, and political instability. This research will contribute to our understanding of the linkages among urban policy, race, and democracy in the United States.

GRANT SEEKING AND THE GRANT MAKING STUDY

Faculty Fellow Lewis Faulk is working on the Grant Seeking and the Grant Making Study, which involves two parallel surveys of nonprofit organizations and foundations. Together these surveys will collect data on over 450 nonprofit organizations and 300 foundations. This project examines both the effectiveness of nonprofits' grant-seeking behaviors and the recent challenges foundations face when distributing their grants. The research provides key insights into the state of civil society in metropolitan America.



DC nonprofit organization

Faculty Seed Grants

Part of MPC's mission is to facilitate interdisciplinary collaborative metropolitan and urban research among the faculty at American University. We accomplish this by providing competitive seed grants. In our first year, MPC focused its seed grants on Washington, DC and the surrounding region. In year two, we expanded the emphasis to research at the local, national, and international levels. Below are descriptions of the faculty research projects supported by MPC.

YEAR ONE PROJECTS

PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS IN THE DISTRICT

Pls: Brenda Smith (WCL) and Angie Chuang (SOC)

American Legion James Reese Europe Post 5 used the MPC's grant to explore the experiences of African American veterans who had fought in American wars from World War I to the present. Under the supervision of Faculty Fellows Brenda Smith and Angie Chuang, The Washington College of Law Community and Economic Development Law Clinic and American University School of Communication joined to document the history of Post 5 in Washington, DC. This documentation and preservation included interviewing current members, archivists, and project participants about the significance of the Post's history and its artifacts. These stories, artifacts, and photos in the Post's home, comprise the content of a website created to showcase this important preservation effort. Project leaders are exploring ways to link this preservation effort with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

CHANGING LANDSCAPES: INTRA-METROPOLITAN POPULATION SHIFTS AND THE RESPONSIVENESS OF LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Pls: Lewis Faulk (SPA) and Michael Bader (CAS)

This research investigates the emergence, expansion, and funding challenges of nonprofit organizations in metropolitan neighborhoods that have experienced gentrification or an influx of poverty due to migration from gentrifying neighborhoods. The research sample includes 300 community-based, nonprofit human service and community organizations in five central DC neighborhoods that have experienced recent gentrification, and five neighborhoods beyond the central city where people have moved from gentrifying neighborhoods. Our research focuses on the responses of community-based organizations to changes in their neighborhoods, the emergence of new organizations, competition for funding to address new needs introduced by population shifts, and the collaboration between existing organizations with local government in addressing those needs.

TACKLING URBAN VULNERABILITY: LESSONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE IN WASHINGTON, DC

Pls: Malini Ranganathan (SIS) and Eve Bratman (SIS)

This project explores social vulnerability with the goal of fostering climate justice awareness in the DC region. The study collects both qualitative and quantitative data at micro levels to assess why certain populations and areas of the city may be more vulnerable in the face of climate events. The objective is to shed light on whether existing strategies around economic displacement and gentrification might be transferable for building climate resilience. This project seeks to carefully apply the insights and concepts from the 'Third World' literature in a seemingly "First World" context. The findings will be used to inform the global cities literature and strengthen conversations across the North-South theoretical divides.

YEAR TWO PROJECTS

AT THE INTERSECTION: GOVERNANCE, COLLABORATION, AND DEVELOPMENT

Pls: Khaldoun AbouAssi (SPA) and Jocelyn Johnston (SPA)

This project aims to fill a gap in the existing literature on local government-nongovernmental organizations (NGO) relationships, especially in developing countries. Across the globe, countries are experimenting with an array of approaches and structures intended to democratize governance and many of these efforts involve decentralization. To fully understand what decentralization looks like and how it works, we need to examine the distribution and interaction of the comprehensive set of actors (nongovernmental organizations, such as community foundations, community-based organizations, and others) currently deployed at the local level. The investigators intend to use MPC funding to develop a framework that captures the nature of and variation in local government-NGO relationships, propose and test a set of propositions about the relationship between local-NGO partnerships and governance, collect qualitative and quantitative data to test those propositions, and present policy implications to guide decision-makers. This pilot study will be deployed in Lebanon and expands MPC's research on nonprofits to the international context.

THE EFFECT OF UNIVERSAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ON PARENTAL TIME USE

Pls: Seth Gershenson (SPA) and Taryn Morrissey (SPA)

In the United States, the gap in achievement between children from low-income families and those from high-income families is wide, begins well before kindergarten, and persists over the K-12 years and beyond. One intervention that effectively narrows this achievement gap and has positive economic returns is high-quality early care and education (ECE). While most research has examined the direct effects of ECE programming on children's cognitive test scores, ECE attendance may also narrow SES inequalities through increased parental educational investments at home. We address gaps in the literature by applying a difference-in-differences strategy to nationally representative time diary data to investigate whether access to ECE changes how the parents of young children allocate their time. Specifically, we examine how the implementation of universal voluntary prekindergarten in Florida, beginning in 2005-06, led to changes in parental time spent in developmentally beneficial activities, such as reading and conversing with children, time spent facilitating children's activities, and parental time in physical child care, either with ECE-aged children or with other household children. Findings will shed light on a potential strategy for narrowing SES and racial/ethnic achievement gaps, and how the effectiveness of such strategies varies across urban, rural, and suburban locales.

BILINGUALISM AND LATIN@S IN DC: EXPLORING LANGUAGE USE AND CULTURAL IDENTITY, RESOURCE ACCESS, AND METROPOLITAN MOBILITY

Pls: Amelia Tseng (CAS) and Noemi Enchautegui (CAS)

Bilingualism, or proficiency in two languages by individuals and within a community or nation, is important along multiple dimensions relevant to social cohesion and equity, particularly in terms of access to resources,

as part of social justice, and culture and identity, as part of linguistic human rights. This study focuses on four key dimensions of language use and bilingualism as they relate to social equity. The project will be the first to systemically examine language practices, access to resources, and their impact on multiple generations of Latino immigrants' social experience. This has implications for their integration and social support, and also for the maintenance of Spanish fluency in younger generations, which relates both to culture and identity, and to educational and economic success.



Peace mural in DC

Articles and Reports

MPC strives to be a leading research organization producing important urban-related insights that are disseminated in top scholarly outlets. In the previous year, our staff and Faculty Fellows published articles on neighborhood context and development, race and ethnic diversity, health, urbanism, and nonprofits in some of the country's most well-regarded academic journals.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT AND DEVELOPMENT

Michael Bader — American Journal of Public Health / 2016

"Use of Google Street View to Assess Environmental Contributions to Pedestrian Injury"

ABSTRACT: Google Street View allows researchers to conduct location-based studies in less time and without risk of injury. We used Google Street View imagery from 2007 to 2011 to assess nine characteristics of 532 intersections within New York City and study the rate of pedestrian injuries at each location. We found that injury incidence per pedestrian was lower at intersections with higher estimated pedestrian volumes, which is consistent with in-person study observations.

Sonya Grier — Journal of Business Research / 2015

"A Tale of Two Urbanicities: Adolescent Alcohol and Cigarette Consumption in High and Low-Poverty Urban Neighborhoods"

ABSTRACT: While past research often treats urban areas as homogeneous, this research employs an empirical study to show how intra-urban differences by poverty are associated with cigarette and alcohol consumption by adolescents. Results demonstrate that for higher poverty adolescents, those living in urban versus less urban areas consume significantly more alcohol and cigarettes. At the same time, for wealthier adolescents, those living in urban versus less urban areas consume significantly fewer of those items. The results are mediated by convenience store density, contributing to our understanding of the relationship between urban environments, specific area characteristics and problem consumption among adolescents. The results suggest it might be useful to consider new ways of understanding consumption by studying distinct aspects of urbanicity related to the retail environment.



New urban design in DC

Taryn Morrissey — Children and Youth Services Review / 2016

"Neighborhood Poverty and Children's Food Insecurity"

ABSTRACT: Food insecurity among children and their families negatively affects children's health and wellbeing. While the link between household resources and food insecurity is well-established, family income alone does not explain food insecurity; neighborhood disadvantage, shown to affect other areas of children's development, may also play a role in food insecurity. This study examines associations between neighborhood poverty and children's food insecurity, and whether family characteristics account for identified associations. Children living in higher-poverty neighborhoods are more likely to experience food insecurity than those in lower-poverty neighborhoods.

Taryn Morrissey — Review of Economics of the Household / 2016

"Child Care and Parental Labor Force Participation: A Review of the Research"

ABSTRACT: Early care and education (ECE) enables parental employment and provides a context for child development. Theory suggests that lower child care costs, through subsidized care or the provision of free or low-cost arrangements, would increase the use of ECE and parents' employment and work hours. This paper reviews the research literature examining the effects of child care costs and availability on parental employment. In general, research suggests that reduced out-of-pocket costs for ECE and increased availability of public ECE increases ECE attendance among young children, and has positive impacts on mothers' labor force participation and work hours.

RACE AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Michael Bader — Sociological Science / 2016

"The Fragmented Evolution of Racial Integration since the Civil Rights Movement"

ABSTRACT: We argue that existing studies underestimate the degree that racial change leads to segregation in post-Civil Rights American neighborhoods. Previous studies only measure the presence of racial groups in neighborhoods, not the degree of integration among those groups. As a result, those studies do not detect gradual racial succession that ends in racial segregation. We demonstrate how a new approach based on growth mixture models can be used to identify patterns of racial change that distinguish between durable integration and gradual racial succession. We use this approach to identify common trajectories of neighborhood racial change among Blacks, Whites, Latinos, and Asians from 1970 to 2010 in the New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston metropolitan areas.

Michael Bader — The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science / 2015

"Community Attraction and Avoidance in Chicago: What's Race Got to Do with It?"

ABSTRACT: We argue that the relative persistence of racial segregation is due, at least in part, to the process of residential search and the perceptions upon which those searches are based—a critical but often-ignored component of the residential sorting process. We examine where Chicago-area residents would "seriously consider" and "never consider" living, finding that community attraction and avoidance are highly racialized. Race most clearly shapes the residential perceptions and preferences of Whites, and matters the least to Blacks. Latinos would seriously consider moving to numerous neighborhoods, but controls for demographics and distance from the respondents' home make Latino preferences much like those of Whites. Critically, the geography of existing segregation begets further segregation: distance from current community significantly affects perceptions of the communities into which respondents might move. While neighborhood perception may cause persistent segregation, it may also offer hope for integration with appropriate policy interventions.



Michael Bader — Population Research and Policy Review / 2015

"Realizing Racial and Ethnic Neighborhood Preferences? Exploring the Mismatches Between What People Want, Where They Search, and Where They Live"

ABSTRACT: The housing search process is an overlooked mechanism in the scholarly research. Past studies have explored in detail the preferences people hold in terms of the racial and ethnic composition of their neighborhoods, and more recently some have also examined the correspondence between racial and ethnic neighborhood preferences and current neighborhood racial/ethnic composition. But an intermediate stage—the racial and ethnic composition of where people search—has not been investigated. We find that for Whites, not only their current neighborhoods but also the neighborhoods in which they search for housing have larger percentages of Whites than they say they prefer. In contrast, Blacks—and to a lesser extent Latinos—search in neighborhoods that correspond to their preferences, but reside in neighborhoods with a larger percentage own group. Our results provide suggestive evidence of the importance of unpacking the search process more generally and draw attention to what are likely to be productive new future data collection efforts as well as an area potentially ripe for policy interventions.

Angie Chuang — Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism / 2015

"Beyond the Positive-Negative Paradigm of Latino News-Media Representations:

DREAM Act Exemplars, Stereotypical Selection, and American Otherness"

ABSTRACT: News-media research on coverage of Latino and Latinas has historically focused on negative stereotyping, particularly as threatening, criminal, lazy, or a burden on society. The 2010–2012 newspaper coverage of a proposed immigration policy commonly referred to as the DREAM Act provides a distinctive case study, one that addresses a subgroup of Latino/Latinas that inherently defies traditional stereotypes. A mixed-methods analysis of the use of exemplars in newspaper coverage of the DREAM Act reveals that an emphasis on signifiers of hard work, academic achievement, self-determination, and other traditionally 'American' cultural codes, juxtaposed with signifiers of poverty and financial need, constitutes a stereotypically selective 'success story'. Such codes construct the exemplars as a dependent target population that must assimilate American values in order to overcome the 'deficits' of being Latino/Latina and undocumented. News media, part of the dominant culture, become complicit in mediation of Americanness in its legal and symbolic senses.

Derek Hyra — Housing Policy Debate / 2015

"Greasing the Wheels of Integration: Housing and Beyond in Mixed-Income, Mixed-Race Neighborhoods"

ABSTRACT: Several underlying assumptions suggest mixed-income, mixed-race neighborhoods, compared with segregated high poverty areas, present low- and moderate-income individuals and families with better opportunities for social and economic advancement. However, there has been little evidence that these diverse environments benefit low-income people. Some mixed-income neighborhood studies demonstrate that little interaction occurs among low-, middle-, and upper-income groups, which might explain why these areas are not more fully benefiting low-income residents. This article suggests several policy recommendations to facilitate meaningful social interactions across race and class in our nation's gentrifying neighborhoods.

Malini Ranganathan — Capitalism Nature Socialism / 2016

"Thinking with Flint: Racial Liberalism and the Roots of an American Water Tragedy"

ABSTRACT: The lead poisoning of Flint, Michigan's water is popularly framed as a case of "environmental racism" given that Flint's population is mostly Black and lower income. In this essay I argue that we see the environmental racism that underlies Flint's water poisoning not as incidental to our political-economic order, nor even as stemming from racist intent, but as inseparable from liberalism, an organizing logic we take for granted in our modern age. While upholding the promise of individual freedoms and equality for all, racial liberalism—particularly as it was translated into urban renewal and property making in mid-20th-century urban America—drove dispossession. Tracing the history of property making and taking in Flint and the effects of austerity urbanism on its water infrastructure, my central argument is that our understanding of Flint's predicament—the disproportionate poisoning of young African-Americans—can be deepened if we read it as a case of racial liberalism's illiberal legacies.



Malini Ranganathan

HEALTH

Maria De Jesus — Sexually Transmitted Diseases / 2016

"A One-Size-Fits-All HIV Prevention and Education Approach? Interpreting Divergent HIV Risk Perceptions Between African American and East African Immigrant Women in Washington, DC Using the Proximate-Determinants Conceptual Framework"

ABSTRACT: To date, there are very few comparative studies that distinguish between US-born and foreign-born Black women to examine and compare their perceptions of HIV risk. This qualitative study analyzes African American and East African women's perceptions of HIV risk in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, which has the highest AIDS rate in the United States. The results demonstrate that African-American and East African immigrant women have divergent perceptions of HIV risk. Although African American women ascribe HIV risk to individual-level behaviors and choices such as unprotected sex, East African women attribute HIV risk to conditions of poverty. Study findings suggest that addressing HIV prevention and education among Black women in DC will require distinct and targeted strategies that are culturally and community-centered to resonate with these different audiences.

Maria De Jesus — Psychology, Health, and Medicine / 2016

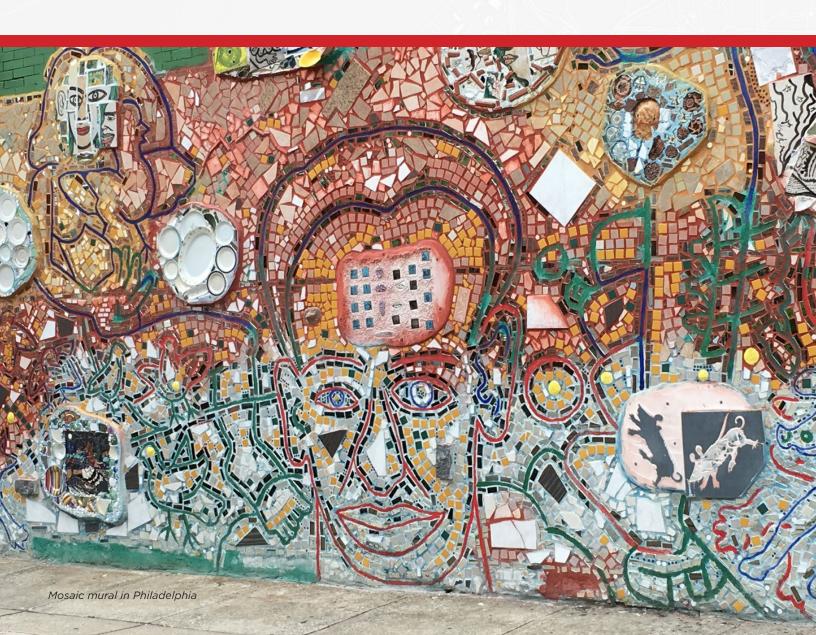
"How Religiosity Shapes Health Perceptions and Behaviors of Latina Immigrants: Is It An Enabling or Prohibitive Factor?"

ABSTRACT: This study examines how religiosity shapes the health perceptions and health-related behaviors of 50 Latina immigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Bolivia. Between May and August 2011, focus groups were conducted with participants representing each country of origin. Findings challenge simplified notions that Latinas hold a purely external health locus of control toward their health and health care. Latinas rely on both God and themselves in managing their health and engaging in health-promoting actions, which are prompted in large part by their religiosity. Implications for culturally appropriate health communication and interventions are discussed.

Maria De Jesus — LGBT Health / 2016

"Documentation Status as a Contextual Determinant of HIV Risk Among Young Transgender Latinas"

ABSTRACT: This study explores the contextual factors that determine or mitigate vulnerability to HIV among Latina transgender women. Documentation status (legal authorization to live in the United States) has been considered a barrier to recruitment or engagement in HIV-related care among immigrant Latinos, but not explored as a determinant of HIV risk for transgender immigrant Latinas. Participants emphasized documentation status as a critical factor in three areas related to social and structural determinants of HIV risk: gender identity expression, access to services, and relationship power dynamics. Chicas trans who gained legal asylum reported greater control over sexual relationships, improved access to services, and less risky employment. Documentation status emerged as a key HIV risk factor for this population. For undocumented transgender Latinas, legal asylum appears to be a promising HIV-related protective factor.



URBANISM

Derek Hyra — City & Community / 2015

"Advancing the Future Urban Discourse"

ABSTRACT: This article focuses on five emerging and promising directions for future urban research. It suggests the need for: 1) urban scholarship to better distinguish the set of conditions associated with both increased integration and persistent patterns of neighborhood segregation; 2) new urban paradigms that account for shifting neighborhood locational preferences and the changing geography of metropolitan and neighborhood poverty; 3) carefully designed studies that examine how shifting patterns of segregation and poverty influence the political landscape of metropolitan America; 4) investigations to document the prevalence of micro-level segregation and pinpoint specific neighborhood and organizational mechanisms that separate people in our burgeoning, diverse neighborhoods; and 5) more comparative urban research that effectively delineates divergent and similar city trajectories to strengthen our theoretical and empirical insights of worldwide urban change.

David Pike — A New Vocabulary for Global Modernism / 2016

"Slum"

ABSTRACT: This article explores the linguistic and cultural legacy of slums. The essay explores how modernist authors shaped our concept of what constitutes a "slum," and how that definition changed over time. This piece discusses the slum's role in shifting the boundaries of modernism temporally, spatially, and in terms of popular culture.

David Pike — Studies in the Humanities / 2015

"World Streets and Viae Ferae: The Nineteenth-Century Cityscape in Space and Time"

ABSTRACT: This essay focuses on what happens to the material and imaginary cityscapes of the nineteenth-century European city after the nineteenth century, both in their original situations and as they travel globally. The specific topic of this article is the nineteenth-century street and, in particular, two iconic images of the nineteenth-century street: the "world street" and the "via fera." This article discusses these images in terms of material changes in cityscapes since the nineteenth century, especially in terms of imperial and post-colonial manifestations, and in terms of cinema and the graphic novel. This piece contemplates what popular genres such as science fiction, fantasy, and horror have to offer current theories of urban culture.



NONPROFITS

Lewis Faulk — International Public Management Journal / 2016

"Competitive Advantage in Nonprofit Grant Markets: Implications of Network Embeddedness and Status"

ABSTRACT: This article addresses the effects of network embeddedness on nonprofit organizations' ability to access financial resources within competitive markets, with a focus on the acquisition of foundation grants. We test a theory on the role of organizational status in competitive markets using data from a network of nonprofits linked by foundation grants in metropolitan Atlanta during 2000 and 2005. We find that observable characteristics of nonprofits, including size, fundraising expenses, and financial health, explain success in grant markets. However, market status in previous time periods, operationalized as prior relationships with influential foundations in grant markets, additionally explains future grant awards. Our findings suggest that the status conferred through connections to important actors in a network can raise the profile of a nonprofit and increase the probability of grant success.

Lewis Faulk — Public Performance & Management Review / 2016

"Organizational Effectiveness Reputation in the Nonprofit Sector"

ABSTRACT: Public organizations are increasingly relying on nonprofit partners for the delivery of public services, a trend that makes performance assessments of nonprofit organizations important for the allocation of government resources. However, nonprofits engage multiple stakeholders, and this leads to complex sets of organizational goals and highly subjective assessments of nonprofit effectiveness. We develop a literature-based model to understand the subjective assessments of organizational performance by stakeholders that taken together constitute an organization's effectiveness reputation. In this model, effectiveness reputation is impacted by stakeholder trust and satisfaction, which are in turn impacted by output ambiguity and stakeholder involvement. We find support for our model with a structural equation modeling (SEM) analysis based on survey data of organizational stakeholders. We propose further research steps and highlight practical implications for nonprofit managers and public administrators.

Lewis Faulk — Public Management Review / 2015

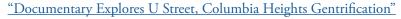
"Network Connections and Competitively Awarded Funding: The Impacts of Board Network Structures and Status Interlocks on Nonprofit Organizations' Foundation Grant Acquisition"

ABSTRACT: This analysis investigates whether nonprofit board connections with other nonprofit organizations and foundations explain organizational performance in earning foundation grants. Using a sample of 402 nonprofits and 68 foundations in a single metropolitan area, we find that greater connectedness and status interlocks significantly influence organizations' ability to acquire resources. Network effects are partially mediated by the number of past grants received and a nonprofit's financial characteristics, including organizational size, fundraising expenses, and financial health. These findings, while supporting the role of networks in resource attainment, point to the complex and mutual relationships among organizational characteristics, network characteristics, and organizational performance.

In the Media

MPC contributes to the urban policy debate by having our research featured in media outlets that shift national dialogue. Our staff and Faculty Fellows were repeatedly quoted in well-regarded news publications and blogs throughout the year. The following are some of our notable media hits.

GENTRIFICATION



by Sean Meehan

on October 2, 2015 in Borderstan

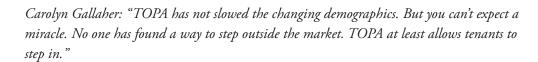


Sonya Grier: "One of the issues we identify in the film is that there's not a lot of interracial discussions in these areas and that can lead to mistrust," Grier said. "In the Shaw neighborhood, they have a campaign to get people to say hi to their neighbors. The fact that they need that campaign actually says a lot."

"Why Gentrifiers Shouldn't Feel Guilty"

by Paul O'Donnell

on April 28, 2016 in Washingtonian Magazine





"Addressing Social Segregation in Mixed-Income Communities"

by Derek Hyra on May 4, 2016 in *Shelterforce*

Derek Hyra: "Without some power to control their living situation, low-income people in gentrifying neighborhoods and mixed-income housing developments tend to become resentful of upper-income newcomers and civically disengage."

"Priced Out of a Childhood Home"

by Ronda Kaysen on May 13, 2016 in *The New York Times*

Derek Hyra: "Developers and real estate agents tend to favor the newcomers, and the newcomers tend to be White and affluent ... The amenities that are being placed in these communities are signaling to young Whites: You're welcome here."



SEGREGATION

"Chicago Remains Among Most Segregated U.S. Cities: Studies"

by Maudlyne Ihejirika on March 2, 2016 in *Chicago Sun Times*

Michael Bader: "Racial diversity is thriving in suburban, multiethnic neighborhoods because Whites willingly move into those neighborhoods and their numbers are decreasing at a slower rate compared with neighborhoods experiencing steady re-segregation."



"Data Shows How Major U.S. Cities Are Slowly Re-Segregating"

by Kenya Downs on March 7, 2016 on *PBS Newshour*

Michael Bader: "Previous studies have only looked at the presence of multiple racial groups and not the degree to which they're integrated," he said. "So many neighborhoods have appeared to be integrated simply because there were enough Blacks and Whites to meet a specific threshold."



"L.A. Is Resegregating - And Whites Are a Major Reason Why"

by Michael Bader on April 1, 2016 in *Los Angeles Times*

Michael Bader: "Our model showed that, broadly speaking, during the 1980s, Whites stopped fleeing from neighborhoods that were becoming integrated. But then — more than any other racial group — when Whites did move they chose new neighborhoods with same-race neighbors."



HOUSING



"A New Owner Bought My Apartment and Wanted to Tear it Down. Here's How I Ended Up Owning the Place"

by Carolyn Gallaher on June 15, 2016 in *Greater Greater Washington*

Carolyn Gallaher: "When residential property is sold in D.C. landlords are required to give tenants a TOPA Notice, or Offer of Sale, which informs them that they may refuse the sale and purchase the property instead for the contracted sale price."

"D.C.'s Equitable Growth Dilemma: A Q&A with Derek Hyra of American University"



by Maya Brennan on June 22, 2016 in *How Housing Matters Blog*

Derek Hyra: "We need to go beyond housing to help make mixed-income, mixed-race neighborhoods effectively work better to increase the life chances for low-income people."



"Renting Expanded in Wake of Housing Crash"

by Associated Press on June 20, 2016 in *Associated Press*

Derek Hyra: "We've definitely seen in the last decade a really high run-up in home values in the Washington, DC area. Property values from 2000 to 2010 doubled."



"Cleveland Must Do More Than Just Manage Decline"

by Richey Piiparinen on September 11, 2016 on *Cleveland.com*

Daniel Kerr's research noted: "Over the next 15 years, there were more than 15,000 intentionally set fires in Cleveland, according to research by Daniel Kerr in his analysis, "Who Burned Cleveland, Ohio?" Upwards of 40 percent of housing units in select neighborhoods were gone."

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

"Black Women and the Criminal Justice System: Advocating Justice and Equity"

by Shantella Y. Sherman

on September 18, 2015 in AFRO American Newspapers

Brenda Smith: "Many of these women experience victimization as children, as adults, and while they are in custodial settings – like girls' homes. They quickly, then, come into contact with abusive people," Smith said. "Abused in residential placement and sexually victimized in custody, what is created is a pathway of disinvestment in Black girls – at home, in school, and while in custody."



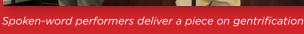
"Rikers Island Internal Report Paints Grim Picture of NYC Jail"

by Associated Press on June 21, 2016 in NY Daily News

Brenda Smith: "There really has to be some enforcement, some consequences," she said. "Something needs to happen to somebody."









Experiencing the criminal justice system

PUBLIC HEALTH



"Why Bengaluru Is Not Immune to Floods: It's All About Land (and Money)"

by Malini Ranganathan on December 10, 2015 in *Citizen Matters*

Malini Ranganathan: "Poorer residents are not only vulnerable to extreme weather, but also continue to be ensnared by a double-edged sword: a nexus between real estate developers, landowners, and various agents of the state. This nexus makes settlement income volatility among African Americans."



"U.S. Food Insecurity"

by Charles Ellison on June 2, 2016 in *The Ellison Report*; WEAA 88.9 FM

Taryn Morrissey's research noted: American University's Taryn Morrissey talks about the growing trend of food insecurity in the United States and why political campaigns during this election cycle might want to discuss it more.



"TANF Policy to Address Low, Volatile Income Among Disadvantaged Families"

by Bradley Hardy on August 21, 2016 in *Council on Contemporary Families*

Bradley Hardy: "My work confirms that the poorest families generally face the highest income volatility over the past 30 years. While TANF could perform better, the full set of transfer programs aid low-income families by reducing poverty and income volatility. Still, today's poor families receive far less direct cash assistance than in 1996."

RACE AND ETHNICITY

"Asians Still Underrepresented on US Network News"

by Linda Ha on June 2, 2016 on *Voice of America*

Angie Chuang: "It's rare to find young Asian American men who are interested in our [journalism] programs because they are starved of seeing a reflection of themselves on air. The message is, if you go into this industry you're probably not going to be successful."



"Race and Income Volatility: A Discussion with Bradley Hardy"

by The Aspen Institute

on September 7, 2016 in Aspen Institute Expanding Prosperity Impact Collaborative (EPIC)

Bradley Hardy: "Income volatility is higher among those with less education and in lower-income households, which at least partially explains the observed higher income volatility among African Americans."



"2015's Most and Least Charitable States"

by Richie Bernardo on December 8, 2015 on *WalletHub*

Lewis Faulk: "Even though the recession is officially over, many effects of the recession persist. State and local government budgets are still constrained, and many individuals and families continue to face instability and uncertainty."



Events

During the 2015-2016 academic year, MPC hosted many local and national urban scholars and practitioners through our Urban and Public Engagement Speaker Series, as well as our Annual Spring Lecture. By hosting these events, MPC advances American University's reputation as a leader in the field of urban studies.

URBAN SPEAKER SERIES

The Urban Speaker Series features cutting-edge urban research from scholars across the country.

John Carruthers – George Washington University "Quality of Life in Korea: Evidence from the Seoul Housing Market"

Scott Allard – University of Washington "Places in Need: Geography of Poverty and the American Safety Net"

Lance Freeman – Columbia University "White Entry into Black Neighborhoods: Advent of an Integrationist Era or Gentrification?"

Constance Lindsay – American University
"Explaining the Contexts that Black and White Middle
Class Families Face: Implications for Adolescent
Achievement"

George C. Galster – Wayne State University "Driving Detroit: The Quest for Respect in the Motor City"

Liza Weinstein – Northeastern University
"Residential Insecurity and the Right to Stay Put in
Urban India"

Edward Goetz – University of Minnesota "Choice and Burden: Community Development v. Spatial Strategies of Fair Housing"

Derek Musgrove – University of Maryland Baltimore County "Stuck on Statehood: How Statehood Became the Default in the Struggle for DC Self-Determination, 1970-2015"

Carolyn Gallaher – American University "The Politics of Staying Put"

Jamila Michener – Cornell University "Gentrification and Political Destabilization"

Laura Tach – Cornell University
"The Spillover Effects of HOPE VI: Population Dynamics,
Neighborhood Change, and Durable Spatial Inequalities"

Bill Crandall, Visual Artist – Washington, DC
"Fairy Tales from the Fault Lines: A Visual Journal from
DC's Changing Neighborhoods"



Derek Musgrove



Brandie Williams and Jamila Michener



Robert McCartney with AU students

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SPEAKER SERIES

The Public Engagement Speaker Series showcases prominent practitioners, think tank experts, and policy makers who play key roles in transforming metropolitan and urban landscapes.

Robert McCartney, senior regional correspondent, associate editor of *The Washington Post*, "Politics Today in DC and the Region."

Chris Ballard, co-founder McWilliams Ballard, "Transition from Undesirable to Hip DC Neighborhood: Catalysts and Effects of Change."



Chris Ballard



MPC prides itself on showcasing prominent scholars, policy makers, and practitioners who have conducted transformative research that alters how we think about

metropolitan issues and urban policy. This year MPC hosted its 2nd Annual Spring Lecture with a keynote presentation delivered by one of the country's top urban economists, Edward Glaeser. Professor Glaeser, who teaches at Harvard University, presented a talk entitled, "Technology and the City."



Professor Edward Glaeser

CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

This year MPC co-sponsored a number of events in the Washington area, including the following:

With the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies: "Urban Violence: Building Safe and Inclusive Cities in Latin America" Panel

With the Department of Anthropology: "Chocolate City' Transformed: Gentrification in DC" Panel

With the Department of Public Administration and Policy: "Coming of Age in the Other America" by Stefanie DeLuca

With the Humanities Lab: "Driving Detroit: The Quest for Respect in the Motor City" by George Galster

With the Kogod School of Business: "Corporate Strategy & The Wealth of Regions" by Maryann Feldman

With Middle East Studies: "Kuwait Transformed: A History of Oil and Urban Life" by Farah Al-Nakib

With the Washington Institute of Public Affairs Research: "Poverty, Inequality and Public Policies" by Sheldon Danziger



AMERICAN

With George Mason University: "Forum on Health, Homelessness and Poverty" Conference





With George Washington University and ONE DC: "A Moment or a Movement: Why Black Lives Matter on the Path to Equitable Development in Washington, DC" Conference



With the Wilson Center: "Urban Neighborhoods in a New Era: Revitalization Politics in the Postindustrial City" Book Panel

Presentations

MPC staff and Faculty Fellows presented their research findings, both domestically and abroad, at many conferences, events, and institutions this past year, including:

Charlotte, NC

WFAE public radio

Columbus, OH

The Ohio State University Criminal Justice Research Center Summer Symposium on Global Cities Past and Present

Florence, Italy

Everyday Life in the 21st Century City Conference

Harrison, NY

Earth Day Symposium on Water and Class Struggle

Kansas City, MO

KCUR public radio

London, United Kingdom

Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference

Los Angeles, CA

Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference

Madrid, Spain

Contested Cities Conference

Miami, FL

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference

Urban Affairs Association's Annual Meeting

Minneapolis, MN

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference

New Orleans, LA

Southern Sociological Society's Annual Meeting

New York City, NY

Columbia University's Urban Planning Program

Oxford, MS

University of Mississippi Rethinking Mass Incarceration Conference in the South

Philadelphia, PA

American Association of Colleges & Universities Diversity, Learning and Student Success Conference

San Diego, CA

Population Association of America Conference

San Francisco, CA

Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting

Seattle, WA

American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting

Stockholm, Sweden

Environmental Humanities Laboratory, KTH Royal Institute for Technology



Busboys & Poets event participant

Washington, DC and Metro Area

American Film Institute Documentary Film Festival (AFI DOCS) Filmmaker Forum

American University Conference on Critical Approaches to Race, Class, and Gender

American University's Center for Health, Risk and Society Seminar Series

American University's Department of Anthropology

American University Kay Spiritual Life Center

American University's Library Panel Series, Research in Progress

Association of Public Data Users Conference

3rd Biennial DC Health Communication Conference

Brown Bag Series, National Center for Smart Growth, University of Maryland

City First Enterprises' Lunch and Learn Seminar Series

College of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, University of Maryland

District of Columbia Department of Health, District of Columbia, Office of Planning

George Washington University's Sustainable Urban Planning Program's 2015 Research Symposium

New York University, Washington, DC Campus

Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum

Marketing and Public Policy Conference

The Urban Land Institute's Washington Real Estate Trends Conference

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

US Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

The White House Convening on Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company

Student Accomplishments

MPC STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION

At this year's Annual Spring Lecture, MPC invited students to submit and display posters that addressed important urban policy questions. The following students won best poster in their respective student-level category and a \$500 cash prize.



Pictured above from left to right: Chloe Brown, Professor Edward Glaeser, Riordan Frost, Mary-Margaret Koch, and Saagar Gupta.

PH.D. LEVEL - Riordan Frost (SPA), "Mixed Motivations: Historic Districts in the District of Columbia."

MASTERS LEVEL - Chloe Brown (CAS), "The Effects of Gentrification on Residents Quality of Life: A Case Study of the Lawrenceville Neighborhood of Pittsburgh."

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL - Mary-Margaret Koch (SIS) and Saagar Gupta (SIS), "D.C. Community Needs Assessment: Relationship Between American University and the United Planning Organization."

MPC STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Meghan Doughty contributed to the report, "Roadmap for the Washington Region's Economic Future: A State and Local Level Economic Development Policy Gap Analysis," 2015.

James Wright, "The Trayvon Martin Effect: Estimating the Effect of the Trayvon Martin Shooting on Reading Performance Scores using the Synthetic Control Method," Cogent Social Sciences, 2016.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MPC strives to help our student staff achieve success. Below are some of the accomplishments and job placements of past students who have worked or volunteered at MPC.

Chloe Brown

Project Coordinator for the Women's Interagency HIV Study at Georgetown University Medical Center

Meghan Doughty

National Institute of Justice, Doctoral Research Fellowship Recipient American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), Founders' Fellow

Trevor Langan

Research Associate, National League of Cities

Statia Thomas

Program Assistant at USAID, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance

Brandie Williams

Staff Researcher for the Bahai Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland

Acknowledgements

MPC would like to thank the following individuals, groups, and AU units for their key contributions that helped make MPC's second year such a tremendous success:

Natasha Abel

Kelly Alexander

Scott Allard

Ryan Anderson

AU Catering Team

Sydney Bair

Chris Ballard

David Baratta

Claudia Barragan

Scott Bass

Kim Blankenship

Matt Bourdon

Rachel Brittin

Bill Brown

Chloe Brown

Erran Carmel

John Carruthers

James Casey

Mary Clark

Thea Cooke

Nancy Davenport

Cheri Davidson

Serena Elizondo

Daniel Fiorino

Lance Freeman

Steve Fuller

Carolyn Gallaher

George Galster

Edward Glaeser

Edward Goetz

Eric Hershberg

Alison Jacknowitz

Despina Kakoudaki

Cornelius Kerwin

Irina Komives

Edith Laurencin

Constance Lindsay

Daniel Mackeben

Lisa Manning

Robert McCartney

Iamila Michener

Liza Morris

Derek Musgrove

Chase Obata

Julie Pixler

Robert Renner

Barbara Romzek

Anders Rosen

SIS HUB Staff

Megan Snow

Laura Tach

Jonathan Tubman

Amanda Twyman

Liza Weinstein

Vicky Wilkins

Cole Wrampelmeier

Jeffrey Zyontz

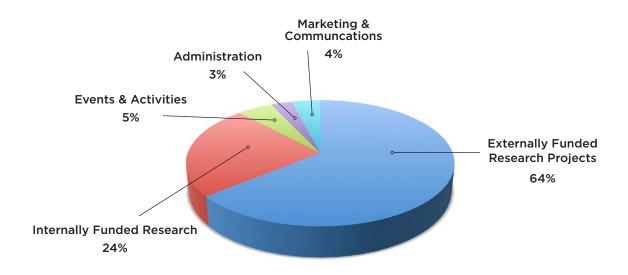
Funding & Expenditures

A portion of MPC's funding was received from the following sponsors:





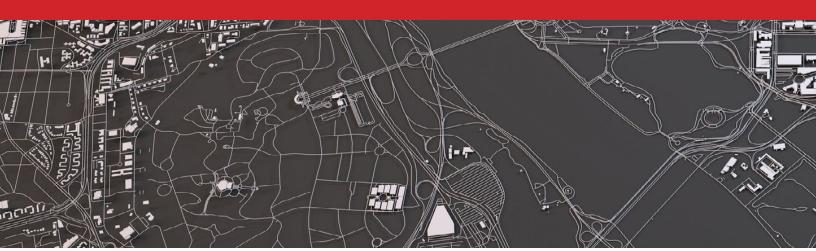
MPC EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY













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