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Center for Urban Research  
and Education

*Rutgers University — Camden*

# CENTER FOR URBAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

*2014 Annual Report*



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## *A Message from the Director,* **PAUL A. JARGOWSKY**

I am very pleased to present the latest annual report of the Center for Urban Research and Education (CURE). In putting together this report, Associate Director Natasha Tursi and I enjoyed revisiting the events and activities of the past year. The pages that follow review the past year’s exciting seminars by notable urban researchers, new and ongoing research projects, and important milestones for faculty and students alike.

One of the themes of the year was transitions. We are sad to note that Wendell Pritchett, the former Rutgers-Camden Chancellor who was instrumental in the founding of CURE, has moved back to the University of Pennsylvania to be interim dean of their Law School. Wendell’s steady hand and wise counsel helped the University to survive and prosper, and he helped me to think about the ways in which a center like CURE could enrich the campus environment and contribute to urban scholarship. While Wendell will be missed, we are delighted that Phoebe Haddon – with her long-standing interest in urban issues – has agreed to serve as the new Chancellor. We are also grateful for the support of Dean Kriste Lindenmeyer, who has renewed the commitment of the College of Arts and Sciences to CURE and has provided support, suggestions, and encouragement for many of our activities.

Another transition of note is that one of our affiliated scholars, Assistant Professor Michael Fortner, is moving on to CUNY. We wish Michael well in his new endeavors, but we will miss his interesting and provocative take on issues. The students will miss the way Michael engaged with them and created an intellectually challenging environment. Most of all we will miss his optimism, good humor, and booming laugh that could fill a room.

CURE affiliated scholar Associate Prof. Lori Minnite experienced an important transition as well, when the Rutgers University Board of Governors concurred with the unanimous recommendation of the Camden Campus that Lori had earned tenure. Prof. Minnite’s research on voter fraud led to her giving testimony in cases challenging draconian voter ID laws. Her research and testimony were cited in the ruling that such laws served to disenfranchise poor and minority voters and served no compelling public interest, and were therefore unconstitutional. While research can sometimes be a lonely and isolating activity, the real-world impact of Lori’s work inspires her colleagues and students alike. She demonstrates that research can make a difference in the world of public policy and in people’s lives.

The nation’s urban areas, and urban research about them, are in a period of transition as well. The past decade saw a remarkable increase in poverty, economic segregation, and concentration of poverty. Yet the recession which followed from the financial crisis has begun to moderate, albeit slowly. The question is whether the poor and residents of racially and economically segregated urban neighborhoods, who were disproportionately affected by the onset of the recession, will be able to share in the benefits of an economic recovery. Early indications are mixed at best. Here at CURE, we will continue to conduct, support, and encourage research on the Rutgers-Camden campus that addresses the causes and consequences of urban economic problems and public policies to support a more equitable distribution of social and economic opportunity for all members of society.

Fortunately, not everything is in transition. CURE will benefit from continuity in terms of the people who actually get the job done. I am particularly grateful for the wonderful work of Associate Director Natasha Tursi. She manages to juggle a hundred balls at a time, all while reminding me of what I need to be doing next. One of her most important contributions to CURE is building relationships with government agencies, local non-profit groups, and other research centers. Thanks to her outreach and dissemination efforts, our events have bridged the gap between “town and gown.” As just one example, Prof. Eric Schneider’s seminar on murder in Philadelphia was attended by two homicide detectives from the Camden police force! Prof. Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn will continue to provide stewardship of the Data Center, described later in this document. Lisa Alston joined us this year and provides outstanding administrative support for the Center’s activities, finding creative ways to get things done despite the University’s sometimes byzantine bureaucracy.

We promise to host another exciting seminar series and other public CURE events and we welcome your feedback and input. We are particularly interested in your suggestions on ways in which CURE can better serve the Camden campus and community. To be added to our mailing list and receive alerts about upcoming events, such as our ongoing seminar series and a new urban film series, please contact Associate Director Natasha Tursi ([ntursi@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:ntursi@camden.rutgers.edu)). Also, visit our web site, <http://cure.camden.rutgers.edu/>, and follow us on Twitter, [@CureCamden](https://twitter.com/CureCamden).

*Paul A. Jargowsky, Ph. D.*

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## CURE SEMINAR SERIES

The purpose of the monthly seminar series is to provide members and affiliates of the Rutgers-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.

This year, CURE hosted another high-profile group of scholars which included Hilary Silver, Center Director Paul Jargowsky, renowned political scientist Frances Fox-Piven, Eric Schneider, George Galster, Annette Lareau, and Kim Goyette. Several of these scholars presented research on their new books, such as *Choosing Homes*, *Choosing Schools*, edited by Lareau and Goyette and featuring a chapter by Jargowsky, and George Galster’s *Driving Detroit*.



*Paul Jargowsky, Hilary Silver, Natasha Tursi*

### *Lessons from Mixed Housing Programs: Implications for Obama’s Choice Neighborhoods Initiative*

**Hilary Silver**, Ph. D., Professor of Sociology and Urban Studies and Professor of Public Policy, Brown University  
Friday, October 25, 2013

Hilary Silver is a Professor of Sociology and Urban Studies & Professor of Public Policy at Brown University, and editor of the journal *City & Community*. Her research focuses on urban poverty, social exclusion, and discrimination, and analyzes social, employment, and housing policies in the US and Europe. She is currently editing a book, *Comparing Cities* (Routledge), on internationally comparative urban studies. Her 2009 film, *Southside: The Fall and Rise of an Inner-City Neighborhood*, will be followed by *Last Resorts*, currently in production, on long-term trajectories of the chronically homeless. Silver is also a Commissioner of the Providence Housing Authority. Her talk was based on “Mixing Policies: Expectations and Achievements” in *Cityscape* (2013) and “Obama’s Urban Policy” in *City & Community* (2010).

### *Concentration of Poverty in the New Millennium*

**Paul A. Jargowsky**, Ph. D., Professor of Public Policy, Rutgers University-Camden  
Wednesday, November 6, 2013

The problems of poverty are exacerbated when poor people live in dysfunctional high-poverty neighborhoods, where they are exposed to high levels of crime and violence and have limited access to educational and economic opportunities. Growing up in such neighborhoods can affect children’s health and educational achievement. This talk combined data from several sources to document the recent trends in concentrated poverty and the implications of those trends for social and housing policy. Since 2000, the spatial concentration of poverty has surged, particularly since the housing crisis and recession began in 2008. In particular, concentrated poverty has returned to and surpassed the peak levels of 1990, but with important differences in the distribution and composition of high-poverty neighborhoods. For example, concentration of poverty has grown fastest among non-Hispanic whites. High-poverty neighborhoods are substantially less likely to be composed of a single racial or ethnic group. No longer confined to the central cities of major metropolitan areas, concentration of poverty has increased faster in smaller metropolitan areas. Another change is that high-poverty census tracts are no longer found in one or two contiguous clusters, but are more widely scattered around metropolitan areas, including inner-ring suburban areas. Concentration of poverty, therefore, remains an important social problem that is now affecting more groups in more diverse locations in the metropolitan landscape.



Poverty Policy and the Politics of the Poor

Frances Fox Piven, Ph. D., Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York  
Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Frances Fox Piven is a Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Among her books, many co-authored with Richard A. Cloward, are *Regulating the Poor*, *Poor People's Movements*, *Why Americans Don't Vote*, *Challenging Authority*, *Keeping Down the Black Vote*, and *Who's Afraid of Frances Fox Piven: The Collected Writings of the Professor Glenn Beck Loves to Hate*.

Drawing on American history, Piven presented an overview of the two-sided relationship between welfare policy and the politics of the poor. There have been periods in the not-so-distant past when poor people became important political actors in the shaping of social policy. Most of the time, however, including our own time, policy is designed to inhibit influence by the poor. Piven delineated the conditions under which policy becomes an instrument to politically suppress the poor, and also, the conditions that encourage more democratic policy-making.



Frances Fox Piven (Photo by: Pat Arnow)



Students, faculty, and community members attending CURE seminar.

Frances Fox Piven’s seminar drew the attention of local media, as the following blog post illuminates:

Philly.com Guest Post: Glenn Beck’s Worst Nightmare comes to Camden  
Posted on Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 6:28 PM

*Blogger’s note:* It’s been a few years since we had a guest post here at Attytood, but here’s a guest post written by my friend and colleague Sandy Shea, the editorial page editor of the Daily News. She went up and over the Delaware River today to catch anti-pov-erty expert Frances Fox Piven, and her report goes something like this:

Today, Rutgers-Camden’s Center for Urban Research and Education hosted Frances Fox Piven, whose sta-tus and occupation can best be described by the title of her most recent book: “*Who’s Afraid of Frances Fox Piven: The Collected Writings of the Professor Glenn Beck Loves to Hate*.”

Piven, who is Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, is, among poverty experts, a rock star. Although Glenn Beck has demonized Piven for her encouragement of the poor and unemployed to mobilize, there were few haters in the crowd of about 40 students and faculty where Piven spoke about “Poverty Policy and the Politics of the Poor,” a tragically short session lasting about an hour. Highlights of her talk: For the past three decades, our policy approach to pov-erty has consisted primarily of scrutinizing the poor themselves, and their attitudes and habits. In fact, the political economy is responsible for the persistence and increase of poverty.

She cited how poverty emerged as a problem in the 1930s, following the Great Depression and the electoral realignment of 1932, with the election of

FDR, who helped create the social welfare state. An-other 30 years passed before another social welfare movement took hold in the ‘60s and ‘70s, with the expansion of Medicaid and Medicaid, and the war on poverty.

She thinks that recent job actions at Walmart (protests and walk-outs at thousands of Walmarts on Black Friday) and the recent mobilization of fast food workers over low wages are signs that another social movement is afoot.

The real issue is income equality, and Piven points out that the economic elites’ effort to redistribute wealth and income centers on taking not only our current earnings but on past earnings of workers (via looting of pension funds and erosion of savings in home mortgages), but future earnings as well. Unsus-tainable college debt means that students’ earnings will be eroded for most of their working lives trying to pay it back.

One bright spot amid this gloom: lunch for the session was free. (Though, of course, journalistic ethics forced me to go to Chick-Fil-A later instead of partaking. And yes, I know that’s not the appropriate choice, but I’m sorry, those waffle fries....)



*The Social Ecology of African American Homicide: Philadelphia since 1940*

**Eric Schneider**, Ph. D., Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania  
Friday, January 31, 2014

Eric Schneider is the Associate Director for Academic Affairs and an Adjunct Professor of History in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *In the Web of Class: Delinquents and Reformers in Boston, 1810s-1930s* (1992), *Vampires, Dragons, and Egyptian Kings: Youth Gangs in Postwar New York* (1999), and *Smack: Heroin and the American City* (2008), which won the Kenneth B. Jackson Prize for the best book in North American urban history. Schneider is currently working on a history of homicide in Philadelphia from the 1940s to the 1990s, *American Necropolis: Homicide in the Modern City*.

What explains the concentration of homicide among African Americans? In Philadelphia over the past twenty-five years, 70 percent of nearly 9,500 homicide victims were African American, and over half were African American males between the ages of 18 and 40. Most commentators see this as a uniquely contemporary problem, but it is not.

This talk explored the historical development of the contemporary homicide crisis, reviewed existing explanations for homicide, and then used excerpts from a sample of homicide trial transcripts to argue for the emergence and perpetuation of “homicidal environments.”

*Driving Detroit: The Quest for Respect in the Motor City (Seminar and Special Book Signing)*

**George Galster**, Ph. D., Hilberry Professor of Urban Affairs, Wayne State University  
Friday, February 28, 2014

George Galster is the Clarence Hilberry Professor of Urban Affairs at Wayne State University. Dr. Galster has held positions at the Harvard, Berkeley, North Carolina, Amsterdam, Delft, Glasgow, Mannheim, Oslo, and Western Sydney, among others. He served as Director of Housing Research at the Urban Institute before coming to Wayne State University in 1996. His research has focused on urban neighborhoods and housing markets, exploring how they change and how they change the people who live within them. This has resulted in over 130 peer-reviewed articles, 30 book chapters and seven books. His latest book is *Driving Detroit: The Quest for Respect in the Motor City* (2012). He has provided housing policy consultations to public officials in Australia, Canada, China, Scotland, and the U.S. He earned his Ph. D. in Economics from M.I.T.

Detroit is the international icon for a once-thriving industrial powerhouse transformed within half a century into a dysfunctional metropolis. George Galster’s *Driving Detroit* paints a stunning portrait of Metropolitan Detroit through an eclectic application of urban planning, economics, sociology, political science, geography, history, and psychology. But *Driving Detroit* is also partly a self-portrait, wherein Detroiters paint their own stories through songs, poems, and oral histories. This remarkable mix of scholarly disciplines and media of communication make the book distinctively insightful, accessible, and memorable. *Driving Detroit* is uniquely powerful because its portrait not only helps the reader clearly see the subject but, more importantly, understand why Metropolitan Detroit’s social, cultural, political, institutional, commercial, and built landscape has been transformed. Though appropriate for graduate and undergraduate courses in urban studies, geography, planning, social sciences and history, the book should be of interest to the general public, both in the U.S. and elsewhere.



Annette Lareau



Kim Goyette

*Choosing Homes, Choosing Schools: New Research on How Parents Think about Key Life Decisions (Seminar and Special Book Signing)*

**Annette Lareau**, Ph. D., Stanley I. Sheerr Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania  
**Kim Goyette**, Ph. D., Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Temple University  
Thursday, May 8, 2014

A series of policy shifts over the past decade promises to change how Americans decide where to send their children to school. In theory, the expanded use of standardized test scores and the boom in charter schools will allow parents to evaluate their assigned neighborhood school, or move in search of a better option. But what kind of data do parents actually use while choosing schools? Are there differences among suburban and urban families? How do parents’ choices influence school and residential segregation? The chapters in *Choosing Homes, Choosing Schools*, a new edited volume by Annette Lareau and Kimberly Goyette, present a breakthrough analysis of the new era of school choice, and what it portends for American neighborhoods. The distinguished contributors to *Choosing Homes, Choosing Schools* investigate the complex relationships among education, neighborhood social networks, and larger patterns of inequality.

For this presentation, Kimberly Goyette provided the context for research that explored the intersections of residential and school segregation, home choices, and schooling decisions. She also briefly described some of the main findings of the book and the ways that these choices differ across region, urban and suburban locations, and family demographic characteristics. Annette Lareau presented in-depth the research from her chapter, which draws on interviews with parents in three suburban neighborhoods to analyze school-choice decisions. Surprisingly, she finds that middle- and upper-class parents do not rely on active research, such as school tours or test scores. Instead, their decision-making was largely informal and passive, with most simply trusting advice from friends and others in their network.

Little previous research has explored what role school concerns play in the preferences of white and minority parents for particular neighborhoods, and how the racial and economic makeup of both neighborhoods and schools mutually reinforce each other. *Choosing Homes, Choosing Schools* adroitly addresses this gap and provides a firmer understanding of how Americans choose where to live and send their children to school.



# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

An important part of our center’s mission is to facilitate research opportunities for our graduate students, as well as support their progress in pursuit of scholarly career trajectories. This year, our students participated in a community development graduate research forum, hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia’s Community Development Studies & Education Dept. CURE-affiliated students also received fellowships and grants, presented their research at national scholarly research conferences.

## Community Development Graduate Forum at the Philly Fed

### Public Affairs Ph. D. candidate Spencer Clayton in the news!

Ph. D. Student Earns Eagleton Governor’s Executive Fellowship

Returning to Tacony, his old neighborhood in Northeast Philadelphia, Spencer Clayton has quickly grown to relish his new role. As an intern for Councilman Bobby Henon, who represents the Sixth District, he routinely provides citizens – including longtime neighbors and friends – with the latest news and information regarding government-related programs and services. That is, when he isn’t listening to their questions or concerns. “Sometimes it’s just helping them with the little things, such as filling out forms,” says Clayton, a Rutgers – Camden Ph. D. student in Public Affairs. “But more than that, I can help make sure that the residents’ voices are being heard. It has always been my plan to come back to this neighborhood and to help make a difference.”

### Ten Ph. D. Students in Public Affairs Present Research Papers at Urban Affairs Association Conference

In Rutgers University–Camden’s interdisciplinary Ph. D. program in public affairs, students learn that community development takes place at the intersections of increasingly complex and globalized economic, political, legal, and social systems.

A testament to this comprehensive approach, 10 Ph. D. students in public affairs are making research presentations – each unique in its focus on policies and practices – at the 44th annual conference of the Urban Affairs Association, held from March 19 to 22 in San Antonio. “I am very proud of the accomplishments of the Ph. D. students and their contributions to urban-affairs research,” says Marie Chevrier, chair of the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers – Camden and head of the Ph. D. program.

It is a remarkable achievement for a relatively new program, and an impressive accomplishment for the university, adds Paul Jargowsky, director of the Center for Urban Research and Education at Rutgers–Camden.

Ashley Nickels “*Urban Elites, Democratic Process, and the Politics of Urban Development*”

Christopher Wheeler “*Tax Increment Financing and Economic Growth – A National Perspective*”

Danny Tarng “*Greening the City: Gardens, Green Space, and Low-Carbon Development*”

Jason Rivera “*Risk and Resilience: Managing the Next Disaster*”

Kirk Leach “*Organizational Networks and Collaboration*”

Patricia Ciorici “*International City Networks*”

Prentiss Dantzler “*Public Housing and the Community*”

Straso Jovanovski “*Community Healthcare Redefined: The Role of Grass-Roots Community Health Organizations and Outreach Workers in Education and Access*”

Spencer Clayton “*Regional and Local Solutions to Affordable Housing*”

Zachary Wood “*Risk and Resilience: Managing the Next Disaster*”



Prentiss Dantzler



Zachary Wood

### 3 Rutgers-Camden Graduate Students Designing an Innovative Pilot Project to Address the Foreclosure Crisis in Camden County

In 2009, the United States experienced arguably its most depressive economic period since the Great Depression. The U.S. housing bubble had burst and many individuals were forced to foreclose on their properties in their last desperate attempt to shed debt and cut costs. The effects of this economic downturn still have an effect today as many areas are still facing a rising number of foreclosures. The same can be said about local municipalities in South Jersey. However, evolving from the work of a few students from Rutgers – Camden, a new method of transforming these vacant properties into homes for potential buyers is being formed.

Three graduate students from the Department of Public Policy and Administration here at Rutgers – Camden are spearheading a pilot program under the direction of Mayor Jim Maley of Collingswood, New Jersey. Zachary Wood and Prentiss Dantzler, both Doctoral Candidates in the Public Affairs – Community Development program, and Jeanette Holdbrook, an MPA student in the Community Development track, are currently designing a pilot program to kickstart bank-owned vacant properties that have been stuck in the foreclosure process back onto the market for potential buyers. Currently, these students are working with an extensive list of vacant properties from local municipalities including Collingswood, Pennsauken, Audubon, Oaklyn, Haddonfield, Haddon Township, and the Fairview section of Camden, NJ. They hope to have the pilot program designed by the end of the summer.

By collaborating with different municipalities, this team hopes to merge their academic experiences with practical strategic actions to enact change in these local communities. While in its early stages, this project has attracted a lot of attention from local media sources as well as housing affiliated organizations. The team has high hopes that this work may serve as a model for other areas nationwide to combat the growth of vacant, bank-owned properties. “What’s most exciting about this project is the collaboration of a diverse group of local leaders, realizing a common goal,” said Dantzler and Wood about the project. “We simply don’t see this kind of partnership across borders much, but that is exactly what makes this project unique, and we think there may actually be potential for the elusive win-win situation here.”



Brian K. Everett

*Rutgers-Camden honor student Brian K. Everett blogs about NJ poverty*

NJ Poverty Reality is designed to be an ongoing analysis of the true magnitude of poverty in New Jersey. All of my conclusions from my continuous research are published on this page as they occur. Its main purpose serves to be an online reference point for myself, as well as a way for my peers and mentors to offer feedback. This page has also been created in hopes of shedding light on the issue to those who normally reject the true reality that exists in the Garden State.

Please visit the blog at: <http://njpovertyreality.wordpress.com/>

*Public Affairs Ph. D. Candidate receives support from CURE to access PSID Restricted Data*

Public housing was a common feature in urban areas across America. Many poor people that lived in these large, high-rise developments called these places home. Still, in terms of housing assistance programs, many issues concerning mobility are still unanswered. Prentiss Dantzler, a doctoral candidate in the public affairs program, seeks to understand the dynamics of public housing and mobility. Under the supervision of Paul Jargowsky, Ph. D. and the support of the Center for Urban Research and Education (CURE), Dantzler has just received approval from the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor for access to restricted data files from the Panel Survey of Income Dynamics (PSID). Dantzler will use the PSID in his dissertation to analyze individual characteristics, local economic and housing conditions, and neighborhood social environments in relation to public housing exits. Dantzler is currently attending a summer research workshop at the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan supported through the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers-Camden.

## AFFILIATED SCHOLARS

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.

*Robert Atkins*

Associate Professor, Childhood Studies and Nursing, Program Director NJ Health Initiative

*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

*Maureen M. Donaghy*

Assistant Professor, Political Science & Public Policy and Administration

*Michael Javen Fortner\**

Assistant Professor, Political Science & Public Policy and Administration

*Howard F. Gillette*

Professor Emeritus of History

*Stacia Gilliard-Matthews*

Assistant Professor, Sociology

*Christopher Goodman*

Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Administration

*Daniel Hart*

Professor II, Psychology and Childhood Studies

*Gwendolyn L. Harris*

Executive Director, The Walter Rand Institute of Public Affairs

*Jeounghee Kim*

Associate Professor at School of Social Work, Rutgers University in New Brunswick

*Andrew Lees*

Professor II, History

*Joan Maya Mazelis*

Assistant Professor, Sociology

*Lorraine C. Minnite*

Associate Professor, Public Policy and Administration

*Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn*

Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Administration

*Wendell E. Pritchett\**

Chancellor, Rutgers University Camden

*Lauren Silver*

Assistant Professor, Childhood Studies

*Robin Stevens*

Assistant Professor, Childhood Studies

*Louis Tuthill*

Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice

*\*Professor Fortner has left Rutgers for a position at The Graduate Center, Political Science Department, City University of New York*

*\*Dr. Pritchett has been named interim dean of the University of Pennsylvania Law School for the 2014-2015 academic year, after which he will return to the Penn Law faculty.*

# AFFILIATED SCHOLARS ACTIVITIES

CURE- affiliated scholars had a very productive and exciting year in terms of research, grants, and other news as elucidated through the following posts to our website, in chronological order. While this list is not exhaustive, it illustrates the variety of research projects and activities taking place among the urban scholars at Rutgers-Camden.

## *Stephen Danley joins CURE as Affiliated Scholar - August 26, 2013*

Hailing from Germantown, Maryland, Stephen is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers-Camden University. A proud alumnus of Penn, Stephen received a Marshall Scholarship to attend the University of Oxford, where he received his doctorate. His research focuses on neighborhood associations and their interactions with local government in Post-Katrina New Orleans and he has continued interest in micro-local policy networks and informal organizations. Prior experience includes a summer at the White House, freelance writing for the New York Times, three Ivy championships with Penn’s basketball team, and a year as a Philly Fellow working for the Neighborhood Interfaith Movement. When not crashing meetings at city hall, Stephen enjoys swing dancing and a good pint of British ale. Stephen teaches 2 classes at Rutgers Camden: Local Knowledge: City Policy in New Orleans and Camden and International Economic Development

Stephen Danley, D.Phil.  
Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration  
Rutgers University-Camden  
*stephen.danley@rutgers.edu*

## *CURE-affiliated scholar Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn’s recent Scientometrics article mentioned in mainstream media press!*

Dr. Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn’s research analyzing adjectival and adverbial density in about 1,000 papers published between 2000 and 2010 from across the disciplines was cited in the current Times Higher Education journal.

## *Lauren Silver joins CURE as affiliated scholar - September 3, 2013*

Lauren Silver is an Assistant Professor of Childhood Studies at Rutgers University-Camden. Lauren is an urban ethnographer. Her research focuses on youth trajectories and the interplay of youth identities with bureaucratic, educational, and social service contexts. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in urban education, youth identities, gender and education, and interpretive methods. Her book, “System Lives: Adolescent Mothers and the Politics of Regulation” is forthcoming with The University of North Carolina Press.

Lauren J. Silver, Ph. D.  
Assistant Professor of Childhood Studies  
*ljsilver@camden.rutgers.edu*

## *J.J. Cutuli joins CURE as affiliated scholar - September 25, 2013*

J. J. Cutuli is an Assistant Professor in Psychology at Rutgers University-Camden. His research involves the developmental processes of resilience and risk for children and families who experience high levels of adversity, such as homelessness, maltreatment, and poverty. As a developmental scientist, his work considers how factors at different levels of the person and her context come together in complex ways over time, leading to success or challenges in important outcomes like education, health, relationships, mental health, and good conduct. He received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota as an NIMH fellow with dual training in child development and clinical psychology.

## *CURE semester kick-off event: Urban Issues roundtable with our affiliated scholars*

On September 20th, 2013, we hosted an Urban Issues roundtable with CURE-affiliated scholars. We discussed each other’s new and ongoing research, possibilities for collaboration, and we introduced the newest CURE-affiliated scholars.

## *New blog by CURE-affiliated scholar Stephen Danley*

CURE-affiliated scholar Dr. Stephen Danley, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Administration, announces the launch of his Rutgers blog: Local Knowledge Blog.

## *Affiliated CURE scholar attends congress on happiness in the Netherlands*

Affiliated CURE scholar Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn attended the Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organization’s (EHRO) congress on the advances in happiness economics held at the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands.





*Affiliated Scholar Luncheon*

*CURE affiliated scholar Stephen Danley in the news!*

An article featured in the Philadelphia Inquirer on November 10, 2013, entitled “A young professor in Camden to help – and learn” describes Dr. Stephen Danley’s interest and activities in Camden.

*Jeounghhee Kim joins CURE as affiliated scholar*

Dr. Jeounghhee Kim is an Associate Professor at School of Social Work, Rutgers University in New Brunswick. She studies the economic well-being and mobility of disadvantaged individuals and conducts quantitative data analyses applying longitudinal research methods to large public data. She is particularly interested in how human capital (e.g., education, training, and workforce development, etc.) and various public assistance policies and programs (e.g., income security, food assistance, Workforce Investment Act, etc.) affect the labor market and marriage outcomes of individuals with disadvantaged backgrounds. She is currently examining how immigrants’ post-immigration college enrollment and job training activities as well as their labor market returns to those activities vary by socioeconomic status using the Survey of Income and Program Participation. She also teaches policy analysis, social welfare policies and services, and women’s issues for MSW and PhD programs. She earned her doctoral degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

*CURE affiliated scholar Stephen Danley quoted in newspaper article on interactive mapping project in Camden*

Read about the abandoned housing interactive mapping project engendered by our partners at CamConnect by visiting: <http://on.cpsj.com/1gbKxEd>

*CURE-affiliated scholar Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn in the news*

Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn, Assistant Professor of Public Policy at Rutgers-Camden and CURE-affiliated scholar, spoke at a “State of South Jersey” forum held at Cumberland County College on Wednesday, December 4, 2013.

A recent Rolling Stone article declaring Camden, NJ “apocalyptic” and “ruined” lacks a fuller picture of Camden and its residents, according to CURE affiliated scholar Stephen Danley who suggests the Rolling Stone article on Camden is “Poverty Porn”.

His editorial appeared in Philadelphia Magazine on December 12, 2013

*Op-ed on affordable housing by CURE affiliated scholar Howard Gillette Jr.*

Affordable housing, and particularly the Mount Laurel doctrine that mandates that every municipality in New Jersey has an obligation to provide its “fair share” of affordable housing, is under attack.

While Gov. Chris Christie has been rebuffed by the courts in his effort to eliminate by executive order the Council on Affordable Housing established by the Legislature to implement the Mount Laurel decisions, he has often stated his intent to change the makeup of the high court in order to get his way.

*CURE affiliated scholar Stephen Danley to speak at Rutgers-Camden on January 28, 2014*

An event hosted by PASA (the Public Administration Student Association) features CURE affiliated scholar Dr. Stephen Danley.

*Access, Rigor and Field Work: Conversations Qualitative Researchers Have Over Drinks*  
Tuesday January 28th from 4:30-5:30p.m.  
South ABC Conference Room, Campus Center

*CURE affiliated scholar Lori Minnite weighs in on recent Pennsylvania trial court ruling striking down the state’s voter ID law*

The recent Pennsylvania trial court ruling striking down the state’s voter ID law is only the most recent instance where a court relied heavily on evidence produced by social scientists and statisticians. Dr. Lorraine Minnite is an associate professor at Rutgers-Camden and a well-known expert on vote fraud. Minnite was brought in by the plaintiffs to examine the content of the legislative debates regarding the need for voter ID and the prevalence (or not) of voter fraud in Pennsylvania.

Her report starts at page 20 (<http://bit.ly/1mKIAOj>) and is an entertaining read for anyone interested in legislative intent. The court determined, for instance, that there appeared to be a “legislative disconnect from reality” (pg. 41 of the decision <http://bit.ly/1kYSpdf>), and Minnite shows that, whatever the merits of voter ID, the speculations of legislators often outstripped reality.

*CURE affiliated scholar Lori Minnite joins Scholars Strategy Network!*

Lori Minnite recently joined the Scholars Strategy Network (<http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/>), a research organization to “Improve Policy and Enhance Democracy”. To see this announcement, please visit <http://bit.ly/1mK6JpQ>

Lorraine C. Minnite  
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*Expertise & Civic Involvements*

Minnite is a policy-focused political scientist with expertise in American and urban politics and policy. She specializes in the study of inequality and how it is dealt with by the American political system, teaching courses on political participation, poverty, community development, urban politics, and policy analysis. Her earlier work on immigrant communities in New York City engaged a community collaborative research process that produced new insights into questions about immigrant political incorporation. She is a Senior Fellow at the policy think tank and advocacy organization, Demos, and serves on the research board of the Urban Justice Center’s Participatory Budgeting in New York City project. With her expertise on voter fraud, she has testified before Congress, advised government agencies such as the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission and the U.S. Government Accountability Office, been invited to speak to state elections officials about her research, and participated as an expert witness in high profile legal challenges to new voter identification rules adopted in a number of states.

*CURE affiliated scholar Lori Minnite testifies in voting rights hearing, again!*

Dr. Minnite, Associate Professor DPPA, Rutgers-Camden, was asked by the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to submit written testimony to their Wisconsin-Minnesota regional National Commission on Voting Rights Hearing, held on February 25, 2014.

*Commentary on Camden by CURE affiliated scholar Howard Gilette*

‘Manhattanizing’ Philadelphia could help make Camden the next Brooklyn

Could it simply be a coincidence? Hard on the exciting news that celebrity Iron Chef Jose Garces will soon be serving exquisite dinners priced between \$150 and \$250 a person pre-performance at the Kimmel Center, we learn of a new tower apartment complex overlooking historic Independence Hall.

For those unlucky enough not to grab a multi-million dollar condo on Rittenhouse Square, developer Tom Scannapieco is offering a second chance at 5th and Walnut. Prices for the 40 new units aren’t public, but Scannapieco’s research assures him that among the 2,000 people in the Philadelphia metropolitan area worth more than \$10 million, there are bound to be enough customers to fill the new structure. Certainly, he thinks, the city’s 10-year tax abatement program offers “a very valuable incentive.”

Philadelphia doesn’t project the image of “super luxury” easily. That Quaker frugality so firmly associated with the city may be a thing of the past, but surely these new efforts to cater to the super wealthy must mean something.

To read the entire article, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1x7ZdL6>

*CURE affiliated scholar Stephen Danley gave talk at EJ Bloustein school*

Our affiliated scholar Stephen Danley gave a talk entitled, The Experience of Being an Experiment: New Orleans, Camden and New Urban Populism at the EJ Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University on February 24, 2014

*New article by CURE affiliated scholar Jeounghee Kim on national high school graduation rate*

Congrats to our affiliated scholar, Jeounghee Kim, MSW, Ph. D., Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, for publishing the following article: Joo, M., & Kim, J. (2014). National high school graduation rate: Are recent birth cohorts taking more time to graduate? Education and Urban Society.

*CURE affiliated scholar Stephen Danley writes about his experience living in Camden*

*CURE affiliated scholar Lori Minnite’s testimony weighed into Wisconsin voter ID case*

An important decision was handed down today in the Wisconsin voter ID case, decision and order. The judge cited Professor Lori Minnite’s testimony in finding that the law unconstitutional and violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (pp. 18-19): “As Professor Minnite testified, the publicity surrounding photo ID legislation creates the false perception that voter-impersonation fraud is widespread, thereby needlessly undermining the public’s confidence in the electoral process.”

*CURE affiliated scholar Gloria Bonilla-Santiago interviewed about “The Miracle on Cooper Street”*

Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago (Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of Public Policy, CFAS and director, Community Leadership Center) was spotlighted during an in-studio interview about her new book; the segment appeared live on the “Good Morning Philadelphia” show.

*CURE affiliated scholar Stephen Danley interviewed on Camden student protest*

Camden student protest draws praise, attention. Dr. Stephen Danley (assistant professor, CFAS-public policy) offered perspective during an interview that appeared in this front-page news story: <http://on.cpsj.com/1zcmizj>.

*Congrats to our affiliated scholar Gwendy Harris!*

Dr. Gwendolyn Harris (executive director, CFAS-Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs) has been named co-chair of the transition committee for Trenton Mayor-elect Eric Jackson.

*Scholarship and Activities of Center Director,*

## **PAUL A. JARGOWSKY**

Professor of Public Policy Paul A. Jargowsky joined Rutgers-Camden in 2011 to be the founding director of the Center for Urban Research and Education. He is a Senior Research Affiliate at the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan and an affiliated scholar of the Urban Institute. He is well known for his work on high-poverty neighborhoods in U.S. metropolitan areas. His book, *Poverty and Place: Ghettos, Barrios, and the American City*, was named the Best Book in Urban Affairs for 1997-1998 by the Urban Affairs Association. Jargowsky's work helped to refocus the debate about high poverty neighborhoods in the inner city away from local neighborhood factors and toward the metropolitan housing and labor markets that contribute to economic segregation.

Jargowsky's current research agenda focuses on the causes and consequences of the metropolitan spatial stratification. He finds that after falling during the 1990s, the spatial concentration of poverty has surged since 2000, particularly since the housing crisis and recession began in 2008. In particular, concentrated poverty has returned to and surpassed the peak levels of 1990, but with important differences in the distribution and composition of high poverty neighborhoods. For example, concentration of poverty has grown fastest among non-Hispanic whites. High-poverty neighborhoods are substantially less likely to be composed of a single racial or ethnic group. No longer confined to the central cities of major metropolitan areas, concentrations of poverty have increased faster in smaller metropolitan areas. Another change is that high-poverty census tracts are no longer found in one or two contiguous clusters, but are more widely scattered around metropolitan areas, including inner-ring suburban areas. Concentration of poverty, therefore, remains an important social problem that is now affecting more groups in more diverse locations in the metropolitan landscape.

Jargowsky also has an interest in the role the racial and economic segregation play in limiting access to educational opportunity. From 2003 to 2008, Jargowsky served as Director of the Texas Schools Project (TSP), which brings together data from multiple Texas state agencies, school districts, as well as other sources to support independent, high-quality academic research on a variety of topics. Using TSP data, Jargowsky has investigated the relative contributions of neighborhood and peer effects on student achievement. Current projects examine the role of Texas pre-K program for economically and disadvantaged students, and finds important effects on math and reading scores in third grade – five years after participation in the program.





*Research presentation at City University of New York, School of Public Affairs, Baruch College in New York City*

*September 11, 2013* - The Effects of Texas's Targeted Pre-Kindergarten Program on Academic Performance. Co-authored with Rodney Andrews (University of Texas at Dallas) and Kristin Kuhne (Communities Foundation of Texas).

*Joins editorial board of Housing Policy Debate*

*October, 2013* - 3-year term of the prestigious peer-reviewed academic journal Housing Policy Debate. The journal provides a venue for original research relating to U.S. housing policy. Subjects include affordable housing policy, fair housing policy, land use regulations influencing housing affordability, metropolitan development trends, and linkages among housing policy and energy, environmental, and transportation policy. Housing Policy Debate is published quarterly. Most issues feature a Forum section and an Articles section. The Forum, which highlights a current debate, features a central article and responding comments that represent a range of perspectives. All articles in the Forum and Articles sections undergo a double-blind peer review process. On a recurring basis, Housing Policy Debate also features an Outlook section where the editors, occasionally with expert guest writers, comment on emerging areas of housing and metropolitan research or current events.

*Research presentation at APPAM Fall research conference in Washington, D.C.*

*November 6-9, 2013* - For a description of this talk, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1rRyamZ>.

*Quoted in South Jersey Magazine December 2013 edition*

*"If you could do anything to change South Jersey for the better, what would it be?"* - "First and foremost, South Jersey cities and counties need to overcome the governmental fragmentation that gets in the way of regional solutions to regional problems. The state is in desperate need of a comprehensive, efficient and integrated public transportation system that connects lower-income workers to employment centers, colleges and training opportunities. Better transportation would help workers and businesses, make the state more competitive, and remove cars from our overly congested roads."

You can view the full article at: <http://bit.ly/1xbYkkP>.





*Journal of Urban Affairs book review (Volume 35, Number 5, 2013) of The Ghetto: Contemporary Global Issue and Controversies by Ray Hutchinson and Bruce D. Haynes (Eds.).*

*Excerpt:* What’s in a word? Quite a lot, apparently, if the word is ghetto and the question is being asked of urban sociologists. Debate has raged for decades over the domain of the term, the implications of referring to a place as a ghetto, and the relationship between American ghettos and analogous neighborhoods in the rest of the world. The Ghetto: Contemporary Global Issues and Controversies, edited by Ray Hutchison and Bruce D. Haynes, is a useful attempt to collect a variety of perspectives on the conceptual content and usefulness of the term within urban sociology. Hutchison describes the evolution of the term from its origins in Europe to its use in contemporary urban scholarship.

For the full review, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1jZop62>

*Release of The Century Foundation report on Concentration of Poverty in the New Millennium*

*December 18, 2013* - The first to compare the 2000 census data with the 2007-11 American Community Survey (ACS), revealing the extent to which concentrated poverty has returned to, and in some ways exceeded, the previous peak level in 1990. In response:

- ▶ NJ.com reports on December 19, 2013, “A new report published by a Rutgers-Camden professor on Wednesday states there are more areas of concentrated poverty in the United States than have been previously recorded, with small to mid-sized cities showing the biggest increase in impoverished neighborhoods. According to Paul Jargowsky a public policy professor and director of the Center for Urban Research and Education, more than 11 million Americans — about 4 percent of the population — now live in neighborhoods where two out of every five households live below the poverty line.”
- ▶ CBS “Eyewitness News” on January 7, 2014 discussed policy matters confronting the City of Camden during an interview that appeared. For a video of this news story, “Camden Mayor Takes Oath Of Office For A Second Time”, please visit: <http://cbsloc.al/UsbxJR>
- ▶ Economic Policy Institute Blog on January 7, 2014 by Richard Rothstein: “African American Poverty: Concentrated and Multi-Generational : In the current issue of The American Prospect, I review Patrick Sharkey’s *Stuck in Place*, a 2013 book that helps explain the persistent failure of educational policy to spur the upward mobility of low-income African American youth.”

*Cited in International Business Times news story about the City of Camden*

*February 10 2014 by Palash Ghosh.* “Camden, New Jersey: Can Casinos Help Save America’s Poorest City? A New Jersey politician has floated a novel idea on how to help Camden – the poorest city in the state, and one of the poorest in the whole country – casinos.”

For the complete article, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1un8YsG>

*Research presentation at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.*

*April 10, 2014* - EPI and The Century Foundation presented a discussion of Sharkey and Jargowsky’s work on neighborhoods with concentrated poverty with Ta-Nehisi Coates of the Atlantic and Sherrilyn Ifill of the NAACP.

*Moderator:*  
**Richard Rothstein**, Research Associate of the Economic Policy Institute

*Presenters:*  
**Patrick Sharkey**, Associate Professor of Sociology, New York University and author of *Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress Toward Racial Equality*

**Paul Jargowsky**, Professor of Public Policy, Rutgers University and author of *Concentration of Poverty in the New Millennium* and Century Foundation fellow

*Discussants:*  
**Ta-Nehisi Coates**, national correspondent at The Atlantic, author of the memoir *The Beautiful Struggle*

**Sherrilyn Ifill**, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

*Research presentation at the Department of State sponsored exchange in New York City*

*May 2, 2014* - The Department of State sponsored an exchange of a 13 member group of economists, researchers, bankers, forecasters, etc. from Mexico, Argentina, Turkey, Vietnam and other emerging market countries.

*Data and Analysis cited in Washington Post Article*

*May 15, 2014 by Emily Badger:* “Housing segregation is holding back the promise of Brown v. Board of Education”.

*Quoted in Al Jazeera article on Housing Segregation*

*July 1, 2014 by Dexter Mullins:* “More Americans live in ‘poverty areas’ due to zoning, suburban sprawl. More than 25 percent of Americans lived in a poverty area in 2012, an increase from 18 percent a decade earlier”.



*Scholarship and Activities of Associate Director,*  
**NATASHA O. TURSI**

Dr. Tursi’s most recent publications include *The Garden City Revisited? A Commentary to Okulicz-Kozaryn’s Article “Natural Sprawl”* in *Administration & Society*, 17 April, 2014 and Jargowsky, P. & Tursi, N. (in press). *Concentration of Disadvantage* in J. Wright (Ed.), *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences* (2nd ed.). Oxford, UK: Elsevier Science, Ltd.

As an adjunct professor in the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers-Camden, she has taught a variety of graduate courses and seminars, including Housing Policy and its Impact on Urban Areas and Housing Policy Seminar. In Fall of 2014, she will teach Poverty and the Urban Environment.

Dr. Tursi has been appointed interim Chair of the Urban Studies Program at Rutgers-Camden for FY 2014/2015. She also serves on a public affairs doctoral student dissertation (factors influencing public housing tenure) committee is an active member of the Rutgers University Senate.

She is an active member of the national Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) and the Urban Affairs Association (UAA). In Fall 2013, she attended the APPAM research conference in Washington, D.C. and chaired the panel Poverty Trends, Poverty Effects. In March, Dr. Tursi attended the UAA annual Spring conference in San Antonio Texas and presented her research on the Camden Neighborhood Change Study and chaired the session Using the Data to Talk About Communities.

Jargowsky and Tursi just received notice that their APPAM Fall Research Conference caucus proposal on suburban poverty has been accepted. It will take place on Thursday, November 6th, 11:45 – 12:45, at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM.



**CURE RESEARCH: CAMDEN NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGE STUDY**

CURE has been seeking funding to expand the Camden Neighborhood Change Study, (<http://cure.camden.rutgers.edu/camden-neighborhood-change-study/>), a project that documents and measures housing quality in neighborhoods that are receiving significant new resources.

Known for its high poverty and crime rates, the City of Camden is also the site of major new investments, including the creation of a U.S. Department of Education-supported Promise Neighborhood in Cooper Lanning, the construction of the new Kroc Community Center in Cramer Hill, and the redevelopment of the Riverfront State Prison site in North Camden. These initiatives will likely have substantial impacts on housing conditions and neighborhood integrity, but how will we know without baseline data? What plan is in place to gauge the magnitude and timing of neighborhood changes driven by these investments?

The Camden Neighborhood Change Study is our answer to these questions. Having developed an effective methodology for data collection and sharing through an exhaustive on-the-ground survey of a three block area of Cramer Hill, we now seek support to expand these efforts to include all Camden neighborhoods slated to receive major investments. Specifically, we plan to:

- *Document housing conditions – including vacancy status, graffiti, trash, physical decay, etc. –on a parcel-by-parcel basis in neighborhoods in Camden City that have received or will receive major resources;*
- *Photograph each parcel, creating a digital record of the housing unit or vacant lot at a particular point in time;*
- *Update the data and photographs annually, to create a visual record of the changes and trends in housing and neighborhood conditions;*
- *Make the data and photographs available to researchers and the general public through a unique interactive map that allows users to click on the property to view the full history of the parcel's data and the series of annual photographs, creating a virtual movie of housing and neighborhood change;*
- *Involve the community in data collection by working with local CDC's to identify residents who can participate in initial data collection and subsequently conduct interviews and focus groups at a later phase of the project;*

The database, website, and reports will be valuable to researchers, public officials, advocates, and community development professional who wish to design and implement investment strategies for promoting housing affordability, preventing displacement, and advancing human capital development. In effect, we are creating a public good that should help anyone concerned with Camden’s redevelopment to understand the effects, intended and unintended, of the development efforts underway or planned in the city.



# THE DATA CENTER

Affiliated scholar Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn has led the effort to develop the CURE Data Center. The purpose of the Data Center is to provide a robust computing platform that is ideal for data-intensive projects requiring advanced processing power. The central feature of the data center is a Linux computer with a high-speed solid state disk drive. Users can log on to the computer from anywhere and collaborate on projects through shared folders on the server. A full suite of statistical and GIS software is available on the computer, and new packages can be added upon request. Users can also share large data sets, such as the American Communities Survey, via the Data Center. Currently, every data table for every summary label is available in a separate Stata file for the 2005-2009, 2006-2010, and 2007-2011 five-year summary files. More datasets will be added as they become available.

Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn, born in Poland in 1979, is assistant professor of public policy at Rutgers University, Camden Campus. He obtained his Ph. D. from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2008. His work has covered a variety of topics: income inequality, consumption, preferences for redistribution, urban and rural issues, cultural economics, values, religion, and happiness. He is also interested in information technology and computational social science: automation, data mining, data management and text processing. He uses Linux, Python and Stata.

Straso Jovanovski is a third-year PhD candidate in the Public Affairs (Community Development) program at Rutgers – Camden. Straso is originally from Macedonia, and has a background in Community and Regional Planning, the application of Geographic Information Systems in addressing urban issues, and Geography. Jovanovski’s research explores the potential of such programs to serve as a sustaining catalyst for both individual and community empowerment as it relates to health. His current research focuses on the individual and communal effects of community health outreach and intervention programs in the City of Camden, N.J., aimed at curbing unnecessary E.R. visits by burdened city residents, and the associated costs of system overutilization. Straso presented a poster at the 2014 Urban Affairs Association conference entitled “Community Healthcare Redefined: The Role of Grass-Roots Community Health Organizations and Outreach Workers in Education and Access”. According to Jovanovski, improving health and health outcomes is integral to arriving at a greater level of social justice and equity, and the ability for personal self-actualization. Community-based health programs and initiatives are uniquely positioned to affect change in perceptions and attitudes toward health. Other presentations in the fall, 2013 include the annual meetings of APPAM and ARNOVA.

## Interactive Online Mapping of Poverty Rates and Trends

In the course of the Summer, 2014, the CURE Data Center staff is working on developing an interactive online mapping site for web display and analysis of geospatial data. The site will ultimately represent a vehicle for showcasing the Center’s data-driven research in the analysis of the spatial distribution of concentrated poverty at various scales, and especially as it relates to other variables such as population densities, racial and ethnic composition, and changes of variables over time. More specifically, the user of the map portal will be able to quickly focus on an area (at the state, MSA, county, or tract level), and enable different layers for the given geographic area, thus familiarizing themselves with the conditions unique to the area, with the added element of mapping changes over time (between decennial censuses, and / or ACS data releases in later years) through the mechanism of standardized Census tract boundaries.



# 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. Recently, the centers have put forth a plan to increase the collaboration of urban scholars across the three Rutgers campuses. To that end, they propose to execute a coordinated, multidisciplinary study of segregation and concentration of poverty in New Jersey metropolitan areas.

## *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: *Plans for the 2014-2015 AY*

- Acquire grants to fund new and existing research projects.
- Facilitate research opportunities for graduate students.
- Collaborate with Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank Community
- Development Studies and Education Office on graduate student events and internship opportunities.
- Initiate a working paper series.
- Expand and increase activity of our data center.
- Create an interactive map that elucidates regional poverty concentration patterns and their associated impacts on education, crime, and other outcome measures that affect the well-being of our residents in the state and the region.
- Host another exciting seminar series.
- Host an urban film series jointly with the new Digital Studies Center at Rutgers-Camden.
- Host a summit on regional equity (2-3 panels, high-profile keynote speaker, and reception).
- Organize a joint conference with our affiliated research center and produce publication of conference papers.
- Produce a NJ Poverty Report in collaboration with our affiliated research centers.

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

*If you have suggestions, please contact Natasha Tursi:*  
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*Photos:* Bernard Szeneitas, Joel Ouellette



