

INITIATIVE

## Penn IUR Launches Cities and Contagion Initiative



"Friday Prayer during the Coronavirus Pandemic," by Mohammad Rafayat Haque Khan, winner of the 2020 Penn IUR Photo Contest on cities and COVID-19. For more information, see the sidebar on page 16.

Shortly after the coronavirus pandemic arrived in force in the United States, Penn IUR launched "Cities and Contagion: Lessons from COVID-19," an initiative that brings together experts across scholarly disciplines who can help interpret the pandemic's implications for urbanization. The initiative, which is intended to inform public and private decision-makers as they adapt cities to be more resilient, inclusive, and innovative, has

four parts: publications, a web-based resource library, convenings (both online and, when appropriate, in person), and research projects.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Penn IUR inaugurated the initiative in April 2020 with the publication of a special issue of Urban Link, the Institute's monthly e-newsletter, with reflections on the pandemic's effects on cities and city residents

from leading Penn IUR Fellows and Scholars across disciplines. Contributors included:

- Penn IUR Scholar Elijah Anderson, Sterling Professor of Sociology and of African American Studies, Yale University, and Charles and William L. Day Distinguished Professor Emeritus of the Social Sciences, Penn School of Arts and Sciences;

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CONVENING

## Web Briefings Bring Urban Experts Together to Discuss Impact of COVID-19 on State and Local Finance

Beginning in April, Penn IUR hosted, in partnership with the Volcker Alliance, a special briefing series on the impact of COVID-19 on the fiscal outlook of state and local governments. The 12 sixty-minute online conversations, held from April through July, featured experts from the Volcker Alliance's and Penn IUR's national research networks, along with other leading academics, economists, and fiscal policy leaders from around the United States. This series led to the development of a new Penn IUR initiative, the Initiative for State and Local Fiscal Stability. Read more about the initiative and the webinar at which it was announced on page 19.

Free and open to the public, the events often attracted more than 400 participants from as many as 43 states. Viewers included state and municipal executive and legislative budget officials, auditors, treasurers, policy analysts, medical directors, journalists, and more. National and financial news outlets regularly covered the events and quoted speakers. Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter and Penn IUR Fellow William Glasgall, Volcker Alliance Senior Vice President and Director of State and Local Initiatives, introduced and moderated the discussions. A description of each event's topic and guest speakers follows, along with a link to video of the webinar:

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# Faculty Spotlight: Mary Frances Berry



**MARY FRANCES BERRY** is the Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of History. She is the former chairwoman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, former Assistant Secretary for Education in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the author of thirteen books. Dr. Berry is a Fellow of the Society of American Historians and of the National Academy of Public Administration and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Society for Legal History. In recognition of her scholarship and public service, she has received 35 honorary doctoral degrees and many awards, including the NAACP's Roy Wilkins Award, the Rosa Parks Award of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Ebony Magazine Black Achievement Award, and the Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award of the Organization of American Historians. She was 1990-91 President of the Organization of American Historians. She is one of 75 women featured in *I Dream A World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America*, and the Sienna College Research Institute and the Women's Hall of Fame designated her one of "America's Women of the Century."

**YOU WERE A MEMBER OF THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS FROM 1980 TO 2004 AND SERVED AS CHAIR FROM 1993-2004. CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE? HOW HAVE YOUR THOUGHTS ON CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA CHANGED OVER TIME?**

I became a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights when I left the Carter Administration, where I had been in charge of federal education programs. The Commission, which was established by Congress upon the recommendation of President Dwight Eisenhower, was put in place to monitor the government's efforts in enforcing civil rights laws, and to report to the public and to Congress where changes were needed.

Ronald Reagan was elected President shortly after I became a member. His policies were very negative: he refused to let the Justice Department enforce what he regarded as objectionable civil rights laws, especially voting rights laws, and a number of career attorneys left the department in protest. He started his campaign in Mississippi at the place where three civil rights workers—Chaney, Schwerner and Goodman—were killed in 1964.

Many people think that Trump is the first President we've ever had that had anti-civil rights policies. The other day I heard someone say: "Trump is the first president who was a racist." Well, that's not true. We've had many in our history who engaged in racist behavior.

So, there was plenty to report about Mr. Reagan. Not only on race, but also on things like the AIDS crisis—he refused to even mention the word "AIDS"

until very late in the crisis. It was a very bad time for civil rights. Mr. Reagan fired me and some other commissioners because we criticized his policies. I and one other sued him and won reinstatement in federal district court, because the judge said that we were watchdogs at the commission. And watchdogs can't be fired for biting.

It was a terrible time. Civil rights in this country have improved by fits and starts, but we have never really confronted the issues, whether on gender or disability or any issue. Changing policies to relieve racial inequity has been one of the toughest problems. It still is.

**IN 1977, PRESIDENT CARTER APPOINTED YOU ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE?**

I was Chancellor at the University of Colorado in Boulder when the President asked me to run the federal education programs. I had not been partisan—I really never have been—and I was puzzled as to why he asked me. But the Chairman of our Board of Regents said he thought that when the President asks you to do something for your country, you do it—so I went to Washington.

Jimmy Carter's main priority in education was to carve a "Department of Education" out of the "Department of Health, Education and Welfare." I supported that objective, but until the Department was enacted into law headed the Education activities and worked very hard to get funding increased for poor students and for historically Black colleges and universities in the South.

The most important litigation in that period was the Bakke case [Regents of the University of California v. Bakke decision], which supported diversity in higher education. This hasn't turned out to be as effective as we might have hoped, especially on the question of race. It's been more effective on gender.

I enjoyed the work I did, although I found that it was hard to enforce civil rights laws even though Jimmy Carter stood up for them. He was a reconstructed white Southerner, and they are the best people you can find on issues having to do with race.

**IN HISTORY TEACHES US TO RESIST: HOW PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CHALLENGING TIMES (BEACON PRESS, 2018), YOU DOCUMENT RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS THROUGHOUT AMERICAN HISTORY AND DEMONSTRATE THAT PROTEST IS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS. DO YOU SEE PARALLELS IN TODAY'S PROTEST MOVEMENT WITH WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST? WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES?**

I am so pleased with the Black Lives Matter protests—these protests around the killing of unarmed Black people, around "Karens" (the white women who complain about Black people doing ordinary things, like walking in the park or jogging), and around the lack of fair or affordable housing for so many people, especially for Black people.

The Black Lives Matter protests have been effective so far, I think, first because they've

(CONTINUED ON P. 22)

## CONVENING

# Penn IUR Hosts Research for Equity in Recovery Series with Philly Fed and Upjohn Institute

In Summer 2020, Penn IUR, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research jointly launched a webinar series that gathers experts to discuss the latest research and best practices for promoting a strong and equitable recovery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first three sessions of the Research for Equity in Recovery series were held in July 2020.

The first event took place on July 1, 2020; it focused on the development and training needs of the U.S. workforce as the economy recovers from the effects of widespread state and city shutdown measures. This session featured presentations by Steven J. Davis, Professor, University of Chicago; Michelle Miller-Adams, Senior Researcher, Upjohn Institute; and Harry Holzer, Professor, Georgetown University, and Former Chief Economist, Department of Labor. Theresa Singleton, Senior Vice President and Community Affairs Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, moderated. Find a recording of the event on the Penn IUR website.

The second event took place on July 16, 2020 and focused on how recovery efforts can prevent the COVID-19 pandemic from widening the divide between prosperous coastal cities and distressed metropolitan regions with little high-tech growth. This session featured Timothy J. Bartik, Senior Economist, Upjohn

Institute; Simon Johnson, Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Mark Muro, Senior Fellow and Policy Director, Brookings Institution. Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter moderated. Find a recording of the event on the Penn IUR website.

The third event took place on July 30, 2020 and focused on how COVID-19 has impacted small businesses across sectors, firm sizes, and geography, as well as on how governments at all levels can advance and adapt programs like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to promote an equitable recovery. This session featured Marianne Bertrand, Professor, University of Chicago; Chi Mac, Small Business Research Lead, JPMorgan Chase Institute; and Maurice A. Jones, President and CEO, Local Initiatives Support Corporation. Timothy J. Bartik, Senior Economist, Upjohn Institute, moderated. Find a recording of the event on the Penn IUR website.

This series is part of Penn IUR's Cities and Contagion: Lessons from COVID-19 initiative, which is intended to inform public and private decision-makers as they adapt cities to be more resilient, inclusive, and innovative. For more about the initiative, including information on other Penn IUR web series, read the article on page 1.



Participants in the webinar "Research for Equity in Recovery: How Job Skill Development Matters," clockwise from top left: Theresa Singleton, Senior Vice President and Community Affairs Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; Michelle Miller-Adams, Senior Researcher, Upjohn Institute; Harry Holzer, Professor, Georgetown University, and Former Chief Economist, Department of Labor; and Steven J. Davis, Professor, University of Chicago.



## CONVENING

# Year of Data Event on Smart City Solutions

On January 30, 2020 Penn IUR and Econsult, Inc. (ESI) held a symposium entitled “Building a Hyperconnected City” that explored how cities can generate economic, social, and environmental benefits by building on present-day smart city technologies. The participating speakers explored how cities can forge linkages among key elements of their urban landscape (such as from transportation to public health and security, and from government to business and residents) using smart-city technology to become “hyperconnected” hubs. Former Maryland Governor and Baltimore Mayor Martin O’Malley gave the keynote presentation, while Penn IUR Fellow Richard Voith, President, ESI, and Dan Miles, Chief Economist, ESI, presented findings from a year-long global assessment of smart city solutions. This event, which was part of Penn’s “Year of Data,” centered around the first year of an ongoing, multi-year study of smart cities by ESI for which Penn IUR is a research partner.

In his talk, “The Hyperconnected City and a New Way of Governing,” O’Malley related his experience using data in governance, pointing out that such

techniques require not just new technology but also a new, more collaborative and transparent, style of leadership. He noted that making data-driven decisions and increasing transparency improves both the effectiveness of government and public trust in government. In the information age, he said, an effective leader’s role is to “to focus and convene a collaborative circle”—not to govern from the top of a hierarchy.

Following O’Malley’s talk, Miles described the study and its findings. Based on a survey of 100 cities from around the world, the study sought to answer the questions: How are leading cities using data and technology to transform their urban ecosystems? Where are they getting the greatest return on investment (ROI)? ESI economists found that surveyed cities reaped a 3 to 4 percent ROI on smart city initiatives, with ROI among the most hyperconnected cities two to three times that of cities just beginning their smart city investments. Noting that the biggest roadblocks to adopting technological approaches to city issues were the interrelated challenges of gaining citizen support

and managing cybersecurity, he outlined a roadmap for capitalizing on hyperconnection. Miles then emphasized the necessities of making the financial, social, and environmental case for hyperconnection and of communicating with citizens to build trust.

The event concluded with a panel discussion among William Bayer, Vice President Smart World Team, NTT Data; Ana Moreno, Director, Tomorrow.City Barcelona; Governor O’Malley; Piyush Pandey, Managing Director, Cyber Risk Services, Deloitte; and Joseph Viscuso, Senior Vice President and Director of Strategic Growth, Pennoni. Penn IUR Co-Director Eugenie Birch served as moderator. The panelists offered specific examples of how cities have overcome obstacles, built on small successes, addressed the concerns of citizens and public servants, and institutionalized practices. For detailed case studies—as well as an eBook and an interactive online tool—visit <https://econsultsolutions.com/esi-thoughtlab/hyperconnected-city/>. The findings from the ongoing study are expected in 2021.

Panelists at the event “Building a Hyperconnected City,” from left to right: Ana Moreno, Director, Tomorrow.City Barcelona; Piyush Pandey, Managing Director, Cyber Risk Services, Deloitte; Joseph Viscuso, Senior Vice President and Director of Strategic Growth, Pennoni; Penn IUR Co-Director Eugenie Birch; Governor Martin O’Malley; and William Bayer, Vice President Smart World Team, NTT Data.





## CONVENING

## Second Annual Jeremy Nowak Memorial Lecture: Can the New Localism Advance Shared Prosperity?

On January 31, 2020, Penn IUR and the Reinvestment Fund hosted the second annual Jeremy Nowak memorial lecture, entitled “Can the New Localism Advance Shared Prosperity?” Nowak founded the Reinvestment Fund and pioneered the concept of “new localism,” a framework for community investment that integrates public, private, and nonprofit expertise to create shared urban prosperity. At the January event, speakers Anne Fadullon, Director, Department of Planning and Development, City of Philadelphia; Bruce Katz, Co-Founder and Director, Nowak Metro Finance Lab; Brian Murray, Co-Founder and Principal, Shift Capital; and Rob Stephany, Director, Community and Economic Development, Heinz Endowments, discussed how the new localism can be used to create a more equitable urban society. Ira Goldstein, President of Policy Solutions, Reinvestment Fund, moderated.

Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter Donald Hinkle-Brown, CEO of the Reinvestment Fund, began by welcoming participants and noting the purpose of the series: to continue the deep, challenging public conversations for which Nowak was known. Moderator Ira Goldstein quoted Nowak as saying that “good policy is policy with an R&D cycle built into it”; he described the event as the R&D cycle for the policies that Nowak championed, and introduced the panelists.

Katz reviewed the 2017 book *The New Localism: How Cities Can Thrive in the Age of Populism*, which he co-authored with Nowak. “This is a book about reimagining power in the 21st century,” he said, explaining that bottom-up, multi-sector, and interdisciplinary solutions are the hallmark of 21st-century urban change/problem solving. Cities and metropolitan areas—which he defined as local networks of public, private, civic, environmental, labor, and other groups—are well-situated to address the complex, dramatic, multi-focal challenges of the 21st century: issues such as climate change, income inequality, and the future of work. In this new interconnected world, solutions need to come from new norms and models that emerge from local networks—not from top-down, compartmentalized, technocratic rules and regulations, which he described as the hallmark of 20th-century problem solving.

In the presentations and discussion that followed, speakers offered examples of the opportunities and challenges of this approach. Fadullon said that cities like Philadelphia need to find ways to support local activities rather than trying to step in and do all the work. She emphasized, too, the imperative



Top: Panelists at the Second Annual Jeremy Nowak Lecture, from left to right: Brian Murray, Co-Founder and Principal, Shift Capital; Anne Fadullon, Director, Department of Planning and Development, City of Philadelphia; Rob Stephany, Director, Community and Economic Development, Heinz Endowments; Bruce Katz, Co-Founder and Director, Nowak Metro Finance Lab; and Ira Goldstein, President of Policy Solutions, Reinvestment Fund.

Bottom: The event was introduced by Donald Hinkle-Brown, President and CEO, Reinvestment Fund, and Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter

of listening to the people—particularly African Americans and other POC—who know their own communities and of supporting local knowledge and action rather than trying to direct it.

Murray, whose place-based impact real estate group specializes in a whole-neighborhood approach to development—spoke about the need bring community into wealth building. He argued that low-income neighborhoods are not lacking in capital—but that capital is parasitic, and members of those communities lack access to it. “By the time a community sees change, their opportunity to build wealth is already gone,” he said. He emphasized

the need to connect capital to entrepreneurs and investors in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Stephany argued that the failure to do this in the past is tied to the failure to have African Americans at the decision-making table. “Black power might be the missing ingredient” in a bunch of well-intended technical solutions, he said.

The Jeremy Nowak Memorial Lecture series aims to highlight Nowak’s enduring work to integrate public, private, and nonprofit expertise to achieve collective urban prosperity. A video of this year’s lecture and a recap of last year’s lecture can be found on the Penn IUR website.

## PUBLICATION

# Penn at World Urban Forum 10

Penn IUR joined the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy (KCEP) and Perry World House (PWH) in bringing the University of Pennsylvania's urban expertise to the tenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10), the world's premier conference on urban issues, held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from February 8-13, 2020. The Penn delegation included Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch; Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Mark Alan Hughes, Faculty Director, KCEP; Penn IUR Fellow James Kwame Mensah, Chief Resilience Officer, Accra Municipal Assembly, Ghana, and Lecturer, University of Ghana; Mauricio Rodas, former Mayor of Quito, Ecuador, and joint visiting fellow at Penn IUR, KCEP, and PWH; Cory Colijn, Executive

Director, KCEP; and Amy Montgomery, Managing Director, Penn IUR.

The delegation hosted two events: a panel, on February 9, 2020, co-hosted with the UK Urban Ecology Forum, featuring Birch, Hughes, Rodas, and Mensah entitled "Joining Forces: Planning, Managing, and Financing City-Climate Resilient Infrastructure Grounded in Nature-Based Solutions"; and a discussion, on February 10, 2020 on Penn research on urban issues at the Habitat UNI booth. Additionally, Penn IUR co-sponsored with OECD a networking event led by PwC Middle East, Government and Public Sector entitled "Financing and Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

and New Urban Agenda in Cities"; the event featured both Birch and Rodas.

In addition, Birch was a featured speaker at several UN events. On February 8, 2020, she was a panelist at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, which highlighted how local and regional governments contribute to improving urban life through culture, innovation, preserving heritage and rights for culture. On February 10, 2020, she spoke at the Special Session on financing for sustainable urban development, which tackled the crucial question of how to mobilize investments, resources, and capacities in order to achieve the SDGs.



Members of the Penn delegation to WUF10, from left to right: Cory Colijn, Executive Director, KCEP; James Kwame Mensah, Chief Resilience Officer, Accra Municipal Assembly, Ghana, and Lecturer, University of Ghana; Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch; Mauricio Rodas, former Mayor of Quito, Ecuador, and joint visiting fellow at Penn IUR, KCEP, and PWH; and Mark Alan Hughes, Faculty Director, KCEP



# Penn IUR Faculty Fellows News & Awards



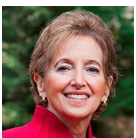
Carolyn Cannuscio, Director of Research for Penn's Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI) and Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, has been widely consulted and featured in the press on the coronavirus pandemic, including in *The New York Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*.



Daniel Aldana Cohen, Daniel Aldana Cohen, Assistant Professor of Sociology, wrote (with Johanna Bozua, J. Mijin Cha, Billy Fleming, Jim Goodman, Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, Daniel M. Kammen, Julian Brave NoiseCat, Mark Paul, Raj Patel, and Thea Riofrancos) "A Green Stimulus to Rebuild our Economy: An Open Letter and Call to Action to Members of Congress," which inspired and was cited in a congressional letter urging green stimulus that was signed by 60 representatives in the House of Congress. His recent publications include articles in: *Piseagrama*, *NACLA Report*, *Jacobin*, *The Century Foundation*, *The Guardian*, *Data for Progress*, *Medium*, and *City*.



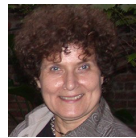
Dennis Culhane, Professor and Dana and Andrew Stone Chair in Social Policy, and Co-Principal Investigator, Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy, wrote (with co-authors Dan Treglia and Ken Steif from UPenn, Randall Kuhn from UCLA, and Thomas Byrne from Boston University) "Estimated Emergency and Observational/Quarantine Capacity Need for the US Homeless Population Related to COVID-19 Exposure by County; Projected Hospitalizations, Intensive Care Units and Mortality," which informed efforts to address COVID-19 in locally, regionally, and nationally.



Karen Glanz, George A. Weiss University Professor, Professor of Nursing in the School of Nursing, and Professor of Epidemiology in the Perelman School of Medicine, was featured in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on racial and health disparities and in *The Atlantic* on exercise during the pandemic. She continued to publish widely in journals including *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, *American Thoracic Society*, *American Journal of Health Behavior*, *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, *Health Promotion Practice*, *Environment and Behavior*, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, and *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.



Mauro Guillen, Dr. Felix Zandman Professor of International Management, Professor of Management, The Wharton School, led in Spring 2020 a new, real-time course on the coronavirus pandemic's effects on businesses and economies: "Epidemics, National Disasters, and Geopolitics: Managing Global Business and Financial Uncertainty." He also published (with Emilio Ontiveros) "Challenges for the Global Economy in a Changing World" in *Studies of Applied Economics*.



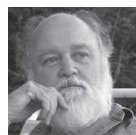
Renata Holod, Professor, History of Art, School of Arts and Sciences, and Curator in the Near East Section, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, is conducting archival and archaeological research on the Island of Jerba, Tunisia. Her "Instances of the Sacred in a Pre-Modern Landscape: Sites, Loci and Practices on the Island of Jerba," in *Encompassing the Sacred in Islamic Art and Architecture*, *Proceedings of the Ernst Herzfeld Society* is in press. She is conducting ongoing research on Chungul Kurgan, a medieval (Qipchaq) Kurgan in the Black Sea steppe; the visual culture of Islamic Civilization; and Excavations at Rayy, Iran, and their contribution to the study of the material culture of medieval Iran.



Robert Inman, Richard King Mellon Professor Emeritus of Finance, Professor Emeritus of Business Economics & Public Policy, The Wharton School, wrote (with Daniel Rubinfeld) *Democratic Federalism: The Economics, Politics, and Law of Federal Governance* (University of Princeton Press, 2020). He has been featured in national media outlets on COVID-19's effect on the economy, such as *The Washington Post*, *The Hill*, and *Bloomberg Tax*.





Laura Perna, GSE Centennial Presidential Professor of Education and Executive Director of the Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy (AHEAD), was appointed Vice Provost for Faculty. Her recent publications include *Improving Research-Based Knowledge of College Promise Programs*, edited with Edward J. Smith, and "Recognizing the Reality of Working College Students" in *AAUP*.



Dana Tomlin, Professor of Landscape Architecture, Weitzman School of Design, spent much of the spring and summer working as a member of Yale University's COVID Mapping Team to develop online facilities for the analysis and visualization of large geospatial data sets relating to the pandemic.

# Urban Link

The Urban Link e-newsletter is a monthly online publication featuring expert commentary and scholarship from Penn IUR Faculty Fellows and other affiliates. To bring Penn IUR's latest initiatives, publications, and events to your inbox, visit [www.penniur.upenn.edu](http://www.penniur.upenn.edu) and add your email address to subscribe.


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UrbanLink


**Volume 9 (2020) / Issue 5**  
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## New Ideas in Urban Research

At the end of each academic year since 2004, Penn IUR has hosted the Urban Doctoral Symposium to celebrate the next generation of urban scholars who have completed their dissertations at Penn. While we are saddened that we will not be able to meet in person this year, we are pleased to dedicate the May issue of *Urban Link* to highlighting the contributions made by graduating PhD students whose research is on urban-related topics. From a wide range of disciplines, including applied economics, city and regional planning, criminology, nursing, and more, the students below share key findings from their dissertations and identify novel policy recommendations for the urban community. We thank them for their efforts and wish them luck in their careers!

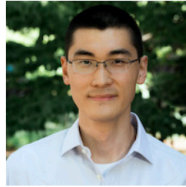
[Read More »](#)




**Marta Bruce**  
*The Contribution of Neighborhood Characteristics to Psychological Outcomes After Serious Injury in a Cohort of Black Men*




**Chandan Deuskar**  
*Planning and the Politics of Informal Urbanization*




**Xiaoxia Dong**  
*A Philadelphia Rideshare Story: An Investigation of Rideshare's Impact on Transit*




**Caitlin Gorback**  
*Your Uber has Arrived: Ridesharing and the Redistribution of Economic Activity*



**Nora Gross**  
*Brothers in Grief: The Stages of Grieving for a School and its Students Following Three Shooting Deaths of Black Teenage Boys*





**Ruth Moyer**  
*Changes Within the Urban Environment and Their Effect on Crime and the Criminal Justice System*



**Congratulations Graduates!**

Penn IUR is pleased to celebrate the achievements of students from across the University, including these


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UrbanLink

**Volume 9 (2020) / Issue 4**  
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## Cities and Contagion: Lessons from COVID-19



*Brecht Bug via Flickr*

As many have observed, cities are humankind's earliest inventions; they have endured through war, pestilence, and depressions. They will persist into the future, though will certainly experience changes in response to the current shock.


That cities are at the frontline of today's pandemic is not surprising. Their density makes them hotspots of the disease. Urban lockdowns will result in national GDP declines. Urban disparities, ranging from health to the digital divide to unemployment rates, are now in the spotlight. Penn IUR Fellows, Faculty Fellows, Scholars, and associates, whose contributions are below, have much to share as they reflect on COVID-19's effects on cities and their populations yesterday and today. Taken together, their contributions demonstrate the importance of Penn's commitment to integrating knowledge across disciplines as we hear about their research and actions in health, the humanities, social science, design, business, and education. [Read More »](#)



**Elijah Anderson**  
*Black Folk and COVID-19*



**David Barnes**  
*Cities and Epidemics in History*



**Mary Frances Berry**  
*A Return to Urbanism*



## CONVENING

# Penn IUR Book Talk with Sai Balakrishnan

On February 20, 2020, Penn IUR hosted a book talk for the latest release in the City in the 21st Century (C21) book series, *Shareholder Cities: Land Transformations Along Urban Corridors in India* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019), by Penn IUR Scholar Sai Balakrishnan, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning, Harvard University. In *Shareholder Cities*, Balakrishnan argues that some of India's most decisive urban conflicts will unfold along the new economic corridors being built through formerly agricultural lands to connect Indian cities.

Balakrishnan began her talk by explaining that the idea of a sharp urban-rural divide in India—a conception common to many Western depictions of the country—is inaccurate. She described instead an “entangled agrarian-urban” situation in which different social and economic systems are in tension. Her research, she said, focuses on the encounters between electorally strong agrarian classes and financially powerful urban firms, two groups that are being brought into conflict by urban development along the country's new economic corridors. In her book, Balakrishnan explores how these power struggles are playing out in Maharashtra state along the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, the first economic corridor built in India.

Balakrishnan outlined for the book talk audience the political dynamics at play in three new towns along the expressway: Magarpatta, Lavasa, and Khed. As she described, the construction funding and ownership models in each of these towns represent different ways of negotiating a conflict between two major reforms in India's recent history: the marketization of agricultural land and the enfranchisement of the rural population. Balakrishnan offered several examples of how urbanization has unfolded differently for these communities, explaining that the use of collectively pooled resources among agrarian property owners has led to different development outcomes than in towns constructed with government or private funding.

In the question-and-answer session following her talk, Balakrishnan expanded on the political ramifications of urbanization along India's economic corridors, saying that she sees an opportunity for a “new social contract between territory, citizen, and state.” To realize an inclusive outcome—creating what she calls a “shareholder city”—Balakrishnan recommends that planners embrace local social movements and look beyond city boundaries to anticipate regional transformations. As more corridors cross the

Indian countryside in the future, Balakrishnan hopes her research will inspire leaders to work with agrarian populations to ensure that development doesn't lead to displacement.

For a list of all books in the C21 series, and to buy *Shareholder Cities: Land Transformations Along Urban Corridors in India*, visit <https://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/series/C21.html>.



Top: Sai Balakrishnan discusses her book *Shareholder Cities: Land Transformations Along Urban Corridors in India*.  
Bottom: Penn IUR Co-Director introduces Balakrishnan to guests in attendance.

## CONVENING

# Community Wealth Building: The Way Forward

On March 5, 2020, Penn IUR hosted Marc Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League, for a special lecture on community wealth building in minority communities. A Penn graduate (C'80) and member of the Penn IUR Advisory Board, Morial served as a Louisiana State Senator from 1992 to 1994; Mayor of New Orleans from 1994 to 2002, during which time he oversaw reductions in crime rates and reinvestment in historic neighborhoods; and President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors from 2001 to 2002. In his lecture, held at the Kleinman Forum, Morial outlined the historical role of government and public policy in creating the racial wealth gap and the necessity of using public policy in the present day to rectify this.

Morial described how wealth and income inequality have continued to grow even as the country's overall economy has expanded; this reality, he noted, betrays the idea that a rising tide lifts all boats. Arguing for a deeper, historical understanding of how and why inequality has grown even as the economy has expanded, he outlined some of the major public policies that have created the American middle class. These include: the revocation, by President Andrew Jackson, of General Tecumseh Sherman's post-Civil War promise to freed slaves of "forty acres and a mule"; the late-19th-century establishment of land grant colleges and universities that provided free agricultural and industrial education, which overwhelmingly benefited white Americans; the creation in the 1930s of federally guaranteed home mortgages and the exclusion, through the policy of redlining, of minority communities from these programs' benefits; and the establishment after WWII of the GI Bill, meant to provide returning veterans with educational funds, which resulted in far more support for white veterans than for African American veterans. "These things, together, created the modern middle class in America," he said. "But African Americans were, for the most part, left out."

Morial called for addressing inequity with intentionality and inclusivity, offering the National Urban League's Main Street Marshall Plan as a model. Proposed in the aftermath of the Great Recession, the plan calls for federal investments of about \$2 trillion over ten years into infrastructure (defined broadly to include transportation systems, schools, libraries, water systems, community centers, health facilities, and more); additionally, it calls for training construction workers and for awarding 25 percent of ensuing contracts to women- and minority-owned businesses.

Morial also described the country's housing situation as "absolutely distressing." Noting that rents are rising much faster than income, and that overall rates of homeownership are falling, he added that the homeownership rate among African Americans has fallen to a level not seen since 1968, the year President Lyndon Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act (FHA) to ban discrimination in housing. Referring to contemporary politicians, Morial said "the silence on a national housing plan is deafening."

Morial explained that public policy can and must play a role in turning the corner on these issues. Thanks in part to President Johnson's War on Poverty, the poverty rate of all Americans was cut in half between 1963 and 1976. He noted the effectiveness of these expansive public programs and policies in building modern middle-class American wealth and called for similar intentional investment in communities of color today. "Public policy played a role in creating what we have today," said Morial. "Therefore public policy has to be one of the important drivers moving us into a new direction."

Find a video of the event on the Penn IUR website.



Penn IUR Advisory Board Member Marc Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League, addresses guests in attendance at his lecture "Community Wealth Building: The Way Forward."



# The City in the Twenty-First Century

Published by the University of Pennsylvania Press and edited by Eugénie Birch and Susan Wachter, *The City in the 21st Century* is an interdisciplinary series of books addressing both topical and long-range issues confronting the world's cities, from disaster response to cultural coexistence, from civic engagement to urban revitalization.

Recent titles include *Iconic Planned Communities and the Challenge of Change*, edited by Mary Corbin Sies, Isabelle Gournay, and Robert Freestone, winner of the International Planning History Society's 2020 Book Prize for Best Planning History, Edited Work.

Visit [www.upenn.edu/pennpress/series/C21.html](http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/series/C21.html) for a full list of books in the series.



## ICONIC PLANNED COMMUNITIES AND THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

EDITED BY MARY CORBIN SIES, ISABELLE GOURNAY, AND ROBERT FREESTONE



### RESEARCH

# Penn IUR Studies Urban Regeneration in U.S., South Korea

Penn IUR concluded the second year of a study of urban regeneration practices in South Korea and the United States with a presentation to the Korean Housing and Urban Guarantee Corporation (HUG), a national public company, in September. The research was produced as part of a partnership with HUG and the Wilson Center, a nonpartisan policy think tank headquartered in Washington, D.C., and is expected to continue for a third year.

The partnership was established to compare South Korean and U.S. practices for implementing urban regeneration projects and examining various models for public-private partnerships to revitalize struggling older neighborhoods and former industrial centers. U.S. and Korean researchers developed case studies in both South Korea and the United States to investigate and compare how public agencies, private developers, civic organizations, and other actors form and fund partnerships that lead to successful projects and community investments.

Penn IUR's 2020 case study of Atlantic Yards (now called Pacific Park) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, detailed the challenges of an ambitious public-private partnership with the State of New York. This 22-acre "megaproject" is the redevelopment of a mixed-use site adjacent to one of the city's biggest multimodal transit hubs, Atlantic Terminal. By the end of the 20th century, the site had been part of the Atlantic Terminal Urban Renewal Area for decades; largely due to the site's open railyards, developers had shown little interest in the site. To make platforming over the railyards feasible, the developer partnered with New York State Empire Development Corporation to combine the site with adjacent land parcels. The use of eminent domain to assemble those sites engendered years of community opposition and legal challenges, which delayed the project through the economic downturn of 2008. Developers had to adapt to reduced housing demands and depressed financial markets. The first project—Barclay's

Center, a 19,000-seat arena—was finally completed in 2012. By 2019, only six of the fifteen proposed residential towers had been built. Developers are expected to meet their state-mandated affordable housing requirements by 2025 and complete the market-rate housing (including railyard platforms) by 2035.

In 2019, the partnership's first year, Penn IUR researchers presented two case studies on the value of business improvement districts (BIDs) in Philadelphia. The studies detailed how two public space projects—Dilworth Plaza in the central business district and The Porch, adjacent to 30th Street Station and I-76 in West Philadelphia—created amenities that attracted local workers and residents, spurred private investment, and increased surrounding land values. In both cases, the BID's strong relationships with local government, community groups, and private landowners made the projects successful.

## CONVENING

# COVID-19: Global Economic Body Blow

On April 13, 2020, Mark Zandi, Chief Economist, Moody's Analytics, gave a presentation on the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the most likely scenario for urban areas and real estate markets, and risks to the global economy. The presentation ended with student questions and discussion.

Describing the pandemic as both a supply and demand shock, Zandi detailed the impact of shutdown measures on business activities, many of which rely on labor that can't be performed remotely. He discussed the effect reduced business activities have on unemployment insurance claims, likening the pandemic to a natural disaster on an unprecedented scale. Zandi noted that the widespread loss of income (due to furloughs and unemployment) would damage business prospects in the near and longer term. Based on current Moody's projections, he said, the unemployment rate would not likely return to its pre-pandemic level before 2024. Zandi noted that—in contrast to early unemployment figures—housing prices were not likely to be significantly impacted due to preexisting housing stock shortages, mortgage forbearance measures adopted as part of the CARES Act, and historically low interest rates. He noted additionally that the housing loans currently outstanding are significantly different in quality than those at the onset of the 2007 subprime mortgage crisis.

Zandi concluded by discussing potential scenarios for the global economy based on factors including vaccine development, monetary policy, fiscal policy, and sovereign debt trends. He said that the U.S. economy faces an additional risk in the form of municipal debt, which is likely to increase as local governments lose revenue due to the pandemic.

Watch a video of the event on the Penn IUR website.



Top: Penn IUR Fellow Mark Zandi, Chief Economist, Moody's Analytics, presenting his lecture "COVID-19: Global Economic Body Blow."

Bottom: Penn IUR Advisory Board Member Ari Shalam, who joined Zandi's lecture as a discussant.

## INSTRUCTION

## H+U+D Supports Inclusive, Diverse Urbanism

The Penn Humanities, Urbanism, and Design (H+U+D) Initiative, funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation, continues to bridge the divide between the humanities and design disciplines in the study of cities. Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch and Penn IUR Faculty Fellow David Brownlee, Frances Shapiro-Weitzenhoffer Professor, History of Art, Penn School of Arts and Sciences, have co-directed the initiative since its inception. Following Brownlee's retirement at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year, Andrea Goulet, Professor of French and Francophone Studies, Department of Romance Languages, Penn School of Arts and Sciences, will serve as H+U+D co-director.

A signature component of the initiative is the H+U+D colloquium, a group of 15 scholars from both design and humanities disciplines across the university who meet bi-weekly to share research, foster collaboration, and build relationships. The initiative also sponsors cross-disciplinary courses, awards research funding to students, and underwrites fellowships and public lectures. At the beginning of January 2020, five undergraduate and six graduate H+U+D student award recipients presented their research at the H+U+D colloquium. In February, H+U+D faculty members took a field trip to visit the exhibition "Structure & Purpose: The Legacy of Engineering at Keast & Hood" at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia. Bruce Laverty, the Gladys Brooks Curator of Architecture at the Athenaeum, gave the group a tour of the retrospective, which included an array of never-before-exhibited drawings, models, and

documents related to the engineering firm's collaborations with such renowned architects as Louis I. Kahn and Venturi, Scott Brown, and Associates.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the H+U+D colloquium's planned spring field trip to the Philadelphia Lazaretto, the first quarantine hospital in the United States, was postponed. H+U+D's undergraduate seminar, "The Making of Modern Paris," also cancelled a class field trip to Paris planned for spring break. Two other H+U+D-sponsored courses, "The Chinese Body and Spatial Consumption in Chinatown" and "Modern Architectural Theory-Urbanism," continued class sessions virtually for the last two months of the semester. The H+U+D colloquium also shifted to virtual meetings, with H+U+D faculty gathering for a final Zoom session at the beginning of May.

The H+U+D colloquium will continue in a virtual format in Fall 2020 when it welcomes 15 new faculty fellows from the humanities and design fields who will each be appointed for two-year terms. H+U+D will also welcome two new dissertation fellows, Rui Castro (PhD Candidate, School of Architecture, Weitzman School of Design) and Aaron Bartels-Swindells (PhD Candidate, School of English, School of Arts and Sciences), who will participate in the H+U+D colloquium and present their dissertation work at one of its sessions.

The Initiative is also delighted to welcome two Junior Fellows, scholars who have

recently completed their doctoral work at another institution, who will join the H+U+D colloquium for the 2020-21 year, participate in the academic life of their host departments at Penn, and teach an undergraduate seminar. Incoming Junior Fellow Syantani Chatterjee (PhD Anthropology, Columbia) specializes in questions of urban citizenship and belonging in India and will be hosted by the Department of Landscape Architecture during her fellowship year. Tyeshia Redden (PhD Design, Construction, and Planning, University of Florida) specializes in race studies and housing policy and will be hosted by the Department of Africana Studies. H+U+D has also selected two undergraduates to receive Mellon Undergraduate Research Fellowships and nine graduate students to receive H+U+D student research awards during the 2020-21 academic year.

H+U+D is a joint project with the Weitzman School and the School of Arts and Sciences, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to foster critical and integrative considerations of the relationship between the humanities and the design professions in the analysis and shaping of the built environment. Following the successful completion of the project's first five-year period, Mellon renewed the grant for a second five-year period beginning in 2018. Under the renewed grant, the Initiative takes "The Inclusive City: Past, Present, and Future" as its theme, focusing on issues of inclusivity and diversity. For more information on the Initiative and its programs visit [www.humanitiesurbanismdesign.com](http://www.humanitiesurbanismdesign.com).

## RESEARCH

## SDG Roundtable Convened

On April 20, 2020, Penn IUR and Penn Global hosted a virtual faculty roundtable to discuss how faculty are engaging with the UN Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) in their research and curriculums as well as gauging interest in growing a campus-wide SDG network (a forum for faculty doing work related to the SDGs to share and discuss their research). More than 20 faculty members attended the roundtable and a follow-up survey was sent out to a larger group of interested faculty who were unable to attend.

Roundtable highlights included a discussion of the many ways SDGs are currently addressed at Penn, such as active faculty participation in UN bodies like UNESCO and cross-listed courses on food security and urbanization framed around the SDGs. Conversations also emphasized the need to broaden student awareness of global agreements and their impacts; the value of the SDGs as a framework for increasing the "voice" and impact of faculty research; and the benefits of an inward-facing SDG network of events, symposia, and research collaborations

across schools. Suggestions to address these issues included a 90-second video series for student awareness, a campus-wide SDG assessment, regular communications (such as a newsletter), and increasing Penn's presence at UN bodies and events.

Penn IUR and Penn Global will continue to convene this group in the Fall term, with meetings expected to advance the ideas generated at the first meeting and to expand the network of interested faculty.



## PUBLICATION

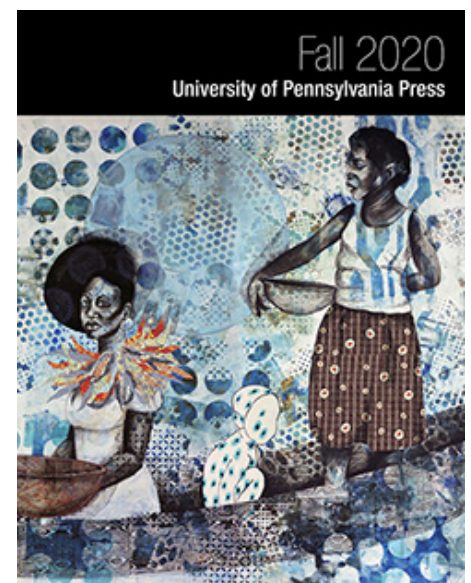
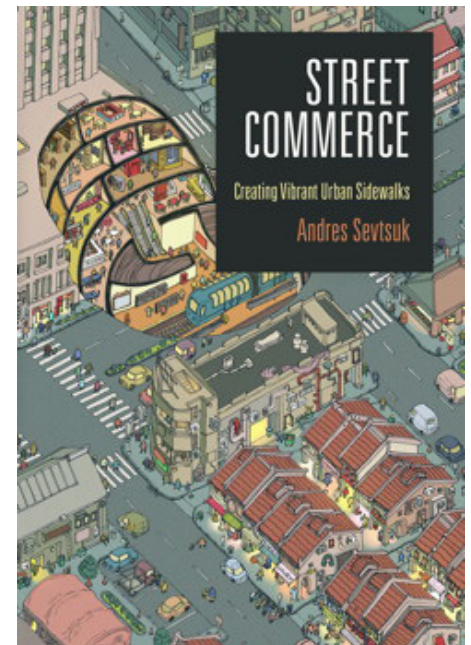
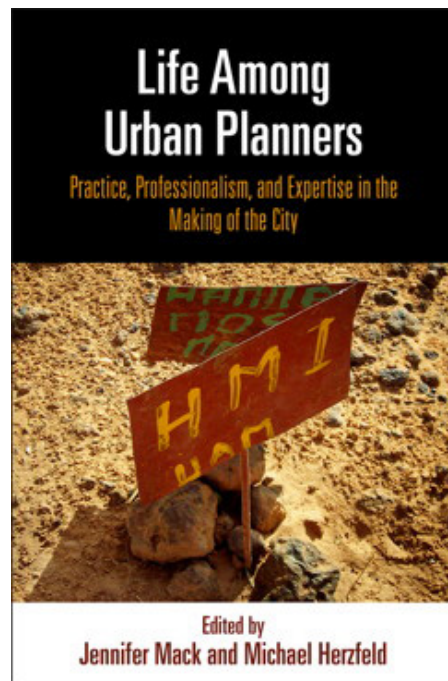
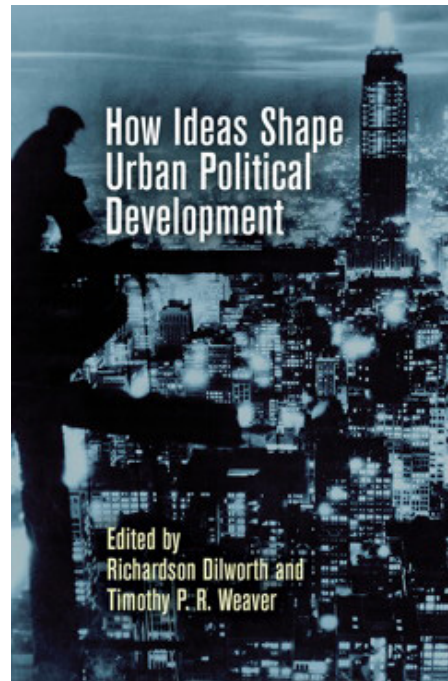
# The City in the 21st Century Series Releases Three New Volumes

Three new books in Penn IUR's series with Penn Press, *The City in the 21st Century*, were released in Spring 2020. *How Ideas Shape Urban Political Development*, edited by Richardson Dilworth and Timothy P. R. Weaver, argues in a series of essays that it is ideas—more than interests or institutions—that shape urban politics. *Street Commerce: Creating Vibrant Urban Sidewalks*, by Andres Sevtsuk, analyses issues involved in implementing successful street commerce. *Life Among Urban Planners: Practice, Professionalism, and Expertise in the Making of the City*, edited by Jennifer Mack and Michael Herzfeld, explores the practices and politics of professional city-making across a wide selection of geographical areas.

*How Ideas Shape Urban Political Development* is a collection of case studies from around the world that demonstrate the outsize impact ideas have on urban political development. The examples presented in the book argue that ideas—one of the three "I's" in the "three-I" political science framework that encompasses ideas, interests, and institutions—that hold the greatest sway in shaping urban politics. Case studies include examples from the United States; comparative studies of U.S. cities with cities in similar countries (Canada and the UK); and from cities in Chile, China, India, and Africa.

Sevtsuk, in *Street Commerce*, celebrates the vibrancy characteristic of thriving city streets and examines the forces that bring this bustle to life. Starting with a description of the spatial patterns that stores and amenities form within cities, he then describes the forces that animate these patterns: competitive and complementary, geographic and demographic, microeconomic and macroscopic, designed and fortuitous. Throughout, he offers illustrative examples of the spatial patterns of street commerce from cities around the world.

In *Life Among Urban Planners*, Mack and Herzfeld turn an anthropological lens on urban planners. Challenging the notions that planners merely carry out value-neutral processes or identify and implement "best practices," they instead consider the planning profession as a collection of cultural practices and norms, shaped by human history. This collection of ethnographic case studies includes examples from cities as diverse as Siem Reap, Cambodia; St. Louis, Missouri; and Bogotá, Colombia.



To see the University of Pennsylvania Press list for Fall 2020, which includes hardcover releases, first-time paperbacks, and ebook editions intended for scholars, students, and serious general readers worldwide, visit <https://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/current/index.html>

The City in the 21st Century series explores the depth and breadth of contemporary urban scholarship across a wide range of disciplines and represents a cross-section of research and

experience on cities across the developed and developing world. To view the full list of titles in the series and to purchase the books above, visit [www.upenn.edu/pennpress/series/C21.html](http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/series/C21.html).

## INSTRUCTION

## Instructional Activities Continue Online

Despite the coronavirus pandemic and consequent university shutdown, Penn IUR maintained its support of graduate and undergraduate students over the spring semester. By shifting to digital convenings and publications, Penn IUR continued to provide instructional activities so that urban scholars at all stages could continue to benefit from—and contribute to—urban scholarship at Penn.

Unable to hold the Penn Urban Doctoral Symposium typically scheduled for the end of the spring semester, the Institute celebrated the achievements and research contributions of graduating doctoral students whose dissertations are on urban-related topics in the May issue of *Urban Link*, the institute's monthly e-newsletter. Contributors, who came from a wide range of disciplines including applied economics, city and regional planning, criminology, nursing, and more, shared the key findings from their dissertations and identified novel policy recommendations for the urban community. Graduates included:

- Marta Bruce (School of Nursing), "The Contribution of Neighborhood Characteristics to Psychological Outcomes After Serious Injury in a Cohort of Black Men"
- Chandan Deuskar (Weitzman School of Design), "Planning and the Politics of Informal Urbanization"

- Xiaoxia Dong (Weitzman School of Design), "A Philadelphia Rideshare Story: An Investigation of Rideshare's Impact on Transit"

- Caitlin Gorback (The Wharton School), "Your Uber has Arrived: Ridesharing and the Redistribution of Economic Activity"

- Nora Gross (School of Arts and Sciences), "Brothers in Grief: The Stages of Grieving for a School and its Students Following Three Shooting Deaths of Black Teenage Boys"

- Ruth Moyer (School of Arts and Sciences), "Changes Within the Urban Environment and Their Effect on Crime and the Criminal Justice System"

- Hongyu Xiao (The Wharton School), "Commuting and Innovation: Are Closer Inventors More Productive?"

Penn IUR continued its support of masters students as well, working with the Master in Urban Spatial Analytics (MUSA) program, which offers a nine-month degree coupling spatial analysis skills with substantive knowledge in an urban content area of the student's choosing. The Summer Spatial Analysis Bootcamp—originally intended to be held in person—was reconceived as an online intensive. Held over two weeks in August, the bootcamp taught students introductory and intermediate vector and raster GIS in ArcGIS, and introductory spatial data analysis/visualization in the programming language R.

Similarly, Penn IUR transitioned its undergraduate programs to online instruction and engagement. The 2019-20 cohort of the Fellows in Urban Leadership program began the semester with a lunchtime discussion about urban space and architecture with Inga Saffron, architectural critic for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. In March 2020, Fellows gathered virtually to discuss emergency management and leadership with Martin O'Malley, former Governor of Maryland. In June 2020, Penn IUR's Advisory Committee selected participants for the 2020-21 Fellows cohort.

The Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium (UURC) program, which facilitates faculty- and doctoral student-mentored, undergraduate urban-focused research, also shifted to a remote learning model mid-semester. Participants in the 2019-20 cohort completed their joint research projects as planned; rather than presenting them in person, Penn IUR gave students the opportunity to publish their findings on a dedicated blog.

While the shift to remote instruction has required a quick pivot and new technologies, Penn IUR remains dedicated to the instructional activities that are central to its mission; all events and lectures are easily and widely accessible as Penn IUR Livestream programming. For more detail on the programs that comprise these activities, visit the Instruction section of the Penn IUR website.

## INSTRUCTION

## Susan Wachter Briefs House Committee on CRA

On January 23, 2020, Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter briefed the Committee on Financial Services for the U.S. House of Representatives on proposed changes to the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). Committee staff sought her input on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for changes to the CRA issued on January 9, 2020 by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in advance of OCC Comptroller Joseph Otting's testimony on January 29, 2020 before the full House committee convened by Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

"The CRA comes closest to reaching its potential when it takes into account the needs of each community," said Wachter. Wachter's statement is a continuation of her work on the modernization of the CRA, including two research symposiums held in Washington, D.C. (on February 1, 2019, convened by Penn IUR, the Federal Reserve Board and the Philadelphia Fed, and on October 29, 2019, convened by Penn IUR and the Wharton Public Policy Initiative); the publication in January 2020 of a special volume in *Housing Policy Debate* (Vol. 30,

No. 1), co-edited by Wachter and Lei Ding, Senior Economic Advisor for Community Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and co-published as a Penn IUR paper series; and a Penn IUR Policy Brief titled "Modernizing the CRA (While Preserving Its Spirit)," which summarizes the perspectives of experts who spoke at the October 29, 2019 event as well as of academics who contributed to the special edition of *Housing Policy Debate*.



# Cities and Contagion Photo Contest Winners

As part of its Cities and Contagion: Lessons from COVID-19 initiative, Penn IUR held a photo contest on the impact of the pandemic on cities around the world. Participants were asked to capture the ways that urban places have adapted in both planned and unexpected ways. The top ten images were sorted based on adherence to the theme and composition quality. Guest judges included Francesca Ammon, Associate Professor, Departments of City and Regional Planning and Historic Preservation, Weitzman School of Design; David Hartt, Carrafiell Assistant Professor in Fine Arts, Weitzman School of Design; Kimberly Noronha, PhD Candidate, Department of City and Regional Planning, Weitzman School of Design; and Anne Teitelman, Associate Professor Emerita, School of Nursing.

The winning photo, by Mohammad Rafayat Haque Khan (featured on page 1), shows a socially distanced Friday prayer at Hazrat Shahjalal Dorgah mosque in Sylhet, Bangladesh. The three runners-up and remaining finalists are below.

**Runner Up:** "The COVID Hero," by Mithail Afrige Chowdhury

*Description: A cleaner from Dhaka North City Corporation spraying disinfectant at the Farmgate street market.*

*Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh.*



**Runner Up:** "Thermal Checking at the Gates," by Debdatta Chakraborty

*Description: Thermal checking at the gates of government offices and institutions has become mandatory under the new normal situation.*

*Location: Bangladesh.*





**Runner Up:** "Boats in Quarantine," by Azim Khan Ronnie.

Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh.



**Finalist:** "Protester Defying the Plague of Racism" by Gabriel Ben-Jakov.

Location: City Hall, Philadelphia.



**Finalist:** "Stillness," by Michael Chambers.

Description: Barren and unaffected, the stripped basketball court portrays a seeming stillness that balances the discord and turbulence of the new normal.

Location: Schuylkill River Park, Philadelphia.





**Finalist:** "Burning PPE," by Hashinur Reza.

Description: The abundant PPE is being burnt to protect people from COVID transmission.

Location: Bangladesh.



**Finalist:** "COVID-19 Testing for Filipino Seafarers by Jophel Botero Ybioso.

Description: Medical personnel from the Philippine Coast Guard test seafarers onboard the Sapphire Princess amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Location: Manila, Philippines.



**Finalist:** "Silent Swings," by Lauren Bridges.

Location: Clark Park, West Philadelphia.



**Finalist:** "Silent Swings," by Lauren Bridges.

Location: Clark Park, West Philadelphia.

## INITIATIVE

# Initiative for State and Local Fiscal Stability Launched

Penn IUR launched the Initiative for State and Local Fiscal Stability to address the lack of knowledge and attention paid to state and municipal fiscal issues in academic, political, and media circles. Evolving out of a 12-part series of special briefings on the effects of COVID-19 on state and local finances hosted by the Volcker Alliance and Penn IUR, the initiative draws inspiration from Richard Ravitch, former Lieutenant Governor of New York State, who will serve as Chair, and William Glasgall,

the initiative's lead, who created the Truth and Integrity in Government Finance Initiative at the Volcker Alliance.

The new initiative was announced at the July 29, 2020 Livestream event, "The COVID-19 Crisis Economy: The Role of Federal Dollars to Address Unprecedented State and Local Needs," at which Penn IUR and the Volcker Alliance convened leading experts to inform improved federal-local

government coordination. As part of this initiative, Penn IUR and the Volcker Alliance will continue to convene local and national leaders and researchers in an ongoing webinar series and will undertake research into innovative and durable solutions for policymakers. To read more about the initiative and to watch Livestream programming and videos of past events, visit the Penn IUR website; read more about the July 29 webinar in the article below.

## CONVENING

## National and Local Leaders and Researchers Discuss the Role of Federal Dollars to Address Unprecedented State and Local Needs

On July 29, 2020, Penn IUR and the Volcker Alliance hosted a Livestream event on the federal role in helping U.S. states and municipalities cope with the massive economic and societal disruption brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. "The Role of Federal Dollars to Address Unprecedented State and Local Needs," which included two panels of experts, kicked off Penn IUR's Initiative for State and Local Fiscal Stability, described in the article above.

The two-and-a-half-hour webinar, which attracted over 300 participants, was moderated by Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter and William Glasgall, Penn IUR Fellow and Senior Vice President and Director of State and Local Initiatives at the Volcker Alliance. After introductory remarks by Richard Ravitch, former Lieutenant Governor of New York State, Wachter, Glasgall, and Thomas W. Ross, President of the Volcker Alliance, two panels of experts discussed state and local fiscal issues and the role of Congress in mitigating economic distress.

Nicholas Johnson, Senior Vice President for State Fiscal Policy, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, opened the first panel with a description of the dire situation in which states and localities find themselves: he noted that states alone are looking at a \$550 billion shortfall over three years and that the figure for all non-federal government budgets—states, municipalities, and other local entities—will exceed \$1 trillion over the same time period. The implications of this shortfall range from potentially devastating macroeconomic effects and loss of public services, to opportunities

to reform public finances in response to structural racism, high costs of housing, and more.

Steve Kriesberg, Special Assistant to the President, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, noted that with state and local governments unable to run budget deficits, only the federal government has the ability to mitigate the effects of revenue losses. Donald Boyd, Co-Director, Project on State and Local Government Finance, University at Albany, elaborated on how ill-suited state and local governments are to handle this situation, noting that they are responsible for funding critical, ongoing services—but must do that with a rollercoaster of revenue and the inability to run a deficit. "You would not design a system from scratch like this," said Boyd.

Michael Nutter, former Mayor, City of Philadelphia, described his experience leading the city during the Great Recession, saying that his priorities were to maintain public sector jobs and continue providing public services. "It is virtually impossible to cut your way out of a significant deficit—there are only so many things you can do before you will damage the fundamentals of operation," he said.

After a question-and-answer period, Thomas DiNapoli, Comptroller of New York State, opened the second panel. He said that New York State needs additional help from the federal government beyond reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses. He voiced his support for the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency

Solutions (HEROES) Act, which includes federal support for state and local governments (it passed the House but not the Senate).

"To keep the economy afloat, federal aid makes a lot of macroeconomic sense," agreed Fitzroy Lee, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Chief Economist, Washington, D.C., explaining that state and local governments are a big component of GDP and a big employer. The near-total shutdown of the District of Columbia's tourism and hospitality sector led to an especially big hit on revenue, as that sector generates about half of the district's sales tax revenue.

Marcia Howard, Executive Director, Federal Funds Information for States, discussed federal relief packages that had already passed—noting in particular the importance of increases in Medicaid reimbursement rates (she said that the Kaiser Family Foundation estimated the value of this as about \$36 billion through the end of the calendar year) and the CARES Act—and potential future federal relief packages. Marcia Van Wagner, Vice President-Senior Credit Officer, State Ratings, Moody's Investors Service, pointed out that expanded unemployment benefits would be going away and, with them, any elevation in state revenues. Sounding a warning about austerity at the state level, she noted that a state austerity regime would result in additional burdens on lower levels of governments.

The webinar was widely covered in national and local media outlets. To watch a video of the event, visit the Penn IUR website.



## INITIATIVE

# City Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Financing Initiative

Penn IUR, with partners Perry World House and the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, launched the City Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Financing Initiative (C2IFI) in December 2019. An effort to connect cities' infrastructure projects with global climate financing mechanisms, C2IFI is a growing partnership between Penn and key actors like the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA), United Cities and Local Governments, Urban Climate Change Research Network, C40 Cities, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the World Economic Forum.

C2IFI's work in Spring 2020 included two pilot studies on green infrastructure financing as well as the development of a knowledge-sharing platform to facilitate project preparation for climate-resilient infrastructure projects with CCFLA. The C2IFI team of Penn researchers and graduate students investigated financing opportunities for early-stage infrastructure proposals in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador. The goals for each pilot were originally conceived in Fall 2019, before the pandemic; the C2IFI team worked with both locales to consider pandemic impacts on project planning and the potential to leverage new international recovery funding. The pilot studies, which are ongoing, are intended to help local governments find a path towards a "better normal" that can help local communities recover and respond to climate change.

The city of Freetown planned to prepare a cable car proposal as part of an ambitious citywide land use and economic development planning effort to improve real estate cadastral mapping, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, improve

mobility of low-income neighborhoods, and increase accessibility to the central business district. Once COVID-19 became a factor, the government focused on immediate emergency priorities like access to clean water for hand washing. However, ensuring the financial viability of infrastructure projects, like the cable car project, that can help revitalize the central business district continues to be critical to larger revitalization efforts.

The Galapagos Islands is a UNESCO biosphere preserve with a tourism-based island economy that relies on diesel fuel and old, undersized port facilities. The collapse in tourism due to the pandemic highlighted the value of increasing the Galapagos's self-sufficiency and turned the team's attention to strengthening a comprehensive set of recommendations to help support the greening of the energy grid and maritime transportation practices—not only to protect the biosphere but also to appeal to eco-tourists keen on low-impact travel.

In the summer of 2020, C2IFI partnered with CCFLA to create a knowledge-sharing platform, named the Green City Finance Directory. The directory serves as a resource for cities in their efforts to scale up their development of green and resilient infrastructure. Launched in August, the platform helps subnational governments and stakeholders identify early-stage financial and technical assistance for developing green and resilient infrastructure, such as green forms of transportation, zero- or low-carbon buildings, and clean energy systems. With this assistance, these projects will be well-positioned to tap into global financing channels dedicated to helping countries reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and reach the goals of the Paris Agreement.

## Web Briefings Bring Urban Experts Together to Discuss Impact of COVID-19 on State and Local Finance

(CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

- The inaugural event took place on April 16, 2020. Wachter and Glasgall opened with a discussion of strategies cities and states were expected to employ and programs at risk of being cut. The event featured Thomas W. Ross, president of the Volcker Alliance, who introduced the virtual panel series; Richard A. Ravitch, former New York State Lieutenant Governor, who discussed strategies for dealing with fiscal stress; and Matt Fabian, partner and head of market and credit research at Municipal Market Analytics, who discussed borrowing needs of states and localities and the municipal bond market's response.

- "Stress-Testing State Budgets and the Critical Role of Rainy Day Funds," took place April 23, 2020 and focused on the economic and fiscal scenarios posed by the coronavirus pandemic for U.S. states and municipalities as well as how governments may choose to deploy fiscal reserves to help preserve essential services. This special briefing featured Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene, Special Project Consultants at the Volcker Alliance, Principals of Barrett & Greene Inc., and authors of *Rainy Day Fund Strategies: A Call to Action* (Volcker Alliance, 2019); Scott Pattison, former Executive Director of the National Governors Association and former Executive Director of the National

Association of State Budget Officers; and Dan White, Director of Government Consulting and Fiscal Policy Research at Moody's Analytics and author of the annual *Stress-Testing States* reports.

- "Fiscal Outlook for U.S. Cities: Strategies for Survival and Recovery," took place April 30, 2020 and focused on which cities may be most vulnerable to budgetary shocks resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the strategies they may employ to see them through the crisis and eventual recovery. This special briefing featured Shirley Clarke Franklin, former Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia; Mary Murphy, Project Director for

Fiscal and Economic Policy, State Fiscal Health, The Pew Charitable Trusts; and Michael A. Pagano, Dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Director of the Government Finance Research Center.

- “Federal Dollars, State and Local Needs,” took place May 7, 2020 and focused on how states and localities may access the aid and credit provided by the recent CARES Act and the Federal Reserve’s Municipal Lending Facility (MLF), as well as what more may be needed to help keep budgets in balance, preserve essential public services, and prevent critical infrastructure from deteriorating. This special briefing featured Bill Haslam, former Governor of Tennessee and former Mayor of Knoxville; Robert P. Inman, Richard K. Mellon Professor Emeritus and Professor of Finance, Economics, and Public Policy, The Wharton School; Stephen Klein, Chief Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office, Vermont Legislature; and Joe Torsella, Treasurer for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- “COVID-19 and the Federal Reserve Municipal Liquidity Facility,” took place May 14, 2020 and focused on the latest developments in the Federal MLF and how states, counties, cities, and public agencies may be able to access MLF credit to help offset revenue shortfalls. This special briefing featured Patrick Brett, Managing Director, Municipal Debt Capital Markets and Capital Solutions, Citi; Emily Swenson Brock, Director, Federal Liaison Center, Government Finance Officers Association; and Peter Hayes, Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer, Municipal Bonds Group, BlackRock.

- “COVID-19 and Future of U.S. Aid to States, Counties, and Cities after the CARES Act,” took place May 21 and focused on the shape of future federal aid to states, counties, and cities following passage of the CARES Act. Discussion centered on the following question: After addressing trillions of dollars in pandemic-related expenditures, will Congress now help state and local governments replace hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue lost by the nationwide economic shutdown triggered by the pandemic? This special briefing featured Earl Blumenauer, U.S. Congressman, Oregon, and Member, House Ways and Means Committee, and William A. Galston, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution Governance Studies Program, and columnist, Wall Street Journal.

- “COVID-19 and the Funding of Essential Services,” took place May 28, 2020 and focused on the revenue collapse facing state and local governments resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent shutdown measures, as well as the strategies that leaders of impacted governments may explore to generate additional funds by improving management of their physical assets. This special briefing featured Michael A. Nutter, former Mayor, City of Philadelphia; Eric Berman, former Deputy Comptroller, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Partner, Edie Bailly, LLC; and Michael Imber, former Commissioner, Connecticut Pension Sustainability Commission, and Managing Director, Conway MacKenzie, Inc.

- “COVID-19 and the Outlook for Cities as State Economies Reopen,” took place June 4, 2020 and focused on the challenges and opportunities facing U.S. cities—and especially midsized ones—as states begin reopening their economies following the nationwide shutdown brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. This special briefing featured Bruce J. Katz, Distinguished Fellow, Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation at Drexel University, and Director, Nowak Metro Finance Lab; Stephanie Miner, former Mayor, Syracuse, New York, and Director, Volcker Alliance; and Kim Norton, Mayor, Rochester, Minnesota, and former Member, Minnesota House of Representatives.

- “COVID-19, the U.S. Economy, and Critical Needs of States and Municipalities,” took place June 11 and focused on the outlook for the U.S. economy and states and localities as they reopen amid demonstrations and civil unrest and as the Senate considers further federal aid following passage of the CARES Act. This special briefing featured Austan D. Goolsbee, Robert P. Gwinn Professor of Economics, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago; Dan Smith, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Administration and Director, Master of Public Administration Program, University of Delaware; Juliette Tennert, Chief Economist, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, University of Utah; and Mark M. Zandi, Chief Economist, Moody’s Analytics. Watch a video of the event here.

- “COVID-19, State and Local Fiscal Stress, and the Politics of Federal Aid,” took place June 18, 2020 and focused on the politics, probability, and possible shape of additional federal emergency aid to states and municipalities following passage of the CARES Act. Panelists

also examined the likelihood of state and local fiscal distress and how it could be addressed, especially if Congress were to delay or reject further funding. It featured Norman J. Ornstein, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute; Robin Prunty, Managing Director and Head of Analytics and Research, S&P Global Ratings—U.S. Public Finance; Richard A. Ravitch, former New York State Lieutenant Governor; and Frank H. Shafroth, Director, Center for State and Local Government Leadership, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University.

- “COVID-19, Unemployment, and State and Local Fiscal Consequences,” took place June 25, 2020 and focused on the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on unemployment, the deterioration of the finances and credit outlooks of states and localities, and the role of further federal assistance and loans to governments, companies, and individuals. This special briefing featured presentations by Timothy J. Bartik, senior economist, Upjohn Institute for Employment Research; Marcia Van Wagner, Vice President-Senior Credit Officer, Public Finance Group, States Team, Moody’s Investor Service; and Matt Fabian, Partner, Municipal Market Analytics.

- “How Cities and Counties are Coping with COVID-19’s Fiscal Shock,” took place July 16, 2020 and focused on the strategies that U.S. cities and counties are employing as they begin fiscal year 2021 amid the fiscal shock resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The expert panel examined steps that public officials are deploying for the recession and eventual recovery as well as their need for further federal aid. This special briefing featured presentations by Elizabeth Kellar, Senior Fellow, Center for State and Local Government Excellence and Director of Public Policy, International City/County Management Association; Chuck Reed, Former Mayor, San Jose, California and Special Counsel, Hopkins & Carley; and Natalie Cohen, President and Founder, National Municipal Research.

This series led to the development of a new initiative—the Initiative for State and Local Fiscal Stability—as well as additional Livestream events beginning with a July 29, 2020 webinar on the role of federal support for states and localities, hosted in partnership with the Volcker Alliance. Read about the new initiative and the webinar at which it was launched in articles on page 19.



# Faculty Spotlight: Mary Frances Berry

(CONTINUED FROM P. 3)

occurred during a pandemic and a time of economic dislocation. Many people are working from home, some are unemployed, and students are not in school. There's a force of people available to sustain the protests.

Also, protestors have tried to be very systematic about staying on message. A successful protest needs two things: persistence and a message that is simple. The recent activity around federal force being involved in suppressing protests has, in a sense, distracted from the central message.

I think protests are going to have to go on for a much longer period. The "defund the police" message—which really means shift money from the police to social services and redefine the role of the police—remains controversial. In order to achieve positive results, it's going to take much more time.

One difference from earlier protests is social media. It's easier now to organize and inform people—in the old days we had mimeograph machines and phone calls and written letters. Of course, social media also makes surveillance of protesters easier, so it's a two-edged sword.

There's also the issue of the November election. A lot of political people are trying to push the protesters to stop protesting and work only on the election. That would be a mistake. We've had elections before and they have not upended white supremacy or improved civil rights enforcement. There's no reason to believe that this election will be any different.

Andrew Young, who was with Martin Luther King and was a UN Ambassador and a businessman, used to say about the civil rights protests in the '60s: "Business people and politicians always wanted to get us out of the streets and into the suites, so we could sit down and talk, and stop being trouble." What John Lewis called "good trouble."

So while we have to vote—voting is important—it is as true now as it has ever been that protest is an essential ingredient of politics.

**OBSERVERS POINT TO EVIDENCE THAT INEQUALITY HAS GROWN IN CITIES IN THE LAST SEVERAL DECADES (EVEN WHILE URBAN PROSPERITY HAS INCREASED OVERALL) AND THAT COVID-19 IS LIKELY TO WORSEN THESE RACIAL AND ECONOMIC DIVIDES IN CITIES. DO YOU AGREE? HOW DO YOU THINK THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WILL AFFECT INEQUITIES IN CITIES?**

Covid-19 has already increased economic inequity and racial inequity. Not only in cities, but in rural areas too: wherever the poor are in large numbers.

Cities have become gentrified. Gentrification has brought resources, but those resources haven't been distributed equally. Many people have been pushed out of the cities—and even after being forced out, many still can't find affordable housing. Homelessness has become a national crime, and it has been worsened by the virus.

The educational divide has also been made worse by Covid-19. Not finding a way to open schools—outdoors or distanced or something—is having the effect of leaving behind the most disadvantaged. Private schools, especially those that are well-endowed, are opening, so the children who go to them will be even further ahead than they were before. And employment, of course, is a disaster. All these things make the idea of reducing inequity laughable; increasing inequity will be more likely.

**A RECENT WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE (LENDERS OPPOSE FEDERAL EFFORT TO WEAKEN HOUSING-DISCRIMINATION RULE, JULY 13, 2020) REPORTED WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION AMONG LENDERS TO THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO WEAKEN AN OBAMA-ERA REGULATION AIMED AT COMBATING DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS OPPOSITION?**

This story about the Trump Administration weakening this housing regulation that was intended to increase housing integration had legs for a while—it was one of a million stories that showed the faults in the things that Trump does.

But the story to me was ironic, because anyone who lives in a major city sees that housing segregation is a reality. It's always been a reality: it was a reality the day Obama went into office, and it was reality the day he left, and it is still a reality. The regulation to improve housing integration had minimal, if any, effect. Housing segregation, neighborhood segregation, the lack of affordable housing, and the resistance to building it—these are as much of a problem now as when the regulation was put in place.

You could say that the regulation was symbolic, and it was nice to have. But anybody who lives in any neighborhood in any city should know that housing segregation is persistent.

**HOW DO YOU THINK CURRENT CIVIL UNREST AND CALLS FOR EQUITY WILL AFFECT CITIES? DO YOU THINK THIS MOMENT COULD LEAD TO MORE EQUITABLE CITIES?**

I think that the movement has already created a lot of symbolic change, with "Black Lives Matter" written on the streets and posted in store windows, and businesses and institutions vowing to redouble their efforts to do something about racism and inequality. The challenge will be to maintain that momentum and to create actual—not just symbolic—change. That will require continuous protests and holding people accountable.

**WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE FOR RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTION IN INFORMING EFFORTS TO MAKE CITIES MORE EQUITABLE?**

Researchers should disaggregate data when doing work on diversity and inclusion. Too often, data on underserved people and minorities is aggregated. For instance, some people report data on African Americans without disaggregating the data so that we can see people from the Caribbean, people from Africa, slave-descended African Americans, people of different income levels, and so on.

When looking at the effects of Covid-19, for example, you might say "Blacks and Latinos have the highest rate of infection"—but if you don't say which groups within those communities you're talking about, you can't tell who is doing okay and who is not. In order to provide applicable remedies, we need more careful analysis. We can't do that if we don't have good data.

**WHAT ROLE DO YOU THINK PENN IUR, AS A CROSS-UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE, CAN PLAY IN HELPING TO CREATE MORE EQUITABLE CITIES AND A MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY?**

I hope that the Institute will take up the cry about information and data and begin to focus on producing studies that analyze groups of people by detecting different circumstances and locations. Like, who are the homeless? And who has affordable housing and who doesn't? Why? We all need to take leadership in being more careful about analysis. That will result in better recommendations.

# Penn IUR Launches Cities and Contagion Initiative

(CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow David Barnes, Associate Professor, History and Sociology of Science, Penn School of Arts and Sciences;
- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Mary Frances Berry, Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought, Professor of History and Africana Studies, Penn School of Arts and Sciences;
- Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch, Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research, Department of City and Regional Planning, Stuart Weitzman School of Design, and Chair, Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning;
- Craig R. Carnaroli, Executive Vice President, University of Pennsylvania;
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- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Sonja Dümpelmann, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, Stuart Weitzman School of Design;
- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Jessie Handbury, Assistant Professor of Real Estate, The Wharton School;
- Penn IUR Scholar Carolyn Kousky, Executive Director, Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center;
- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Afaf I. Meleis, Dean Emerita and Professor of Nursing and Sociology;
- Penn IUR Fellow James Kwame Mensah, Chief Resilience Officer, Accra Municipal Assembly, Ghana, and Lecturer, Department of Public Administration and Health Services Management, University of Ghana Business School;
- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Laura Perna, GSE Centennial Presidential Professor of Education and Chair, Higher Education Division, Penn Graduate School of Education; Executive Director, Penn Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy (AHEAD);
- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Jennifer Pinto-Martin, Executive Director, Penn Center for Public Health Initiative; Viola MacInnes/ Independence Professor, Penn School of Nursing; and Professor of Epidemiology, Perelman School of Medicine;

- Mauricio Rodas, Former Mayor of Quito and Visiting Scholar at the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy (KCEP), Perry World House (PWH), and Penn IUR;

- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Harvey Rubin, Professor of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine;

- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Megan Ryerson, UPS Chair of Transportation, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, and Associate Dean for Research, Stuart Weitzman School of Design;

- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow David Skeel, S. Samuel Arsht Professor of Corporate Law, Penn Law; member of the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico;

- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Eugenia (Gina) South, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine;

- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Frederick (Fritz) Steiner, Dean and Paley Professor, Stuart Weitzman School of Design; Co-Executive Director, Ian L. McHarg Center for Urbanism and Ecology;

- Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Richard Voith, President and Principal of Econsult Solutions, Inc.;

- Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter;

- Penn IUR Fellow Mark Zandi, Chief Economist, Moody's Analytics.

## ONLINE RESOURCE LIBRARY

In May 2020, Penn IUR launched the Cities and COVID-19 Resource Library, an evolving online compendium of data, research, and resources for scholars and practitioners seeking to make sense of and respond to the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic creates for cities. "The onslaught of information on coronavirus and its impact on cities can be overwhelming. This resource library brings together resources and presents them in a way that's easy to navigate," said Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch.

Targeted to urban practitioners and researchers, the resource library includes a list of links to databases related to coronavirus and cities. As noted by Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter, "We want to help people access and make sense of the information out there, so that they can make the decisions and do the analysis needed to make progress on the ground."

It compiles COVID-19 resources from other organizations and institutions focusing on the management and study of cities, and features a collection of external research publications, webinars and podcasts, and opinion pieces organized by topic (governance and finance, economy and real estate, vulnerable populations, infrastructure and services, and planning and design). Additionally, the resource library features events and resources produced by

Penn IUR and links to Penn IUR affiliates in the news.

Penn IUR developed this curated collection of resources with input from its affiliates, and updates the library weekly. As it was designed to serve a rapidly changing situation, its organization continues to evolve over time. The library can be accessed on the Penn IUR website.

## CONVENINGS

Penn IUR initiated two online event series related to the coronavirus pandemic in the spring and summer of 2020: one on the pandemic's effects on state and local finance and another on the possibilities for promoting equity in recovery.

Penn IUR, in partnership with the Volcker Alliance, launched the first series in April 2020, as soon as it became clear that the pandemic's economic repercussions threatened to undermine the fiscal stability of state and local governments. Each of the 12 events in the series attracted hundreds of participants and received widespread press coverage; more information about the topics and participants can be found in the article on page 1, and videos of all the briefings can be found on the event series page on the Penn IUR website.

This series evolved into the Initiative for State and Local Fiscal Stability, an effort to address the lack of knowledge and attention paid to state and municipal fiscal issues in academic, political, and media circles. Launched at the July 29, 2020, Livestream event, "The COVID-19 Crisis Economy: The Role of Federal Dollars to Address Unprecedented State and Local Needs," this initiative encompasses an ongoing series of expert convenings and research into innovative and durable solutions for policymakers. Read more about the July 29 event and the initiative in the articles on page 19.

In July, Penn IUR, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and the Upjohn Institute, launched a webinar series entitled "Research for Equity in Recovery." This three-part series brought together researchers and policymakers to discuss work toward an economic recovery characterized by shared prosperity; read the article on page 3 for details and visit the event series page on the Penn IUR website for videos of each session.

## RESEARCH

In the spring and summer of 2020, the Cities and Contagion Initiative laid the foundation for research projects to be undertaken in the 2020-2021 academic year. The first of these is the Recovering Cities project, in which Penn IUR will monitor key urban indicators marking the post-COVID-19 recovery in selected cities in partnership with research institutes throughout the nation. Penn IUR will focus on New York City and Philadelphia and the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development at Georgia Tech will track Atlanta.



# About Penn IUR

## THE PENN INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH

is dedicated to advancing cross-disciplinary urban-focused research, instruction, and civic engagement on issues relevant to cities around the world. As the global population becomes increasingly urban, understanding cities is vital to informed decision-making and public policy at the local, national, and international levels. Penn IUR has a strong focus on research that informs the sustainable and inclusive 21st-century city. By providing a forum for collaborative scholarship and instruction at Penn and beyond, Penn IUR stimulates research and engages with urban practitioners and policymakers to inform urban policy.

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