Creating innovative solutions that promote equity and opportunity in communities throughout the nation
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 have put on events this year, including our seminars, the Camden Solutions Forum, and the launch of the Vacant Properties Database built by our partner CamConNext, 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 fuse 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. 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.

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 and 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.

“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.

“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 University. 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 world-view, 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.
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 streetscape 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.

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 Grouse.

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 of 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.
“Regeneration and Inequality in US Post-Industrial Cities”

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

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.

“Ignoring or tackling these trends is dangerous for our communities, because they are not just economic and demographic trends, but also political trends, and they are driving people out of a large number of cities,” said Mallach.

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 youth’s agency, and to inform more socially just and appropriate program and policy development.

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

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

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.

“Regeneration and Inequality in US Post-Industrial Cities”

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.

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 youth’s agency, and to inform more socially just and appropriate program and policy development.

“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 youth’s agency, and to inform more socially just and appropriate program and policy development.

“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 youth’s agency, and to inform more socially just and appropriate program and policy development.
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.
CURE Camden Solutions Forum

In March of 2015, CURE, along with the local South New Jersey newspaper Courant-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.

CURE Camden Solutions Forum took place in March 2015.

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).

Regional School Closings Conference

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

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 redevelopment, affordable housing, economic development, job creation, and other issues relevant for the city.

CURE Special Events

Camden Citywide Housing Vacancy Data Release Event

In December of 2014, CURE, in partnership with CamConNet and 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 CamConNet 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, CamConNet

Panelists:
- Pilar Hogan Closkey, Executive Director, St. Joseph's Carpenter Society;
- John Kromer, Senior Consultant, University of Pennsylvania’s Fels Institute of Government;
- Danilo Pellitteri, 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.rutgers.edu/av-request/serve/camden-vacancy-2014

To watch the video recording of the Forum, visit: rcit.rutgers.edu/av-request/serve/cure-2015-03-31

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).

Speakers and Discussants included:
- Francesco 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 Abramowitz, 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 Education, Rutgers University-Camden;
- John Mollenkopf, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Urban Research, CUNY Graduate Center

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:
- John Mollenkopf, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Urban Research, CUNY Graduate Center;
- Paul Jargowsky, Professor of Public Policy and Director of Center for Urban Research and Education, Rutgers University-Camden;
- John Mollenkopf, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Urban Research, CUNY Graduate Center;
- John Mollenkopf, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Urban Research, CUNY Graduate Center;
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.

Mapping neighborhood change in Camden

By Jonathan Lai, Inquirer Staff Writer

Tursi said. “So we envision our component to complement other data that’s being collected: education, crime, policing, health,” “What we’re hoping to do is link our data that we create with governance more rigorous, she said. 

“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 a difference. ”

“Cramer Hill was chosen first because Tursi believed development there may soon see change due to private development or public policy. 

“Neighbors 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. At first, you think it’s about the grade, the paper.”

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/
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!
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 Jeannette Hodbrook in helping to identify abandoned properties in Camden County was cited in this South Jersey section news story:


“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

“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 whose interests include at-risk youth and police recruitment and Madison Nilen, 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 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 Nilen, a second year graduate student in the Criminal Justice Master’s Program who is interested in youth risk behavior and juvenile justice.

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 main-

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

“75% of the County’s responsibility existing in Camden City alone.”

--B.K. Everett

Prentiss Dantzler won 2nd best APPAM Fall conference poster award

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

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

Congratulations to Ph.D. candidate Prentiss Dan-

Dantzler, Rutgers University Camden, Department of Public Policy and Admin-

stration, for achieving the 2nd best conference poster award at this year’s APPAM Fall research conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico!

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 main-

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

“75% of the County’s responsibility existing in Camden City alone.”

--B.K. Everett

Prentiss Dantzler won 2nd best APPAM Fall conference poster award

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

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

Congratulations to Ph.D. candidate Prentiss Dan-

Dantzler, Rutgers University Camden, Department of Public Policy and Admin-

stration, for achieving the 2nd best conference poster award at this year’s APPAM Fall research conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico!

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 main-

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

“75% of the County’s responsibility existing in Camden City alone.”

--B.K. Everett

Prentiss Dantzler won 2nd best APPAM Fall conference poster award

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

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

Congratulations to Ph.D. candidate Prentiss Dan-

Dantzler, Rutgers University Camden, Department of Public Policy and Admin-

istration, for achieving the 2nd best conference poster award at this year’s APPAM Fall research conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico!
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.

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

“Presses are converging in New Jersey to force the issue of whether or not a pipeline 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 Northeast’s most important ecological areas—a 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.pennworks.org/index.php/local/item/70113-piping-politics-into-the-pinelands-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.courantpostonline.com/stories/news/local/2014/07/15/schools-amplify-make-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
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/

CURE affiliated scholar Howard Gillette quoted in the Wall Street Journal story: “Christie, Givens, 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-historian) 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.nj.com/articles/new-jersey-give-chris-christie-planes-and-rackets-in-camden-1411312951.html

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 seen the past decade been building 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, Bridgeport 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 state.

“There are programs through 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.”

“Till it’s (a really bad policy) be 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.njtoday.com/articles/local-news/2014/05/military-gear-for-police-increases-as-funding-to-community-based-program-decrease-says-professor.html

CURE affiliated scholar Donald Norcross and Camden school Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard.

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/

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 different religious groups, 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.tidbits.com/articles/twitter/2014/531446/twitter-data-mining-reveals-americas-religious-fault-lines.html

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” lunches 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 Vicor 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.townoffreshcamb.com/2015-02-21/news/30720097-1-camden-student-aid-professor.html

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 ’60s” 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.”

Affiliated Scholars and Activities | 21

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 Milan Conk, 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 — 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/1Bu8WW

CURE affiliated scholar Howard Gillette quoted in CURE affiliated scholar Stephen Danley quoted in the news
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:

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:

New Publications


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).

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
• 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

Scholarship and Activities of Center Director Paul Jargowsky

Scholarship and Activities Associate Director Natasha O. Fletcher
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.

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.

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.

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 engagement, Penn IUR stimulates research and engages with the world of urban practitioners and policymakers.
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

321 Cooper Street
Camden, NJ 08102-1521

natasha.fletcher@rutgers.edu

856-225-6797

---

*CURE wishes to thank the Rutgers University–Camden Faculty of Arts and Sciences Deans Office for their continues support, particularly FAS Dean Kris Lindenmeyer, Assistant Dean Julie Roncinske for helping to promote events, and Web Designer Kate Blair for photographing CURE events and for designing the annual report.*

*CURE wishes to thank Lisa Alston for her administrative support.*