



Rebuilding Urban Places after Disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina

On February 2-3, 2006, the Penn Institute for Urban Research hosted a National Impact Conference entitled *Rebuilding Urban Places after Disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina*. The conference brought together scholars and professionals to discuss issues of rebuilding after disaster occurs, with specific focus on the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Marc Morial, former Mayor of New Orleans, was featured at the opening address.

The conference featured several plenary sessions on the impact of Katrina, and was attended by a diverse set of students and members of the community. In Thursday's session, entitled *Penn on the Front Lines*, faculty, staff, alumni, and students of the university shared their experiences working in New Orleans after the storm. Friday's session featured a series of panel discussions on issues such as making places less vulnerable, responding to the needs of the displaced, and recreating a sense of place. The conference inspired controversial dialogue among scholars and experts, as some believed that New Orleans remains highly vulnerable and ultimately untenable, and others advocated for the reconception of settlement design as a solution to the problem. With more than 200 attendees from the public and the university, the conference was a great success. The session ended with a display of the arts and culture of New Orleans, featuring creole pianist and R&B singer, Eddie Bo and creole plasterer, Earl Barthe.

A publication featuring scholarly essays from conference contributors will be available in September. For more information on this conference or the forthcoming publication, email penniur@pobox.upenn.edu.



Annual Urban Leadership Forum: Leadership in the Face of Disaster

Penn IUR held its Annual Urban Leadership Luncheon April 26, 2006. Entitled *Leadership in the Face of Disaster*, this year's luncheon featured Mayor Brent Warr of Gulfport, Mississippi; James Lee Witt, former Director of FEMA; and Loree D. Jones, Secretary of External Affairs for the City of Philadelphia. These leaders discussed their roles in responding to and preparing for disasters.

The newly-elected Mayor Brent Warr recounted his trying experiences after Hurricane Katrina devastated his city last fall. Mr. Witt discussed the current state of FEMA and its role as a subsidiary of the Department of Homeland Security. Ms. Jones spoke about Philadelphia's Project Brotherly Love, through which aid was provided for victims of the hurricanes. She also discussed the issue of disaster preparedness in the city.



Each year, Penn IUR presents its Leadership Award to honor those who display outstanding leadership in urban affairs. At the end of the session, Mayor Brent Warr and James Lee Witt were presented with the 2006 IUR Annual Leadership Award for their demonstrated leadership in the face of disaster. The 2005 Annual Leadership Award was awarded to Police Chief John Timoney, of the Miami Police Department, Manuel Diaz, Mayor of Miami, and Marc Morial, former Mayor of New Orleans and president of the National Urban League.

Penn IUR Urban Events

Public Interest Lectures

As part of the Penn IUR Public Interest Symposia Series, Penn IUR hosted three public interest events this spring, featuring noted scholars from around the nation. The purpose of the series is to bring the university community together with public officials and local professionals to discuss timely urban issues.

- * March 15. World renowned economist Saskia Sassen (University of Chicago; London School of Economics) gave a lecture entitled "The Growing Importance of Cities in Today's Global Economy." Dr. Sassen led a thought-provoking discussion on the role of today's cities in globalization and how a city's history can affect its position in the global economy.
- * March 29. Penn IUR hosted nationally recognized civil rights lawyer, David Kairys (Temple Law School). Professor Kairys' lecture, "Race and the Supreme Court," combined legal analysis with historical and sociological insight to critically consider issues of race in various Supreme Court rulings.
- * April 13. Penn IUR's final public interest lecture of the semester featured Robert Yaro, president of Regional Plan Association, and Robert Lang, Director of the Metropolitan Institute at the University of Virginia. This lecture, entitled "The New Metropolis: Rethinking Megalopolis," focused on the redefinition of metropolitan boundaries.

For information on upcoming public interest events, visit the Penn IUR website, www.upenn.edu/penniur.

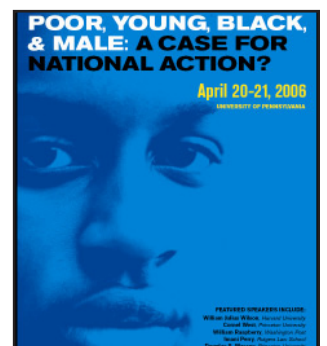
National Impact Conferences



Penn IUR supported two National Impact Conferences that were the focus of much attention in the month of April. Confronting timely issues of national concern, these conferences promise to have a lasting impact in their respective subject areas.

On April 21, Penn IUR and the Princeton Policy Research Institute for the Region (PRIOR) hosted *New Downtowns: A Conference on the Future of Urban Centers*. The conference featured sessions focusing on the changing economics of downtowns; the politics of new downtowns; and what influence these factors have, or should have, on the design of downtowns. Featured speakers and panelists included Richard Voith, Senior Vice President of Econconsult Corporation, Paul Levy, President of the Philadelphia Center City District, and Thomas Wright, Jr., Executive Vice President of Regional Plan Association, among several others. For more information, visit <http://region.princeton.edu/index.html>

On April 20-21, Penn IUR partnered with Professor Elijah Anderson, and the Penn Sociology Department, to present a conference entitled *Poor, Young, Black, & Male: A Case for National Action?* The two-day conference hosted a group of about 500 registrants to hear more than 40 professionals, public figures, and prominent scholars of race, sociology, and history from around the country. Issues addressed included discrimination, inequality, job opportunity, random violence and available guns, education, the law, and policy implications. Among the featured speakers were Cornel West, Princeton University, Sylvester Johnson, Philadelphia Police Commissioner, William Julius Wilson, Harvard University, and Douglass Massey, Princeton University. More information about this event can be found on the Penn IUR website, www.upenn.edu/penniur.



Penn IUR Academics

UURC Outcomes

PennIUR's Undergraduate Urban Research Course (UURC) pairs faculty members conducting urban-focused scholarship with undergraduates that have an interest in developing research skills in a semester-long, credit-bearing seminar. This spring marked the completion of the second successful UURC class. The two years of the program have yielded some rather impressive outcomes.

Thomas Sugrue (faculty) and Andrew Goodman (student) conducted research on the 1960s race riots in Plainsfield, NJ as part of the Spring 2005 UURC program. Their research asked the question "why did these riots happen here?" They announced, this spring, that their paper was recently published in the *Journal of Urban History*.

Also, as part of the Spring 2005 UURC, Amy Hillier and Eric Schneider (faculty) along with Benjamin Berman (student) set out to recreate W.E.B. DuBois', *The Philadelphia Negro*, using GIS technology. Recently, Amy Hillier was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to continue her work on this project.

Finally, Diana Slaughter-Defoe (faculty) and Jay Ahlmer (student) conducted research to examine the feasibility of Philadelphia Freedom Schools. Their Spring 2005 research led to the opening of the Sayre Beacon Freedom School this June. This joint initiative of the Graduate School of Education and the Center for Community Partnerships provides summer instruction as well as safe and fun activities to West Philadelphia's young people.

The 2006 cohort of the UURC boasted an equally interesting group of projects. One team studied health promoting activities among urban-dwelling elderly Philadelphians, while another group focused on youth advocacy groups and political activity in the city. Penn IUR is eager to see what outcomes this year's research will yield.

Urban Doctoral Symposium

The 2006 Annual Urban Doctoral Symposium honored five outstanding PhD students. Held on May 12, the symposium gave the five doctoral candidates the opportunity to present their dissertations to faculty, family, friends, and the broader community. Hosted by Penn IUR, in collaboration with the Penn Urban Studies Program, the purpose of the Urban Doctoral Symposium is to celebrate the work of graduating PhD students with urban-focused dissertations, as well as to showcase the caliber of urban scholarship produced at Penn. The students honored this year were:

Gnana Bharathy, Systems Engineering, SEAS

Agent Based Human Behavior Modeling: A Knowledge Engineering Based Systems Methodology for Integrating of Social Science Frameworks for Modeling Agents with Cognition, Personality, and Culture

Victor Canalog, Business and Public Policy, Wharton

Business Improvement Districts: Crime Deterrence or Displacement?

Reagan Daly, Criminology, SAS

Delinquent Networks in Philadelphia: The Structure of Co-Offending Among Juveniles

Rosina Miller, Folklore and Folklife, SAS

Performing the Urban Village: Art, Place Making, and Cultural Politics in North Central Philadelphia

Hassan Radoine, Architecture, Design

An Encompassing Madina: Toward New Definition of City in Morocco



Faculty & Research News

Penn IUR Sponsors Two New Faculty Forums

Penn IUR provides financial support for Faculty Forums that seek to foster and support interdisciplinary research and collaboration among Penn faculty and graduate students. Faculty Forums, directed by two or more faculty members representing different disciplines and/or schools, foster dialogue, highlight Penn's intellectual strengths, and offer opportunities for innovative research.

New Faculty Forums

-Cities around the World: Networks, Form, Function.
Forum Leaders: Janice Madden, Richard Estes, Donald Kettl

-Refocusing the Interdisciplinary: Toward Elder-Friendly Urban Environments
Forum Leaders: Eileen Sullivan Marx, Joan Davitt, Dina Schlossberg, Harris Steinberg, Lucy Kerman

Ongoing Faculty Forums

-Immigration, Race, and Urban Inequality
Forum Leaders: Michael Katz, Kathleen Hall, Wendell Pritchett, Mark Stern

-Modeling Urban Environmental Impacts on Health, Development, and Behavior
Forum Leaders: Dennis Culhane, John Fantuzzo, Judith Fisher, Shiriki Kumanyika, Dana Tomlin, Stella Volpe

Faculty Spotlight: Professor Robert Giegengack



Robert Giegengack is Professor and Undergraduate Chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Science in the School of Arts and Sciences. His research focus is on the history and probable future of climate. He has also worked on site-specific problems of environmental geology and hydrology on every continent except Australia.

Professor Giegengack has recently co-authored two articles on the dynamics of the Mississippi River system and the extent to which long-term mismanagement of that system contributed to the disaster that Hurricane Katrina became. The first article, entitled "Planning for a City on the Brink," was featured in the 2006 publication, *On Risk and Disaster*. The second article, "Threats to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast from a Deteriorating Natural Environment," will be featured in the Penn IUR upcoming publication, *Rebuilding Urban Places after Disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina*. Professor Giegengack also recently completed a manuscript, with M.G. Wolman of Johns Hopkins, entitled *The Nile River: Geology, Hydrology, Hydraulic Society*. This work focuses on the geology and hydrology of the Nile River and how these factors affect the society in that region.

Robert Giegengack has been a very active associate of Penn IUR. He served as a panelist in the February conference, *Rebuilding Urban Places after Disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina*, and contributed a paper for the conference publication. This volume of conference proceedings will be available this September. Currently, Professor Giegengack is participating in the planning of the upcoming *Growing Greener Cities* Symposium, scheduled to take place this fall.

New at Penn IUR

New Partnership: The Next American City



One of the newest developments at Penn IUR is a partnership with a newly developed urban journalism organization, The Next American City. TNAC produces a quarterly magazine focused on exploring the transformation of America's cities and suburbs, and examining how and why the built environment, economy, society and culture are changing. Apart from the production of the magazine, TNAC also hosts events across the country promoting sustainable economic growth. Both IUR and TNAC look forward to a productive, and mutually beneficial partnership.

21st Century City Book Series

Blues for New Orleans: Mardi Gras and America's Creole Soul, the first title in the new Penn IUR book series, *The 21st Century City*, was released this spring. Written by Penn professor, Roger Abrahams, and former Penn professor Nick Spitzer, this book examines the rich culture of art, music, and folklore found in New Orleans.

Administered by Penn IUR and Penn Press, the *21st Century City* is a book series focused on issues of urbanism. The next title in the series, *Rebuilding Urban Places after Disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina*, will be released in September.



ScholarlyCommons at Penn

Administered by the Penn Library, ScholarlyCommons is a repository of scholarly output at Penn. Penn IUR has recently begun working with the library to include the work of IUR Faculty Associates in this repository. ScholarlyCommons allows researchers to disseminate, publicize and archive their work. The program also increases the visibility of Penn's academic research and scholarly activity. Benefits of this initiative to Faculty Associates include the preservation of digital versions of their work, the ability to send stable URL links to colleagues directing them to their work online, and the increased accessibility and visibility that their research will have. The ScholarlyCommons website can be found at <http://repository.upenn.edu/>.

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
August 30, 2006	Rescaling the City A workshop hosted by the American Political Science Association (APSA)
September 2006	UURC Fall Reception Reception to announce the Spring 2007 Undergraduate Urban Research Course
October 16-17, 2006	Growing Greener Cities A 2-day conference featuring Nobel Laureate Wangari Mathaai
October 24, 2006	Leadership Exchange: Philadelphia Part 1 of a 2-part conference hosted by IUR and Regional Plan Association
November 14, 2006	Leadership Exchange: New York City Part 2 of a 2-part conference hosted by IUR and Regional Plan Association

For information about upcoming events, visit our website at:
<http://www.upenn.edu/penniur>

About Penn IUR

The Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR) is a university-wide body that builds on Penn's record as an urban institution by advancing urban scholarship, developing methodological tools for urban research, and applying research to public policy. Penn IUR enhances the field of urban-focused knowledge through a commitment to cities on a local and global scale. The Institute is premised on the belief that place matters to understanding urban phenomena, recognizing that spatially-based approaches are essential to identifying urban challenges, strategies, and solutions. As a campus-wide institution, Penn IUR stimulates research, provides opportunities for collaborative instruction, and engages with the world of practitioners and policymakers.



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Design & Layout by Neil Desai
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