<u>**PAPER ABSTRACTS**</u>

1. Title: The Common Identity of Civic Applications.

Peter James Burress, Urban Studies MS Student

In nearly every technological aspect of today's world, private enterprise seems to be far outpacing the public sphere. Specifically looking at mobile applications, government and nonprofit-sponsored app initiatives (i.e., civic apps) receive much less attention than those developed in the private market. Based on interviews with representatives from two different civic app organizations, it appears that civic apps are largely underdeveloped because of the complexity of the issues they work to address. In order to effectively tackle these issues through mobile technology, community leaders and software engineers must establish a more focused, grass-roots driven framework for civic app development. Only then will the public market be able to take advantage of tools already utilized in the private sphere.

Keywords: civic apps, framework, community, public data, tools for social change

2. **Title: Vel Phillips: Redefining Gender Roles, While Fighting to Breakdown Racial Barriers in the City of Milwaukee.**

Thomas Anthony Gentine, UWM History PhD Student

The story of Vel Phillips and the Milwaukee Open Housing Marches of 1968 often focuses on multiple efforts to gain Fair Housing Opportunities throughout Milwaukee and the surrounding suburbs. These stories often depict Milwaukee's NAACP Youth Commandos and Father Groppi marching to the Southside of Milwaukee in efforts to pass a citywide housing act against housing discrimination. However, Vel Phillips' efforts to gain political space within the Milwaukee Common Council, while fighting against housing discrimination is equally as important. These efforts describe not only the obstacles Vel Phillips needed to overcome to be elected into office, but also the battles she had within the Milwaukee Common Council once she was elected into to office. Presenting this story we not only come to understand the racism that existed within Milwaukee, but also the obstacles related to gender and the struggles of new voices fighting for equality within a democratic society, even after gaining the right to vote and hold office.

3. **Title: Feeling at Home in Assisted Living in the U.S.; Is Providers' Goal Similar to Residents' Expectations?**

Hamideh Moayyed, Urban Studies PhD Student

Moving from home to a community based living is a difficult and irritating transition for the elderly people. They have to leave their home that they have spent most of their lives, deal with their need for care, and move to a new place that they have not experienced yet. This issue necessitates the consideration of the concept of home and place attachment in assisted living facilities. Scholars mostly focused on either the "design and physical environment" of assisted livings, including Zavotka, and Reed, or the "residents' perceptions" of living in these settings including Saunders, and Heliker. In this paper, using primary and secondary sources, I aim to examine the points of both providers and residents of assisted livings in America toward the factors that make assisted living a "home-like" setting. The goal of this study is to see what practical steps are necessary to bridge the gap between providers' goal and residents' expectations in order to develop the ways that residents not only adapt themselves to the new environment, but also feel at home in this community-based care environments.

*Keyword*s: Assisted living facility, Sense of place, Home-like environment

4. **Title: "… but I'm afraid" Muslim International Students and the U.S. Presidential Election 2016.**

Tathagato Chakraborty, Urban Studies PhD Student

The 2016 U.S. presidential election debate and the result have aggravated certain forms of anxiety among the Muslim international students in Milwaukee. Anxiety ranges from religious profiling at an individual level to personal and family related anxiety for safety, security and freedom to an international level of diplomatic relationship and consequent policy issues. Using qualitative interview, this research addresses the types of anxiety faced by Muslim students in Milwaukee. The findings suggest that even though individual students have different understandings of this political situation, nonetheless they are anxious at a personal as well as at a community level. Moreover, anxiety has been expressed by people related to the respondents, immediately. However, they feel safer in Milwaukee, predominantly because of the election result.

Keywords: Muslim International Student, Anxiety, Presidential Election, Milwaukee

5. **Title: The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Black Studies Movement: Funding, Philosophy and Student Activism, 1968-1971.**

Toni Jones, Urban Studies MS Student

In May of 1968, the United Black Student Liberation Front (UBSF) presented Chancellor Klotche with an 11-point proposal for the development of a Black Student Union. The proposal included an alternative academic curriculum for black students, the development of a Black History Program for all students and control of courses pertaining to black students in education and social welfare. The Administration presented an alternative proposal to create a Center for Afro-American Culture which included courses in Afro-American studies and support services for black students but discarded student control. Institutional support for the rapid development of the Center for Afro-American culture was due to faculty engagement and access to federal Educational Opportunity funding. The current focus of Milwaukee's Black School Reform Movement (Dahlk 2002, Dougherty 2004, and Jones 2009) is on the city's high schools. In this paper I will argue, the Center for Afro-American Culture, the precursor to the department of Africology, was catalyzed by several dedicated UW-Milwaukee faculty and students and their activism has a place in Milwaukee's Black School Reform Movement Literature.

6. **Title: "We all gotta drink the water": Discordant discourses in the remediation of Milwaukee's lead service lines.**

Isabella Rieke, Urban Studies MS Student

This paper examines the recent lead contamination "crisis" in Milwaukee's drinking water, which came to light after a 2015 pilot survey of 6 homes determined that routine water main replacement resulted in elevated lead levels in residents' tap water. Through participant-based observations and interviews, this study explores the discourses produced by FLAC, the community-organized advocacy group, with regards to both the nature of the problem as well as what would constitute a satisfactory response, and the ways in which it conflicts with the city narrative. In 2016, as the city of Milwaukee worked towards a solution that could ameliorate the potential health risks, these two discourses came into repeated conflict with one another; in 2017, they seem poised to continue to do so. As such, this study attempts to identify some of the most pertinent ways in which the community discourses is divergent from and incompatible with the city narrative, and whether these divergences are illustrative of—and therefore potentially instructive in resolving—recurring discursive themes related to community disapproval of the city's infrastructure agenda, community distrust of city intentions, and frictions over how, where, and why the city's strained resources are being disbursed.

7. **Title: Measured Expectations: An Examination of Organizational and Community Perspectives of Urban Agriculture in Milwaukee's Harambee Neighborhood.**

Jamison Ellis, Urban Studies MS Student

Urban agriculture has developed into what some believe to be a solution to many of the problems faced by residents of impoverished neighborhoods. Many academic articles not only cite the benefits that come from increased food access and green space, but also the benefits of community pride and involvement that are supposedly improved by the presence of an urban garden. Despite the growing research regarding this topic, few studies have focused on collecting the perspectives of residents living in areas with an agricultural presence. This study uses Concordia Gardens, an urban garden run by Victory Gardens Initiative, and located in the Harambee neighborhood of Milwaukee, Wisconsin to determine if the above-mentioned benefits are indeed perceived by local residents living near an urban garden. Qualitative interviews conducted with organizational members and residents surrounding the garden reveal that while seen as a good thing, the presence of an urban garden within a neighborhood does little to create a sense of community between residents and organization members. These findings suggest that an increased emphasis on the local perception of urban agriculture in academic studies has the potential to provide a more accurate representation of the effects of urban agriculture on a local community.

8. **Title: Cultivating sense of place & efforts at social justice through environmental volunteer work in Milwaukee.**

Katherine Kocisky, Urban Studies PhD Student

How does sense of place play a role in Milwaukee residents' volunteer experiences and motivation with the environmental not-for-profit the Urban Ecology Center (UEC)? How do the ways that UEC volunteers envision 'sense of place' suggest local efforts at urban social and environmental justice, if any? Open-ended qualitative interviews with environmental volunteers from the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee were coded to explore themes associated with their experiences and motivations for participating in various projects. In addition to being involved with an organization in which they felt valued, volunteers revealed that having an increased sense of community and being able to influence both socially and environmentally beneficial place transformation were among the motivating factors for participating in environmental work. These themes present an opportunity to further explore how the role of place attachment and sense of community, cultivated by environmental volunteer work in urban settings, can help create inclusive spaces that lead to connected communities, particularly in a hyper-segregated city like Milwaukee.

POSTER ABSTRACTS

1. Title: Who Cares?: Lived Experiences of Home Care Aides in Milwaukee.

Caitlin D. Taylor, Urban Studies MS Student

Recent academic attention to the experiences of paid caregivers emphasizes the growth of an industry fueled primarily by minority women's emotional and physical labor. In an effort to further intersectional analyses on the financial and social constraints to providing quality care, this research examines the complex relationships between neoliberalism, gender, race, and class that affect Black women's experiences as home care aides. This paper approaches the subject from a justice-based framework rooted Black Feminist Thought and is based on the concept of neighborhood effects. It focuses on the experiences of home care aides who live on Milwaukee's North Side as a way of analyzing the implications of neoliberal policies for low-income Black women. Employing an ethnographic strategy, this research includes semi-structured interviews with home care aides. By providing insight into the everyday lives of home care aides this project situates Black women's social and economic development in urban centers while examining occupational segregation and changes in wage trends over time. This examination provides a robust understanding of the challenges presented with working in home care. This research reveals women's labor market "choices" in the face of neoliberal policies while exposing racialized and gendered disparities within the occupation. This paper argues that women's positions in home care are the result of disinvestment in low-income minority communities, the lack of other opportunities, and the continuation of informal caregiving. This study contributes to scholarly discussions on care work and minority women's social and economic development in urban centers, as well as a growing national conversation on wage trends.

2. Title: Oppression in the Guise of Benevolence: The American Social Welfare System and the African American Community.

Deborah Blanks, Urban Studies PhD Student

Critical theories of race explain that the identification and categorization of those deemed as "Others" has led to the differentiation of groups and to the justification for oppression. While much of the existing research regarding poverty in the black community has focused on the perceived deficiencies in the African American character, culture and community, the emerging research focuses on the organizations, systems and institutions purportedly designed to help the poor. This poster will illustrate how oppression functions within institutions that provide social welfare services to the African American community. There will be two primary focus: how the system generates structures of domination to oppress African Americans and how the worldview of many individuals in the mainstream enables them to sanction oppressive systems.   In this poster illustration, the five forms of oppression will be emphasized. My research has indicated that social control and paternalism are used to restrict and oppress blacks. I would add that benevolence, often praised, can have a negative effect as well. Finally, the voice of African Americans is featured in the research and will be included in the poster.

3. Title: The NGO Effect: Isomorphism and Global Scripts for the Local Poor.

Gonçalo Borges, Sociology MS Student

The importance of non-profit actors operating in slums across the Global South have been increasing since the 1980s. Such actors' institutional influence in the lives of the urban poor, and their influence in the urban tissue are the most visible face of that relationship. In the entrance of the XXI century was possible to observe an increasing expansion, and globalization of these relationships between actors, institutions, and peripheral spaces. The current research examines the possible existence of isomorphism in Non-Governmental Organization's (NGOs) actions operating in contexts of peripheral urbanization in Brazilian, Indian, and South African slums between the years of 2010 and 2017. The process of analysis is thus focused in gathering online newspaper's articles about peripheral urbanization from major newspapers in Brazil, India, and South Africa, and consequentially developing a content analysis. In a first stage, the current research will analyze the content of those articles in order to find discourses, and representations that might show evidences of isomorphism. In a second stage of the project, the findings from the first stage will be providing a comparison between the Brazilian, Indian and South African cases, where the existence or absence of isomorphism will be examined according to their spatial, cultural and time limitations. Preliminary findings show significant signs of isomorphism across different social contexts and nations, especially due to intense processes of globalization, and due to the creation of new channels of communication between actors.

4. **Title: Revitalizing a Plaza: A Study on a Historically Significant Public space in Tehran.**

Mahshid Jalalianhosseini, Architecture PhD Student

Public spaces and plazas have always been an essential component of our cities and their role goes beyond providing a mere open space: they provide a context for social interaction among citizens, performance of cultural events and telling the story of the past for the users. This study focuses on *Sabze Meydan*, one the historic plazas in Tehran, the capital of Iran. A research on the history of this space shows that it has been one of the very first plazas in the city. Originally, it was a place that would accommodate people's interaction and a platform for performing ritual events and traditions. The plaza had always been a major destination for many people in the past, however, with the degrade in the quality of the plaza over time, it is no longer responsive to the needs of people who are now occasionally using the space as a destination. This study focuses on the way people are currently using this space. The study is conducted through observation, interviewing with the users of the space and studying the strengths and weaknesses of the space and provides strategies for redesigning the plaza based on people's needs, with regard to its historical significance.

5. Title: Evaluating the Impact of Performance Improvement Strategies.

Milika Miller, Urban Studies PhD Student

Through a program evaluation of a youth serving organization, the data-driven decision making strategies (DDDM) employed by the organization will be examined to determine what effect the strategy's implementation had on program outcomes. There is a significant lack of literature on how such strategies actually perform in regards to impact on outcomes. This research attempts to add to this void. The study is focused in two areas, the DDDM strategy implemented by the organization and the change in the participants' outcomes. The examination of the organization's strategy implementation will be benchmarked against the Mandinach, Honey, Light and Brunner framework of how to properly implement a DDDM strategy. It is also anchored in the context of the historical requirements placed on nonprofit organizations around accountability and outcome achievement. The program evaluation will examine data from a three-year longitudinal review of quantitative data around school related measures. Structured as a quasi-experimental design where the outcomes of students that had no exposure to the program, students that had below optimal exposure and students that have optimal exposure to the program will be compared to determine effect of the DDDM strategy.

6. **Title: Culture-led urban regeneration and urban tourism, and its link to the challenge of gentrification: the case of Seoul**.

Minji Kim, Geography PhD Student

This research examines the role and the consequences of *Art in the City* project—an example of cultural-led-regeneration—in Seoul's contemporary urban regeneration and gentrification after a ten-year implementation process. This project shows Seoul's urban development paradigm shifted from economic growth and efficiency prioritized urban model towards urban regeneration. Although the project was designed to revitalize underdeveloped areas and to improve residents' quality of life by installing public art, instead, the project generated controversial outcomes. Focusing on the example of controversy surrounding tourism development and subsequent challenges by residents to the threat of gentrification and neighborhood change, this paper analyzes how culture-led urban regeneration coexistence with urban tourism illustrated by *Art in the City* project. Also, this research provides a framework to link culture-led urban regeneration coexistence to urban tourism and tourism gentrification.

Keywords: Culture-led urban regeneration, Urban tourism, Public art, Gentrification, Seoul.