Opening Remarks

The past academic year has been an exciting time at the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRPP). Celebrating our tenth year of engaged research and community collaborations gave us the opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments, recommit ourselves to our mission, and reorganize our activities to reflect the changing landscape within which we and our community partners do our research and policy work.

Our mission to increase society’s understanding of the root causes of racial inequality and to promote research-based solutions continues to guide our funding of innovative scholarship and justice-oriented projects by UIC faculty. Some of these projects are profiled in this newsletter. Others are described more fully on our web site at www.irrpp.uic.edu. While each project stands on its own significance, the aggregate body of work represents an impressive commitment to some of the most pressing social problems related to racial justice concerns; immigration reform, gun violence, food justice, social emotional learning, and the impact of school closings on communities of color in Chicago. To augment our funding program that supports research in these and other critical issues, this year IRRPP has established programs that will help faculty to deepen their collaborations and build sustained relationships with community groups, to refine their translational research skills so that their findings can be used in the service of policy advocacy, and sustain their work over time through external funding support. These enhancements will further the work of our faculty and position UIC more prominently in policy debates in the City of Chicago and beyond.

The IRRPP Phillip J. Bowman Lecture on Race and Public Policy amplifies the work of UIC faculty by bringing a policy scholar to campus to describe their work towards racial equality and the role of universities in the pursuit of racial justice. This year, Professor Charles J. Ogletree Jr. from Harvard University was the speaker and the event served as the occasion to inaugurate the process of endowing the Bowman Lecture. We were thrilled by the enthusiastic response to Professor Ogletree’s lecture and support for the endowment thus far. Next year our speaker will be Critical Race Theory legal scholar Professor Dorothy Roberts from University of Pennsylvania.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will also read about the convenings of our important work, and to create research agendas that promote racial justice. In August, we will be convening a meeting to discuss the ways that women are uniquely disadvantaged by both arrest/incarceration policy and policies surrounding detention and deportation.

Finally, IRRPP is proud to be working alongside other important initiatives at UIC promoting diversity on our campus, advancing racial justice in our society, and supporting scholarship aimed at changing public policy in favor of equality. Our involvement with the UIC Social Justice Initiative, the Chancellor’s Cluster Hiring Program and the Inter University Program on Latino Research are examples of how the internal landscape of our campus is changing as we support faculty, students, and staff whose mission it is to change the world. I invite you to continue participating in these exciting initiatives and thank you for your support for our work.

Beth E. Richie, Director

The Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

The Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) promotes and coordinates engaged research and community collaborations to engage in policy discussions, to learn from community groups about their important work, and to create research agendas that promote racial justice. In August, we will be convening a meeting to discuss the ways that women are uniquely disadvantaged by both arrest/incarceration policy and policies surrounding detention and deportation.

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The Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

Spring 2014

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

ABOUT IRRPP
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 United States.

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.

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 the Prison Reading-to-Action 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.

What can IRRPP do for you?
IRRPP partnered with the Critical Ethnic Studies Association (CESA) to host the second annual Critical Ethnic Studies (CES) Conference on the University of Illinois, Chicago campus. The event, which took place from September 19 - 21 was the result of months of collaboration with CESA and a wide range of local scholars and activists. More than 1,100 people attended.

This year’s theme was “Decolonizing Future Intellectual Legacies & Activist Practices.” This subject attracted both scholars and practitioners from archaeology, economics, history, literature, the performing arts, political science, psychology, sociology, religion, and other fields who came together to discuss how to integrate their work, as well as how to detangle their subjects from past prejudices.

There were over 180 workshops and a plenary session each day of the conference, with two on the last day. The opening plenary, Another Chicago is Possible: An Evening with Chicago Activists Engaging Critical Ethnic Studies, featured a panel of local activists and activist scholars including Beth Richie (IRRPP), Rhoda Gutierrez (UIC), Reyna Wences (Immigrant Youth Justice League), Mariame Kaba (Project NIA), David Stovall (UIC), Leena Odeh (UIC), Junaid Rana (UIUC), and Alice Kim (The Public Square). This panel focused on local Chicago issues and building a different, better Chicago based on the needs of disadvantaged communities.

There were eight film screenings including American Revolutionary, directed by Grace Lee, and Born in Flames, directed by Lizzie Borden. American Revolutionary follows the life of long-time activist, Grace Lee Boggs, and asks what it means to be an American revolutionary today. Born in Flames explores racism, sexism, classism, and heterosexism in a dystopian United States where the government is taken over by socialists. The imagination, insight, and work that went into CES inspired many questions and host of critical questions for the next conference.

Troy Duster, the grandson of Ida B. Wells and a prominent sociologist at NYU and Berkley, gave a lecture entitled “The Arc That Bends Toward Justice Requires an Accelerator: Engaged Learning as the Bridge to Civic Engagement” in mid-October, hosted by the Great Cities Institute and co-sponsored by the IRRPP.

He encouraged universities to reach out to communities to promote the civic education and activity of those communities, because it is one of the responsibilities of higher education to promote more enlightened societies.

The Sentencing Project is an organization that brings “national attention to disturbing trends and inequities in the criminal justice system.” Its president Marc Mauer came to speak about “The Social Cost of America’s Race to Incarcerate.” His lecture for was hosted by IRRPP and cosponsored by the Jane Addams College of Social Work and the Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice.

Urban schools have been in a perpetual state of reform for more than thirty years, yet many schools in our major cities continue to struggle. Is something wrong with the approach we have taken? If so, what? WBEZ Reporter, Linda Lutton, interviewed Professor Pedro Noguera (New York University) on the lessons we should learn from these costly efforts and what might be a better direction for the future. This was also a Great Cities Institute event co-sponsored by the IRRPP.

The IRRPP hosts and co-sponsors events. Visit the funding page on our website uic.edu/cuppa/irrpp/funding to learn more about our co-sponsorship grants.
The Intercollege Brown Bag Series is a new series that highlights the IRRPP funded work of particular colleges and illuminates the connections between the work of several faculty members in one college. The work of these researchers was featured in two events this spring semester, and you can look forward to more Brown Bags in other colleges next fall.

**College of Education**
- Marisha Humphries and Cassandra McKay-Jackson, Developing Multidisciplinary Pre-Service Training as an Integrated Approach to Social-Emotional Learning
- Pauline J. Lipman, Collaborative Research for Education Justice in Chicago
- Federico Waitoller, Access, Inclusion, and Outcomes of Minority Special Education Students in Chicago Charter Schools

**School of Public Health**
- Michele Kelly, Public Health Community Youth Development as a Pathway to Health and Social Equity
- Faith Fletcher, Improving Delivery of Cervical Cancer Screening Services to Disadvantaged Women Living with AIDS
- Rohan Jeremiah, Recognizing Social & Cultural Determinants of Marginalized and Vulnerable Populations within Public Health Interventions
- Jennifer Hebert-Beirne, Little Village Participatory Community Health Assessment

In 2013, the University of Illinois at Chicago Board of Trustees voted to become one of only a few universities in the US to include gender affirming surgeries and medical care in its student health insurance policy. To celebrate the University’s adoption of this forward-thinking policy, IRRPP partnered with UIC’s Gender & Sexuality Center to present **Trans*Health @ UIC: A Community Forum to Celebrate, Educate, and Create Alliances**. This event not only acknowledged the many student activists who fought to implement this policy; it also provided an opportunity for current students to learn more about the new coverage and how to access it.

Trans*Health featured presentations from Aja Blalark, a UIC student and a community advisory board member of the Trans Life Center Program of Chicago House; Dr. Abbas Hyderi, from the UIC College of Medicine, and Mariah Sciacero, a UIC student and campus activist. Panelist Jae Szeszycki-Truesdell, a UIC Alum and Transgender Health Promotion Specialist at the API Wellness Center in San Francisco, was unable to attend but sent his presentation. As a student Szeszycki-Truesdell initiated the process of bringing trans health care to UIC students, and is also featured in the short film, **Transitioning at UIC** that premiered at the event. The film documents UIC student activists’ struggle to secure passage of the new policy. The presenters’ sparked poignant testimonies from trans, gender variant, and LGB students about their past and current struggles securing health care. They also provoked pointed analysis of the current policy, how it might be improved, and what steps are needed for its full implementation.

**Race, Sexuality, and Violence Series**
**Trans*Health** was part of this year’s Race, Sexuality, and Violence series, which brings scholars, activists, and practitioners together to reflect on the shared forms of oppression that people of color share with other marginalized groups. One theme underlying the **Trans*Health** event was the idea that denial of health care is a form of violence, yet because the lack of health care affects so many groups, it has the potential to create strong alliances and collaborations.
Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

Spring 2014

WriteOut!

WriteOut! is a week-long writing retreat for doctoral students from all disciplines at the University of Illinois at Chicago who study race and/or ethnicity. It is held three times a year, just before the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The retreat includes breakfast, a daily meeting with a writing coach, printing and copying, and is free to those who complete the retreat.

Each WriteOut! retreat lasts from 9 - 5, Monday through Friday. No distractions. No childcare. No TV. If you have a hard time buckling down to write, this retreat provides the chance to focus on your project for an extended period of time, with the support of your fellow grad students and an experienced writing advisor.

WriteOut! has two components: First-time participants receive daily writing coaching from IRRPP’s Associate Director Michelle Boyd. Research shows that writers are more productive when they set goals, monitor their work, and check in with another person.

The second component of WriteOut! is its alumni program. Alums pair up with a fellow WriteOut! alum to engage in peer coaching to provide one another with feedback and support. Each alumni WriteOut! session begins with a training session with Michelle, in which writers review lessons learned from previous retreats and practice applying them with their partners.

Registration for WriteOut! fills up quickly, sometimes in a matter of hours. If you’re interested in signing up for the next retreat, contact Francesca Gaiba at gaiba@uic.edu to put your name on the WriteOut! contact list.

Write-On-Site

Write-On-Site sessions involve multiple people coming together to write at the same time and location. The groups can range in size, frequency, and meeting duration. They take place in public (for example, in libraries and cafés) or in private.

These groups reduce writers’ isolation and provide a sense of camaraderie. They also provide a community of like-minded peers who may act as sounding boards or provide feedback on writing or substantive dilemmas. Write-On-Site meetings work best for individuals who work well in active locations and can tolerate at least a few interruptions and a low level of noise.

IRRPP hosts Write-On-Site sessions every Friday from 9 - 5 in our lounge and conference room. The sessions are managed by Delaina Washington, who can be reached for more information at dcarey3@uic.edu.

WriteOut! Participants’ Recent Accomplishments:

- Jessica Cook (Sociology) and Shanika Blanton (Psychology) won the 2013 Chancellor’s Graduate Research Fellowship
- Donna Granville (Sociology) Katja Rivera (Art History) won the Fall 2013 Provost Deiss Award
- Julio Capeles-Delgado (Sociology) won the Fall 2013 Provost Deiss Award AND a 2013-2014 Abraham Lincoln Fellowship
- Olubunmi Oyewuwo-Gassikia (Social Work) won a 2013-2014 Abraham Lincoln Fellowship
- Delaina Washington (Education) won the 2013-2014 Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Fellowship

Read more tips on the WriteOut! website: writeoutretreat.weebly.com
In early October, over fifty friends and faculty members gathered to celebrate six recently released books (shown below). The authors, pictured above from left to right were Nadine Naber, Barbara Ransley, Claire Decoteau, Sekile Nzinga-Johnson, Anna Guevarra, and Lorena Garcia. These six authors’ research covers diverse subject areas: biology, sociology, sex education, immigration, economics, political science, and history... yet they all share a common theme of illuminating minority women’s experiences and achievements.

Those who attended were similarly diverse, and had a wealth of ideas and passions to share. Humor and camaraderie flowed freely, even as these very serious research subjects were promoted. What a fun way to further IRRPP’s mission of enhancing UIC’s network of researchers delving into racial and ethnic subjects.

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

Visit our website’s funding page to learn more.

**Xochiti Bada, PhD**, Latino and Latin American Studies

Consular and Civil Society Strategies for Improving Enforcement of Labor Standards for Latino Immigrants

This project examines the importance of U.S.-based civil society for promoting a more active stance of labor enforcement agencies and evaluates the coherence of local implementation of the agreements between the US and Mexico.

**Courtney Bonam, PhD**, Psychology

Devaluing and Disinvesting in Black Space

This series of experiments will investigate how space-focused stereotypes may lead people to value and invest in primarily Black locales to a lesser extent than primarily White locales. The hypothesis is that inducing people to think of places as malleable (vs. stable) will reduce racial stereotyping, which should subsequently reduce devaluation of and disinvestment in Black (relative to White) spaces.

**Aerika Brittian, PhD**, Educational Psychology

Racial and Ethnic Socialization in the Context of Urban Youth Organizations

While a central goal of Urban Youth Organizations (UYO) is to facilitate positive identity development, the extent to which UYOs address the cultural needs and experiences of ethnic minority adolescents is unknown. The purpose of this research is to investigate how UYOs socialize ethnic minority adolescents around race and ethnicity.

**Claire Decoteau, PhD**, Sociology

“The Western Disease”

The Enigma of Autism Within the Somali Refugee Population

This project will use ethnographic research methods to explore why a delimited population group (Somali refugees) in two distinct geographical and national locations (Minneapolis, MN and Toronto, Canada), contending with the same empirical puzzle (high rates of autism), have forged distinct, yet coherent epistemic groups around a definition of illness, its causal pathway, and possible courses of treatment.

**Jennifer Hebert-Beirne, PhD, MPH**, Community Health Sciences

Little Village Participatory Community Health Assessment

This multidisciplinary study of the Little Village neighborhood seeks to better understand immigrant community health issues, which are typically overlooked in traditional community health assessments. Concerns from six community partner organizations will guide the quantitative and qualitative work of UIC faculty and students about the social determinants of health and opportunities for immigrants’ health equity.

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**Maria Krysan, PhD**, Sociology, Institute of Government & Public Affairs

Choosing Integration: An Analysis of Housing Searches Assisted by the Oak Park Regional Housing Center

We know very little about how people search for housing, and we know even less about how this housing search process challenges or perpetuates patterns of racial residential segregation. The purpose of this project is to analyze administrative data from the Oak Park Regional Housing Center to answer both basic and applied social science research questions about how people choose their housing.
Elizabeth Todd-Breland, PhD, History

A Political Education: Black Politics & Education Reform in Post-Civil Rights Chicago

This is the story of how black activists, educators, parents, and education reformers navigated, challenged, and at times contributed to the urban political and educational landscape as it transformed from the liberal integrationist politics of the mid-twentieth century to the neoliberal politics of the late twentieth century.

Sekile Nzinga-Johnson, PhD, Gender & Women’s Studies

Lean Semesters: The Working Lives of Women of Color Contingent Faculty

This project explores how academic labor policy and “family friendly” policy have or have not supported the careers of women of color, given their overrepresentation as contingent faculty. This qualitative research project will map the economic and professional impact of holding contingent faculty positions with a particular focus on women of color.

Nadine Naber, PhD, Gender & Women’s Studies

Bread, Dignity, and Gender Justice: Women in the Egyptian Revolution of 2011

Naber’s research is on the needs and struggles of Egyptian women in the context of the Egyptian revolution and its aftermath. The project has two parts: the establishment of a digital archive of women’s participation in the revolution in Arabic and English to be used by scholars and policymakers and the publication of a book.

Alexandra Filindra, PhD, Political Science

The Role of Racial Prejudice in Whites’ Gun Policy Preferences

Although there is evidence that racism and nativism significantly contribute to white Americans’ attitudes towards immigration, welfare, crime, or the criminal justice system, little research exists on the way out-group prejudice shapes gun policy preference. This project will study how neighborhood & social context, other measures of racism, and variations of gun control policies contribute to whites’ gun policy preferences.

Faith Fletcher, PhD, Community Health Sciences

Improving the Delivery of Cervical Cancer Screening Services to Disadvantaged Women Living with HIV/AIDS

Women with HIV/AIDS are 4 to 5 times more likely to develop cervical cancer than other women, yet there are currently no cervical cancer prevention interventions tailored for them. The overall goal of this study is to assess the demographic, structural, behavioral, and psychosocial factors associated with cervical cancer screening utilization rates among HIV-infected women.

Maria Krysan, PhD, Sociology, Institute of Government & Public Affairs

Legacy Effects: Racial Dynamics and the Perpetuation of Segregation

This project challenges conventional theoretical explanations of the causes of residential racial segregation. It argues that context matters in shaping patterns of segregation and neighborhood choice, and pays particular attention to how neighborhood experiences, knowledge, and perceptions contribute to a perpetual legacy of segregation.

Visit our website’s funding page to learn more.

These fellowships provide $7,000.00 per course for up to two course releases per year to those who need time off from teaching duties to concentrate on their writing and research.

2013 - 2014 GRANT RECIPIENTS
Faculty Fellows

Kelly LeRoux, PhD, Public Administration
Racial Diversity and Performance of the Charitable Sector

The project combines quantitative and qualitative data to fill a critical gap in the empirical research related to nonprofit performance by demonstrating the link between board diversity and organizational effectiveness. This project relies partly on existing data, and proposes to supplement this data over the fellowship year to form a more complete picture of the ways that diversity and representation can enhance organizational effectiveness.

2013 - 2014 GRANT RECIPIENTS
Faculty Fellows

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Faculty Fellows
2013 - 2014 GRANT RECIPIENTS
Policy and Social Engagement Fellowships

The Policy & Social Engagement Fellowship (PSEF) encourages faculty to use their knowledge and skills to participate in and inform public debates and policy processes. The year-long fellowship provides up to $10,000 to teams of faculty-community collaborations for policy projects.

Visit our website’s funding page to learn more.

Natasha Barnes, PhD
African American Studies and English
Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project (P+NAP)
Lifelines: Writing the Self/Other

Dima M. Qato, PhD
Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes and Policy
Arab American Action Network
A Community Based Approach to Promote the Safe and Effective Use of Medication Among Arab American Women in Chicago

Anna Guevarra, PhD
Asian American Studies
Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE)
Community Building, Building Community: Filipinos and the Illinois Domestic Workers Bill of Rights

Rachel Weber, PhD
Urban Planning and Policy
Blocks Together and The Participatory Budgeting Project
Participatory Budgeting Chicago TIF Tool Kit

Elena Gutierrez, PhD
Gender & Women’s Studies
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
Reproductive Justice Virtual Library

\[\text{GRANTS! GRANTS! GRANTS!}\]
This grant workshop was for faculty members, and is offered annually in the fall. It provided an overview of the process of applying for external funding at UIC, and highlighted internal UIC funding as well as federal and private foundations that fund research on race/ethnicity.

\[\text{GRADUATE STUDENT FUNDING}\]
This annual spring semester workshop provided information about graduate funding, what the Fellowships Office does, and the resources it provides. It also covered how to perform an online funding search and the fundamentals of writing a grant application.

This workshop was intended for all graduate students at UIC doing research on race/ethnicity and public policy, and was open to graduate students researching other topics as well.

\[\text{IRRPP’s Impact:} \text{ Fall 2013}\]

Departments Receiving Research Funding:
- Asian American Studies
- Community Health Sciences
- Educational Psychology
- English
- Gender & Women’s Studies
- History
- Institute of Government and Public Affairs
- Latin American & Latino Studies
- Pharmacy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Sociology
- Urban Planning and Policy

Units & Student Organizations Receiving Event Funding:
- African American Studies
- Asian American Studies
- Criminal Justice Society
- Disability Resource Center
- Documentary Working Group, Institute for the Humanities
- Gender and Women’s Studies
- Graduate Anthropology & Geography Association
- Great Cities Institute
- Jane Addams Hull-House Museum
- Latin American and Latino Studies
- Minority Students for the Advancement of Public Health
- Radical Public Health

Chicago Organizations Supported:
- Arab American Action Network
- Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights
- Blocks Together
- Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
- Prison + Neighborhood Arts Project
- The Participatory Budgeting Project

Visit our website’s funding page to learn more.
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.

Michelle Boyd, Associate Director

Francesca Gaiba, Associate Director

Delaina Washington, Research Assistant

Samantha Kearney, Marketing Assistant

Elena Gutierrez, Gender and Women’s Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies

Phoenix Matthews, Nursing

Constance Dallas, Nursing

Nilda Flores-Gonzalez, Latin American and Latino Studies, Sociology

Anna Guevarra, Asian American Studies

Lisa Yun Lee, Art History

Jesus Ramirez-Valles, Community Health Sciences

Barbara Ransby, Gender and Women’s Studies, African American Studies

Lon Kaufman, UIC’s Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

Creasie Finney-Hairston, Dean

Astrida Tantillo, Dean

Alfred Tatum, Dean
Visit Our Website

Your source for IRRPP’s upcoming events, news, photo galleries and movies of past events, information about applying for grants, and the research we support.

irrpp.uic.edu

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