

RACE, ETHNICITY, AND PLACE

XIIIth conference

Diversity and Resilience

GREETINGS from



@GREETINGSTOUR

Program

November 5-7, 2025

Albuquerque, NM

www.repconference.org

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Dr. Joseph Wood, University of Baltimore and American Geographical Society

Welcome to the XIIIth REP conference

Welcome to the 13th conference of Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP)! The theme of the conference is Diversity and Resilience. Held at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Albuquerque, the conference offers papers, poster presentations, and panel discussions.

If this is the first time you are attending REP, thank you for joining our community of scholars and practitioners. If you are a returning participant, thank you for coming back. Whether you are attending for the first or the thirteenth time, we hope you will enjoy the two days of paper, panel, and poster sessions by scholars, professionals, and students. Each time slot includes four concurrent sessions of papers and panels during the two days. Our poster session will take place on Thursday afternoon.

Please join us for the opening reception on the evening of Wednesday November 5 and the and the Friday November 7 reception. At Friday's reception, Levi Romero – the poet laureate of New Mexico – will offer a few remarks to bring our conference themes together with the beautiful landscapes of New Mexico.

You will find in the program, and on the REP website, information on the conference neighborhood, as well as suggestions for restaurants and cultural institutions that you may wish to visit. We owe a great deal of thanks to the University of New Mexico for stepping in as the local sponsor. We also want to thank the many universities, professional organizations, individual sponsors, and donors who continue to make this conference thrive.

We are glad you are here and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

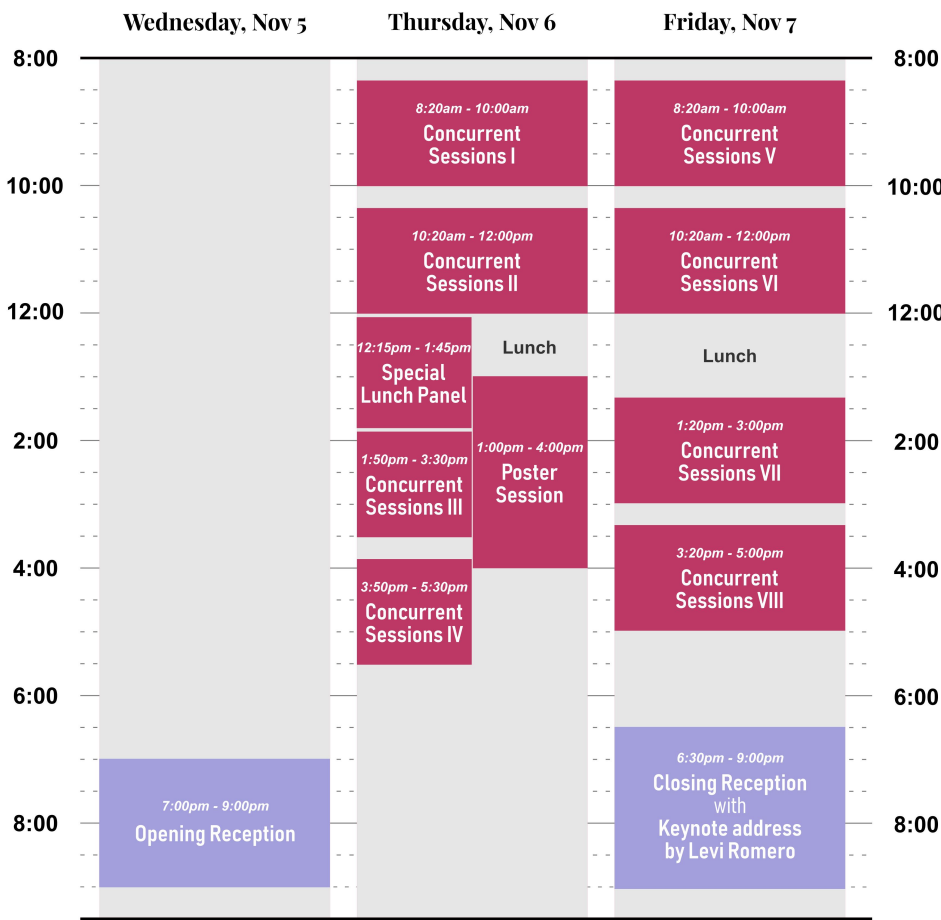
Have a great experience!

David Kaplan
Ronda Brulotte
Marissa Isaak Wald
Sarah Bednarz
Mary Walsh-Dilley
Miriam Gay-Antaki

Registration will be available:

- On Wednesday November 5th, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm outside Coral III
- On Thursday November 6th, from 8:00am to 4:00 pm, outside Coral III
- On Friday November 7th, from 8:00am to 12:00 pm, outside Coral III

Schedule Overview



All events will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel

Conference Guidelines

We have worked hard to build a program that accommodates everyone who wished to present as well as the panels and events that will provide a significant experience for attendees and support our themes and principles. To enable everyone to make the most of the experience, we ask that you abide by the direction of paper and program session chairs—staying within the time allotted for a presentation and engaging in constructive discussion. Most presentations should not exceed 20 minutes to allow for robust discussion. Sessions are 100 minutes long, and chairs have discretion with respect to asking presenters to conclude or in managing questions and discussion, in order that every presenter have equal time.

About Albuquerque, New Mexico

Welcome to Albuquerque, New Mexico! Albuquerque sits on the ancestral lands of the Tiwa Pueblo peoples, who have inhabited this Rio Grande valley since around 1250. When Spanish colonizers arrived in the sixteenth century, conflict and disease devastated the indigenous population. After the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 temporarily expelled the Spanish, Albuquerque was formally established in 1706 as a Spanish colonial villa centered around the plaza where the San Felipe de Neri Church still stands today.

The arrival of the railroad in 1880 and Route 66 in 1926 transformed Albuquerque from a quiet farming settlement into a regional hub. Today, Albuquerque is one of the most culturally diverse cities in the United States, home to over seventy ethnicities and approximately 60,000 Native Americans representing over 400 tribal nations. The Tiwa and other Pueblo peoples continue to thrive in nineteen federally recognized pueblos throughout the region.

Albuquerque's historic Old Town district preserves the original colonial settlement with adobe buildings, galleries, and museums. The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, and National Hispanic Cultural Center celebrate the city's indigenous, Hispanic, and multicultural heritage.

This city—shaped by indigenous presence, Spanish colonization, and contemporary diversity—offers rich ground for examining how race, ethnicity, and place continue to shape communities and identities. We welcome you to this conference, held in this historic and dynamic city where these conversations matter most.

Restaurants and Cafés in Albuquerque

Downtown Dining

505 Central Food Hall,
505 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Ex Novo Taproom and Restaurant
701 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Char in the Hotel Andaluz
125 Second Street NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Slate Street Café
515 Slate Avenue, NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

The Grove Café & Market
(Breakfast)
600 Central Avenue SE Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Oni (downtown).
Great ramen with NM flourishes.
600 Central Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM

Restaurant at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
2401 12th St NW in Albuquerque, New Mexico, (not in downtown but an easy Uber ride).

Arrive hotel
717 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Downtown Breweries

The craft brew scene is intense in Albuquerque and downtown has a couple of nice places to relax and have a beer, cider, or kombucha.

Ex-Novo Brewery

Local microbrewery with surprisingly good food.
701 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Gravity Bound Brewing

Beer and usually a food truck. Very friendly and local crowd.
816 3rd ST NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Marble Brewery

Large brewery with stunning sunset views of the Sandias from the upper deck and usually a food truck.
11 Marble Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Bow and Arrow Brewery

Take a Lyft to this brewery owned by two Indigenous women about 1.5 miles from the Doubletree. Great beer and usually a food truck.
608 McKnight Ave NW Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102.

Old Town

Old Town is about two miles from DoubleTree and safely walkable in the day.

Sheehan

New Mexican cuisine
303 Romero Street, Suite 10 Albuquerque, NM 87104.

Church Street Café

New Mexico's types of chile, red and green. If you wish to eat both, ask for Christmas style.
2111 Church St. NW Albuquerque NM 87104

Bike-in coffee

Wonderful place, they play live jazz on the weekends.
949 Montoya NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104.

Cafe es Amor in Central

A fun place to visit; they sell cafe de olla and have good chilaquiles.
2209 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

Duran's Pharmacy

Great lunch and breakfast and the best local gift store anywhere in town. 1815 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104.

Gobble

Good pupusas and tacos. 308 San Felipe St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104.

Ramona's

Really good Mexican/NM breakfast and lunch. 7600 Jefferson St NE, Ste 29, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

High Noon

Great for dinner. 425 San Felipe St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104).

Dining Tips

Ask about spice level: New Mexican red and green chiles can be very hot.

Hotel restaurants are convenient for evening networking.

Old Town provides cultural experience with traditional New Mexican cuisine.

Dietary Accommodations: Most restaurants accommodate gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan diets.

Always inform servers of allergies - restaurants are generally accommodated.

Places to Visit during REP XIII

The Acoma Pueblo Sky City is the physical and spiritual homeland to the Acoma people. It is located at 102, Sits below Acoma Sky City, Acoma, NM 87034. If you can't do this all-day experience, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center located at 2401 12th Street NW Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104, has exhibits and a restaurant featuring foods from the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico.

Museums and cultural centers

Get a fun and fascinating look at the history, arts and culture that have shaped New Mexico and consider checking out the Albuquerque art walk in downtown. The Albuquerque Museum currently has a very powerful exhibit on Modern Art and Politics in Germany, 1910-1945, including key works of so-called degenerate art.

Historic and scenic areas

Find New Mexico's various natural beauty and scenic drives, and historic national and state monuments and areas here. The Sandia Peak Tram offer stunning views of the entire region from the top at 10,300 ft above sea level.

Performing arts, theaters and event centers

Amazing live theater, dance, music, poetry and other performances can be found on this website: <https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/abq365/events/>.

Live music and concerts

Explore Albuquerque's vibrant live music scene and acclaimed concert venues: <https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/things-to-do/arts-culture/live-music/>. The last day of the Downtown Growers Market is Saturday, November 8, and always features interesting music as well as local foods. Take home a chile ristra!

Visit Santa Fe

Santa Fe, the City Different, is about 60 miles north of Albuquerque. The Rail Runner train makes this an easy day trip with easy walks to the Plaza from the Railyards.

Sports and outdoor activities

Find interesting sports and outdoor activities within the city that you may want to explore here: <https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/things-to-do/outdoors/>. The Bosque Trail runs through the city, west of downtown, and the sandhill cranes may have been returned by the conference. Scenic hot air balloon ride for hot air balloon ride. More information can be found on this website: info@visitabq.org.

Public art programs

Fine art can be seen throughout the city, from the Albuquerque International Sunport to the Sandia foothills and the western edge of the city limits, with concentrations in the downtown, the University/Nob Hill and historic Old Town areas. More information can be found here: <https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/things-to-do/arts-culture/public-art/>. Friday, November 7, is First Friday and downtown hosts many art-related events.

Wednesday, November 5

5:00 p.m.-
8:00 p.m. **Registration**
 DOUBLETREE HOTEL

7:00 p.m.-
9:00 p.m. **Opening Reception**
 DOUBLETREE HOTEL CORAL BALLROOM

REP Welcome Reception will be held at

REP organizers will provide a welcome and introduction to Albuquerque and the Conference. Greet old colleagues and friends and meet new ones.

Special Panels on Diversity and Resilience

In the last few years, we have seen unprecedented attacks on academic freedom within universities. Much of this is guided by a belief that diversity, equity, and inclusion policies have gone too far and require political remedies to curtail them. But there is also a general distrust of universities and how they operate, as well as a sense that professors are using classrooms as places of indoctrination.

These views have led to restrictions at both federal and state levels. With the change of administration at the federal level, executive orders have been issued, visas for international students have been threatened, and already appropriated funds have been cut off. In several states, new laws have passed which target university practices and pressure administrators and professors with sanctions if they do not comply.

We are hosting two panels where we will discuss some of the various risks to the ideas of diversity, to academic freedom, and to tenure protections. We will also offer some insights into how universities and individuals can safeguard their academic freedom.

The first panel will meet on Thursday from 10:20-12:00.
The second panel will meet on Friday from 3:20-5:00

These panels will be in the form of a discussion among the panelists and the audience. All are invited to participate and to offer their own experiences and insights.

Thursday, November 6

8:00 a.m.-
4:00 p.m. **Registration**
DOUBLETREE HOTEL

8:20 a.m.-
10:00 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions I**

Race and Education

CORAL I

Chair: Marissa Wald
*Central New Mexico
Community College*

"Indoctrinating Students and Turning Them Against the Country": Racial Politics of Schooling in the US Through a Post-Socialist Lens.

Gloria Howerton
University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire.

The Creation of "Suburban Ghettos" and their Schools: Racializing Space and Spatializing Race in Prince George's County, Maryland, Throughout its History

Haley M. Bateman
Elizabethtown College

Fertile Ground in the Midwest: Planting Mexican American Studies at Notre Dame, 1968 – 1970.

Leticia Rose Wiggins
The Ohio State University

Demographic Cliffs and Cultural Control: White Replacement Anxiety in American Universities.

Evan Martin-Casler
University of Arizona

Charting the shifting terrain of the city

CORAL II

Chair: Daniel Block
Chicago State University
Organizers: Colleen Hammelman¹, Jerry Shannon², and Daniel Block³
¹*University of North Carolina at Charlotte*, ²*University of Georgia*, ³*Chicago State University*

Urban Renewal, Community Mapping, and Reparative Histories.

Jerry Shannon, ,Claire Hagan*¹, Liam England*¹, Faith Tucker*¹, Keagan Croom*¹, and Kelly Girtz*²
¹*University of Georgia*, ²*AthensClarke County Unified Government*

The changing look and feel of commercial landscapes along Buford Highway.

Colleen Hammelman
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Development-Driven" GSI: Sustaining Stormwater Management Through Racialized Dispossession.

Nicole Van Lie
Loyola Marymount University

Urban Universities, the Digital Divide, Direct Service, and Community Geography at a Predominately Black Institution in Chicago: The ABE-LINC project.

Daniel Block and Nathalia Cardenas
Chicago State University

Place Making

CORAL III

Chair: Joe Wood
University of Baltimore

Placemaking through Food: A Case study on Bangladeshi Migrants in New York City

Suraiya Parvin and Louisa M Holmes*
The Pennsylvania State University

Naming, Erasure, and the Decline of the Chesapeake: Film and Ecology in Maryland's Cultural Geography

William L. Kiskowski
Maryland Historical Trust

A Guest-Worker Sense of Place: Multiculturalism and Parochialism in Taiwan Soccer Leagues

Edward Painter
UCLA

10:20 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions II

Resisting Silence: Doing Critical Work in Politically Hostile Climates

CORAL I

Chair: Christabel Devadoss
Middle Tennessee State University

Organizers: Christabel Devadoss¹, James Chaney¹, and Josh Merced²

¹*Middle Tennessee State University*, ²*Northern Arizona University*

Researching Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration: Challenges of and Strategies in the Current U.S. Political Climate

Christabel Devadoss and James Chaney
Middle Tennessee State University

Teaching Climate Change in an Era of Political Hostility

Joshua Z. Merced
Northern Arizona University

Public Geographies of Racial Segregation: Designing Museum Spaces to Embody History and Emplace Identities

Johnny Finn and Jakira Silas*
Christopher Newport University

Universities as Racialized Organizations in the Black Lives Matter Era: An Analysis of Racial Justice Statements from University Leadership

Jillian Royal
Cornell University

Activism, Resistance, Mobilization, Political participation, Organizing

CORAL II

Chair: Perry Carter
Texas Tech University

From Vietnam to Voting Rights: Combat Veterans and Insurgent Organizing in the Civil Rights and Chicana/o Movements

Joseph J. Garcia
University of New Mexico

"Your Hands are Bloody": Protests in Belgrade, Serbia

Jeremy Tasch
Towson University

Fatherland, Socialism, and Death in Venezuela: Lucia's World

Jeffery Roth, Lucia Anonymous Author 1*,
Anonymous Venezuelan Author 2*
Independent

Borders

CORAL III

Chair: Emily Skop
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Navigating New Terrains: Unbroken Journeys of Resilience Among Guatemalan Migrant Women in the USA

Sandra Marroquin-Evans
University of New Mexico

Transborder Dynamics and Human Mobility in the USA-Mexico Border

Clemente Quinones
Georgia Gwinnett College

"Ya estamos hallados aquí." Making territories of belonging despite Mexico's southern border

Alicia Barceinas Cruz
University of Kentucky

"Othering" place: Race, narrative and constructing zones of lawlessness

Jennifer Tucker
University of New Mexico

Diversity and Resilience: Maintaining Academic Freedom in our Current Political Climate

CRYSTAL BALLROOM II

Organizer and chair: Dave Kaplan
Kent State University

Panelists:

Jerry Shannon, *University of Georgia*
Wei Li, *Arizona State University*
Karen Culcasi, *West Virginia University*
Emily Frazier, *Missouri State University*
Ann Oberhauser, *Iowa State University*
Sarah Blue, *Texas State University*

12:15 p.m.- Lunch
1:30 p.m.

12:15 p.m.- Special Lunch Panel
1:45 p.m.

Inside/Out: The Public Art
Census as Method for Mapping
Race, Ethnicity, and Place
CRYSTAL BALLROOM II
Organizers and chairs: Danicia
Monét Malone¹ and Sherri
Brueggeman²
¹Rokh Research and Design
Studio and Temple University,
²Albuquerque Public Art

Lead presenter

Danicia Monét Malone, *Rokh Research and Design
Studio and Temple University*

Panelists

Kent Swanson, *Bernalillo County Public Art*
Mandolen Sanchez, *Albuquerque Public Art*
Noel Begay, *Albuquerque Public Art*
Sherri Brueggemann, *Retired, Albuquerque Public Art*

1:00 p.m.- Poster Session
4:00 p.m. CATWALK NEXT TO CORAL I

Note:
Poster
set up
will take
place
before
lunch

Astronomically Decoding the Cretan Odyssey by the Homer Collective: Utilizing the
Number 12 as an Astronomical Code with Five Important Linguistic Metaphors
April Vihlidal, *University of New Mexico*

Creating Homeplace: The RISE Cohort Program as a Model for Rural PWIs
Dom Turner, *Morgan State University*

Evolution of a Concept: Vulnerability in Geographic Research on Flash Flooding,
Kimberley Clough, *University of Colorado, Colorado Springs*

Exploring Spatial Inequities in Food Pantry Access Across Baltimore Neighborhoods
Raneitra Grover, *Morgan State University*

HIV Prevalence and Associated Risk Factors Among Women in Botswana
Thabo Sebobi, *Penn State University*

Introducing an Innovative Curriculum on an Ethos of Care in Higher Education
Emily Skop, *University of Colorado, Colorado Springs*

Mapping Abolition Geography: Safety in Octavia Butler's Parable of the Sower
Brianna Sas-Pérez, *University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*

Policy to Practice: How educational, language and curricular policy impact dual
language educators in North Carolina,
Celina Ocampo, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Emergency Department Waiting Times for Chest Pain:
Analyzing Systemic Inequities by Mode of Arrival
Refat Ahmed Mishuk, *University of New Mexico*

The Neocolonial Impact of U.S. Tourism on Native Puerto Ricans
Analise Villanueva, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Venezuelan Women and the Concept of Legality in Their Migratory Movement
Laura Torres-Vargas, *University of Maryland Baltimore County*

1:50 p.m.- Concurrent Sessions III
3:30 p.m.

Whiteness and Place
CORAL I
Chair: Sarah Blue
Texas State University

Territories of housing, spaces of possession:

Ungrounding problems of race and value

Coleman Allums¹ and Matthew Harris^{*2}

¹Allegheny College, ²University of Georgia

Moral Albinism in The Last Illusion: Whiteness, Myth,
and the Fragmentation of Diasporic Iranian Identity
Sayyed Navid Etedali Rezapoorian
The University of New Mexico

Why White Folks are Moving to Blue States, 2020-
2025: A Cultural Constellation

Cheryl Morse

University of Vermont

Space for Uprooting Whiteness: Tensions, Limitations
and Possibilities

Noelia Mann¹, Samantha Guz^{*2}, William Frey^{*3},
and Retisha Warr^{*2}

¹University of New Mexico, ²University of Alabama,

³Columbia University

Thursday Schedule

1:50 p.m.-
3:30 p.m.
cont'd

Planning and Empowerment

CORAL II

Chair: Jose Diaz-Garayua
*California State University,
Stanislaus*

Build bridges, not walls: A field guide for university researchers partnering with communities for transformative research

Emanuel Preciado

Northern Arizona University

Empowerment Capability Utilization: Theory of Power, Awareness, and Informed Utilization

Sukanya Das and Madhuri Sharma*

University of Tennessee

Collaborative Leadership in Disaster Mitigation

Development in Australia

Chidimma Abuka

Pepperdine University

Where Empathy Meets Place: Practicing Compassion in Planning and Beyond

Lakeshia Wright

Guided by Community

Race, Politics and Governance

CORAL III

Chair: Jeremy Tasch
Towson University

The Myth of Electability: Black Women, Power, and the Politics of Exclusion

Erika Barnes Ford

Pepperdine University

Latino Political Participation in the Texas Panhandle: A Continuing Impact

Edris J. Montalvo and Travis M. Childs*

Cameron University

Claiming the Right to the City's Parks: How Marginalized Urban Communities Make Meaningful Green Spaces

Glenn Cerosaletti

University of Rochester

Territorializing Energy: The Political Ecology of the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project and Ethnic

Contestation in Kenya

Winnie Changwony

Kent State University

Current Landscapes of Immigration Enforcement

CRYSTAL BALLROOM II

Organizers and chairs:

Leanne Purdum¹

and Scott Warren²

¹*Drake University,*

²*University of Arizona*

Panelists:

Edgar Garcia-Veloza, *University of Kentucky*

Theresa Hice-Fromille, *Ohio State University*

Caroline Keegan, *California State University*

Sacramento

Tay Villaseñor, *Texas State University*

Scott Warren, *University of Arizona*

Leanne Purdum, *Drake University*

3:50 pm.-
5:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions IV

Migration and Diaspora

CORAL I

Chair: Wei Li
Arizona State University

Centuries in Motion: Charting the Historical Pathways of Indian Migration to the United States

Swachhatoya Das and Madhuri Sharma*

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Legal status, intergenerational care, and cross-border im/mobility of "zero generation" migrants

Yining Tan

University of Arizona

Openness to Difference: Envisioning Post-National Futures in a Time of Reaction

Jared Keyel

Rowan University

The Influence of Migrant Organizations on the Aspirations and Capabilities of Newcomers:

Lessons from Czech Migration to the US

Eva Janska¹ and Marie Price²

¹*Charles University,* ²*George Washington University*

*Non-presenting author

3:50 p.m.-
5:30 p.m.
cont'd

**Feminist discourse and
practices**
CORAL II
Chair: Ann Oberhauser
Iowa State University

Goya boycott: a protest in affinity space
Aida R Guhlincozzi¹, Mónica LugoVélez^{*2}, César
Uribe^{*3}, and Sejal Gupta^{*3}
¹*University of Missouri, Columbia*, ²*North Carolina
State University*, ³*Rice University*

**Sociology of Comedy: Latina Placemaking in the
Midwest**

Julianna Loera-Wiggins
University of Michigan

**Unsettling Displacement: Feminist Geopolitics, Climate
Change, and the Everyday Experiences of
Rohingya Women**

Nusrat Tabassum Mohana
University of Delaware

**Writing Geography for a World on Fire: The Role of
Feminist Mentorship in Cultivating Effective Public
Engagement**

Emily Frazier
Missouri State University

**Measuring discrimination
and inequalities**
CORAL III
Chair: Qingfang Wang
*University of California
Riverside*

**Housing Cost Burden, Diversity and Immigrants: A
County-Scale Analysis of Diversity and Economy**
Madhuri Sharma
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**Sustainable Urbanism: Making Indian Religious Cities
Accessible**

Rajrani Kalra
California State University, San Bernardino

**A Place-based Index for Measuring and Visualizing
Structural Racism and Discrimination in the U.S**

Sabina Bhandari and Debarchana Ghosh^{*}
University of Connecticut

**Spatiotemporal Analysis of the Impact of Structural
Racism and Discrimination among Black
Americans in the U.S.**

Youshuang Hu and Debarchana Ghosh^{*}
University of Connecticut

Friday, November 7

8:00 a.m.-
12:00 p.m. **Registration**
DOUBLETREE HOTEL

8:20 a.m.-
10:00 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions V**

The Stories and Status of Women in Geography

CORAL I

Chair: Ann Oberhauser
Iowa State University

Organizers: SWG team
Wei Li¹, Amy Rock², Ann Oberhauser³

¹*Arizona State University*,

²*Cal Poly Humboldt*, ³*Iowa State University*

Discussant: Ibipo Johnston
Anumonwo
SUNY - Cortland

Minding the Gender Gap: Working toward parity for women in U.S. academic geography

Amy Rock¹, Joann Mossa^{*2}, Barnali Dixon^{*3},
Selima Sultana^{*4}, and BandanaKar^{*5}

¹*Cal Poly Humboldt*, ²*University of Florida*,

³*University of South Florida*, ⁴*University of North Carolina Greensboro*, ⁵*National Renewable Energy Laboratory*

The Balancing Act: Wellbeing and Work-life Conflict among Women in Geography

Ann Oberhauser¹, Barnali Dixon^{*2}, Joann Mossa^{*3},
Selima Sultana^{*4}, Amy Rock^{*5}, and Wei Li^{*6}

¹*Iowa State University*, ²*University of South Florida*, ³*University of Florida*, ⁴*University of North Carolina Greensboro*, ⁵*Cal Poly Humboldt*,

⁶*Arizona State University*

Experiences of Women AAG Presidents: Leading through diverse voices

Wei Li¹, Joann Mossa^{*2}, Barnali Dixon^{*3}, Ann M. Oberhauser^{*4}, Amy E Rock^{*5}, Selima Sultana^{*6}, and Falguni Mukherjee^{*7}

¹*Arizona State University*, ²*University of Florida*,
³*University of South Florida*, ⁴*Iowa State University*,

⁵*Cal Poly Humboldt*, ⁶*University of North Carolina Greensboro*, ⁷*Sam Houston State University*

Impact of Family Structure, Social Connectedness, and Environmental Contexts on Mental Health Outcomes among Young Adults

CORAL II

Organizer and chair:
Ayodeji Iyanda

Prairie View A&M University

Impact of 'Family Structure and Income' and Social Connectedness on Suicidal Behaviors Among Emerging Adults in the US

Ihuoma R. Uchenna and Ayodeji Iyanda*
Prairie View A&M University

Intersectionality and Minority Stress in Context: The Impact of Family and Income Structure on Mental Health Risks in Emerging Adults

Ijeoma R. Chukwuemeka and Ayodeji Iyanda*
Prairie View A&M University

Single parenting is a risk factor for Depression and Psychological Distress in young adults. Evidence from spatial social networks and environmental exposure study

Opeyemi Adebisi and Ayodeji Iyanda*
Prairie View A&M University

Greenspace utilization and suicidal behaviors among Young Adults in the United States: Does spatial social networks matter

Termitope Joshua Adeusi and Ayodeji Iyanda*
Prairie View A&M University

Author-meets-critic panel: *Illegality and the Production of Affluence: Undocumented Labor and Gentrification in Rural America* by Lise Nelson

CRYSTAL BALLROOM II

Organizer and chair: Marissa Wald
Central New Mexico CC

Panelists:

Marissa Wald, *Central New Mexico CC*
Eloy Garcia, *Central New Mexico CC*
Marie Price, *George Washington University*
Alejandro Tovar, *University of New Mexico*
Lise Nelson, *University of Arizona*

8:20 a.m.-
10:00 p.m.
cont'd

**Environmental Justice
and Climate**
CORAL III
Chair: Colleen Hammelman
*University of North Carolina
at Charlotte*

**Haitian Immigration to Springfield, OH in the Context of
Global Climate Change**
Zoey Wurgess
The Ohio State University
**The struggle for water in rural Paraguay: a 'perverse
confluence' analysis of subversive participation**
Joseph J. Garcia
University of New Mexico
**Understanding Climate Impacts and Adaptive
Strategies for Unhoused Communities in Yolo
County, California**
Lupe Franco
UC Davis
**Building Resilience in Poverty Areas to Address
Climate-Related Risks through Sustainable
Development Goal (SDG) Actions**
Siqu Lu¹, Heli Lu^{*2}, and Chuanrong Zhang^{*1}
¹University of Connecticut, ²Henan University

10:20 a.m.-
12:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions VI**

**Distress Migration to the
US-Mexico Border**
CORAL I
Chair: Sarah Blue
Texas State University

**Unintended Consequences of the US Short-Lived
'Humane Border Enforcement' Policy**
Sarah Blue
Texas State University
**Trends and Transformations in Irregular Migration
Facilitation (Coyotaje) in Latin America**
Luisa Amato Caye and Sarah Blue*
Texas State University
**Viapolitics and the Journeys of Irregular Chinese
Migrants to the US-Mexico Border**
Elizabeth Chacko and Nick He*
George Washington University
**Ni de aquí ni de allá: The Case for A Modern Bracero
Program**
Isabella Franco
George Washington University

**Race, Gender, Slavery
and Freedom in Everyday
Life on the British coast of
Central America, 1750-
1830**
CORAL II
Chair: Melissa Johnson
Southwestern University
Organizers: Melissa
Johnson, Dina Gaxiola,
Sophia Hernandez,
and Shae Whitney
Southwestern University

**The Case of Jane Trapp: Race, Gender, Slavery and
Freedom in Everyday Life on the British coast of
Central America, 1750-1830**
Dina Gaxiola
Southwestern University
**From Enslavement to Influence; Gendered Agency,
Racial Boundaries, and the Story of Ariadne
Broaster**
Sophia Hernandez
Southwestern University
**Maria Middleton— Slave, Criminal, Transported Convict:
Understanding Gender, Race and Freedom across
the British Colonial World**
Shae Whitney
Southwestern University
**Living across lines of freedom in the early history of
Belize: The origins of the Bonner family,**
Melissa Johnson
Southwestern University

*Non-presenting author

Friday Schedule

10:20 a.m.-
12:00 p.m.
cont'd

Identity and Belonging
CORAL III
Chair: Edris Montalvo
Cameron University

**The Imagined Homeland of Karen Refugees:
Negotiating Identity and Community around
Kawthoolei,**
James Chaney
Middle Tennessee State

**"It's Not So Bad:" Muslims' Senses of Belonging to
Rural, Southern West Virginia,**
Karen Culcasi
West Virginia University

**Ostracismo Haitiano: Exclución anti-negra de querencia
compartida en la isla de Española / Haitian
Ostracism: Anti-Black Exclusion of Shared
Querencia on the Island of Hispaniola,**
Chioma Nwomeh
University of New Mexico

**Naming as Fugitivity: How African American Names
Manifest Self-determination and Counternarrative**
Silvino Kibuta
University of New Mexico

12:15 p.m.- Lunch
1:15 p.m.

1:20 p.m.- Concurrent Sessions VII
3:00 p.m.

**Transportation, Race and
Ethnicity**
CORAL I
Chair: Yongmei Lu
Texas State University

Transportation Issues, Ethnicity, and Social Class
David Kaplan
Kent State University

**Built to Divide: How Highways Continue to Shape
Racial Inequity in Hampton Roads**
Audrey Hales
Christopher Newport University

**Monkey's Nest: The Kinetics of Racial Capitalism and
its Resistance**
Jacob Harver
Kent State University

*Note : Stefan Chavez-Norgaard has withdrawn his
paper*

**Geographies of Health
and Care**
CORAL II
Chair: Ibipo Johnston-
Anumonwo
SUNY Cortland

**Decolonizing Care: Racialized Labor and COVID-19 in
New York City**
Lorraine Dowler
Pennsylvania State University

**Everyday Struggles and Resilience: Photovoice
Insights into Indonesian Care Workers in Japanese
Eldercare**
Fikriyah Winata
Texas A&M University

**Mapping Contraceptive Deserts and Maternal Mortality
in Texas**
Mahboobe Safaei Mehr
University of Texas at Austin

**The Racial Paradigm: Reframing Racism as a Public
Health Crisis and Global Governance Challenge**
Erika Barnes Ford
Pepperdine University

1:20 p.m.-
3:00 p.m.
cont'd

Ethnic Businesses
CORAL III
Chair: Ines Miyares
Hunter College-CUNY

"They Know How to Cut Asian Hair": Race, Beauty, and Identity in Asian Hair Salons in the U.S. South
Shaolu Yu
Rhodes College

When "Culture" Becomes a Commodity: Racialized Marketing and Opioid Settlement Funding,
Nafisa Anjum, Emily Rosenman*, and Louisa M Holmes*
Pennsylvania State University

Learning how to be OK: Reflections on wellbeing in Alamosa, CO
Anthony Meluso
University of Heidelberg, Germany

Race, Space, and Property: Building Black Community Wealth through Commercial Real Estate
Qingfang Wang¹, Wan Yu², and Lyneir Richardson*³
¹*University of California Riverside*, ²*Binghamton University*, ³*Rutgers University-Newark*

Bridging the Gap: Learning and Enacting Restorative Practices from University to the Classroom
CRYSTAL BALLROOM II
Organizer and chair: Layla M. Dehaiman
Syracuse University

Panelists
Juliette Gallegos, *Albuquerque High School*
Solomon Foulk, *Valley High School*
Cassandra Sedillo, *Atrisco Heritage Academy*

3:20 p.m.-
5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions VIII

Gentrification in the City
CORAL I
Chair: Elizabeth Chacko
George Washington University

Racially Restrictive Covenants in Modesto, California: An Exploration of Historical Urban Geography and Segregated Landscapes
José Díaz-Garayúa, David Froba*, and Sharon Froba*
California State University, Stanislaus

Movements in Motion: Gentrification and Displacement of Queer Social Movements in Greenwich Village
Joe Gallegos
University of California, Irvine

Examining Foodscape Changes in Gentrifying East Austin
Hilary Ansah
Texas State University

Note : Nicole Robinson has withdrawn her paper

Historical Geographies of Race
CORAL II
Chair: Marie Price
George Washington University

Beyond the Listings: The Negro Motorist Green Book as a Blueprint for Black Resilience
LaVonda Jones
East Georgia State College

How the New Deal Mapping State Spread Redlining Maps to Private Industry
Lawrence Brown, Brittney Boakye*, Bianca Newton*, and Jehan Reaves*
Morgan State University

The Case of Jane Trapp: Gender, Race, Freedom and Slavery in Early British Central America,
Dina Gaxiola
Southwestern University

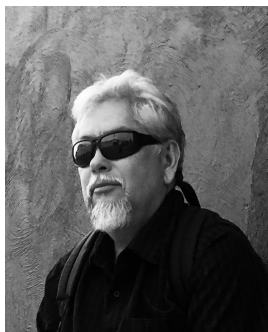
Geodemographics Predict Suburban Clothier Growth, Omaha, Nebr., 1941-1980
Heather L. Bloom
Independent researcher

Friday Schedule

3:20 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. cont'd	Heritage Landscapes CORAL III Chair: Emily Frazier Missouri State University	Narrating the Sand Creek Massacre: Spectacle and Survivance at Denver's History Colorado Center Sam Smith <i>Community Colleges of Colorado</i> Landscapes of Shame: The Work of Not Forgetting Perry Carter <i>Texas Tech University</i> Remapping Black Paris: Walking Tours as Embodied Archives and Cartographies Katrina Stack ¹ , Derek Alderman ^{*1} , and Monique Wells ^{*2} ¹ University of Tennessee, Knoxville, ² Wells International Foundation, Les Amis de Beauford Delaney, and <i>Entrée to Black Paris</i> Whose Voice? Examining the Narratives of Sugar Plantation Heritage Museums in Hawai'i Ines Miyares Hunter College-CUNY
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Diversity and Resilience: Maintaining Academic Freedom in our Current Political Climate CRYSTAL BALLROOM II Chair: Dave Kaplan Kent State University	Panelists Johnny Finn, <i>Christopher Newport University</i> Christabel Devadoss, <i>Middle Tennessee State University</i> Madhuri Sharma, <i>University of Tennessee</i> Edris Montalvo, <i>Cameron University</i> Lise Nelson, <i>University of Arizona</i>

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Closing reception with Keynote address by **Levi Romero**:
"Mi Querencia: A Poetic and Narrative Testimonio of Home, Place,
and Identity"**

DOUBLETREE HOTEL CORAL BALLROOM



Levi Romero was selected as the Inaugural New Mexico State Poet Laureate in 2020 and New Mexico Centennial Poet in 2012. His most recent books are *New Mexico Poetry Anthology* and *Querencia: Reflections on the New Mexico Homeland*. His two collections of poetry are *A Poetry of Remembrance: New and Rejected Works* and *In the Gathering of Silence*. He is co-author of *Sagrado: A Photopoetics Across the Chicano Homeland*. He recently became Associate Professor Emeritus in the Chicana and Chicano Studies department after twenty-three years at the University of New Mexico. During that time he also taught in various programs, Creative Writing, School of Architecture and Planning, Community and Regional Planning, and the Indigenous Design + Planning Institute. He earned his BA and MAR degrees from the University of New Mexico and worked in the architecture profession until he became a fulltime instructor at UNM. His work focuses on cultural landscapes studies, ethnography, and ethnopoetics using the lyric essay format in his writing. Romero is from the Embudo Valley of northern New Mexico.

**Non-presenting author*

Organized Sessions Abstracts

Charting the shifting terrain of the city Colleen Hammelman¹, Jerry Shannon², and Daniel Block³

¹University of North Carolina at Charlotte,

²University of Georgia, ³Chicago State University

Urban landscapes are dynamic and ever changing. Forces of economic development, disinvestment, urban renewal, gentrification, and the in- or out-migration of residents and businesses change the character and everyday life of urban streets and neighborhoods. This paper session includes presentations of scholarship that charts social, political, ecological, and/or economic transformations in urban landscapes past or present. This topic is a long-standing interest of urban geographers, and it includes research that identifies these changes (e.g., analysis of demographics, work with data related to daily mobility, documenting change through photos or other visual methods) as well as the factors driving those changes (e.g., local policies spurring community development, changes in global investment). In particular, it includes work that improves our understanding of the forces driving the displacement of historically marginalized groups or work that amplifies efforts to create more equitable and inclusive urban spaces.

URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS, DISINVESTMENT,
DISPLACEMENT, BUILDING EQUITABLE AND
INCLUSIVE URBAN SPACE

Resisting Silence: Doing Critical Work in Politically Hostile Climates

Christabel Devadoss¹, James Chaney¹,
Joshua Merced²

¹Middle Tennessee State University,

²Northern Arizona University

In an era where scholarship on issues such as race, immigration, and climate change often draws intense public and political scrutiny, educators and researchers across the United States are finding themselves navigating a complex and shifting landscape. This session brings together timely research projects that illuminate both the challenges and strategies of sustaining politicized academic work under these conditions. These projects spark critical conversation about the pressures and possibilities of working in contested intellectual terrains. Participants will discuss strategies for preserving scholarly integrity, protecting faculty autonomy, and sustaining critical inquiry in politically fraught contexts. This session invites open dialogue among researchers, educators, and advocates committed to advancing

knowledge and teaching in ways that confront, rather than avoid, the urgent social and environmental issues of our time.

RESEARCH, RACE, IMMIGRATION, POLITICAL
GEOGRAPHY, CRITICAL GEOGRAPHY

The Stories and Status of Women in Geography

SWG team : Wei Li¹, Amy Rock², Ann
Oberhauser³

¹Arizona State University, ²Cal Poly
Humboldt, ³Iowa State University

Women and other marginalized groups in geography face continuing barriers to their advancement linked to discrimination, work-life conflict, and hostility in the discipline. This session draws from research conducted by the Status of Women in Geography Project to analyze historical trends, academic climate, gatekeeping issues, and leadership roles of women and minoritized groups in geography in the U.S. The papers in this session present the changing status of women in geography over time and efforts to achieve work-life balance in often hostile academic climates. This project also examines gender gaps and geographic bias in leadership positions of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) and women's leadership roles in AAG. Our research is based on analyses of historical data, a survey of AAG members, AAG records, and interviews with female AAG presidents. These findings include recommendations to improve the discipline in order to create a more inclusive climate for all geographers.

WOMEN, UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS, STATUS
OF WOMEN IN GEOGRAPHY PROJECT

Impact of Family Structure, Social Connectedness, and Environmental Contexts on Mental Health Outcomes among Young Adults

Ayodeji Iyanda

Prairie View A&M University

This session explores the multifaceted determinants of mental health in young people, focusing on the interplay between family structure, social networks, and environmental exposures. Drawing on recent large-scale surveys and geospatial analyses, presenters will discuss how family dynamics—particularly single-parent versus two-parent households—shape mental health outcomes, including depressive symptoms and suicidal behaviors. In

addition, the role of social connectedness will be examined as a critical protective factor, with data indicating that stronger social networks buffer against mental distress and suicide-related risks. The session also integrates findings on subjective perceptions and objective measures of green space exposure, revealing how access to natural environments may mitigate psychological stress and foster resilience.

FAMILY STRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT,
FAMILY STRESS MODEL, PSYCHOLOGICAL
DISTRESS

-

Race, Gender, Slavery and Freedom in Everyday Life on the British coast of Central America, 1750-1830

Melissa Johnson, Dina Gaxiola, Sophia
Hernandez, and Shae Whitney
Southwestern University

This session focuses on people whose histories have traditionally not been told—people who are poorer, less White, and female—in order to shed light on how the structural processes of race and gender shape experiences of freedom and slavery. Traditional histories of British Central America focus on men who controlled the economically dominant logwood and mahogany industries. However the vast majority of people living in this place that was both entangled with and on the margins of the world's economic system in the 1700 and 1800s were not in that group of men. In the four papers that comprise this paper session, we attempt to redress these gaps. We use a wide array of archival materials to piece together the stories of women of color, enslaved people and poorer people to try to provide a sense of what everyday life was like on this edge of the world at this time.

RACE, GENDER, SLAVERY, FREEDOM, BELIZE,
MOSQUITO SHORE

-

Panel Abstracts

Diversity and Resilience: Maintaining Academic Freedom in our Current Political Climate

Dave Kaplan
Kent State University

Panelists (first panel):

Jerry Shannon, *University of Georgia*
Wei Li, *Arizona State University*
Karen Culcasi, *West Virginia University*
Emily Frazier, *Missouri State University*
Ann Oberhauser, *Iowa State University*
Sarah Blue, *Texas State University*

Panelists (second panel):

Johnny Finn, *Christopher Newport University*
Christabel Devadoss, *Middle Tennessee State University*
Madhuri Sharma, *University of Tennessee*
Edris Montalvo, *Cameron University*
Lise Nelson, *University of Arizona*

In these two panels, we will discuss some of the various risks to the ideas of diversity, to academic freedom, and to tenure protections. We will also offer some insights into how universities and individuals can safeguard their academic freedom.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM, UNIVERSITIES, DIVERSITY

Inside/Out: The Public Art Census as Method for Mapping Race, Ethnicity, and Place

Dania Monét Malone¹ and Sherri Brueggeman²

¹*Rokh Research and DesignStudio and Temple University*, ²*Albuquerque Public Art*

Lead presenter

Dania Monét Malone, *Rokh Research and Design Studio and Temple University*

Panelists

Kent Swanson, *Bernalillo County Public Art*
Mandolen Sanchez, *Albuquerque Public Art*
Noel Begay, *Albuquerque Public Art*
Sherri Brueggemann, *Retired, Albuquerque Public Art*

The Public Art Census (PAC) documents the presence, absence, and conditions of public artworks across racialized geographies. Implemented in Albuquerque/Bernalillo County, NM, PAC revealed diverse yet unevenly distributed public art, with Indigenous and Chicana works embedded in landscape and Black narratives underrepresented. By coupling spatial analysis with community narratives, PAC reframes public art as sensorial infrastructure for belonging and wellbeing. Comparative findings from Indianapolis highlight how PAC advances discussions of race, ethnicity, and place in urban aesthetics.

This session introduces the idea of the Public Art Census as both a methodology and a tool for advancing racial and spatial equity, accountability, and cultural planning within cities. Beginning with a short presentation, we will outline the Census process, share key findings from two cities where it was pursued, and highlight how this work helps reframe public art not just as creative output, but as critical civic infrastructure. The presentation will transition into a panel conversation with city leadership, census facilitators, and municipal staff to discuss pathways for turning Public Art Census data into policy, resource allocation, and community-informed decision-making.

PUBLIC ART, ETHNICITY, SPACE AND PLACE,
SPATIAL JUSTICE, DESIGN

Current Landscapes of Immigration Enforcement

Leanne Purdum¹ and Scott Warren²

¹*Drake University*, ²*University of Arizona*

Panelists:

Edgar Garcia-Veloza, *University of Kentucky*
Theresa Hice-Fromille, *Ohio State University*
Caroline Keegan, *California State University Sacramento*
Tay Villaseñor, *Texas State University*
Scott Warren, *University of Arizona*
Leanne Purdum, *Drake University*

This panel brings together scholars, activists, and organizers to share research and observations of this moment in immigration enforcement. Participants are encouraged to share regional and place-based observations that help us understand broadly how U.S. immigration enforcement practices are working across the country and internationally. Collectively, the panel will consider key takeaways that should inform our research into, and our responses to, immigration enforcement as we move forward.

MIGRATION, POLICING, BORDER, COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Author-meets-critic panel: Illegality and the Production of Affluence: Undocumented Labor and Gentrification in Rural America by Lise Nelson

Marissa Wald

Central New Mexico CC

Panelists:

Marissa Wald, *Central New Mexico CC*
Eloy Garcia, *Central New Mexico CC*
Marie Price, *George Washington University*
Alejandro Tovar, *University of New Mexico*

Lise Nelson, *University of Arizona*

In this panel, we will be discussing Lise Nelson's new book, *Illegality and the Production of Affluence: Undocumented Labor and Gentrification in Rural America*.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRATION, GENTRIFICATION,
RURAL

-

Bridging the Gap: Learning and Enacting Restorative Practices from University to the Classroom

Layla M. Dehaiman
Syracuse University

Panelists:

Juliette Gallegos, *Albuquerque High School*

Solomon Foulk, *Valley High School*

Cassandra Sedillo, *Atrisco Heritage Academy*

This presentation explores how pre-service and early career educators move from university coursework to enacting restorative practices in real classroom settings. Amid growing resistance to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts, the need for resilient, justice-oriented educators is more urgent than ever. Drawing on the DisCrit framework (Annamma et al., 2013), this session examines how restorative practices are taught, modeled, and enacted through a teacher preparation program grounded in relational teaching and community-building. Using examples from fieldwork, coaching, and practitioner reflection, we explore how teacher candidates come to understand harm, accountability, and repair while navigating complex school systems. We also highlight the critical role of mentorship, professional learning communities, and institutional support in sustaining restorative work beyond coursework. Participants will leave with strategies for supporting new educators in building a restorative mindset and practical tools for bridging the theory-practice gap in ways that uphold DEI in contested educational landscapes.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES, PRE-SERVICE
EDUCATORS, DIVERSITY~EQUITY~INCLUSION
(DEI), DISCRIT FRAMEWORK, RELATIONAL
TEACHING

-

Paper Abstracts

Collaborative Leadership in Disaster Mitigation Development in Australia
Chidimma Abuka
Pepperdine University

Considering escalating environmental risks due to climate change, rigorous research in disaster mitigation is gaining significance. The United Nations' (UN) 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address disaster mitigation broadly, calling attention to both natural and human-induced crises. Australia has the fourth highest score globally in Freeman & Hancock's (2017) Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience-Building Index (DRRR). This research explores the aspects of collaborative leadership and sustainable development pathways to understand what is working in Australian communities and to address multifaceted challenges surrounding the further improvement of community resilience in Australia. This paper recommends a framework based on principles of sustainability and collaborative leadership that coalesce in the Envision rating system, allowing local communities to manage disasters and increase resilience more effectively. An index for scoring local communities based on the presence of collaborative leadership features, strength of infrastructure, and a sustainability rating using the five Envision categories is proposed.

DISASTER MITIGATION, SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS, COLLABORATIVE
LEADERSHIP

Single parenting a risk factor for Depression and Psychological Distress in young adult. Evidence from spatial social network and environmental exposure study.

Opeyemi Adebisi and Ayodeji Iyanda*
Prairie View A&M University

Single parenting emerged as a significant global concern, with the rate continuously rising in the United States. One of the most major challenges associated with this pattern is the grave effect that it has on young adults' mental health. Young adults (ages 18–29) in the United States have the highest percentage of depressive episodes (18.6%). This study will examine the relationship between single parenting and depression symptoms in young adults, as well as identify additional social and demographic risk factors. We will be using data from the Spatial Social Network and Environmental Exposure (SNEE) project collected between February and October 2023. Depressive symptoms was assessed through Physical Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) and

psychological distress was assessed using the Depression Anxiety stress scales (DASS-21). Data analysis will be conducted using STATA V18 with appropriate statistical techniques.

SINGLE PARENTING, DEPRESSION, SPATIAL
SOCIAL NETWORK, YOUNG ADULT, USA.

Greenspace utilization and suicidal behaviors among Young Adults in the United States: Does spatial social networks matter

Temitope Joshua Adeusi and Ayodeji Iyanda*

Prairie View A&M University

Few studies have been conducted to determine the relationship between green space exposure and young adults' (YAs') suicide behavior. We collected nationwide data with 3800 YAs in the US to overcome this deficiency between February 2019 and September 2023. Our study examined how greenspace influences the prevalence of suicide behavior and the extent to which spatial social networks moderate the association between greenspace and suicide behavior. We fitted bivariate logistic regression using STATA v18. The result showed that social media followers (AOR=0.947, $p=0.074$) significantly reduced suicide behavior. In another model including the measures of spatial social networks, green space visitation between Jan-Apr 2021 (AOR=0.929, $p=0.014$), May-Aug 2023 (AOR=0.949, $p=0.067$), and the number of friends (AOR=0.927, $p=0.003$) significantly reduced suicide behavior. This suggests that exposure to green spaces in spatial social networks lowers the likelihood of suicidal behavior in young adults in the United States.

SUICIDE, GREEN SPACE EXPOSURE, SPATIAL
SOCIAL NETWORK, YOUNG ADULT, USA

Territories of housing, spaces of possession: Ungrounding problems of race and value

Coleman Allums¹ and Matthew Harris^{*2}

¹Allegheny College, ²University of Georgia

A great deal of popular and academic attention has followed and critiqued Atlanta's new secession movements over the past two decades. The racial wealth gap has been an implicit—and occasionally explicit—vector of this critique, as secessionist projects in Atlanta have overwhelmingly benefited white minority communities at the expense of Black and multiracial majorities. Recently, the lingering specter of secession has intersected the housing question in a way that allows us to illuminate the

centrality of debates over housing (and those housed) to the broader project of urban white territoriality. In response to rapidly increasing population in the metro area over the past decade, the City of Atlanta proposed in the early 2020s to upzone portions of the wealthy, white Buckhead community in order to accommodate the construction of more and denser housing. The Buckhead area, which sits in the northern third of the City's boundaries, is unique for its large, homogeneous swaths of single-family parcels and its lack of zoning designations appropriate to multi-family housing. In response to the City's proposal, and under the dual smokescreen of public safety and self-determination, Buckhead attempted, swiftly, to secede from the City. This case lays bare the fundamental, racially-mediated relationship between housing and urban power, encouraging a more expansive taxonomy of housing policy beyond the normally-indicated set of concerns.

WHITENESS, VALUE, HOUSING, TERRITORIALITY, WEALTH

Trends and Transformations in Irregular Migration Facilitation (Coyotaje) in Latin America

Luisa Amato Caye and Sarah Blue*
Texas State University

For decades, coyotes, or smugglers, have been a central figure that represents the irregular crossing of migrants towards the US. However, as borders are increasingly enforced and externalized, new corridors emerge, and the practices evolving the facilitation of the irregular transit of migrants have become more complex and diverse. This paper is part of a project that gathered data over a 18-month period, from January 2023 – June 2024 and is drawn from a survey of 154 migrants surveyed and interviewed in the Rio Grande valley (RGV) sister cities of Matamoros (Tamaulipas, Mexico) – Brownsville (Texas, USA) and Reynosa (MX) -McAllen (USA). Comparing broader trends from other empirical studies with our study's findings, this paper points to the complexities of the practices constituting the facilitation of unauthorized border crossings involving transit migration to the USA. Instead of framing facilitation solely as a criminal enterprise bound to a single region, this paper reveals the interplay among local facilitators, transnational enforcement, and regional migration dynamics, showing that some relationships involve reciprocal favors beyond monetary exchange. It also examines border controls, changing smuggling fees, and shifting migrant strategies, arguing that reliance on facilitators results from structural, regional, and transnational factors that transcend individual criminality.

COYOTE, FACILITATORS, MIGRATION, IRREGULAR MIGRATION, LATIN AMERICA–U.S. MIGRATION

When "Culture" Becomes a Commodity: Racialized Marketing and Opioid Settlement Funding

Nafisa Anjum, Emily Rosenman*, and Louisa M Holmes*
Pennsylvania State University

Racially targeted marketing campaigns are one means by which U.S. racial capitalism perpetuates structural racism and generates health disparities. For example, companies like Purdue Pharma, collaborating with their consultant, McKinsey and Company, employed what they referred to as "micro-marketing" strategies to segment potential OxyContin (opiate) consumers by race and ethnicity in order to capitalize on existing disparities in clinical pain treatment. Through an archival analysis of opioid industry documents turned over in legal discovery at the USCF-Johns Hopkins Opioid Industry Documents Library, this study shows how Purdue Pharma exploited spatial concentrations and assumed cultural practices of Black and Hispanic populations in the U.S. in the mid-2000s to bolster opioid sales as profits began to fall. This study further touches on how opioid settlement funding in the Appalachian region, including the recent Purdue settlement, is and is not being used in ways that help address the substance use disparities that Purdue and McKinsey leveraged for profit.

MICRO-MARKETING, RACE, BLACK, HISPANIC, OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDING

Examining Foodscape Changes in Gentrifying East Austin

Hilary Ansah
Texas State University

East Austin, Texas, has experienced rapid gentrification since the 1980s, with potential consequences for residents' access to food. This study explores the changes in the foodscape of East Austin during this gentrification process by focusing on changes in the local food environment. Using spatial analysis techniques, we mapped temporal and geographic shifts in food retail establishments across Austin from 1983 to 2023. Our findings reveal clear patterns in the evolution of Austin's foodscape, including a sharp increase in the total number of food establishments, particularly in recent years. We observed a marked rise in gentrification-indicative stores in East Austin, such as drinking bars and upscale restaurants, especially in the last decade. These businesses, catering to newer and higher-income residents, signal a changing socioeconomic landscape. These shifts also raise concerns about potential impacts on food access for long-term and low-income residents in rapidly transforming neighborhoods. This research provides a foundation for a more in-depth study of how neighborhood change affects urban food access. Our preliminary results set the stage for survey and interview phases and offer insights for policymakers,

planners, and community organizations seeking to understand and respond to foodscape changes in gentrifying cities.

GENTRIFICATION, FOODSCAPE, FOOD
ENVIRONMENT, URBAN CHANGE, EAST AUSTIN

"Ya estamos hallados aquí." Making territories of belonging despite Mexico's southern border

Alicia Barceinas Cruz
University of Kentucky

The current infrastructure and practices of border security in North America immobilize thousands of people while speeding up the exchange of commodities and capital. As diverse bodies of literature in political and abolition geographies point out, this is because capital accumulation requires precarious labor. This paper examines how this precarity is experienced and resisted in Mexico's southern border. I draw from ethnographic data gathered through extensive participatory observation work between 2021 and 2023 in Maya lands contained by Mexico's border, semi-structured interviews with border residents, and archival documents. I use the concept of racialized national security to describe how the Mexican state deploys racial ideology to articulate national identity, border enforcement, and neoliberal development as projects of national security. Most importantly, however, I highlight everyday strategies of survival that Mayan women (who survived the 1980s genocide in Guatemala and are now settled in Mexico) do to stand up against the systemic discrimination they face under a regime of racialized national security. I argue that these strategies, chiefly practices that support food security and economic autonomy, offer important lessons on territory and belonging, as these depart from the dominant geopolitical imaginaries on which oppressive border regimes rely.

RACE, BORDER, TERRITORY, BELONGING,
MEXICO

The Myth of Electability: Black Women, Power, and the Politics of Exclusion

Erika Barnes Ford
Pepperdine University

The story of American democracy cannot be fully told without acknowledging the central yet uncredited role of Black women in curating its progress. Yet they remain systematically excluded from equitable political representation. This study interrogates the electability of Black women in predominantly white districts, examining how proximity to power, entrenched perceptions of leadership, and systemic prejudice restrict their political futures. Through

qualitative interviews and case studies, the research reveals how racism, sexism, and structural bias intersect to frame Black women as "unelectable." At the same time, it surfaces the strategies, resilience, and networks that challenge these narratives and sustain candidacies. By centering Black women's voices and experiences, the study illuminates the democratic costs of exclusion and advances a framework for reimagining representation. Electability, it argues, is not a measure of qualification but a reflection of the social, political, and cultural structures that determine whose leadership is deemed acceptable.

ELECTABILITY, BLACK WOMEN, REPRESENTATION,
DEMOCRACY, INTERSECTIONALITY, LEADERSHIP,
EQUITY, BIAS

The Racial Paradigm: Reframing Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Global Governance Challenge

Erika Barnes Ford
Pepperdine University

This study aims to examine racism as a global public health issue, focusing on its profound implications for human rights, human security, and the global public good. Utilizing a comprehensive review of existing literature, case studies, and statistical data, the research investigates the pervasive effects of racism on health outcomes, security, and societal well-being. The analysis reveals significant disparities, increased insecurity, and overall societal harm directly linked to systemic racism. The research argues that racism, bigotry, nativism, populism, xenophobia, and supremacy are significant threats to global public health, human rights, and security, impacting decision-making at all levels. The conclusion offers recommendations for policy, practice, and further research, emphasizing the urgent need to address racism as a public health crisis to promote global equity and justice. Addressing these issues as a public good through international cooperation and anti-racist policies is essential for promoting equity and stability worldwide.

RACISM, NEO-NATIVISM, PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC
GOOD, HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN SECURITY,
REGIMES

The Creation of "Suburban Ghettos" and their Schools: Racializing Space and Spatializing Race in Prince George's County, Maryland, Throughout its History

Haley M Bateman
Elizabethtown College

In this paper, I examine how racial geography and social history shape educational inequality in

Prince George's County, Maryland. Drawing on theories of "the racialization of space and the spatialization of race" and the framing of Black neighborhoods as "abstract spaces," I analyze resident experiences, population statistics, and county development analyses to examine patterns and trace the roots of underachievement and violence in the schools of Prince George's County, Maryland. Today, it is regarded for being one of the most affluent majority-Black counties in America, but Prince George's County has a unique history involving waves of racial migrations and tensions that provide it a positionality worth examining further, including its place as the largest county to desegregate using forced busing. I assert that the legacies of enslavement, racial capitalism, and the historical devaluation of Black education shape the modern problems in Prince George's County schools that remain attributed to "ghettos," "gangs," and "violence."

EDUCATION, DESEGREGATION, HOUSING
POLICIES, ABSTRACT SPACES

A Place-based Index for Measuring and Visualizing Structural Racism and Discrimination in the U.S.

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Disparities between Black and White communities in the U.S. stem from a deep-rooted history of racist and discriminatory policies that have perpetuated inequities across multiple social dimensions. This form of racism, i.e., structural racism, has disproportionately impacted Black communities by limiting access to housing, income and wealth through employment, education, voting, and healthcare. Despite widespread recognition of its impact, a standardized methodology for quantifying structural racism at the population level remains a challenge. To address this need, we developed the Structural Racism and Discrimination Index, the first national, place-based, and community-informed measure. The index includes 16 indicators from nationally representative datasets across five domains: racialized residential segregation, housing, healthcare, income, and crime/incarceration. Using an equal-weighting method, county-level scores capture the relative impact of racism and discrimination nationwide and statewide. To facilitate accessibility, we created an interactive visualization tool with maps, graphs, and open datasets for research, policy, and community advocacy.

STRUCTURAL RACISM, DISCRIMINATION, PLACE-
BASED INDEX, INTERACTIVE VISUALIZATION

Urban Universities, the Digital Divide,
Direct Service, and Community Geography
at a Predominately Black Institution in
Chicago: The ABE-LINC project
Daniel Block and Nathalia Cardenas*
Chicago State University

Chicago State University (CSU) is a Predominately Black Institution on the South Side of Chicago. It houses the Neighborhood Assistance Center (NAC), which assists community organizations with community-led mapping and network facilitation. In 2017, the NAC lost university financial support. Since this time, it has been focused on grant-supported projects. The largest of these projects is ABE-LINC, a project funded by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) through its "Connection Minority Communities" (CMC) funding mechanism. CMC grants went to minority-serving institutions. They focused on increasing internet access and knowledge on the institutions themselves and in their surrounding communities. For CSU, the grant includes internet upgrades on campus, as well as a series of community workshops and classes led by digital mentors with community partners. Community members who completed the projects received free laptops. CSU partnered with Northeastern Illinois University, a Hispanic Serving Institution on the project. This presentation discusses ABE-LINC and how it fits into the mission of CSU, NEIU, and the NAC. Focus will be put on the role of direct service projects such as ABE-LINC in university's community focused missions, and in Community Geography in general.

COMMUNITY GEOGRAPHY, DIRECT SERVICE,
MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS, DIGITAL DIVIDE

Geodemographics Predict Suburban
Clothing Growth, Omaha, Nebr., 1941-1980
Heather L. Bloom
independent researcher

In the 1950s, clothiers in major U. S. cities worked to provide parking to compete with newly constructed auto-centric shopping malls. This dissertation researched the spatial movement of Omaha clothing, department, and discount stores between 1941 and 1980, as they abandoned historic business districts for the suburban shopping centers, specifically how [1] clothiers, off-street parking operators, and the City of Omaha addressed the need for automobile parking, [2] urban redevelopment changed Retail District land use availability for clothiers, and [3] post-World War II population relocation encouraged suburban clothier growth. This study used U.S. Census Bureau block level housing demographics and Omaha City Directory-published clothiers to create a spatial

movement timeline based on mean centers, while census, clothier, parking, transportation, and HOLC data used multivariate clustering to create retail zones. Clusters show the effects of 1960s suburbanization based on failed shopping locations in areas with high populations of color.

SUBURBANIZATION, RETAIL, HISTORICAL, GIS,
CENSUS

Unintended Consequences of the US' Short-Lived 'Humane Border Enforcement' Policy

Sarah A. Blue

Texas State University

From January 2021 to December 2024, more than 8.6 million migrants arrived at the US-Mexico border. In contrast to Trump's unilateral and draconian enforcement measures, the Biden administration promised a new humanitarian approach to unsolicited border arrivals that adopted principles from the UN Global Compact on Migration. In January 2025, Trump again closed the US' southern border to asylum seekers, pausing this wave of arrivals. It is in this pause that we reflect on the effectiveness and consequences of the poorly understood and widely criticized US attempt under the Biden administration's (2021-2024) re-working of the US' asylum system. This paper uses interviews conducted during the peak years of migrant arrivals at the US' southern border, in 2023-2024, to illustrate how implementation of Biden's 'humane border enforcement' policy resulted in the hemispheric-wide illegalization of transit, leading to unintended consequences such as increased migrant vulnerability and the enrichment of criminal actors.

IMMIGRATION, BORDER, MIGRATION POLICY,
ASYLUM

How the New Deal Mapping State Spread Redlining Maps to Private Industry

Lawrence Brown, Brittney Boakye*, Bianca Newton*, and Jehan Reeves*

Morgan State University

More than 50 peer-reviewed papers demonstrate statistical links between contemporary health outcomes and HOLC grades derived from federal redlining maps created in the 1930s. Despite this, some researchers have recently argued that "no existing evidence" demonstrates exactly how federal maps were spread to or shared with private industry. Without such evidence, these scholars argue that empirical research based on HOLC maps represent "poor history" and that redlining maps "should not be viewed as directly shaping private lenders' practices." Over the course of three years, our team delved into

records in the National Archives, federal journals, and other documents to understand the origins and spread of redlining. Extant records reveal that redlining maps were not a secret, but rather a large-scale, well-publicized, nationwide effort involving federal officials and private partners. This paper presentation will provide evidence regarding the creation of redlining maps and how officials spread their work to private industries.

REDLINING, RACIAL SEGREGATION, HOLC MAPS,
PUBLIC HEALTH

Landscapes of Shame: The Work of Not Forgetting

Perry Carter

Texas Tech University

Museums and memorials are instruments for remembering. They convey narratives of the past into the present and in so doing they make witnesses of their audiences. But how do they do it and what affects do they engender in audiences if any at all? This paper is about how museums use objects of memory, both material and immaterial mnemonics, to convey narratives of shame and regret. It is also about how the curatorial choices in the employment of memory objects, structures, and landscapes affect audiences. The study scrutinizes the curatorial choices at three memorial sites to difficult American histories: Whitney plantation museum, the Manzanar National Historic Site, and the Stewart Indian School museum. Its empirical components include descriptions of the sites, images of their material elements, and visitors' responses to their tours of these sites.

MUSEUMS, MEMORIALS, MEMORY

Viapolitics and the Journeys of Irregular Chinese Migrants to the US-Mexico Border

Elizabeth Chacko and Nick He*

George Washington University

The post-COVID pandemic years of the Biden Administration (January 2021- January 2025), saw an unprecedented increase in the diversity of national origins of irregular migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico Border into the United States. This flow included an influx of unauthorized Chinese migrants, peaking in 2023-2024. This paper investigates the nature of the journeys of 10 such migrants who entered the U.S. from the southern border. I analyze migrant journeys using the framework of viapolitics, a concept that explores the political and material dimensions of movement and the role of routes, vehicles, infrastructure and environments in facilitating or obstructing mobility. I highlight the role of legal and extra-legal regimes and geopolitical relations between country governments in determining various aspects of migrant journeys. The

discussion will also delve into how experiences of the journey were mediated by information access and exchange, which significantly influenced route selection, safety, and outcomes.

VIAPOLITICS, U.S.-MEXICO BORDER, IRREGULAR MIGRANTS, CHINESE MIGRANTS, GEOPOLITICS,

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The Imagined Homeland of Karen Refugees: Negotiating Identity and Community around Kawthoolei

James Chaney

Middle Tennessee State University

This article explores how Karen refugees in Smyrna, Tennessee—a community within the Nashville metropolitan area—draw on the concepts of homeland and collective memory to sustain group identity and cohesion across generations. Based on qualitative research, the study examines how Karen of different generations negotiate a pan-Karen identity through reference to Kawthoolei, the imagined homeland central to their political struggle against the Burmese state. At the same time, the research highlights the challenges and divisions within the community, as competing interpretations of Kawthoolei—whether as a unifying symbol, a site of contested memory, or a vision for political sovereignty—reflect and reinforce broader differences in language, religion, and political orientation. These dynamics are further complicated by concerns among older generations that younger Karen are assimilating into mainstream U.S. culture at the expense of preserving their heritage. By situating these negotiations in the context of resettlement, the article contributes to scholarship on refugee communities by showing how displaced groups both preserve and dispute connections to homeland while redefining identity in new geographic settings.

IMAGINED HOMELAND, REFUGEES, IDENTITY, COLLECTIVE MEMORY,

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Territorializing Energy: The Political Ecology of the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project and Ethnic Contestation in Kenya

Winnie Changwony

Kent State University

This study explores Africa's largest wind power project; the Lake Turkana Wind Power through the lens of "energy capture." The paper delves into the socio-ecological and political economic systems through which energy infrastructures mediate power, dependency, and territorial claims. Exploring the pastoralist communities found in the project area, I analyze how the wind farm operates as both a material energy infrastructure and a symbolic "dream zone" that reconfigures ethnic territoriality and

belonging in Northern Kenya. The project exemplifies the dynamics of "post-carbon development frontiers" showing how mega renewable projects that promise energy sovereignty could potentially reproduce new forms of capture and dependence. The environmentally sustainable project interacts with processes of ethnic territorialization where fluid pastoralist identities become fixed to bounded territories. In this case, the project area becomes a zone of competing land claims and local communities navigate between embracing the project's promise of development and defending territorial rights rooted in deeper genealogies of place and belonging. This paper, revealing the existing political ecologies of ethnicity, territory, and state power, challenges the linear narratives of green development while revealing the persistent entanglements of energy, capture, and belonging.

WIND POWER, ENERGY CAPTURE, LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS, ETHNIC TERRITORIALITY, NORTHERN KENYA

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Intersectionality and Minority Stress in Context: The Impact of Family and Income Structure on Mental Health Risks in Emerging Adults

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Prairie View A&M University

Family and income structure (FIS) and intersecting marginalized identities are critical but underexplored determinants of young adults' mental health. Guided by Minority Stress Theory (Meyer, 1995, 2003) and Intersectionality Theory (Crenshaw, 1991), this study examines how FIS and minority status, defined as the intersection of racial minority and LGBTQ+ identity, shape risks for depression and suicidality among the US young adults aged 18–29. Preliminary findings reveal disproportionately higher prevalence of suicidal ideation, intent, and behaviors among single-parent in lower-income households, particularly for racial–sexual minorities. Results underscore the compounded effects of socioeconomic disadvantage and intersecting identities on mental health, highlighting the need for equity-focused interventions.

FAMILY STRUCTURE, INTERSECTIONALITY, QUANTITATIVE, STATISTICAL METHOD, SURVEY

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"It's Not So Bad:" Muslims' Senses of Belonging to Rural, Southern West Virginia

Karen Culcasi

West Virginia University

Based on in-depth interviews and participant observations with Muslims living in rural, southern West Virginia, I found that they have

positive feelings toward and strong senses of belonging to this rural area. Compared to other places they've lived, which were large, migratory-gateway cities like Chicago and Washington, DC, most felt that rural WV was a better and safer place to make a home. However, their positive sentiments of their rural community co-exist with their concern of its lack of diversity and opportunities and some experiences with anti-Muslim discrimination and hate. My findings of their generally positive experiences and strong senses of belonging to their rural area, as well as the fact that this community exists, questions mainstream discourse and a large body of literature that focus on rural spaces as intolerant and discriminatory to minorities. I also underscore the similarities and connections between urban/rural spaces, thus problematizing the still pervasive urban-rural binary that commonly informs public discourse and some academic research.

APPALACHIA, ISLAMOPHOBIA, RACE,
IMMIGRATION, ISLAM, CONRAD 30, RURALITY

**Empowerment Capability Utilization:
Theory of Power, Awareness, and
Informed Utilization**
Sukanya Das and Madhuri Sharma*
University of Tennessee

The ways in which indigenous individuals deal with social inequalities to make decisions regarding the use of institutional services related to healthcare, education, and finance represent a significant area of study within the social sciences. In this paper, we introduce the Empowerment Capability Utilization (ECU) framework to comprehend the structured relationships that shape use of services across diverse social settings. ECU addresses the concerns in both traditional and modern theories that often examine empowerment, awareness, or behavior separately. It provides a clear explanation on how empowerment, awareness and utilization behavior are interconnected, and how/why should they be studied in relation to each other. Through this framework, we have highlighted how consistent patterns of unequal access emerge when inequalities limit individual agency and influence decision-making. We offer a flexible, interdisciplinary approach to understanding how indigenous people respond to and operate within these constraints. The ECU framework can inform an analytical framework by guiding empirical analysis, defining key constructs, and shaping the interpretation of data across disciplines.

EMPOWERMENT, INEQUALITIES, AGENCY,
UTILIZATION BEHAVIOR, INSTITUTIONAL
SERVICES, INDIGENOUS

**Centuries in Motion: Charting the Historical
Pathways of Indian Migration to the United
States**

Swachhatoya Das and Madhuri Sharma*
University of Tennessee

The migration of South Asian Indians to the United States spans more than three centuries and reflects evolving imperial ties, shifting immigration regimes, and geopolitical forces shaped by the global economy. From the eighteenth-century presence of lascars and merchants in Atlantic ports to the Sikh agricultural settlers and early-twentieth-century Hindu missionaries, Indian migrants confronted exclusionary U.S. immigration laws. Wartime realignments and the 1946 Luce-Celler Act reopened limited legal pathways, setting the stage for the transformative 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act and the large-scale arrival of highly educated professionals and graduate students in medicine, engineering, and science. Globalization and the ICT boom of the 1990s deepened high-skilled flows, particularly through the H-1B visa program, while Indian migration diversified: Gujarati entrepreneurs, Punjabi and Sikh communities, and growing numbers of Telugu and Tamil IT professionals built unique transnational landscapes. The post-2000 period brought both legal and undocumented migration surges, including significant family-reunification and student streams. Most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted these patterns: travel restrictions and visa backlogs briefly slowed legal admissions and education flows, while economic distress and political uncertainties spurred a dramatic increase in undocumented crossings at the U.S. southern border. Our paper shows that contemporary Indian migration is inseparable from its layered past. Earlier experiences of racial exclusion, legal contestation, and transnational political mobilization created both the cautionary backdrop and the institutional openings for the late twentieth-century "brain drain," the growth of student and professional pathways, and the twenty-first-century circulation of IT labor.

SOUTH ASIAN INDIANS, MIGRATION, HISTORICAL
TRAJECTORIES

**Researching Race, Ethnicity, and
Immigration: Challenges of and Strategies
in the Current U.S. Political Climate**
Christabel Devadoss and James Chaney
Middle Tennessee State University

Research on race, ethnicity, and immigration has long shaped our understanding of identity, inequality, and the contributions of diverse populations in the United States. Yet, the current political climate has created new pressures changing how this research is conducted, ranging from restricted access to reliable data and participant hesitancy to declining researcher morale and productivity. In this paper, we present

preliminary findings from a survey of race, ethnicity, and immigration scholars, focusing on their experiences and perspectives regarding the impacts of contemporary U.S. policies on their work. Results highlight how political shifts are reshaping data collection, research practices, and the broader scholarly landscape. By documenting these challenges and perceptions, our work seeks to identify strategies for sustaining research in difficult political contexts and for ensuring the continued production of vital knowledge on race, ethnicity, and immigration.

RESEARCH, RACE, ETHNICITY, IMMIGRATION,
DATA COLLECTION

Racially Restrictive Covenants in Modesto, California: An Exploration of Historical Urban Geography and Segregated Landscapes

José Díaz-Garayúa, David Froba*, and Sharon Froba*
California State University, Stanislaus

Following the Great Depression and the National Mortgage Crisis of the 1930s, New Deal legislation restructured mortgage lending in the United States. Federal intervention promoted not only broader access to homeownership but also pathways for wealth accumulation. These benefits, however, were unevenly distributed. Non-white communities were systematically excluded through redlining practices, while many new housing developments embedded Racially Restrictive covenants (RRCs) into property deeds. A representative clause stated: "(H) That said lots, or any portion thereof, shall not be used in any manner whatsoever or occupied by any Negro, Chinese, Japanese, Hindu, Malayan, Mexican, Cuban, or native of the Turkish Empire, or any person not of the Caucasian race, or descent thereof except as the servant of the occupant." Such covenants were employed nationwide, including Modesto, particularly during the 1930s-1950s. Although no longer legally enforceable, RRCs institutionalized segregation, and their enduring legacies continue to shape the socio-spatial fabric of American cities.

RACIALLY RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS,
SEGREGATION, URBANIZATION

Decolonizing Care: Racialized Labor and COVID-19 in New York City

Lorraine Dowler
Penn State University

This paper explores the everyday experiences of racialized nurses and their interactions with racialized patients, highlighting how structural inequalities produced a shared vulnerability to COVID-19. Black women have long carried the burden of care in the United

States, from coerced labor under colonial enslavement to the underpaid roles of contemporary care workers. By analyzing how the state enacts violence through racist and sexist policies and discourses, the paper foregrounds the autonomous spaces of care forged by Black communities in New York City over time including: the 1918 Spanish Flu, the Young Lords' struggle for health justice in the 70's, and amid the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. Situating the socio-political dynamics of the 1918 pandemic alongside today's segregated healthcare system illuminates the enduring racialization of public health and nursing, demonstrating how structural inequities shape both vulnerability and resistance in care practices.

COVID-19, BLACK NURSING, NEW YORK CITY

Moral Albinism in The Last Illusion: Whiteness, Myth, and the Fragmentation of Diasporic Iranian Identity

Sayyed Navid Etedali Rezapoorian
The University of New Mexico

This paper examines race through the lens of myth in Porochista Khakpour's *The Last Illusion* and through the context of war, particularly the phenomenon of some Iranians supporting U.S. military action against Iran. The novel critiques the racialization of Iranian Americans through whiteness, Persianist ideology, and the Aryan myth. Khakpour presents racial albinism as a moral affliction affecting diasporic Iranians, especially post-9/11, when many sought proximity to whiteness for safety and inclusion. Drawing on Omi and Winant's racial formation theory, Lacan's mirror stage, and Baldwin's reflections on whiteness, the analysis explores how the protagonist's fragmented identity mirrors the disorientation of a diaspora suspended between myth and racial reality. The paper also reflects on the Iranian diaspora's complicity in dominant U.S. racial ideologies. The novel's final scenes are interpreted as ritualistic acts—fusing illusion, magic, and reality—designed to purge internalized whiteness and disrupt the illusion of racial belonging.

RACIAL ALBINISM, MYTH VS. WHITENESS, IRANIAN
AMERICAN DIASPORA, PERSIANISM AND
ARYANISM

Public Geographies of Racial Segregation: Designing Museum Spaces to Embody History and Emplace Identities

Johnny Finn and Jakira Silas*
Christopher Newport University

This presentation centers on an exhibition at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, entitled *Living Apart: Geography of Segregation in the 21st Century*, that was the result of five

years of mixed-methods research in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Specifically, we'll discuss how we used the museum exhibition to challenge a public audience to see: (a) how socio-spatial structures perpetuate racial inequality and constrain individual agency; (b) how we—as individuals—are implicated in this story; and (c) how both individual and collective action is necessary to construct a more racially and environmentally just future. The central question that we grapple with is how we can design a multi-sensory museum exhibition to translate research on urban inequality into an exhibition that denaturalizes the production of urban racial inequality and inspires visitors to work toward building a more racially, environmentally, and socially just future.

AFFECTIVE GEOGRAPHIES, DESIGN ACTIVISM,
MIXED METHODOLOGIES, MUSEUM GEOGRAPHY,
PUBLIC GEOGRAPHY, RACIAL SEGREGATION,
VISUAL METHODOLOGIES

**Ni de aquí ni de allá: The Case for A
Modern Bracero Program**
Isabella Franco
George Washington University

Drawing on fieldwork and semi-structured interviews with 25 migrant farmworkers in California's Central Valley during the summer of 2025, this paper explores how lack of legal status shapes workers' sense of social belonging. Although none of the respondents reported direct encounters with immigration enforcement, all described a persistent feeling of exclusion from the communities in which they live and work. Nearly all participants expressed a preference for temporary work permits over a pathway to permanent status, with many stating a desire to work seasonally in the U.S. while maintaining strong ties to their home countries. These findings suggest that current immigration policies and proposed legislation fail to align with the lived realities of migrant agricultural laborers and native-born growers alike. A review of literature on the H-2A visa program, combined with the author's own experience working in the fields, highlights how the program often enables labor rights violations. The paper proposes a rights-based reinvention of the Bracero Program.

MIGRATION, FARMWORKERS, BELONGING, U.S.
AGRICULTURAL POLICY, H-2A VISA

**Understanding Climate Impacts and
Adaptive Strategies for Unhoused
Communities in Yolo County, California**
Lupe Franco
UC Davis

Climate environmental hazards in California are multiplied and magnified for unhoused

populations, whose intersectional identities and histories—including those shaped by colonialism, race, class, gender, mental health issues, and sexual orientation—contribute to discrimination, increased criminalization, and forced displacement, resulting in starkly uneven outcomes during and after disasters. These individuals face heightened health risks, such as heat exhaustion and respiratory issues, due to prolonged exposure to extreme weather events, which continue to intensify under climate change. Despite the critical need for adaptive solutions, there is limited understanding of how unhoused populations navigate these climate stressors. Through a social-geographical approach, this study engages with Yolo County's unhoused communities to elevate their voices and experiences in shaping equitable climate policy. A core aspect of this research addresses ethical considerations and power dynamics inherent in participatory research with vulnerable communities. By elevating the lived experiences of unhoused individuals, this study explores a balance of representation and agency while mitigating potential risks tied to participation. Research questions include: How do unhoused communities in Yolo County cope with climate impacts? What insights can their experiences provide for more effective policy responses? How are Environmental Justice activists addressing homelessness as a climate justice issue? There is currently no understanding of how this group is operating to survive during climate events. Therefore, action must be taken to ensure that our unhoused neighbors receive access to appropriate adaptation solutions to the increasing risks of climate change.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, CLIMATE JUSTICE,
HOMELESSNESS, CALIFORNIA, INTERSECTIONAL
IDENTITIES

**Writing Geography for a World on Fire: The
Role of Feminist Mentorship in Cultivating
Effective Public Engagement**
Emily Frazier
Missouri State University

What a time to be a geographer—as they say, the world is on fire. In an age shaped by anthropogenic climate change, shifting human dynamics, and increased global connectivity, the work of geographers in addressing pressing global issues has become more crucial than ever. Despite the prevalence of geographical issues in daily news headlines, few geographers routinely connect their insights and expertise with interested public audiences. Although public engagement is being given more attention across the discipline, the public arena is highly politicized; in an era of increased scrutiny and mistrust of scientific expertise, geographers need support to do this work effectively. Following calls to enhance public communication and advocacy among geographers (Alderman and Inwood

Citation2019), this paper explores the importance of mentorship in equipping geographers to effectively communicate their research. Drawing on personal mentorship experiences in writing public geography, I conceptualize this process not as a one-way exchange between solitary scholar and ambiguous public, but instead as a careful and courageous dialogue, shaped by caring and collaborative mentorship relationships between geographers across career stages. This paper contributes to the discourse on enhancing public communication and advocacy among geographers, addressing the need for mentorship to support the development of a new generation of geographers adept at navigating and engaging with the complexities of our rapidly changing world.

FEMINIST MENTORSHIP, MENTORSHIP, PUBLIC GEOGRAPHIES, WRITING PUBLIC GEOGRAPHIES

From Vietnam to Voting Rights: Combat Veterans and Insurgent Organizing in the Civil Rights and Chicana/o Movements
Joseph J. Garcia
University of New Mexico

The Vietnam War and particularly 1968 with the Tet Offensive, assassinations of MLK Jr. and RFK along with the protests and movements saw the return of combat veterans of the war to a completely country that they left. Many became anti-war activists while other in communities of color, after overcoming many challenges began organizing around their military combat services to begin organizing for greater access to education, health, housing, veterans and other support services historically denied. Along with the 1968 Fair Housing Act, activists/organizers began challenge the redlining and segregation that limited housing and employment options. The following study examines through the Garcia v. Taft, Texas Voting Rights Decision, the waning efforts to use the voting rights act to create greater opportunities for people of color to have access to decision making participation examining other voting rights cases and community organizing that involved and was led by former combat veterans of the World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam work with a focus on Texas and the role of LBJ and other politicians efforts to limit the 1965/1975 Voting Rights Acts.

VIETNAM WAR, CIVIL/VOTING RIGHTS ACTS, GERRYMANDERING, ORGANIZING, COMBAT VETERANS,

Successful Defiance in Action: Mexico, Cuba and the US in the Age of Nationalization, Labor Movements and Multinational Corporations
Joseph J. Garcia
University of New Mexico

After attempting to overthrow the government of Fulgencio Batista in 1953, Fidel Castro fled to Mexico where he and other revolutionaries were jailed by the Mexican government under the orders of the Batista dictatorship. Using his knowledge of the Mexican Revolution, Castro wrote a letter asking for help from former president and revolutionary general, Lázaro Cárdenas, appealing to his sense of history and justice. Cárdenas was impressed by this young revolutionary and worked to obtain political asylum for him and his comrades. This allowed Castro to enter Texas clandestinely in order to collect funds for the Cuban Revolution. The chance encounter of the two revolutionaries is not well known in the annals of Mexico and Cuba yet provides us with a historical interaction between two dynamic leaders who were uniquely loved by their respective p often clashed with attempted international interventions. In particular, because their relationship did not end with the release of Castro in 1956. What makes for the historical oversight regarding the connection between Castro and Cárdenas? Is the comparison between both men and countries valid or was their meeting merely a coincidence of no great importance? I argue yes, that both men were effective revolutionary leaders who became highly revered through their charismatic revolutionary leadership. In the case of Mexico on the eve of World War II and Cuba during the most dangerous moments of the Cold War. Through the long process of implementing economic sovereignty, Mexico and Cuba developed an overlapping foreign policy in international relations built on the struggles of the Mexican Revolution. This article addresses the importance of Mexico's pioneering efforts to circumvent attempts by the US and multinational corporations to control oil resources. Using macro-analytic and contrast-oriented approaches this paper examines how revolutionary Mexico's actions supported Cuba's future encounters.

ENERGY/NATURAL RESOURCE HISTORY/POLICY, REVOLUTION, SOVEREIGNTY, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, LEADERSHIP

The struggle for water in rural Paraguay: a 'perverse confluence' analysis of subversive participation
Joseph J. Garcia
University of New Mexico

In March 1999, the people of Paraguay found themselves at an historical crossroads. At the national level and in rural communities, the

legacy of the 35-year Stroessner dictatorship continued to limit the ability of democratic actors to make social and political change in the country. The old one-party rule of the Colorados confronted by international and local pressure for transformation, led to a political crisis that challenged both neoliberal development policies and the lingering authoritarian populism of the dictatorship. This essay explores a municipal infrastructure and water project sponsored by the Paraguayan government, the Peace Corps and the Inter-American Development Bank, in which the joint effort revealed tensions between emergent forms of democratisation and the goals of campesinos and their allies in the Catholic Church. Struggles for improved quality of life through infrastructure development intertwined with neoliberal modes of governance and efforts to overcome years of local authoritarian rule. Local communities sought a more active role in governing their affairs, which led to the successful implementation of Juntas de Saneamiento.

NEOLIBERALISM, DICTATORSHIP, RULE OF LAW,
INFRASTRUCTURE, CRITICAL GROUNDWATER
GOVERNANCE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
WATER POLICY, ENVIRONMENT POLICY

**The Case of Jane Trapp: Gender, Race,
Freedom and Slavery in Early British
Central America**
Dina Gaxiola
Southwestern University

This paper explores the life of Jane Trapp, a free woman of color in eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century British Central America, to interrogate how race, gender, and slavery shaped everyday life. Drawing on wills, private records, and censuses, the paper traces Trapp's story of moving from being a daughter of a formerly enslaved woman and a white sea Captain to herself becoming a large-scale owner of enslaved people. Engaging with feminist and Black studies scholarship, this paper argues that freedom in colonial contexts was always limited and complicated, especially for women of color. Enslaved and formerly enslaved women navigated complex and shifting social orders, their choices often vacillating between resistance and complicity. The story of Jane Trapp challenges the idea that people were either victims or warriors, and instead shows a more complex picture of how even everyday people wielded power under conditions of slavery and colonial rule.

GENDER, RACE, SLAVERY, FREEDOM,
COLONIALISM

Goya boycott: a protest in affinity space
Aida R Guhlincozzi¹, Mónica Lugo-Vélez^{*2},
César Uribe^{*3}, and Sejal Gupta^{*3}
¹University of Missouri, Columbia, ²North
Carolina State University, ³Rice University

In the summer of 2020, many Goya Foods consumers utilized the digital sphere to express outrage and called for a boycott through the hashtag #BoycottGoya. The analysis of 64,000 tweets using hashtags revealed significant digital expression responding to the Goya CEO's political speech. This article visualizes differences in the online political narratives around boycott tweets using mixed methods sentiment analysis, enabling deconstruction of multiple actors' aims in this discourse occurring in affinity spaces. This article uses a feminist digital geographies framework to analyse how engagement with online affinity spaces and digital mediations of everyday life may transform gendered power relations in economic, social, and political contexts. This critical structure concerns how affinity space-held discourses reproduce divisive socio-spatial politics, such as criminalizing and stigmatizing racialized and impoverished bodies and places. We find that product consumption from companies can take on heightened political significance, as a representation of complex negotiations around identity, convenience, and responsibility. These negotiations become visible when expressed in online affinity spaces and have the power to reshape socio-political choices offline in unique ways. This article seeks to unpack the multifaceted dimensions of the Goya Boycott digital discourse, emphasizing a feminist digital geographies perspective in comprehending the complexities of this online movement and its implications for broader socio-political dynamics.

GOYA FOOD, SENTIMENT ANALYSIS, AFFINITY
SPACE, FEMINIST DIGITAL GEOGRAPHIES, DIGITAL
HUMANITIES

**Built to Divide: How Highways Continue to
Shape Racial Inequity in Hampton Roads**
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State University

The placement of mid-20th century urban interstate highways is increasingly recognized as a primary driver of environmental and health inequalities. In this presentation we use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and spatial analysis to quantify and map the disproportionate economic, environmental, and health impacts of urban highways on racial minority populations in the Hampton Roads region of southeastern Virginia. We first use historical census data to show how the region's urban interstate highways were built through primarily Black neighborhoods. Then, using

contemporary data from the American Community Survey (ACS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we uncover strong and long-lasting spatial relationships between race, highway proximity, and associated negative environmental and health outcomes. Our findings highlight the critical need to address this historical legacy in future urban planning and public health policy.

HIGHWAYS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE,
INTERSTATES, DASYMETRIC ANALYSIS, URBAN
PLANNING, PUBLIC HEALTH

The changing look and feel of commercial landscapes along Buford Highway

Colleen Hammelman

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Immigrant small businesses in emerging gateway cities in the US Sunbelt region are more likely to cluster along inner-suburban corridors where they contribute to economic development and the social and cultural capital of growing immigrant groups. Increasingly, these corridors, especially food businesses, are undergoing change as they are (re)valorized by upscale consumers seeking cosmopolitan experiences. This paper examines these changes on the illustrative Buford Highway corridor in metropolitan Atlanta. Drawing on multiple years of landscape field surveys, in-depth interviews, and media analysis, this research identifies changing aesthetics of immigrant businesses that are shifting the look and feel of the historically immigrant commercial corridor. New and old food businesses are increasingly seeking to appeal to consumers interested in the cultural appeal of a neighborhood, as well as food trends and social media. These actions are most evident in the increased use of social media for new businesses or long-standing businesses more recently managed by second generation immigrants, and the new murals and artwork in upscale restaurants. Businesses are also upgrading signage, décor or messaging to create spaces that are welcoming to a broader audience. Throughout this upgrading, business owners describe seeking to represent themselves as neighborhood insiders that have long-standing claims to the neighborhood as well as contributors to new economic development and cultural aspirations of the city as a whole. This research contributes to literature in urban geography, immigration, and food systems by highlighting the relational placemaking that is (re)shaping immigrant foodscapes in gentrifying cities.

IMMIGRATION, SMALL FOOD BUSINESSES,
CHANGING URBAN LANDSCAPES, AESTHETICS

Monkey's Nest: The Kinetics of Racial Capitalism and its Resistance

Jacob Harver

Kent State University

At a river bend in Youngstown, Ohio, was a site which came to be called the Monkey's Nest. Its residents were people on the margins, and it was a site of near-constant migration until demolished for a freeway in 1964. Many people made it a home, and the space exemplified how the forces of capital moved racialized peoples, and how they strove for place and autonomy. In Monkey's Nest, transportation networks facilitated the movement of people/workers from the mid-eighteenth to the second half of the twentieth century and serve to demarcate four eras: River and Footpaths (1749-1824), Canal (1825-1877), Railroad (1856-1930), and Automobile Roadways (1931-Present). The people also changed over this time, from the Indigenous peoples of Kuskusky, Western Europeans, Eastern and Southern Europeans, and finally to African Americans. This work demonstrates how place and movement in racial capitalism, and its resistance, shaped identities and the larger society.

RACE, CLASS, TRANSPORTATION, INDUSTRY,
DEINDUSTRIALIZATION

From Enslavement to Influence; Gendered Agency, Racial Boundaries, and the Story of Ariadne Broaster

Sophia Hernandez

Southwestern University

The story of Ariadne Broaster, who became a free mulatto woman in the early history of Belize, provides insight into the intersection of racializing and gendering processes, and their entanglement with freedom and slavery. Broaster navigated a patriarchal and racialized society to briefly become a wealthy slave owner but then turned her fortune over to a white man. In this paper, I use a wide variety of records to tell Broaster's story and show how even a previously enslaved woman can come to participate in a society such as this. I also show what Broaster chose to do with the wealth and power she accrued, which included taking care of and celebrating her African born mother, and the Black children belonging to her brother.

GENDER, RACE, SLAVERY, FREEDOM

"Indoctrinating Students and Turning Them Against the Country": Racial Politics of Schooling in the US Through a Post-Socialist Lens

Gloria Howerton

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

This paper engages with both recent critical geographies of education and post-socialist geography literature to examine the linkages between politically-motivated racialized educational restructuring and anti-socialist/communist political agendas. Here I consider schools as sites of geopolitical contestation, representing a key institutional space for promulgating conceptualizations of a state, a nation, an ideal citizen-subject, and their associated values. This work traces a history of politicized framings of progressive racial educational policy and programs as being tied to socialism and communism in the United States. I follow this political lineage from the New Deal-era anti-collectivism organizing of groups such as the John Birch Society, to civil rights era insistence that government-enforced school desegregation represents communist interference, to contemporary political theater that denounces DEI, critical race theory, and ethnic studies as Marxist indoctrination. A post-socialist reading of this trajectory provides a useful framework for analyzing how typically, though not exclusively, right-wing political actors make use of the spectres of communism and socialism to (re)structure internal institutions such as the school even within self-described capitalist states.

EDUCATION, SCHOOL, DEI, SOCIALISM,
POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

Spatiotemporal Analysis of the Impact of Structural Racism and Discrimination among Black Americans in the U.S.

Youshuang Hu and Debarchana Ghosh*

University of Connecticut

Structural racism and discrimination (SRD) shape life chances for Black Americans and structure neighborhood segregation across decades, yet the spatiotemporal spread of their cumulative impacts is understudied. This study constructs a place-based SRD index for 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 and identifies clusters using Local Indicators of Spatial Autocorrelation with 15 k-nearest neighbors. Results reveal entrenched high-SRD clusters in the Deep South/Black Belt and lower Mississippi Delta, and persistent low-SRD clusters in parts of the Pacific Coast, New England, and South Florida. While many patterns remained stable, new high-SRD clusters emerged in the Midwest and Upper Midwest after 2010, signaling a northward re-centering of disadvantage. These findings highlight both longstanding inequities and newly emergent concentrations of structural racism

among Black Americans, underscoring the need for geographically targeted interventions. By linking race, place, and time, the study provides a framework to monitor SRD's spatial dynamics and inform equity-focused policy and action.

STRUCTURAL RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION,
COMPOSITE INDEX, DISPARITY, SPATIOTEMPORAL
ANALYSIS, NEIGHBORHOOD SEGREGATION

The Influence of Migrant Organizations on the Aspirations and Capabilities of Newcomers: Lessons from Czech Migration to the US

Eva Janska¹ and Marie Price²

¹Charles University, ²George Washington University

There are approximately 1.2 million people of Czech ancestry in the US, yet relatively little is known about the approximately 60,000 to 80,000 immigrants who arrived after 1989. This study employs the aspirations-capabilities framework to examine this more recent immigrant group and its engagement with established co-ethnic organizations with linkages to Czechia and the Czech diaspora. Based on data gathered from two on-line surveys and qualitative interviews we answer the following questions: What were the aspirations and capabilities of Czech immigrants settling in the US during the post-communist era? How did this 21st century cohort of immigrants engage with institutions created a century earlier and did this engagement facilitate their capabilities? Who participates in these institutions and how might this engagement impact future aspirations and capabilities to migrate? We conclude that immigrant institutions contributed to the aspirations and capabilities of many Czechs in the US, and are likely relevant for other immigrant groups. Such institutions add to the geographical opportunity structure that supports mobility decisions discussed in the aspirations and capabilities framework.

CZECH DIASPORA, IMMIGRANT ORGANIZATIONS,
ASPIRATIONS, CAPABILITIES, WOMEN

Movements in Motion: Gentrification and Displacement of Queer Social Movements in Greenwich Village

Joe Gallegos

University of California, Irvine

New York City's Greenwich Village has been gentrifying at a breakneck pace. It is well known that gentrification displaces populations, but what happens to the social movements that are created by those now displaced populations? Greenwich Village has long been a key "gayborhood," or LGBTQ-dominant area in the city, a status it retains to this day. However, poorer people and people of color have largely been displaced through rising rents and police

violence. This in-process study will seek to see what happened to the organizations that served these populations. Were they displaced to other parts of the city? Can they even exist with a scattered constituency? Finally, for those that still exist, have their missions changed in substantive ways to adapt to these changes? With the help of a newspaper archive, I am attempting to map out these organizations and analyze their claims and missions over the past 35 years.

GENTRIFICATION, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, ACTIVISM,
DISPLACEMENT

Living across lines of freedom in the early history of Belize: The origins of the Bonner family.

Melissa Johnson
Southwestern University

The Bonner surname is linked to a particular village in rural Creole Belize today; but the origin of this family in Belize illustrates multiple social and economic processes that shaped the early history of Belize. The story reveals how families of color emerged with the surname of one European descended man as the thread that holds them together. The story also shows how states of freedom and slavery were sometimes fluid and gendered. The story begins with an English speaking man and an African-descended enslaved girl and follows rises and falls of fortunes and shifting states of slavery and freedom over time. The paper analyses how processes of race, gender and class shape the emergence of this family.

BELIZE, SLAVERY, FREEDOM, RACE, CLASS

Beyond the Listings: The Negro Motorist Green Book as a Blueprint for Black Resilience

LaVonda Jones
East Georgia State College

This presentation explores The Negro Motorist Green Book (1936–1967) as a rhetorical artifact that cultivated resilience, safety, and economic empowerment for Black travelers navigating Jim Crow America. More than a travel guide, The Green Book functioned as a strategic communication tool—promoting Black-owned businesses, affirming mobility as resistance, and constructing a vision of communal care. Drawing on rhetorical criticism and genre analysis, this study examines how the guide used ethos, pathos, and logos to engage its readers, reinforce trust, and invite participation in a larger Black mobility project. By positioning The Green Book as a blueprint for surviving systemic exclusion, this presentation highlights the power of everyday texts in building racial solidarity and economic resilience. This work contributes to rhetorical and cultural studies by demonstrating

how communication can serve as both survival strategy and social vision in the face of structural oppression.

GREENBOOK, RHETORIC, MOBILITY, RESILIENCE,
COMMUNICATION

Sustainable Urbanism: Making Indian Religious Cities Accessible
Rajrani Kalra, Kakoi Saha* and Rachan Khare*

California State University, San Bernardino

Sustainable urbanism is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by United Nations in 2015. To achieve the goal, one of the targets is to provide safe mobility for persons with disabilities (United Nations 2015). In India, religious cities get significant number of visitors with disability as pilgrimage in Hindu tradition is always seen as a form of penance and indeed even today imposed as punishment or relief for offenses. This paper attempts to assess sustainable urbanism of an Indian religious city from the perspective of physical mobility of a visitor with disability taking Madurai as case study city. Universal accessibility assessment of Madurai city was performed using GIS as a tool. The outcome of the research can help the local administration to create a built environment in Indian religious city that supports participation from visitors with disability impact cities around the world.

SUSTAINABLE URBANISM, UNIVERSAL
ACCESSIBILITY, MADURAI CITY, GIS

Transportation Issues, Ethnicity, and Social Class

David Kaplan
Kent State University

Transportation and transportation policy are often presented in a general sense, in relation to how they affect the population as a whole. However, there exist clear distinctions in the way that various subpopulations use transportation, distinctions that illustrate many of the potential inequalities still present within society. Notable among these are differences in transportation usage by race, ethnicity, and social class. This paper will touch on these issues and set the stage for the more specific studies in this session.

TRANSPORTATION, ACCESS, DISPLACEMENT

Openness to Difference: Envisioning Post-National Futures in a Time of Reaction

Jared Keyel
Rowan University

The anti-immigrant and “America First”

policies of the second Trump Administration are a reassertion of an exclusionary form of ethno-nationalism. Such ideologies are inherently violent. This paper makes an empirically-grounded, normative argument that we should resist attempts to enforce homogeneity and put forward visions for post-and trans-national futures in their place. "The nation" is an imagined construction. Societies are neither self-contained nor homogeneous. Radical diversity is an empirical reality. This paper draws on archaeological, anthropological, and sociological evidence to trace the history of exchange, interconnection, cooperation, and conflict that have created the amalgamated and syncretic world that we live in. As Kant argued more than two centuries ago, the finite nature of the planet means we will encounter one another and must learn to live with each other. I argue that we can react with fear and violence to difference, or we can choose to react with openness, curiosity, and a willingness to be changed in our encounters with others.

NATIONALISM, MIGRATION, DIVERSITY,
SYNCRETISM

Naming as Fugitivity: How African American Names Manifest Self-determination and Counternarrative

Silvino Kibuta

University of New Mexico

This research project examines African American naming practices as acts of fugitivity and counternarrative, analyzing a February 21, 2024 Instagram video by content creator W. Alese (@thereclaimed) as its primary qualitative data source. In the video, Alese challenges a white woman's mockery of distinctively Black names, reframing them as embodiments of self-determination, cultural pride, and liberation. As both personal testimony and cultural critique, the video functions as digital storytelling and community cultural knowledge. Drawing on Black fugitivity and Critical Race Theory's counterstorytelling framework, the analysis situates Alese's narrative within historical and contemporary scholarship on naming, from the legacy of enslaver-imposed surnames to the creativity and resistance expressed in first names. The study highlights how distinctively Black names contest white supremacist norms while fostering belonging and community cultural wealth, and calls for educators to honor names' cultural significance, dismantle deficit-based perceptions, and center Black voices in qualitative research on naming.

AFRICAN AMERICAN NAMES, FUGITIVITY,
COUNTERNARRATIVE, CRITICAL RACE THEORY,
EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Naming, Erasure, and the Decline of the Chesapeake: Film and Ecology in Maryland's Cultural Geography

William L. Kiskowski

Maryland Historical Trust

This paper examines the cultural geographies of naming and identity transformation in Maryland film alongside the ecological decline of the Chesapeake Bay. Central to the analysis are *Roots* (1977), *Avalon* (1990), and *Something the Lord Made* (2004), which highlight how renaming and erasure operate as strategies of both survival and exclusion. Kunta Kinte's forced renaming as Toby dramatizes the erasure of African heritage on the Annapolis docks; the Krichinsky family's shortening of their name to Kirk underscores the cost of Jewish assimilation into American commerce; and Vivien Thomas's professional invisibility at Johns Hopkins reveals institutional erasure without a literal change of name. A comparative film timeline situates these stories within a broader Maryland narrative of racial, ethnic, and class transformation. In parallel, the Chesapeake Bay's collapse—from oysters to crabs—embodies a similar pattern of commodification and dispossession. By linking cultural erasure with ecological exploitation, the essay argues that both stem from commerce-driven restructuring, revealing naming as a geography of loss but also a potential site of resistance.

MARYLAND, CHESAPEAKE BAY, RACE, IDENTITY,
NAME CHANGE, FILM, ECOLOGY,
COMMODIFICATION, CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

Experiences of Women AAG Presidents: Leading through diverse voices

Wei Li¹, Joann Mossa^{*2}, Barnali Dixon^{*3},
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⁶University of North Carolina Greensboro,

⁷Sam Houston State University

Presidents of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) play crucial roles in the direction and health of the organization and the field of geography. During its 119-year history, only eighteen AAG presidents were women. This presentation adds to our understanding of the experiences and impacts of these diverse women by examining the challenges that they faced and strategies that they used to develop their own careers and leadership experiences, as well as their assessment of current status of women in geography and ways to make improvements. The discussion draws from interviews with seventeen AAG women presidents and supporting documents such as their presidential addresses, *curricula vitae*,

publications, and AAG newsletters to analyze their initiatives and priorities, as well as their contributions to the field of geography. The paper concludes with recommendations for advancing women and other underrepresented groups in leadership positions in geography and academia as a whole.

WOMEN, ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP, AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS, MENTORING,
GEOGRAPHY

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Sociology of Comedy: Latina Placemaking in the Midwest

Julianna Loera-Wiggins
University of Michigan

This chapter follows Chicana performance studies scholar Deborah Vargas's logic of *suciedad*, or dirtiness. As a class-based ideology that is also gendered and aesthetic, *suciedad* lends to the imaginative capabilities within performing stand-up comedy. This chapter demonstrates that stand-up comedy builds productive (and hilarious) tension as a subversive performance and a release from the expectations of being lady-like, clean, and agreeable. The subversive performance of stand-up comedy allows the comedians of Las Locas Comedy to be vulgar and gross while deconstructing what it means to be Latina within the U.S. national imaginary. This chapter argues that Las Locas construct themselves as agentive individuals who occupy a position that is socially deviant and challenge vulgarity as a class-based ideology. I show how Las Locas Comedy perform the absurd and the silly while "acting out" as untamed, unruly women.

DISCOURSE, IDEOLOGY, FEMINISMS, CITIZENSHIP,
DECOLONIALITY

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Building Resilience in Poverty Areas to Address Climate-Related Risks through Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Actions

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Climate change is leading to an increase in extreme weather events, which have a range of adverse impacts on agriculture, water resources, and ecosystems in poverty areas. This has created a vicious cycle of ecological degradation, water scarcity, and relative poverty, further exacerbating the issue of climate poverty. In this study, we integrated a System Dynamics (SD) model with the IPCC's Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs) to predict trends in livelihood, water resources, and ecosystem in the poverty area of China. We also

employed a complex network model to evaluate the synergies and trade-offs associated with changes in the relationships among the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the livelihood-water-ecosystem nexus. Our findings indicate that in the poverty area, SSP1 is most likely to promote synergies, while SSP3 and SSP5 are more likely to result in trade-offs. Under SSP1, the targets related to water dimension received higher priority, in contrast to the ecological dimension emphasized in SSP2. Among all SSPs, the trade-offs associated with SDG target 2.c (ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets) were particularly pronounced, while the synergies related to SDG target 15.1 (ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services) were the most significant. These findings can help strengthen climate resilience in poverty areas and contribute to achieving the UN SDGs of eradicating extreme poverty and combating climate change.

SDGS ACTIONS, CLIMATE CHANGE, POVERTY
AREA, LIVELIHOOD-WATER-ECOSYSTEM NEXUS,
RESILIENCE

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Mapping Contraceptive Deserts and Maternal Mortality in Texas

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The University of Texas at Austin

Maternal mortality remains a pressing public health concern in the United States, with Texas reporting some of the highest rates and stark racial disparities. Black and Latina women are disproportionately affected, reflecting persistent systemic barriers to reproductive healthcare. This paper provides a county-level overview of maternal mortality and contraceptive access in Texas between 2018 and 2022. The study uses American Community Survey data, Texas Department of State Health Services records, and pharmacy location data. It maps the distribution of contraceptive services and compares these patterns with county-level maternal mortality rates. Descriptive statistics and choropleth maps highlight rural-urban divides and geographic clusters of inequality. Preliminary findings suggest that counties with fewer pharmacies per population also report higher maternal mortality, particularly in areas with large Black and Latina populations. While not a full causal analysis, this study offers early evidence of geographic inequities in reproductive healthcare and a focused lens on how contraceptive deserts may shape maternal health outcomes in Texas.

MATERNAL MORTALITY, CONTRACEPTIVE
DESERTS, HEALTH GEOGRAPHY, SPATIAL
DISPARITIES, TEXAS

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Space for Uprooting Whiteness: Tensions, Limitations and Possibilities

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¹University of New Mexico, ²University of Alabama, ³Columbia University

Anti-racist pedagogy often begins and ends with a narrow understanding of whiteness as an identity, identifies white reconstruction as its end goal, and relies upon the suffering of People of Color to educate white students. This is especially true within social work education and practice, despite the field's professed commitment to social justice. In October 2019, 26 white-identifying students at Columbia School of Social Work (CSSW) began to meet in a Space for Uprooting Whiteness (SfUW), a biweekly intragroup dialogic space where white-identifying students examined and uprooted their everyday relationship to whiteness. In this paper, we leverage 7 narrative interviews with SfUW participants to unearth the possibilities and limitations of this space, which represents just one experimental intervention into the ways in which white supremacy continues to shape social work education and practice. Participants' narrative accounts of the SfUW underscore the need for social work education on whiteness, not as an identity or skin color, but as a structural arrangement of power. Interviews also emphasize the need for critical consciousness raising, on-going groups for practicing social workers and students to create and tell new stories about self, community, action, and power.

WHITENESS, WHITE SUPREMACY, RACISM, ANTI-RACIST PEDAGOGY, SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Navigating New Terrains: Unbroken Journeys of Resilience Among Guatemalan Migrant Women in the USA

Sandra Marroquin-Evans

University of New Mexico

This abstract explores the remarkable resilience of Guatemalan migrant women from rural, working-class backgrounds, emphasizing their daily acts of resistance against precarious conditions and forced mobility (Menjívar, 2011). Frequently compelled to expatriate due to widespread violence, socioeconomic distress, and environmental adversities in their homeland. Based on semi-structured interviews and testimonial analysis with women residing in Albuquerque, New Mexico, this study elucidates their complex lived experiences and the material and symbolic strategies that uphold their households. These narratives illuminate their dynamic mobility across U.S. states and the crucial renegotiation of traditional gender roles (Hondagneu-Sotelo, 2011) within their families and communities, both domestically and transnationally. The research highlights their remarkable evolution of resilience, showing

active resistance and survival as they navigate complex legal systems, overcome socio-economic barriers, and establish new lives in unfamiliar frontiers. By foregrounding these women's strengths and agency, this work provides a critical understanding of gendered migration, multifaceted resilience (Taylor, Ruiz, 2006), and their continuous struggle for dignity.

RESILIENCE, GENDERED MIGRATION, GUATEMALAN WOMEN, MOBILITY ACROSS U.S., BORDERS

Demographic Cliffs and Cultural Control: White Replacement Anxiety in American Universities

Evan Martin-Casler

University of Arizona

For the last several years, American colleges and universities have been expressing grave concerns for the supposed "demographic cliff," an imminent threat to higher education sustainability precipitated by waning birth rates and changing attitudes toward the value of tertiary education. Meanwhile, these institutions are responding, often pre-emptively, to an anti-DEI political landscape by shuttering programs, clubs, departments, and cultural resource centers in the hopes that their funding, already uncertain due to the "cliff," might remain stable. This paper will draw on work by geographical statisticians such as Karina Salazar and Jameson David Lopez, and cultural scholars and theorists such as Leigh Patel and Fred Moten, to argue that what really lies before these institutions is a "demographic shift," where people from historically unrecruited populations and regions must be tapped as potential scholars. The paper will also explore strategies of resistance to adapt to an educational environment increasingly inhospitable to non-whiteness.

HIGHER EDUCATION, CRITICAL GEOGRAPHY, ACADEMIC CAPITALISM, WHITE REPLACEMENT ANXIETY

Learning how to be OK: Reflections on wellbeing in Alamosa, CO

Anthony Meluso

University of Heidelberg, Germany

This paper examines how development entrepreneurs in Alamosa, Colorado reflect on wellbeing within their projects. Although development through entrepreneurship is often promoted as a path to improving wellbeing, tensions emerge between these concepts. Standard development metrics—income, education, health indicators—serve as proxies for wellbeing but often diverge from lived experiences, where participants report negative impacts such as double burdens,

precariousness, and social or ethical conflicts. Drawing on anthropological critiques of development, I argue that attention to ontological diversity helps bridge the gap between universalist conceptions of development and more contextualized approaches. Through three case studies, I show how groups of development entrepreneurs hold distinct reflections on and seek to transform wellbeing practices, each grounded in different ontological orientations. Comparing these accounts demonstrates how ontological difference reveals both the tensions and the possibilities inherent in development entrepreneurship, while challenging dominant econometric framings of wellbeing.

DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
AMERINDIAN PERSPECTIVISM, LATINIDAD

Whose Voice? Examining the Narratives of Sugar Plantation Heritage Museums in Hawai'i

Ines Miyares

Hunter College-CUNY

There is a growing body of literature in tourism and cultural geography and in museum studies that examines how museums give voice to the stories of the impacts of colonization on indigenous populations and to the slave experiences in the plantation-era South. This study builds on that work by analyzing sugar plantation heritage museums in Hawai'i. It compares and contrasts three museums that present three distinct voices of this story—Hawai'i Plantation Village on Oahu that focuses on the various ethnic groups brought in to work on the plantations; the Grove Farm Museum on Kaua'i that offers the voice of the planter; and the Alexander and Baldwin Sugar Museum on Maui that tells the story from the view of one of the "Big Five" sugar corporations. Each museum offers a distinct perspective of the sugar plantation era and the evolution of Hawai'i's racially and ethnically diverse and mixed society. In light of literature on decolonizing museums, this research asks what responsibility sugar plantation heritage museums in Hawai'i have in how they present the historical ethnic geography of the islands.

HAWAII, TOURISM, DECOLONIZING MUSEUMS,
SUGAR PLANTATION LABOR

Unsettling Displacement: Feminist Geopolitics, Climate Change, and the Everyday Experiences of Rohingya Women

Nusrat Tabassum Mohana

University of Delaware

Through this paper, I examine displacement as an uneven and ongoing process rather than a

singular rupture. Centering the lives of Rohingya women in Bangladesh's refugee camps, I trace how political violence, structural abandonment, and climate hazards converge to shape their everyday worlds. Having fled genocidal violence in Myanmar, these women now endure landslides, monsoon floods, and systemic neglect that compound their dispossession in gendered, emotional, and enduring ways. Guided by feminist geopolitics and intersectional analysis, I ask what it means to survive when displacement is saturated with overlapping violences. Drawing on participatory mapping and narrative interviews, I foreground women's accounts of grief, fear, constrained agency, and belonging—stories often fragmented, affective, and resistant to policy framings. By theorizing from below, I argue for a feminist reorientation of displacement discourse, one that recognizes how vulnerability is produced and lived at the intersection of war, weather, and gendered abandonment.

FEMINIST GEOPOLITICS, GENDERED VIOLENCE,
ROHINGYA WOMEN, POLITICAL VIOLENCE,
EVERYDAY GEOGRAPHIES.

Latino Political Participation in the Texas Panhandle: A Continuing Impact

Edris J. Montalvo and Travis M. Childs*

Cameron University

Latino migration has reshaped the demographic, cultural, and political character of the Texas Panhandle for decades. Building on earlier research covering 1980–2010, this study extends the analysis of Latino political participation through two new temporal benchmarks: 2017 (reflecting the results of the 2016 elections) and 2025 (reflecting the results of the 2024 elections). Drawing from the Texas State Directory, the project examines patterns of Latino representation in county and county-seat offices, offering a contemporary assessment of political engagement in a region historically dominated by Anglo populations. While archival limitations prevent the reconstruction of every election cycle between 2011 and 2015, the addition of these two time points provides a valuable window into recent trends. Preliminary findings suggest that the demographic growth of Latinos has continued to reshape local politics, with notable but uneven advances in elected representation across the Panhandle. This research highlights the evolving political geography of the region and raises broader questions about Latino political incorporation in rural Texas.

LATINO, MIGRATION, POLITICAL PARTICIPATION,
TEXAS PANHANDLE

Why White Folks are Moving to Blue States, 2020-2025: A Cultural Constellation
Cheryl Morse
University of Vermont

A 2025 online survey of people who recently relocated to the states of New Mexico or Vermont yielded responses from mainly white, politically left-leaning movers. Top reasons for moving to both states were: attraction to landscape, political environment, recreational activities, and culture/community. These factors far surpassed other reasons for moving including work, family, or friends. Movers who said they selected the state for culture or community reasons were significantly more likely than others to also cite moving for landscape, political environment and recreational activities, revealing a cluster or 'constellation' of cultural values. The appearance of this constellation in both New Mexico and Vermont is curious given the very different social, physical, and cultural geographies of these Southwestern and New England states. Movers' stories provide insight into the 'culture' and 'place' white movers seek in their new blue homes.

MOBILITY, MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE

Ostracismo Haitiano: Exclusión anti-negra de querencia compartida en la isla de Española / Haitian Ostracism: Anti-Black Exclusion of Shared Querencia on the Island of Hispaniola
Chioma Nwomeh
University of New Mexico

Querencia describes the connection between place and identity. Latin Americans oftentimes subscribe to the shared culture of *Latinidad*, however, when blackness is implicated, Afro-Latinos are excluded from this shared identity. Despite being the first country to become an independent state in Latin America, Haiti's existence as a Black republic is a threat to the white supremacist ideals of *Latinidad*. This paper demonstrates how the success of the Haitian Revolution not only paved the way for the creation of shared querencia in Latin America but also permitted the subsequent ostracization of Haitians from *Latinidad*. By using the definition of "shared querencia" from the book *Querencia: Reflections on the New Mexico Homeland*, a case study on the traitorous actions of Simón Bolívar against Haitian leaders, and the anti-Haitian campaign launched by the Dominican Republic, this paper will show how anti-blackness in Latin America has prevailed as a defining characteristic of *Latinidad*.

QUERENCIA, ANTI-BLACKNESS, HAITI, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION

The Balancing Act: Wellbeing and Work-life Conflict among Women in Geography
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The balance between wellbeing and work-life conflict often creates challenges for women in academia. This paper examines how faculty navigate the demands of work, domestic responsibilities, caregiving, and personal wellbeing in sometimes unwelcoming academic climates in the discipline of geography. The research draws from a national survey of members of the American Association of Geographers collected by the Status of Women in Geography Project. Findings suggest that women and other marginalized faculty experience academia differently and face many challenges balancing work-life and personal wellbeing, often taking on more caregiving responsibilities than men. Further, perceptions of departmental climate vary by gender and race/ethnicity. Men generally report more positive perceptions of departmental climate than women and minoritized groups. As a result, women consider leaving their jobs in academia more than men due to stressful working environments, whereas men are more likely to consider leaving due to salary and career prospects. Findings include recommendations to improve the climate for women and others in geography.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE, WOMEN IN GEOGRAPHY, ACADEMIC CLIMATE, CAREGIVING AND SELF-CARE

A Guest-Worker Sense of Place: Multiculturalism and Parochialism in Taiwan Soccer Leagues
Edward Painter
UCLA

In popular and academic literature Soccer is often expressed as a global sport which can facilitate the development of diverse and multicultural communities through a shared interest. In Taiwan where soccer is broadly unpopular, the sizable population of guest-workers from Southeast Asia organize soccer playing communities. While mostly excluded by the modestly sized Taiwanese soccer playing community, guest-workers do participate in and share field space with soccer communities composed mostly of 'white-collar' highly-skilled migrants and student migrants living in Taiwan. Based upon field work conducted in Taiwan, this paper presents the sense of place that these co-ethnic and cosmopolitan soccer playing communities produce through meeting for games and occupying space collectively. At the same

time, the paper demonstrates the segmentation that exists within soccer playing communities in Taiwan as well as emphasizes their separation from mainstream Taiwanese society. Finally, relying on Doreen Massey's concept of 'power geometry' the paper argues that Taiwan's migration regime plays a strong role in structuring the sense of place produced by migrant soccer leagues despite the globalized popularity of soccer.

MIGRATION, SENSE OF PLACE, TAIWAN, SPORTS

Placemaking through Food: A Case study on Bangladeshi Migrants in New York City

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The Pennsylvania State University

The research demonstrates how Bangladeshi immigrants in New York make a place for themselves in the US through cultural food practices. Immigrant placemaking involves collective or individual practices such as gardening, food festivals, food preparation and consumption practices, traditional healing, and religious observance that add meaning and emotional attachment to a particular space. Based on 2018-2022 American Community Survey data, about 117,000 Bangladeshi immigrants live in the New York-New Jersey Metropolitan Statistical area, making up 18% of South Asian immigrants and 2% of all immigrants, with over 60% growth in the past decade. South Asians are often lumped together as a group, or the focus is placed on Indian immigrants as the largest South Asian group. This study is innovative in addressing the growing Bangladeshi communities' unique contributions to the changes in the foodscape of New York City. Using new methodological approaches such as geographically explicit interviews and spatial narratives, the study demonstrates placemaking through food in the neighborhoods with large concentrations of Bangladeshi immigrant residents and storefronts in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island. The study found that Bangladeshi migrants create and maintain places such as restaurants or communal spaces through Bangladeshi food practices that are central to Bangladeshi life. The study also found that this Bangladeshi place-making through food practices also impacts the local culture and foodscapes of New York City. These findings are useful to the immigrants, local and municipal policymakers, and researchers interested in the gentrification of migrant neighborhoods through placemaking and cultural food practices.

PLACEMAKING, FOOD ENVIRONMENT, SOUTH ASIAN IMMIGRANTS, CULTURAL FOOD

Build bridges, not walls: A field guide for university researchers partnering with communities for transformative research

Emanuel Preciado
Northern Arizona University

Build Bridges, Not Walls is an open-access field guide for university researchers seeking to build transformative, reciprocal partnerships with communities historically marginalized by extractive academic practices. Drawing from grounded experience with Latine and Indigenous communities in Southern California and Northern Arizona, this guide offers practical tools, ethical frameworks, and positionality exercises rooted in research justice, decolonizing methodologies, and community-defined benefit. Emphasizing principles such as cultural humility, Indigenous data sovereignty, and relational ethics, the guide supports multiscalar, long-term collaborations that extend beyond project timelines and academic incentives. Designed to serve both new and experienced scholars, the resource challenges neoliberal knowledge production logics and offers adaptable strategies for co-developing research questions, collaborative data collection, and equitable dissemination through accessible formats like story maps, zines, and policy memos. This presentation explores the guide's theoretical foundations, practical components, and implications for racial and spatial justice in research.

OPEN-ACCESS, COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH, RECIPROCITY, RESEARCH JUSTICE, DECOLONIZING METHODOLOGIES

Transborder Dynamics and Human Mobility in the USA-Mexico Border

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Georgia Gwinnett College

From an original physical geopolitical border, the USA-Mexico bilateral zone became a transborder region through intense economic, cultural, social, and political interactions and interdependence between the original and the new communities on either side. As this phenomenon was evolving, governments from both sides started implementing policies to regulate both human mobility and the exchange of goods and services, as well as the social interactions that have been occurring on both sides of the border. In this way, the zone became a virtual, social construct. The general purpose of this paper is to inquire into the causes of this transformation. The hypothesis is that although the policies have been playing an important role, it is the social, economic, and cultural exchanges that have been affecting the transformation more than the policies have. To test his hypothesis, the author will use qualitative methods.

TRANSBORDER REGION, HUMAN MOBILITY, BORDER

Minding the Gender Gap: Working toward parity for women in U.S. academic geography

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Academic geography has traditionally been male-dominated, with few or no women faculty in some departments even until the 1990s, and no female department heads. This lack of parity poses challenges for recruitment and retention of graduate students, roughly half of whom are female. This paper examines historical trends in gender, rank, and departmental leadership at PhD-granting geography departments from 1969 to 2019, with a recent snapshot of all other geography programs, including community colleges. Findings reveal an overall increase in women faculty at PhD granting departments and a marked reduction in the number of PhD departments with no or only one female faculty member, as well as recent growth in the percentage of female chairs, yet far slower growth in female full professors. The profession is slowly changing to include a higher percentage of women in tenure-track faculty and leadership, but considerable potential for increased representation remains.

FFEMALE GEOGRAPHY FACULTY, HISTORICAL TRENDS OF FACULTY COMPOSITION, GENDER ISOLATION, CRITICAL MASS, WOMEN DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Fatherland, Socialism, and Death in Venezuela: Lucia's World

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Independent

Inspired by Hugo Chavez's revolutionary slogan, this paper gives voice to Venezuelans born during his regime, as they navigate early adulthood under Nicolás Maduro's authoritarian rule. Through a longitudinal sense-of-place project led by two sisters and a team, including myself, we create a unique contemporary history of Venezuela since 2020, comprising 5,000 photos and five documentaries. Focusing on crimes against humanity, we detail deliberate water deprivation as a weapon, targeted school destruction, a dire health care crisis, and pervasive hopelessness disproportionately affecting marginalized communities whom Chavez promised to uplift. U.S. academic geography has largely ignored this crisis. Our archive captures these spatial injustices and highlights direct actions fostering hope. We amplify a generation's plea for help, concluding

with a policy proposal for equitable redevelopment and a call for geographers to collaborate in understanding the crisis and rebuilding Venezuela's fractured existence.

LATIN AMERICA, SOCIAL INJUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, MIGRATION, ETHNIC GEOGRAPHY

Universities as Racialized Organizations in the Black Lives Matter Era: An Analysis of Racial Justice Statements from University Leadership

Jillian Royal
Cornell University

Universities serve as institutions that provide opportunities for learning and growth for many individuals. While the environment is designed for the exchange of ideas, universities remain stagnant as racialized organizations by existing and maintaining systems with racially unjust undertones. University presidents and leadership contribute to these racialized systems through their actions. This paper draws on Victor Ray's theory of racialized organizations to explain how his four tenets of racial hierarchies within organizations apply to universities (2019). This paper employs a qualitative approach to analyze statements released between 2020 and 2024, web scraped from the Office of the President and official news and communication websites of three universities representing distinct institutional types: Ivy League (Princeton University), HBCU (Howard University), and public (University of Michigan). This study contributes to the sociology of race by demonstrating how racial systems within higher education can be maintained or changed based on the mission and values of university leadership.

HIGHER EDUCATION, RACIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS, STRUCTURAL RACISM, QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS, WEB SCRAPING

Urban Renewal, Community Mapping, and Reparative Histories

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Funding from federal urban renewal programs transformed urban landscapes across the United States during the mid-20th century. Yet it is only in recent years that cities have begun the work of recognition and repair for the damages done by these programs. Our research is part of one such effort in Athens, Georgia. The R-51 urban renewal project redeveloped a large area at the edge of Athens' downtown and resulted in the destruction of two predominantly Black

neighborhoods. Our presentation focuses on a collaborative effort to map and analyze records related to this project, which are housed in the University of Georgia's Special Collections Library. Through a partnership between the Athens-Clarke County Mayor's office, Historic Athens (a local housing preservation non-profit), and UGA's Community Mapping Lab, data on the houses, households, and individuals affected by this project have been digitized for analysis and to make information on this project more accessible. Through this work, we hope to reconnect with displaced families and identify pathways for local institutions to repair the harms done through R-51. Our project provides a model of partnership between local government, non-profits, and educational institutions, including work to strengthen public outreach and create community-accessible archives and research products.

URBAN RENEWAL, COMMUNITY GEOGRAPHY,
CARTOGRAPHY, DISPLACEMENT, GEORGIA

Housing Cost Burden, Diversity and Immigrants: A County-Scale Analysis of Diversity and Economy

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The 2007–2009 recession made owning a home a distant, and often unattainable dream for many Americans since this recession led to historically low supply of housing. The COVID-19 added to spatial and regional change in the geography of housing affordability as remote work possibilities led to domestic migration from expensive-to-affordable regions within the USA. Also, while home-ownership insecurity and rent-burden have remained an issue for most Americans, they have persisted as a substantial problem for people of color and the immigrants across the USA. This research explores the housing cost-burdens felt by racial/ethnic and immigrant groups in both homeowners and renters category, and how might these associate with demographic, socio-economic and built-environment characteristics of counties across the USA. I use 5-years (2019-2023) data estimates to answer questions: Which racial/ethnic groups have the best and the worst levels of home-ownership? How does the ownership and renter-ship cost-burden compare across these groups? How do these housing cost-burdens associate with county-scale racial/ethnic diversity, segregation, and immigrants?

RECESSION, HOUSING AFFORDABILITY, DOMESTIC
MIGRATION, RACIAL/ETHNIC DIVERSITY,
IMMIGRANTS

Narrating the Sand Creek Massacre: Spectacle and Survivance at Denver's History Colorado Center

Sam Smith

Community Colleges of Colorado

In April 2012, Colorado's state historical society opened its new state history museum, with exhibits using immersive storytelling to present "Coloradans at their best—and worst." Among these was an exhibit on the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre of Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians. Yet the exhibit closed a year later, following tribal objections to presenting the massacre as a "Collision" of cultures, and protests of exclusion from the exhibit design process. Over a decade later, History Colorado once again presented the story of Sand Creek—this time with extensive tribal consultation, and an exhibit centered on Indian people, their stories, and their agency. In this paper, I use spatial narrative analysis to contrast the exhibits and explore three key differences. First, while the prior exhibit presented multiple perspectives on the massacre, the new exhibit places Native perspectives at the center of an extended narrative. Second, while the prior exhibit immersed the visitor within the sights and sounds of violence, the new exhibit deploys media in more subtle ways. Finally, the new exhibit offers both clearer conclusions and opportunities for personal reflection and mourning. In doing so, History Colorado offers not only a more extended engagement with Native presence than most U.S. state history museums, but also incorporates dimensions of museum memorialization that are not typically found amid the positive civic narratives of state history museums. This contrast thus highlights new frontiers in geographies of memory and memorialization.

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY, MEMORY WORK,
MEMORIALIZATION, MUSEUM GEOGRAPHY,
NATIVE AMERICAN

Remapping Black Paris: Walking Tours as Embodied Archives and Cartographies

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International Foundation, Les Amis de

Beauford Delaney, and Entrée to Black

Paris

This paper explores Entrée to Black Paris walking tours as embodied tourism practices that reframe Paris's cultural and historical geography. By highlighting figures like Beauford Delaney, James Baldwin, Josephine Baker, and Richard Wright, these tours challenge dominant narratives that prioritize white, colonial, and metropolitan histories. Instead, they inscribe Black presence into Parisian spaces, creating spatial narratives of life, art, and legacy while documenting the transnational trajectories of the

Black diaspora in the 20th century. Beyond sites and monuments, the tours emphasize the embodied experience of movement through the city—how walking, storytelling, and memory practices utilize, produce, and perform archives and their silences. Cultural curators like Monique Wells play a vital role in activating memory and reanimating overlooked histories. These tours demonstrate that Black Paris's significance lies not only in its historic locales but also in practices of remembrance and encounter, offering insights into tourism as resistance and reclamation.

BLACK GEOGRAPHIES, TOURISM, MEMORY,
PUBLIC HISTORY

Legal status, intergenerational care, and cross-border im/mobility of “zero generation” migrants
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The “zero generation” refers to the elderly parents of first-generation migrants. Although many join their adult children through migration, they remain largely invisible in scholarship and policy debates. While some provide critical childcare support, they also increasingly require care as they age. Drawing on in-depth interviews with elderly parents of skilled Chinese migrants in the U.S., this article examines how legal status structures cross-border im/mobility and intersects with aging and intergenerational care responsibilities over the life course. Findings show that visas, permanent residency, and citizenship enable or constrain distinct forms of im/mobility. Shifting care roles in both the U.S. and the home country reshape circulation, settlement, and return. Mobility extends the reach of care across borders, while immobility in the host country anchors elderly migrants in place, enabling sustained care practices. Together, these dynamics contribute to migration scholarship and expose policy blind spots that obscure elderly migrants' contributions and vulnerabilities.

ELDERLY MIGRANTS, IM/MOBILITY,
INTERGENERATIONAL CARE, LEGAL STATUS,
CHINA

“Your Hands are Bloody”: Protests in Belgrade, Serbia
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Towson University

Student protests have been a significant force in Serbian politics, from the student protests of 1968—echoing global protests of the time—and anti-Milošević demonstrations in the 1990s, to current 2025 movements against authoritarianism and corruption. As historical protests were often tied to nationalist tensions

and regime change, so contemporary movements not only focus on regime change but also on democracy, academic freedom, and environmental issues. Thus, while the protests posed challenges to fieldwork, they also underscored the very themes at the heart of this research project: how moments of student-led mobilization illuminate broader questions of memory, resistance, participatory governance, and political change.

STUDENT MOBILIZATION, POLITICAL RESISTANCE,
AUTHORITARIANISM

“Othering” place: Race, narrative and constructing zones of lawlessness
Jennifer Tucker
University of New Mexico

Racialized narratives shape space (Lipsitz, 2011), from territorial stigma at the city scale, (Slater, 2015;) to Eurocentric narratives locating progress in the “West” (Hall, 2006). Rooted in the research behind my book *Outlaw Capital: Everyday Illegalities and the Making of Uneven Development* (2023), this paper demonstrates how multiply scaled narratives of illegality both produce place while also generating discursive disavowals which obscure the centrality of transgressive economies to globalized capitalism. A key site on the China-Paraguay-Brazil trade route, Ciudad del Este, Paraguay moves billions of dollars' worth of consumer goods—everything from cell phones to whiskey—providing cheap transit to Asian manufacturers and invisible subsidies to Brazilian consumers. Despite the city's centrality, it is narrated as backward and lawless place. This paper demonstrates how national, regional and colonial-global spatial narratives work differently, but conspire to construct lawlessness as a trait of Paraguayan culture and space, ignoring how the border trade is produced relationally, across extensive geographies of globalized capitalism. These discursive dismissals are both spatial and racial. Against the racialized narratives that “other” Ciudad del Este, the counternarratives of street vendors contest mainstream notions of illegality, instead foregrounding an ethic of livelihood need. Ultimately, *Outlaw Capital* shows how uneven development and the Paraguayan state made Ciudad del Este a gray space of profitable transgression.

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RACE, NARRATIVES, ILLEGALITY, BORDERS, LATIN AMERICA

Impact of ' Family Structure and Income' and Social Connectedness on Suicidal Behaviors Among Emerging Adults in the US

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Adolescent suicide is a critical international public health problem, shaped by an aggregation of family and social determinants. Single parenthood has been identified as a strong predictor of adolescent mental health status. Adolescents living in single parent families could be more vulnerable because of lower levels of emotional support, financial stress, family conflict, and stigma. In addition, traumatic life events like loss, parent-conflict, or school failure can heighten this risk, especially if family and community support networks are poor. Single parenthood and income class are investigated here as an additive factor in suicidal behavior: passive thoughts, active ideation, planning, intent, intent with plan, and attempt/preparation. By highlighting these interrelated factors, the research concludes the necessity of focused, family-oriented interventions in order to build support systems, enhance resilience, and reduce the risk of suicide among young adults.

SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS, ADOLESCENT SUICIDE, SUICIDAL BEHAVIORS, STATISTICAL METHODS, SURVEY METHOD

"Development-Driven" GSI: Sustaining Stormwater Management Through Racialized Dispossession

Nicole Van Lier
Loyola Marymount University

Following decades of deindustrialization, uneven development, and the more recent 2013 municipal bankruptcy, city officials in Detroit have explored a panoply of strategies to revitalize the city's economy. Central to many of these efforts is an integrated focus on environmental sustainability which seeks to couple economic renewal with the "greening" of Detroit. In this paper, I pay particular attention to the Detroit Water and Sewage Department (DWSD) and the post-bankruptcy redesign of its stormwater management program as an urban redevelopment strategy. Stormwater management has become an increasingly significant project as more severe and frequent storms have overwhelmed the city's sewer system, causing widespread flooding and billions of dollars' worth of damage. Rising drainage rates have also pushed residential water bills beyond accepted affordability thresholds, with thousands of low-income Detroiters unable to maintain regular bill payments. The DWSD has since proposed using green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to repurpose the city's poorest Black neighborhoods for stormwater capture while installing small-scale GSI to

mitigate flooding in neighborhoods with "market potential". The DWSD also offers non-residential drainage credits to keep rates competitive for business and industry. Taken together, these program features suggest GSI in Detroit is not merely a strategy to manage stormwater but to reconfigure DWSD's struggling customer base into one that can sustain the infrastructural system over the longer term. Ultimately, I argue, this works to tether the system's operational sustainability to processes of racialized dispossession and urban redevelopment.

GREEN GENTRIFICATION, RACIALIZED DISPOSSESSION, STORMWATER, DETROIT

Race, Space, and Property: Building Black Community Wealth through Commercial Real Estate

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This study examines how Black communities are reclaiming commercial real estate as a strategy for wealth-building and spatial justice. Drawing on an in-depth case study of two shopping centers in Baltimore, developed through a social enterprise model, the study investigates how community-led investment challenges extractive development practices and creates new pathways for economic inclusion. Through interviews, document analysis, and site observations, the research explores the motivations, resources, and strategies of diverse stakeholders (including local residents, public agencies, and anchor institutions) who seek to transform underperforming commercial properties into community-owned assets. The findings highlight how histories of racialized disinvestment shape both the risks and the possibilities of commercial real estate development in Black neighborhoods. At the same time, they show how new forms of community control, cooperative finance, and place-based organizing can realign property ownership with racial equity goals. This case advances ongoing conversations on race, property, and urban development by foregrounding how Black communities build collective power through land and commercial space.

COMMUNITY WEALTH, COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE, REVITALIZATION

Maria Middleton- Slave, Criminal, Transported Convict: Understanding Gender, Race and Freedom across the British Colonial World

Shae Whitney
Southwestern University

Maria Middleton, a "Black" woman was born into and lived in slavery. At age 16 she ran away

from her owner to become the “wife” of a disbanded Black soldier. For a year, they lived together, traveling between his two abodes. Based on eye witness testimonies and Maria’s personal statements, he was abusive to her. One year after she ran away, she got into a scuffle with her “husband” that ended in him dying from a stabbing wound. Maria was tried and originally sentenced to be hanged, but through the efforts of various people, her life was spared and she was instead sentenced to permanent transportation to Van Diemen’s Land (modern day Tasmania), where she served her sentence and then lived out the rest of her life. The details of Maria’s story provide insight into how race, gender and slavery were intertwined, and how they shaped peoples’ everyday lives.

BELIZE, SLAVERY, CONVICT TRANSPORT,
TASMANIA, GENDER

Fertile Ground in the Midwest: Planting Mexican American Studies at Notre Dame, 1968 - 1970

Leticia Rose Wiggins

The Ohio State University

Ethnic Studies programs are currently under attack – certain state and federal legislation is not only limiting funding to these programs, but also banning the very teaching of topics related to critical race theory, cultural difference, and DEIA practices. During this turbulent time in higher education, it is imperative to consider the very creation of the ethnic studies programs that have fallen under scrutiny. This paper investigates the establishment of what was then titled the “Mexican American Studies” Program at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana in 1968. This submission will consider the unique factors that coalesced to create an incredibly impactful program that not only enriched the lives of those in the university but also sought to serve the greater Spanish-Speaking population in the Midwest. The establishment of this program at a Catholic Midwestern institution also expanded the knowledge of Latinidad beyond the canonical Chicano movement of the West and Southwest. Using this historical case study, this paper will seek to learn from the past to think to manners of leveraging unique geographical place and capitalizing upon allies to enact positive social change in this political climate.

MIDWEST, LATINE STUDIES, ACTIVISM, ETHNIC
STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Everyday Struggles and Resilience: Photovoice Insights into Indonesian Care Workers in Japanese Eldercare

Fikriyah Winata

Texas A&M University

Japan, the world’s most aging society, faces critical eldercare shortages, increasingly relying on migrant workers from South and Southeast Asia countries, including Indonesia. This study employs participatory action research (PAR) method—photovoice and reflective diaries—to explore the embodied, spatial, and cultural dimensions of Indonesian care workers’ experiences in Japan. Fieldwork in Summer 2025 spanned more than 10 prefectures, across urban and rural areas, with 15 participants contributing 44 photos and reflective diaries. Findings reveal three intersecting struggles: (1) physical and mental strains from long shifts, night work, and dementia care; (2) personal-professional insecurities shaped by limited trust in foreign workers and national licensing pressures; and (3) cultural challenges, including language barriers, workplace hierarchies, and negotiating religious practices. Coping strategies—through food, engagements with natural and spiritual landscapes, memories of family, animals, and hobbies—demonstrate place-based practices of resilience that sustain health and wellbeing. This study highlights how migrant care workers negotiate health, care, and belonging within Japan’s rapidly aging society.

CARE WORKERS, ELDERCARE, JAPAN,
PHOTOVOICE, AND REFLECTIVE DIARY

Where Empathy Meets Place: Practicing Compassion in Planning and Beyond

Lakeshia Wright

Guided By Community

Where Empathy Meets Place: Practicing Compassion in Planning and Beyond explores how spatial empathy—the ability to understand how geography, history, and systems shape lived experience—can transform planning, policy, and practice. This session introduces a framework that blends empathy with compassion, moving from awareness to action in ways that foster equity and healing. Drawing on examples from housing, healthcare, and community engagement, participants will learn how to recognize spatial inequities, listen deeply to community narratives, and apply compassion to decision-making and design. The presentation will highlight practical tools for practitioners across disciplines to integrate empathy and compassion into their daily work, from reshaping policies to reimagining service delivery. By centering human dignity and place-based realities, this session invites participants to see planning not only as technical problem-solving, but as an act of care—opening new possibilities

for just, inclusive, and thriving communities.

EMPATHY, COMPASSION, SYSTEMS, GEOGRAPHY,
CARE
-

Haitian Immigration to Springfield, OH in the Context of Global Climate Change Zoey Wurgess *The Ohio State University*

In late 2023, then U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump and running mate JD Vance began elevating racist accusations against the Haitian immigrant community in the small, deindustrialized city of Springfield, Ohio. While many who turned their attention to Springfield sought to decipher the impact of the new immigrant population on the local economy or social service institutions, few saw this as an opportunity to contextualize the situation within our increasingly climate-impacted world. This study leverages qualitative, community-engaged methods to better understand the ways that the community members at the forefront of organizing material support for Haitian immigrants in Springfield consider climate change in their efforts. Ethnographic and in-depth interview data reveal that despite the engagement of several core organizers in environmental activism, these organizations strategize without a coordinated conceptualization of the relationship between immigration and climate crises. I consider how attending to a global context of climate change may enhance local immigrant justice organizing efforts as semi-rural Midwestern cities like Springfield – which are upheld as climate resilient destinations – continue to attract communities from climate-impacted areas.

CLIMATE CHANGE, IMMIGRATION, HAITI, MIDWEST,
SPRINGFIELD
-

"They Know How to Cut Asian Hair": Race, Beauty, and Identity in Asian Hair Salons in the U.S. South. Shaolu Yu *Rhodes College*

Hair is a powerful expression of beauty and cultural identity. Numerous studies emphasize that hair salons and barbershops function as social, cultural, economic, and political spaces, fostering community, belonging, and resource-sharing that supports socio-economic mobility. While existing literature on hair politics and beauty industry has predominantly focused on Black experiences and spaces, studies specifically addressing Asian hair and Asian hair service spaces are scarce. Moreover, most research on Asian ethnic entrepreneurship in the U.S. has focused on industries like restaurants, laundromats, and grocery stores, with little attention to the beauty industry. Documenting

Asian hair salons is particularly important in challenging the dominant Black and White racial dichotomy that often excludes Asian American experiences and geographies. This study, using interviews and ethnography, explores the following questions: How do hair and hairstyles shape racial and gender identity for Asian Americans in the U.S.? What strategies do Asian hair salons employ to succeed as ethnic minority entrepreneurs? What are the cultural, social, and political roles of Asian hair salon spaces in the U.S. South? By examining the intersections of beauty entrepreneurship with gender, race, and racialization within Asian communities, this study contributes to Asian American geographies and to a nuanced understanding of the U.S. South, where Asian American narratives are often overlooked. It also contributes to Asian American Studies, which have left the U.S. South out of the broader story of the Asian diaspora.

ASIAN HAIR SALON, U.S. SOUTH, RACE,
IDENTITY

Poster Abstracts

The nexus between spatial networks, greenspace exposure and suicide behavior among young adults in the USA

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Few studies have been conducted to determine the relationship between green space exposure and young adults' (YAs') suicide behavior. We collected nationwide data with 3800 YAs in the US to overcome this deficiency between February 2019 and September 2023. Our study examined how greenspace influences the prevalence of suicide behavior and the extent to which spatial social networks moderate the association between greenspace and suicide behavior. We fitted bivariate logistic regression using STATA v18. The result showed that social media followers (AOR=0.947, $p=0.074$) significantly reduced suicide behavior. In another model including the measures of spatial social networks, green space visitation between Jan-Apr 2021 (AOR=0.929, $p=0.014$), May-Aug 2023 (AOR=0.949, $p=0.067$), and the number of friends (AOR=0.927, $p=0.003$) significantly reduced suicide behavior. This suggests that exposure to green spaces in spatial social networks lowers the likelihood of suicidal behavior in young adults in the United States.

SUICIDE, GREEN SPACE EXPOSURE, SPATIAL
SOCIAL NETWORK, YOUNG ADULT, USA

Evolution of a Concept: Vulnerability in Geographic Research on Flash Flooding

Kimberley Clough
University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Vulnerability research in geography has gained in popularity in recent decades. The main purpose of this project is to analyze the existing literature addressing vulnerability in geography, particularly as it pertains to flash floods, for a holistic understanding of vulnerability and its development as an area of specialization in geographic scholarship. In this thesis, I will use a feminist epistemological lens to examine key concepts of knowledge production. The core elements of feminist knowledge production in research include positionality, reflexivity, subjectivity, voice, and representation. Additionally, I argue that investigating the linkages between these notions can contribute to significant methodological insights which can lead to a more robust awareness of vulnerability and how more research in this area contributes to the discipline. By employing a bibliometric analytical approach to explore the vulnerability

literature for key terms, this study hopes to reveal how vulnerability is being understood and the limitations and advantages of those studies.

VULNERABILITY, FEMINIST KNOWLEDGE
PRODUCTION, VOICE, REPRESENTATION,
POSITIONALITY, REFLECTIVITY, SUBJECTIVITY

Exploring Spatial Inequities in Food Pantry Access Across Baltimore Neighborhoods

Raneitra Grover
Morgan State University

Rising food prices and the closure of keystone food retailers in Baltimore may drive residents, particularly in historically marginalized neighborhoods, to rely more heavily on food pantries. Without access to these charitable food sources, many risk experiencing food insecurity. This study used GIS to map food pantry locations across Baltimore, integrating access, population, and income data to reveal critical gaps and opportunities. Secondary data on pantry locations, neighborhood population, and median household income were analyzed to identify disparities in food pantry access. Findings highlight Northwood and Penn North/Reservoir Hill as potential food pantry deserts where residents face limited support. By illustrating how spatial inequities intersect with social and economic factors, this research points to opportunities for strengthening neighborhood resilience and reducing health disparities in communities disproportionately affected by structural inequities.

SPATIAL INEQUITIES, FOOD INSECURITY,
NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE, GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS), HEALTH
DISPARITIES

Public Art Census

Danicia Malone
Temple University

Public art is more than ornament—it is civic memory etched into the built environment. As cities rapidly redevelop, these cultural touchstones face erasure. The Public Art Census (PAC), developed by Rokh Research & Design Studio, documents the presence, absence, and conditions of artworks across racialized geographies, offering an equity-focused lens on urban aesthetics. The first PAC, conducted in 2022 in Marion County, IN, revealed significant gaps in representation, with Black cultural narratives particularly under-documented. In 2024, PAC was implemented in Albuquerque/Bernalillo County, NM, producing the first

comprehensive dataset of public artworks in that region. Findings highlight uneven distributions: Indigenous and Chicana communities host ceremonial works deeply embedded in landscape, while Black narratives remain vulnerable to absence and displacement. By coupling spatial analysis with community narratives, PAC reframes public art as sensorial infrastructure for belonging, memory, and wellbeing—advancing comparative conversations about race, place, and equity in cultural planning.

PUBLIC ART CENSUS, SPATIAL EQUITY

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Emergency Department Waiting Times for Chest Pain: Analyzing Systemic Inequities by Mode of Arrival

Refat Ahmed Mishuk

University of New Mexico

Chest pain is highly frequent among patients seeking treatment in the emergency department (ED). Due to its subjective nature, medical evaluation of chest pain is prone to unconscious bias, which may result in differences in waiting times. This study investigated the contribution of the racial and ethnic disparities in waiting times among adult population visiting emergency department with chest pain. It used cross sectional study of ED visits from the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey of 2014–2019, a nationally representative sample of ambulatory care visits to emergency departments. Of the total study visits of 2770, 63.97% were Non-Hispanic White (NHW), 23.61% were Non-Hispanic Black (NHB) and 12.42% were Hispanic. The waiting time for NHB patients was found to be significantly longer (p

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, CHEST PAIN, NHAMCS

Policy to Practice: How educational, language and curricular policy impact dual language educators in North Carolina

Celina Ocampo

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dual Language Education (DLE) in North Carolina (NC) has become increasingly popular. As such, bilingual educators play vital roles in the success of DLE. However, with the introduction of recent language restrictive policies at all governmental levels, barriers can arise that hinder DLE educators in the classroom and impede achievement of DLE goals. DLE requires careful planning of program structure, curriculum, community support, and more to achieve sustainable implementation. Furthermore, monolingual language ideologies and political rhetoric add obstacles for educators.

This study aims to understand the experiences of DLE educators in the classroom and how they navigate policy changes and political rhetoric. Semi-structured interviews with four NC K-12 DLE educators were conducted to learn of their lived experiences and implications for future DLE programs. Findings suggest that policy shifts lack insight into how implementation impacts DLE educators while negative political rhetoric affects community spaces. Nonetheless, this study highlights how teachers' agencies and their communities resist political and policy shifts.

DUAL LANGUAGE EDUCATION, TEACHERS, POLICY

Mapping Abolition Geography: Safety in Octavia Butler's Parable of the Sower

Brianna Sas-Pérez

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

What can mapping speculative fiction teach us about how to create safe neighborhoods, without police or prisons? This poster explores this question through a close reading of the walled, multiracial Robledo neighborhood in Octavia Butler's (1993) *Parable of the Sower*. Depicting a place where state protection has failed, this speculative cartography invites us to question how communities today do, and could, cultivate spaces of collective care amid our own unfolding crises. Thinking with abolition geography scholarship, which explores alternative spatial organizations beyond carceral systems, I map three multi-temporal representations of the site as it shifts throughout the novel: the everyday, a fire, and a robbery in the community. This layered visualization reveals how Butler's fictional community develops place-based networks of care and safety to prevent and respond to harm, if and when it happens. This project combines textual analysis with visual mapping, contributing methodological approaches for understanding both fictional and real urban spaces.

ABOLITION, AFROFUTURISM, CARE, METHODOLOGIES, NEIGHBORHOOD

HIV prevalence and associated risk factors among women in Botswana

Thabo Sebobi

Penn State University

This study investigates the socio-demographic, behavioral, and geographic factors associated with HIV infection and risk among ethnic women in Botswana using data from the 2021 Botswana AIDS Impact Survey (BAIS V). Logistic regression identified key predictors: contraceptive use (AOR = 0.567) and awareness of PrEP (AOR = 0.856) were protective, while early sexual debut (AOR = 1.596) increased infection odds. Age, education, and wealth were significantly associated, with women aged 55–

64, educated, and wealthier women more likely to be HIV positive. Among HIV-negative women, unemployment (AOR = 0.774) and not testing with partners (OR = 2.899) increased HIV risk, while women aged 25–34 had lower odds (OR = 0.509). Marital status and partner's HIV status were not significant. Geospatial analysis revealed high-prevalence clusters in urban and peri-urban centers, particularly Central Mahalapye, Selebi-Phikwe, Serowe-Palapye, and Central Tutume. Findings highlight the need for geographically targeted, socio-behavioral interventions to reduce women's HIV vulnerability.

HIV AND AIDS, WOMEN, RISK FACTORS,
POLITICAL ECOLOGY, BOTSWANA

Venezuelan Women and the Concept of Legality in Their Migratory Movement.

Laura Torres-Vargas

University of Maryland Baltimore County

Latin America has witnessed a migratory movement of millions over the last 10 years, highlighting several problems in migration policies on the continent. This is the case with Venezuelan migration, with approximately 7.7 million people deciding to leave the country and migrate to new destinations. Venezuelan women have navigated the reality of migration in different ways, facing factors that influence their migration experience before, during, and after their migration. This presentation will answer the question: How do Venezuelan women navigate and experience the concept of legality when migrating to Colombia, Panama, and the United States? In their migration from Venezuela to Colombia, Panama, or the United States, Venezuelan women have experienced document requests, denial of entry, the reality of finding work, the need to access healthcare, education, and employment, and the possibility of migrating to another country in light of the concept of legality. To reach the United States, Venezuelan migrant women have had to take two routes: one by air and the other by land, passing through several countries from Colombia to Panama and arriving in the United States. It is in this migration movement that the immigration requirements in different countries are highlighted, as well as how they affect the idea of legality in relation to the country at hand. It is clear that the use of the

concept of legality and the requirements necessary to enter a new country are hampered by the political and social situation that Venezuelan women carry with them when moving, as they carry the border in their bodies. Therefore, three outcomes are proposed based on the use of the concept of legality: first, its application to Venezuelan migrant women influences their migration experience; second, acceptance by the host community is generated at different levels; third, the political use of the concept generates anti-immigration discourse.

VENEZUELAN MIGRATION, MIGRANT WOMEN,
LEGALITY, MIGRATION POLICIES, BORDER IN THE
BODY

Creating Homeplace: The RISE Cohort Program as a Model for Rural PWIs

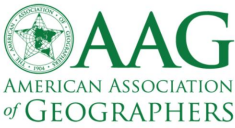
Dom Turner

Morgan State University

Male students of color (particularly Black and Latino men) are among the least likely demographic to persist and graduate at predominantly White institutions (National Center for Education Statistics, 2021; Postsecondary National Policy Institute, 2022). These challenges are even more pronounced at rural PWIs where access to culturally affirming networks, mentors, and support systems is especially limited. In response to these challenges, Senior Associate Dean Dom Turner launched the Reach Inspire Support Engage (RISE) Cohort Program at Allegheny College in the 2024-2025 Academic Year. This poster will present the conceptual grounding of RISE drawing on the theories of homeplace, intrusive advising, and culturally relevant pedagogy, alongside well-established high-impact practices such as pre-college programming and living-learning communities. It will highlight early outcomes such as increased retention and academic performance, as well as lessons learned from implementation. The poster aims to offer an adaptable model for institutions seeking to close equity gaps and foster thriving student communities. Participants will gain insights into both the structural and relational dimensions necessary for building sustainable programs that affirm identity and cultivate student success.

HOMEPLACE, RURAL, PWI, BLACK, MALE

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