Opening Remarks

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy’s (IRRPP) tenth year of innovative research, engaged scholarship and community alliance. Our history actually goes back almost 20 years to the visionary and courageous leadership of scholars on campus and leaders from the community who challenged UIC to be accountable to the neighborhoods and constituencies for whom this university was founded as a land-grant institution. I am proud to be part of this long tradition of challenge and change and to have had the support of the UIC community around an incredible diversity of projects, programs, and scholars over the past decade. This newsletter will highlight this past year, which has been an excellent example of the kind of work we’ve accomplished in the ten years since our formal founding, and I hope you find that work and the legacy that it leans on as inspiring as I do.

We are excited to have been able to support a multitude of engaged research and innovative scholars including: Lisa Junkin (Hull House) who, with IRRPP support, curated a multi-site exhibit on the untold history of the former gang members turned social justice activists, the Conservative Vice Lords; the work of Pauline Lipman (Education, UIC) with the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization to build social science based policy toolkits for activists opposing Chicago Public School’s school closures and reforms, and Visiting Scholar Patricia Macías-Rojas (Sociology, Sarah Lawrence) whose innovative work on the intersections of criminology, immigration and race have led her to continue her research for her first book, Laws of Exclusion: Criminalizing Immigrants in the Post-Civil Rights Era, here at UIC. We hosted several major events, including a forum on Race and Disability featuring Alfredo Artiles (Arizona State University), Nirmala Erevelles (University of Alabama), and Federico Waitoller (UIC); and our annual Phillip J. Bowman Lecture on Race & Public Policy had Sylvia Puente (Executive Director, Latino Policy Forum) as its speaker.

IRRPP has convened discussions about critical events in our city and country; the murder of young people locally and across the country, the closing of over 50 Chicago Public Schools, the Hunger Strike at Guantanamo Bay. We have not only looked at the ways that structural and systemic racism influence public policy decisions, but we are also engaged with community groups to consider ways to mobilize communities and transform social institutions. We hosted “Forced-Out: A Conference on the Nexus between Incarceration and Deportation,” as well as “Hate Crimes in Chicago,” a research partnership between UIC researchers, the Chicago Police Department, and the Center on Halsted. We look forward to continuing that work this year with a new project on gender, immigration, and incarceration funded by the National Science Foundation. As we look towards the formal anniversary of the decades of work by UIC faculty, students, staff, and our community partners to highlight how public policy can enhance or encumber racial justice, we anticipate an exciting year ahead.

I encourage you to continue to read through the astounding successes of this past year in this newsletter, and to use this model of engaged scholarship in your own work in the year to come. For more than ten years IRRPP has been pushing boundaries, creating opportunities for dialogue, and questioning the unspoken but palpable roles played in our society by racism, sexism, homophobia, and abilism. We could not do that without our colleagues of activists, academics, and students whose passion makes IRRPP possible. Thank you all.

Beth E. Richie, Director

The Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

The Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) promotes and coordinates engaged research on racial and ethnic justice in the U.S.

At IRRPP we aim to increase society’s understanding of the root causes of racial and ethnic inequality and to provide the public, organizers, practitioners, and policymakers with research-based policy solutions. To do so, IRRPP funds research on race and ethnicity, trains scholars to participate in policy discussions, collaborates on social justice projects with community organizations, and holds events exploring the link between policy and racial and ethnic injustice.

ABOUT IRRPP

The Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

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DONATE

Like what we do? Make a donation to help support research and events. Donations can be made on our website or by contacting us directly.

WHAT IRRPP CAN DO FOR YOU

Faculty: We provide grants, time off, and training in grant application skills. We also publicize your research and sponsor research presentations.
Graduate Students: We host groups that develop intellectual community, such as Journal Club and the Policy, Ethnicity, and Race Group. We also provide writing support via WriteOut! and Write-on-Site.
UIC Units: We fund and publicize your events.
Community Organizations: We match you with related researchers, and co-sponsor your events.
Media Outlets: We connect you with policy experts.
Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

Recent Events

KATRINA SYMPOSIUM
This three-part symposium considered the relationship between neoliberalism, racism, and the political mobilization of people of color through an examination of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

The event included a lecture by Cedric Johnson (African American Studies, and Editor, The Neoliberal Deluge); a screening of Land of Opportunity, a documentary about recovery and development in post-Katrina New Orleans; and panels with authors John Arena (College of Staten Island) and Adrienne Dixon (UIC), and Chicago public housing activists Janet Smith (Director, Voorhees Center) and Luisa Dantas (Filmmaker, Land of Opportunity).

POLICY PRACTICUM
The 2012-2013 Practicum explored how medical care and scientific research reproduce and challenge notions of race and ethnicity. Speakers Khiara Bridges (Reproducing Race: Pregnancy as a Site of Racialization, Boston University) and Michael Montoya (Making the Mexican Diabetic, UC Irvine) discussed the legal tools used to police poor, pregnant women on public assistance, and the research processes through which scientists studying diabetes reproduce biological and social meanings of race. Bridges and Montoya also led the Policy Practicum Workshop, a review of the works-in-progress of junior UIC faculty members. This year’s workshop contributors were Courtney Bonam (Psychology), who researches the link between racial stereotyping and spatial location; and Lisa Sharpe (Medicine) who studies community health workers’ impact on minorities with diabetes.

NOT IN MY CLASSROOM: RACE AND DISABILITY
What does the unequal representation of students of color in special education tell us about how education addresses intersecting forms of differences?

Panelists Alfredo Artiles (Special Education, Arizona State University), Nirmala Erevelles (Social and Cultural Studies in Education, University of Alabama), and Federico R. Waitoller (Special Education, UIC) grappled with these questions, addressing discourses about difference and normality that affect institutional policies and practices.

FUERZA LATINA: SYLVIA PUENTE
IRRPP’s Annual Bowman Lecture was given by Sylvia Puente (Director, Latino Policy Forum), who revealed multiple paradoxes about Latinas, showing a widening gap between the wealthy and impoverished, healthy and unhealthy, and the educated and uneducated.

Illinois Latinos are succeeding and struggling at unprecedented levels. These are documented in a report which can be found at latinopolicyforum.org.

Publications / Exhibitions

RESPECT YOURSELF, PROTECT YOURSELF
In Respect Yourself, Protect Yourself, Lorena Garcia (Sociology, UIC) examines how Latina girls negotiate their emerging sexual identities and attempt to create positive sexual experiences for themselves. Through a focus on their sexual agency, Garcia demonstrates that Latina girls’ experiences with sexism, racism, homophobia and socioeconomic marginality inform how they understand gender and sexuality, particularly how they conceptualize and approach sexual safety and pleasure. At a time of controversy over the appropriate role of sex education in schools, this book provides a rare look and an important understanding of the sexual lives of a traditionally marginalized group. Garcia’s book won the 2012 American Sociological Association Distinguished Book Award.

LISA JUNKIN CO-CURATES EXHIBIT WITH GANG MEMBERS
In the late 1960s, gang members rose up in North Lawndale and fought for the life of their community. They called themselves Conservative Vice Lords Inc (CVL). With funding from major foundations they organized youth, protested unfair housing policies and working conditions, opened small businesses, and fought for peace and racial equality.

In 2012, Interim Director of the UIC Hull House, Lisa Junkin partnered with former CVL members to develop the community-curated exhibit Report to the Public. Funded in part by IRRPP’s Policy and Social Engagement Fellowship, this collaboration with CVL spokesman Bobby Gore and Benneth Lee created a multi-site project that explores the role of gangs in building communities.

ARRESTED JUSTICE
Black women in marginalized communities are uniquely at risk of battery, rape, sexual harassment, stalking, and incest. Through the compelling stories of Black women who have been affected by racism, persistent poverty, class inequality, limited access to support resources or institutions, IRRPP director Beth E. Richie shows that the threat of violence to Black women has never been more serious, as well as how conservative legal, social, political, and economic policies have impacted activism in the U.S.-based movement to end violence against women.

Richie argues that Black women face particular peril because race and culture have not figured centrally enough in the analysis of the causes and consequences of gender violence. As a result, the extent of physical, sexual and other forms of violence in the lives of Black women, the various forms it takes, and the contexts within which it occurs are minimized—at best—and frequently ignored.
60 YEARS OF MIGRATION: PUERTO RICANS IN CHICAGOLAND

In this report, Policy and Social Engagement fellow Ralph Cintron (Latino and Latin American Studies, UIC) examines the history and current socioeconomic state of the Puerto Rican diaspora in Chicago. The report provides the Puerto Rican Agenda with vital statistics and analysis to assist its stakeholders, including government officials, community-based agencies, and other institutions serving the Puerto Rican community. In addition to demographics, the report focuses on housing, economic development, education, health, women, youth, and culture.

Policy recommendations based on the report’s research findings fall into five categories: economic development, community-driven solutions, affordability, data collection and dissemination, and solidarity. Specific recommendations include:

- Establishing a place-based credit union to support community control of the economic future of Paseo and neighboring areas.
- Promoting Puerto Rican art and culture institutions by including them in the framework of Illinois and Chicago tourism planning.
- Establishing a task force to build a “Community of Justice” to address youth crime. Restorative justice is a framework in which victims, offenders, and the larger community engage in an intimate dialogue concerning the hurt associated with transgressions.
- Preserving long-term affordability of public institutions of higher learning.
- Improving the collection and dissemination of data by disaggregating information according to Latino origin.
- Allowing undocumented immigrants the right to a driver’s license.

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FOR EDUCATION JUSTICE (CEJE)

Chicago Public Schools’ education reforms have kicked into overdrive, ending most recently in the closing of 50 neighborhood public schools, a national record for school closings in a single year. The citywide resistance to these harmful policies has also intensified, and has included the Chicago Teachers Union strike, massive downtown protests, parent and community outrage at CPS school closing hearings, and countless community forums throughout the city.

These groups needed concise educational materials to support this resistance. Education professor Pauline Lipman collaborated with the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization (KOCO) to develop a policy brief, fact sheets, a course comparison table, and a power point presentation about the impact of CPS actions. Lipman and KOCO members developed these materials through a series of community forums and national policy meetings that were funded in part by IRRPP’s Policy and Social Engagement Fellowship.

HATE CRIMES + RACE, GENDER, AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Studies show that racially motivated hate crimes are reported more often than LGBT related hate crimes, which are underreported to the police but are reported more often to community-based organizations. This Policy and Social Engagement Fellowship project conducted by Alicia Matthews (Nursing, UIC) and Paul Schewe (Criminology, UIC) compared the LGBT related hate crimes reported to Chicago’s Police Department to those reported to the Center on Halsted. The emerging research shows that LGBT domestic violence is rising, that trans women are particularly vulnerable, and that more incidents would be classified as hate crimes if the public were better informed about the existence of LGBT hate crimes.
Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy
Autumn 2013

IRRPP’s Scholar-in-Residence program provides rich opportunities for Visiting Scholars to exchange ideas and develop relationships with UIC and Chicago scholars.

2011 - 2012
Visiting Scholar

Erica Meiners, PhD
Professor of Women’s Studies
Northeastern Illinois University

Innocent, Harmed, and Dead: Trouble with the Child in the Carceral State

BIOGRAPHY

Erica Meiners is a Professor of Education and Women’s and Gender Studies and a faculty affiliate in Latino and Latin American Studies at Northeastern Illinois University.

Professor Meiners is involved with a number of initiatives working for justice. She teaches at an alternative high school for men and women who have been incarcerated, St. Leonard’s Adult High School. In 2009, Meiners co-authored the first LGBTQ audit of teacher education programs in the U.S. Visibility Matters. She collaborated with seven other university professors from across the country to develop Women and Prison: A Site of Resistance and TAME: Teachers Against Militarized Education.

She is the author of Right to be Hostile: Schools, Prisons and the Making of Public Enemies (Routledge 2007), Public Acts: Disruptive Readings on Making Curriculum Public with Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco (Routledge 2004), and with Therese Quinn, Flaunt It! Queers Organizing for Public Education and Justice.

She also contributes articles to a range of publications including AREA Chicago, ReThinking Schools, International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education, Meridians, Upping the Anti, Monthly Review, Women’s Studies Quarterly, Social Justice Journal, and Academe.

2012 - 2013
Visiting Scholar

Patricia Macías-Rojas, PhD
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Sarah Lawrence College

Laws of Exclusion: Criminalizing Immigrants in the Post-Civil Rights Era

BIOGRAPHY

Professor Macías-Rojas is a member of the Sociology faculty at Sarah Lawrence College in New York. Her research interests are in the area of race, migration, and the law. She is currently writing her first book, Laws of Exclusion: Criminalizing Immigrants in the Post-Civil Rights Era.

The work investigates the convergence of immigration and criminal law within U.S.-Mexico border enforcement and traces this convergence to the rights revolution of the 1960s, when the formal recognition of rights for migrants led to a greater intersection between immigration and crime control.

Dr. Macías-Rojas is the recipient of grants and fellowships from the National Science Foundation, Ford Foundation, Andrew Mellon Program in Latin American Sociology, Social Science Research Council, and Center for Latino Policy Research at the University of California-Berkeley.

Prior to earning her doctorate in sociology at UC Berkeley, she was trained as a community organizer at the Center for Third World Organizing (CTWO) in Oakland, CA. She is a native of the Pilsen neighborhood on Chicago’s south side.

Innocent, Harmed, and Dead: Trouble with the Child in the Carceral State
Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy
Autumn 2013

2013 - 2014 Grant Recipients

Faculty Scholars

**Gregory Larnell, PhD, Curriculum and Instruction**
**UIC-REMATH: Investigating the Mathematic Learning Experiences of Students Enrolled in Remediation Courses at UIC**

Larnell’s in-depth study of ten African American undergraduate UIC students in remedial math courses will explore how a student’s experience in a remedial math class influences their mathematical identity, as well as their academic trajectory.

**Brenda Parker, PhD, Urban Planning & Public Policy**
**Life’s Work in Chicago: Gender, Race, Inequality & Household Provisioning**

Parker will compare the provisioning experiences of 40 – 50 Chicago households in four categories: eBay sellers, urban homesteaders (loosely defined as those who grow their own food), formerly incarcerated mothers, and undocumented immigrants. The research (also supported by UIC’s Great Cities Institute) is sensitive to race, ethnicity, gender, and income as well as feminism, neoliberalism, austerity, and urban inequality.

**Federico Waitoller, PhD, Special Education**
**Access, Inclusion, and Outcomes of Minority Special Education Students in Chicago Charter Schools**

Waitoller’s research investigates the access, inclusion, and academic outcomes of minority special education students in Chicago charter schools. His goal is to develop better policies, practices, and tools for stakeholders to improve the experiences of these students. He also received a Faculty Fellowship.

**Shannon Zenk, PhD, College of Nursing**
**Activity Space Segregation and Access to Health Resources**

African American women have the highest obesity rate (58.5%) in the US. Zenk’s study uses GPS and GIS to track 80 African American women for one week to better understand the degree of access these women have to health resources and health risks not just near their homes, but through their entire “activity space.”

Faculty Fellows

**Henrika McCoy, PhD, College of Social Work**
**Strengthening the Argument to Change Sentencing Practices for Juvenile Offenders with Mental Health Needs**

McCoy will synthesize research she has already collected about mental health, race, gender, age, geography, and the juvenile justice system to:

- Contribute new knowledge about patterns or typologies which reflect combinations of mental health distress and offending behaviors.
- Articulate the importance of incorporating a juvenile’s mental health needs into sentencing guidelines & practices
- Provide information to legislators and judges to influence what factors are considered when creating & implementing sentencing practices.

**Stephanie Riger, PhD, Psychology, Gender & Women’s Studies**
**Domestic Violence Outcome Measures Project**

In the first year of this three year project, Riger will begin her survey of 750 Chicago women six months after they received services for domestic violence relief. The purpose of this is to examine the impact over time of these services, to explore whether certain interventions correlate with certain client outcomes, and to assess the needs of domestic violence victims six months after receiving services. Riger will work with the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network.

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These grants fund research projects of UIC faculty members with up to $5,000.00 per semester for individuals and up to $10,000.00 for research teams.

These fellowships provide $7,000.00 per course for up to two course releases per year to those who need time away from their teaching duties to concentrate on their writing and research.
Jennifer Brier, PhD, Gender & Women's Studies  
**Not in the Yearbooks: A Digital Collaboration Between History Moves, The Chicago Freedom School, and the Read/Write Library**  
Partner: Chicago Freedom School and Read/Write Library  
The Chicago Freedom School (CFS), founded in 2007, provides leadership and social justice courses to primarily minority students in Chicago. Dr. Brier and the Read/Write Library seek to promote the creation and storage of socially progressive oral history about the CFS and the personal lives of its students. This project provides interview formats, interview technology, and interviewing and digital archiving training to CFS students, teaching valuable skills while also providing insight into the lives of socially engaged minority youth and the tumultuous state of the Chicago Public School system.

Maria Krysan, PhD, Institute for Government & Public Affairs and Sociology  
**Welcome Home: Addressing the Housing Crisis with an Integrative Model**  
Partner: Oak Park Regional Housing Center  
Partnering with the Oak Park Regional Housing Center (which is partners with community organizations in the adjacent blighted Chicago neighborhood of Austin), Krysan will explore strategies for encouraging the reintegration (but not gentrification or displacement) of the Austin community.

Angela Odoms-Young, PhD, Kinesiology and Nutrition  
**“Muslim Run”: Developing a Curriculum to Improve Healthy Food Options in Small Arab-American Owned Stores in African American Communities**  
Partner: Inner-City Muslim Action Network  
Dr. Odoms-Young will work with IMAN to improve an existing curriculum for corner store owners about providing healthy items in the hope of alleviating some of the effects of food deserts and promoting healthy diets among low-income African-Americans. Marketing as well as dietary information will be provided in the new curriculum, which will also be distributed more widely and by better informed volunteers to ensure that store owners are able to understand the curriculum and follow through on its recommendations.

KUMASHIRO WINS CAREER AWARD  
Former IRRPP Director Kevin Kumashiro received a Division K Mid-Career Award from the American Educational Research Association for his work in Asian American studies.

INTER-UNIVERSITY PROGRAM FOR LATINO RESEARCH  
IRRPP welcomes its new neighbor, the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) to UIC. For the next five years, IUPLR will coordinate the efforts of 25 partner research institutions from across the country.

MATTHEWS NAMED DIVERSITY SCHOLAR  
IRRPP Board Member Alicia Matthews was appointed as the inaugural Helen K. Grace Faculty Diversity Scholar for her internationally recognized work on physical and mental health disparities among members of marginalized social groups.

NEW IRRPP WEBSITE  
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Bookmark it!  
Our new website has news, events, research, funding information, and much more.

CRITICAL ETHNIC STUDIES  
The national Critical Ethnic Studies Conference hosted by IRRPP in September 2013 was a huge success. Over 1,000 speakers generated ideas and debates that will resonate in the work and lives of the conference’s many attendees.

IRRPP NEWS  
**Announcements**

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DEPARTMENTS RECEIVING RESEARCH FUNDING:  
- African American Studies  
- Anthropology  
- Behavioral Health Science  
- Curriculum and Instruction  
- Educational Policy Studies  
- Educational Psychology  
- Gender & Women’s Studies  
- Health Systems Science  
- Latin American and Latino Studies  
- Psychology  
- Social Work  
- Sociology  
- Special Education  
- Urban Planning & Policy

UNITS RECEIVING EVENT FUNDING:  
- Asian American Studies  
- Department of Germanic Studies  
- Gender & Sexuality Center  
- Great Cities Institute  
- Institute of Government and Public Affairs  
- Liberal Arts and Sciences  
- Minority Students for the Advancement of Public Health  
- Sociology  
- UIC Honors College

CHICAGO ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED:  
- TEDx Chicago Team  
- Village Leadership Academy

IRRPP’s Impact
Ryan Villoria, Office Manager

Ryan Villoria earned his Master of Arts degree in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a research focus on Asian American literature. His scholarship examines gay/bisexual protagonists and divisions of history and memory in Filipino American novels. Villoria’s general policy interests and activism revolve around minorities in culture, social welfare, and representation in media and government.

Michelle Boyd, Associate Director

Michelle Boyd is an Associate Professor in the African American studies and Political Science departments at UIC. Boyd’s work explores how scholarship and story can be combined to deepen public understanding, empathy, and critical consciousness about racial injustice. Her latest project is an audio documentary examining the link between climate change and racial displacement.

Francesca Gaiba, Associate Director

Francesca Gaiba received her PhD in Anthropology from Syracuse University with a dissertation that examined boundary control and maintenance within friendships between straight women and gay men. Together with Michelle Boyd, she runs the UIC WriteOut! Writing Retreat for graduate students studying race and ethnicity.

Beth E. Richie, Director

Beth E. Richie is Professor of African American Studies and Criminology, Law, and Justice at UIC. Dr. Richie’s scholarly and activist work focuses on the experiences of African American battered women and sexual assault survivors, and emphasizes how race/ethnicity and social position affect women’s experience of violence and incarceration.

Samantha Kearney, Marketing Assistant

Samantha Kearney is a masters student in UIC’s Urban Planning and Policy program. She has previously studied political science, studio art, art history, architecture, and classics at Kalamazoo College in Michigan, the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, and the American University in Cairo, Egypt.

Zachary Jensen, Office Assistant

Zachary Jensen is in his senior year at UIC and is studying in the Urban and Public Affairs program. He is interested in understanding how cities and society function as well as how they evolve and how they can be improved. After graduation he plans to work hard to establish himself professionally in a private planning firm, travel to many different cities around the world, and enjoy life to the fullest.

Delaina Washington, Research Assistant

Delaina Washington is a doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Mathematics Education at UIC. She investigates what successful mathematics classrooms look like for African American children and how to use African American children’s history and experiences to inform instruction and research.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Lon Kaufman (Provost), Michael Pagano (Dean, CUPPA), Alfred Tatum (Dean, Education), Astrida Tantillo (Dean, LAS), Creasie Finney Hairston (Dean, Social Work), and Paul Brandt-Rauf (Dean, Public Health).

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Elena Gutierrez (GWS, LALS), Alicia Matthews (Nursing), Constance Dallas (Nursing), Nilda Flores-Gonzalez (LALS, Sociology), Anna Guevarra (Asian American Studies), Lisa Yun Lee (Art History), Jesus Ramirez-Valles (CHS), and Barbara Ransby (GWS, African American Studies).
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www.uic.edu/cuppa/irrpp