

# CURE

2015 | ANNUAL REPORT

*Creating innovative solutions that  
promote equity and opportunity in  
communities throughout the nation*

RUTGERS

Center for Urban Research  
and Education

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OF  
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# A Message from the Director: PAUL A. JARGOWSKY



Our goal at the Center for Urban Research and Education is to support research, convene meetings, and advance conversations about urban conditions and urban poverty. We hope our events this year, including our seminars, the Camden Solutions Forum, and the launch of the Vacant Properties Database built by our partner CamConnect, were steps in that direction.

At the same time, we also need a more comprehensive long-term strategy for addressing urban poverty. The need to do so is increasingly urgent. Over the last year, disturbing scenes of violence have played out in the deteriorating inner-ring suburb of Ferguson and the traditional urban ghetto of inner-city Baltimore. The desperation and extreme deprivation of people living in these neighborhoods is a potent fuel waiting to be ignited, recalling the “long, hot summers” of the 1960s. Civil unrest in racially-segregated high-poverty neighborhoods and the racially-motivated murders in Charleston have sparked a long-overdue national conversation about race, violence, and policing.

High-poverty ghettos and barrios, after being a major concern in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, receded from the public consciousness. In the 1990s, the US economy boomed. Unemployment dropped to 4 percent. In this context, the number of persons living in high-poverty neighborhoods – defined as areas where the federal poverty rate was 40 percent or more –

dropped by 25 percent, from 9.6 million to 7.2 million.

In contrast, in recent years the population of high-poverty neighborhoods has risen at an astonishing pace. The number of persons living in neighborhoods where the poverty rate is 40 percent or more has grown by 91 percent since 2000. By 2011, with the financial crisis in full swing, residence in high-poverty neighborhoods surged to 13.8 million, the highest level ever recorded.

The expansion and continued existence of high-poverty ghettos and barrios is no accident. Nor is it the product of the impartial workings of the housing market. In fact, ghettos and barrios result from and are sustained by public policy choices. Obviously the state of the economy plays a large role. But another huge factor has been rampant suburban and exurban development. Suburbs grew so fast that their growth was cannibalistic: it came at the expense of the central city and older suburbs. In virtually all metropolitan areas, suburban rings grew much faster than was needed to accommodate metropolitan population growth, so that the central cities and inner-ring suburbs saw massive population declines.

The recent trend towards gentrification is barely a ripple compared to the massive surge to the suburbs since about 1970. The population movements were also highly selective. Through exclusionary zoning and outright housing market discrimination, the upper middle class and affluent could move to the suburbs, and the poor were left behind. Moreover, taxpayers funded new infrastructure – roads, schools, water and sewer, and so on – even as existing infrastructure was underutilized in the urban core.

Now, with gentrification driving up rents in some urban cores, some of the poor are moving out of central cities into older inner-ring suburbs. Ferguson is a prime example. As recently as 1990, Ferguson was 75 percent white, but by 2010 it was about two-thirds black. The poverty

rate rose from 7 to 22 percent over that period. Three out of ten neighborhoods in Ferguson have poverty rates of more than 40 percent.

It is unfortunate that well-meaning people who are reading the news and consuming the coverage the events in Ferguson, Baltimore, and elsewhere are not getting the full picture. They are seeing places Ferguson up close, but they are not seeing the larger set of forces that created Ferguson. Consider that fact that almost all of the high-poverty neighborhoods in the St. Louis metro area are in St. Louis, East St. Louis, and a handful of inner-ring suburbs like Ferguson. Meanwhile there are 500 more suburbs that are part of the St. Louis metro area that have exactly zero high-poverty neighborhoods. These richer suburbs have used exclusionary zoning to keep out affordable housing, so the poor and low-income people can only live in the central city and dying suburbs that are being abandoned as people move further and further out to the fringes for bigger and newer houses.

*“The need to develop a more comprehensive long-term strategy for addressing urban poverty is increasingly urgent.”*

In the short run, we have to deal with the situation as it now exists. We have to try to stabilize urban neighborhoods, improve inner-city schools, and expand economic opportunities. And obviously, urban policing must be addressed. This is important work, but in the long run we must also find a way to stop creating so many high-poverty neighborhoods in the first place.

Here at CURE, we do our best in the coming year to call attention to both the critical short-term needs and the longer-term development strategies that are needed to produce a more economically and geographically integrated society.



# CURE Seminar Series

*The purpose of the monthly seminar series is to provide members and affiliates of the Rutgers University–Camden community with opportunities to hear about interesting, cutting-edge research and initiatives by scholars, community activists and others engaged in urban research and/or urban change.*



September 2014

## “Resistance was Futile: The Case of Public Housing Elimination in Atlanta”

Deirdre Áine Oakley, Ph.D.

Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies  
Department of Sociology  
Georgia State University



*Dr. Oakley is an Associate Professor in the Sociology Department at Georgia State University and the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. Her research, which has been widely published in both academic*

*and applied venues, focuses primarily on how social disadvantages concerning education, housing, homelessness as well as redevelopment, are often compounded by geographic space and urban policies.*

HOPE VI (Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere) sought to transform public housing by demolishing large, spatially concentrated—and in many cases deteriorating—developments and replacing them with mixed-income housing. This has meant the relocation for the majority of public housing residents to private market rental housing with the help of a voucher. While there have been a few grassroots-based initiatives in some cities that have compelled public housing authorities to more formally acknowledge

the needs of the public housing residents, in Atlanta such mobilizations became futile. Atlanta is the first city to eliminate all of its traditional project-based public housing, and its initiatives to do so have received national acclaim, with the label “The Atlanta Model”. This seminar talk centered on how Atlanta’s public housing resident and advocacy groups attempted to stop the last demolitions, and how the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) was able to get past this loosely-structured movement successfully with the help of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The talk highlighted the hegemonic public housing transformation regime that Atlanta was able to create, a regime which not only dis-empowered resident protest and resistance, but their input as well.

October 2014

## “Gang Nostalgia: Generation, Authority and the Role of History in a Chicago Gang”

Laurence Ralph, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
Departments of African and African American Studies and of Anthropology  
Harvard University

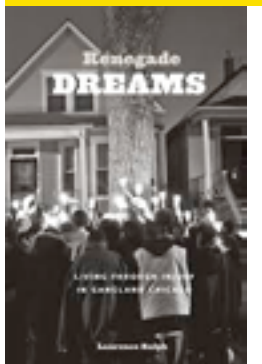


*Dr. Ralph is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Anthropology and African and African American Studies at Harvard Uni-*

*versity. His research interests include: urban anthropology, medical anthropology; the study of gangs, disability, masculinity, race, and popular culture. Laurence has recently released an ethnography entitled, Renegade Dreams: Living Through Injury in Gangland Chicago.*

This talk explored how various generations of young gang members develop their worldview, while clinging to the memory of a gang structure that has ceased to exist. Ever since a generation of gang members was incarcerated due to the “war on drugs” in the 1980s, the Divine Knights have been devoid of central leadership. This absence has caused the Divine Knights to splinter into increasingly

violent subsets. Decades of gang fracture has had dire consequences for the Divine Knights’ youngest constituency—members, who gang leaders call “renegades” because they supposedly disregard the aspirations of the collective in favor of their own individual pursuits. Ralph showed that each older generation of the gang sees their juniors through the lens of their own “coming-of-age” era. Their nostalgic view of the past blinds them to the problems of the present. Yet it permits them to place blame on the youngest generation of gang members for failing to live up to what has become an impossible standard.





## “To, For, With...”

**Angel Rodriguez**

Vice President of Community Economic Development  
Asociación Puertorriqueños En Marcha (APM)  
Philadelphia, PA



Angel Rodriguez serves as the Vice President of Community Economic Development for Asociación Puertorriqueños En Marcha (APM) focusing on housing development in

Eastern North Philadelphia and managing APM's Financial Opportunity Center & Sustainable Communities Initiative in partnership with Philadelphia LISC.

Philadelphia is known for being a city of neighborhoods, neighborhoods with very distinct flavors, amenities and people. How do these neighborhoods experience and deal with change? Is change something that is done “to” the neighborhood, done “for” the neighborhood or more importantly done “with” the neighborhood?

Asociación Puertorriqueños En Marcha (APM) has been working in Eastern North Philadelphia for 43 years fostering a shared

community vision. For 26 years APM has been physically developing and changing the streets-cape of the neighborhood. In this seminar, Rodriguez discussed how APM focuses on improving the quality of life in their neighborhood, how they foster a strong spirit of collaboration and service, and how APM is dealing with a hot button topic like gentrification.

## “Does Concentration Worsen Poverty? The Philadelphia Case”

**Lorraine Minnite, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor,  
Department of Public Policy and Administration  
Rutgers University–Camden



Lorraine C. Minnite's research is concerned with issues of inequality, social and racial

justice, political conflict and institutional change. She is the author and co-author of two books on electoral rules and racial and class politics in the U.S., *The Myth of Voter Fraud*, published by Cornell University Press in 2010, and *Keeping Down the Black Vote: Race and the Demobilization of American Voters*, published by The New Press in 2009, and co-authored with Frances Fox Piven and Margaret Groarke.

Scholars of political incorporation understand that for African Americans, the foundation of advancement in electoral politics has been the concentration of black voters in jurisdictions where they could engage in mobilization campaigns and out-vote whites

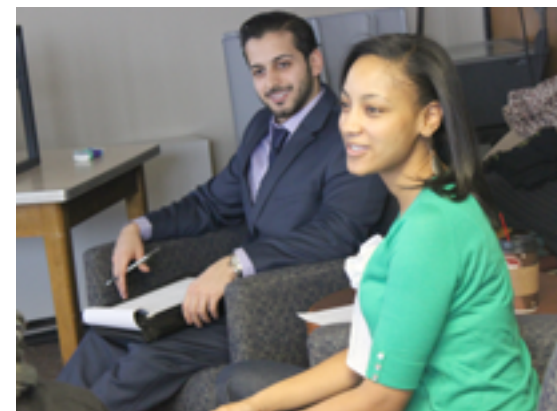
simply by virtue of their sheer numbers. At the same time, scholars of urban poverty have argued that concentration or neighborhood effects negatively impact the life chances of residents of deprived neighborhoods over and above the effects of their individual characteristics. The question is how concentration effects can be good for politics but bad for the very people who need political representation the most, the urban poor. Minnite's research explores the problem using micro-data to examine shifting patterns of political participation and poverty for the City of Philadelphia since 1970.

## “Update on the CURE Camden Neighborhood Change Study”

**Anthony Voci**  
Program Coordinator

**Danielle Davis & Zaid Mazahreh**  
Volunteers

**Natasha O. Fletcher**  
Project Director



Pictured top: Anthony Voci, Program Coordinator  
Pictured bottom: Danielle Davis & Zaid Mazahreh, Program Volunteers

There are major new investments in different Camden neighborhoods such as the new Kroc Community Center in Cramer Hill. Such resources could have major spillover effects on housing conditions and neighborhood integrity in affected areas. In order for community researchers to understand the scope and magnitude of these effects, it is essential to develop baseline data on current neighborhood conditions and to build a longitudinal database.

This study seeks to:

- Document housing conditions on a parcel-by-parcel basis in neighborhoods in Camden City that have received or will receive major resources, including vacancy status, graffiti, trash, physical decay, etc.;
- Photograph each parcel;
- Make the data and photographs available to researchers and the general public through and interactive, online map;
- Update the data and photographs annually, to document the changes and trends in housing and neighborhood conditions;
- Involve the community in data collection, present data annually to community residents and city stakeholders.

For more information on this study and to view the interactive map, please visit:

<http://cure-cnccs.camden.rutgers.edu/>



# “Regeneration and Inequality in US Post-Industrial Cities”

Alan Mallach, FAICP  
Senior Fellow  
Center for Community Progress  
Washington DC



Alan Mallach is a senior fellow at the Center for Community Progress in Washington DC. A city planner, advocate and writer, he is nationally known both for his research and

his practical engagement with housing, economic development and urban revitalization. He has worked with local governments and community organizations across the country to help frame creative policies and strategies to rebuild their cities and neighborhoods, and has spoken on housing and urban issues in the United States, Europe, Israel and Japan.

Urban regeneration is a reality in US cities, and during the past 10 to 15 years has spread from coastal cities like Washington DC and San Francisco to the nation's historically industrial cities, including Baltimore, Pittsburgh and St. Louis, slowing and in some cases reversing decades of population and job loss. At the same time, as these cities have seen renewed growth and redevelopment, they have also become



more spatially, economically and racially polarized, as some parts of cities have seen revival but others continued, even accelerated, decline. Based on his ongoing research into the changes in the nation's post-industrial cities, Mallach described the recent trends in these cities, analyze some of the salient forces driving these trends, and offered some thoughts about the challenges they represent for social and public policy.

February 2015

# “The New American Suburb: Poverty, Race, and the Economic Crisis”

Deirdre Áine Oakley, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor and Undergraduate Director  
Department of Sociology  
Georgia State University

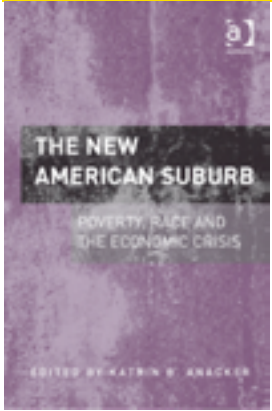


Dr. Anacker's work has been published in the Journal of Urban Affairs, Housing Policy Debate, Housing Studies, the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, the International Journal of Housing Policy, Urban Geography, and Housing and Society. Her work has been supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Urban Land Institute, Center for Urban and Regional Analysis at The Ohio State University, Lambda Alpha International, and the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy.



The majority of Americans live in suburbs and until about a decade or so ago, most suburbs had been assumed to be non-Hispanic White, affluent, and without problems. However, recent data have shown that there are changing trends among U.S. suburbs. This presentation provided timely analyses of current suburban issues by utilizing recently published data from the 2010 Census and American Community Survey to address key themes including suburban poverty; racial and ethnic change and suburban decline; suburban foreclosures; and suburban policy.

April 2015



# “System Kids: adolescent Mothers and the Politics of Regulation”

Lauren J. Silver, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Childhood Studies  
Rutgers University–Camden



Lauren Silver's research examines youth trajectories across urban organizations including school, child welfare, and juvenile justice and particularly, how the youth themselves

experience and shape these interactions. The goal is to better understand the structural, cultural, and interpersonal barriers faced by urban youth, to explore the youths' resiliency, and to inform more socially just and appropriate program and policy development.

System Kids considers the daily lives of adolescent mothers as they negotiate the child welfare system to meet the needs of their children and themselves. Often categorized as dependent and delinquent, these young women routinely become wards of the state as they move across the legal and social borders of a fragmented urban bureaucracy. Combining critical policy study and ethnography, and drawing on current

scholarship as well as her own experience as a welfare program manager, Lauren Silver demonstrates how social welfare “silos” construct the lives of youth as disconnected, reinforcing unforgiving policies and imposing demands on women the system was intended to help. As clients of a supervised independent living program, they are expected to make the transition into independent adulthood, but Silver finds a vast divide between these expectations and the young women's lived reality.

March 2015



Interested in attending an upcoming CURE Seminar?  
Visit [cure.camden.rutgers.edu/category/seminars/](http://cure.camden.rutgers.edu/category/seminars/)  
Seminars are free and open to the public.



# CURE Film and Discussion Series

*This year, CURE partnered with the newly established Digital Studies Center at Rutgers University-Camden to launch a film and discussion series exploring metropolitan and urban issues. The selected films highlighted a variety of topics including: the effects of the “Great Recession” on middle-income Americans, the ramifications of growing economic inequality and possibility of attaining the “American Dream”, the efficacy and limitations of community organizing, the currency of racial tensions and biases within the law enforcement system. Invited discussants facilitated the post-screening conversations with students, faculty, and community members and related their own experiences to the topics that emerged in the films.*



Learn more about the  
Digital Studies Center at  
[digitalstudies.camden.  
rutgers.edu](http://digitalstudies.camden.rutgers.edu)



# CURE Special Events

*December 2014*



## Camden Citywide Housing Vacancy Data Release Event

In December of 2014, CURE, in partnership with [CamConnect](#), the [Camden Community Development Association](#), and the [Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's Community Development Studies and Education Department](#), hosted the Camden Citywide Housing Vacancy Data Release event. The vacancy data released at this event were gathered through a property survey conducted by CamConnect and the Camden Community Development Association with funding support by the Fund for New Jersey. During this event, the audience saw a demonstration of the mapping application for GIS spatial analysis, followed by a panel discussion of experts on the current status and future of abandoned properties in Camden and an opportunity for audience Q&A.

Presentation of interactive map:  
Josh Wheeling, Program Manager, CamConnect

Panelists:

- Pilar Hogan Closkey, Executive Director, St. Joseph's Carpenter Society;
- John Kromer, Senior Consultant, University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government;
- Danilo Pelletiere, Economist, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research;
- Bridget Phifer, Executive Director, Parkside Business and Community In Partnership, Inc.;
- Rick Sauer, Executive Director, Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations.

*To watch the video recording of the Data Release, visit:*  
[rcit.rutges.edu/av-request/serve/camden-vacancy-2014](http://rcit.rutges.edu/av-request/serve/camden-vacancy-2014)

*March 2015*



## CURE Camden Solutions Forum

In March of 2015, CURE, along with the local South New Jersey newspaper Courier-Post, sponsored a discussion of solutions for Camden's lingering issues -- jobs and the economy, poverty, blight, crime, education, housing and development and more.

The forum kicked off with a presentation by Alan Mallach on the state of U.S. cities and metropolitan regions, especially Camden and South Jersey, with regard to housing (in-) equality, education, and crime. Subsequently, panelists spoke on the state of the issues in Camden (crime, housing, economic development, and education), after which the audience (ca. 100 attendees made up of Camden, Camden County, and Philadelphia region community members, nonprofit organizers, City workers, students, faculty, staff, etc.) engaged in a lively Q & A. The audience was especially interested in hearing from the panel about plans to improve Camden, and how new initiatives would improve the lives of poor people and Camden residents in general. It was clear that the audience was emotional and heavily scrutinized "new" ideas to help solve problems that have proliferated for many, many years.

Panelists:

- Alan Mallach, Brookings Institute Senior Fellow;
- Bridget Phifer, Executive Director, Parkside Business and Community In Partnership, Inc.;
- Paymon Rouhanifard, Camden Public Schools Superintendent;
- Raymond Lamboy, President and CEO Latin American Economic Development Association, Inc. (LAEDA) and Chairman of Kroc Center;
- Captain Gabriel Camacho, Camden County Police Department.

*To watch the video recording of the Forum, visit:*  
[rcit.rutges.edu/av-request/serve/cure-2015-03-31](http://rcit.rutges.edu/av-request/serve/cure-2015-03-31)

*April 2015*



*Center Director Paul Jargoswky discusses the mission of the Center for Urban Research and Education and its relevance for the City of Camden*

## Students from the Netherlands visit CURE

In April of 2015, a group of 40 students from the Department of Human Geography and Planning at Rijksuniversiteit Groningen in the Netherlands visited our campus. The Camden Redevelopment Agency and CURE co-hosted the group at our campus to discuss topics such as land use redevelopments that result in revenues for the city and jobs for city residents, the role of government and entrepreneurs in creating revenue, waterfront development, demolition initiatives, wellbeing and safety, infrastructure projects and heritage policy.

*May 2015*



## Violence & the City conference at the Murphy Institute of CUNY

In May of 2015, CURE co-sponsored and participated in the conference Violence & the City in NYC. This day-long, interdisciplinary conference considered the nature and effects of various types of urban violence, and was organized around two themes: violence and urban society; and, crime, politics, and policy. Featured speakers addressed these concerns in theoretically, methodologically, or empirically innovative ways. An edited volume of conference papers is planned.

Speakers and Discussants included:

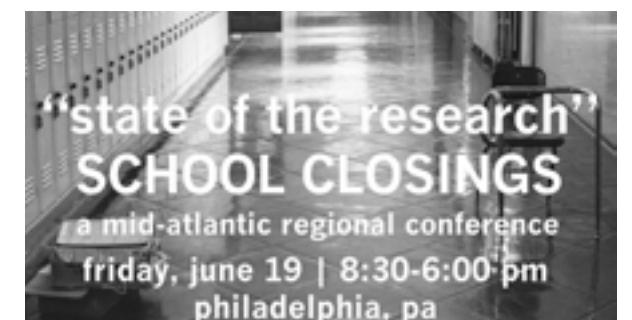
- Frances Fox Piven, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, CUNY Graduate Center;
- Marie Gottschalk, Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania;
- Ruth Gilmore, Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences and American Studies, and Director of the Center for Place, Culture, and Politics, CUNY Graduate Center;
- Mimi Abramovitz, Bertha Capen Reynolds Professor of Social Policy, Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College;
- Lawrence Mead, Professor of Politics, New York University;
- Paul Jargowsky, Professor of Public Policy and Director of Center for Urban Research and Urban Education, Rutgers University-Camden.
- John Mollenkopf, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Urban Research, CUNY Graduate Center

## CURE awarded the Chancellor Award for Civic Engagement



CURE received the academic civic engagement award at Rutgers University-Camden on May 11, 2015 for community involvement (e.g. seminars, forums, conferences, community-based research).

*June 2015*



## Regional School Closings Conference

In June of 2015, CURE co-sponsored a regional conference on the state of research regarding school closings.





# CURE Research

## CURE partnered with Archive Global on “Breathe Easy Camden” project

The New York City based foundation ARCHIVE Global invited CURE to collaborate on the Breathe Easy Camden project. Breathe Easy Camden is a 4 month long family-focused, collaborative asthma prevention pilot project developed focused on empowering low-income, urban families with young children suffering from severe asthma with the tools and resources that are essential to creating and maintaining healthy, trigger-free living environments. This project responds to a critical gap in access to preventive asthma care for high-risk families and seeks to spark the development of a

broader system of family-focused asthma prevention in Camden.

CURE agreed to consult on the data collection and analysis for this project.

*Together with our partners, we are rethinking how and where healthcare can be most efficiently delivered. Read more about how we are building health locally at [archiveglobal.org/camden-new-jersey/](http://archiveglobal.org/camden-new-jersey/)*

## CURE project on neighborhood change in Camden made the news!

### Mapping neighborhood change in Camden

By Jonathan Lai, Inquirer Staff Writer

“As Camden leaders tout a budding renaissance in the city, one Rutgers–Camden project will be keeping an objective eye by tracking neighborhood changes in the Cramer Hill section.

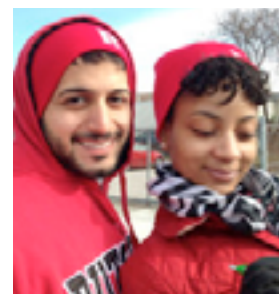
The Camden Neighborhood Change Study, nearing completion of its initial data-collection phase, will create a database of every property in Cramer Hill, along with a variety of indicators of condition: broken windows, graffiti, vacancy status.

Once complete, an online map will allow anyone to explore the baseline information. A year from now, researchers will survey the neighborhood again. Done annually, researchers hope, this will help them develop a robust data set that will provide insight into effects of urban development, and help drive policy in the city.

“There’s very much a social justice component that we’ve envisioned in the design of this program,” Natasha O. Tursi, who heads the study, told about two dozen people Friday afternoon at a presentation on campus.

Tursi, associate director of the school’s Center for Urban Research and Education, said she hopes to continue the program in perpetuity, potentially expanding to other neighborhoods that may soon see change due to private development or public policy. Cramer Hill was chosen first because Tursi believed development planned there would have effects in the neighborhood. As data are collected by other groups - MacArthur “genius” grant winner Dr. Jeffrey Brenner’s health data being a high-profile example - an evidence-based approach to public policy can make governance more rigorous, she said.

“What we’re hoping to do is link our data that we create with other data that’s being collected: education, crime, policing, health,” Tursi said. “So we envision our component to complement other data that’s being collected across the city in other neighborhoods,



*“I’m not being forced to do it, this is my part of giving back. Making a change.”*

- Zaid N. Mazahreh  
Graduate Student  
Rutgers–Camden, Master of Public Administration Program

[Pictured left: Rutgers University–Camden MPA grad (‘2014) Zaid Mazahreh and current MPA grad student Danielle Davis. Pictured top-right: Zaid Mazahreh (right) and Danielle Davis survey the Cramer Hill neighborhood of Camden, inputting information in their iPhones as part of the Camden Neighborhood Change Study.]



to have a comprehensive picture of what’s happening.”

But Tursi was careful to state that the project is about academia, not advocacy. The data will be available to everyone, for any use, but “there’s no desired or anticipated outcome that we are looking to achieve with this,” she said. “This is value-neutral data collection.”

The project is also a hands-on introduction to field work and the city, and Tursi was able to enlist the help of some graduate students in Rutgers–Camden’s master of public administration program.

First, Tursi hired a 2014 Rutgers–Camden graduate, Anthony Voci, to help run the study. Then she made an offer to one of her classes last semester: Write a paper or do field work helping Voci.

Armed with iPhones, Voci and the students set out three times a week, filling out forms for three hours at a time. At a rate of about a block an hour, they talked to residents, examined housing conditions, and tried to match aerial maps, block maps diagramming properties, and street-level photographs they took.

“I promised them fun. I promised them it wouldn’t be all hard and cold and data-retrieving,” Voci, 54, said after the presentation.

As they learned about the neighborhood - “there are a lot of distressed properties in Camden, of course . . . but there is a lot of good housing stock,” Voci said - they also began to think of Cramer Hill, and the city, as their own.

“It was beyond the grade. At first, you think it’s about the grade, the paper,” said Danielle E. Davis, 28, one of the graduate students. “But then, it was beyond the grade. I didn’t even care what the grade was.”

With about 60 blocks surveyed, only a handful remain, the equivalent of about two weeks’ worth of data collection. The researchers will then organize the information, clean it up, and prepare it for online publication in a month or two.

For the graduate students, their grades are in, their commitments complete. But as the study nears completion, they say, they will see the work through to the end. (And then, Tursi will have to find more students, and funding, to keep the study going each year.)

“I want to do it,” said Zaid N. Mazahreh, 24, one of the graduate students volunteering in the program. “I’m not being forced to do it, this is my part of giving back. Making a change.”

*Read story: Mapping neighborhood change in Camden online at [articles.philly.com/2015-02-01/news/58654221\\_1\\_tur-si-health-data-cramer-hill](http://articles.philly.com/2015-02-01/news/58654221_1_tur-si-health-data-cramer-hill)*



In February of 2015, CURE completed the Cramer Hill section of the Camden Neighborhood Change Study.

The study and release of the interactive map made front-page-news in the **Courier Post** newspaper!

## Project will study one East Camden neighborhood

KEVIN C. SHELLEY  
COURIER-POST

Camden is a petri dish when you are an urbanologist. Many petri dishes, actually.

With a population of just over 77,000, Camden is a stew of neighborhoods, 25 by some counts, though who in the city really says they come from Beideman?

The U.S. Census, which ranks Camden as the poorest city in America, counts 19 distinct tracts — recently down from 21 due to consolidation after decades of ongoing population shrinkage. At the same time, spurred by tax credits, the city is seeing an influx of investments and plans for new businesses and development — but only in some parts of the distressed city.

Which means there's plenty to study in a town with neighborhoods that feel similar, but are different — if not always distinct.

And yet, even with two universities in the city and the interest of academics from as far away as Harvard, Camden's neighborhoods remain, in some ways, unexamined enigmas.

That changes Sunday.

Rutgers University-Camden's Center for Urban Research and Education (CURE) debuts its completed interactive website, a micro-view of Cramer Hill in East Camden.

"This is a baseline collection of data. We hope to get funding to conduct interviews with residents and then revisit yearly," said project leader Natasha Tursi, CURE's associate director, a native of Germany who came to California as an au pair. She stayed in America and moved to New Jersey, studying first at Rutgers-Camden.

The discrepancy between public housing in Germany — she grew up in urban public housing that was clean and safe — and America spurs much of her research and interest.

"I did not feel disadvantaged, marginalized, stigmatized. I still had access to resources and education," she said of her childhood.

"What I see here in public housing are people who feel isolated. Germany was not as racially diverse, so maybe that is part of it. Here, we continue to segregate and there is stigmatization.

"That's a conundrum," said Tursi, who studied law before turning to community development and housing as

courierpostonline.com

## Study

Continued from Page 1A

her fields of study.

She has noticed that various segments of Camden's ethnic mix have staked out claims on various parts of the city — and the money pots attached to them.

"It comes down to limited resources. There are fights over a little piece of the pie. The reaction in these communities is 'What about our people?'"

"And when you live like that, you do what it takes to get your little bit, even if that means being more aggressive," Tursi said.

"I'm an idealist. I'd like to influence policy for the better," she said, laughing at how grand that notion sounds working in the poorest city in America.

Organizing the project, Tursi holds a doctorate in housing and a minor in community development from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick.

With grant money, she hired Anthony Voci, 54, to do the groundwork for the study.

A nontraditional student, Voci began college studies long ago at Pratt Institute, intending to study architecture and planning.

Instead, he detoured into small business with his sister, then worked as a waiter, recently finishing a degree in Urban Studies at Rutgers with honors. Now he's a researcher and project coordinator for CURE.

Next came the study's foot soldiers, students Danielle Davis and Zaid N. Mazahreh, who jumped at the opportunity to do fieldwork instead of cranking out an academic paper for Tursi.

"The students here are excited. Camden is an interesting environment; it isn't like Princeton! There is so much work to be done here to frame the problems," Tursi said.

Davis, who has worked as a paralegal and a trial clerk, is getting a master's



Rutgers student Danielle Davis (from left), Rutgers University-Camden's Center for Urban Research and Education Associate Director Natasha Tursi, Zaid N. Mazahreh of Cherry Hill, and project coordinator Anthony Voci work together to produce CURE's interactive website, a micro-view of Cramer Hill in East Camden.

### On the Web

» For information about CURE's Cramer Hill map and survey, visit: [cure.camden.rutgers.edu/camden-neighborhood-change-study](http://cure.camden.rutgers.edu/camden-neighborhood-change-study)

» To reach CURE via social media, visit: <https://twitter.com/CureCamden>

When he distributed the handheld devices (to record information and make digital pictures) I felt like he gave us the key to Cramer Hill. Josh trained us on how to use the iPhone as a surveying tool.

"After collecting the data, Anthony would connect the device to his computer," and build an interactive map and database, explained Davis.

The winter cold, loose

dogs and suspicious neighbors were the main issues the team dealt with as it surveyed four dozen blocks and photographed 1,300 lots.

"With all the beauty in Camden, there was also were some scary moments for us," Mazahreh said.

Dogs, some threaten-

ing, many without collars, tags or licenses, and running free, were the biggest worry, including one that blocked them from their car.

Outfitted with knit Rutgers hats, touch-sensitive gloves allowing them to stay warm, iPhones and Voci's sense of humor and street smarts, they persevered.

While many Cramer Hill residents were suspicious, others adopted the surveyors when they realized the CURE team was interested in their neighborhood.

Tursi and her boss, Paul

A. Jagowsky, a Sea Isle native via a long stint as a professor in Texas, hope to find enough funding to add resident interviews to the project, then revisit to measure change over time.

They'd also like to expand into additional Camden neighborhoods that appear primed for change in the near-term, but they need funding to make that happen.

Reach Kevin Shelley at [kshelley@courierpostonline.com](mailto:kshelley@courierpostonline.com) or (856) 449-8684. Follow him on Twitter @kshelly.



# Student Activities

## CURE affiliated Public Policy grad students cited in news article “N.J. municipalities join forces to deal with vacant homes”

The role of Rutgers–Camden public policy Ph.D. students Zach Wood and Prentiss Dantzler and MPA student Jeanette Holdbrook in helping to identify abandoned properties in Camden County was cited in this South Jersey section news story:

[http://articles.philly.com/2014-07-21/news/51786297\\_1\\_vacant-properties-zombies-haddonfield](http://articles.philly.com/2014-07-21/news/51786297_1_vacant-properties-zombies-haddonfield)

*“Several Camden County communities - Collingswood, Audubon, Haddonfield, Haddon Township, Oaklyn, Pennsauken, and the Fairview section of Camden - have joined forces, enlisting the help of two doctoral candidates and a master’s student from Rutgers–Camden’s department of public policy and administration to identify the abandoned or derelict vacant properties in their midst.”*

## CURE sponsored urban studies student research on calculating affordable housing accountability

CURE sponsored urban studies student Brian K. Everett to conduct a regional affordable housing study.

*“This project will apply the previously announced rules for the construction of affordable housing units given by COAH to all of the 37 municipalities in Camden County. The goal is to show what Camden County’s affordable housing image should look like as of 2014 if the rules had been followed and enforced. My hypothesis is that Camden County should display a more distributed total of affordable units based upon COAH’s formulaic guidelines, rather than 75% of the County’s responsibility existing in Camden City alone.”*

–B.K. Everett

## CURE supported grad students to present research at the American Society of Criminology in San Francisco, California

CURE awarded travel grants to 2 Rutgers graduate students —Kasey Reeves, a second year graduate student in the Criminal Justice Master’s Program at Rutgers University in Camden who’s interests include at-risk youth and police recruitment and Madison Nilsen, a second year graduate student in the Criminal Justice Master’s Program who is interested in youth risk behavior and juvenile justice. The Criminal Justice students participated in the American Society of Criminology in San Francisco, California in November. They presented findings from the EPIC Camden study in a paper that they co-presented, entitled, *“It’s just a free-for-all out here.” Contextualizing Adolescent Strategies to Acquire Alcohol*. They have been a vital part of the research team (collecting data, etc.) and co-authoring papers with CURE affiliated scholars Stacia Gilliard Matthews and Robin Stevens.

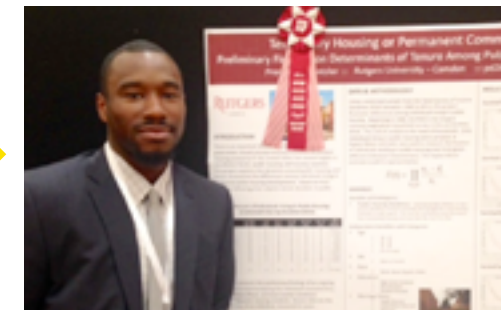


DPPA doctoral candidate Rasheda L. Weaver project selected for Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia’s Community Development Graduate Research Forum on 10/21/2014

Doctoral student Rasheda L. Weaver’s research project entitled “Survey of Community Attitudes and Utilization of Cooper River Park West” was part of a successful revitalization effort to restore Cooper River Park West, a park closed for over 14 years. Rasheda’s research surveyed over 100 Camden community members on their attitudes towards safety, maintenance, utilization, and desired features regarding Cooper River Park West. Rasheda applied Broken Windows Theory to highlight the importance of park maintenance on safety perceptions. She found that participants who found the park poorly maintained tended to feel the park was unsafe and in need of security.

Her research also revealed community members desire features such as security, lighting, biking and walking trails, playgrounds, and picnic tables upon restoration of the park. Results from the survey were used to develop the Cooper River Gateway West Vision Plan and influenced policy decisions to reopen Cooper River Park West next year. Rasheda presented her research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia’s Community Development Graduate Research Forum this week and is working on publishing her work in an academic journal.

Prentiss Dantzler won 2nd best APPAM Fall conference poster award



Congratulations to Ph.D. candidate Prentiss Dantzler, Rutgers University Camden, Department of Public Policy and Administration, for achieving the 2nd best conference poster award at this year’s APPAM Fall research conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico!

## Rutgers DPPA graduate students participated in the Urban Affairs Association annual meeting in Miami



Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn, Assistant Professor – Racial Diversity and Happiness: Add Health Panel evidence

Ashley E. Nickels, PhD Candidate – Detroit Snob: An Intersectional Activist’s View of the City

Brandi Blessett, Assistant Professor – The Hypocrisy of Democracy: Students of color, school-to-prison pipeline, and second-class citizenship

Christopher Wheeler, PhD Candidate – The Dynamics of Metropolitan Poverty Change: Causes and Implications for Policymakers

A delegation of 17 faculty and students from Rutgers-Camden attended the Urban Affairs Association annual meeting in Miami, FL, April 8 – April 11.

Danielle Davis, MPA Candidate – Youth are making life decisions in New Jersey public schools

Gloria Bonilla-Santiago, Professor, Matthew Closter, PhD Candidate, and Wanda Garcia, PhD Candidate – A Miracle on Cooper Street: A Case Study of How a University Professor Transformed a Community Through a School Named The Leap Academy

Lorraine Minnite, Associate Professor – The Poverty of Politics in a Northern City: A Case Study of Democratic Inclusion and Economic Exclusion in Philadelphia, 1970-2010

Natasha Fletcher, Associate Director, Center for Urban Research and Education – Gentrification and Urban Social Movements in Berlin and Hamburg, Germany

Patricia Ciorici, PhD Candidate – Motivations for North-South Local Government Cooperation in the United States

Paul A. Jargowsky, Professor – The New Concentration of Poverty: Implications for Educational Achievement

Prentiss Dantzler, PhD Candidate – Temporary Housing and Permanent Homes? Determinants of Spells in Public Housing

Straso Jovanovski, PhD Candidate – Health Care for All: A Case Study of a Local Health Alliance and its Pursuit of Better Health Outcomes While Reducing Costs

Spencer Clayton, PhD Candidate – Tax Abatements and Suburban Poverty: An Analysis of the Philadelphia Area

Stephen Danley, Assistant Professor – “Standing Up with a Foot on My Neck”: Opposition to Public Education Privatization in Camden and Newark, NJ

Zachary Wood, PhD Candidate – Getting to the Roots of Homelessness: Breaking Through to a More Holistic, Client-Focused Advocacy Agenda



# Affiliated Scholars and Activities

*CURE affiliated scholars include academics at Rutgers Camden from various disciplines whose research interests involve urban issues. We have ongoing relationships with these scholars through roundtable discussions where we share our current research projects and possibilities for future collaborations, as well as through email listserve and our website. Our scholar colleagues are always encouraged to participate in our events, provide feedback, and share their ideas for center activities.*



## ROW 1:

**Robert Atkins**, Associate Professor, Childhood Studies and Nursing, Program Director NJ Health Initiative  
**Sarada Balagopalan**, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Programs, Childhood Studies  
**Brandi Blessett**, Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Administration  
**Gloria Bonilla-Santiago**, Board of Governors Service Professor of Public Policy and Administration  
 Director, Center for Strategic Urban Community Leadership  
**Gail Caputo**, Associate Professor, Sociology  
 Director, Graduate Program in Criminal Justice  
**J.J. Cutuli**, Assistant Professor, Psychology  
**Stephen Danley**, Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Administration

## ROW 2

**Maureen M. Donaghy**, Assistant Professor, Political Science & Public Policy and Administration  
**Howard F. Gillette**, Professor Emeritus of History  
**Stacia Gilliard-Matthews**, Assistant Professor, Sociology  
**Daniel Hart**, Professor II, Psychology and Childhood Studies  
**Gwendolyn L. Harris**, Executive Director, The Walter Rand Institute of Public Affairs  
**Michael Hayes**, Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Administration  
**Jeounghee Kim**, Associate Professor at School of Social Work, Rutgers University in New Brunswick  
**Joan Maya Mazelis**, Assistant Professor, Sociology

## ROW 3

**Lorraine C. Minnite**, Associate Professor, Public Policy and Administration  
**Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn**, Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Administration  
**Wendell E. Pritchett**, Interim Dean and Presidential Professor, Penn Law  
**Lauren Silver**, Assistant Professor, Childhood Studies  
**Richard Stansfield**, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice  
**Robin Stevens**, Assistant Professor, Childhood Studies  
**Louis Tuthill**, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice

## CURE affiliated scholar Dr. Howard Gillette authored opinion article: “Piping politics into the Pinelands Commission”

“Forces are converging in New Jersey to force the issue of whether or not a pipe-line will be extended through the Pinelands in order to enable the conversion of a coal-burning plant in Beesley’s Point from coal to natural gas. Much more is at stake than just new jobs, additional energy resources, or a perceived threat to the environment. The very integrity of the Pinelands Commission, the independent agency established in 1978 to manage one of the most the Northeast’s most important ecological areas—1.1 million acres underlain by aquifers containing 17 trillion gallons of some of the purest water in the country—is at stake.”

The article appeared on this regional news hub sponsored by WHYY. To read the complete article, please visit:  
<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/70115-piping-politics-into-the-pine-lands-commission>

## CURE affiliated scholar Daniel Hart quoted in newspaper article regarding NJ teacher evaluations

Dr. Daniel Hart (professor II, CFAS-psychology and childhood studies and director, Institute for Effective Education) offered expert perspective on the potential impact of new teaching standards upon New Jersey educators during an interview that appeared in a front-page news story.

Teachers are understandably nervous about being evaluated by a standardized test with which they are unfamiliar, said Daniel Hart, director of the Institute for Effective Education at Rutgers–Camden. “What the state has done is reduce some of that pressure, so teachers and students have some time to get used to the new curriculum. It seems to be a reasonable decision. “Slowing down the process increases the likelihood, with time, that educators will find this process a useful tool in professional development,” Hart added.

To read the complete article, please visit:  
<http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/south-jersey/2014/07/15/sj-educators-applaud-christie-move-phase-teacher-evaluations/12710349>

## CURE affiliated scholar Joan Maya Mazelis explored sustainable ties among the poor in Philadelphia-based organization

As Joan Maya Mazelis explained, researchers have long agreed that social ties matter. Studies document two common realities for the poor – either they rely on a dense network of closely connected and supportive kin or, in the absence of such a network, establish fleeting, disposable ties with strangers, says the assistant professor of sociology at Rutgers University–Camden. However, Mazelis argued, she has found evidence of yet another “in-between” category of support through social ties, a type of non-kin social tie with greater longevity than disposable ties. These bonds are based on a mutual understanding of support, often take on familial roles, and function according to set norms of reciprocity. The researcher discovered the nature and depth of these sustainable ties through a comprehensive study on the Kensington Welfare Rights Union (KWRU), an organization based in the North Philadelphia neighborhood of Kensington. Mazelis documented her findings in a chapter titled “Social Ties Among the Poor in a Neoliberal Capitalist Society,” in the forthcoming *Handbook of Poverty in the United States* from Routledge Press. She is currently writing a book manuscript as well, titled *Our Strength is in Our Unity: Sustainable Ties Among the Poor*.

To read the complete article, please visit:  
<http://www.camden.rutgers.edu/news/researcher-explores-sustainable-ties-among-poor-philadelphia-based-organization>



CURE affiliated scholar Stephen Danley  
quoted several times in local newspaper  
*Critics question benefits of 76ers, Holtec projects in Camden*

When officials announced plans recently for a massive factory in Camden’s gritty port district, cheers erupted from an enthusiastic crowd of executives and elected officials. But the reaction was more restrained from another group — academics and activists concerned over generous tax breaks for firms building in Camden.

*A harsher view came from Stephen Danley, an assistant professor of public policy and administration at Rutgers–Camden. “We throw money at the cities, but it’s corporations that catch it,” he said.*

To read the complete article, please visit:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/south-jersey/2014/07/19/critics-question-benefits-ers-holtec-projects-camden/12898847/>

*The Victor: A tale of two cities*

With its stained glass depiction of RCA’s Nipper trademark on its tower above the Camden Waterfront, the Victor Lofts apartment building is at once the most iconic building in the city — and the most ironic. Ironic because while the building preserves the architectural shell of the blue-collar industrial powerhouse that Camden once was, the residents of the Victor Lofts are unlike the rest of the poorest city in America, according to the U.S. Census. Victor residents are, in fact, reflective of what some hope a future Camden might resemble: Middle-class and professional, affluent, better educated. And in a minority city dominated by Hispanics and African-Americans, the large percentage of whites living in the Victor stands out like a snowstorm in July.

Resident Stephen Danley is a professor of public policy at nearby Rutgers University–Camden. He expected a certain amount of heat for moving into a building so different from the city where he lives, teaches, studies, and blogs — sometimes pointedly and sometimes about two of his fellow Victor Lofts residents, state Sen. Donald Norcross and Camden school Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard.

To read the complete article, please visit:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/south-jersey/2014/07/19/victor-tale-two-cities/12898525/>

*Camden schools plan report with ‘real information’*

...the issue of accountability is a particularly hot topic in Camden schools, particularly when it comes to charters and Renaissance schools — three of which will be opening in the fall. KIPP, Mastery and Uncommon have been approved to open a total of 15 schools in Camden with a total enrollment of 9,300 students. The potential size of the plan has caught the attention of many supporters of the traditional public school system, who feel the writing is on the wall for school closures. Camden’s current enrollment hovers around 15,000 students, with 11,000 in 26 public neighborhood and magnet schools and 4,000 in 11 existing charter schools.

*“It’s easier just to open new schools, claim it is about providing additional quality options, than enact closures based on projected deficits,” Stephen Danley, an assistant professor of public policy and administration at Rutgers–Camden, wrote in a recent blog post.*

To read the complete article, please visit:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/south-jersey/2014/07/29/camden-schools-review/13306357>

CURE affiliated scholar Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn  
talked about work and happiness in the NYT  
Overworking Is Part of Our Identity

*Many people chasing the American Dream are working long hours and skipping vacation to reach it. Most employees strongly believe, compared with people in other countries, that hard work pays off in success. But they seem to overestimate income mobility: Research by Miles Corak, for instance, shows that mobility is higher in some other countries than in the U.S. My research shows that Americans who work over 40 hours a week are more happy than those who work less – so are they happy being overworked? Europeans, on the other hand, are different – they seem to value leisure time more, and accordingly those who work over 40 hours are less happy than those working less.*

To read the complete article, please visit:

<http://nyti.ms/1BgxVWW>

CURE affiliated scholar Howard Gillette quoted in  
the Wall Street Journal story: “Christie Gives, and  
Receives, in Camden -- The Heavily Democratic  
City Has Provided a Canvas for the New Jersey  
Republican’s Urban Agenda”

Dr. Howard Gillette (professor emeritus, CFAS-history) shared research perspective on the City of Camden during an interview that appeared in this news story.

To read the complete article, please visit:

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/new-jersey-gov-chris-christie-gives-and-receives-in-camden-1412129651>

CURE affiliated scholar Louis Tuthill quoted in  
local news  
*Military gear for police increases as funding to community-  
based programs decrease, says professor*

Dr. Louis Tuthill (assistant professor, CFAS-criminal justice) offered expert perspective on law enforcement strategies; his comments formed the majority of this news story.

The fact is, local police departments throughout the state, and the nation, have over the past decade been bulking up with surplus military gear provided by the Department of Defense, as well as the Department of Justice’s National Institute of Justice. According to Louis Tuthill, assistant professor of criminology at Rutgers-Camden — who also works as a research partner with police departments in Camden, Trenton, Vineland, Millville, Bridgeton and Haddon Township — such programs have risen in prominence just as federal funding for community policing and prevention initiatives have dwindled. That shift, Tuthill said, has come at the detriment to the relationship between police and residents in communities across the country.

*“There are programs though the Department of Justice in which law enforcement can get free military surplus equipment,” said Tuthill. “At the same time, in the past 10 years since Sept. 11, 2001, there have been cuts at the federal level to community policing. Weed and Seed programs and social programs.” “I think it’s a really bad policy,” he later added. “As we saw in Ferguson, Missouri, there is a danger when officers aren’t properly trained, and there’s also the issue with maintaining all of it. Also, what does a law enforcement agency need with armored cars?”*

To read the complete article, please visit:

[http://www.nj.com/south/index.ssf/2014/09/military\\_gear\\_for\\_police\\_increases\\_as\\_funding\\_to\\_community-based\\_programs\\_decrease\\_says\\_professor.html](http://www.nj.com/south/index.ssf/2014/09/military_gear_for_police_increases_as_funding_to_community-based_programs_decrease_says_professor.html)

CURE affiliated scholar Adam Okulicz-  
Kozaryn co-authored paper on U.S.  
Religious Landscape on Twitter for the  
6th International Conference on Social  
Informatics (SocInfo 2014)  
*U.S. Religious Landscape on Twitter*  
*Lu Chen, Ingmar Weber, Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn*

Religiosity is a powerful force shaping human societies, affecting domains as diverse as economic growth or the ability to cope with illness. As more religious leaders and organizations as well as believers start using social networking sites (e.g., Twitter, Facebook), online activities become important extensions to traditional religious rituals and practices. However, there has been lack of research on religiosity in online social networks. This paper takes a step toward the understanding of several important aspects of religiosity on Twitter, based on the analysis of more than 250k U.S. users who self-declared their religions/belief, including Atheism, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. Specifically, (i) we examine the correlation of geographic distribution of religious people between Twitter and offline surveys. (ii) We analyze users’ tweets and networks to identify discriminative features of each religious group, and explore supervised methods to identify believers of different religions. (iii) We study the linkage preference of different religious groups, and observe a strong preference of Twitter users connecting to others sharing the same religion.

CURE affiliated scholar Adam Okulicz-  
Kozaryn’s research on Twitter and  
Religion cited in MIT *Technology Review*  
*Twitter Data Mining Reveals America’s Religious  
Fault Lines*

Social media is playing an increasingly important role in religious activity. Computer scientists ask: How is that reflected in the Twitter stream?

For the complete article, please visit:

<http://www.technologyreview.com/view/531446/twitter-data-mining-reveals-americas-religious-fault-lines/>



Police and SWAT respond to a man barricaded in a West Deptford house, Monday, Sept. 22, 2014. (Tim Hawk | South Jersey Times) (Tim Hawk)

CURE affiliated scholar Brandi Blessett awarded with  
fellowship from the Center of Accountability and  
Performance

For details, please visit CAP Selects Fellows for Measurement Research PA TIMES Online at <http://cure.camden.rutgers.edu/files/2014/10/CAP-Selects-Fellows-for-Measurement-Research-PA-TIMES-Online.pdf>

New article by CURE affiliated scholar Joan Maya  
Mazelis

Joan Maya Mazelis (2015). “I got to try to give back: How Reciprocity Norms in a Poor People’s Organization Influence Members’ Social Capital.” Journal of Poverty 19 (1): 109-131.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10875549.2014.979458>



Stephen Danley, left, talks with fellow members of the Camden Supper Club during a gathering at the Reggae Grill on Federal Street in Camden on March 24, 2015. ( Joseph Kaczmarek / For the Inquirer )

CURE affiliated scholar Stephen Danley in the news  
for organizing monthly supper club in Camden  
*Sampling fine food, fellowship*

Inspired by the monthly “Dine Around Friday” luncheons sponsored by the city’s Latin American Economic Development Association, the supper club seeks to sample and showcase Camden’s modest, but eclectic, selection of dining options.

*“People like to eat at local ethnic places that have great food, and there are gems in Camden,” says Victor resident Stephen Danley, an assistant professor of public policy at Rutgers-Camden and the organizer of the club.*

To read the complete article, please visit:

[http://articles.philly.com/2015-03-27/news/60520897\\_1\\_camden-store-assistant-professor-east-camden](http://articles.philly.com/2015-03-27/news/60520897_1_camden-store-assistant-professor-east-camden)

CURE affiliated scholar Howard Gillette published  
new book:

*Class Divide: Yale ’64 and the Conflicted Legacy of the Sixties*

*“An exploration of the lasting impact of the “60’s” through the lives of my college classmates, the book investigates the diverging paths of men, famous and not, as they faced central challenges to existing social and cultural patterns at home and abroad.”*



# Scholarship and Activities of Center Director Paul Jargowsky



## Participation in National Superintendents Roundtable in Chicago July 12, 2014 *Childhood Poverty and Funding Inequities* – Chicago – July 11-13

This roundtable in Chicago aimed at examining poverty and funding inequities. After being ignored for a decade or more in policy discussions about schools, poverty is again back in the national spotlight. Join experts from organizations such as the Southern Education Foundation, the Economic Justice Institute, and Stanford to discuss the extent of poverty among school children, funding inequities, and research correlating in- and out-of-school factors related to learning.

## Research quoted in local newspaper

*Report: N.J. kids' health improving*

Despite the state's rising poverty, the health and well-being of New Jersey's children improved in several key areas over the past two decades, according to the 25th annual Kids Count report released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. More children are attending preschool, fewer fourth-graders are failing reading tests, and more teens are graduating from high school. More children are living in families where the head of household has earned at least a high school diploma, and the state's educational achievement is second only to Massachusetts. Eight out of 10 3- and 4-year-olds in New Jersey's highest-poverty districts are enrolled in high-quality preschools, according to the report.

To read the complete article, please visit:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/new-jersey/2014/07/22/report-nj-kids-health-improving/12979721>

## Research cited in a recent report by the U.S. Census Bureau

A recent report from The Century Foundation and the Rutgers Center for Urban Research and Education found that after substantial declines in the concentration of poverty in the 1990s, the concentration of poverty has surged once again since 2000. This report found that while concentrated poverty has returned to—and in some ways exceeded—the previous peak level of 1990, there are substantial differences in how concentrated poverty is manifested. In particular, the authors found that the residents of high poverty neighborhoods are more demographically diverse than in the past.

To view the entire report: "Changes in Areas with Concentrated Poverty: 2000 to 2010.", please visit:

<http://1.usa.gov/1jKBV7T>

## Participation in roundtable discussion on Ferguson

Watch the event hosted by the new Digital Studies Center at Rutgers-Camden by visiting:

<http://camlaw.rutgers.edu/av-request/22811/83360703ee>

## Research quoted in regional business newspaper

Dr. Paul Jargowsky (professor, FASC-public policy and director, Center for Urban Research and Education) offered expert perspective on urban redevelopment matters during an interview that appeared in this weekly regional business newspaper.

To read the complete article, please visit:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/philadelphia/news/2014/11/17/why-stockton-acquiring-showboat-is-good-for.html>

# Scholarship and Activities Associate Director Natasha O. Fletcher



## New Publications

Jargowsky, P., & Tursi, N. (2015). Concentration of Disadvantage. In J. Wright (Ed.), *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences* (2nd ed.). Oxford, UK: Elsevier Science, Ltd.;

Okulicz-Kozaryn, A., Nash, T., & Tursi, N. (2015). Luxury car owners are not happier than frugal car owners. *International Review of Economics*, vol. 62(2), pp. 121-141.

## Conferences

- Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) Fall research conference, Albuquerque, NM, caucus on suburban poverty, November 2014.
- Urban Affairs Association (UAA) annual Spring conference, Miami, FL, Urban Change and Housing in Germany, March 2015.

## Dissertation Committee Membership

Prentiss Dantzler, Factors Influencing Public Housing Tenure

## Service

- Urban Studies Program Chair, June 2014 – June 2015
- Urban Studies Committee Chair, September 2014 – June 2015
- Urban Studies Advisory Committee Chair, June 2014 – June 2015
- Rutgers University Senate, Student Affairs Committee
- Rutgers Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs (GAIA) Faculty Committee for the 2015-2017 Biennial Theme on Global Urbanism

## Teaching and Research

- Poverty and the Urban Environment (Fall 2014);
- Urban Change and Housing in Germany with 10-day trip to Germany: Berlin, Hamburg, & Köln (Spring 2015).





# Affiliated Research Centers

In 2012, CURE established a network of urban research centers in the region and beyond with the aim of information exchange and potential future collaborations on regional initiatives. As such, it serves to link the urban research community in our region. CURE-affiliated research centers include centers at Rutgers New Brunswick and Newark campuses, as well as at the University of Pennsylvania. The three urban-focused Rutgers centers have begun to cooperate on an urban listserv for Rutgers urbanists and the annual Bloustein School doctoral student conference each spring.

## Ralph W. Voorhees Center for Civic Engagement (Rutgers New Brunswick)

The Center for Civic Engagement is a collaborative effort of university faculty, students and community development actors that seeks to enhance educational opportunities, facilitate innovative research, and build community development capacity. The center builds on the strength of existing relationships between faculty and students at the Bloustein School and community development networks and organizations in New Jersey and beyond. The Center hosts the Ralph W. Voorhees Public Service fellowship program for undergraduate and graduate students who work collaboratively with community organizations on group projects each Fall.

## Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies (Rutgers Newark)

Established in July 2000, the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies is an important part of the Rutgers-Newark campus. The Cornwall Center facilitates research and learning exchanges among scholars and other stakeholders in the public, private and non-profit sectors to address urban and metropolitan challenges. The Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies is a signature effort at Rutgers University-Newark to focus the intellectual talent and resources of the institution in service to Newark and its surrounding region. The center is named after the late Joseph C. Cornwall, the founding chair of The Fund for New Jersey and a widely respected civic leader.

## Penn Institute for Urban Research (University of Pennsylvania)

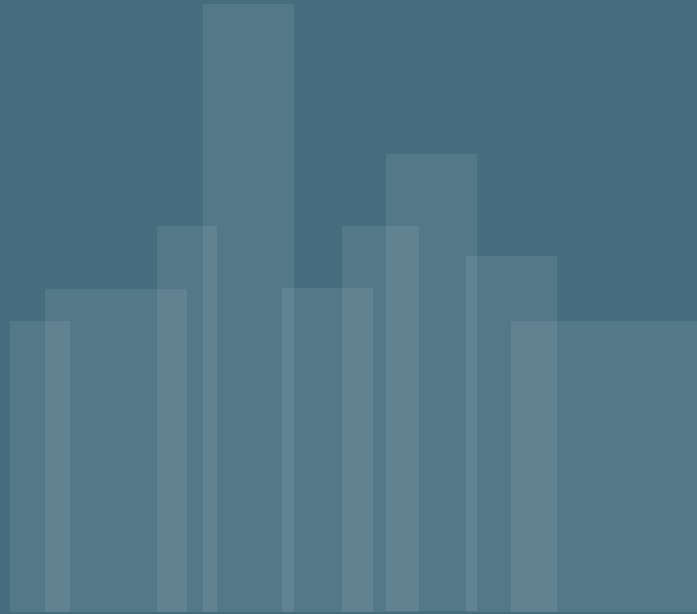
The Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR) is dedicated to an increased understanding of cities through cross-disciplinary research, instruction, and civic engagement. As the global human population becomes increasingly urban, understanding cities is vital to informed decision-making and public policy at the local, national, and international levels. Penn IUR develops knowledge in three critical areas: innovative urban development strategies; building the sustainable and inclusive 21st-century city; and the role of anchor institutions in urban places. By providing a university-wide forum for collaborative scholarship and instruction, Penn IUR stimulates research and engages with the world of urban practitioners and policymakers.

## Looking Ahead...

- *CURE seminar series*
- *Symposium on Affordable Housing Policy*
- *CURE film series*
- *Affiliated scholar roundtables*
- *IPSA Istanbul panel*
- *Expand data center, build integrated data system*
- *CURE community research project*
- *APPAM Miami*
- *UAA San Diego*
- *AAG San Francisco*







We welcome comments and suggestions for future activities  
that would benefit the urban research community on the  
Rutges–Camden campus.

*If you have any suggestions, please contact Natasha Fletcher:*

Natasha O. Fletcher, Ph. D., Associate Director

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