

Sharing Space: Examining African American and Latino Intercultural Exchanges in Dynamic Neighborhoods

Co-sponsored by the Washington DC Office of Planning and American University

Participant Bios

Robert Albro is Research Associate Professor in American University's Center for Latin American & Latino Studies. He received his PhD in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Chicago. Prof. Albro has conducted long-term ethnographic research on urban indigenous politics in Bolivia. His present work addresses intersections of culture with arenas of policy and practice, including for urban planning and creative place making, public diplomacy, climate change, science and technology, and human rights. Prof. Albro has been a Fulbright scholar, and held fellowships at the John W. Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, and Smithsonian Institution. Over the years his research and writing has been supported by the National Science Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies, Rockefeller, Mellon and Henry Luce foundations, among others. In 2009 he received the President's Award for outstanding contributions to the American Anthropological Association.

Michael Bader is Assistant Professor of Sociology at American University. He received his PhD in sociology from the University of Michigan. Prof. Bader studies how cities and neighborhoods have evolved since the height of the Civil Rights Movement. His work links long-term patterns of neighborhood racial change to the ways that race and class influence the housing search process. He has also developed methodological tools that combine survey data with "big data" to study neighborhood environments. He is particularly concerned with questions of segregation, neighborhood change, racial inequalities, and racial health disparities. Prof. Bader is a faculty fellow of the Metropolitan Policy Center, where he helped to launch and leads AU's team for the DC Area Survey (DCAS), which annually studies neighborhood and resident well-being in the Washington, DC area. Before joining AU, Prof. Bader was a Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania where he was also a senior fellow in the Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics.

Julia Burdick-Will is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. She received her PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago and spent two years at Brown as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Population Studies and Training Center. Her research combines the sociology of education and urban sociology to study the roots of educational inequality and examine the dynamic connections between communities and schools that shape opportunities to learn both in and out of the classroom. This includes attention to effects of concentrated neighborhood poverty, the geography of elementary school openings and closings, the impact of neighborhood and school violence on student test scores, and the national distribution of school quality across urban, suburban, and rural areas, with attention to Chicago and Baltimore. Her article on school violence won the 2014 James Coleman Award for the best article in the Sociology of Education from the American Sociological Association.

Carolyn Gallaher is Associate Professor in American University's School of International Service. She received her PhD in Geography from the University of Kentucky. Over the years her research and writing have focused on two distinct areas—organized violence by non-state actors and urban politics. She has published several books concerned with the politics, internal dynamics, and patterns of violence of militias, paramilitaries, private military contractors, and drug cartels among others themes. As a resident of the District, Prof. Gallaher has also undertaken research on major and ongoing changes in DC, and her forthcoming book focuses on tenant's rights in the city. She has been a Visiting Fellowship, National Institute of Spatial and Regional Analysis, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and at the Center for Human Rights, Diversity, and Identity, Okanagan University College, BC, Canada.

Sonya Grier is Professor of Marketing in American University's Kogod School of Business. She received her PhD in Marketing, with a minor in Social Psychology, from Northwestern University. She conducts interdisciplinary research on topics related to target marketing, race in the marketplace, the social impact of commercial marketing, and social marketing. Recently Prof. Grier has examined how demographic changes in DC might relate to consumption, and the role of neighborhood diversity as both a draw and potential basis for tensions. Professor Grier has policy experience based on two years at the Federal Trade Commission, and also has practical industry experience in Market Research, Brand Management and Marketing consulting. She is currently the Director of food marketing research for the African American Obesity Research Collaborative Network (AACORN).

Eric Hershberg is Director of the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies and Professor of Government at American University. He was previously Professor of Political Science and Director of Latin American Studies at Simon Fraser University (SFU), in Vancouver, Canada. He received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has taught at New York University, Southern Illinois University, Columbia, Princeton, and The New School. Prior to arriving at SFU he served for fifteen years as a Program Director at the Social Science Research Council in New York City. At the Center he has conceived and led multiple projects focused on the circumstances of Latinos in the DC metro region, including those of unaccompanied minors, temporary protected status, the health of Latino children and families, and the arts in afterschool programs, among others. He has served as a consultant to numerous development and educational agencies, including the Ford Foundation, the World Bank, and the Swedish International Development Agency.

Malo Hutson is Associate Professor in Urban Planning at Columbia GSAPP and Director of the school's Urban Community and Health Equity Lab. Dr. Hutson received his PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from the School of Architecture and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research is at the intersection of urban planning and health inequities, focusing on community development and urban equity, racial and ethnic inequalities and urban policy, as well as the built environment and health. His research and writing have been recognized by numerous awards and grants, and his most recent book, *The Urban Struggle for Economic, Environmental, and Social Justice: Deepening Their Roots* (Routledge, 2016), explores the efforts by coalitions of residents, community leaders, unions, and others to resist displacement as a result of neighborhood change and gentrification. Dr. Hutson co-founded The NIAM Group, which develops policy recommendations for local government and leads community engagement for local development projects.

Michael Jones-Correa is President's Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Race and Immigration (CSERI) at the University of Pennsylvania. He taught previously at Harvard and at Cornell, where he served as the Robert J. Katz Chair of the Department of Government. Prof. Jones-Correa received his PhD in Politics from Princeton. His teaching and research address questions of political participation and civic engagement; immigrant incorporation, naturalization and political mobilization; Latino politics and public opinion; racial and ethnic politics and identity; inter-ethnic contact, coalition-building; and comparative urban politics. He has authored, co-authored or edited multiple books on these subjects, most recently *Latinos in the New Millennium* (Cambridge, 2012). His research has received support from the Carnegie, Ford, MacArthur, Robert Wood Johnson, Russell Sage and National Science foundations, among others. Prof. Jones-Correa has been a visiting fellow at the Russell Sage Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics at Princeton University.

Sakina Khan is Deputy Director for Citywide Strategy and Analysis at the DC Office of Planning. She oversees the State Data Center, Geographic Information Systems as well as systems planning related to housing, transportation, sustainability, economic development and capital facilities. She is a graduate of MIT, where she earned her master's degree in city planning. Ms. Khan was previously OP's Senior Economic Planner, specializing in economic development analysis with a focus on emerging sectors and neighborhoods. In this role, she led numerous strategic planning, policy and implementation efforts, including the Creative DC Action Agenda, the DC Vibrant Retail Toolkit, the Retail Action Strategy, creative placemaking, and the St. Elizabeths Innovation Strategy. She was also the lead author of the District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and managed all systems-based technical analysis for the 2006 Comprehensive Plan update. Ms. Khan has more than fifteen years of planning experience in the public and private sectors. Prior to joining the Office of Planning, she was a senior associate at a consulting firm, specializing in socioeconomic impact assessment of large-scale infrastructure projects in economically disadvantaged locations.

Willow Lung-Amam is Assistant Professor in the University of Maryland's School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation. Dr. Lung-Amam also serves as Director of Community Development at the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education. She received her PhD in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning from the University of California-Berkeley. Her scholarship focuses on the link between social inequality and the built environment and is concerned with how the conditions in disadvantaged communities are shaped by urban politics, policy, and planning and design practice and the changing metropolitan geographies of social and economic inequality. She is the author of *Trespassers? Asian Americans and the Battle for Suburbia* (University of California, 2017). Other recent projects have focused on equitable development, gentrification, the suburbanization of poverty, and the geography of opportunity. Her research has appeared also various journals and books such as *Journal of Urban Design* and *Journal of Planning, Education and Research*, and media outlets, including *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, and *The Atlantic's CityLab*. She is a 2017 Nancy Weiss Malkiel Scholar and former Ford Postdoctoral Fellow.

Angela Oh is an attorney, teacher, and public lecturer. She is a Senior Attorney Mediator for the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing. Ms. Oh was a prominent spokesperson for the Korean American community after the 1992 Los Angeles Riots and was a part of president Bill Clinton's One America Initiative, which examined how race, racism and racial differences have affected the US. Ms. Oh has chaired senator Barbara Boxer's Federal Judicial

Nominations Committee, served as a Lawyer Delegate to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, and as a member of the Federal Magistrate Judge Selection Panel in the Central District of California. Her lectures have addressed the opportunities and challenges that diversity represents. She is a graduate of University of California, Los Angeles, where she earned her BA and Master's in Public Health. She earned her JD from the University of California, Davis. Ms. Oh is also an ordained Zen Buddhist Priest – Rinzai Sect.

Donald Rencher is Deputy Director of the City of Detroit's Housing and Revitalization Department. Previously he served as lead counsel to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's Single-Family/Homeownership Division. In this capacity he provided counsel for pending foreclosures, property insurance claims, and various legal issues that jeopardize MSHDA's priority with single family loans and homeownership programs. Mr. Rencher was also responsible for all matters relating to discriminatory practices with respect to MSHDA financed housing developments. Mr. Rencher received his BA in English from Michigan University, JD from Western Michigan University's Cooley Law School.

Alberto Retana is President and CEO of Community Coalition. He began to work with the Community Coalition as a student activist and Youth Organizer in 1998. Through his years with the Coalition, Mr. Retana has sought to help bring about social, economic and racial justice through community organizing, movement building and policy change. Issues of particular concern in his work include: Community organizing, community relations, electoral organizing, policy analysis, strategic planning, leadership development, youth development, policy campaigns, education policy. From 2009 to 2011, Mr. Retana worked for the Obama administration in the US Department of Education as Director of Community Outreach. Among other activities, during his time in DC, he organized the Department's first National Youth Summit. Mr. Retana earned a BA in Political Science from UCLA.

Eric Shaw is Director of the DC Office of Planning, and is responsible for neighborhood and systems planning, urban design strategies, data and mapping, historic preservation and development review. He is a proponent of equitable development, innovative community engagement and community led implementation of plans. Previously Mr. Shaw was Director of Community and Economic Development for Salt Lake City, where he was the lead city official on place-based and development policy. He managed several high-profile projects, including a new citywide engagement program, the restructuring of the small business loan program, and updates to nine city plans including the city's general plan. He was a leader in planning efforts in post Katrina Louisiana, as Director of Community Planning for the Louisiana Recovery Authority and Vice President of Programs and Policy for Foundation for Louisiana. Mr. Shaw has also worked in the public, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors in Silicon Valley and Miami. He earned a BA in International Development and Policy Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Master's in urban planning from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

Courtney Snowden serves as the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity in Washington, DC. A sixth-generation Washingtonian, she is charged with rebuilding and revitalizing overlooked and underserved communities, with a focus on building a world-class workforce system and growing a vibrant small business ecosystem in the nation's capital. Formerly she was a Principal at The Raben Group, a premiere progressive public policy firm. Prior to that Ms. Snowden served as the Senior Lobbyist for the National PTA, directing their advocacy efforts on a variety of legislative issues. She also served as the Federal and National Policy Manager for the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). Ms. Snowden began her career in the Office of Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, where she served as a staff assistant and a legislative associate. Immediately following her time on Capitol Hill, Ms. Snowden was a Political Assistant at the Human Right Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT political organization

in the country. She is a graduate from DC Public Schools and earned her BA in Political Science from Beloit College.

Scot Spencer is Associate Director, Advocacy and Influence, at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. He leads the Foundation's work in advancing community-focused policies, practices and strategies that increase opportunities for children, families, and the places where they live and foster their success. Mr. Spencer also coordinates Casey's advocacy efforts in Baltimore, and previously managed its investments in East Baltimore. Prior to this Mr. Spencer was a transportation specialist at the Environmental Defense Fund, where he focused on state-level smart-growth policy and Commuter Choice, a local tax incentive for people who use transit. He also served as deputy director for Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition, was founding chair of the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, and co-chair of the Opportunity Collaborative, Baltimore's regional development plan through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Sustainable Communities Initiative. Mr. Spencer has a BS in Building Science and an MS in Urban and Environmental Studies from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Brandi Summers is Assistant Professor in the Department of African American Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of California-Santa Cruz. Her research and teaching focus on questions of race, gender, urban aesthetics, fashion, media studies, and visual culture. Her forthcoming book project, *Black in Place: The Spatial Aesthetics of Race in a Post-Chocolate City* (under contract with the University of North Carolina Press), explores the way that competing notions of blackness structure efforts to raise capital and to develop land in Washington, DC. Over the years, her research and writing have been supported by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and the Social Science Research Council, among others. She is also co-founder of TEXTURES, a pop-up material culture lab creating and curating content at the intersections of fashion, bodies, and the built environment.

Ruth N. López Turley is Professor of Sociology at Rice University. She received her PhD in sociology from Harvard University, and previously taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research and many publications focus on: Research-practice partnerships, educational inequality, race and ethnicity. Prof Turley is Associate Director of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research and founding Director of the Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC), a research-practice partnership between Rice and the Houston Independent School District (HISD) that aims to improve the connection between education researchers and decision makers for the purpose of closing achievement gaps and improving outcomes for students. She also helped to launch the National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships (NNERPP), which supports and develops partnerships between research institutions and education agencies throughout the country.