

CURE SEMINAR SERIES

SPRING 2018

Armitage Hall Faculty Lounge from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Free and open to the public. Lunch will be served.
Questions? Contact natasha.fletcher@rutgers.edu

Thursday, January 25 – “The Price of Race in New Brooklyn’s Real Estate” with Zaire Z. Dinzey-Flores, Associate Professor of Sociology and Latino and Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University

“Location, location, location...” so goes the trope for how real estate properties derive their value. But how does race figure in the attribution of value for a property and a neighborhood? Based on ethnographic and mixed-method research in two demographically-transitioning neighborhoods in 21st Century Brooklyn, Dinzey-Flores considers how neighborhood spaces and property interiors are aesthetically, discursively, and materially produced and crafted by real estate actors in ways that render previously socially de-valued neighborhoods “valuable” and “worthy” of investment. Of particular focus, is the way in which racial conceptualizations—of “blackness,” “Latino-ness”, or “whiteness”—are codified and “built in” in the social desirability and economic valuation process of properties and neighborhoods.

***Friday, February 16 at 11:15 a.m. – “Running the Rails: A History of Capital and Labor in the Philadelphia Transit Industry” with James Wolfinger, Associate Dean & Professor; Secondary History at DePaul College of Education**

Philadelphia exploded in violence in 1910. The general strike that year claimed the lives of some two dozen people and made Philadelphia a prominent point in the tumultuous national conflict over workers’ rights. That strike was a notable point, but not a unique one, in the history of Philadelphia’s transit system. My paper, “Running the Rails: A History of Capital and Labor in the Philadelphia Transit Industry,” outlines the chief arguments that I make in my recent book, *Running the Rails* (Cornell University Press, 2016), which details a generations-long history of conflict between the workers and management at one of the nation’s largest privately owned transit systems. In particular, I focus on how labor relations shifted from the 1880s to the 1960s as transit workers adapted to fast-paced technological innovation to keep the city’s people and commerce on the move while management sought to limit its employees’ rights. I argue that it is remarkable to see how much Philadelphia’s transit workers achieved.

Thursday, March 22 – “Employee Ownership and Urban Economic Development” with Christopher Michael, Director of Employee Ownership at the Newark Community Economic Development Corporation

To date, cities have not fully utilized employee ownership as an economic development strategy—as a means to retain businesses, improve the quality of jobs, and expand the local tax base. In this short lecture, Chris Michael will share personal experiences with initiatives in New York City and Newark, NJ that aim to increase the number and size of employee-owned businesses in the local region. As context, he will also relate findings from dissertation research on the history of employee ownership in the United States.

Thursday, April 26 – “The Unbanking of America: How the New Middle Class Survives” with Lisa Servon, Professor and Chair of City Planning at the University of Pennsylvania

What do an undocumented immigrant in the South Bronx, a high-net-worth entrepreneur, and a twenty-something graduate student have in common? All three are victims of our dysfunctional mainstream bank and credit system. Today nearly half of all Americans live from paycheck to paycheck, and income volatility has doubled over the past thirty years. Banks, with their high monthly fees and overdraft charges, are gouging their low- and middle-income customers, while serving only the wealthiest Americans.