



July 2014

Welcome to the URBAN-Sociology newsletter. Below please find news and updates from participants in the Sociology section of the Urban Research Based Action Network (URBAN).

This newsletter is meant as a supplement to the ongoing discussion about community based research on the

URBAN Website:

<http://urbanresearchnetwork.org>

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Mass Incarceration and Deportation Forum (p II)

by Jose Calderon

The URBAN-Los Angeles node, together with a number of co-sponsors*, held a forum attended by over eighty participants on the connections between Mass Incarceration and Mass Deportation on Saturday, April 12th. The forum began with a panel facilitated by URBAN-L. A. chair Jose Calderon and included: Jessica Karp, National Day Laborer Organizing Network; Edna Monroy, CA Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance; Diana Zuniga, Californians United for a Responsible Budget/Curb Prison Spending; and UCL A Professor and Researcher Kelly Lytle Hernandez. The presenters focused on how deportations and detentions have added to the growth in the massive prison industrial complex, increased profits that are being used to advance more enforcement, and a steady increase in the criminalization of communities of color. After the panel presentation, the participants joined in workshop sessions that focused on community-based research and activism, building campaigns on deportations and incarceration, youth mobilization, and law enforcement and criminal justice. Some key proposals that emerged from the sessions included: the organizing of campaigns to pressure universities to pull out of private prison investments and to reinvest in socially responsible alternative criminal justice and immigrant rights programs; the need to reframe immigrant rights policies to challenge some of the mainstream immigrant rights organizations and organized labor unions who have supported federal legislation that has one-sidedly focused on enforcement and criminalization; the building of coalitions between those who support immigration reform and prison reform; and supporting the Dream and Freedom Summer 2014 efforts to bring together undocumented immigrant youth, African American youth, and others who are committed to advancing an agenda for social change and social justice.

*The co-sponsors included: UCLA Labor Center; CURB – Californians United for a Responsible Budget/Curb Spending; Cal State University Northridge Civil Discourse/Social Change Initiative; Latino and Latina Roundtable; Dignity and Power Now; Incite L.A. Women of Color Against Violence. (Note: This article also appears on the URBAN website: <http://urbanresearchnetwork.org/next-steps-curbing-mass-incarceration-and-deportation/>)

New Report: Underwater America: How the So-Called Housing “Recovery” is Bypassing Many American Communities

By Gregory Squires

A collection of organizers, lawyers, and academics from around the US have joined forces to ameliorate the continue costs of the nation’s foreclosure and related economic crises. The recession may be officially over. Housing prices may have bottomed out and started to rise in some communities. But almost 5 million families have lost their homes to foreclosure and almost ten million more are underwater, meaning they owe more on their mortgage than their home is worth leaving them vulnerable to the loss of their homes in the near future. The report, *Underwater America: How the So-Called Housing “recovery” is Bypassing Many American Communities*, written by Peter Dreier (Occidental College), Saqib Bhatti (Nathan Cummings Foundation), Rob Call (MIT), Alex Schwartz (The New School) and Gregory Squires (George Washington University) and published in May by the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at UC-Berkeley, identifies the most vulnerable communities. Specifically it lists the 15 metropolitan areas, 100 cities, and 395 zip codes containing the largest share of underwater homes. The primary strategic objective of this report and related organizing efforts is the modification of those loans via principal reduction in order to save the homes for current owner occupants. Some cities are considering utilizing eminent domain and some non-profit community development organizations are offering to use their buying power to purchase these mortgages, and refinance them at current market values in order to enable more families to stay in their homes. For copies of the report go to: <http://diversity.berkeley.edu/underwater-america-report>. An op-ed summarizing the report by one of the authors, Peter Dreier, a sociologist at Occidental College, was published by the *New York Times* on May 8: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/09/opinion/what-housing-recovery.html>

New Resource for Funding Community Based Research by Tufts University

The [*Community Members' Guide to Submitting a Community-Engaged Research Federal Grant Application*](#) was written for community-based organizations interested in community-based research partnerships with academic researchers. The guide outlines the steps required to submit a federal grant application to funding agencies such as National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). In this guide, you will find:

- Information about community-engaged research
- Information you need to build community-academic research partnerships
- Information you need to prepare a federal community-engaged research application
- Useful tips and examples to guide you through federal grant submissions.

Links to the guide and appendices are located at

<http://urbanresearchnetwork.org/excellent-resource-from-tufts-ctsi/>

URBAN Sociology Events at the American Sociological Association (ASA) 2014 Annual Meeting

August 16-19, 2014 in San Francisco, CA

URBAN Sociology Organizational Meeting

Saturday, August 16th 6:30-7:30pm

Union Square 19-20, Fourth Floor, Hilton San Francisco

Please join colleagues for a discussion of how to promote and support community-based research among sociologists. This will be a chance to meet and connect with like-minded colleagues and plan concrete activities that the ASA URBAN node can do in the coming year.

Information Table

Look for the URBAN information booth near the registration table. Information about community-based research and URBAN will be available.

Graduate Student Mentoring

URBAN will be initiating a graduate student mentoring program at this year's ASA conference to support graduate students interested in conducting community based research. Please sign-up to be a mentor or to obtain a mentor at the organizational meeting and at the information table or contact Megan Madison at URBANgrads@googlegroups.com.

Community Based Research: A Key to the Equitable Development of US Cities - a Section on Community and Urban Sociology Invited Session.

Tuesday, August 19th, 8:30-10:10am – Please check ASA schedule for room location

This session will bring together academic researchers and their community partners who are engaged in collaborative research efforts in the San Francisco Bay area. One team will examine domestic violence and the other will explore mental health issues in the American Indian community. Members of the Sociology Planning Group of URBAN will discuss these particular partnerships and other objectives and initiatives of the network.

Other Sessions of Interest:

191 - Regular Session. Public Sociology Sun, August 17, 8:30 to 10:10am, TBA
Mark Warren, Developing Doctoral Students as community-engaged scholars.

Urban Roundtables at the ASA Meeting

We are pleased to announce that URBAN (the Urban Research-Based Action Network) will be sponsoring a set of four roundtables at this year's ASA meeting (in conjunction with the Section of Sociological Practice and Public Sociology). The roundtables are planned for **Sat, August 16, 10:30 to 11:30am (Location TBA)**. These are working sessions in which scholars/practitioners who are interested in these topics will discuss ongoing work, identify common areas of interest, establish ongoing communication, and hopefully set an agenda for ongoing collaboration.

Community Food Security, Nutrition, and Urban/Suburban Agriculture

Presider, Sarah N. Gatson, Texas A&M University

Erika Allen, Director of Growing Power Chicago has argued, "Community food security is a missing civil right." This roundtable seeks to bring together scholars, students, activists, and community members for a working session to share ideas, tools, and build collaborations in the field of food security/justice, foodways, and food systems. A focus on sustainable and effective projects that bring in all members of the community will be our standard, with an eye towards building permeable boundaries and loose but thick ties through which our efforts can flow.

Challenges and Opportunities to Publish Community-Based Research in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Presider, Charlotte Ryan, University of Massachusetts – Lowell

In community-based research (CBR), communities and social scientists collaborate to direct, design, implement, analyze and/or evaluate research projects in hopes of empowering the targeted community and promoting social justice. Although common in many countries, peer-reviewed articles utilizing CBR approaches are uncommon in the U.S.A., particularly in the leading journals in which junior scholars are urged to publish to ensure tenure and promotion. This affects rising sociologists' efforts to reconcile social justice commitments and their need for secure, living wage employment. URBAN's Publication Committee has drafted guidelines to help journal editors assess the quality of community-based research submission (posted on URBAN's website www.urbanresearchnetwork.org by 7/15/14). Join us to review the draft guidelines in light of your own research concerns, and to help us develop other resources and future sessions.

Organizing for Educational Change: Inside and Outside of Schools

Presider, John Diamond, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Scholarly research in sociology and education faces increasing calls to make research more relevant to practice and in particular to advancing equity in policy and practice. Collaborative research for equity and action offers a distinctive answer to this call. Such research emerges through collaborations with community-based organizations and schools, the promotion of research expertise among community and educator groups, and the production of translational research on issues of educational equity and justice. Over the 18 months, URBAN will be convening a set of expert conferences involving leading scholars to help advance the field of collaborative research in education. This roundtable will provide an opportunity to discuss and inform the content of these future meetings, establish ongoing connections, and explore the possibilities of collaborative work among participants.

How can DREAMers be Partners in Community Based Research?

Presider, Thomas Piñeros Shields, University of Massachusetts – Lowell

Undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. as children, or "DREAMers" are uniquely situated as community co-researchers since many often play a dual role as community-based subjects of study and as students in colleges and universities. This discussion will highlight the nuances of engaging in research with undocumented immigrant students as community researchers at this round table working session.

About URBAN

URBAN is an emerging multidisciplinary network of scholars and community activists created to foster collaborative, community-based research that is relevant to pressing issues facing communities and that can support action initiatives. URBAN seeks to support and advance this type of engaged scholarship within academia. It has local nodes in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Northern California. It has national, disciplinary nodes in sociology and among education researchers.

To sign up for the ASA URBAN email list: please email: urban_ASA@lists.brandeis.edu

More information on URBAN at <http://urbanresearchnetwork.org/>

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