

# CUSS Newsletter

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editor's Note	2
In Memorial	3
-Marshall Berman	
2014 CUSS Panels & Roundtables	4
News & Notes	6
2013 CUSS Awards Presentations	7
New Books	8
Announcements	11

## Concentrated Poverty & Concentrated Affluence: Notes for a Comparative Analysis

**Herbert Gans**  
Columbia University

The concept that poverty-related social problems are caused in part by the spatial concentration of the poor was introduced by urban sociologists and antipoverty researchers during a period of increasing poverty at the start of the 1990s.

Since then, the country has seen an immense increase in the number of affluent people, but sociologists have not considered the possible existence of similar spatial concentration effects among this population.

Despite massive wealth and income differences between concentrated poor and affluent areas, presumably the same peer and conformity pressures, social capi-

tal transactions and critical mass processes take place in both. Likewise, so do good and bad social and individual effects.

The most dramatic - and disturbing - findings of concentrated poverty research are associated with high poverty neighborhoods, areas in which 40 percent or more of the population is poor. Low poverty neighborhoods, where 20 or 10 percent of the residents are poor have fewer socially and individually destructive neighborhood effects.

The basic question: does the same pattern apply to concentrated affluence? Poverty and affluence have very different effects on people but how about concentration? Do neighborhoods in which 40 percent or more are affluent display



**The debates over concentrated poverty and wealth intensified after the 2008 Great Recession.**

problems parallel to those found in the highly concentrated areas of the poor?

High poverty areas are typically marked by family-related problems, children's school performance issues, physical and mental health issues, high rates of joblessness

**Concentrated**, page 9

## Chair's Message

**Philip Kasinitz, City University of New York**

Greetings fellow Cuss-niks! I hope you all enjoyed this year's meeting in New York as much as I did. In my own, completely biased view the section's program was

huge success. The sessions were extremely interesting and well attended, and the reception was a blast.

The only unfortunate part of the whole affair

for me was that the ASA schedule meant that almost as soon as I had recovered from the 2013 ASA, we needed to produce a schedule of ses-

**Chair**, page 2

## Chair's Message *from page 1*

sions for the 2014 ASA meeting in San Francisco. However, once again, the section membership responded enthusiastically to my panicked email calling for sessions and volunteers, and soon the council and I had more great ideas for sessions than we could accommodate. The descriptions of these sessions and the contact information for the organizers are in this issue and I hope you will agree with me that it sounds really promising. I want to thank all of you who wrote me and apologize to those I could not squeeze in. I would also strongly suggest that members whose session ideas did not get onto the program write to the roundtable organizers and suggest organizing a roundtable. And for all of you who volunteered to serve on committees—many, many thanks. If you have not yet heard from me yet, you will!

I would also like to

apologize in advance to the session organizers for the descriptions of their sessions that will shortly appear in the ASA call for papers—and while doing so, take this opportunity to rant a bit about one of my pet peeves. When you get the ASA call you will note that the descriptions are extremely short. When I uploaded the descriptions that the organizers had so carefully crafted, the new, super-efficient computer system that ASA now uses to assemble the program promptly rejected them all. I am afraid I took some offense at this. “Look here”, I shouted at the screen. “I am the duly elected Chair of the ASA Community and Urban Section, and you are a collection of electronically encoded ones and zeros! I out rank you! I will be long winded if I want to be!” When this childish raving yielded the predictable lack of results, I decided to actually read the instructions from ASA

central. I saw, or thought I saw, that the descriptions were limited to 200 words. Now, as my friends will attest, I have a hard time saying “good morning” in less than 200 words. But I do like to do what I am told so I dutifully edited the descriptions way down, losing much of the organizers’ carefully sculpted prose in the process. I then resubmitted to package and was again rejected. Still too long! Thinking “WTF!” I re-read the instructions more carefully this time and discovered that I was not limited to 200 words, but to 200 KEY STROKES! Essentially a freakin’ tweet! To make a long story short, after much cursing and ruminating on how intellectual integrity is falling victim to the needs of soulless machines I managed to pare the descriptions down to the required length (or lack thereof). I then re-submitted. Rejected again. This time,

according to the helpful and infinitely patient folks at ASA Central Command the issue was the sessions had more than one organizer. The system, I was told, “likes to have only one organizer per session” (yeah, I thought...and I would like to have a MacArthur Award, but that is not going to bloody well happen either!). At this point, however, realizing that arguing was useless and that I beginning to sound like a lunatic, I gave up. Up against a hard deadline and cowed into submission, I picked someone to be a “lead” organizer. Please do not get mad when only one name appears in the ASA Call. Once again, the names of all the organizers will appear here, in our newsletter and will appear in the final ASA program. Yours in struggle, Philip Kasinitz

## Editor's Note

William Holt, Birmingham-Southern College

While it feels like we were just in New York at the ASA Meetings, Fall Term flew by and we're starting to make plans for the 2014 ASA Meetings in San Francisco. This edition includes the CUSS Call for Submissions for panels and roundtables. You should look for an e-mail from

Section Chair Phil Kasinitz announcing the 2014 CUSS Call for Awards including committee information and submission deadlines.

This edition kicks off the *CUSS Newsletter's* 26th year with a feature by Herbert Gans examining concentrated poverty and wealth fitting appro-

priately with the ASA 2014 Meeting's theme, “Hard Times: The Impact of Economic Inequality on Families and Individuals.” Gans poses interested ideas for research on this topic.

In this edition, we eulogize the passing of Marshall Berman this fall. For those of us who did not

know him personally, we will forever remember him in the *American Experience: Robert Moses* video as new generations see the impacts of urban renewal.

As always, please send me any ideas for features or contributions. This is a perfect format to try out new ideas.

## In Memory of Marshall Berman

**Lily Hoffman**  
**CUNY-Graduate Center**  
**CUNY-City College**

Marshall Berman, known for his Marxist humanist rhapsody, *All that is Solid Melts into Air* (1982) died on September 11, at breakfast at his favorite diner—the Metro, on New York’s Upper West Side, the neighborhood to which he had been displaced from the South Bronx.

Just a week before, I had shown the PBS documentary, *The World that Moses Built*, to my undergraduate *Urban Sociology* class at CCNY, pointing out the young Marshall Berman with a brown beard and unlined brow talking about what Robert Moses did to his beloved Bronx community, and telling them that they could look forward to taking a course with him, a course which pulled together Marx, modernism, urbanism, rap music, graffiti art, French poetry, angst both psychological and philosophical, to name just a few topics. The building of the Cross Bronx Expressway in the 1960s made the personal into the political, and became both archetype and prototype, a cause of great pain and anguish, but ultimately, a source of energy and renewal. When Marshall gave the Ninth Annual Lewis Mumford Lecture on Urbanism in the Great Hall at City College, May 2, 2013, he entitled his talk, “Emerging from the Ruins.” He spoke about how urban

creativity has sprung from urban disaster, even demolition, citing New York’s recovery from the fiscal crises of the 1970s; describing how Paris rose from its 19th century ashes to become the center of modernism in the 20th century. “Urbicide,” he argued, was essential to this process.

Marshall had a great love for the city. I wonder, did Marshall finally forgive Robert Moses?

**Remembering Marshall Berman**  
**Sharon Zukin**  
**CUNY-Brooklyn and**  
**CUNY-Graduate Center**

Our fellow urbanist Marshall Berman, who died suddenly on September 11, 2013, had a towering intellect and an overwhelming supply of loving kindness. The author of the ultimate statement on modernity and urbanism, *All That Is Solid Melts Into Air*, Marshall was overwhelming in many ways. A big man, he would always embrace to say hello instead of shaking hands, and he was as likely to quote a lyric from Broadway or rap as a passage from Marx or Baudelaire.

In writing as in conversation, Marshall was direct, astute and unpretentious. Indeed, he disliked pretentiousness in any form. The center of any academic gathering, he loved to walk the city’s streets—any streets, in any city—



Marshall Berman passed away on September 11, 2013.

though his native land of New York City held pride of place in his heart.

Among urban sociologists, Marshall is best known for the polemic which forms the epilogue to *All That Is Solid*, where he channels Jane Jacobs’s love for the city and sharpens her attack on the soul-shriving monotony of urban design by focusing on one act of creative destruction perpetrated by public-sector builder Robert Moses: the building of the Cross-Bronx Expressway. The highway tore a cohesive but defenseless neighborhood apart and reduced adjacent blocks to rubble. In his essay, Marshall blended his own memories of growing up in the Bronx with social critique. It is a passionate, masterful piece of writing.

The essay Marshall wrote for the journal *Lingua Franca* and revised for a book I edited with Michael Sorkin, *After the Berman*, page 10

*“I wonder, did Marshall finally forgive Robert Moses?”*

**-Lily Hoffman**

*“A big man, he would always embrace to say hello instead of shaking hands, and he was as likely to quote a lyric from Broadway or rap as a passage from Marx or Baudelaire.”*

**-Sharon Zukin**

## 2014 ASA CUSS Panels & Roundtables

While it seems like we just returned from the 2013 ASA Meetings in New York, it's time to start planning for the 2014 ASA Annual Meetings in San Francisco from August 16-19. All CUSS events will be scheduled primarily for Tuesday with two sessions on Monday. The CUSS Section will sponsor one invited session, three open sessions (one co-sponsored with the Environment, Technology and Society Section) as well as roundtables. All papers should be submitted though the conference website at [www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org) by January 8, 2014.

### **SPECIAL SESSION** **Community Based Research: A Key to the Equitable Development of US Cities?**

Organizer:

•Gregory D. Squires  
George Washington University

Presider:

•Mark R. Warren  
University of Massachusetts-Boston

Inequality, long a subject of urban research, has become a focus of wide-ranging policy debates. A growing number of scholars are collaborating with community organizations in efforts to pursue research and policy initiatives to address a variety of issues that directly address the equitable

and sustainable development of cities and metropolitan regions. Examples include predatory lending and the ensuing foreclosure crises, food deserts, the many challenges facing urban school systems, deteriorating wages, fiscal crises of cities, and many others. This session will bring together academic researchers and their community partners who are engaged in these efforts in the San Francisco Bay area and around the US. Part of the growing network, the Urban Research Based Action Network (URBAN), these panelists will present papers and offer commentaries on emerging research methodologies and the issues they are addressing.

The session will focus on the following issues: In what ways does community based research advance knowledge and practice about equitable development? What challenges face scholars and community practitioners as they forge research/practice collaborations and how can they be overcome?

We will assemble 6 panelists, including scholars who will present papers and community activists (who may present sole or co-authored papers or, in some cases, may present overviews of their collaborative research activities) to examine current initiatives and offer recommendations for future collaborative research.

### **OPEN SESSION:** **Home and Belonging**

Organizers:

•Krista Paulsen  
University of North Florida  
•Maggie Kusenbach,  
University of South Florida

For this session, we will seek papers examining how home is constituted, and how individuals and groups come to belong in places such as dwellings, neighborhoods, cities, and other communities under uncertain and sometimes rapidly changing societal conditions. We understand "home" as not merely a dwelling, but also as the practices and routines that connect people with places. As such, home is bound up with notions of social-spatial belonging, or the degree to which individuals feel a given place is "right" for them, as well as the processes of creating this perceived fit.

We are particularly interested in work examining the challenges posed to both home and belonging by forces such as the ongoing economic and housing crises, migration, redevelopment, and gentrification. For instance, the economic and housing crises threaten notions of home and belonging in multiple ways, as households' connections to dwellings and familiar neighborhoods become increasingly tenuous. At the

same time, gentrification, migration, and globalization have the potential to radically transform neighborhoods and communities: they call into question just who "belongs" in a given place, as well as providing the impetus for "home making" in new and unfamiliar places.

We anticipate that this session will attract primarily qualitative scholars (though we are open to any methodological approach), and hope that it will appeal to scholars working across a range of geographic areas and locations. Our main emphasis will be to select those papers that foreground the processes by which individuals and households come to feel at home, that detail the specific practices associated with home-making, and that illuminate the means by which individuals and groups come to belong – or not – in neighborhoods, cities, and other communities in contemporary society.

### **OPEN SESSION:** **The Cities of the American South**

Organizers:

•Richard Lloyd  
Vanderbilt University  
•Deirdre Oakley  
Georgia State University

Though the American South is of intense interest to historians and literary scholars, it is seldom addressed by



American sociology. The peculiarity of the South in US history helps us to understand the neglect. The discipline of sociology took shape in its classical form as the study of modernity: capitalism, industry, secularization, science, and urbanization. The South has been among the most dynamic regions in population growth, expanding at the expense of the stagnant Northeast and Midwest. At the same time, the unique history and contemporary conditions of the South mean that Southern cities take shape in ways not well captured by the standard models of urban culture and morphology generated on the Northern prototype. The South has modernized and urbanized, but it has done so in a manner that requires that we update the content of those fluid concepts. The papers in this session will explore the sociology of contemporary southern cities with an eye towards the region's history, its recent dynamic growth and the roles that southern cities have come to play in American life.

**OPEN SESSION:  
Challenges to Community Social Organization in a Changing America**

Organizer  
•Gregory K. Sharp  
Rice University

American society continues to be transformed demographically, economically, culturally, politically, and technologically. Like their Chicago School predecessors, contemporary urban scholars ponder the implications of these changes for community and neighborhood vitality. For example, how do recent changes, such as the foreclosure crisis and Great Recession, increasing ethnoracial diversity, the pervasiveness of digital communication, and a polarizing political landscape, alter people's connections to and involvement within their neighborhoods? Are individuals who are now exposed to more crime, disorder, and disadvantage becoming less attached and more socially isolated, or are they confronting these issues through community mobilization programs? How have certain types of neighborhood change (e.g., residential turnover, gentrification) impacted the nature of local neighborhood relations? Do residents spend the majority of their time inside or outside their neighborhood? This proposed session welcomes papers that address issues of community social organization from a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches.

**OPEN SESSION:  
Urban Areas and Global Sustainability (co-sponsored with the Environment and Technology Section)**

•Organizer:  
William G. Holt  
Birmingham-Southern College

With the world's population reaching 7 billion in 2011 primarily concentrated in urban areas, sustainable development offers both opportunities and constraints to deal with these issues. Sustainability issues vary for Global North cities in developed countries compared with Global South cities in emerging countries. While the environmental movement typically looks at national and global level issues, this panel focuses on how specific cities and communities are implementing concepts of sustainability including green building, planning sustainable cities, infill developments, new urbanism and urban farming.

**ROUNDTABLES:**

Organizers:  
•Albert S. Fu  
Kutztown University  
•Yana Kucheva  
Stanford University  
•Ryan Centner  
London School of Economics  
•Eric Tesdahl, Vanderbilt University

**CUSS will host one special session, three open sessions, a co-sponsored session with ETS as well as the refereed roundtables at the 2014 ASA Meetings in San Francisco.**

## NEWS & NOTES

•**Ryan Centner**, London School of Economics, has begun a new appointment as Assistant Professor of Urban Geography at the London School of Economics. He is a member of the Urbanisation & Development cluster within the Department of Geography & Environment -- <http://cities.geographylse.net>

•**Joe Galaskiewicz**, University of Arizona, received a grant from the Sociology Program at the National Science Foundation to do a phone survey of 1,100 families and to gather data on establishments serving households in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

He will gather data on what children do on Saturdays, where they do it, if they are supervised by adults, who provides the services/activities, and how satisfied parents are with the providers. He wants to see if 1) children from different backgrounds and areas of the city do different things, 2) if the activities are provided by nonprofits, government agencies, for-profits, or congregations, and 3) if what's available in their neighborhoods affects what they do. Since this replicates a survey he did in 2003, he can ascertain if the population changes, economic hard times, and the housing crisis that neighborhoods experienced in the Phoenix

metro area affected what's available in the neighborhoods for kids and families and what children do on Saturdays.

He and his RA, Kate Anderson, will also examine what kinds of health care providers parents typically use for their children. They are interested in the distances that families have to travel for health care and if this affects the kind of care they get, their delaying in getting healthcare, and their satisfaction with the health care providers. They will also gather data on the location of all doctors' offices, clinics, and hospitals in the Phoenix metro area, so they will know what areas are more likely to produce favorable outcomes than others.

•**Jerry Krase**, CUNY-Brooklyn College presented "Selling the New Brooklyn (Again)" at the "Poeticizing the Urban Apparatus: Scenes of innovation" Culture of Cities Centre conference, and led a panel on Brooklyn and a walking tour of Williamsburg with Mark Hutter, Rowan University, for the Society for the Study of Social Interaction's Annual Meeting in August in New York City. In September he spoke on visual ethnography at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) "Placing Urban Anthropology" seminar. In October he spoke on "Strolling through Neighborhoods and Seeing the City

Change" for the Graduate Retention Enhancement at Texas A & M International University Program in Laredo, Texas. And, with Timothy Shortell, CUNY-Brooklyn College, he published "Seeing New York City's Financial Crisis in the Vernacular Landscape," in *Crisis and Cities: New Critical Urban Theory* (2013), edited by Kuniko Fujita and "On the Visual Semiotics of Collective Identity in Urban Vernacular Spaces," in *Sociology of the Visual Sphere*, edited by Dennis Zuev and Regev Nathansohn (2013). Jerry co-edits *Urbanities*, the Journal of the IUAES Commission on Urban Anthropology (CUA). Which has a rolling call for submissions at: <http://www.anthrojournal-urbanities.com/>.

•**Greg Squires**, George Washington University, received the 2013 Lester F. Ward Distinguished Contributor to Applied and Clinical Sociology Award from the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology. His new book, *From Foreclosure to Fair Lending: Advocacy, Organizing, Occupy and the Pursuit of Equitable Credit*, co-edited with Chester Hartman, was released by New Village Press (2013).

•**Rachael A. Woldoff**, West Virginia University, along with colleague Lisa Dilks and graduate student Dawn Lozzi pub-

lished an article examining the changing role of coffee houses as third places. The study examines the ways in which modern coffee houses serve both as a place to find community and a private zone to work, read, and use electronic devices, and shows how chain coffee houses, though often criticized for their sanitized lack of character, may better meet customers' new third place needs by providing a wider variety of amenities (e.g., types of seating, food, and media) and free services that are in high demand (e.g., Wi-Fi). The article, "The Social Transformation of Coffee Houses: The Emergence of Chain Establishments and the Private Nature of Usage" appears in the October 2013 issue of the *International Journal of Social Science Studies*. It was also the focus of a story in *Business Insider*.

For the full text of the article see <http://redfame.com/journal/index.php/ijsss/article/view/200/177>

## 2012 CUSS Awards

During the CUSS Reception at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York, the 2013 CUSS Award winners were recognized. This year's recipients included:

•**Robert and Helen Lynd Lifetime Achievement Award**

-William Julius Wilson  
Harvard University

•**The Park Award (formerly the Park Book Award)**

-Robert Sampson  
Harvard University  
*Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect.*  
2012: Chicago: University of Chicago Press

•**The Jane Addams Award**

-Matthew Desmond  
Harvard University

"Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty" 2012. *American Journal of Sociology*.

•**CUSS Student Paper Award**

-Stacy Torres  
New York University  
"Where Everybody May Not Know Your Name: The Importance of Elastic Ties." 2013

## 2013 CUSS Award Presentations

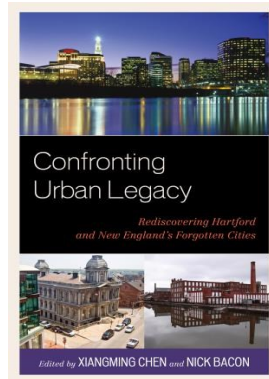


Photos by William Holt

**Top Left:** William Julius Wilson, Lynd Award Recipient poses with Phil Kasinitz, CUSS Section Chair, and Derek Hyra, Lynd Award Chair. **Top Right:** Park Award Chair Bruce Haynes presents the Park Award to Robert Sampson and Honorable Mention to Andrew Deener. **Bottom Left:** Matthew Desmond received the Addams Award from Addams Chair Andrew Deener. **Bottom Right:** Stacy Torres received the CUSS Student Paper Award from Chair Karyn Lacy

The deadline for papers and roundtables submissions for the 2014 ASA Annual Meeting is January 8, 2014.

## NEW BOOKS



•**Confronting Urban Legacy: Rediscovering Hartford and New England's Forgotten Cities.** 2013. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Editors:  
-Xiangming Chen  
Trinity College  
-Nick Bacon  
University of Maryland

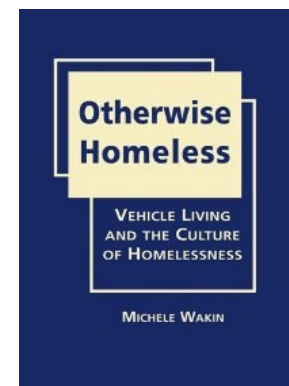
*Confronting Urban Legacy* fills a critical lacuna in urban scholarship. As much of the literature focuses on global cities and megacities, smaller, secondary cities, which actually hold the majority of the world's population, are either critically misunderstood or unexamined in their entirety.

As there is particularly little systematic research on smaller New England cities, this book specifically explores the transformative relationship between globalization and urban transition in Hartford, Connecticut, while including crucial comparative chapters on other forgotten New England cities: Portland, Maine, along with Lawrence and Springfield,

Massachusetts. Hartford's transformation carries a striking imprint of globalization that has been largely missed: from its 17th century roots as New England first inland colonial settlement, to its emergence as one of the world's most prosperous manufacturing and insurance metropolises, to its present configuration as one of America's poorest post-industrial cities, which by still retaining a globally lucrative FIRE Sector, is nevertheless surrounded by one of the nation's most prosperous metropolitan regions.

The myriad of dilemmas confronting Hartford calls for this book to take an interdisciplinary approach. The editors' introduction places Hartford in a global comparative perspective and justifies Hartford's crucial role in linking urban-global studies. Part I provides rich historical delineations of the many rises and (not quite) falls of Hartford, its suburbs, and Lawrence. Part II offers a broad contemporary treatment of Hartford by dissecting recent immigration and examining the demographic and educational dimensions of the city-suburban divide, bringing in the comparative case studies of Springfield and Portland. Finally, Part III unpacks Hartford's current social, economic, and political conjuncture and provides a prospec-

tive look at what the city could become. Using the lessons from this book on Hartford and other underappreciated secondary cities in New England, urban scholars, leaders, and residents alike can gain a number of essential insights – both theoretical and practical.



•**Otherwise Homeless: Vehicle Living and the Culture of Homelessness.** 2013. Boulder, CO: First Forum.

-Michele Wakin  
Bridgewater State University

Privacy, mobility, dignity—living in a vehicle offers many advantages over life in a shelter or on the street. Michele Wakin broadens our understanding of homelessness by exploring the growing phenomenon of vehicle living and how it differs from other forms of makeshift housing.

Incorporating both quantitative data and ethnographic work in  
**New Books**, page 10

**"...one must remember that in a class society, parallel behaviors may be framed differently and labeled with different terms. "**

**-Herbert Gans**



## Concentrated *from page 1*

as well as of crime and delinquency.

It seems hard to imagine that the rich suffer from such problems, but before accepting such a seemingly obvious conclusion, one must remember that in a class society, parallel behaviors may be framed differently and labeled with different terms.

Thus, begging is associated only with poor neighborhoods, but residents of high affluence areas who seek to increase their status beg for donations to charities and political campaigns. Similarly, hustlers operate in both areas, although they may call themselves entrepreneurs or investment advisers in affluent areas. The numbers and related rackets of the poor bear comparison with Ponzi and other stock swindles among affluents.

Family structure and kinship systems clearly differ in some respects, affluence being more often associated with multi-parent and step-parent families. The statistical and social normality of single parent families in high poverty areas is matched by the normality of abortion in high affluence areas.

Father absence is present in both, although for occupational travel reasons among the rich. Ironically, poverty and affluence areas may be similar in the amount and intensity of family conflict over money.

Parental neglect of children could be present in areas of high affluence, notably among youngsters raised by governesses or sent to boarding schools. Poor academic performance takes place among young people guaranteed post graduate employment in family firms.

The biggest difference among the two kinds of areas is likely to be in areas of health; affluents are physically and mentally healthier. However, the rich may suffer from normally untreated problems, such as greed and conspicuous consumption. Inheritance dependency and welfare dependency might share common elements, aside from the drastically different economic payoffs.

Alcoholism and drug addiction are present in both areas, but rates are hard to compare because in areas of concentrated affluence, alcohol and hard drugs are consumed in private spaces. Conversely, the poor more often consume addictive goods in publicly visible places.

Street crime is absent in concentrated affluence areas; their residents traffic in financial and other forms of white collar crime, again mostly in private spaces.

Teenage gangs can be found in areas of high affluence as in areas of high poverty, although among affluents, gangs are known as secret clubs, fraternities and

sororities. Some of the gangs of both engage in money making pursuits, those in poverty areas frequently concentrating on drug selling, those in affluent areas, making future business contacts. Some poor gangs engage in high degrees of interpersonal violence and even murder, while their rich equivalents limit themselves to verbal violence, social rejection, date rape and occasional hazing.

Comparative analysis of concentrated poverty and affluence entails special problems. Poverty is hard to measure because of poor people's income is often irregular. Determining the income of the rich is compromised by "top coding:" the practice of data gathering agencies to cap income classes well below levels of high affluence. For example, the U.S. Census's top class is "\$250,000 and above."

Qualitative researchers will have to find ways of obtaining access to the rich living in gated and protected neighborhoods, or in apartment houses guarded by doormen. The identification of neighborhood effects could be complicated further by the fact that many affluents have dwellings in several neighborhoods, some of them overseas.

Concentrated poverty research has paid little attention to the income levels among the concentrated poor, but researchers studying the concen-

trated rich must correct this omission. If neighborhood effects are greater in high affluence areas than in low affluence ones, the differential might be caused by variations in the levels of affluence rather than or as well as by the degree of concentration. The extremely affluent could behave differently than the affluent.

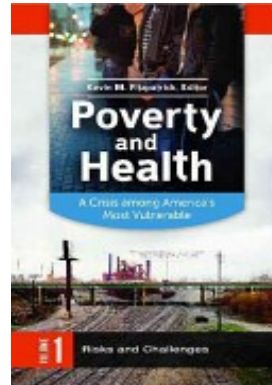
If the former turn out to be more problem ridden than the latter, researchers need to consider possible policy implications. Concentration effects suggest dispersal policies, but income level effects would have to be dealt with by redistributive and other economic policies.

I am grateful for helpful comments on an earlier draft of this memo by Merlin Chowkwanyun, Bill Domhoff and Harvey Molotch.

Herbert Gans is the Robert S. Lynd Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Columbia Univ. His most recent book is *Imagining America in 2033*, 2008. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 2008.

## New Books *from page 8*

California, Wakin takes us into the lives of those who call a car, truck, or RV home. She probes the forces that pushed them out of traditional housing, their unique strengths and vulnerabilities in navigating everyday life, and their complex relationships with local communities, law enforcement, and social service providers. Her analysis of this overlooked population illuminates the dynamics that make it so hard to break the cycle of regulation and resistance that impedes the escape from poverty.



•***Poverty and Health: A Crisis among America's Most Vulnerable.* 2013. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.**

Editor:  
-Kevin M. Fitzpatrick  
University of Arkansas.

A collection of in-depth essays focused on the health issues facing the poorest populations in the United States as it relates to the common good of all Americans.

Despite living in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, far too

many low-income and no-income men, women, and children in this nation are without health insurance or health care. More than half of those financially bereft have a serious health problem, with poor children three to five times more likely to experience chronic health issues than their more affluent peers. This set is a compilation of writings that address the complex problem of poverty and health across location and population. Through two informative volumes, the authors examine key issues including health care delivery, access, and disparities among various disenfranchised populations. Leading experts explore the reciprocal relationship between economic disadvantage and poor health, and ponder potential solutions to cope with these challenges.

## Berman *from page 3*

World Trade Center, is also both a personal statement and an effort to analyze the unanalyzable power of death and destruction. Marshall turned to the issues he knew best. Speaking of the many signs about "missing persons" that were posted all over the city after 9/11, he said we often try to understand mass destruction in terms of individual lives. "Life stories," he wrote, and related the missing persons signs to the dramas

of the New Deal era, to Let Us Now Praise Famous Men and to James Joyce's Ulysses.

Though he wrote with great feeling about the survivors who were linked by guilt, Marshall refused to mourn the buildings that died on 9/11. He was still angry that the World Trade Center, like the Cross-Bronx Expressway and the large-scale public housing projects drawn to Modernist designs, "killed the street." Moreover, though he

mourned the deaths of so many firefighters in the attack on the World Trade Center, he was clear about the need to recruit more members of ethnic minorities when they rebuilt their ranks.

That Marshall should pass from the scene on September 11 was symbolically fitting. His loss diminishes the community of New York urbanists and that of the many urbanists who were drawn to him from around the world.

2013 ASA  
Membership  
expires on  
December 2013. Be  
sure to renew early  
for 2014.

American  
Sociological  
Association  
Community &  
Urban Sociology  
Section

William Grady Holt  
CUSS Newsletter Editor  
Coordinator  
Urban Environmental  
Studies Program  
Birmingham-Southern  
College  
900 Arkadelphia Road  
Birmingham, AL 35254

Phone: 205-226-4834  
Fax: 205-226-4847  
E-mail: [wholt@bsc.edu](mailto:wholt@bsc.edu)

We're on the web:  
The Community  
Web

[http://  
www.commur.org](http://www.commur.org)

## Announcements

### •Place Based Perspectives on Food in Society- Call for Papers

This proposed volume (12 chapters) will encourage multidisciplinary examinations of the context of food that primarily focuses on place. We are particularly interested in essays that address solutions to the global food crisis, focusing on how we address the diversity in that crisis across place. Chapters should be a maximum of 8,000 words, (not including tables, charts, pictures, etc). This volume is intended to inform students and scholars from related disciplines, but just as importantly to attract and interest the college-educated lay reader. A detailed call for papers with a comprehensive outline, target dates, proposed topics, and other details can be

found at: [http://sociology.uark.edu/Context\\_of\\_Food\\_Call\\_for\\_Papers\\_092713.pdf](http://sociology.uark.edu/Context_of_Food_Call_for_Papers_092713.pdf).

For more information or questions contact: Kevin M. Fitzpatrick (Co-Editor) at [kfitzpa@uark.edu](mailto:kfitzpa@uark.edu). Deadline for chapter proposals is January 15, 201

### •Residential Inequality in American Neighborhoods and Communities-Call for Papers

Penn State is hosting a small conference that highlights how stratification intersects with the residential landscape of the United States. Approximately 15 innovative papers are sought for sessions on the inter-related phenomena of segregation, housing and neighborhood attainment, residential mobility, and community change. Contributions

may be theoretical, empirical, or policy-oriented and can focus on trends or current circumstances. We also welcome research representing a variety of methodological styles and set in contexts ranging from metropolitan to rural. The conference format will provide ample opportunities for interaction among attendees.

Scholars interested in presenting their work should email a 2-page abstract or completed paper to [psustratcon@psu.edu](mailto:psustratcon@psu.edu) by January 31, 2014. Acceptance decisions will be made no later than February 15. Please visit <http://sociology.la.psu.edu/about/psu-stratcon> for additional details about the conference, which is being organized by Glenn Firebaugh, John Iceland, Barrett Lee, and Stephen Matthews.

