

# GCI Monthly

A Publication of the **Great Cities Institute** at the University of Illinois at Chicago



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**March/April 2010 Issue**

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## GCI Faculty Scholar Spotlight

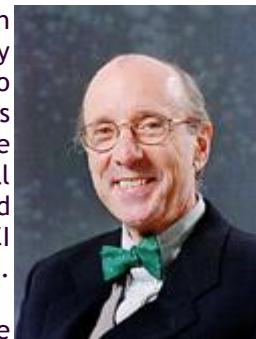
**Elena Rebeca Gutiérrez**



**"Social Networks in the  
Access to Reproductive  
Health Services of Migrant  
Women to Chicago, Illinois:  
A Community  
Intervention"**

Dear Friends of GCI:

Chicago is warming up quickly as we approach the end of the Spring semester, yet many upcoming speaker events still remain. Two seminars from our Comparative Urbanisms series, a GCI Fellow Seminar, and finally, the "Covering the City" event on June 3, all promise thought-provoking discussion and exploration of the engaged research of the GCI community as the summer fully arrives.



We are also very excited to announce the 2010-2011 Faculty Scholar and Seed Fund Competition Awardees; please see the list below. This outstanding group of scholars comes from a variety of disciplines and six of the university's colleges. They bring with them the capacity to produce first class research and creative activity that will have an impact on the urban environment using engaged partnerships as their foundation.

After eleven and a half years as Director of GCI, I will return to the faculty of the department of Urban Planning and Policy in January, 2011 as a tenured full professor. I will retain my position as Associate Chancellor for Great Cities, under the direction of Chancellor Paula Allen Meares. My time has truly been the best academic and policy experience of my life. I want to thank each and every one of you for all you have done to make my time at GCI a fruitful one. We are pleased to have a fantastic new team of seasoned administrators, scholars and researchers joining GCI-some already on board and others joining us in June of this year. Among them are Associate Directors Joy Pamintuan and Planning Professor

## Lecture Summary

Nationwide Latinos receive the lowest levels of health care delivery due to financial, institutional and cultural barriers. While Latinos in general are less likely to have health insurance than Whites and African Americans, Latinos in Chicago have the highest rate of uninsured women from any racial/ethnic group. For migrant women who face exacerbating reproductive health disparities, lack of access to health care is even more severe. This research investigates the reproductive health politics of women who have migrated particularly from Zacatecas, Mexico to Chicago, Illinois, using the high level of organization of the migrants from Zacatecas to explore the needs, access, and barriers to reproductive health services that they experience in Chicago.

## Bio-Sketch

Elena Rebeca Gutiérrez is an Associate Professor in Gender and Women's Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies and Sociology at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Dr. Gutiérrez earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Michigan and is a scholar of Latina/o reproductive and sexual health, feminism and social activism and Chicana/o Studies. She has recently received funding from the

Rachel Weber. Serving as Acting Director of GCI will be Dean and Public Administration Professor Michael A. Pagano. Please make an extra effort to work with these wonderful colleagues-come to our events, engage us on our website and just drop by and say hello. The coffee pot is on, the brew is fresh and hot, and all we need is you to join us.

Sincerely,



David Perry  
Professor and Director, Great Cities Institute

## 2010-2011 GCI Faculty Scholar and Seed Fund Awardees Announced

We are very pleased to announce the awardees of the 2010-2011 GCI Faculty Scholar and Seed Fund Competition.

### 2010-2011 GCI Faculty Scholars

Frances R. Aparicio, *Professor, Latin American and Latino Studies*  
"Chicago Latinidad: Three Case Studies"

Claire Decoteau, *Assistant Professor, Sociology*  
"HIV/AIDS and the Struggle for Life in South Africa's Slums"

Sharon Haar, *Associate Professor, Arts & Architecture*  
"Mapping Architecture's Social Entrepreneurial Networks"

Mark Liechty, *Associate Professor, Anthropology and History*  
"Far Out: Global Tourism and the Transformation of Kathmandu"

Naoko Muramatsu, *Associate Professor, Community Health Sciences*  
"Caring for Limited English Proficient Elderly: Challenges & Opportunities in Multi-Ethnic Urban Communities"

David Stovall, *Associate Professor, African American Studies and Educational Policy Studies*  
"Educational Debt Relief: Critical Race Praxis as College Access for African-American and Latino/a Youth"

Rachel Weber, *Associate Professor, Urban Planning and Policy*  
"The Speculative City: Building Booms, High Finance and the Construction of Obsolescence"

Yue Zhang, *Assistant Professor, Political Science*  
"The Political Economy of Art Districts in Beijing and Chicago"

Migration and Health Research Program (PIMSA) for a collaborative, bi-national project to research the role of social networks in the reproductive health care of Mexican immigrant women in Chicago. She is also the principal investigator of the Sterilization Policy Project, which is an assessment of the current status of female sterilization informed consent protocols across the nation.



Professional Education's  
Certificate in Nonprofit  
Management Program



### 2010-2011 GCI Faculty Seed Awardees

Nilda Flores-Gonzalez, *Associate Professor, Sociology*  
"New Tensions in Old Gateways: Immigration, Institutions, and Intergroup Relations"

John Hagedorn, *Associate Professor, Criminology, Law & Justice*  
"A Video History of Chicago Gangs: Part One"

Paul-Brian McInerney, *Assistant Professor, Sociology*  
"Promises Unfulfilled: An Exploratory Study of Urban Farmer's Markets and their Connections to Local Communities"

## Upcoming Seminars

### Comparative Urbanisms Speaker Series

"Urban Forms and Comparisons:  
Chicago's Near North Side and the  
Localization of Gentrification  
Generalized"

Judit Bodnar, Central European University  
Wednesday, April 28th, 2010, 2-3:30pm



Please join GCI for a comparative and historical analysis of the gentrification of the Near North Side of Chicago.

Professor Judit Bodnar will examine the communities that have replaced the Cabrini-Green housing 'projects' and the proliferation of similar kinds of residential planned developments -- particularly in US and European cities. This horizontal analysis will be complemented by discussion of the history of gentrification on the Near North Side and the unfolding of current redevelopment initiatives, which signify a new scale and configuration of generalized gentrification as it has come to be known. This line of inquiry also focuses on the public-private interface.

For more information on this event or on Judit Bodnar click [here](#).

### "Financialization, Crisis and 'Developing' Countries"

Özgür Orhangazi, Roosevelt University  
Tuesday, May 4, 2010, 3-4:30pm

The size and significance of financial markets, institutions, and transactions have considerably increased in the last couple of decades. The 2008 financial crisis and the ensuing global recession attracted further attention to this process, now commonly referred to as financialization.



Please join GCI for a timely exploration of this domination of financial markets over traditional capital markets as experienced in nations across the world. This talk will discuss this financialization process, its origins and consequences as well as its implications for developing countries.

For more information on this event or on Özgür Orhangazi, click [here](#).

### GCI Special Event April 22



**"Building from Individual and Family Assets: Community Development in the Gedam Sefer Neighborhood of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia."**

Richard S. Kordesh, PhD, GCI Fellow  
Alice Butterfield, PhD, Professor, UIC Jane Addams College of Social Work  
Thursday, April 22, 2010 2-3:30pm

Join us for a discussion and exploration of the speakers' unique collaborative community development practice and research facilitated by a US-Ethiopian partnership involving two universities - UIC and Addis Ababa University - and residents of the Gedam Sefer neighborhood in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

With support from the Oak Foundation of Geneva, Switzerland, this partnership has mobilized youth, adults, families, and associations to work together to articulate their aspirations for a stronger community, beginning with their own assets. Opening strategies that have emerged include youth development through the theatre, arts, and capacity building for family and community enterprises. The speakers will describe how Urban Planning and Social Work faculty work with existing community leaders in Ethiopia to identify near-term and long-term steps to community revitalization as well as how ongoing research links the process to the larger literature in comparative social development.

### Community Engagement

Illinois ResourceNet (IRN), in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), and the Illinois EPA, recently hosted a free webinar offering funding and technical assistance for Brownfield



## Calendar of Events



## PODCASTS



Have you wanted to attend a GCI lecture but been unable to fit it into your schedule? Well you're in luck! We convert all of our presentations into Podcasts for your listening pleasure. Just visit our [website](#) for a list of past lectures available on podcast.

Here's a list of just a few of our most recent presentations.

redevelopment. Through this webinar participants were able to gain a greater understanding on how they could improve the environment and economic growth within their communities. Topics covered included Long-Range Planning, Brownfield Tax Incentives, Historic Preservation, Grant Writing, and Redevelopment/Sustainability.

Additionally, IRN partnered with CMAP to offer an all-day "Continuous Proposal Building Grants Academy" for nonprofits and local governments interested in accessing Federal funds. This Grants Academy focuses on "continuous proposal building" as its signature strategy, which is adopted and executed by Illinois ResourceNet's technical assistance providers who aim to equip communities with the basic tools necessary for building partnerships that will induce the production of multiple successful proposals. For more information, visit the Illinois ResourceNet website [here](#).

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**Rachel Weber**, GCI Associate Director of Research and Program Development and Associate Professor of Urban Planning, will serve as Moderator at the following event:



**Tuesday, April 27th, 2010, 5-7 pm**  
**Privatization and Public Private Partnerships (P3): Leveraging the Future?**

Location of Event: The Metropolitan Planning Council  
*Presented by University of Illinois at Chicago College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs Alumni Association*  
For more information click [here](#).

## University of Birmingham Vice-Chancellor Visits GCI



As part of a tour of Chicago, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham David Eastwood and several of his colleagues from the UK met with members of GCI Director's Office in March. Interested in learning about GCI's engaged research activities, interdisciplinary focus, interactions with the city of Chicago, and international partnerships, the visiting scholars discussed possibilities for future collaborations between GCI and the University of Birmingham. GCI looks forward to pursuing an exciting, working relationship with our neighbors across the pond.

**Confronting Decline in an Industrial City**

*Presented by: Norm Krumholz*

**Policing in Drag: Giuliani Goes Global with the Illusion of Control**

*Presented by: Winifred Curran*

**The Significance of Extra-Researcher Roles and Commitment in Engaged Scholarship**

*Presented by: Michele Kelley, with Repondent Jose Lopez*

**Gayby Boomers: The Health and Social Connections of the Gayest Generation**

*Presented by: Jesus Ramirez-Valles*

**Quick Links...**

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**Registration Deadline 4/26 for May CNM Courses**

The registration deadline for two of Professional Education's Certificate in Nonprofit Management courses, Marketing Management and Nonprofit Governance, is April 26, 2010. This is also the last day to register for the Mastering of Grant Writing online course.

Click [here](#) for more information or to register.

**Media Attention and Publications**

Dennis Judd, Senior GCI Fellow and Political Science Professor, presented research at the annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association (UAA). Access an abstract of his paper titled, "The Regime Moment: The Brief but Storied Career of Urban Regimes in American Cities" [here](#).



Tingwei Zhang, Director of the Asia and China Research program, was interviewed by China Radio International (CRI), one of three state-owned medias in China. The topic of discussion was comparative urbanization rates in China and the U.S. For full coverage, click [here](#).

Rachel Weber, GCI Associate Director of Research and Program Development and Associate Professor of Urban Planning, and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Professor Dan McMillen, had their research on property tax appeals in Chicago featured in the *Chicago Tribune* article "Are property tax appeals a fast sale in slow market?" Weber and McMillen's study found that although a sluggish market is not necessarily a bad time to file an appeal on property tax assessment, the homeowners who are winning their appeals are not the most likely to file an appeal. For the full *Tribune* article click [here](#).

## Faculty Scholar Research

### "Towards Urban Sustainability in the Chicago Region: Using Agent-Based Modeling for Social Learning and Environmental Planning"

GCI Faculty Scholar Moira Zellner recently presented her research conducted over the past year to the GCI community. Focused on implementing a pilot project for participatory modeling and solution-building, her research centers on issues of urban sustainability in the Chicago metropolitan area using exploratory computational tools such as agent-based models. She partners with faculty, researchers, planners, community members, and local officials of a rapidly urbanizing Chicago suburb.



#### Bio-Sketch

Moira Zellner joined the Urban Planning & Policy Program as an Assistant Professor in January of 2006. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Moira earned her undergraduate degree in ecology at the Centro de Altos Estudios en Ciencias Exactas, and pursued graduate studies in urban and regional planning and in complex systems at the University of Michigan. Before coming to the US, she worked in Argentina as a consultant on environmental issues for local and international environmental engineering firms and for the undersecretary of Environment in the City of Buenos Aires on projects related to domestic and hazardous waste management, river remediation, industrial pollution control, and environmental impact assessments. She also participated in interdisciplinary and international research projects on urban air pollution and on the spread of tuberculosis through public transportation.

In the US, Dr. Zellner's professional work includes greenway development and river restoration projects in Miami Beach and in California, and transportation surveys. Her current research involves assessing the environmental impacts of urbanization and exploring how to enhance the sustainability and resilience of urban areas. She focuses on how specific policy and behavioral changes can effectively address complex environmental problems in which decentralized decisions result in regional land-use and consumption patterns that negatively affect resource availability and quality. Her research also examines the applicability of complexity theory and complexity-based models to policy exploration and social learning.