



# GCI Monthly

A publication of the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago

**ISSUE:** October 2007



Dear Friends of GCI:

We have started the semester with a good group of opening seminars including a new “hot button issues” event format that allows staff, researchers, partners, and faculty of UIC a chance to discuss key issues of interest to Chicago and other cities and regions. One such hot button issue is the mortgage crisis, brought on in no small measure by the growth in sub-prime lending. Sponsored by the GCI Development Research Cluster, two working seminars on sub-prime lending and its impact on housing and home ownership patterns were held on Friday, September 7 and Friday, September 21. The seminars were chaired by Development Cluster head Antanacio Gonzalez and led by Urban Planning and Policy professor Philip Ashton, along with the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement co-directors Janet Smith and Yittayih Zelalem. The conversation and ensuing project directions were both exciting and hold promise for future productive forays of engaged research in this very important area. Please check the GCI website [www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci](http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci) for notices of future such events, along with our more regularly scheduled seminars, lectures, and brown bags.

Of particular interest to some of you will be a workshop on October 11, 2007 for prospective faculty scholars who are interested in applying for a year in residence here at the Institute. We invite scholars from outside UIC as well as scholars from throughout the University to apply. Please view our website for more information on this scholar program.

Speaking of the website, it is a new and revamped version of our old site. Please check it out. Let us know what you think of the site. What do you like? Is there something missing?

As usual, I invite you to stop by and ‘check out’ the Institute in person. The coffee pot is on and we invite you to come by for a cup and a good interdisciplinary conversation.

Best,

David C. Perry  
Director

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

Events take place in the Great Cities Institute conference room, located at Great Cities Institute 412 S. Peoria Street, Suite 400, unless otherwise noted.

### **October**

**Tuesday, October 9 at 3:00 pm**

***Lessons from One Year at Hull-House and the Legacy of Jane Addams at UIC:  
Engaging Publics, Counterpublics and Communities***

**Lisa Lee**

Director, Jane Addams Hull-House Museum  
University of Illinois at Chicago

**Thursday, October 11 at 3:30 pm**

**2008-2009 Faculty Scholar Competition Proposal Workshop**

All full-time tenured, tenure-track, and clinical faculty at the rank of assistant professor and above are eligible to apply for this award. All those interested in applying are invited to meet with the Institute director to discuss developing a competitive proposal.

**Tuesday, October 16 at 3:00 pm**

***The Roots and Resolution of African Conflict***

**Paul Tiyambe Zeleza**

Professor and Head, Department of African American Studies  
University of Illinois at Chicago

**Tuesday, October 30 at 1:00 pm**

***Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities***

**Thomas Lyons**

Great Cities Institute Research Fellow and  
TASC, Inc. Research Associate

### **November**

**Friday, November 2 from 9:30am-4:00pm**

A Healthy Cities Collaborative Event

***Developing Community Capacity for Research Participation***

Sponsored by GCI, Institute for Health Research and Policy,  
and The Office for the Protection of Research Subjects

**Event will take place at the Chicago Urban League**

**4510 S. Michigan Avenue**

Please RSVP by October 26, 2007

(312) 996-3668 or [shobso3@uic.edu](mailto:shobso3@uic.edu)

**Tuesday, November 6 at 3:00 pm**

A GCI Panel Discussion

***Cities of the Global South:***

***Emerging Issues around Governance and Urban Development***

**Moderator:**

**David C. Perry**

Director, Great Cities Institute

**Speaker Discussants:**

**Ratoola Kundu**

3rd Year PhD Student, UIC, Urban Planning and Policy

**Kamna Lal**

2nd Year PhD Student, UIC, Public Administration

**Meng Sun**

2nd Year PhD Student, UIC, Urban Planning and Policy

**Lan Wang**

PhD Candidate, UIC, Urban Planning and Policy

**Barry Weisberg, JD**

PhD Candidate, UIC, Criminal Justice

**Tuesday, November 27 at 3:00 pm**

***Title Forthcoming***

**Benet DeBerry-Spence**

Assistant Professor, Managerial Studies, College of Business  
University of Illinois at Chicago

## **December**

**Tuesday, December 4 at 3:00 pm**

A Faculty Scholar Seminar

***The Relationship Between Survey Nonresponse and Urbanicity: Identifying Possible Mechanisms and Solutions***

**Allyson Holbrook**

Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration  
UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

**Tuesday, December 11 at 3:00 pm**

***Title Forthcoming***

**William Wheeler**

Director of Planning and Program Development  
Region Five, Federal Transportation Administration

## **News**

### **► Faculty Scholar Michele Kelley Leads Panel on Youth Participation and Community Health**

On September 11, 2007, the Great Cities Institute (GCI) hosted a Faculty Scholar Seminar titled Youth Participation as a Protective Factor: Implications for Improving Adolescent Well-Being and Community Capacity for Health. Structured as a panel discussion, the seminar was produced in cooperation with the Maternal and Child Health Program of the UIC School of Public Health. GCI Faculty Scholar Michele Kelley, Associate Professor at UIC in the School of Public Health, Division of Community Health Sciences, led the discussion along with Christine Bozlak, Doctoral Candidate in the UIC School of Public Health. Two practitioners participated in the lecture as discussants: Dr. Myrtis Sullivan, Associate Director of Family Health with the Illinois Department of Human Services, and Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz, a graduate student in Sociology, and founding member of the Café Teatro Batey Urbano of the Juan Antonio Corretjer Puerto Rican Cultural Center.

The presentation discussed the implications of the paradigm shift from a disease model to a strengths-based model of adolescent health within community settings, reviewed the science of youth participation and how the concept is defined and used in literature, and positioned youth participation within a “community health development” context.

Kelley and Bozlak addressed youth participation in public health research and practice, drawing upon examples from their work. Professor Kelley spoke about the traditional approach our health system has with regard to youth health and services, where generally there is a tendency to mandate, inform, and create policies driven solely by professional adult decision makers. This current perspective provides little room for youth to participate in their own community health initiatives. In Kelley’s research, a more hands-on, inclusive approach has proven to be more successful and also of greater interest and value to youth.

Ms. Bozlak addressed youth participation as a practical element of positive youth development (PYD). Community-based participation can happen in a multitude of environments including in school, sports, art, religious, and civic activities. Research has shown that school participation amounts to fewer visits to the school nurse; sports participation leads to less suicidal behavior and improved mental and physical health, and civic participation improves critical thinking skills and non-violent conflict resolution.

Panel discussant Dr. Myrtis Sullivan spoke from a state-level policy perspective. A focus of Dr. Sullivan's is to continuously build community confidence through different state programs. She stated this can be a challenge as there is currently no cohesive national vision or policy regarding youth development and participation. Given this lack of a national vision, her programs work to incorporate the philosophy of building on youth assets and participation.

Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz contributed to the discussion from the perspective of a youth organizer. Rodríguez-Muñiz spoke about his work with Batey Urbano and how creating a space for community — specifically youth — to gather, share performance art, and discuss current issues has helped to foster an environment in which youth make better choices in healthy activities. Rodríguez-Muñiz has learned through his experience that, especially in urban settings, focusing on and promoting the assets of a community with youth provides the youth with a sense of value and helps them feel they have something to contribute.

These lectures are part of the Faculty Scholar Seminar Series, which invites current GCI Faculty Scholars to speak on current issues and topics regarding their respective research agendas at Great Cities Institute.

### ► **Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness and Incarceration**

Recent research has found that many of the individuals who are cycling in and out of jails and prisons are also cycling in and out of homelessness. This was a key point made by John Fallon, Program Manager at the Corporation for Supportive Housing (“CSH”) during a talk at the Great Cities Institute on September 18, 2007. Fallon manages the Returning Home Initiative, a multi-million dollar national study led by CSH that is designed to extend and develop a model of permanent supportive housing for people who are homeless, disabled and frequently cycling through the criminal justice system.

In Illinois about 59% of individuals released from jails or prisons are back in within a three-year period. Fallon pointed out that for homeless individuals, the problem is often compounded by severe mental illness, substance abuse, poor access to health care, and a lack of jobs. The systems that serve these interdependent problems are disconnected and as a result do not help break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration.

Fallon argues that the government can spend money more wisely to address the related problems of homelessness and high incarceration recidivism rates. He suggested that permanent supportive housing would be a better way to provide services to these individuals, as it solves their immediate problem of homelessness first and allows for their long-term treatment and social services needs to be properly addressed. Shifting funding to a supportive housing model would also save money, as indicated by a CSH study of such a shift by the City of New York between 1989 and 1997. The study found that a supportive housing model saved City and State agencies a total of \$24,000 per homeless person served per year.

For more information about this talk and to view a slideshow presentation of points made during the talk please visit [www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci](http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci).

## **Announcements**

► **GCI is currently accepting Faculty Scholar and Seed Fund applications for 2008-2009.** Applications are available online at: [www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci](http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci)

► GCI is hosting a proposal workshop for the **2008-2009 Faculty Scholar Competition** on Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 3:30 pm. All full-time tenured, tenure-track, and clinical faculty at the rank of assistant professor and above are eligible to apply for this award. All those interested in applying are invited to meet with the Institute director to discuss developing a competitive proposal.

► GCI's **Healthy Cities Collaboration** is hosting a one-day event: “Developing Community Capacity for Research Participation.” The event takes place on Friday, November 2, 2007 from 9:30 am – 4:00 pm at the Chicago Urban League. Space is limited, so be sure to register early.

Call Susan Hobson at 312-996-3668 or email her at [shobso3@uic.edu](mailto:shobso3@uic.edu) by October 26, 2007. For more information on this event or the Healthy Cities Collaborative please visit the GCI website: [www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci](http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci)

► **David Perry**, along with GCI Fellow and Provost at the University of Baltimore, **Wim Weiwel** have just received word of a new research grant on "The City, Land and the University," from the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy. This grant is the first installment in what promises to be a new multi-year research program on the institutional role of universities in cities. Perry is working on this project in collaboration with research assistants Ratoola Kundu and Carrie Menendez.

► Professional Education at the Great Cities Institute is pleased to announce our newest online course: **Leadership Ethics for Nonprofit Professionals**. This five-week course will run from November 7 through December 11, 2007. The registration deadline is October 29, 2007.

**Leadership Ethics for Nonprofit Professionals** will show you how to successfully recognize and address ethical issues in nonprofit organizations through the practice of ethical leadership.

What you and your organization will learn from this course:

- **Accountability Standards:** What they are and who sets them
- How to determine if your organization is in **compliance**
- Tools for **addressing ethical dilemmas** in the workplace
- How **ethics is transmitted through leadership** in an organization
- How to **cultivate an ethical culture** in your organization through the practice of ethical leadership

#### **Registration Information:**

Course Number: LE0907

Dates: November 7 – December 11, 2007

Location: Online

Cost: \$445

Registration deadline: October 29, 2007

To register online: <http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/pe/ethics.htm>

To register by phone: call (312) 355-0423 during business hours.

For additional information about any of our online courses in nonprofit management, please visit our website (<http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/pe/index.htm>) or call or e-mail Sarah Rothschild at (312) 996-8078, [sroths1@uic.edu](mailto:sroths1@uic.edu)

## **People**

► **David Perry** has been awarded a stipend by the city of Belfast to help facilitate an October meeting of key leaders from Belfast and the national government of Northern Ireland in Chicago. He is working in collaboration with research assistant **Carrie Menendez** on this event.

► GCI is pleased to announce **Thomas Moher** Faculty Scholar 2006-2007 was recently awarded a grant by the National Science Foundation for his project titled "Collaborative Research: Supporting whole-class science investigations with spatial simulations." Moher is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science within the College of Engineering. His grant proposal was developed and submitted during his Faculty Scholar work at GCI.

► **David Perry** was one of six international experts invited to the "First International Forum on the Yungpu District of Shanghai" in Shanghai China on September 12-14. Along with other scholars from the United States; the World Bank; Singapore; Bangalore, India; Taipei, Taiwan; and Hong Kong and Beijing, China, Perry presented a report on the role of universities in cities and participated in a series of seminars sponsored by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences,

the Fudan University, and the Tongji University. This work was done in collaboration with Great Cities Fellow **Tingwei Zhang** and research assistant **Meng Sun**.

### **Scholar Spotlight**

**Xiaoyu Zhang (“Joy”)**, Visiting Scholar from China, Great Cities Institute.

Joy is Associate Professor and Assistant Dean in the Urban Planning Department in the Architecture School at Tianjin University, China. She has many research interests including urban spatial structure, land use and development, transportation planning, and GIS in planning to name a few. Joy holds a Ph.D. from Tongji University, China in Urban Planning and Design and a B.S. in Architecture from Tianjin University, China. She is currently working on two planning projects in China. The first is creating a master plan of Longkou, China, a city of 700,000 people. The second is creating a master plan and town design for Majiadian, China, a city of 50,000 people.

After completing a cross-country drive from Los Angeles to New York City, Joy became very interested in the urban planning theories and practices within the United States. Her focus here at GCI is to research and study the development process and planning theory of American cities, with a highlight on Chicago. The objectives of her work will be land development, transportation, urban design, and sustainable planning.

Based on her research, Joy is working on two books. These books will be a culmination of the research she is working on in the United States. The first will be on Chicago Urban Planning and the second on American cities – from metropolis to town. Through these books, she intends to introduce Chinese students to American city planning.

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