17th Annual Mini-Conference on Critical Geography:

University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee,
November 5-7, 2010

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9:50 - 10:10  T. Garrett Graddy, University of Kentucky, “Revaluing ‘TEK’: The (social re)production of seeds, space, knowledge”

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9:30 - 9:50  David K. Seitz, University of Toronto, “What’s ‘Queer’ About Antigentrification?: Rethinking Race and Sex in the Neoliberal North American City”

9:50 - 10:10  Melissa Yang Rock, Penn State University, “Gentrifying Beijing’s Hutongs: ‘Cultural Heritage’ Preservation to Serve the People?”


8:30 - 8:50  Derek Ruez, University of Kentucky, ”The Transversal Geographies of Tolerance: ‘American Values’, Islamophobia, and Urban Space in the Shadow of the Twin Towers”

9:10 - 9:30  Sami Siddiq, Washington University in St. Louis, "The violent geography of the ‘Af-Pak’ war"

9:30 – 10:10  Discussant: Mona Domosh, Dartmouth College

8:30 - 8:50  Bradley R. Wilson, West Virginia University, “Between Market and Movement: Activism as Affective Labor in the Age of the Boycott”
8:50 - 9:10  Nicholas Jon Crane, The Ohio State University, “Postmemory and the circular knowledge of the state: remembering Tlatelolco on Mexico’s bicentenary”
9:10 - 9:30  Dr. Ajay Panicker, St. Cloud State University, “People’s Movements and the Neoliberal State in Kerala, India”
9:30 - 9:50  Nicholas Gates, Alverno College, “Contestations of Neoliberalism: Organizing against Water Privatization in Milwaukee”
9:50 - 10:10  Vanessa A. Massaro, Emma Gaalaas Mullaney, Jim Thatcher, all of the Pennsylvania State University, “Flash Mobs and the Production of Counter Space in Philadelphia”

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8:50 - 9:10  Taro Futamura, Doshisha University, “Politics of emergence of urban farmers’ markets in Japanese Cities ”
9:10 - 9:30  Thor Ritz, Syracuse University, “Food Sovereignty for the City: Toward a Geographical Engagement with Food Politics and Urban Agriculture”
9:30 - 9:50  Rachel Slocum, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse; Jerry Shannon, University of Minnesota; Valentine Cadieux, University of Minnesota; Matthew Beckman, Augsburg College, “Properly, with love, from scratch”: Jamie Oliver’s Food Revolution”

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Panelists:
Robert Fairbanks II, University of Chicago; Rina Ghose, University Wisconsin, Milwaukee;
Peter Hossler, University of Georgia; Bob Lake, Rutgers University; Harold Perkins, Ohio University; Joe Pierce, Clark University; Dan Trudeau, Macalester College
Session organized by Alexis Buckley and C. Laura Lovin of Rutgers University
Panelists:
Alexis Buckley, Rutgers University; C. Laura Lovin, Rutgers University; Nate Gabriel, Rutgers University;
Richard Nisa, Rutgers University; Kathleen Woodhouse, Rutgers University

Session organized by the Political Ecology Working Group at the University of Kentucky
Chair: Brian Grabbatin, University of Kentucky
10:30 - 10:50 Maano Ramutsindela, Macalester College & the University of Cape Town, “The authority of the dead: the Janus face of culture in transborder conservation”
10:50 - 11:10 Hugh Deaner, University of Kentucky, Alberta, “Alberta Oil Sands: Case study in Ecological Modernization”
11:30 - 11:50 Jason Beery, University of Manchester, “Analyzing accumulation in extra-sovereign space-natures: a view from outer space”
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22. **Geography, Technology and Science** – Bolton B92 – pages 39-40
Session organized by Mathew W. Wilson, Ball State University, and Rebecca Lave, Indiana University
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Becky Mansfield, The Ohio State University; Richard Donohue, University of Wisconsin-Madison;
Garrett Graddy, University of Kentucky

23. **Politics of Development** – Bolton B60 – pages 41-44
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10:50 - 11:10 Chunghsin Ho, University of Wisconsin-Madison, “Relocating Universities in a Post-Developmental State: Revealing the Paradox of the Higher Educational Promotion Plan in Taiwan”
11:10 - 11:30 Mona Atia, George Washington University, “Place-based and Professionalized Philanthropy in Egypt”
11:30 - 11:50  Ajay Panicker and Sudarshana Bardoloi, York University, "Global Finance and Local Social Entrepreneurship: Understanding Self Help Group Induced Social Change in Kerala"

11:50 - 12:10  Discussant: *Anne Bonds, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

24. Radical Politics II – Bolton B84 – pages 45-48
10:50 - 11:10  Kolson Schlosser, Clarkson University, "Regimes of Ethical Value? Representation and Consumption in the Canadian Diamond Industry"
11:10 - 11:30  Michael R. Glass, University of Pittsburgh, "Political Practice and Performativity in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania"
11:30 - 11:50  Arun Saldanha, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, "The intricate subject of communism"
11:50 - 12:10  Jason Rhodes, University of Georgia, "Capitalism is a Waste of Time: Godwin, Malthus, & the Ideology of 'No Alternative'"
10:50 - 11:10 Mia White, MIT, “Gender, Race and Place Attachment in Historic Neighborhood Recovery”

11:10 - 11:30 Ingrid Butler, Syracuse University, “New Orleans as a Wonderland: Discussing new spatial imaginaries of race & thinking through analytical approaches” (unable to attend)

11:30 - 11:50 Brenda Parker, University of Illinois at Chicago, “Masculinities and Markets: Gender and Power in the Neoliberal City

11:50 - 12:10 Jack Schemenauer, David M. Walker and John B. Krygier, Ohio Wesleyan University, “Immigrantification and City Government ‘Beautification’ in a Midwestern City”

27. Immigration and the Migrant – Bolton B95 – pages 59-61

10:30 - 10:50 Jill Harrison, University of Wisconsin-Madison, “Illegality at work: Deportability and the productive new era of immigration enforcement”

10:50 - 11:10 Austin Kocher, The Ohio State University, “Police, Law, and Territory: Immigration Enforcement Practices in Non-Border Spaces”


11:30 - 11:50 Caitlin Henry, University of Toronto: “‘Where are you from?’ Citizenships, Belonging, and the Third World Woman”

11:50 - 12:10 Discussant: *Kristin Sziarto, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee


1:20 - 1:40 Richard Ballard, University of KwaZulu-Natal, “Natural Neighbors: Indigenous Landscapes and Eco-Estates in Durban, South Africa”

1:40 - 2:00 Margaret Pettygrove and Rina Ghose, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, “Spaces of Resistance: Urban Community Gardens in Inner-City Milwaukee”

2:00 - 2:20 Jeff Baldwin, Sonoma State University, “What (or who) ought I eat?: Towards an ethical biospheric political economy”

2:20 - 2:40 Thomas Loder, University of Kentucky, “Does God still Fly over this Country?: A Re-conceptualization of Core-Periphery Theories and Weberian Wordly Asceticism in Response to Increased Oil Drilling in Western North Dakota”

2:40 - 3:00 Discussant: Richard Ballard, University of KwaZulu-Natal

32. Critical GIS and Geography I – Bolton B92 – pages 65-69

1:40 - 2:00 Eric Lovell, Ohio University, "Opportunity, Mobility, and Uncertainty: A PGIS Approach to Understanding the Spatiotemporal Dimensions of Pastoral Resource Access in Northern Tanzania"

2:00 - 2:20 Wen Lin, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, “Seeing as participating? Complexities of neogeographic practices and the changing citizenship in China”

2:20 - 2:40 Jerry Shannon, University of Minnesota, "Paths in the Sand: Urban Food Deserts, Qualitative GIS, and a Relational Sense of Place"

2:40 - 3:00 Falguni Mukherjee, Sam Houston State University, “Complexities in GIS Spatial Knowledge Production in Dane County, Wisconsin"

33. Financial Crisis I – Bolton B60 – pages 70-74

Discussant: Phil Ashton, University of Illinois-Chicago

1:20 - 1:40 Linda McCarthy, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, “Bidding for Big Business: Something New or More of the Same?”

1:40 - 2:00 Manuel Aalbers, University of Amsterdam, “The Co-production of Mortgage-Backed Securities: Information, Design, and Credit Rating in Structured Finance”

2:00 - 2:20 Marc Auerbach, The Ohio State University, “Conditions not of our own choosing: labor geography, labor’s agency, and the contemporary restructuring of employment relations in the U.S. automotive industry”


2:40 - 3:00 Dylan Lee Barr, University of New Orleans, “We Won’t Pay for Their Crisis: Grassroots Responses to the Financial Crisis”

34. Regulating Bodies – Bolton B84 – pages 75-78

1:20 - 1:40 Rebecca Lane, University of Kentucky, “Discretion and Transgression in Performing Public Breastfeeding: The Case of Lexington, KY” (unable to attend)

1:40 - 2:00 Michaela McMahon, York University, “Unmapping the Geographies of Child Sponsorship: Discourses of Race, Space, and Belonging in the Promotional Materials of World Vision Canada”

2:00 - 2:20 Annie Menzel, University of Washington, “The SCHIP’s ’Fetus Option:’ An Intimate Geography of the Racial Regime of Citizenship”

2:20 - 2:40 Sarah E. Schwartz, University of South Carolina,”Sex, Condoms, and Corporeal Bodies: Embodying, Emulating, and Transgressing Swazi, Christian, and Gender Identities in Swaziland”
2:40 – 3:00 Discussant: *Anna Mansson McGinty, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

35. Environmental and Social Justice in the City – Bolton B91 – pages 79-82
1:20 - 1:40 *Sandra Zupan, University of Kentucky, “Not Quite Everyone: Entanglements of Public Participation in Milwaukee's Brownfields Redevelopment”
1:40 - 2:00 Nadia Bogue, 16th Street Community Health Center, “The Limitations and Need to Engage Low-Income and Minority Participation in Urban Environmental Non-Profit Organizations”
2:00 - 2:20 Brenda Kayzar, University of Minnesota, “Desired Patina or Layer of Toxicity: Environmental Justice Discourses in Revitalized Urban Settings”
2:40 - 3:00 Discussant: Harold Perkins, Ohio University

36. Right to the City – Bolton B56 – pages 83-88
1:20 - 1:40 Marcia England, Miami University, “Mean Streets: Violence Against Unhoused Person in Public Spaces”
1:40 - 2:00 Nathan Clough, University of Minnesota, “The End of Public Space!: Anarchist Direct Action and the Spatialities of Constituent Power”
2:00 - 2:20 Manuel Lutz, Center for Metropolitan Studies-Technical University Berlin, “Struggle Over Homeless Encampments and the Reproduction of Local State Power”
2:40 - 3:00 *Jeremy Sorenson, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, “Criminal Food: Food, Space, Aid, and Death in the Disciplinary City”

37. An Introduction to Critical Geography at DePaul University – Bolton B95 – page 89
Session organized by DePaul University's Department of Geography
Panelists:
Eric Brownlow, Winifred Curran, Julie Hwang, Pat McHaffie, Sanjukta Mukherjee, Heidi J. Nast, Alex Papadopoulos, Maureen Sioh,

41. Critical Natures III – Producing Ecological Knowledge and Management – Bolton B40 – pages 90-93
Session organized by the Political Ecology Working Group at the University of Kentucky
Chair: Patrick Bigger, University of Kentucky

3:40 - 4:00  Jairus Rossi and Brian Grabbatin, University of Kentucky, "Nature in (Non)equilibrium: From environmental science to conservation practice"

4:00 - 4:20  Alexis Schulman, M.I.T., "The politics of using local ecological knowledge in natural resource management"

4:20 - 4:40  Chris Duvall, University of New Mexico and Bilal Butt, University of Wisconsin-Madison (presenting), "The trouble with 'savanna', particularly in Africa"

4:40 - 5:00  Discussant: Abby Neely, University of Wisconsin-Madison

42. Critical GIS and Geography II – A Renewal of Critical GIS – Bolton B92 – pages 94-95
Session organized by Matthew W. Wilson, Ball State University, and Rina Ghose, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Panelists:
Patrick McHaffie, DePaul University; Francis Harvey, University of Minnesota; Carol Hanchette, University of Louisville; Rina Ghose, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Matthew W. Wilson, Ball State University

43. Financial Crisis II – Bolton B60 – pages 96-98


4:20 – 4:40  Discussant: Phil Ashton, University of Illinois-Chicago

44. Transportation – Bolton B84 – pages 99-102

3:20 - 3:40  *Gregg Culver, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, “Rust Belt Biketivism: Social Movement Organizations in the Development of Bicycle Transport in Cleveland and Pittsburgh”

3:40 - 4:00  Samantha Herr, University of Kentucky, “Visibly Virtually Bike-able: Boston Bike Lanes, Legitimacy, and the Power Dynamics of the Street”

4:00 - 4:20  Michael Minn, University of Illinois, “Theoretical Perspectives on High Speed Rail in the United States"
4:20 - 4:40  David L. Prytherch, Miami University, “The Right to the Street (Pedestrians Don’t Have Any): The Legal Geographies of Transportation Inequality in Ohio”

4:40 - 5:00  Discussant: Judith Kenny, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

45. Discourse, text, and the visual – Bolton B91 – pages 103 - 108

3:20 - 3:40  Robert Greeley, University of South Carolina, and John Lauermann, Clark University, “Making it (t)here in Saddam’s Iraq: Producing subversive literary space in Sinan Antoon’s I’jaam: An Iraqi Rhapsody”

3:40 - 4:00  Tyler McCreary and Ann Marie Murnaghan, York University, “Dual Projections: Children’s Museum Education and Harlan Smith’s Cinematic Colonialism, British Columbia, Canada, 1921-1929”

4:00 - 4:20  Jessica R. Barnes, The Ohio State University, “Being heard in a sea of sound: Spatial and virtual strategies for independent bands to build audiences” (unable to attend)

4:20 - 4:40  Rachel Baumgardner-Burke, Ball State University, “Making a Scene: Constructing the Absent ‘Aye’ in the ‘Cyclops’ Episode of Joyce’s Ulysses”

4:40 - 5:00  Katrinka Somdahl-Sands, Rowan University, “Nonrepresentational Theory JUMPs!”

46. Emerging Governance in the City – Bolton B56 – pages 109-112


3:40 - 4:00  Jessica Carriere, University of Toronto, “Reframing the ‘local’ in public policy: Transnational ‘place-based’ policies ‘in motion’ Discursive Circulation of ‘place-based’ policy from London to the City of Toronto” (unable to attend)

4:00 - 4:20  Brian Tochterman, University of Minnesota, “The Neoliberal Development Theory of Jane Jacobs”

4:20 - 4:40  Christine Smith, University of Kentucky, “Drugs and Policing in the Bluegrass?” (unable to attend)

4:40 - 5:00  Discussant: Bob Lake, Rutgers University

47. Roundtable on Complicity/Resistance/Radicality – Bolton B95 – page 113

Panelists: Nathan Clough, University of Minnesota; Heidi Nast, DePaul University; Chris Schroeder, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Kristin Sziarto, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Todd Palmer, independent artist
1) The political ecology of promulgation: Spectre v. DHEC and the neoliberalization of SC land use

In 2007, the South Carolina development firm Spectre applied to fill approximately 32 acres of freshwater wetlands in coastal Horry County, South Carolina, in order to construct new commercial development. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) denied the permit, raising the ire of the development community and its advocates. As a result, some business-friendly state representatives introduced legislation designed to force DHEC to promulgate its rules, thus concretizing the terms by which DHEC makes future permitting decisions. This presentation uses this case study to examine the political ecology of land use regulation in coastal South Carolina. I argue that the promulgation of such rules raises two important issues. First, this case and the resultant legislation serves to make static what are otherwise dynamic environmental processes, helping to cordon off spaces in order to make them legitimate for markets. Second, such efforts are normalized through the market environmental logic found in neoliberal environments, which discursively delegitimizes the efforts of DHEC. This not only rationalizes the undermining of institutions such as DHEC and their mandates to protect public health and ecological spaces (putting their regulatory jurisdiction in the hands of lawyers, politicians, and lobbyists instead of the environmental health scientists who normally rule on such permits), but also demonstrates the way environmental protection rhetoric is utilized to create wider opportunities for developers to fill state wetlands. As such, I utilize this case to demonstrate the ways critical geographies can draw attention to contradictions in environmental management and regulation, as well as raising the profile of South Carolina’s ongoing and rapid coastal development.

Key Words: legal geographies, neoliberal environments, political ecology, South Carolina land use regulation

Bio: Michael H. Finewood, Old Dominion University

I currently hold a Visiting Instructor position in the Department of Political Science and Geography at Old Dominion University. I am interested in applying critical geography to environmental management in order to draw attention to a range of environmental justice issues. My current research is in the rapidly developing coastal region of Beaufort, SC, where I have studied planning, environmental health, and development, and how these discourses are utilized
to normalize the squeezing out of long-term poor and minority residents. You can contact me at finewood at gmail dot com.

2) Grounding environmental security: implications for critical geographers

The concept of ‘environmental security’ emerged after the Cold War but was overshadowed as a security priority after September 11, 2001. Today it is back on the agendas of policy makers in light of international concern over global climate change. Therefore, the need for a continued critical engagement with environmental security thought is apparent. Scholars of political geography and critical geopolitics have been especially well-placed and dedicated to dissecting the supposed logics, and drawing out the inherent dangers, of traditional geopolitical and security scholarship at the root of environmental security thought. For all that these scholars have usefully interrogated the geopolitical imaginaries of traditional environmental security scholarship, however, they often reproduce the same abstract ways of doing scholarship as those they critique, and have largely neglected to treat “the environment” with the same standards of examination and appraisal as they have geopolitics and security. A complimentary, but in the end more rigorous and grounded, treatment of the environmental element of the environment-security coupling has been the focus of nature/society scholars in their critical responses to mainstream environmental security accounts. Scholars in political ecology and cognate fields have Sophisticatedly shown through case studies how supposed “resource conflicts” are never simply disagreements stemming from scarce access to natural resources, nor, on the other hand, from fighting over an abundance of profitable resources like oil; there are inevitably many other political and social factors involved in such disputes. These studies have questioned the validity of treating environmental conflicts as security concerns and have largely agreed that such an effort would be missing the point. Yet the complementary critiques from each of these sub-disciplines have rarely come into conversation, and further, both have neglected to study the effects of environments already being securitized. Through a contemporary account of the securitization of environmental resources in the Ecuadorian Amazon, this paper argues the need for a grounded, embodied account of how environmental security operates, and specifically one that engages critically with the “environmental” element of the environment-security pairing.

Bio: Zoe Pearson, PhD Student, Department of Geography, The Ohio State University
pearson.190@osu.edu

3) Sustainability Policy: A case study of policy, practice, and place—Las Vegas

This research critically examines sustainability policy through a case study of policy, practice, and place. In 2007 the Las Vegas, Nevada metropolitan region implemented sustainability
policies and campaigns as response to critical water scarcity and rapid population growth. Included within the new policy provisions were incentives for green businesses to relocate to the Las Vegas region, thus increasing population, water demand, and subsequent need to perpetuate water resource acquisitions. Because of these realities, this research proposed a case study to identify what sustainability policy actually sustains. To meet this objective, a three-tiered qualitative analysis evolved. Initially, an examination of policy (Tier 1) focused on sustainability concepts, policy goals, and impacts. However, data acquired via professional fieldtrips prompted a spatial-temporal-scale analysis of place (Tier 2). Specifically identified through this analysis were environmental factors impacting regional water availability and cultural factors impacting water use. Further research, identifying an “integrated water management portfolio,” provided the framework for an examination of practice (Tier 3). Research findings reveal an exemplary-crafted sustainability policy (possibly the trendsetter for “integrated water management portfolios”). However, policy craftsmanship aside, implicit policy goals support imperialistic water resource acquisitions (perpetuating destruction of ecosystems and exploitation of “other” cultures) and require an exponentially increasing global footprint in order to attain its sustain-a-cultural-lifestyle goal. Thus, instead of sustaining an ecosystem or the cultures dependent upon such ecosystems, this case study documents a politicized use of sustainability policy in which specified cultural practices are supported by exploitation of ecosystems and other cultures.

Bio:
Kathryn Zimmerman is a graduate student in Central Washington University’s Resource Management, M.S. program. Her research interests include: cultural concepts of energy, efficiency, and economy; cultural relationships with place/environment; power rhetoric, psychopathology, and the corporatization of resources.

4) Climate justice: do we even know what we are talking about?

‘Climate justice’ – it’s the latest and greatest buzzword to come out of environmental circles. The movement has emerged from a convergence of justice activists of all shapes and sizes – economic, social, racial, gender, and ecological – all in an attempt to recognize the disproportionate impacts that climate change and the policies set in place to address it will have on already disadvantaged groups. This is a tremendous amount of ground to try and cover – and in fact, has left many asking the question, ‘what is climate justice really about?’ Up to this point the movement has defined itself largely in opposition to vague conceptions of the neoliberal project – trade liberalization, privatization, forest carbon markets, agrofuels and carbon offsetting – none of which have provided any clear direction or identity for the movement. Despite the tremendous amount of fervor and energy behind this burgeoning movement, there has been seemingly little
tangible progress beyond a few press conferences and direct action events at global climate negotiations. This research attempts to move beyond these conceptions of ‘climate justice’ as broad opposition to global environmental neoliberalism and suggests a more nuanced, and place-based approach. Using the U.S. Pacific Islands as a case study, I suggest that situating the principles and values of climate justice activists within a codified legal framework, like that of the U.S. EPA and its environmental justice mandate and statutes, provides the necessary structure for the movement to forge a clear direction and identity that will lead to successes on the ground in fighting to address the disproportionate challenges of climate change.

Bio:
Ryan Covington is a PhD student in the Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His research interests are broadly at the intersection of political economy/ecology, environmental justice and critical social theory. His current research is focused on examining the climate justice movement; specifically in the context of U.S. island communities where environmental degradation, climatic risk/vulnerability, a complex system of political status and representation, and environmental law all converge to create landscapes of environmental injustice. Ryan received a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts in Geography from East Carolina University.

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5) Revaluing ‘TEK’: The (social re)production of seeds, space, knowledge

Agricultural biodiversity conservation measures are increasingly laudatory—at least in lip service—of what has come to be known as ‘traditional ecological knowledge.’ International agencies, policies, treaties, and reports have pledged to protect and ‘save’ such knowledges as central to agricultural biodiversity at large, but such support for TEK (as it has been acronymized) remains complex and contested. This paper serves as a feminist analysis of TEK, by a) investigating the devaluation of what has been delegitimized as ‘traditional’ ‘indigenous’ ‘local’ ‘folk’ ‘women’s’ knowledges; b) calling for their revaluation; and c) fostering a dialogue on the obstacles of this endeavor. Using two case studies—in situ agrobiodiversity conservation initiatives in the Andes and Appalachia—I argue that the devaluation of ‘TEK’ and obstacles for its revaluation are domineering paradigms of ‘modernity,’ ‘development,’ and ‘educatedness’—all of which share a bias against domesticity and semi-subsistence-oriented agriculture and the rich treasury of ecological knowledges therein (embodied in the heirloom/native seed). These semi-subsistence realms have been feminized, racialized, classicized in their appropriation, exploitation, and delegitimization. This positions the realm of ‘productivity’ over and above social reproductivity—though the
dichotomization much less the hierarchization is illusory. The current attempts at revaluation call for epistemologies unhindered by productivist bias. Such a reconfiguration has far-reaching implications for intellectual property laws, policies, and paradigms as well as for feminist social-spatial theory regarding science and technology studies (STS) the (social re)production of agricultural knowledge.

**Keywords:**
Traditional ecological knowledge, agricultural biodiversity, production of knowledge, epistemology, social reproduction, STS

**Bio:**
T. Garrett Graddy, PhD Candidate, Geography, University of Kentucky
SESSION 12: HOUSING IN THE CITY

1) Dwelling in Amsterdam’s Legal Shades of Gray

   Living on a houseboat turns short-term transit spaces into long-term domestic landscapes. These acts of dwelling on waterways invert expected temporal dynamics of space such that the traditional activities associated with streets, squares, canals, and houses violently careen into one another. This study of houseboats in Amsterdam highlights temporality not to emphasize time over space but rather to show how the temporal dynamics of spatial practice restrict the reach of governmental regulations and market dynamics. I show how acts that unsettle normative rhythms of architecture create spatial loopholes of bounded informality in urban centers.

   **Bio:** Kimberley Kinder is a PhD Candidate in Geography at the University of California Berkeley. She has a background in Architecture and Urban Design and is currently researching water and territoriality in the Netherlands. (Email: kinder@berkeley.edu)

2) Building futures/Narrating the past: decline on the Niagara Frontier

   This paper examines how local governments organize and manage decline through a case study in the city of Buffalo, New York. Rather than approach the process of decline as a linear history, this paper examines two houses in two neighborhoods in Buffalo. These houses serve as a symbol and metaphor of decline and as a physical testament of the lived and imagined lives of residents of Buffalo. These places are the site of particular types of myth making and the lived reality in the city, reflections of the city’s narrative decline and its representation.

   The first house is the ongoing $50 million restoration of the Darwin D. Martin House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright on the city’s west side. It then turns to the failed attempt to restore the Woodlawn row houses on Buffalo’s east side. The row houses, a city designated heritage site, were destroyed by fire in August 2009.

   In some cities such as Flint and Youngstown, the lack of growth has resulted in policies that attempt to mitigate the effects of chronic decline by shrinking the city through the removal of infrastructure and voluntary relocation programs. Planners and officials in Buffalo characterized these programs as misguided and wasteful claiming that managing decline would be to treat it as a permanent state.

   Rather than address decline on the east side municipal officials would prefer to simplify the problem and to focus resources on the growth prescriptions being marketed to city’s around the world. Whether it is the attraction of knowledge workers and the creative class through the construction of “world class” research institutions or attempts to woo artists through marketing low housing prices these plans success are measured by the erasure of the east side.
The denial of the complex multi-scalar process of decline allows government officials at various scales to point to these projects, such as the burgeoning Frank Lloyd Wright industry of restorations and new builds, as indicative of future trends. The city is again only one or two projects away from growing as it policies continue the push toward bankruptcy. This unwillingness to question the growth paradigm, to acknowledge the suffering and hardship of many of the city’s residence is further magnified by the refusal to acknowledge decline as, if not permanent, at least intrinsic to the capitalist imperative of growth, an obstinance that has persisted through 60 years of decline.

**Bio:** Joshua Akers, Graduate Student, University of Toronto [joshua.akers@utoronto.ca](mailto:joshua.akers@utoronto.ca)

My current research is focused on how states’ organize and manage decline through the political economy of property, legal geographies and critical analysis of policy approaches. The focus is on cities in chronic decline in the United States, in particular Detroit, and occasionally Buffalo and Cleveland.

3) **Cyberdiscrimination in Boston and Dallas: Is Neil a More Desirable Tenant than Tyrone or Jorge?**

Housing that is available via the internet is an increasingly important part of the housing market. Yet, little research has explored whether those with racially and ethnically identifiable names are responded to differently by housing providers about available housing units. This paper seeks to fill this void. Between January and May of 2009, correspondence tests of the housing market were conducted using electronic advertisements made over the popular internet site, Craigslist. Identical inquiries were made by males with white-, black-, and Hispanic-sounding names in response to a random sample of rental-unit advertisements in the Boston and Dallas metropolitan areas. The results of these correspondence tests suggest that Neil is a more desirable tenant than Tyrone or Jorge. Significant disparities exist between testers with white-sounding names and those with black- or Hispanic-sounding names in their access to rental housing. When access involves potential contact with the provider, more negative treatment against minorities appears than at earlier stages of the tests. Implications of these findings are discussed for theories of housing discrimination and residential segregation as well as for fair housing policy.

**Bios:**

Samantha Friedman is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Associate Director of the Lewis Mumford Center at the University at Albany, SUNY. Her research focuses on name discrimination in the housing market, the racial and ethnic segregation of home owners and renters, and the neighborhood attainment of racial and ethnic groups by their nativity and generational status. She
is co-author of The Housing Divide: How Generations of Immigrants Fare in New York’s Housing Market (2007) and has published articles in several journals including Demography, Social Problems, and Social Science Research.

Gregory D. Squires is a Professor of Sociology and Public Policy and Public Administration at George Washington University. His research interests include racial inequality and urban sociology focusing on the role of financial institutions in the uneven development of metropolitan areas. He has written for several scholarly publications including Social Problems, Urban Studies, and Social Science Quarterly as well as many newspapers and magazines including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Nation, and The American Prospect.

Chris A. Galvan is a doctoral candidate in the Sociology department at the University at Albany, SUNY. His research examines racial and ethnic inequality in neighborhood attainment, the variation and determinants of state immigration legislation, and local reactions to “A Day without Immigrants” strike in 2006. His dissertation research seeks to uncover and explain the variation that exists in the growth of the foreign-born population at the place-, county-, and metropolitan-levels of analysis. Based upon this analysis, he will develop a typology of new immigrant destinations.

4) What’s ‘Queer’ About Antigentrification?: Rethinking Race and Sex in the Neoliberal North American City

If housing gentrification is a calling card of homonormativity, what’s queer about antigentrification? Queer critics have long lambasted the abstraction of sexuality from race and class in the elaboration of a normatively white and bourgeois gay and lesbian niche housing market. Such work has had less to say, however, about the discourses of racialized sexuality at play in the production of gentrification’s targets: working class urban residents, many of them people of color. When sexuality does surface in left knowledge production – for instance, in popular antigentrification literature – it is frequently articulated in terms of the fatigued racialized and heteronormative imagery that pits authentic, procreative low-income residents of color against inauthentic, transient, cosmopolitan, nonprocreative, white, gay gentrifiers.

This paper stems from the conviction that queer studies – particularly via queer of color critique – has considerably more to offer urban studies, critical geography, and radical politics than a still-salient but now widely aired appraisal of the bourgie white gay village and its complicity with neoliberal spatial politics. Rather than examining the intersectionality of housing, race, class and sexuality primarily from the locus of “gay and lesbian” or even “queer of color” subjectivity, this
paper asks how sexuality operates in mobilizations around antigentrification, antiracism and economic justice.

As a journalist and ethnographer, my engagement with queer politics and queer of color critique has prompted me to participate in antigentrification struggles in a predominantly Black neighborhood near my own in St. Paul, Minnesota. As Minneapolis-St. Paul prepares to build its second rail transit line, residents of St. Paul’s Rondo neighborhood fear they are slated for economic displacement by rising property taxes and rents along the rail route. While neighborhood antigentrification narratives often draw on the romances of homeownership, family and the American Dream, my mentors and interview subjects also articulate a disidentificatory stance vis-à-vis such fictions. Recognizing the hegemony of rail transit and New Urbanism as progress narratives, Rondo-based organizers have maintained a differential consciousness, switching gears between working within the system and interrupting the teleology of rail transit altogether.

Without being so presumptuous as to brand such political projects “as queer,” and risk effacing their intertwined but discrete intellectual genealogies and trajectories, I ask whether Rondo-based antigentrification activisms constitute and elaborate an alternative production of time and space — and consider how reading such a production might complicate queer, antiracist, and economic justice activisms.

Bio:
David K. Seitz, M.A. candidate, Geography and Women and Gender Studies, University of Toronto

David K. Seitz is an ethnographer and journalist working at the intersections of feminist, queer, antiracist, anticolonial, post-Marxist approaches to cultural geography, political theory, and activist journalism. As a white antiracist queer, David is interested in engaging the insights of queer of color critique, and bringing them to bear on controversies around housing, gentrification and development in urban North America. David welcomes comments, questions, and critiques at davidkseitz@gmail.com.

5) Gentrifying Beijing’s Hutongs: 'Cultural Heritage' Preservation to Serve the People?

This paper examines how the neoliberal urbanism of contemporary Beijing affects the living spaces of residents in the central city’s hutong neighborhoods. Specifically, this paper investigates how neoliberal urban planning contributes to the socio-spatial fragmentation, isolation and marginalization of low-income hutong residents as they navigate the city’s expanding real estate market, and diminishing access to public and affordable housing. Based on ten months of fieldwork conducted in Beijing’s hutongs, the paper explores how the Chinese government’s designation of many hutong areas as “cultural heritage” sites has fuelled the processes of gentrification by inflating market values while simultaneously protecting these areas from large-
scale demolition. At the same time, those hutongs not designated as cultural sites have been razed and replaced by modern housing and commercial buildings oriented toward the prosperous real estate development and rental markets. In both cases, the low-income residents who have lived for generations in the Beijing’s central hutongs are being driven toward the city’s outer edges. Thus, attaining "cultural heritage protection" status, a strategy used to save a selection of Beijing's hutongs from unyielding development initiatives, places primacy on the preservation of hutong architecture while hastening significant changes to the demographic composition and social interactions within those spaces. This study will contribute to the growing literature that examines how Chinese urban experiences shed new light on the 'rights to the city' and neoliberal urbanism literatures.

**Key words:** Neoliberalism, Beijing, hutong, urban redevelopment, gentrification

**Bio:** Melissa Yang Rock, Department of Geography, Penn State University, US

Melissa Yang Rock is currently a doctoral student at Pennsylvania State University in the departments of Geography and Women's Studies. Her research focuses on the impacts of urban redevelopment on traditional residential neighborhoods, hutongs, within Beijing’s (China) central city and how the community structures housed within these spaces splinter and fragment as the urban poor are displaced and relocated towards the city’s periphery. Melissa returned from conducting one year of ethnographic fieldwork in November 2009 and is currently in the process of writing up the results of her research. The paper presented at this conference will utilize components of this work to analyze the current state of neoliberal urbanism within China's capital city and some of the resulting effects upon the marginalized poor.
SESSION 13: GEOPOLITICS: VIOLENCE, WAR AND TERRORISM


This paper examines the ongoing controversy over a proposed Islamic community center and mosque near the site of the former World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan. It explores the arguments made in published sources (blog posts, editorial commentary, resolutions and minutes from community board meetings, and other texts issued by the center’s proponents and detractors), as well as accounts of the controversy in both local and national media reports. Opponents of the project assert that building an Islamic center close to the WTC site is an insult to the memory of the victims of the September 11th attacks. Others attempt to introduce concerns about the project’s relation to various Islamist political movements. Supporters of the project point to a long record of community engagement by the project’s participants, as well as its interfaith mission and support from Christian and Jewish community leaders, and many argue that completing the project would be a tribute to the ‘American values’ attacked on September 11th. While intensely troubled by the Islamophobia at work in much of the opposition, this paper attempts to develop a critical account of the way that notions of religious tolerance transverse lines of argument both for and against the proposed community center. Here, seemingly similar notions of tolerance are just as likely to be invoked by one group as another. I argue that this transversion opens a window onto the polyvalent and historically-contingent discourse of tolerance and its place both in regimes of governmentality and in the political projects of social movements (as described by Brown 2008). I then explore the spatial articulations of these arguments, having to do with both debates about the project site’s physical proximity or perceptibility to visitors of the WTC site and attributions locating certain debate participations at a distance from the WTC site (either physically or affectively). I conclude by arguing that these conflicts have important implications for the ongoing production of memorial space at the WTC site and of urban space in Lower Manhattan more generally.

Bio:

Derek Ruez, Dept. of Geography, University of Kentucky

Derek Ruez is beginning his doctoral work in geography at the University of Kentucky where he recently completed a M.A. in sociology. Interests include cultural and political geographies, social and political theory, american studies, and the spaces/times of democratic politics.

Public insecurity within the context of border spaces is increasingly becoming a concern for residents and policy-makers. Academic coverage of violent conditions has been extensive and varied but few studies have considered ramifications as they relate directly to the city. This paper attempts to distill the interconnections between public insecurity and urban entrepreneurial agendas. Such an intervention will take the form of interrogating what urban configuration looks like in the current geopolitical climate whereby border securitization seems so clearly at odds with efforts to market the city in a bi-national region such as the US-Mexico border. In drawing on past research findings from Tijuana, Mexico, around cultural production, I isolate some of the challenges presented in marketing the city in regions that have been discursively defined as violent. From a theoretical perspective, I draw out the tensions between specificity and universality to question how border theory writ large can continue to have analytic purchase for geographers. After analyzing Tijuana’s experience as a way through which to further apprehend borders, I outline directions for future research agendas. In particular, I contemplate how cities that have heretofore been seen as cultural destinations adapt to the current geopolitical climate and the inundation, both real and perceived, of terrorism and violence. A discussion of the linkages between urban entrepreneurial agendas and the ways in which they intersect with post-9/11 realities is broached through an outline of a pilot project envisioned by the author.

Bio:
Margath Walker, Department of Geography and Geosciences, University of Louisville, margath.walker@louisville.edu

Interests in cultural production, urban geography of the Global South, entrepreneurial cities, US-Mexico border and security.

3) The violent geography of the ‘Af-Pak’ war

The United States has been waging an undeclared war in northwestern Pakistan that is a direct outgrowth of the war in Afghanistan. Since 2009, the Obama administration has focused greater military attention on potential terrorist threats emanating from Pakistan. The conventional wisdom in Washington is that the continued existence of Taliban and al-Qaeda ‘safe havens’ inside Pakistan has rendered the Afghan war ‘unwinnable’. Thus, faltering counter-insurgency efforts in Afghanistan have given way to the U.S. launching unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attacks within the
territory of an (ostensibly) allied state. The Pakistani government publicly denounces the UAV attacks for violating its sovereignty and causing disproportionate ‘collateral damage’, while covertly facilitating these attacks. As the Obama administration seeks to widen UAV strikes beyond the tribal territories, ordinary Pakistanis in urban areas such as Peshawar, Quetta and Karachi, may fear being targeted themselves if this war zone were expanded further into Pakistan proper.

Bio: Sami Siddiq is currently pursuing graduate studies in the International Affairs Program at Washington University in St. Louis.
SESSION 14: RADICAL POLITICS I

1) Between Market and Movement: Activism as Affective Labor in the Age of the Buycott

Over the past two decades, social movements transformed the retail marketplace in the United States into a dynamic site for protest and reform. While market-oriented campaigns have proven an effective counter-punch against image conscious corporate interests, retail activism has also transformed the tactics and subjectivities of social movement actors. Facing declining returns from boycotts, negative advertising or disinvestment campaigns, that is ‘black listing’ particular firms or commodities in the marketplace, in the mid-1990s activist groups and NGOs re-channeled their efforts into promoting business practices, supporting firms and advertising products that did meet their ethical norms. Product certifications and ethical labeling, now ubiquitous in the retail environment, precipitated a tectonic shift in social movement strategy from boycotting companies to ‘buycotting’products. How has this shift in social movement strategy from boycotting to buycotting changed the motivations, tactics and subjectivities of activists? In this paper I examine the work of grassroots activists that led boycott campaigns for Fair Trade Certified coffee in the United States. Drawing on six years of field research with the United Students for Fair Trade (USFT) the largest advocacy network of Fair Trade activists in the United States, I argue that the Fair Trade coffee boycott campaign effectively "employed" activists as unpaid marketing agents, or what Michael Hardt calls affective labor (1999), to brand the Fair Trade Certified label and expand the market for ethically certified coffee. Through an exploration of the motivational frames and tactical repertoires of activists, I consider the appeal of boycott activism as well as activist disillusionment, resistance and negotiation with NGOs and large commercial retailers who directly benefited from their work. I conclude by discussing the wider implications of "activism as affective labor" as boycotting reshapes the political landscape in the United States over the next decade.

Bio: Bradley R. Wilson, Assistant Professor of Geography, West Virginia University, bradley.wilson@mail.wvu.edu

I received my Ph.D. in Geography from Rutgers University in January 2010 and I am starting in my second year as a faculty member at West Virginia University with a focus on Economic Geography, Critical Agrarian and Food Studies, Political Ecology, Globalization and International Development. My research interests fall into two main areas. First, I am interested in changes in political culture and social movement organizing precipitated by the rise in ethical labeling and product certification in the United States. Second, I am interested in the integration of agricultural producers, particularly agrarian reform beneficiaries, into novel product quality certification schemes in Central America. My current project, a multi-sited ethnography which began in 2004, explores activist engagement in the Fair Trade coffee boycott in the United States, the largest
coffee consuming country, and farmer engagement in Nicaragua, home of some of the first fair trade exchanges in the revolutionary 1980s.

2) Postmemory and the circular knowledge of the state: remembering Tlatelolco on Mexico’s bicentennary

The violent repression of a student movement in Mexico City on October 2, 1968 is not a thing of the past. Histories of the massacre in Tlatelolco have long been re/constructed through multiple modes of commemoration, each of which bears a different relationship to what Foucault would call the “circular knowledge” of the state. Invocations of those histories are uniquely significant this year as Mexico celebrates its bicentennial and hundredth anniversary of the Mexican Revolution. As always however, commemorators of the event are doing politics. This paper specifies a form of politics that corresponds with new forms of postmemory (or second-generation memory). The author is informed by fieldwork in Mexico City, including his participation in an annual march on October 2.

Bio: Nicholas Jon Crane, PhD Student, Department of Geography, The Ohio State University
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3) People’s Movements and the Neoliberal State in Kerala, India

A rich body of literature has examined the nature of the state in the context of neoliberal globalization. While scholars have identified several commonalities in neoliberal states, it has also been acknowledged that geographical and historical specificities do structure states differently. Against this background, this paper will attempt to examine the interaction between new social movements and the liberal democratic state in Kerala, India. A unique combination of civil society activism, social reforms, political literacy, and a vibrant public sphere have contributed to what has been popularly known as the Kerala model of development that typically focused on human development while experiencing slow economic growth. Within this model, the state played the role of organizing human development focused social change. Yet, it has been widely acknowledged that this model has been experiencing a crisis with the ascendancy of neoliberalism.

In response to this neoliberal turn, several social movements have risen across Kerala. This paper will examine one such movement – the struggle of mostly tribespeople in Plachimada against Coca Cola. After neoliberal policies were adopted by the Indian state as part of economic reforms in 1991, the hegemonic discourse emphasized the dependence on transnational capital -- need for foreign direct investment (FDI) – as a way forward to support India’s future development plans. Taking a cue, state government of Kerala – led by a coalition of historically progressive left parties – approached Coca Cola to establish a manufacturing plant in Plachimada, a predominantly
agrarian region, where tribemen constitute a large part of the landless farmworkers. The initial promise was that the new plant will contribute to increasing economic activity in the region and hence increased opportunities for local people to get better jobs. Shortly after the plant started operating, the local communities started experiencing depletion and contamination of ground water by hazardous substances such as cadmium and lead. This was seen as the latest in a long line of onslaught on their rights by the prevailing caste hierarchy, elite that control the state and policies of development that further separated them from their resources – primarily land and water. They organized themselves into a movement, popularly known as the Plachimada movement.

Throughout the movement, the activists and leadership of the movement had to engage with the state in various ways – protests, threats, negotiations, lobbying, court cases etc. This paper will examine concretely how this movement understood the nature of the state in India in general, and Kerala in particular. This analysis of state in Kerala will contribute to understanding the specificities of neoliberalism in India.

In order to answer these questions, this paper will draw on extensive fieldwork that the author conducted in Kerala during 2005-2010, based on participant observation, in-depth interviews and archival research.

**Bio:** Dr. Ajay Panicker
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4) **Contestations of Neoliberalism: Organizing against Water Privatization in Milwaukee**

In the summer of 2009, the comptroller of the City of Milwaukee put forward a plan to lease Milwaukee’s Water Works to a private company. While the details of the plan were not made public, it was made clear that this plan would involve a 75- to 99-year-lease in exchange for a nine-figure sum.

A coalition was quickly assembled to protest (and eventually stop) the privatization plan. This group, called Keep Public Our Water (KPOW) framed the potential privatization plan geographically: Not only would Milwaukee’s water be controlled by a nonlocal entity, but it would be certainly be controlled by a multinational corporation, which would make Milwaukee’s water only a small part of an organization that had a global scale. KPOW, then, formed a coalition of groups that were limited to Milwaukee in order to contest the locational and scalar mismatches inherent in the water privatization plan.
However, this group constructed a local identity in a certain way that largely excluded minority groups or groups with “non-mainstream” politics. The steering committee of KPOW was handpicked to represent moderate groups while excluding groups such as the Socialist Party and groups with largely inner-city membership, or even mainstream groups with representatives that appeared “out of the ordinary.” Canvassing efforts also focused on the largely white and affluent East Side and Riverwest neighborhoods, while largely ignoring African-American districts.

The contestation against privatized water in Milwaukee illustrates how neoliberal policies have transformed even the contestations against them. Even in Milwaukee, a city that has a long history of socialist politics, citizens’ groups have become moderate and deradicalized. It also illustrates how the spatial divide between black and white has been expressed in local politics, even where the poor and African-American would be the groups most affected.

Bio
Nicholas Gates teaches World Regional Geography at Alverno College in Milwaukee. He received his master’s degree in geography from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2010. His interests include critical and urban geography, and how cities are transformed by neoliberalism. 

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5) Flash Mobs and the Production of Counter Space in Philadelphia

In the City of Philadelphia, a flurry of negative press and severe state responses to recent flash mobs indicate the challenge that such misbehavior can pose to processes of consolidating power. These gatherings of dozens, hundreds, even thousands of young people in the city’s streets exhibit no clear pattern of violent or criminal behavior and, yet, city officials have targeted them as “urban terrorism”, initiating rapid response police “strike forces” and teams of undercover officers, FBI monitoring of student cell phones and social networking websites, felony rioting convictions for juvenile participants, court action against their parents, and threats to expand by executive order the citywide curfew already in place for youths seventeen and under. There is a wealth of existing scholarship within geography that attends to the structures of capitalist domination of social space and the agency of oppositional movements to protest and re-appropriate space. However, this literature does not adequately explain why a group with no explicit political message can be so deeply troubling to those in power. In order to trace the impact that such misbehavior has on repressive urban spaces, we begin by conceiving of the flash mob as an assemblage capable of producing space. In our view, drawn from an integration of Lefebvrian approaches to spatial politics with queer and feminist attention to social practice, the ability of such unanticipated behavior to be troubling is hinged on its disruption of hegemonic abstract space. By applying these theoretical
tools to the historical context of class and racial tensions in Philadelphia, we seek to demonstrate the radical possibilities of misbehavior.

**Presenter Bios (alphabetically):**

**Vanessa A. Massaro**  
*PhD Candidate, The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Geography and Department of Women’s Studies*  
Vanessa received her M.A. in geography from the University of Arizona for her study of diverse economic practices fostered by community development projects in West Philadelphia. Her dissertation work focuses on illegal livelihood practices in Philadelphia.

**Emma Gaalaas Mullaney**  
*PhD Candidate, The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Geography and Department of Women’s Studies*  
Emma received an M.A. in geography from Miami University for her work on indigenous land rights and management practices in the Carib Territory of Dominica. Her current research focuses on negotiated spaces of agrobiodiversity conservation and maize production in the central highlands of Mexico.

**Jim Thatcher**  
*PhD Candidate, The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Geography*  
Jim’s work focuses on the intersection between technology and the production of space with an explicit emphasis on engaging social theoretical perspectives. He received his M.A. from the University of Chicago where his work explored ethnographic methodology in digital space.
SESSION 15: FOOD Á LA CARTE

1) Can Community Gardens Help to Radically Shape the Food System?: A Presentation of the Findings in the Common Ground Community Garden Project

Despite efforts on every scale to combat hunger and malnutrition, the number of hungry people in the world has actually increased and the United States is no exception. With hopes of addressing this paradox, in February 2008 I became the Garden Coordinator for Common Ground, a progressive resource center near downtown Athens, GA. Using this opportunity to conduct activist research for my master’s thesis, I hoped to evaluate the problems and potentials of a small-scale food garden in helping to create a different kind of food system that values community-building, local food, and empowerment. I found that while we may not have directly fed hungry people in the local area, growing food was still a radical activity in theory because it aligns with five main areas of anarchism. However, the actual events that occurred in the community garden paint a somewhat different picture that has implications for the construction of any radical food project.

In this presentation, I hope to tell the story of the Common Ground Community Garden throughout the summer growing season in an effort to illuminate the numerous problems that organizers and participants must often confront in progressive social action, including the liberal-radical divide in leftist politics to the lack of resources available to grassroots projects. I then look at how the story of the Common Ground Community Garden can help other organizers and activist-academics to better construct radical food initiatives by focusing on a number of key questions regarding the objective of the project. I conclude with some unanswered questions and considerations for further research.

Bio: Michele Flippo Bolduc is a first-year doctoral student in geography at the University of Kentucky. She has a MA in geography and a BA in anthropology from the University of Georgia. She can be contacted at Michele.Bolduc@uky.edu.

2) Politics of emergence of urban farmers’ markets in Japanese Cities

This paper examines emergence of farmers’ markets in Japanese cities in the context of constructed local food movement. Unlike countries in the United States and Europe, where opportunities of accessing to locally-produced food (such as farmers’ markets, farm stands, and Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA)) grew tremendously over the last several decades, there have been little if none markets in major Japanese cities. Specifically, the local food movement that encourage production of “locally grown food” and its direct sales by farmers to consumers has been gaining rapidly in rural areas but has had a tough time in Japanese cities. In Tokyo, for example, there are very few producers-centered produce markets. Although some periodic
farmers’ markets were run by NPOs, they did not operate on a large enough scale to have much of an impact on consumer behavior.

In May 2009, interestingly, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (MAFF) started a program called “Marche Japon Project” to expand direct sales of food products at Japanese cities by funding development of urban markets. Although "Marche" (originally French) gradually became a familiar word in Japan, what was critically problematic about the program was that, for whatever questionable invisible processes, MAFF decided to rely on big corporations rather than organizations that had already been in the field. Because the program was developed by national government, not only did it established top-down power relations, but it also created a completely different model of markets from those that are led by communities, producer-groups or third parties. Based on his ongoing field research at several Marches as well as NPO-led market, this paper critically looks into changes that these markets have brought in so far, and the interactions between farmers’ market vendors and urban consumers at different types of markets in Japan.

Bio:
Taro Futamura is a research associate at the International Institute of American Studies at Doshisha University (Kyoto City, Japan). He received his Ph.D in geography from the University of Kentucky in 2008. His research interests center on geographies of agriculture and food, with focuses on agrifood movement and urban farmers’ markets. His dissertation examined on how Kentucky farmers displaced from growing tobacco after the late 1990s adapted to agricultural restructuring with discursive food localism by producing and marketing "local food" through farm markets and food festivals. His current research extends that interest to Japan.

3) “Food Sovereignty for the City: Toward a Geographical Engagement with Food Politics and Urban Agriculture” (Presenter unable to attend conference)

The last two decades have seen the widespread emergence of grassroots organizations and advocacy groups across North America, and around the world, whose work revolves around issues of food and hunger. Different people have referred to this growing field of social activism variously as the food justice movement, the food democracy movement, or the food sovereignty movement. The organizations involved include small advocacy groups working within particular cities; international NGO’s advancing agendas in different countries; transnational peasant organizations mobilizing across continents; and individual urban gardens and farms cultivating small plots within local neighborhoods.

Amidst all this activity, however, little consensus has developed around explicit definitions for terms like ‘food security,’ ‘food justice’ or ‘food sovereignty.’ For example, food security has been actively defined by the United Nations and within the academy, but it has also been taken up
by certain grassroots organizations while actively critiqued by others as insufficient and “stripped of meaning.” Food justice and food sovereignty, in contrast, have received less attention from state agencies and academic researchers. They have, however, been articulated with remarkable clarity by particular groups who propose such platforms as “food production and consumption according to the needs of local communities, giving priority to production for local consumption.” Despite this concrete definition, these same concepts are often picked up, reworked, and used in remarkably different contests. Not only is there little consensus on what these different terms connote, but how they get defined is an explicit objective for particular organizations and an active site of struggle within food movements more broadly.

In this paper I explore this messy landscape through the lens of my own research on the urban farms of New York City in an attempt to develop a richer and fuller understanding of the issues at stake in conceptions of food security, justice, and sovereignty. I propose a critical approach for viewing these as three distinct, overlapping, and unstable discourses for the conceptualization of hunger and the articulation of food politics. I argue that, however amorphous, each concept tends to coalesce around a different, though by no means exclusive, analytical lens for viewing hunger and food systems as spatial projects. It follows that each perspective tends to encourage different strategies for moving against hunger and reshaping the food system or, in other words, for the construction of particular food politics. These are strategies which are highly contested and which must get worked out in particular struggles, whether this is on the urban farms of Brooklyn or in the agrarian spaces of Central or South America.

Bio: Thor Ritz, PhD Candidate, Syracuse University
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4) “Properly, with love, from scratch”: Jamie Oliver’s Food Revolution

Last year, British chef Jamie Oliver brought his Food Revolution (JOFR) to the US. This revolution was televised, airing over the spring of 2010 on ABC. Oliver went to the ‘fattest city’, Huntington West Virginia, to launch his Revolution arguing, “This food revolution is about saving America’s health by changing the way you eat...[i]t’s not just a TV show, it’s a movement for you, your family and your community.” In this paper, members of the University of Minnesota’s Agri-food Reading Group address some of the points where Oliver—as well as American food politics more broadly—often stops short, particularly in terms of emphasis on consumer-oriented behavioral change. We analyze Oliver’s message in the context of a growing interest in food and health taking place against a backdrop of persistent and often overlooked inequalities. Our analysis considers how JOFR takes aim at certain bodies that do not fit the norm, Oliver’s method for instigating change, and the idea of revolution that JOFR proposes. Specifically, we point to the ways
whiteness is mobilized to discuss overweight, the device of shaming as a motivational tool, the creation of authentic vs. processed foods, and the promotion of social action through the spectacle in which a charismatic protagonist deploys confrontational and divisive tactics, legitimizing individual change over collective alternatives.

**Presenters:** Rachel Slocum and Jerry Shannon

**Authors:** equal input, reverse alphabetical

Rachel Slocum, Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse

Jerry Shannon, Department of Geography, University of Minnesota

Valentine Cadieux, Department of Geography, University of Minnesota

Matthew Beckman, Department of Biology, Augsburg College

5) **Historicizing Food Policy in New York: A case study in theories of history and space for critical geography**

Historical and critical geography are not closely associated, despite a wealth of scholarly work combining elements of both approaches. Critical geographers like David Harvey, Richard Peet, and Don Mitchell have all written historicized landscape studies closely akin to much contemporary work in historical geography. When these scholars have attempted to speak to present issues, they have primarily attempted to make historicized claims on space. This paper considers the advantages and disadvantages of history for critical geography, with a special view to public engagement. Employing a variety of on-line media, this study focuses on the public discourse surrounding programs designed to alleviate “food deserts” in current-day New York City. These “deserts,” low-income areas with insufficient access to food retailers, have become a focus of public attention in the last few years following the well-publicized launch of a new “produce cart” initiative. The discourse surrounding this program has lacked historical depth, focusing on present conditions and practices with no regard for the history of the development of “food deserts” or of city involvement in food retailing and distribution. Additionally, significant non-historical claims regarding development have been advanced, generally aimed at underlining the inevitability of such “deserts.” This paper first considers the historical elements which new scholarship could bring to this discussion, then takes stock of the ability of such scholarship to intervene in the debate. In doing so, it posits an approach fundamentally different from historical group or use specific claims on space. Instead of justifications based on past use or expropriation, it suggests a critical historical geography that focuses on the constant processes of (re)production and consumption of space.

**Jeremy Fisher and Laura Spress:** jhf149@gmail.com
SESSION 16: INTERROGATING THE SHADOW STATE

It has been twenty years since Jennifer Wolch first published her book, The Shadow State: Government and Voluntary Sector in Transition. This seminal work portended many ensuing changes in the substance of the state and its relation to the voluntary sector. The Shadow State thesis has been employed directly and indirectly by many geographers who recognize that statist agendas in service provision have not disappeared, but are alive and well in the funding mandates that keep this sector afloat. Thus neoliberal principles that encourage market growth, entrepreneurialism, and fiscal austerity continue to flourish through the apparent benevolence of the voluntary sector that provides a wide range of services from housing, to immigration, to urban forestry. This panel brings together a number of scholars who reflect on their own research and the state of the field in order to interrogate the relevance of the Shadow State thesis to the current state of affairs. We welcome your participation in the discussion.

Panel organizers:
Harold Perkins (perkinsh@ohio.edu), Ohio University
Dan Trudeau (trudeau@macalester.edu), Macalester College

Panelists:
Robert Fairbanks II (rpf@uchicago.edu), University of Chicago
Rina Ghose (rghose@uwm.edu), University Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Peter Hossler (phossler@uga.edu), University of Georgia
Bob Lake (rlake@rutgers.edu), Rutgers University
Harold Perkins (perkinsh@ohio.edu), Ohio University
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Dan Trudeau (trudeau@macalester.edu), Macalester College
SESSION 17: VISUAL GEOGRAPHIES – WAYS OF SEEING

With so much access to visual representations of people and places, it is increasingly important to engage critically with the ways in which the world is represented and equally important to examine the ways in which we portray, render or interpret the world.

This panel will focus on the analysis of the forces that contribute to the discursive formation of power and knowledge through visual media. To understand the forces that enable the emergence of artistic visual representations, and shape their specificity, one must consider a wide range of cultural, economic, political, institutional, bodily, and psychic practices that are mobilized in the creation and interpretation of the objet d'art.

We are concerned with the production of difference and the play of power/ knowledge dynamics in the processes of visual representation and communication. Part of understanding power/knowledge production through the visual is to understand the interplay between media technologies, socio-political circumstances and visual regimes; how and by whom visual representations are seen and interpreted; and how they fit into the broader discourse related to the events or history they depict.

Through this session, we seek to explore the role of the visual in different ways of seeing and understanding the world and the interaction between the visual with other forms of knowing, sensing and communicating.

Panelist Bios:

C. Laura Lovin completed her MA degrees in Cultural Studies and Gender Studies with the University of Bucharest and the Central European University in Budapest. She is in her last year of PhD training in Women’s and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. Her dissertation examines how the visual arts create new affective experiences and encounters that augment the political potential of bodies and spaces, this dissertation explores visual arts’ contribution to the constitution of new kinds of perception, relations, and modes of co-existence in three transitional, transnational cities, Newark (New Jersey), Sibiu (Romania) and Berlin (Germany). In her investigation of the production of new forms of subjectivity in these she also considers how various models of capitalist multiculturalism produce commodified subjectivities, while also vacating urban space for touristic consumption and financial corporate occupation. Informed by visual methodologies, this is an interdisciplinary project that engages scholarship in feminist theory, Marxist political economy, queer theory, geography, and cultural studies.

Alexis Buckley is Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers University in the Department of Geography
where she studies the function and effect of counter-hegemonic art as a form of resistance and as part of the public visual discourse on conflict, race, ethnicity, gender, and class. Her work focuses on issues of contested, competing, memories informed by the visual, and she explores different ways of seeing and the fluidity of memory and identity. She takes an interdisciplinary approach informed by trauma, memory, and identity studies, counter-memory work, critical race theory, feminist geography, visual discourse analysis, audience studies and participatory action research.

Nate Gabriel is a Ph.D. candidate in Geography at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. His research combines interests in urban geography, political ecology, and diverse economies, and focuses on the everyday practices that constitute urban environmental knowledge. His research on Philadelphia's Fairmount Park explores urban space not simply as a site in which to examine the politics of the environment, but as a discursive frame through which nature and society come to be understood and produced. In general, his work contributes to an interdisciplinary understanding of the production of urban environments by focusing on the role of governance institutions in framing the resource environment and the emergence of environmental subjectivities through disciplinary mechanisms implicit in the process of environmental knowledge production.

Richard Nisa is a Ph.D. candidate in Geography at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. His doctoral research concentrates on the shifting landscape of international military detention, as framed by a suite of factors including legal and media discourses, emergent communications technologies, and the relationship between counterinsurgency and civilian lives. He received his M.A. in Geography from Rutgers University in 2007 for research that examined the ways in which domestic and international law, international human rights regimes, and scientific research into the limits of the human body intertwined to enable the production of new torture techniques and novel spaces for political violence.

Kathleen Woodhouse is a Ph.D. candidate in Geography at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Her doctoral research focuses on the process of cultural insecurities through issues of representations, implications, and contestations of Muslim women in France, in both virtual and physical spaces. She received her M.A. in Geography from Kent State University in 2005 for her research on Latvian identity and place in North American urban centers.
SESSION 21: CRITICAL NATURES 1 – GOVERNING RESOURCES

Organizer: Political Ecology Working Group at the University of Kentucky
Chair: Brian Grubbatin, Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky
Discussant: Maano Ramutsindela, Macalester College & University of Cape Town

1) “The authority of the dead: the Janus face of culture in transborder conservation”

Various aspects of the environment, from ground water to the management of air, are increasingly being used to demonstrate the need for managing nature beyond the borders of the state. In fact, the dominant environmental paradigm is replete with propositions for cross-border environmental regimes of one sort or the other. And, culture, as a way of life, has also been incorporated into this paradigm. In this paper I demonstrate the contradictions that arise from attempts to use culture as a justification for transborder conservation and how official wisdom selectively suppresses these contradictions for convenience. I draw on examples from two case studies to argue that proponents of transborder conservation appreciate culture when it suits their purpose but demonize it when it opens up possibilities for environmental justice to which they pay lip service. They appreciate culture in its historical context in order to give conservation projects some credibility while at the same time denying the custodians of cultures a place in those projects. I use these examples to develop a critique on the ideology of transborder conservation and the practices it engenders on the ground, and to challenge contemporary paradigms on society and nature. I conclude that the emergence of cultural transborder conservation areas gives imperialism and indigenous face and also points to new avenues to which critical scholarship should pay attention.

Bio: Maano Ramutsindela, Macalester College & University of Cape Town

2) “Alberta Oil Sands: Case study in Ecological Modernization”

Ecological Modernization theory (Eco-Mod) advances optimistic views regarding the capacity of industrial participation—even leadership—in environmental stewardship and remediation. In some quarters of social science the term, Eco-Mod, more satisfactorily highlights the underpinnings and imbrications of capitalist socio-nature compared to looser notions of “sustainability” or “corporate responsibility” which elide political economy. This paper analyzes industrial development in the Alberta Oil Sands as a case study in Eco-Mod. Avoiding semantic hair-splitting, my purpose is understanding the region’s oft-denoted “sustainability” initiatives promulgated by both industry and government regulators, and endorsed by environmental
advocates. Voices within both industry, government, and environmental camps all point to opportunities for the oil sands industry to operate more cleanly without sacrificing profitability. Sustainable practices, they argue, can reduce environmental impact and potentially improve profitability, for example recycling wastewater or converting oil sands waste into construction material at remote sites.

My case study draws upon the two largest industrial operators in the oil sands plus the chief provincial regulators. Suncor Energy Inc. claims to prioritize triple-bottom-line accountability, that is serving as steward to both environment and society while achieving profit objectives. Syncrude Canada Ltd. insists that collaboration with community and other social “stakeholders” serves as the foundation for near- and long-term decision-making. Both companies emphasize commitments to and successes in reclamation and restoration following extraction operations. Alberta’s Environmental Resource Conservation Board and Alberta Environment extol their involvement in various multi-stakeholder organizations nominally committed to monitoring environmental conditions and remediating disturbances.

The primary tension counterpoises scientific measurement (the cornerstone of both modernity and sustainable management systems) against non-quantified practices. Within industrial circles an adage cautions “You can’t change what you can’t measure.” In the Alberta oil sands it might be said you can’t sustain what you don’t measure.

**Bio:** Maano Ramutsindela, Macalester College & University of Cape Town

**3) “Land Concessions, Land Tenure, and Livelihood Change: Plantation Development in Southern Laos”**

Since the 1990s, the Lao government has progressively opened up the country’s economy, resulting in a vast increase of foreign investment. Such investment has inevitably focused on the country’s comparative advantage of land-based natural resources. Investors have most commonly acquired such land through concessions, or the long-term leasing of land use rights on state land. The ownership of such land, however, is often socially contested and many times used and tenured to varying degrees by rural villagers. Therefore, the conceding of such land to investment projects can have negative impacts upon household livelihoods. These impacts have been recognized at many levels of the government, ultimately leading to a land concession moratorium in 2007.

This paper seeks to understand three different elements related to concessionary investments: (1) the process by which concessions are awarded and implemented; (2) the intricate relationship between land use, land tenure, and land ownership in the face of concessions; and (3) the way in which village and household livelihoods are impacted from such massive land use and ownership changes. These three aspects are studied via the case study of conceded land use rights
to log the timber from and grow rubber on a 10,000 hectare plot of land in Attapeu province, southern Laos. These rights were given to the Hoàng Anh Gia Lai (HAGL) Joint Stock Company, a diversified, multinational Vietnamese corporation. Ultimately, this work intends to find ways in which to reduce the negative social impacts of land concessions and to mitigate such impacts in the wake of their occurrence.

Bio: Miles Kenney-Lazar, School of Geography, Clark University

4) “Analyzing accumulation in extra-sovereign space-natures, a view from outer space”

Political ecologists and environmental political economists have conducted surprisingly little research into questions of space, nature and resources located beyond traditional state borders. These space-natures, often referred to as the “global commons” because they simultaneously do not belong to any state and are available for any state’s use, include the high seas, Antarctica and outer space. This dearth of research exists (i) despite the many ways in which these space-natures are involved daily in highly uneven processes of political and capital accumulation and (ii) despite the incongruence of these processes with international law that identifies these space-natures as beyond sovereign borders. While Mansfield (2004; 2001) has excellently explained how Pacific fisheries once in “international waters” have become incorporated into these processes of accumulation, much work still remains to be done. In this paper, I suggest a theoretical framework for analyzing these extra-sovereign space-natures, how they become “extra-sovereign,” and how they become incorporated into regimes of both political and capital accumulation through non-military means. I argue that the production of space, nature, resources and scale should be combined with legal geography, imperialism and state theory literature. To illustrate this framework, I discuss the production of outer space as an extra-sovereign nature-space. I focus on the negotiation of international treaties and regulations that produce outer space as a sovereignty-free, “province of mankind” in which the benefits of space activity should be shared by all humankind. By centering this framework on the coproduction of socionatures, the unevenness of these “global commons” becomes evident.

Bio: Jason Beery, Geography, University of Manchester
SESSION 22: GEOGRAPHY, TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

Organizers:
Matthew W. Wilson, Ball State University, mwwilson@bsu.edu
Rebecca Lave, Indiana University, rlave@indiana.edu

Panelists:
Becky Mansfield, The Ohio State University, mansfield.32@osu.edu
Richard Donohue, University of Wisconsin-Madison, rdonohue@wisc.edu
Garrett Graddy, University of Kentucky, garrettgraddy@gmail.com

How are critical geographers enrolling science and technology studies? What are the productive tensions and/or disabling irreducibles in practices, methodologies, and theories? We invite geographers interested in the intersections between geography and STS to participate in a panel discussion of questions such as: the interplay of physical, human, nonhuman, more-than-human geographies in the enrollment of STS within a critical geography agenda, theoretical/conceptual hybridities, histories/critiques of the geographical sciences from an STS perspective, STS methodologies in critical geographies, empirical cases exemplifying the interplay of STS and critical geography, etc.

We currently have four panelists, including the organizers, and would invite the organizing committee to suggest other mini-conference attendees who might be interested in joining the panel. We will continue to drum up interest and hope to have a couple more panelists before the conference.

Panelist biographies:

Becky Mansfield’s research is at the intersection of political economy, nature-society relations, and health and the body. She has authored papers in a variety of journals and collections, including Antipode, the Annals of the AAG, the SAGE Handbook of Political Geography, and the Companion to Environmental Geography. She is the editor of Property: Privatization and the Remaking of Nature-Society Relations. Themes of research include the biopolitics of environmental health, 21st century socionatures, neoliberalism and nature, and the politics of human-environment relations. A central empirical focus has been global fisheries and the rise of market-based approaches for managing economic-environmental fisheries crisis. Current research incorporates issues of environmental health by examining the politics of contaminated seafood.
Richard Donohue is a PhD student at University of Wisconsin-Madison. After studying philosophy and political science as an undergraduate, Rich completed a masters degree in educational theory and worked as an ethnographic researcher with an independent group of sociologists at CU-Boulder. He now studies human geography with an emphasis in science and technology studies. His scholarly interests involve the geographies of energy technologies and the contested meanings of wind turbines.

This fall, Garrett Graddy is teaching critical geography at University of Kentucky and finishing a dissertation on in situ agrobiodiversity initiatives in the Peruvian Andes and Appalachian US and the political-cultural ecology of seeds and their saving. She is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Politics at Carleton College in the spring.

Rebecca Lave is an Assistant Professor in the Geography Department at Indiana University. Her work combines political ecology and STS to study the political economy of environmental science. She has published in journals including Science, Social Studies of Science, and the Journal of the American Water Resources Association.

Matthew W. Wilson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Ball State University, with research interests across political, feminist, and urban geography and science and technoculture studies, interfacing these with the more specified field of critical GIS. He studies the use of geographic information technologies in representations of the urban and the environment, with more specific interest in locative mobile technologies and the proliferation of user-created, Internet-based socio-spatial data.
SESSION 23: POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT

1) “Sustainable development as social regulation: university science parks and the neoliberalization of higher education”

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, many geographers, economists and political scientists turned to regulation theory in order to explain the persistence of capitalism in the face of the structural crises associated with the transition away from Fordism. Although the regulationist approach largely fell out of favor in recent years, many of its conceptual tools and approaches have been integrated into a broader economic geography. More recently, however, the regulationist approach has experienced a resurgence, especially as a way of understanding the current economic crisis.

Although regulation theory has most often been applied at the scale of the nation-state, recent work by Vallier and Wood (2010), among others, argues that regulation theory can be seen as a valuable theoretical lens through which to analyze and theorize particular local and regional economic development strategies. This paper takes up such an approach, which is contextualized through a case study of the University of Kentucky’s Coldstream Research Campus, a high-tech science park and business incubator founded in 1988.

Coldstream, like other university research parks, was designed to imitate the successful experiences of Research Triangle Park in North Carolina and the Stanford Industrial Park in California, in promoting universities as key actors in economic development through the commercialization of academic research. Since its inception, Coldstream has struggled with financial solvency and has enjoyed limited success in its stated mission. Instead, it has been used primarily as a means of involving the university in various land acquisition and property development ventures.

With the introduction of a new master plan and series of design guidelines in 2009, the Coldstream Research Campus began to deliberately emphasize its transition towards a model of sustainable development. Such plans came under heavy criticism because of their lack of specificity and the opinion that they were simply examples of greenwashing. Using insights from regulation theory, these new discourses about sustainability are viewed as one aspect of a larger, fluid, ‘post-Fordist’ mode of social regulation. Coupled with the continuation of longstanding discourses about innovation and entrepreneurship, it is argued that these broadly post-Fordist discourses act to support the decidedly not post-Fordist model of land development that Coldstream employs.

Bio: Taylor Shelton is currently an M.A. student in the Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky. His research interests lie in economic geography, technology and regional development. Email: johntaylorshelton@gmail.com
2) Relocate Universities in a Post-Developmental State – Revealing the Paradox of Higher Educational Promotion Plan in Taiwan

During the early 1960s to 1990s, Taiwan and other Asian newly industrialized countries had experienced accelerating economic growth – once listed as one member of the four Asian Tigers\(^1\). The state-led developmental model accompanying with intense cooperation between public and private sectors successfully forged economic miracles around these peripheral countries/areas. These relative development projects were deemed to promote the domestic economic situations and enhance the international competition capacities of key industries, such as IC and LCD industries. However, this developmental state model has faced severe challenges in the last two decades\(^2\). Declining economic performance struck against legitimacy of the central government while emerging domestic civil society as well as external pressure also pushed government to deregulate its control on several realms, such as economics, politics, and education. Since 1990s, dramatic transformations of reducing government funding, diminishing barriers of university initiation, and increasing corporatization of public universities have occurred in the sector of higher education. The prior developmental model shifted to a more market-led model under the trend of neo-liberalism.

Discussion on neo-liberalism in geography has probed into the role of state that rolls back/out during different periods of deregulation and reregulation. If the focus turns on the development of neo-liberal projects in a post-developmental country like Taiwan, we could easily explore the controversial issues about its higher educational policy. The Taiwanese government endeavored to corporatize universities by reducing educational budgets on the one hand, and to push universities for higher rankings in the world by casting special promoting project of on the other hand. Universities that seem equal to some intriguing terms of excellence/innovation/knowledge have been represented as new panaceas for development policies and refreshing figures that offset the image of atrophic economy. Based on the transforming period of Taiwan higher education, this paper will examine the different development models behind higher education policies and the reason why/how universities became the remarkable symbol of development.

**Bio:** Chunghsin Ho, PhD student, Department of Geography

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\(^1\) The other three countries are Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore.

\(^2\) There were three main reasons that challenged the developmental state model: democratization of domestic political condition since the mid-1990s, the rise of China, and the more competitive situation of world economy.
3) Place-based and Professionalized Philanthropy in Egypt

This paper examines the growth of the philanthropic sector in Egypt as part of the project of neoliberal development. It analyzes the context that enables the growth of corporate and private philanthropy in Egypt as well as recent trends in giving practices. Based on interviews with foundation directors and focus groups with grant recipients, I discuss their variegated attitudes towards this new institutionalized giving. Using examples from these foundations, I argue that place-based or geographically driven giving and the professionalization of giving practices in Egypt are changing the nature of poverty alleviation strategies. In the context of a decimated welfare state and a growing tendency for the private sector to become involved in the development project, strategic resource mobilization, extensive data collection and poverty mapping have become crucial techniques for governing the poor.

Bio: Mona Atia, George Washington University


Over the last 15 years or so, the Southern Indian state of Kerala has witnessed the rise of social entrepreneurship. In a region known for its civil society activism and vibrant public sphere, neighbors were organized into small self-help groups (SHGs). Self Help Groups or neighborhood groups were formed by people living in a locality – those that shared certain commonalities – on the lines of caste, gender, class, etc. These groups, aside from providing a forum for addressing locally specific problems, also became an avenue for mobilizing and using finance capital, what is popularly known as microfinance. These SHGs started engaging in several types of manufacturing and commercial activities – producing goods for local needs as well as global consumption. In these activities, SHGs have been supported by leading banks in Kerala, often lending these SHGs up to five times their corpus (capital). Several scholars have lauded an important effect of microfinance and social entrepreneurship – empowerment, particularly of women.

This paper will attempt to place this local phenomenon in Kerala in the context of the emergence of finance as the most important form of capital as part of neoliberal globalization. Since the early 1990s, neoliberal trends have accentuated in India with the adoption of structural adjustment policies (SAPs) leading to privatization of public utilities and increasing withdrawal of state from social welfare. In Kerala, the effect of these structural changes has been crisis in local economies (for example, crisis of agriculture in Kuttanad region of Kerala, crisis of coir industry – a foremost export oriented industry in Kerala). Significantly, India seen high levels of economic growth during this time period. Considering the profusion of finance capital as part of neoliberal transition may contribute to a better understanding of this seeming contradiction.
Against this background, this paper – based on field research conducted during 2009-2010 – will attempt to explain the role social entrepreneurship plays in global capitalism. More specifically, this paper will attempt to understand local specific forms of development – in the form of social entrepreneurship – in the context of recurring crises of (profitability) finance capital on a global scale. Aside from the requirement of global finance capital to keep profit rates high, an important local factor that contributes to the increasing acceptability of microfinance in Kerala is the fact that often lending rates (while higher than normal rates) are significantly lower than the lending rates of informal money lenders that operate in rural areas. This paper will analyze the phenomena of microfinance and social entrepreneurship within this local/global dialectic.

**Presenters:** Dr. Ajay Panicker (see bio above) and
Sudarshana Bardoloi
Doctoral Candidate in Geography
York University, Toronto

Critical perspectives on communities and conservation consistently critique idealist notions that communities are bounded, homogenous and static entities. Within political ecology, scholars have instead argued that communities are far more complex than we expect them to be, and a better understanding of the institutional, identity, and cultural politics of groups is essential for creating just and meaningful collaborative conservation. This paper argues that while such approaches represent an important intervention in environmental politics, they do not push their material critique far enough and thus remain trapped within the idealist notions they disparage. Specifically, there has been a tendency to treat collaborative processes as disembodied conjunctures of power, knowledge, and social norms and as a result the actual practices of collaboration—the ways that groups come together and pull apart both physically and emotionally—have received insufficient attention. Using examples from small-scale conservation and development projects in Southern Chile, I explore the emotional and embodied ways that group formation happens. I contend that putting the practices—rather than cultural politics—of group life first allows us to see the emergent qualities of togetherness that are often lost in many political ecological critiques of community. Deepening the materialist critique of group life, I suggest, may help conservation theory and practice move beyond stale community politics and toward a more imaginative sense of collaborative environmental work.

Key words: affect, community, conservation, Chile, emotion, practice

Bio:
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2. Regimes of Ethical Value? Representation and Consumption in the Canadian Diamond Industry

Canadian diamonds are marketed as ‘fair trade’ or ‘ethical’ alternatives to increasingly notorious ‘blood diamonds’ from parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The application of these terms of gemstone diamonds is a departure from conventional notions of what counts as a ‘fair trade’
commodity, mostly because it suggests that ‘fair’ in this case means not buying a product produced in the global South, rather than making international trade more equitable. This paper analyzes ethical consumption as a ‘regime of value’ in order to investigate the specific matrices through which fair trade’s critique is absorbed and diffused. Through an analysis of representations of race and landscape I show how consumption operates as a system of social signification in which consuming subjects are positioned as moral subjects. While this contributes to the performance of racial and national identity in the first place, I also argue that historically accumulated symbolic power creates the very field of meaning within which the consuming subject is positioned. In this particular case that takes the form of Canadian national narratives of harmonious Anglo-aboriginal relations, images of northern Canada as the idyllic, timeless or normative core of Canada, and a clear but unspoken racial semiotics implicit in the advertisements. The Canadian diamond industry thus serves as an excellent case study for how the definitional parameters of fair trade are often subtly cajoled in ways that potentially diffuse the very purpose and critique of fair trade in the first place.

Bio:
Kolson Schlosser
Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Clarkson University
I am a political ecologist specializing in mineral resource extraction in northern North America, with an emphasis on how those extractions intersect with broader scales of analysis. I obtained a PhD in geography from Penn State in 2007. I have published on oil politics in Alaska, the geopolitical implications of research on population-resource relations over time, and theories of bio-politics.

3. Political Practice and Performativity in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

While theories of performativity and performance have appeared in different strands of critical geographic research since the mid- to late-1990s, it is only in the past five years that researchers in political geography have adopted explicitly performative approaches. As a precursor to organized sessions on performativity at the 2011 AAG meeting in Seattle, this presentation describes the emerging research on political practice and performativity and explains how performativity provides a distinctive ontological lens through which essential geographic issues can be comprehended.

An empirical example taken from contemporary Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania illustrates the
potential of performative perspectives in critical political geographic research. During the 1980s and 1990s, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) and Allegheny Conference sought to construct a new identity for the Pittsburgh region in the aftermath of dramatic deindustrialization. The strategies of these institutions and an affiliated coalition of public and private sector actors exceeded ‘place marketing’, and relied upon the intentional performance of a new geographical imagination for Pittsburgh as a post-industrial city driven by the education and medical sectors. I argue this episode reflects a series of performative actions, whereby a new political identity was forged for the region.

**Key Words:** Geographical Imaginations; Urban Boundaries; Critical Political Geography; Performativity; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Bio:**
Dr. Michael R. Glass, Urban Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh
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4. "The intricate subject of communism"

A critical reading of Alain Badiou's newly translated *Theory of the Subject* serves to argue for its importance to Marxist geography over and above the study of capital flows. Badiou derives from Marx only revolutionary politics via Lenin and Mao, saying little about political economy, urbanization, displacement, exploitation, deportation, climate change, and other geographical issues. Though communist politics does indeed require introducing the nonnecessary status of political economy insofar as communist affect emerges from belief more than rationally constructed knowledge, geographers are correct to reproach Badiou for his anti-empiricism: without any empirical grounding communist subjectivity remains idealistic.

**Bio:**
Arun Saldanha
Department of Geography
University of Minnesota

5) **Capitalism Is a Waste of Time: Godwin, Malthus, & the Ideology of "No Alternative"**

This paper explores the contemporary relevance, for radical politics, of a now largely forgotten conversation between anarchist William Godwin and Thomas Malthus, early pioneer of the notion that there is “no alternative” to capitalist class relations. Godwin argued that the
essence of a society could be found in an examination of the uses to which its collective labor power was put, and that the configuration of the social division of labor found in the England of his day both reflected and guaranteed the reproduction of the crushing poverty of the vast majority. He asked his audience to imagine society’s potential to organize its labor for the purpose of achieving universal comfort and leisure. In a reply that was broadcast, Fox News-style, to the masses, Malthus argued that demography guaranteed the poverty of the vast majority regardless of the material content of their labor or the level of technique achieved. Writing for elites, however, Malthus argued that the maintenance of the scarcity on which capitalist class relations depend could not be left to forces of demography, but rather require manipulation of that object of Godwin’s attention, the social division of labor. The paper argues that while elites have long heeded Malthus, radicals, to our detriment, have forgotten Godwin, and that an examination of the squandering of labor power under contemporary capitalism, and the comfort/leisure potential of possible alternatives, should be a crucial component of a new anti-capitalist politics for the 21st century.

Bio: Jason Rhodes is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Geography at the University of Georgia. His interests include anarchism, political economy, & post-WWII processes of U.S. suburbanization.
SESSION 25: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

1) Alternative technology for onsite wastewater management and water governance: learning from a lakeside community

Water management problems have similar biophysical causes worldwide, yet the ways they get identified and solved varies across contexts. The water governance literature helps explain how political, economic, and social factors shape the practices adopted by water managers. One of its main contributions has been to identify several misconceptions about the role of scale in water governance, replacing them with less deterministic understandings of the roles of the national, state, and local levels.

This paper presents a single case study and explores it using theories advanced in the water governance literature. In New York, dozens of ecologically fragile lakes have been celebrated as drinking water sources and as sites for recreation; recently, people have found themselves literally ‘swimming in their own waste,’ as poorly managed household wastewater has been identified as one of the main sources of water contamination. This paper describes how the problem got framed and reframed over the past century, and the various management strategies used to address it. Drawing on interviews with environmental managers and dozens of lakefront residents, we show how this case manifests classic patterns in water governance. In addition, we identify two areas in which these theories might be expanded, specifically (1) the role of technologies and also (2) the scale of the household; for additional explanatory power, we suggest drawing on theories associated with science, technology, and society, and political ecology.

Bios:

Mike Dimpfl is pursuing a masters’ degree in Environmental Studies at the State University of New York - Environmental Science and Forestry. He is interested in the hidden geography of human waste in the modern western world, with a particular focus on toilet technology, the body as a waste-producing ecology, and the ways in which sociocultural attitudes about human waste influence freshwater resources.

Sharon Moran is a faculty member at State University of New York - Environmental Science and Forestry. Her areas of expertise include human dimensions of water, political ecology, wastewater issues, gender and nature, environment-society relations, and innovative technologies. She has a masters’ degree in political science and public policy from MIT and a PhD in geography from Clark University.
2) Politics of Scale in the Designation of Protected Areas in Karst

Although designation as protected areas is a powerful tool in the conservation of karst landscapes, designations are made via networks of actors - governments, national and international non-government agencies, academic institutions, special interest groups and local communities - operating at differing inter- and intra-sociopolitical scales. The different categories of protected areas occupy hierarchies that have implications both for protection and for human activities, and which reflect scalar contests over space and sociopolitical power. These relationships are illustrated firstly by a consideration of karst protected areas in Belize, Central America, and secondly by reference to the designation of karst landscapes as UNESCO World Heritage sites.

In Belize, which has the highest level of karst protection in Central America, karst protected areas have been established through government agency, non-governmental stimulus and community organization, sometimes through consensus but often through competition. Protection is profoundly influenced by scalar politics involving contests for space and authority between government agencies and individuals, NGOs such as the Belize Audubon Society and the Belize Zoo, community groups, industry and commerce.

Designation of karst as UNESCO World Heritage sites represents the pinnacle of the karst protection hierarchy. The current listing has gaps in geographical and environmental coverage, which IUCN recommends be filled. The global socio-political scale is not, however, easily reconciled with national and local priorities, which are themselves highly contested.

Keywords: Karst, protected areas, hierarchies, scale, politics.

Bios:
Patti Day is a student in UWM's Multidisciplinary PhD program, combining geography and information studies. Her research focuses on access to geospatial data.

Mick Day is a Professor of Geography at UWM, specializing in karst landscapes, their geomorphology, land use and conservation. His research focuses on Central America, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia and Wisconsin.

3) “The Leslie Street Spit: Ruins of a City and Its Surrounding Landscape”

The Leslie Street Spit is a five-kilometer long landmass that juts out into Lake Ontario, just south of Toronto’s old industrial lands. Constructed out of landfill and lake dredgates, this artificial landscape currently serves the city of Toronto as a dump site for construction rubble and also as a conservation area that is internationally recognized as a birding site. While the Spit is now
celebrated by Torontonians as a space for wilderness in the city, the true nature of this landscape is tied with the aggregate product cycle of Ontario since it is literally made out of the construction rubble from the city of Toronto. In order to better understand the aggregate cycle and its long term effects on the Ontario landscape, the material composition of the Spit was examined through a combination of fieldwork and archival research. To accomplish this, bricks deposited on the Spit during the years 1964 and 1980 were traced back to their original locations in, and beyond, the Ontario landscape. Tracing these materials back to their source locations reveals the dynamics of the aggregate product cycle and how the Ontario landscape has changed through time in response to urban development pressures. The flow of these materials from their source locations to their use in the city of Toronto and their eventual deposition at the Leslie Street reveals how the space relations of Ontario have changed, how aggregate sites are absorbed into urban frameworks, and how ecological restoration is used to justify permanent physical and chemical changes in the Ontario landscape. Using the Leslie Street Spit as a case study allows for a fuller understanding of how the extraction of aggregate material can shape a region through time.

Participant Bios:
Heidy Schopf, heidy@yorku.ca

Heidy is an Environmental Studies student at York University and is currently finishing her degree. Her academic interests include urban planning and design, ecological restoration, archaeology and urban development, and landscape prehistory/history.

Jennifer Foster, jfoster@yorku.ca

Jennifer Foster is an Assistant Professor at York University in the Faculty of Environmental Studies. Her areas of academic interest include urban planning and design, ecological restoration and habitat creation, environmental aesthetics, deindustrialized space, landscape ecology and political ecology.

4) Foreign fish: a regional urban political ecology of Asian carp and the Great Lakes

Asian carp have been in the waters of the Midwest for at least two decades, but they have recently come to the forefront of media and policymakers’ attention with their increasing proximity to the Great Lakes. While all of the states that border the Great Lakes are vulnerable to "invasion" by Asian carp through the Mississippi River watershed, the potential route through the Chicago Area Waterway System has led to growing calls for a “new Burnham Plan” to reverse Chicago's century-old engineering of the Des Plaines, Chicago, and Calumet Rivers. If these fish have existed in the Midwest for decades, why is it only now that they are gaining public attention, and why is
Chicago highlighted as the site at which drastic action must occur?

In this paper, I employ urban political ecology at a regional scale to posit two answers to these questions. First, there is the politics of scale, whereby politicians from adjacent states draw on the popular understanding of Chicago and Illinois politics as corrupt and self-serving to argue for a national-level solution in the form of Congressional legislation or actions by the Army Corps of Engineers. These same politicians charge that President Obama’s personal and political connections to Chicago and Illinois have kept him from already acting to save the Great Lakes, favoring Chicago-area economic development over regional ecology.

Second, there is the "unnatural" union of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds through the Chicago Area Waterway System. First installed to disperse sewage from the city down the Illinois River instead of into Lake Michigan, the system is best known for reversing the course of the Chicago River. It also includes a more extensive system of canals that provide multiple connections across the continental divide and support the agricultural and manufacturing sectors of the region. Closing or blocking off this system is argued by some to be the only permanent solution to keeping the invasive carp out of the Great Lakes, with the simultaneous benefit of righting the wrong committed against Nature by the City of Chicago a century ago.

**Bio:** Julie Cidell is a native of the Chicago area with Ph.D. in geography from the University of Minnesota. Currently, she is an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has published papers on military base conversion, airport expansion, the suburban logistics landscape, the geography of chocolate, and the political ecology of green buildings. She has also worked as a transportation engineer in Boston and taught physical geography in Southern California.

5) The Proliferation of Genetically Modified Foods: Exploring the political ecology of an American phenomenon

While the safety and desirability of genetically modified foods are still a hotly contested issue in the European Union and much of the rest of the world, consumers in the US have for years unquestioningly accepted the rapid growth of virtually unregulated GM agriculture. Recent events, however, have raised the question of a possible shift in the status quo. In August a federal court revoked approval for the commercial planting of GM sugar beets, and in the same month scientists documented the ‘escape’ of GM canola into the wild. The latter event seems a particularly poignant example of Latour’s concept of the proliferation of hybrids, but in general there has been far too little attention paid in the US to developing a political ecology framework for the analysis of genetically modified crops. This paper presents an initial attempt to apply...
political ecology toward an explanation of some of the key differences between European and American approaches to the regulation and adoption of GM foods. Using that analysis, I then explain why the recent setbacks do not signify a shift in US policy, but rather represent not much more than a small speedbump along the road to the continued dominance of GM crops in the United States.

**Bio:** Dr. Jean Lavigne has a BA in geography from Macalester College, an MS from Penn State, and a PhD from the University of Kentucky. She currently teaches environmental studies and geography at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University in Collegeville, MN.
SESSION 26: DIFFERENCE IN THE CITY

1) Urban Decline, the Prison Industry, and School Discipline: A Political Economy Perspective

This paper explores the political economy of the school discipline industry by placing school-to-prison pipeline research into a broader discussion of economic restructuring and New Right penology. Specifically, the research connects four central issues that are too often treated as disparate occurrences: 1) the decline of urban labor markets, 2) New right penological thought and the development of the prison industrial complex, 3) neoliberal school reform, and 4) school discipline policy creation and modification.

Recent school discipline policies, guided by a zero tolerance agenda and the reliance on removal as a disciplinary strategy are contested issue. In combination with neoliberal school reform efforts - high-stakes testing, increased enrollment in charter schools, militarization and corporatization of schools, corporate style school governance – current school discipline policies adopted by urban districts facilitate the growth and strengthening of the school-to-prison pipeline. The pipeline is a quasi-private school-based discipline industry that targets primarily inner-city public school student populations.

Concurrently, urban school districts educate youth for employment opportunities that often do not exist at the local level. Employment trends suggest that local urban economies are either not willing or unable to absorb poor youth into local labor markets. Yet, the prison industrial complex continues to grow, remaining profitable in the toughest of economic circumstances. Ironically, the school-to-prison pipeline’s steady growth closely mirrors the expansion of the prison industrial complex throughout the 1980s, albeit with a lag time of one decade. We are concerned with how impact of discipline policies on Black and Latino males, poor people, and inner city residents may profit rural towns and prison industry corporate interest by providing preparing school-aged youth for containment, signaling the disposability of urban youth populations.

The study explores this concern by seeking to understand the historical out-of-school roots of the school-to-prison pipeline. Framed as a youth counterpart (extension) to a prison industry, we argue that urban schools may actually prepares Black urban youth for containment (rather than labor) before they even reach adult working age. This research is primarily concerned with how urban public schools’ adoption of school discipline policies in the era of zero tolerance contributes to this tendency.

Our analysis focuses on Philadelphia and rural Pennsylvania’s labor market trends, school indicators of success, disciplinary incidents, and incarceration rates. Using these data, we explore the relations between school discipline systems and the prison industrial complex. Through understanding the historical roots of the contemporary problem of urban Black male youth marginalization, this scholarship seeks to contribute a more sophisticated understanding of how
disciplinary policies encourage educational and labor market exclusion and contribute to the incarceration crisis among young Black males.

Author Bios:
Decoteau J. Irby, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of Administrative Leadership and Urban Education at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His scholarship examines the cultural politics of urban education with focuses on school safety and discipline policy studies, urban school leadership, and education of black males. He is also a cofounder of AAKT Concepts LLC, a Philadelphia-based organization that promotes social justice through service, advocacy, research, and professional development. Email: irbyd@uwm.edu.

Matthew Birkhold, M.A. is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at Binghamton University in New York. His scholarly interests include Whiteness studies, critical social theory, and urban studies. His writings appear regularly in Wiretap as well as The Nation, Mother Jones, and Barbershop Notebooks. He is also founder of Political Education Outreach Collective. Email: Mbirkho1@binghamton.edu.

2) Gender, Race and Place Attachment in Historic Neighborhood Recovery

This paper seeks to trace the inner logic used by a community leader, towards her choice of a land trust for post-Katrina redevelopment of a historic Black community. I am interested in the social meanings used by the leader as reasoning through which to reassemble community via the land trust. In this sense, the land trust is not the glue that fixes what is broken, but rather, the glue is the process of reassociation, remembering and reassembling of the social which enables the land trust to become legitimate. Following two years of participant observation, open-ended interviews and archival research, I find that this community leader’s inner logics or repertoires of action are produced and reproduced through gender, race and place attachment narratives which together legitimize the land trust. I find that all three logics are reproduced through the process of creating and maintaining the social and physical neighborhood, where the neighborhood is the space of intimate daily life as well as a reflection of larger, macro-historical dynamics. Only in understanding the diachronicity of gender, race and place factors can we gain a better understanding of the theory in use by this community leader as she redevelops Black cultural, historical and environmental space.
Bio: Mia White

I am a second year doctoral student in the department of urban studies and planning at MIT, where I focus on urban sociology. I was recently awarded the Ford Foundation Predissertation Minority Fellowship and the National Science Foundation Predissertation Fellowship. I am interested in alternative development schemes such as urban residential land trusts and other non-traditional methodologies for reappropriating urban space, and the meaning systems used to legitimize them. In my research, I explore housing as a social institution and as a primary form for the reproduction of social relations over space. Themes for my upcoming general exam include the foundational readings in urban sociology, as well as theories of dystopia/utopia, community and the politics of development (citizenship, networks, urban political institutions). Originally from NYC, I am married with two children and reside in Cambridge, MA.

3) New Orleans as a Wonderland: Discussing new spatial imaginaries of race & thinking through analytical approaches

Spatial imaginaries of race, or the ways in which racial identity is understood and expressed within and through a space, have provided a framework for reading the immediate racialized effects of Hurricane Katrina. Specifically, Black spatial imaginaries have been used to explicate various conditions under which the city was sociospatially constructed. Scholars have also highlighted contributions of Black spatial imaginaries to the urban culture and stressed what is at risk of being lost to the city in the wake of the storm. However, the focus of this paper is with the limitation in thinking through contemporary or future issues of race in the new “The Crescent City.” Having been discussed as though fixed, the discourse around Black spatial imaginaries does not consider inevitable sociospatial and cultural shifts in the city’s recovery phase insofar as the creation of new imaginaries. While still valuable, I argue this limitation necessitates a re-examination of epistemological and methodological approaches within the existing framework to accommodate the post-disaster space. To contextualize my position, I will briefly review literature that demonstrates how Black spatial imaginaries have been utilized. Next, I will present observations that suggest an onset of a new or additional Black spatial imaginary and challenges it poses to the existing framework. I will conclude with María Lugones’ conceptualization of a “streetwalker theorist,” where I demonstrate the ways in which this perspective is particularly beneficial in addressing these challenges.

Keywords: spatial imaginaries, race, methodology, New Orleans, Hurricane Katrina
Bio:
Ingrid M. Butler, MA, Doctoral Student, Syracuse University, Department of Geography

Hailing from Franklin, Louisiana, Ingrid M. Butler is a second-year doctoral student in the Department of Geography at Syracuse University. Her research interests center on the ways post-disaster landscapes are navigated by marginalized groups. Currently, she is examining New Orleans in its post-Katrina recovery phase to investigate how the reproduction of both material and discursive spaces are reshaping racial groups identities.

4) Masculinities and Markets: Gender and Power in the Neoliberal City

In this paper I discuss the ideological, discursive, and material relationship between markets and masculinities in U.S. cities. To do so, I think broadly about masculinities and power, and draw upon in-depth research in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

My research findings are diverse, but I will focus on three points: First, neoliberal ‘creative city’ discourses forward a particular form of hegemonic masculinity. Second, neoliberal policies are absorbed and resisted at relational scales, particularly gendered and raced bodies and households. Third, neoliberal development politics produce and exacerbate social exclusions related to gender and race, but do not go uncontested. Together, these points underscore the nuanced ways that neoliberal politics hinge upon gendered and raced ideologies and practices, while simultaneously obscuring them. They also hint at the possibilities and constraints for transformative feminist urban politics.

Keywords: urban politics, neoliberalism, gender, race

Bio: Brenda Parker, bkparker@uic.edu

5) Immigrantification and City Government ‘Beautification’ in a Midwestern City

Our presentation tells the story of parallel forms of landscape changes and urban socio-spatial economic transformation in a Midwestern city. This presentation is based on original research conducted in the Columbus, OH neighborhood of Northland where we gathered information on how Somali and Latino immigrants instigated the revival of Northland neighborhood and how the city followed suit by creating and implementing a $29 million city beautification plan along Morse Rd, Northland’s main thoroughfare. The neighborhood of Northland was one of Columbus’ first automobile suburbs and home to what for many years was the city’s most popular mall, Northland. In 2002, Northland Mall closed in the face of the
construction of more fashionable malls and the surrounding neighborhoods and associated businesses began to decline. Subsequently, immigrant entrepreneurs opened stores and restaurants in vacant buildings culturally and economically spurring urban revitalization. Immigrant lead urban landscape changes were juxtaposed by city investment and the subsidization of corporate retail activities into the area. We theorize that the acts of the city serve as a mechanism to ensure that Northland remains a ‘smooth’ space which provides ‘safe’ access to white Midwestern consumers. In so doing we map long-term Northland residents’ perceptions of the socio-spatial changes that are occurring contrasted to how immigrants discern the changes afoot in the community—especially how the city spends the $29 million in beautification money.

**Presenters:** Jack Schemenauer, David M. Walker, John B. Krygier
Ohio Wesleyan University

**Bios:**
Jack Schemenauer is a fourth year geography student at Ohio Wesleyan University, Electronic Music Performer and Food Blogger

David M Walker is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology and Geography at Ohio Wesleyan University. Walker focuses on contemporary urban issues in Latin America where he has done extensive research in Tijuana, Oaxaca, and Mexico City, but has become recently drawn towards investigating social-spatial urban changes and immigration in central Ohio.

Dr. Krygier is a geographer at Ohio Wesleyan University with teaching and research specializations in cartography, geographic information systems (GIS), and environmental and human geography
SESSION 27: IMMIGRATION AND THE MIGRANT

1) Illegality at work: Deportability and the productive new era of immigration enforcement

Our goal in this paper is to identify how recent escalations in immigration enforcement and changes in migration practices affect the ability of the state to continue to serve two of its key ‘productive’ functions: protecting capital accumulation within industry and ensuring the state’s own political legitimacy in the eyes of the public. We draw on our ethnographic research on Latino migrant dairy farm workers in Wisconsin to examine the ways in which a group of migrant workers experiences the process of being enforced as ‘illegal’ bodies. We find that migrant dairy workers’ palpable sense of ‘deportability’ articulates with the specific structure of dairy work in ways that make the economically and politically ‘ideal’ migrant: compliant at work and invisible otherwise.

Author and Presenter:  Jill Harrison, Department of Community & Environmental Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison harrison@dces.wisc.edu

Co-author:  Sarah Lloyd, Department of Community & Environmental Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, slloyd@ssc.wisc.edu

2) "Police, Law, and Territory: Immigration Enforcement Practices in Non-Border Spaces"

"Undocumented immigration enforcement has served as a justification for increased internal police powers, representing a new geo-political logic to domestic security, safety, and control. Deportations have grown dramatically since the early 1990’s, from an average of 34,000 per year to an estimated 400,000 deportations by the end of 2010. While the US-Mexico border continues to be an important stage for immigration issues, localities far from the border have become increasingly, but unequally, integrated into the post-9/11 immigration regulation/deportation regime. At least sixty-seven 287(g) agreements are in effect across the country, including in non-US-Mexico border states such as Arkansas, Ohio, Virginia, Tennessee, and Georgia. This paper argues that the uneven development of immigration policing in these localities is due to two factors: 1) the variance in top-down formal agreements between federal and local agencies, and 2) the site-specific geographies of local law enforcement agencies. Policing in the U.S. context is characterized by overlapping jurisdictions, patchworks of ordinances and laws, and differing – even conflicting – theories of policing at various sites and scales. Using recent research from North Carolina (the state most heavily saturated by 287g policies) this paper will develop the two main points with an emphasis on the creation and governance of vulnerable (immigrant and non-immigrant) populations, as well as the differential outcomes for individuals caught up in
deportation proceedings. This account will be framed by a desire to deconstruct the uncritical notion of the police as a monolithic and undifferentiated force. While ostensibly about immigration enforcement, new law enforcement networks are likely to impact broader issues that interest critical geographers, including the neoliberalization of various scales of the state, mechanisms of social control, national citizenship in a globalizing world, and possibilities for contestation."

**Bio:** Austin Kocher is a MA student in the Department of Geography at the Ohio State University. His research focuses on undocumented immigration enforcement and the immigrant deportation process. Other research interests include legal geography, urban geography, geopolitics, and social theory.

3) **Mediating Arizona’s SB1070: negotiating the boundaries of immigrant inclusion in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**

Arizona’s controversial immigration enforcement measure, SB1070, has reignited the long simmering debate over immigration in communities across the country. Its critics contend that the law, in requiring local law enforcement to procure documents from those suspected of being illegal aliens, would lead to the profiling of Latinos throughout the state. The US Justice Department meanwhile filed a lawsuit on the grounds that immigration enforcement under the Constitution is a federal authority. Defenders of the law argue that the state must step in to fight the threat of illegal immigration due to the federal government’s incompetence in such matters. The debate over immigration also came to the fore in the months after the passage of SB1070. A large immigrant rights demonstration was held and several institutions proposed boycotts of Arizona businesses. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel’s (MJS) editorial board stepped back in to the discussion, issuing a series of editorials denouncing the law and calling for comprehensive immigration reform. A series of letters to the editor expressed mixed opinions about the legislation, with many claiming that Arizona has the right to enforce immigration because “it’s a real problem out there.” However, consistent with the discourse on immigration over the last fifteen years in the MJS, these letters reflect ambivalence about the presence of immigrants in Milwaukee. An analysis of this discourse reveals that Milwaukee’s new, mostly Latino, immigrants are likely to be accepted as members of the community so long as they are legal, hard-working, and self-reliant. This discourse is likely to lead to the differential inclusion of Latinos in Milwaukee – a racializing process that identifies Latinos as conditional members of the city – challenging efforts to advocate for social and worker justice under a more inclusive mainstream.

**Bio:** Jonathan Burkham, PhD Candidate, UW-Milwaukee, [Burkham@uwm.edu](mailto:Burkham@uwm.edu)
Research interests include: The political economy of immigration, remittances, development in Latin America (particularly Mexico), neoliberal governmentality, migrant transnationalism, Milwaukee's Latino community

4) ‘Where are you from?’ Citizenships, Belonging, and the Third World Woman

For transnational migrants, citizenship and belonging are complex. In living outside of their home nation’s boundaries, they negotiate new ways of political belonging, practices of citizenship, and, in many cases, form multiple allegiances. For migrants coming to the West from the Global South, race, gender, and colonial histories deeply influence their experiences, shaping how their inclusion and exclusion from services and society. In this paper I explore how the relationship between citizenship and Chandra Talpade Mohanty’s concept of the ‘Third World Woman’ in the experiences of transnational migrants. The category of the Third World Woman can homogenize women of color everywhere, but the identity also holds potential as an overarching symbol of oppression and collective action without losing the unique experiences and desires of different women. It is this potential that the category ‘Third World Woman’ provides that I explore. Through the lives of three Kenyan nurses living and working in St. Louis, I argue that, as Global South women in the West negotiate their new lives filled with new challenges, the category and identity of ‘Third World Woman’ serves as an important strategy for creating supportive networks that supplement substantive citizenship, offer support, and fill care deficits in their lives. Because of few if any integration processes at work and a long history of discrimination and deskilling of women’s labor from the Global South, transnational women consciously create informal support groups with other Global South-trained nurses, building on having both similar backgrounds and a shared experience of being an immigrant in the US. While the perception of them as Third World Women comes from outside influences, such as patients and coworkers treating transnational nurses as different and foreign, the women in my study also self identified as such and built strong friendships with colleagues based on this identity and shared experience.

Bio:
Caitlin.henry@utoronto.ca
I am currently a PhD student at University of Toronto. My research interests include transnationalism and the feminization of migration, care work, African diaspora, nurse migration, the home, and social movements and critical development. I am presenting work from my recently completed MA thesis on the migration of African nurses to the US, feelings of belonging, and the multiple meanings of home.
SESSION 31: CRITICAL NATURES II – CONFLICTING NATURES

Organizer: Political Ecology Working Group at the University of Kentucky
Chair: Jairus Rossi, Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky
Discussant: Richard Ballard, Richard Ballard, School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal

1) “Natural Neighbors: Indigenous Landscapes and Eco-Estates in Durban, South Africa”

In South Africa, new gated communities have begun branding themselves as “eco-estates,” “game estates,” “nature estates,” and “forest estates.” The marketing and consumption of nature has become prominent in the production and consumption of gated communities. A particular emphasis is placed on the use of native or indigenous plant species in landscape design. Suburbanites seeking to escape the increasingly mixed and threatening post-apartheid city are offered a chance to reconnect with nature in eco-estates. Where largely white elites often feel a precarious hold in the new South Africa, natural heritage offers attachment to place. These natural landscapes are highly selective engagements with the local. Nature-oriented gated communities offer spaces that exclude problematic plants and people alike. Yet, while attempting to capitalize on this new gardening trend, developers have risked alienating conventional gardeners of exotic horticultural plants. The result is a strategic accommodation of different material expressions of landscape.

Bio: Richard Ballard, School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal

2) “Spaces of Resistance: Urban Community Gardens in Inner-City Milwaukee”

Urban agriculture and community gardening are increasingly promoted as means to alleviate urban food insecurity, increase citizen participation, and build social capital for traditionally marginalized groups in resource-poor inner-city neighborhoods. Development of more equitable food systems is closely linked with social and environmental justice movements concerned with reducing institutionalized inequities. Community gardens can serve as spaces of resistance to such inequities by providing opportunities for residents to grow their own food and to shape their neighborhood environments. In this paper, we examine community gardens as a mechanism for increasing food access and citizen participation in Milwaukee’s inner-city neighborhoods. Urban community gardens have proliferated in Milwaukee over the past several years with support from numerous nonprofit community-based organizations. Qualitative research of community gardens in inner-city Milwaukee indicates that these gardens provide a variety of
social and health benefits to individuals and to neighborhoods. Although Milwaukee’s deindustrialized urban landscape contains abundant vacant land suitable for urban agriculture, there remain multiple barriers to the maintenance of existing community gardens and the development of new gardens. This paper aims to examine the contradictions in community gardening efforts in the inner-city, which while lauded as sites of resistance to poverty and food insecurity are also constrained by a dearth of resources and organizational capacity and by local government policies that are strongly shaped by neoliberalism and tend to prioritize market-oriented economic development.

Bios: Margaret Pettygrove and Rina Ghose, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee Department of Geography

3) “What (or who) ought I eat?: Towards an ethical biospheric political economy”

The current concern regarding food choices in American popular culture presents an opportunity for the environmental ethics community to find both relevance and a rare interested audience. The article suggest that currently circulating environmental ethics are not sufficient to address the general health of the planet’s biosphere, a subject under growing stress do to individual human choices, official policy, and capital circulation. As this is a positive rather than a critical project, the article briefly reviews those insufficiencies and then turns to the positive project of describing an alternative ethical framework which aspires to address this center of concern. The article utilizes geography’s openness to interdisciplinary work to synthesize three foundational concepts: a dialectic spatial ontology of life and the spaces it produces, an elaboration of Marx’s concept of value here extended to incorporate the life activity of all living beings, and finally a characterization of power and politics which again works to include all life and obviate human/biospheric dichotomies. The result is an ethical framework for a biospheric political economy.

Bio: Jeff Baldwin, Department of Geography, Sonoma State University

4) “Does God still Fly over this Country?: A Re-conceptualization of Core-Periphery Theories and Weberian Wordly Asceticism in Response to Increased Oil Drilling in Western North Dakota”

In order to remain the world’s sole hyperpower, the United States has a strong interest in controlling enough oil to fuel the technology necessary to keeps its economy strong. As much of the world’s oil is in OPEC nations, American oil companies must look for oil in remote and
unproven regions, such as the Niger Delta and the Polar ice caps. This leads to a frontier mentality in which oil-rich regions are treated as feudal periphery states where drilling is done without concern for the environmental and social welfare of the region and its people. Oil drilling in the Western North Dakota’s Bakken Formation, part of America’s original frontier, has not deviated from this pattern. While some have supported and profited from increased extraction in the region, others have chosen to resist practices that are damaging their local ecosystem and threatening their way of life. This paper will argue that this resistance is routed in the Weberian asceticism present in the non-Calvinist Protestant and Roman Catholic religions that are predominant among Bakken residents. Asceticism causes Bakken residents, who are largely subsistence farmers, to fight against grandiose notions of wealth and cling to traditions, despite these customs often being against their own self-interest. However, in the case of North Dakota we see a state government that is caught between its tradition-minded electorate and the ability to attract investor capital to a portion of the United States that is frequently passed over. This article concludes that despite strong opposition from local peoples, oil companies will use their power and influence to deplete all of the available resources.

**Bio:** Thomas Loder, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky
SESSIONS 32: CRITICAL GIS AND GEOGRAPHY I: A RENEWAL OF CRITICAL GIS?

Organizers:
Matthew W. Wilson, Ball State University, mwwilson@bsu.edu
Rina Ghose, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, rghose@uwm.edu

Paper session (scheduled before the discussion panel session):
Patti Day, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, p8d@uwm.edu
Eric Lovell, Ohio University, eric.j.lovell@gmail.com
Wen Lin, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, lin.wen@uwlax.edu
Jerry Shannon, University of Minnesota, shann039@umn.edu
Falguni Mukherjee, Sam Houston State University, falguniray@gmail.com

With the proliferation of online, locative media marking a period of 'neogeography' and producing 'volunteered geographic information' and the 'geoweb', what is the role of a renewed, critical GIS? This paper and panel shall discuss the intersections of critical geography and GIS, across a broad range of scholarly activities, including: theories/concepts/frameworks, research designs and methodologies, practices and participatory engagements, and pedagogies. We hope this session draws critical geographers working with geographic technologies in fields such as critical health and wellness studies, poverty studies, decision-making in local governments, population studies, privacy, ethics, and techno-positionalities, GIS use in development, studies of intersectionality, participatory GIS, qualitative GIS, etc.

Papers and abstracts:

1) Access to Geographic Information, Justice and Power
   If information is power, whoever controls information, controls power. Therefore those who are using legal mechanisms to control access to geographic information have power over those who do not have access. According to the U.S. Supreme Court (Island Trees School District v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853, 1982), the Constitution presupposes that the free flow of information between the government and the public is essential to maintaining an informed citizenry, which in turn is essential to holding governments accountable. However, some local governments continue to use various legal mechanisms to limit public access to spatial data, and this in turn can potentially disrupt this balance. Using Peter Drahos' interpretation of John Rawls' main question “What is the most appropriate moral conception of justice for a democratic society?” (Rawls, 1971) I will
examine the philosophical aspects of intellectual property and access to geographic information. The use of Rawls’ principles to understand intellectual property in geographic information provides a unique lens through which to evaluate the ethics of balance in the law. At present, it is not known where power relationships reside in data sharing. In Wisconsin it is generally assumed it is not legal under current law to license or copyright geographic information, although there are many interpretations by GIS professionals. This paper will present the use of intellectual property control mechanisms in Wisconsin by local governments over time, examine who is controlling access via these mechanisms and therefore controls power, and examine Rawls’ principles of justice in relation to geographic information access.

Bio: Patti Day is a PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

2) Opportunity, Mobility, and Uncertainty: A PGIS Approach to Understanding the Spatiotemporal Dimensions of Pastoral Resource Access in Northern Tanzania

The practice of livestock management is an important livelihood practice across all stretches of the globe. In semi-arid and arid parts of East Africa, where livestock are not only major socioeconomic components, but also play predominant roles in food security and are economic units raised by humans as stores of wealth, access to suitable forage and potable water is critical for the sustainability of the mobile, pastoral livelihood. Within the Kilimanjaro region of northern Tanzania, increased climate variability and the ever-growing bias towards farming are issues that challenge the future of pastoralism. This research employs a critical GIScience lens and a PGIS methodology to understand the spatiotemporal dimensions of Maasai pastoralists’ access to natural resources. The PGIS methodology is based on a mixed-method framework, which relies on participatory workshops, personal narratives, household surveys, and participatory mapping exercises to construct community-based maps and qualitative spatial datasets. This presentation will report specifically on the participatory methods and the effectiveness of personal accounts in establishing a qualitative database of herder’s time-space itineraries. It is hoped that spatiotemporal analysis of pastoral mobility will help the local community better understand the future uncertainties associated with the practice of pastoralism.

Bio: Eric Lovell is a 2nd year master’s student in the Department of Geography at Ohio University, located in Athens, Ohio. With a primary focus in East Africa, Eric’s academic interests include: critical GIScience, GIS and Society, political ecology, pastoralism, and the role of GIScience in climate change research. Eric spent the summer of 2010 in the Kilimanjaro region of northern Tanzania as the GIS research assistant on LKCCAP (Local Knowledge and Climate Change Adaptation
Project), a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project, grounded at Ohio University. While working as a research assistant, Eric also conducted field research for his thesis, which employs a participatory GIS (PGIS) methodology to assess the spatiotemporal dimensions of pastoral mobility and resource access. Eric is currently working on his Master’s of Arts at Ohio University and hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in the fall of 2011. Eric received his Bachelor’s of Arts in Geography from West Virginia University in the spring of 2009.

3) ‘Seeing as participating?’ Complexities of neogeographic practices and the changing citizenship in China

The recent emergence of neogeography or volunteered geographic information has drawn increasing attention in GIS research on the mutual impacts of geospatial technologies and society. However, with a few exceptions, the discussion has been largely focused on the impacts of neogeographic practices on the technical and social landscape. This paper seeks to contribute to this literature by revealing the complex interplay between the emerging neogeographic practices and the changing citizenship in China. In what ways have these neogeographic practices been informed by, as well as constituted, the evolving and dynamic citizen identities in postsocialist China? The changing and multifaceted citizen identities are embedded in specific social, economic, and political contexts. These identities are also imprinted by the development of Internet technology and the production of, borrowing Zook and Graham’s term, “DigiPlaces”. In particular, a new form of public participation has emerged that is characterized by individualized and decentralized digital “monitoring,” in response to the hegemonic state power and the information censorship in China. This form of participation can be underlined by a popular expression on the net: “Onlookers to change China.” The changing citizenship in turn shapes forms of neogeographic practices and spatial knowledge production in China.

Bio: Wen Lin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Earth Science at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. Her research interests include Critical GIS, implementation and usage of GIS in urban governance, and GIS applications in environmental studies.

4) Paths in the sand: Urban food deserts, qualitative GIS, and a relational sense of place

This paper responds to the call of Cummins et al. (2007) that research linking place and health rely on a more relational, multi-scalar approach, citing Massey and Harvey among others who have advocated this conceptualization of place. The paper focuses specifically on studies of urban “food deserts,” neighborhoods with little access to fresh, healthy foods. Empirically, food
deserts have largely been identified through GIS-based spatial analyses, relying on distance buffers and network analysis to determine distance to the closest healthy food source, usually a supermarket. Beginning with a brief review of existing food desert research, the paper uses Kwan’s work on geo-narrative (Kwan & Ding, 2008) and Matthews et al.’s similar work on geo-ethnography (Matthews, Detwiler, & Burton, 2005) to outline a research program using qualitative spatial data on consumers’ food choices to supplement this existing food desert methodology. Rather than relying on top-down analyses presuming immobile residents and culturally neutral food sites, this comparatively bottom-up approach takes residents’ cultural preferences, past and present mobilities, social attachments, and active strategizing more seriously. It also strengthens understanding of social forces including disparities linked to race and gender as they are experienced in everyday practice. Discussions of urban food insecurity in western Europe, Canada, and the United States have increasingly been focused around the presence of food deserts (or lack thereof). These studies have had varying results from city to city, in part due to differences in growth and segregation patterns between metropolitan areas. Differing methodologies have also shown varying results, with one recent project finding “oases” in supposed food desert (Short, Guthman, & Raskin, 2007). Still, in political and activist discourse, food deserts have become a common rallying point, and initiatives to address them have ranged from small farmers’ markets to big box retailers. This is especially true in Chicago, the site of the author’s proposed doctoral research, which will draw upon the methodology outlined above to examine the impact of two new Wal-mart stores on residents’ food security and study how food deserts and research on them have been taken up within the city as objects for political action.

Bio: Jerry Shannon is a Ph.D. student in Geography at the University of Minnesota. His research interests include food studies, urban development and inequality, political and cultural geography, and GIS.

5) Complexities in GIS spatial knowledge production in Dane County, Wisconsin

The process of GIS spatial knowledge production within planning organizations is quite complex. This study examines GIS construction as a process that is shaped by the societal mores, institutional norms and political conditions as well as the internal organizational environment. Drawing upon a diverse body of literature from GIS diffusion and implementation studies and GIS and Society and empirical findings from Dane County this study follows a framework that explores external and internal contextual factors that shape the county’s GIS spatial knowledge production. Dane county of Wisconsin is selected as a study site as it exhibits a very robust countywide GIS practices, and is considered a regional leader in GIS development and use within planning context.
The county has a long history of integrating land information and GIS, with various county departments making innovative use of GIS and spatial technologies. The presence of both the state capitol of Madison and a premier research university provides it with unique opportunities and resources. This article specifically focuses on the role of the Land Information Office (LIO) that acts as the central coordinator of GIS activities in Dane county. Certain scholars emphasize the importance of a central coordinating department for GIS functions within an organization. This study examines the implications of establishing such a central GIS unit on the overall GIS functions of the county. It also explores the role of external contextual factors that shape the role of the LIO office as the central GIS coordinator and its repercussions on the county’s overall GIS spatial knowledge production. The article contends that an organization’s GIS spatial knowledge production is shaped by the political atmosphere and representation of department heads which in turn influences inter departmental dissemination of GIS and spatial technologies.

**Bio:** Falguni Mukherjee is an assistant professor at Sam Houston State University.
SESSION 33: FINANCIAL CRISIS I

Organizers:
Chris Muellerleile, Ph.D. Candidate, UW Madison (cmuellerleil@wisc.edu)
Leigh Johnson, Ph.D. Candidate, UC Berkeley (leighjohnson@berkeley.edu)

Discussant:
Phil Ashton, Professor of Urban Policy and Planning, University of Illinois-Chicago
pashton@uic.edu

Motivation:
Three years after the start of the global credit crunch and the subsequent financial crisis and near meltdown in 2008, there is a growing, but limited (in size and depth), critical geographic literature on finance, financialization and financial crisis. By critical we mean work that at least tangentially, if not directly, questions the underlying assumptions, histories and discourses that shore up the financializing economy while also engaging with the particulars of financial practices. If new financial paradigms have been forged at moments of crises in the past (French et al 2009), what might a geographical perspective illuminate about the present? Can we discern elements of a contemporary reinvention, or a simply a buttressing of the pre-crisis model? In any case, what might be the elements of a geographical critique of finance that poses questions of politics, distribution, and equity (Harvey 2010) while also acknowledging the material abiding powers (and possibilities) of financial logics? This session aims to elaborate existing work and promote further research in this field.

Presentations:

1) Bidding for Big Business: Something New or More of the Same?

In light of the ongoing economic turbulence that is impacting cities across the United States, we might expect that state and local governments would respond with policy changes, including potentially, changes to the dominant neoliberal urban economic development governance arrangements and funding strategies. Following from this assumption, this paper is a theoretically-informed analysis of some of the recent high-profile bidding wars for investors in Wisconsin. The highest-profile example was in 2009 when General Motors announced that it had chosen a plant in Orion, Michigan over ones in Janesville, Wisconsin and Spring Hill, Tennessee for its new small car line. GM accepted Michigan’s $1.2 billion incentive package, which Wisconsin’s Commerce Secretary characterized as “absolutely crazy” (compared with his state’s incentive
package of only $409 million!). My main research question is: to what extent have the bidding wars for big investors been adjusted to reflect the current economic turbulence? In particular, despite examples like GM, to what extent are state and local governments in Wisconsin rethinking their traditional neoliberal economic development position on bidding for big business. The paper takes a multi-scalar approach (focusing on the discourse and practice of government agencies, businesses, unions, etc.) in a number of recent high-profile cases like GM; the goal is to establish the major continuities and changes in economic development policies and efforts as a basis for problematizing the theoretical and public policy literature on urban economic development given the need to perhaps reconsider our conceptualizations of state and local government bidding for big business as a result of changes associated with the ongoing economic turbulence.

**Bio:** Linda McCarthy is an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a faculty member of its Urban Studies Program, and a certified planner. Her research activities focus on urban and regional economic development and planning in the United States, Western Europe, and China. Her recent work has been on regional cooperation, competition among localities for private-sector investment and jobs, the globalization of the economy, the automobile industry, and brownfield redevelopment. She has received research funding from a number of sources including the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the US Department of Commerce, and the National Natural Science Foundation of China. Her publications comprise scholarly articles, book chapters, agency reports, and books, including *The Geography of the World Economy*, with Paul Knox and John Agnew, and *Urbanization*, with Paul Knox.

2) **The co-production of mortgage-backed securities: information, design and credit rating in structured finance**

The securitization of residential mortgage loans started a number of decades ago in the US, but was nonetheless said to be at the origins of the global financial crisis of 2007-20xx. After briefly discussing the history and geography of securitization, this paper focuses on the securitization food chain in New York City, including mortgage loan originators (lenders), securitizers such as investment banks, and credit rating agencies. Based on in-depth interviews with people who were (and in a few cases, still are) working in NYC’s securitization food chain, evidence is presented of how RMBS and CDOs were designed or “fabricated” by investment bankers in cooperation with credit rating agencies. Mortgage loan originators were merely seen as “suppliers” of “stuff to dice and slice”. In this “fabrication” process, RMBSs and CDOs were “optimized”, “upgraded” or “maxed out” in order to sell as many securities or obligations with a AAA-rating as possible. The rating agencies were dependent on information provided by the securitizers who, in return, were not
really interested in most information that originators could have supplied. The paper ends with a discussion on the importance of information and argues that securitization per se was not the problem, but that securitization through the private label channel got out of hand when RMBSs and CDOs became fabricated through the cooperation of securitizers and credit rating agencies that ignored the fundamentals of mortgage lending.

Bio:
Manuel B. Aalbers, Ph.D., Researcher, Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam, M.B.Aalbers@uva.nl

3) Conditions not of our own choosing: labor geography, labor’s agency, and the contemporary restructuring of employment relations in the U.S. automotive industry

This paper examines the contemporary restructuring of employment relations in the U.S. auto industry in order to explore methodological gaps in Marxist geography and critically assess the developing field of labor geography. The puzzle at the heart of this paper is the fact that the United Auto Workers union, legendary for its historic role in securing a “middle class” standard of living for industrial workers, is now collaborating with the Detroit Three (General Motors, Ford, Chrysler) to ratchet down the wages and benefits of its own members and intensify competition among them. Working within and against the Marxist tradition in human geography, labor geographers have emphasized that spatial organization matters to the operation of capitalism, that geography is therefore an object of conflict and struggle between workers and employers, that place-dependence complicates singular notions of class interest, and that labor’s agency makes a difference to the making of the capitalist space economy. Building on these insights, labor geography tends to emphasize the agency of workers and unions, as against the purportedly capital-centric understandings of Marxist geography, a la Harvey. While acknowledging that workers (and capitalists) make space in “conditions not of their own choosing,” labor geography has tended to skirt around Marxist approaches to the class relation, the imperatives of the accumulation process, and the capitalist state that might shed light on these “conditions.” Its preferred objects of study are socio-spatial actors, notably governments, firms, and unions. This paper argues that understanding the role of the United Auto Workers in the present restructuring process requires a theoretical reunion of Marxist geography’s more abstract conceptual framework with labor geography’s more concrete objects. Despite significant achievements, labor geography remains haunted by the failure of Marxist geographers to advance a methodology for bringing the abstract concepts of Capital (and The Limits to Capital) to the center of concrete research.
Bio: Marc Auerbach is a former transit worker and union activist. He is now a PhD student at The Ohio State University.

4) “Our Hope Begins as Grief”: Financial Crisis and the Transformation of Work in the Twenty-First Century American City

The financial crisis that has gripped the United States for the past two years has hit American cities hard. This has been the case not only for the “Rust Belt” cities – including Milwaukee, Cleveland, St. Louis, and Detroit – but also urban areas that many observers believe have successfully made the transition from industrial to post-industrial centers, such as New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. In the face of record foreclosure rates, unfinished construction projects, abandoned office buildings, and vacant city blocks, it is not surprising that some are coming to question the future of urban America.

Yet this moment of crisis may also be a moment of opportunity. Efforts to address the realities of economic collapse have led to a rethinking of what work in the urban context entails, and our paper will focus on the changing relationship between labor and the built environment of the city in the twenty-first century. This relationship is marked by both intellectual and spatial characteristics. Residents of many American cities are beginning to rethink not only “work” itself, but also the necessity of jobs, forms of labor, and concepts such as commodities and exchange. At the same time, this reassessment of work has also led to a re-imaging and re-ordering of the urban environment, as city residents are taking advantage of now-malleable understandings of urban space, design, and even ownership to influence matters of political economy.

There is now, for example, a burgeoning array of alternative markets and craft-makers within the nation’s cities and new small-scale manufacturing centers are springing up in places such as Brooklyn. Open-air markets are now found in many urban neighborhoods; they are no longer relegated to the poorest sections of a city. Perhaps most impressively, groups such as Milwaukee-based Growing Power (who also operate in Chicago) and Grown in Detroit have introduced economically sustainable farming to the urban environment. Such efforts provide a new model of urban redevelopment, one that not only dramatically affects the way people labor in the city, but also the physical characteristics of the urban fabric. Recognizing all of the above, we have been exploring and documenting such sites – and our presentation will allow us to present our findings.

Authors:
David Schalliol, The University of Chicago
Michael Carriere, The Milwaukee School of Engineering
5) We won't pay for their crisis: Grassroots responses to the financial crisis

In the last Great Depression, the labor movement didn't gain momentum in its response to the crisis until 2 to 3 years after the stock market crash of 1929. We are nearing that time frame in our crisis. As with the 1930s, a similar lag in resistance to the current crisis is evident, though stirrings of potential movements are increasing across the U.S.

From the student occupation movement against the budget cuts and tuition hikes brought on by state deficits which is in part due to state bond securitization schemes, to the Take Back The Land movement that has created a nationwide network of activists willing to use occupations to reclaim foreclosed homes from banks, the direct action responses to this crisis have emerged as initially distinct and disparate forces. The impacts of the crisis have been so far-reaching that linking various movements is challenging, though attempts at creating closer solidarities are developing. As an active participant in both the student movement and in housing struggles, I will provide an on the ground view of the activities that people are engaging in to respond to the crisis, and how the financial crisis created the hardships activists are fighting. I will also explain the interaction of the current economic disaster (in its longer-term context since the late 1960s) and the “disaster capitalism” experience specific to New Orleans that followed Hurricane Katrina. Rather than conclusions, I expect this paper to provide a starting point further inquiry into the intersection of economic and other disasters in the context of neoliberalism, and an appropriate response to such disasters from their victims on a local and national scale.

Bio:
Dylan Lee Barr, Undergraduate student, Department of Geography, University of New Orleans, dlbarr@uno.edu
SESSION 34: REGULATING BODIES

1) Discretion and Transgression in Performing Public Breastfeeding: The Case of Lexington, KY

In this presentation, I will discuss public breastfeeding within the Unites States in general, and public breastfeeding in Lexington, Kentucky in particular. In addition to analyzing state laws and breastfeeding statistics compiled by governmental agencies, I use in-depth, semi-structured interviews with Lexington women who currently breastfeed or who have breastfed in the past in order to ascertain: 1) why breastfeeding rates are so low in KY, and 2) the experiences of Lexington women who breastfeed or have breastfed outside of the home. I also use archival research to examine the history of breastfeeding, and discourse analysis in order to look at the ways that breastfeeding is constructed in contemporary popular literature on the subject. I posit that public breastfeeding must be spoken of and performed in a certain way in order to be socially acceptable (Butler 2006). Specifically, women must breastfeed in a discreet manner, or else they run the risk of being viewed as disruptive or transgressive. I look closely at the case of Brooke Ryan, a Lexington mother who was asked to cover up while breastfeeding her son in an Applebee’s restaurant, in order to illustrate this point. Additionally, I examine the ways in which sexuality surfaces in both pro- and anti-public breastfeeding arguments.

Bio:
Rebecca Lane, PhD student, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky
Co-editor, disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory, rebecca.lane@uky.edu

2) Unmapping the Geographies of Child Sponsorship: Discourses of Race, Space, and Belonging in the Promotional Materials of World Vision Canada

This paper explores the intersections between the construction of a benevolent, compassionate Canadian identity and the reification of so-called “Third World difference” in the child sponsorship materials of World Vision Canada. It argues that child sponsorship programs administered by Canadian charities are neo-colonial projects constructed to reinforce the privileged place of the Canadian donor in the world. Through the narratives and images of their campaigns and sponsorship materials, and through the encounters with the “Other” enacted therein, these programs produce Canadian donors (and, by extension, the nation) as particular kinds of subjects – ones that are modern, moral, healthy, (neo)liberal, benevolent, free, progressive and white. Maintaining this construction requires the production of an opposite, yet decidedly unequal, other – one that is, without Canadian intervention, doomed to a life that is primitive, degenerate, diseased, constrained, tradition-bound, savage, constrained, backwards, and
hopelessly racialized. It also requires the erasure of Canada’s own ongoing history of colonialism; a history that is distinctly at odds with the image Canada consciously projects to itself and the world. By tracing how the meanings inherent in child sponsorship materials are constructed, legitimated, and spatially organized, this paper illuminates the deeper links between these ongoing histories of colonization and the continued imagining of Canada as an innocent space.

Bio:
Michaela McMahon is a PhD student in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She holds an MA in Women and Gender Studies from the University of Toronto. Stemming from her experience as a communications and development professional in the NGO sector, her research focuses on the intersections of nation, development, (neo)colonialism, citizenship, discourse, gender, race, and space.
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3) The SCHIP’s “fetus option”: An intimate geography of the racial regime of citizenship
In 2002, the Bush administration’s Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, appended what is known as the “fetus option” to the State Children’s Health Insurance Initiative (SCHIP), as a way of allowing SCHIP’s extension to maternity services. The “fetus option” did not expand coverage to low-income pregnant women per se, as pending Congressional legislation would have done, but rather expanded the definition of a child, deeming a fetus “from conception to birth” to be a child eligible for SCHIP. The “fetus option” thus extends eligibility for prenatal services without regard to the immigration status of the mother. However, the SCHIP funds may only be used for fetal care. Any maternal conditions construed as not directly affecting the fetus are excluded from coverage. It also excludes postpartum treatment for mothers “because they are not services for an eligible child.” In other words, as a condition for states to receive federal funds for prenatal care provision, this stipulation creates a separate space of rights within the woman’s uterus, while excluding the rest of her body from legitimate claims to care.

The predication of federal entitlements upon the personhood of a fetus is clearly a threat to all US women’s reproductive freedom, and has been criticized by pro-choice advocates on this account. While in no way wishing to downplay the seriousness of this threat, this paper examines a different consequence of the SCHIP rule. It argues that the increasing prenatal coverage of undocumented mothers through SCHIP’s “fetus option,” rather than comprehensive maternal-fetal care, is part of the trend toward an increasingly exclusionary racial regime of citizenship across the Global North. In most affluent Anglophone countries, this has taken the form of exclusion of the children of undocumented mothers from birthright citizenship over the last thirty years. Given the
United States’ peculiar constitutional attachment to birthright citizenship, it has not been restricted here so far, which might be taken to suggest that the United States constitutes an exception to this trend. But while the continuance of the US’s formal citizenship assignment should not be overlooked, this paper argues that the US in fact participates robustly in this move toward racial exclusion through the social citizenship policy of the “fetus option.” This policy enacts racial exclusion in three ways: One, most straightforwardly, it reinforces the (nearly always nonwhite) undocumented mother’s exclusion from the polity of the United States. Two, the atomistic conception of human well being that underpins this policy, which disavows the dependency of the fetal and child citizen on the mother, legitimates that exclusion, and more broadly the raced disparities in life chances worldwide. Finally, it undermines the substance of the child’s citizenship via the exclusion of its mother. Given the current resurgence of anti-birthright citizenship discourse that figures the citizen children of undocumented mothers as dehumanized “anchor babies,” replacement of these terms with a guarantee of comprehensive care for all is particularly urgent.

Annie Menzel is a PhD student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Washington, on leave in Madison, WI during Fall 2010. Her dissertation work focuses on feminist theory, race, and US midwifery politics. Email: acmenzel@uw.edu

4) Sex, condoms and corporeal bodies: embodying, emulating and transgressing Swazi, Christian and gender identities in Swaziland

This paper examines the role of the corporeal body in the efforts of unmarried Swazi university and college students to balance sex—engaging in it or abstaining from it—with the desire to maintain multiple identities. On one level, the corporeal body serves as a site upon which society inscribes its morals, beliefs and expectations regarding sex, and these inscriptions have implications for the ways in which individuals personally experience sex—pleasure, shame, embarrassment, pride—and view others who engage in sex—normal, sinners, enviable. On another level, the material body is capable of physically embodying or projecting different socially constructed identities. When assessing whether or not an individual embodies a given identity, people rely heavily on the corporeal body—the actions it performs; the clothes it wears; its physical traits—and how that body compares to the socially constructed ideal of how a body embodying that identity should look and behave. Sex—abstaining from it; having it; partners chosen for it; condom use during it—is a bodily performance that carries the potential to reinforce or transgress different identities; it is a means of inscribing identities onto—or erasing identities from—the body. When it comes to sex in Swaziland, social expectations for bodies that embody certain identities—Swazi, Christian, woman, man—sometimes coincide, yet there are instances in
which the social expectations for these identities are at odds. This creates moments of discord for individuals seeking to maintain more than one of these identities. This paper details the different ways—relinquishing one of the identities; privately transgressing an identity while publicly emulating it; embodying an identity only in specific spaces or places—in which students attempt to reconcile the realities of sex with the disparate social expectations surrounding different identities and sex.

Author Bio:
Sarah E. Schwartz, University of South Carolina, Ph.D. candidate, schwarse@mailbox.sc.edu
SESSION 35: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE CITY

1) “Not Quite Everyone: Entanglements of Public Participation in Milwaukee’s Brownfields Redevelopment”

In spite of the increased governmental emphasis on public participation in brownfields programs since the mid-1990s, most research finds that such participation is minimal and is largely occurring through inadequate mechanisms for participation. Yet, less research explores why participation in brownfields redevelopment is limited and constrained. By focusing on two major recent Milwaukee brownfields redevelopment initiatives -- the Menomonee Valley and the 30th Street Industrial Corridor -- I explore how and why participation, and in particular, the participation of low-income/minority residents, is limited and constrained in Milwaukee’s brownfields redevelopment. I show that impediments stemming from government and non-governmental organizational culture, mission and attitudes, as well as the prevalent professionalized and exclusionary planning approach are key to (re)producing an inadequate environment for community participation in two of Milwaukee’s brownfields projects.

While government agencies rely on local non-profit organizations for encouraging and enabling public participation, neither of these partners is committed to facilitating meaningful and direct resident participation in the decision-making process. Consequently, participation practice is minimal, ineffective, exclusionary and expert-driven, while (marginalized and minority) residents remain clearly absent. In particular, I argue that by adopting the predominant planning approach, the non-profit partners significantly reduced the opportunity for local residents and groups to challenge the constraining structure and practice of community participation. Yet, I show that minimal but nevertheless influential participation occurred in one of the initiatives -- the Menomonee Valley -- through highly selective and narrow organizational representation by the 16th Street Community Health Center on behalf of local residents.

Bio: Sandra Zupan, Geography Department, University of Kentucky
sandra.zupan@uky.edu

I recently completed a Ph.D. in geography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. My research interests primarily include exploring how demands for socio-economic and environmental justice
2) The Limitations and Need to Engage Low-Income and Minority Participation in Urban Environment Non-Profit Organizations

The cumulative effects of industrial waste, smokestack emissions and the dumping of hazardous materials began inciting community awareness and a call to action to address pollutants and their negative health impacts in the 1970’s. In time it became clear that although pollution was problematic, the effects were disproportionately burdening minority and low-income Americans. There is strong evidence to support the claim that minority and low-income populations are more impacted by pollutants then their white and/or higher income neighbors. However, a perception exists that assumes that these affected populations do not actually care about their environmental surroundings. This is often in conjunction with the seeming non-engagement of these populations in environmental non-profit organizations or a lack of pro-environmental behavior. Increasingly, non-profits are being looked to because the public sector may be pessimistic about the government’s ability to address the magnified expectations of a population in need. The purpose of this research was to examine the limited participation of minority and low-income populations in a particular environmental non-profit organization. The research will attempt to provide possible models for a variety of environmental non-profits to understand the limitations of the organization in addressing and engaging some of the most impacted populations. By not including all urban citizens in environmental problems and solutions not only are there negative environmental impacts but the population as a whole suffers.

Bio

Nadia Bogue received her M.A. in Geography from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Her research focuses include urban sustainability, fresh-water pollution, and non-profit organizations. She currently works for the 16th Street Community Health Center as an Environmental Projects Coordinator. Her job includes implementing sustainable community development plans and assisting in fresh water policy for Lake Michigan.

3) Desired Patina or Layer of Toxicity: Environmental justice discourses in revitalized urban settings

Recently, controversy arose over a mixed-use project proposed for development on a brownfield site in downtown San Diego. The Unified Port District (UPD) requested a 1,000-foot buffer zone between the project and the port’s 60-acre site, arguing the hypothetical high-income residents living in the project’s condominiums would complain about port activity. According to the UPD, their claims of environmental injustice would restrict port operations; an economically untenable option. The port’s request raises numerous questions about how claims of
environmental injustice are considered in the post-downtown-decline era.

This paper explores the intersection between revitalization and environmental justice through an examination of the discursive formations of the environmental and environmental justice movements. Environmental justice represents an acknowledgment of the disproportionate siting of environmental hazards near lower-income and minority communities. Redevelopment of industrial sites is fostering occupation by higher income groups of landscapes that maintain a patina of degradation. These groups have drawn upon the language of the environmental justice movement to enable cleansing of undesirable land uses in their revitalized urban communities.

Drawing from Foucault’s positivity of discourse I explore the extent to which each movement was/is talking about the same thing, and discuss how the current appropriation of environmental justice language by higher-income groups could be interpreted as a representation of pre-existing power relations; in a spatial/social context that has yet to be considered. In the main this exploration of power relations is aimed at comprehending how the appropriation might alter the basic understanding of environmentalism and environmental justice, and to determine if the actions of higher income groups in revitalized urban landscapes might mitigate the impact of claims of injustice for the communities that fostered the environmental justice movement.

**Key Words:** Environmental justice, urban revitalization, discursive formations

**Bio:** Brenda Kayzar completed her Ph. D. in Geography in 2007 in the joint program at San Diego State University and University of California, Santa Barbara. She joined the faculty at University of Minnesota that same year. As an urban geographer her interests stem from a desire to comprehend the economic, political, and social aspects of urban change. Issues related to revitalization in central cities have been at the core of her work where she examined the impact of policy on redevelopment efforts and existing residents and businesses. She also explored how perception and expectation shape resident behavior in mixed-use, post-industrial landscapes, prompting her current work focused on environmental justice.

**Topical Areas:** Gentrification and Urban Struggles, Social Movements and Dissent, The Right to the City, Urban Sustainability, Space, Place, and Power

4) **Environmental equity and park maintenance in Milwaukee: The changing role of volunteers**

Access to well-maintained parks has emerged as an important environmental justice issue. Previous research conducted in Milwaukee has shown that there is a disparity in terms of both green canopy cover in the largely African American central city as well as the maintenance of parks.
At the same time, there is a growth in the number of volunteer park organizations in Milwaukee County. This study will investigate the hypothesis that the reliance on park groups may contribute to a growing disparity in park maintenance in areas where park groups may not exist. Milwaukee is among the most racially segregated cities in the country. While segregation indices are focus on housing, the impacts are felt in the quality of life of central city residents, including environmental quality. This study will focus on the potential reasons for the disparities in park maintenance throughout Milwaukee County. One potential contributing factor may be the presence of volunteer-based park groups in some parks, but not all parks.

This study will be focused on statistical analysis of 2000 census data, park organization location and local survey data. In all, this research will contribute to an area of the environmental justice literature that has received less attention, the maintenance and distribution of amenities in a metropolitan area.

Bio:
Kathleen Williams, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee,
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SESSION 36: RIGHT TO THE CITY

1) Mean Streets: Violence against unhoused person in public spaces

In U.S. cities, public space is more contested than ever as a result of the current foreclosure epidemic and economic crisis. As such, fears of increasing incidences of homelessness abound. This fear is not unfounded. Over the last two decades, the housing and homelessness situation in the United States worsened dramatically. Even while requests for emergency shelter have increased, cities do not have adequate shelter space to meet the need. Inadequate shelter space for the homeless (whether single or families) has left many homeless persons with no choice but to struggle to survive on the streets. In recent years, there has been an increase in punitive responses to homelessness. One such response is especially disturbing. For the last seven years, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has documented the rising numbers of hate crimes/violent acts against homeless people by those housed. In the state of Ohio, the number has risen from two violent acts in 2006 to twelve in 2007 (ranked fourth worst in the country), including the 2007 shooting of a panhandler asking for twenty-five cents. In 2008, the number decreased to five. In Cincinnati alone, at least 5 acts of violence were reported in 2009. The NCH has argued that this violence is due to cities' responses to homelessness where the city has portrayed homeless people as a cause of unemployment, decreasing property values, or vacant storefronts. This paper explores the link between contests over public space and violence against unhoused persons in Cincinnati, Ohio. Arguing that legal restrictions on public space can create hostile feelings towards homeless persons, this paper examines how legal geographies affect the bodies of those who live on the streets. I use the case studies of two attacks on homeless men in downtown Cincinnati to frame this analysis.

Bio: Marcia R. England, Ph.D, Miami University, Department of Geography

As an urban, cultural and feminist geographer, my research interests are in three areas: access to public space; the politics of representations; and the socio-spatial regulation of marginalized persons. My current research centers on the regulation of public space and how it relates to violence against homeless persons.

2) “The End of Public Space!: Anarchist Direct Action and the Spatialities of Constituent Power”

Within geography and associated disciplines the past two decades have witnessed a flourishing literature on the decline of public space as a site of democratic publicity. From Davis(1990) “City of Quartz,” to Sennet’s (1976) “The Fall of Public Man,” to Mitchell’s (2003) “The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space,” the essential argument is that the
structures of contemporary urban capitalism are undermining the democratic functions of public space on which various and sundry movements for social justice stake their political strategies and claims. Although this literature has made very significant contributions to our understanding of public space, democracy, and power, I want to suggest that this work has rather systematically missed the ways that social movements themselves frequently contest the role of public space in political representation. In so doing I utilize a Deleuzian theoretical construct in order to demonstrate how public space operates as a socio-spatial machine for the production of liberal political subjectivities, and how this machinic process operates as a constraining force on many forms of radical politics that contest liberal categories and limits (Deleuze 1983). I then turn to Negri’s (Negri 1999) analysis of constituent and Constituted forms of power in order to analyze the ways that anarchist framings of direct action in urban space challenge the categories of “public space” and “the public” as normative and strategic socio-spatial tropes. I develop a theorization of “constituent space” as an analytical aid in thinking through the relationships between liberal public space and the spaces of anarchist direct action. I then argue that this concept is broadly applicable outside of anarchist politics as a corrective to the ideological nature of the “the public”.

In the end, my argument is not that public space remains unthreatened from neoliberalism, but rather that it is also challenged by the political imaginaries of radical anti-authoritarian social movements, and that this variety of antagonisms toward the public should encourage radical academics to consider more closely whether the “end of public space” is always a counter-revolutionary process.


Bio: Nathan Clough, ph.d. candidate, dept of geography, the university of Minnesota

3) Struggle over homeless encampments and the reproduction of local state power

The paper analyzes politics around homeless encampments that received little scholarly attention: in contrast to or, as I argue, complementary to revanchist politics against the homeless in the last decade there are several examples of city officials selectively tolerating and sanctioning tent cities (e.g. in Oregon and Florida). These different forms of managing some homeless are responses to activists and advocates struggles against diminished and inadequate social welfare
provision and further criminalization of the poor. Non-profit-organisations are stepping up to implement new temporary shelters: mobile or permanent tent communities. Without doubt a direct help to homeless I caution for more more ambiguous effects: do we have to reckon with legalized self-organized tent cities run by non-profit-organizations to become a sub-standard extension of the existing shadow state shelter provision? Following the shadow state thesis this case is not as clear-cut reminding us to the more complex functions and forms of the local state as many geographers increasingly recognize. I propose a Gramscian reading of the state and regulation to navigate between accounts of either (e.g. punitive) state or (e.g. benevolent) civil society. While one would suspect city administrations having an interest in enabling such cheap and self-segregated service provision manifold issues arise regarding land use regulations, property, municipal liability and community concerns that lead to the core of capitalist production of space. City officials are to enforce a state sanctioned socio-spatial order and thus highly reluctant to legalization of poor’s rights to space and community. Understood as integral state civil society and the (local) government agencies together through their struggle renegotiate the respective common sense of how to deal with homeless adequately. I argue that the legal challenges of advocates, the direct action pressure of movements, and the co-governing engagement of non-profit-organizations are the driving forces transforming the material and discursive terrain to settle new territorial compromises to deal with a crisis in homeless management. Drawing on the concept of governmentality I look at the subjectivities and practices that link survival and resistance to state restructuring form. These are the crucial microfoundations of new highly uneven forms of state craft: a regulatory project of selective il/legalization and in/formalisation of tent cities, as I argue. My case study is from Freiburg, Germany where I demonstrate how the struggle of an urban movement for space to realize their alternative trailer communities (Wagenburgen) introduced principles of self-organization, difference and autonomy into the local discourse that - selectively integrated - facilitated the legalization of two city funded homeless trailer communities. I refer this in-depth study to the recent developments around tent cities in the US to investigate different local pathways of emerging regulatory structures, logics, and relationships. I conclude by asking about the possibility of such “little” rights to sleep not only to become instrumental to an emerging post-welfare shadow state but about their potential as a process of commoning where people take (back) their right to the city.

**Keywords:** local state, regulation, homeless encampments, shadow state

**Bio:** Manuel Lutz, Doctoral student and DFG fellow, manuel.lutz@metropolitanstudies.de

Doctoral student at the Transatlantic Graduate Research Program (TGK), Center for Metropolitan Studies, Technical University Berlin
I graduated as a spatial planner in Dortmund, Germany with a diploma on the politics and laws around a contested mobile and unconventional housing form (Wagenburgen). For my doctoral studies I do research on the regularization and local politics of homeless encampments (tent cities) in the US in the context of welfare state restructuring. My special interest is to explore how these struggles of the homeless for "small" rights can be understood as a process of commoning and relate to respective social movements to take back the land. Located at the TGK Berlin-New York the research is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft (DFG) and supervised by Margit Mayer, professor of political studies at the J. F. Kennedy Institute of North American Studies, Free University Berlin.

4) Zoning Dissent: Public Space and the Regulation of Public Life

Since at least the 1800s in the United States, a primary way of controlling dissent has been through the regulation of public space. This paper identifies and analyzes the development of three stages in the regulation of public space in the United States: regulation as property, regulation as place, and, the approach that dominates today’s regulatory framework, zoning.

This paper attempts to understand the development of the zoning approach by tracing how space has been used in the regulation of dissent in each of the three periods. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the property approach dominated. Expressive freedom was generally determined by ownership of property. Since government was viewed as owning public space, authorities were given broad authority to control dissent. By the late 1930s, property-based rules gave way to what the U.S. Supreme Court referred to as place-based rules. While never explicitly defined, the introduction of place into the legal framework signaled an attempt to break free from the narrow confines of property law. At the foundation of the concept of place was the idea that citizens, rather than government, owned public space and it was government’s duty to manage it for the well being of all citizens. Two arguments were central to the concept of place: (1) that public space as established by custom, common usage, and culture was an appropriate venue for dissent, and (2) that public space not only provided citizens with a place to express themselves, but also allowed citizens to expose themselves to diverse ideas, which was seen as a vital part of democratic life.

This paper will argue that today’s zoning approach has brought questions of property back into the spatial regulation of dissent and fundamentally redefined place. This is achieved, first of all, through the categorization of space. Largely abandoning notions of common usage and culture, the zoning approach relies on the ability of government to categorize different types of public space that bring with it different levels of expressive freedom. But equally important, the
zoning approach also emphasizes individual expression at the expense of the societal need to have access to diverse ideas. The zoning approach, building on the notion of dissent as a public nuisance, does little to encourage citizens to engage with ideas they might consider contrary to their own beliefs. The zoning approach protects the ability of individuals to express themselves in a controlled space, but has little concern for how citizens might access or interact with those dissenting voices. It will be argued that both the categorization of public space and the turn away from the public nature of dissent have damaged public life.

Bio: David S. Allen, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

5) Criminal food: Food, space, aid, and death in the disciplinary city

“We’re going to help those who can’t help themselves and run those [homeless people] who are able-bodied and sound of mind out of our community. I want potential violators [of a new anti-food-sharing ordinance] to know, the mayor means business.”

-Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman

One of the fastest-growing activist groups in the U.S. (and beyond) is Food Not Bombs (FNB), which according to their website strives to prepare and share free “vegan and vegetarian meals with the hungry [...] to protest war, poverty and the destruction of the environment.” This is an instance of food provision to homeless and indigent populations that could be read as the end-state for enterprising, neoliberal aid; a non-governmental group that uses the resources of neither the welfare state nor the taxpayers to address the growing problem of hunger and provide aid to poor populations. However, FNB has been the target of local ordinances in many large US cities that have been enacted to restrict the ability for such groups to share food in visible public spaces. One particularly contentious conflict is taking shape in Las Vegas, Nevada.

What follows is work toward a research agenda that proposes an interrogation of the contours of (political/activist) food sharing, the conflict it engenders with the local state, and the ways in which law, biopower, and resistance collide in both the creation and containment of public space as it plays out in the case of Las Vegas. Why, for instance, is the work of FNB deemed threatening enough to the local state that it should be criminalized? Can we understand neoliberalism not just as a set of economic policies, but as something far deeper: an epistemological regime that enables the constructing, sorting, disciplining, and judging of populations in particular ways? What role does a system of biopolitics play in governing the neoliberal city? What are the implications on urban governance – and for the urban poor – in the
construction of the “deserving” and “undeserving” poor? And, are acts of governance that prevent the “undeserving” poor from engaging in those informal, \textit{ad hoc} arrangements of survival (such as showing up at an FNB food share) better read not as a biopolitical management of life through the staving off of mortality, but rather the management of death itself?

Is death, as Foucault supposed, “power's limit?” Or its new frontier?

**Bio:**

Jeremy Sorenson is a Ph.D. Student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. You may contact him at sorens24@uwm.edu
SESSION 37: AN INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL GEOGRAPHY AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

In the 1980s, the geography department at DePaul University went into decline. In 1992, Dr. Alex Papadopoulos was hired and set the department on a new growth trajectory. Given DePaul’s “urban mission,” that trajectory became fundamentally tied to promoting social justice across geography’s subdisciplinary range. From only one new faculty member in 1992, the department has grown to seven full-faculty members. Critical geography’s presence also grew through DePaul’s hiring in other areas, including International Studies and, most recently, Gender and Women’s Studies. Today, ten geographers engaged in critical geographical work are in full-time positions at DePaul. This roundtable serves as a means of introducing some of the critical geographical interests at DePaul.

Alec Brownlow – Gender and crime
Winifred Curran – Gentrification and service learning
Julie Hwang – critical GIS
Pat McHaffie – critical GIS and history of cartography
Sanjukta Mukherjee – IT, neoliberalism, and India
Heidi J. Nast – critical theory, fertility and reproduction
Alex Papadopoulos --
Maureen Sioh – psychoanalysis and finance
SESSION 41: CRITICAL NATURES III – PRODUCING ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND MANAGEMENT

Organizer: Political Ecology Working Group at the University of Kentucky
Chair: Patrick Bigger, Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky
Discussant: Abby Neely, Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison


Although the term “oekologie” was proposed by Ernst Haeckel in 1866, the field did not fully emerge in Western science until the 1890s. This new subject was initiated by botanists studying the evolutionary physiology of plants in their natural environment rather than in the laboratory. Early ecological studies about adaptations of plants and animals to their environment even served as a metaphor for how humans could adapt to, and improve upon, themselves and society. Scholarship on ecology’s roots has tended to be in the form of intellectual histories of scientists at elite institutions. Other works have examined the infusion of ecological ideas into a wide variety of settings, from the Civilian Conservation Corps to agriculture and land use planning, and this broader social context is key to understanding public interest in and receptivity to ecology and ecological ideas. Few monographs have documented how ecology has been taught, however, and even fewer examples exist of works that analyze ecology or ecology pedagogy at the precollege level. Although it is commonly assumed that the incorporation of ecology into high school curricula did not occur until the rise of the environmental movement in the 1960s, I will argue in this paper that a shift began two decades earlier. First, it can be traced to changing attitudes among a newly influential group of education policy makers about the purposes of science education. Secondly, the shift resulted from developments within the discipline of ecology itself, in which research in the subject became more connected to conservation policy. Ecologist Paul Sears predicted the importance of the discipline in 1964 when he called it “the subversive subject” for its potential to “endanger the assumptions and practices accepted by modern societies, whatever their doctrinal commitments.” If, as historian William Cronon also notes, ecology involves directly or by implication one of “our most systematic critiques of industrial society,” then understanding its emergence in the education of future generations is an important task in the face of growing concern over present-day issues like water shortages, habitat loss, climate change, and species extinctions.
**Bio:** Steve Laubach, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies/Curriculum and Instruction Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2) “Nature in (Non)equilibrium: From environmental science to conservation practice”

Political ecologists, cultural anthropologists, and environmental historians describe how conceptualizations of nature lead to conservation practices with varied material outcomes. Case studies suggest that ecological theories which characterize nature as balanced and trending toward equilibrium, yet susceptible to human action, are used to support conservation enclosures. Enclosures are critiqued for prioritizing expert-based management schemes relying on strict biophysical benchmarks. Expert-based and traditional ecological knowledge conflict because livelihoods are characterized as drivers of degradation. To mitigate these social concerns a few social scientists promote management informed by nonequilibrium concepts from ecology and geomorphology. Nevertheless, nonequilibrium remains underexplored and loosely applied by human geographers.

We argue that translating nonequilibrium science into alternative conservation practices creates both problems and opportunities for incorporating multiple knowledges and land-uses. First, we examine how nonequilibrium ecology provides flexible and diverse spatio-temporal goals and targets for conservation. Second, we argue that these context specific priorities create the possibility for incorporating knowledges, property regimes, and land-uses previously excluded from conservation strategies. A nonequilibrium approach recognizes that in many cases human utilization of landscapes produces and maintains ecosystem health and diversity. Third, while a conceptual and practical shift towards nonequilibrium conservation allows for new forms of human-environment relations, this shift does not necessitate the inclusion of communities marginalized by enclosure style management. Fourth, there are many possibilities for nonequilibrium ecology to be misinterpreted as unbounded relativity and misapplied to justify ad hoc management practices and/or intensive resource extraction regimes. This research has implications for drawing together human and physical geography.

**Author Bios:**

**Jairus Rossi,** Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky

Originally trained as a molecular biologist while simultaneously pursuing a degree in religious studies, Jairus is interested in the intersections between science, nature, and society. His dissertation work brings together diverse perspectives on the social construction and perfection of nature through genetic technology, restoration ecology, and a variety of other representational/material practices. Jairus also enjoys fermenting food and beverages as a form of dissent.
Brian Grabbatin, Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky

Brian is a PhD student at the University of Kentucky interested in political ecology, ethnobotany, and cultural landscapes. His dissertation research looks at environmental and political conflicts surrounding heirs’ property, a form of land tenure found across the United States, but particularly important to African American communities in the southeast. When not hard at work in the field or office, Brian finds himself sampling the fermented treats made at the Rossi household.

3) “The politics of using local ecological knowledge in natural resource management”

Interest in integrating local ecological knowledge (LEK), knowledge developed through intimate interaction with a local environment, with resource management science has increased dramatically, with a quadrupling of LEK related articles over the past ten years. However, many have noted that LEK is rarely put to use, but the reasons why this is the case are largely unstudied. This article investigates what are the key challenges to using LEK in management science through three U.S. case studies. The cases suggest that an overlooked but powerful challenge is the perception or reality of competing interests between resource users and scientists. These competing interests embed risks in the acts of sharing and eliciting LEK. However, these cases show that appropriate incentives, “first movers,” and the creation of mutual interests can potentially overcome these risks.

Bio: Alexis Schulman PhD Student, Environmental Policy and Planning Group, Department of Urban Studies and Planning M.I.T

4) “The trouble with ‘savanna’, particularly in Africa”

The terms people use to describe and discuss geographic realities can impede effective communication if these terms evoke problematic social/cultural constructions. This point is supported by a rich literature in cultural geography. In contrast, there are relatively few works that assess how specific terms can affect how physical features are described and discussed. For example, several biogeographic terms have fraught biophysical and/or sociocultural meanings such as the interrelated terms “alien”, “invasive” and “naturalized”. However, these labels can also carry xenophobic overtones and the assignment of one of or another label often depends upon an observer’s perception of a species as good or bad in a particular setting. Within the biogeographic literature, terms such as “the tropics”, “jungle”, and “tropical rainforest”, bear a burden of
Eurocentric, colonial history that continues to hinder popular and academic understanding of many parts of the world. In this paper, we argue that the term ‘savanna’ similarly impedes geographic communication. Our purpose is to describe two ways in which ‘savanna’ can impede geographic communication, in the hopes of inspiring more attentive use of the term. The first problem, of imprecision, has been the focus of past criticisms. We outline this problem emphasizing how imprecision dilutes environmental variation and leads to confusion over the patterns and process of environmental change observed within ‘savannas’. Second, ‘savanna’ is laden with sociocultural meaning, because it has long been used to oversimplify geographic realities and make facile categorizations of people, places, and ecologies, in ways that have had significant, negative impacts on geographic reality in Africa. We conclude the paper by arguing that although the term savanna should not be discontinued, geographers should pay careful attention to the problems of implicit meaning that ‘savanna’ carries. Inattentive use of the term may not only create false images of geographic realities, but also produce unintended changes to these realities.

**Bios: Chris Duvall* and Bilal Butt**

*Department of Geography, University of New Mexico

**Department of Geography University of Wisconsin - Madison (presenting author)
SESSION 42: CRITICAL GIS II: A RENEWAL OF CRITICAL GIS?

Organizers:
Matthew W. Wilson, Ball State University, mwwilson@bsu.edu
Rina Ghose, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, rghose@uwm.edu

Discussion panel session:
Patrick McHaffie, DePaul University, pmchaffi@depaul.edu
Francis Harvey, University of Minnesota, francis.harvey@gmail.com
Carol Hanchette, University of Louisville, carol.hanchette@louisville.edu
Rina Ghose, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, rghose@uwm.edu
Matthew W. Wilson, Ball State University, mwwilson@bsu.edu

With the proliferation of online, locative media marking a period of 'neogeography' and producing 'volunteered geographic information' and the 'geoweb', what is the role of a renewed, critical GIS? This paper and panel shall discuss the intersections of critical geography and GIS, across a broad range of scholarly activities, including: theories/concepts/frameworks, research designs and methodologies, practices and participatory engagements, and pedagogies. We hope this session draws critical geographers working with geographic technologies in fields such as critical health and wellness studies, poverty studies, decision-making in local governments, population studies, privacy, ethics, and techno-positionalities, GIS use in development, studies of intersectionality, participatory GIS, qualitative GIS, etc.

Panelist biographies:

Patrick McHaffie joined the faculty at DePaul University in 1996 after academic appointments at West Virginia University, Dartmouth College, and West Georgia College. During the 1980's he served with the Kentucky Geological Survey where he conducted environmental research related to coal mining, directed the National Cartographic Information Center affiliate office, and coordinated the State Topographic Mapping Program. Patrick served as Chair of the Department of Geography from 2001 to 2007 and is responsible (with David Jabon and Jennifer Galka) for the implementation of the DePaul GIS Laboratory on DePaul's Lincoln Park Campus. Dr. McHaffie's research interests and publication history include the social history of cartography and GIS, the cartographic labor process, cartographic ethics, the geography of education spending, Appalachian social geography, and the social construction of the global. His current work (2010) involves a long term study of change in the cartographic labor process during the 20th century as well as work on
automation as policy and ideology in the United States during the cold war. He is also part of a team (with Howard Rosing) conducting a study abroad program with the Greenbelt Movement (GBM) in Kenya. This program allows undergraduate students to work with GBM members mapping reforestation projects in the Mount Kenya National Forest. Over the past decade his work has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, History of Cartography Project (University of Wisconsin), and the University Research and Quality of Instruction Councils (DePaul University).

Francis Harvey is an associate professor at the University of Minnesota with research specialities in Central and Eastern Europe, local governments, GIScience, history of geographic thought, and science and technology studies.

Carol Hanchette is an assistant professor of Geography and Geosciences at the University of Louisville with research interests in qualitative/critical uses of GIS.

Rina Ghose is an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with research interests in the politics of citizen participation in inner-city planning, public participation GIS, GIS and society, and urban and rural gentrification.

Matthew W. Wilson is an assistant professor at Ball State University, with research interests across political, feminist, and urban geography and science and technoculture studies, interfacing these with the more specified field of critical GIS. He studies the use of geographic information technologies in representations of the urban and the environment, with more specific interest in locative mobile technologies and the proliferation of user-created, Internet-based socio-spatial data.
**SESSION 43: FINANCIAL CRISIS II**

**Organizers:**
Chris Muellerleile, Ph.D. Candidate, UW Madison (cmuellerleil@wisc.edu)
Leigh Johnson, Ph.D. Candidate, UC Berkeley (leighjohnson@berkeley.edu)

**Discussant:**
Phil Ashton, Professor of Urban Policy and Planning, University of Illinois-Chicago
pashton@uic.edu

1) **(Un)Natural bubbles: Propping up capital through financialization of social-natures**

   As recently noted by Foster and Magdoff (2010), financial bubbles have become the rule rather than the exception for global capitalism. Since 1959, consumer debt has outstripped tangible value creation in the US economy, a process facilitated by the ascendance of neo-classical economic thought in business schools and its implementation by policy makers. As financial crises became a generalized feature of capitalism over the past 30 years, finance capitalists sought to realize massive returns from new asset classes predicated on varying physical commodities. In the current crisis, the material basis of speculative gains and losses is comprised of the physical asset of land, the labor embodied in the house, and the financial assets represented by the mortgage and its derivates.

   This paper compares the underlying commodities that precipitated the crisis of 2008 with emerging environmental commodities and their markets, a potential new space for the speculation and financialization required to realize sizable returns. Greenhouse gasses, wetlands, biodiversity, and more are all being securitized and traded. These securities have the potential to absorb investment capital idled by the crash. It is unclear if this suite of new environmental commodities will be the basis for a short lived recovery before the next crash, but there are unmistakable similarities between the housing crash and the financialization of socio-natural phenomena. Ultimately, the continuing financialization of non-human nature points to an insurmountable contradiction of capitalism as the conditions for socio-natural reproduction are threatened by the needs of finance.

**Bio:**
Patrick Bigger, PhD Student, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky, Pmbigg2@uky.edu
2) Capital markets, insurance, and the anti-politics of “financial risk”

Insurance – as both a global industry and a theoretical concept of risk transfer – was deeply enmeshed in the production of the global financial crisis. Though the proximate causes for insurers’ sales of credit default swaps (which infamously devastated AIG and hamstrung reinsurance giant Swiss Re) have been documented, the evolution and nature of the relationship between capital markets and insurance have received scant attention. Here I argue that the increasing interdigitation of these sectors and technologies is emblematic of the rise of “financial risk” – rather than money per se – as a unit of exchange within capital markets. Trading exposure, the mere potential for loss of exchange value, becomes the basis of transactions. And because the insurance industry has both technical expertise in risk modeling for core lines of business and controls vast quantities of fine-grained data on individuals, properties, and loss events, it is a critical partner and competitor in efforts to hone exposure modeling techniques and extend the logic of financial risk into new arenas in order to secure higher profit margins. I explore this dynamic in the development of longevity derivatives and catastrophe bonds. These two cases demonstrate how the apparently self-evident concept of financial risk has been distilled from extraordinarily complex political and social terrains. I suggest that financial risk necessarily operates through a sort of anti-politics, erasing any recognition of the original decisions to manage societal losses through a private insurance market based on exchange values. I close by asking what it might mean to recuperate use-values as units of analysis in critical studies of risk and finance.

Bio:
Leigh Johnson, PhD Candidate, Department of Geography, University of California, Berkeley,
leighjohnson@berkeley.edu

3) “Economists in the wild”?: a geographic alternative to MacKenzie’s vision of nascent derivatives markets

Brilliant as it is, the growing influence of “social studies of finance” or “cultural economic” approaches to finance and financialization has only intensified the need for more critical geographic inquiries of financial markets and financial centers (see Hall forthcoming in PIHG). This paper offers a supplement, if not alternative to MacKenzie’s (and Callon’s) performativity thesis with regard to economic theory’s role in financial market construction. Specifically this paper investigates the construction of the first centralized financial derivative markets in Chicago in the early to mid 1970s. After Peck (2005), I suggest the urban milieu of Chicago was much more than a site or “fuzzy context” for the emergence of financial derivatives. Instead Chicago’s institutional, regulatory, cultural and historical characteristics were constitutive of the earliest financial
derivatives exchanges. Regardless of the significant role financial economic theory played, this paper questions the argument that Chicago’s original financial derivative markets were constructed and performed by “rational actors”.

Bio:
Chris Muellerleile, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison, cmuellerleil@wisc.edu
SESSION 44: TRANSPORTATION

1) Rust Belt Biketivism: Social Movement Organizations in the Development of Bicycle Transport in Cleveland and Pittsburgh

A 'renaissance' of the bicycle as a mode of transportation is occurring throughout US cities, but its development has been extremely uneven. As of yet, no (natural or built) environmental or demographic factors can sufficiently explain – in particular the outliers in – this geography of bicycle transport, while research that investigates the 'soft' factors (e.g. characteristics of local culture) that may be affecting bicycle transportation have been conspicuously absent from the theoretical debate. This research seeks to take a first step in addressing this gap by merging theoretical perspectives from two otherwise disparate fields – bicycle transportation planning theory and social movement theory – and applying them comparatively to the cases of Cleveland, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. First, the hypothesis is tested that local grassroots advocacy organizations (here investigated as social movement organizations or SMOs), although hitherto overlooked in bicycle transport-related research, are capable of significantly affecting the development of local bicycle transport. Second, the 'framing perspective' from the study of social movements is applied in a test of theory to investigate how basic characteristics of SMO viability, and the coherence and articulation of the SMOs' frames may affect the ability of these organizations to ultimately achieve success in positively affecting bicycle transportation development. It is determined that SMOs are capable of significantly affecting the development of bicycle transportation (i.e., that grassroots advocacy can affect change), and that those SMOs that have well-articulated frames and are ‘viable’ organizations have a greater likelihood of achieving positive outcomes; both as organizations and for their movement constituents, local bicyclists. Finally, the limitations of this approach are addressed, and the possibilities for the future of approaches that address the role of soft factors are considered.

Bio: Gregg Culver is a doctoral student at the Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His research interests include the relationship between transport and the urban landscape, particularly regarding questions of urban quality of life, social justice, and sustainability; revitalization in Rust Belt cities; and the geography of Northern and Central Europe.

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2) Visibly Virtually Bike-able: Boston Bike Lanes, Legitimacy, and the Power Dynamics of the Street

Utilizing interview and participant-observation data from fieldwork conducted in Boston in the Summer of 2010, I will explore how bicycle lanes in Boston work virtually and actually, as spaces of potential. While the City of Boston and advocacy organizations work to create bike lanes on roads, responses from utility cyclists and bike commuters indicate that the actual use of bike lanes as spaces for riding is insecure and sporadic. Bike lanes are not necessarily actual spaces that people ride in or want to ride in, yet cyclists who participated in this research overwhelmingly see bike lanes as integral in the plan to encourage more cycling in Boston. In other words, as visible spaces of potential bicycling, bike lanes have the potential to affect the behaviors of commuters by making biking visible as a transport option on city streets; however, there is no necessary link to people actually getting on their bikes, or choosing the roads they ride.

Why, then, do bicycle lanes seem to be so important? I will argue that it is their potential for use, rather than their actual use, that makes bike lanes a strategic part of Boston’s transformation into a ‘cycling city.’ As visible spaces of potential bicycling, bike lanes actually work to legitimize, acknowledge, and validate the presence and practices of cyclists, whether or not bike lanes actually function as conduits for riders. In other words, by marking potential space for cycling, bike lanes can be seen to primarily function as a mode of legitimization. This begs the question: why is this kind of legitimization important to cyclists? I will conclude my paper with an exploration of how this kind of legitimacy may work within the volatile power dynamics of the street.

Bio:
Samantha Herr, MA student, University of Kentucky, samantha.herr@uky.edu

My current geographical interests might be characterized as critical human geography – geographies of power, urban and political geography, and feminist methodologies. Currently I am working on my thesis project which explores utility cycling in Boston.

3) Theoretical Perspectives on High Speed Rail in the United States

On the surface, public planning for high-speed rail in the United States seems to involve relatively straightforward matters of urban policy, civil engineering, economics and raw politics. High-speed rail is touted as a sustainable solution that can address many of the nation's strategic transportation goals. It is promoted as an economic driver that will generate good middle-class jobs that cannot be offshored. It is tightly integrated with the New Urbanist vision of dense, walkable, sustainable, livable, transit-oriented cities free from both the blight of traditional
urbanism and the anomie of 20th century suburbanization. And it is projected as a critical arena of competition with economic rivals in Europe and Asia.

In each of these areas, a closer look from the perspective of different theorists reveals clear strands of geographical and philosophical thought embedded in the discourse. The persistence of the Utopian high-speed rail vision in spite of its extraordinary cost leads to questions of what kinds of space will be produced if high-speed rail ever becomes a reality on any large scale. Planning for high-speed rail in contested spatial corridors with increasingly scarce public resources raises not only questions of class, but of the future of American capitalism. And the mysterious charisma of the train in American culture begs for an exploration of its symbolism and underlying psychological magnetism. The modernist, progressive ethos contrasts sharply with contemporary pessimism and aggressive conservatism.

This paper looks at plans for high-speed rail in the United States as a complex of ideas, connecting the nascent efforts to the larger American story.

Bio:
Michael Minn is a PhD student at the University of Illinois with a primary research focus on the future of intercity passenger rail in the United States. He holds a MA in Geography from Hunter College (CUNY), where his Master's thesis involved the creation of a web-based framework for the visualization of the confluence of poverty and poor public transportation. He also holds an MS in Computer Science and a BA in Music Education, both from North Texas State. Other research interests include urban geography, sustainability, the geography of food, and open-source GIS software.

http://michaelminn.com

4) The Right to the Street (Pedestrians Don’t Have Any): The Legal Geographies of Transportation Inequality in Ohio

Urban planners increasingly recognize the importance of alternative transportation. Simultaneously, mobility and transport have emerged as legitimate subjects for critical geographic analysis. Few places exemplify the pressing questions of social justice and public space better than the street itself, where locational conflict can be a matter of high-speed life and death. But planning efforts to promote walkability are uneven, and few geographers have explored the pedestrian’s right to the street. This paper explores the legal geographies of pedestrian mobility by examining relevant statutes and case law, using the case study of Ohio. It examines how legislators and judges have constructed – legally and discursively – pedestrian rights and responsibilities in the public right-of-way, in relation to both moving vehicles and street design and maintenance. Our
analysis shows the law to be revealingly unsupportive of pedestrian mobility, as walking must yield (in nearly all circumstances) to vehicular speed, private property rights, and even snowfall. Discourse analysis of statues and legal decisions suggests how rights to the street are socially constructed in typical American places like Ohio, and highlights a major social inequality that geographers have neglected. We offer this paper as a modest contribution to ‘new’ mobilities research, and suggest the need for more study of a very 21st century civil rights issue: the right of pedestrians to move along (and across) the street.

**Brief Bio:**
David L. Prytherch, Associate Professor of Geography, prythedl@muohio.edu

David is an urban and geographer with interests in planning, ‘new’ regionalism, and the cultural landscape. He received a B.S. from Penn State University and M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. He teaches in the Urban Planning program at Miami University, and serves as that university’s Sustainability Coordinator.
SESSION 45: DISCOURSE, TEXT, AND THE VISUAL

1) Making it (t)here in Saddam’s Iraq: Producing subversive literary space in Sinan Antoon’s I’jaam: An Iraqi Rhapsody

In this paper we examine the production and deployment of literary space in Sinan Antoon’s novel I’jaam: An Iraqi Rhapsody. The protagonist, Furat, presents a narrative that juxtaposes the memories of his past with the grim, brutal spaces of his imprisonment in Saddam Hussein’s Iraq. Throughout the narrative Furat slowly descends into ever more fanciful (and subversive) memories and dreams. On the surface it appears that he has disintegrated into a madness which culminates in his attempt to inhabit a fabricated dream-space of a post-Sadaam Iraq— a psychic space, a psychic Iraq. Ironically, the psychic Iraq, which Furat’s madness finally allows him to occupy, is a much saner place than either the prison in which he physically resides or the Ba’athist landscapes he describes when reminiscing about his life before imprisonment. Furat appears to be insane because he has carved out a sane psychic space, a heterotopia in, and in opposition to an insane Iraqi landscape.

We investigate Furat’s progression from Ba’athist Iraq into a post-Sadaam landscape as a deliberate rather than random attempt to construct – albeit fanciful and paradoxical – space through narrative. He doesn’t lose his ability to differentiate his dreams of past and future from the grim reality of his present, but actively builds a new world that he actively constructs through his narrative.

In particular we look at how Furat uses word play, the nuances of Arabic script, and free form letters to facilitate the production of a subversive literary space, a safe psychic space and how he does so to redefine his subjectivity in Saddam’s Iraq. By juxtaposing the scenes of an Iraqi prison with those of Ba’athist-era Iraqi landscapes – all via a fanciful, ambiguous, and ever more chaotic script – the narrative explores what it means to be (t)here: one of the ambiguous words resulting from Antoon’s script and ultimately the space of simultaneous presence and absence which allows Furat to redefine the Ba’athist police state landscape. We also consider how Furat uses narrative changes in space and time, the contrasting and conflation of spaces of subversion and submission and how these play a role in producing the heterotopia that he comes to occupy.

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Robert Greeley obtained his B.A. in Arabic from the University of Utah and his M.A. in Arabic literature from UC Berkeley. He was then a lecturer at Emory University and is currently working on his doctorate in Human Geography at the University of South Carolina.
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2) Dual Projections: Children's Museum Education and Harlan Smith's Cinematic Colonialism, British Columbia, Canada, 1921-1929

As theorists in cultural studies have articulated, early ethnographic cinema worked through a double gesture: projecting an ethnographic Other on the screen and reinforcing the production of whiteness within the theatre audience. In this paper, we insist that this is simultaneously a cultural and geographic production whereby landscape, nature and environments are implicated and incorporated. Using the films of Harlan Smith, a largely unrecognized Canadian pioneer in ethnographic film and popular museum education, we seek to illustrate the connections among processes of ethnographic Othering, nationalistic propaganda and geographic deterritorializing. Smith worked through the Canadian National Museum, the official organ of national scientific knowledge. These films were shown as a part of a Saturday morning programme at the Museum where children were brought into this national imaginary through images of landscape, wildlife, architecture, and “Indians.” The popular and novel (silent) moving pictures were widely used in the period in children’s education, and that exposure to far-off places and peoples has been integral in constructing nationalist ideologies. In Smith’s films, the anthropological gesture, to know the primitive Other, is simultaneously a gesture to delineate the self and has numerous similarities to the construction of the primitive child. Claiming Aboriginal histories as part of a colonial patrimony works to construct a usable national past grounded in the North American territory, distinguishing colonial Canada from metropolitan Europe. Likewise, the framing Aboriginality within colonial narratives of human progress, which constitute Aboriginal peoples as an anachronism within the nation, a fading trace of historical antecedent, naturalizes Canada's future as a white nation. Thus, Smith’s ethnographic films worked to imaginatively dispossess Aboriginal peoples, reterritorializing Canada as a national space for the progressive unfolding of white history.

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Ann Marie Murnaghan recently defended her PhD dissertation on the Playground Movement in Toronto around the turn of the twentieth century. She is currently editing a book on critical perspectives of urban children and urban nature.

3) Being heard in a sea of sound: Spatial and virtual strategies for independent bands to build audiences

Practices of independent musicians can serve as a telling intersection of labor politics in creative economies, cultural politics and emotion. Musicians who are striving to earn a livelihood through music making often have limited resources at their disposal, work under exploitive practices, and must negotiate between artistic identity and economic rewards. Independent bands' need effective spatial and virtual strategies for building support and these strategies must be undertaken in ways that are sustainable long enough to build solid fan bases. In this paper, I plan to examine how spaces of live performances are used in musicians' competitive strategies, how these strategies impact or are impacted by internet social networking, and how public relations firms help to mediate these strategies. For example, examining whether or not spatial strategies such as regional touring can be a viable option for independent bands to build audiences and earn a livelihood for musicians. I am particularly interested in the opportunities and constraints on independent bands as they attempt to transition from music as a hobby to a profession. Data will be gathered from interviews with independent musicians, music industry practitioners, public relations firms, music fans, and my own experiences as a musician in an independent band. Understandings of how people engage with music through space and various technological changes brought about by the internet are important for musicians, fans, and the industries that surround them, but these impacts may be shared across multiple types of social relations such as political movements and firms.

Keywords: music, labor, livelihoods, performance, internet

Bio: Jessica R. Barnes is a graduate student and teaching associate in the Department of Geography at Ohio State. Her PhD. research is on musicians' spatial and virtual strategies for building audiences. She plans to incorporate her experiences as a bass player in the independent band Wolf Ram Heart into her research project.

She earned her M.A. in geography from Ohio State in 2009 for her work examining how
print journalists localize climate change. She earned her B.A. in geography and English from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and minored in journalism. Jessica worked as a reporter and editor at the student newspaper and as a reporter at a regional daily.

Her research interests include cultural economy, music geographies, media representations, and the social construction of knowledge. In 2006, she won best undergraduate student paper awards from the Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group of the AAG and the Wisconsin Geographical Society.

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4) “Making a Scene: Constructing the Absent ‘Aye’ in the ‘Cyclops’ Episode of Joyce’s Ulysses”

The expression “making a scene” in popular vernacular refers to a heated disruption, altercation, or other, often vocal, disturbance which serves to upset the agreed upon give-and-take of a specific social interaction. Individuals who “make a scene” are considered disruptive, even dangerous, and deeply transgressive. Yet, significantly, the expression “making a scene” refers not only to the individuals who participate in the disruption, but also contains an etymological referent to the spaces and places in which the (always unwanted) encounter occurs. “Scene,” when traced to its Latin and Greek origins, is a theatrical term, used in reference to the stage on which the primary action takes place (OED). The “scenic” quality, the physical/spatial reality and location of the row, is just as important to the ideological interpretation of the encounter as “transgressive” as is the act itself. Taking into account these theatrical connotations of “scene,” aspects of performance are also intricately woven throughout the production and creation of behavior in space. “Making a scene” therefore, in many ways makes the scene/setting, helping to harden, crystallize, and more clearly define the limitations of rules, functions, and expected behavioral patterns within a particular spatial context.

Leopold Bloom, in the “Cyclops” episode of James Joyce’s Ulysses, makes (and makes) a scene. Bloom enters Barney Kiernan’s pub as a neither/nor individual, neither wholly trusted nor entirely suspicious. As a native Dubliner, he is an insider, a member of the masculine community which congregates in the pub, but as a sexually deviant Jew, he is an Other, whose close interactions with the other men at the bar mark him as a potential threat to their carefully crafted masculinity. While Bloom’s pervasive difference does much to highlight the fraught nature of not only his but the other character’s presumed heteronormativity (heteronormativity constructed on complicated and often contradictory performances of culturally-informed interpretations of normative sexuality), Bloom’s “scene” also exposes the tentative and ultimately faulty ideological interpretation of Barney Kiernan’s pub as a locus of homosocial/masculine concord meant to represent a unified, nostalgic (and free from colonial rule) Ireland. Just as Bloom functions within
the episode as an insider/Other, so Barney Kiernan’s pub is never quite fixed as either unified locality or multi-vocal nationalist space. Though the “Cyclops” episode is often read in terms of it’s “I” narrator and multiple references to “eyes” and monocularity, the missing “eye” of “Cyclops” is the “aye” of nationalist, masculinist, and sexual accord. Bloom makes his scene by falling out of nationalist/religious/masculinist harmony with the men around him, and this discord shakes the very ideological foundation of the Citizen and his followers who believe that a nation is a conceptually-available, definable space as evidenced by the (prior to Bloom’s entrance) unified place of the pub. Casting uncertainty upon the potential unity and conformity of the pub/nation, Bloom threatens the very ground on which he treads and must be expelled from the pub, the discourse, and the nation-construct immediately.

Contact Information: Rachel Baumgardner-Burke, English Department, Ball State University, rbburke@bsu.edu

Bio: Rachel Baumgardner-Burke is a PhD candidate in literature at Ball State University, currently working on her dissertation which explores the intersection(s) between sexuality, perversity, deviance, culture, and place in modernist novels published between the World Wars. Additionally, her scholarly interests include gender and queer studies, and she loves how her recent discovery of critical geography has expanded her theoretical knowledge. This past May, she married her husband, Bobbie, in a small ceremony in Las Vegas, and is looking forward to starting a family.

5) Nonrepresentational Theory JUMPs!

This will be a 10 minute performance/presentation investigating the role of the subject in nonrepresentational theory. Nonrepresentational theory is ironically disembodied in its approach to the individual body preferring an abstract discussion of affect and being. The intent of this particular (dis)embodied subject is to break down the bifurcation of perceivers and the world by not using the body to solicit testimony about people’s lives but instead to highlight the interactions and flows between bodies, many of which are completely unconscious. The difficulty with this is not the avoidance of discursive or psychical understandings of the body-subject, but rather in nonrepresentational theory’s apparent disinterest with the differences between bodies and how real people actually relate to other real people. As a feminist geographer that engages with nonrepresentational theory I will perform a piece that brings identity to the forefront, combining the sensational and cognitive with the affective and inexpressible. The backdrop is a film commissioned by the author/performer of JUMP by the BodyCartography Project for the SCUBA National Touring Network for Dance in Philadelphia last March. JUMP has been described
alternatively as “boring” or “inspiring;” what it is, “is a marvelous study of the body in the raw, humanity, and our cultural need to experience the internal/external faces of ourselves in a simple form.” There is no story. There is breath, sensation, sound, sweat, and exhaustion. There will be affect. This piece is an experiment in endurance and decay set to the tune of Nigel Thrift.

**Bio:**
Katrinka Somdahl-Sands from Rowan University is a geographer, dancer and generally nice person.  
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SESSION 46: EMERGING GOVERNANCE IN THE CITY

1) From Oilfield to Space City: The Political Ecology of Annexation in Booming Houston, Texas

The Humble Oil and Refining Company (destined to be known as ExxonMobile) planned Texas’ first master-planned community, Clear Lake City, as Vice President Lyndon Johnson announced that Houston would be the site of the nation’s Manned Space Center (destined to be known as the Johnson Space Center). The final master plan, published in 1962, provided for massive petro-chemical industries, world-class port facilities, high tech offices to support the space center, housing for the workers employed in these facilities, schools, religious sites, and a town center. The first model homes opened in 1963 on unincorporated land outside of Houston. With the deep pockets of a major oil company open, federal funds pouring into the region, and suburbanization unencumbered by zoning, Clear Lake City was poised to be astronomically profitable urban development. So profitable, in fact, the battle between Houston and neighboring suburbs to annex this rich tax-base nearly derailed its development. The politics of annexation pitted the interests of several groups of development-orientated ‘public tax payers’ against one another. The ecological loss of one of Houston’s last native tidal bayous to urban development stimulated one of Houston’s most successful environmental pressure groups, the Preservation of Armand Bayou Committee. When the Texas State Supreme Court issued its final ruling in the annexation battles, all sides found the decision unacceptable because it threatened to stop the development Clear Lake City, but the Preservation of Armand Bayou Committee capitalized on the complex contests. The final compromise allowed Clear Lake City development to move forward but also forever protected Armand Bayou as a premier nature center in the region. This examination reveals interrelated roles of the courts, development-orientated ‘public interests,’ grassroots environmental organizing and for-profit developers in the process of creating one of the nation’s model master-planned communities.

Bio:

Dr. Deanna H. Schmidt, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Deanna is an assistant professor of geography at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Before beginning graduate studies, she worked as a registered Landscape Architect. As a Landscape Architect, Deanna worked on environmental impact statements, transportation projects, land use plans, and urban development. Deanna completed a Doctor of Philosophy in Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her dissertation, The (Re)Productiospeedn of Social Space: Community, Homeownership, and Stability, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1970-1990, explored how community organizations and urban planning changed urban space. Currently, her
research focuses on environmental organizations, the process of urban development, and how we can build more resilient communities.

2) Reframing the ‘local’ in public policy: Transnational ‘place-based’ policies ‘in motion’

Discursive Circulation of ‘place-based’ policy from London to the City of Toronto

This paper reviews the transnationalism of targeted neighbourhood improvement policies – or ‘place-based’ policies – as they are constructed in both the United Kingdom and Toronto. It outlines the geographical and ideological origins of the celebrated approach to ‘local’ governance, and the means through which it has been established in political systems of governance. Focusing on the discourse and rhetoric of ‘place-based’ policies, the question of whether these ‘local’ policies are in fact global – both in the sense that they are developed and disseminated transnationally, and because they aim to localize the ‘problems’ of sociospatial polarization associated with neoliberalism and global city formation – will be explored. In examining this question, I look to the role of targeted neighbourhood improvement policies in London in shaping seemingly ‘local’ Toronto policies.

In developing a transnational and translocal methodological approach, I follow Jamie Peck’s (2003, 228-9) methodological call to conceptualize and empirically assess policies ‘in motion’ - applying Peck’s theory of socio-spatial policy transfer to targeted ‘place-based’ policy models in both the United Kingdom and Canada, and situate ‘place-based’ policy within literature on policy transfer, global cities, polarization and the dual city, the rescaling of urban politics, and Bevir and Rhodes’ (2010) conception of the state as ‘meaning-in-action’.

The methodological challenge here is to develop an adequate conceptualization of policies ‘in motion’ (Peck 2003), involving the policy networks and circulatory systems that connect and interpenetrate ‘local’ policy regimes (Ibid). Discursive circulation involves both a transnational and translocal constitution of institutional relations, governmental hierarchies and policy networks (Peck, 2004). This paper examines the language and policy frames of policy documents in London to Toronto using an interpretive discourse analysis. I will then expand upon the rhetoric of ‘place-based’ policies with a close examination of the development of these policies within the City of Toronto. The methodology pursued will draw from Fischer’s (2003) approach to discursive policy analysis, and Bevir’s (2003) interpretive critique of New Labour institutionalism - focusing broadly on discourse and interpretive methods in critical policy analysis (with an emphasis on the relationship of discourse to power).

Bio: Jessica Carriere is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Social Work, focusing on Social Policy (specifically place-based policy). She also holds a Master's in
Planning from York University. Her work centers around interpretive social policy analysis/transnational policy transfer, and targeted area-based policy in both Toronto and the United Kingdom (i.e. exploring the politics of Third Way policy transfer; and evaluating place-based policy methods and policy ‘fit’ in the City of Toronto).

3) The Neoliberal Development Theory of Jane Jacobs

This proposed paper comes from a journal article I will be submitting for publication prior to the conference that traces a genealogy of neoliberal urban redevelopment back to Jane Jacobs. In A Brief History of Neoliberalism, David Harvey argues that the political and economic response to New York City’s fiscal crisis in the 1970s provided a model for neoliberal reorganization at the national level. Indeed, the origins and ascendance of neoliberal redevelopment in New York City has been well documented by historians and political scientists. If anything, these works explain how neoliberal ideas, policies, and programs, at least in the United States, were borne out of the testing grounds of urban America. If we accept this historiography, I contend that we can trace the origins of neoliberalism back, if not to the groundbreaking public-private partnership of urban renewal (Title 1 of the Housing Act of 1949), then at least back to the anti-statist arguments of urban critic Jane Jacobs in the 1960s.

Jane Jacobs is one of the most important and transformative figures in defining the post-World War Two “urban crisis.” For good reason Jacobs was the face of resistance to Robert Moses’s destructive urban renewal and highway policies in New York – a seasoned critic and activist. Yet, I contend that Jacobs was a guiding light for neoliberal urban settlement and development. Her work extolled the virtues of urban living, but, with the absence of any social program, the seminal The Death and Life of Great American Cities (1961) also served a primer on the gentrification that has increasingly priced out the lower and working classes of New York and other American cities. In this paper, then, I will explore the origins of neoliberal urban policy in Jacobs’s writing on cities and economies, and also link Jacobs with more contemporary works of neoliberal urban theory – Richard Florida’s work on the “creative class” in particular.

Author Bio: Brian Tochterman, University of Minnesota History Department

4) Drugs and Policing in the Bluegrass

Focusing on Drug-Related Crime, I employ a case study of the William Wells Brown neighborhood of Lexington, Kentucky to investigate the relationship and practices between residents and police officers. Utilizing Michel Foucault’s work on governmentality and his concept of Splendor, I explore how governance is practiced within the daily negotiations of the WWB
neighborhood. I approach this analysis through the lens of policing because some residents, especially those who comprise the William Wells Brown Neighborhood Association, form a limited partnership with the police department in combating the threat of drug crime in the neighborhood. Drug-related crime is defined as the purchasing, selling or using of illegal drugs. In my research, the illegal drug most commonly referred to is crack cocaine. Through my analysis, I explore the importance of visual appearances through landscape and spatial regulation in the policing of individuals.

**Bio:**
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SESSION 47: ROUNDTABLE ON COMPLICITY/RESISTANCE/RADICALITY

Recently in geography the question of queer complicity has come to the fore. Gay rights discourses have been resources for US imperial projects (Puar 2006, 2007; Puar et al. 2002). The figure of the ‘complicit queer,’ imagined as a gay white man at ease with capitalism and “commodity patriarchy,” has been chastised as insufficiently radical (Nast 2002).

But are only gay, middle-class, white men complicit with capitalism, imperialism, and other modes of exploitation and oppression? Of course not. What, then, are other forms, figures, discourses, and representations of complicity? How is complicity socially/culturally/spatially (re)produced? How does complicity operate in different spaces, places, and times? Where is the line between resistance and complicity? Between complicity and ‘working the system’? Are there distinctions between everyday and institutional/organizational complicity? Can and/or should we define such lines—or should we instead ask, with Natalie Oswin (2005, 84), “might queer radicality still be possible in a state of complicity from which we cannot ever fully be divorced and which we cannot always and everywhere assume to subvert through re-appropriation?”

This session is a roundtable, with scheduled participants each having 5-10 minutes to present interventions into relevant literature, reflections on practice, and/or reporting on research—to be followed by an open roundtable discussion.

Participants: Nathan Clough, Heidi Nast, Chris Schroeder, Kristin Sziarto, Todd Palmer