

**PAPER ABSTRACTS**

**1. Title: The Street-less Revolution: The Spatial Configuration of Iran's 1906 Constitutional Revolution.**

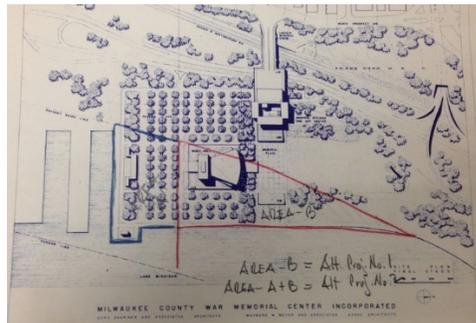
Ashkan Rezvani Naraghi, Urban Studies PhD Student.

In 1906, the first modern revolution occurred in the contemporary history of Iran. Months of uprising and protest in Tehran forced the government to surrender to the protesters' demands and agree to the establishment of Iran's first parliament. During the Constitutional Revolution, people's major protest sites were the courtyards of two mosques, a shrine, and the British embassy garden. Although the city possessed a network of streets and square, constructed in the early 1870s based on European vocabulary of urban design, people chose alternative spaces deep in the old city as their protests sites. This paper investigates people's spatial choices by analyzing Iranian urban society. It argues that these choices closely related to the social structures of urban society and traditional forms of social life in Iranian cities. It argues that there was a reciprocal relationship between the social identity of the urban communities and the courtyards of the mosques and the shrine as the major public spaces of Tehran. By including a non-Western narrative of public spaces, this essay adds a vital set of examples and theories to the body of knowledge on spatial theories of social movements and public spaces which tends to be dominated by European and North American perspectives. It shows that the dominant discourse of public spaces takes the role of the streets and squares for granted, and by investigating different geographical and historical alternatives, new insights into the topic can be developed.

2. **Title: The Milwaukee War Memorial Center and Its Perception.**

Seungyoun Lee, School of Architecture and Urban Planning PhD Student.

The Milwaukee County War Memorial Center was an unconventional specimen of architecture incorporating stylistic features of the brutalism and modernism when it was established in 1957 at Lake Michigan's shore in Wisconsin. Erecting the memorial took fourteen years from the beginning of the construction decision; meanwhile, the site for construction had changed four times, and the initial architect was replaced with his son, Eero Saarinen. The primary goal of this paper is to examine a set of controversies surrounding the establishment of the memorial and to explore how it takes on identity, reflecting both its surrounding and desire of the public. I draw on the material culture from numerous primary sources in UWM library archives such as Walter Henry Bender Paper, Russell Partridge and Miriam Frink Papers, and City Club of Milwaukee Records. In addition, news articles and photographs from the Milwaukee Public Library are also employed in this paper. Building on these evidences, I argue that the public looked at erecting the memorial from not only the view of patriotism but also that of pragmatism. Furthermore, one can realize the multiple meanings and layers hidden behind the building itself by reading the memorial within the context of urban settings.



Plan for the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center in 1953.  
Courtesy of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Library Archives.

**3. Title: A Critical Race Theory Analysis of the “New Opportunities for Milwaukee” Proposal.**

Nick De Marsh, Urban Studies Master’s Student.

The “New Opportunities for Milwaukee” proposal by state legislators in Wisconsin seeks to address chronic unemployment and poverty in Milwaukee. In this article, I demonstrate how Critical Race Theory can assess the “New Opportunities for Milwaukee” proposal. As the most segregated city in the nation, Critical Race Theory (CRT) is crucial in assessing bold, sweeping policies such as “New Opportunities for Milwaukee.” In this case, I look at the implications of both the policies proposed and not proposed by Senator Darling and Representative Kooyenga who represent affluent, white suburban areas, which largely surround the City of Milwaukee.

Job opportunities for low skilled workers have increased dramatically in Milwaukee’s suburbs, but a lack of affordable housing in the suburbs and public transit service from Milwaukee to the suburbs create significant barriers to employment. In their proposal Senator Darling and Representative Kooyenga minimize the influence of race as a determinant of economic opportunities in Milwaukee suggesting that “Today, a greater discriminator to escaping poverty is not race, but instead revolves around the ability to obtain a high school diploma” (Darling and Kooyenga, 2015). I illustrate how colorblind ideology rationalizes the minimization of the influence of race. Minimizing race facilitates a “strategic silence” of proposals that would help to bridge the divide between Milwaukee residents and job opportunities in suburban areas.

In this analysis I look at two of the policies proposed in “New Opportunities for Milwaukee” 1.) repealing the minimum mark-up law and 2.) the creation of Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) to reduce recidivism. I illustrate how the two policies are predicated on uricide, the intentional killing of the city.

**4. Title: Racialized Food Systems and Inequitable Access**

Renee Scampini, Urban Studies PhD Student.

Slocum (2011) calls for the “explicit engagement with the concept of race ... to make arguments about how racism shapes food systems, to understand how race changes through food, and to consider how food might enable different theorizations of race” (p. 303). Despite disproportionate rates of food insecurity in Households of Color and the negative health outcomes associated with food insecurity, structural racism is not a main focus in the critique of this dimension of the food system. There is evidence of racially patterned obstacles to sufficient healthy food access, particularly in urban settings, as well as societal factors such as increased poverty, decreased access to education, segregation, and under- and un-employment, associated with food insecurity. The urban environment produces and shapes these factors disproportionately impacting Communities of Color. Additional research is needed to determine if structural racism is a root cause of unequal access to healthy food in an urban setting.

Critiquing the study of food insecurity allows a new frame of the literature to build the foundation for a concept I label *nutritional racism*, that is, racialized systems impede consistent healthy food access. I argue that the US food system is structurally racist because of systematic relations that privilege White access to sufficient, nutritious, life-sustaining food and exclude People of Color.

**5. Title: Buildings as Activities: How Race Produced and Reproduced Domestic landscapes ——A Case Study of Working-class Hmong Families in Milwaukee.**

Hongyan Yang, School of Architecture and Urban Planning PhD Student.

This paper explores how Hmong immigrants negotiated the domestic spaces in the urban setting of Milwaukee's Westside, which are dramatically different from their village life in Laos and Thailand. I argue that Hmong families produced and reproduced domestic spaces with more flexible, permeable, informal spatial and temporal qualities and organizations.

I studied three working-class Hmong immigrant families in Washington Park Neighborhood, Milwaukee. Drawing attention to how immigrant families organize their daily routines, we documented the architectural plans, interior details of homes. Oral history interviews and archival research were also conducted. Besides, I brought the primary findings to other Hmong immigrants to elicit their commentaries. My research shows that zoning is ambiguous in the Hmong homes. Instead, they presented a more flexible spatial organization. For example, Hmong parents privatized public rooms in domestic homes to create their own space.

This study implies the fabrication of the buildings can be contested by the inhabitation of immigrant families. Buildings should be examined not only as places, but also as activities. Through the lens of race, this study interprets the remaking of domestic spaces as the Hmong families' everyday practices.

**POSTER ABSTRACTS**

**1. Title: A Highly Feminized and Racialized Occupation: Lived Experiences of Home Care Aides in Milwaukee.**

Caitlin D. Taylor, Urban Studies and Women's & Gender Studies Master's 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.

**Keywords**

Black women-feminist methods-home care aides-Milwaukee

## 2. Title: Resources in the Landscape.

James Wall, School of Architecture and Urban Planning Master's Student.

Sustainability defined as, the socio-ecological process characterized by the pursuit of a common ideal<sup>1</sup>, is how the project is crafted. Initial stages of this design included a participatory process, used to redesign a common building type. Further, this project proposes an architectural design solution that focuses on adaptive reuse of a historic commercial building. This building was once a Kohl's grocery store built in the 1960s. The poster will document how the adaptive reuse project proposes contemporary programming made up of multi-use spaces designed to meet the needs of a community center.

Design and Relevance:

Spaces within and outside of the building will be linked with a pre designed walkable path determined by initial stages of the participatory design process. Connecting to other community building resources provides a safer and healthier neighborhood that can rely less on automobile transportation. Spaces within the building will provide for educational, active and retail, creating a new public hub within the community. This further reconnects the live / work communities currently disconnected both physically and psychologically.

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<sup>1</sup> Wandenberg, JC (August 2015). [Sustainable by Design](#). Amazon. p. 122. ISBN 1516901789. Retrieved 16 February 2016

**3. Title: Get a Lot for Less: Case Study Evaluating the \$1 Vacant Lot Pilot Program in Milwaukee's 15th Aldermanic District.**

Sierra Starner-Heffron, Urban Studies Master's Student.

This poster will present the work done for my Master's thesis. I have examined the first vacant lots sold for \$1 during the initial months of the program's start. I did visual assessments as well as telephone interviews with 18 program participants to gauge the effectiveness of this program in revitalizing the 15<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District. In order to gauge the effectiveness of the program I determined how many lots were sold during the first year and a half of the program's existence and using that number I determined how much money the City has saved in maintenance costs and received in increased property taxes. I also examined if the program has reduced blight conditions, increased urban agriculture and assessed the use and added benefits this program has had for the residents.

**4. Title: Hmong Mutual Assistance Associations in Wisconsin: Transitioning in a Neoliberal Environment.**

Shuayee Ly, Urban Studies PhD Student.

Since the arrival of the Hmong refugees into the United States in the mid-1970's due to the Vietnam War, the Hmong community organizations that have developed to ease the resettlement process continue to play an important role not limited to areas of joblessness and poverty. This research is a comparative case study assessing the local context of Hmong mutual assistance associations (MAA) located in Wisconsin. More specifically, a look into the shifting roles, services and adaptation patterns of these organizations as they attempt to meet the changing needs of the Hmong American community and strive to stay relevant and operational under a neoliberal environment. Essentially, will the Hmong mutual assistance associations have the ability to transform into community based organizations that serve Hmong Americans? And if so, what organizational characteristics shape its ability to effectively transform under neoliberal conditions?

**5. Title: Money in the Time of Maier**

Samantha Fleischman, Urban Studies Master's Student.

Economic disparities between municipalities have been an issue throughout the nation since the mid-1900s and have been emphasized through urban- and suburbanization. Geographical movements greatly influenced public funding and taxing, often leaving urban cores in a fiscal straightjacket. My presentation looks at the movements and attempts to even out the disparities in the state and metropolitan regions through tax reform, revenue sharing, and changes in tax distribution formulas.

A case study focuses on Milwaukee and Wisconsin from the late 1960s-70s as a group of city leaders across the state banded together to form the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities. Founded by Milwaukee Mayor Henry Maier, the alliance worked tirelessly for years to alter the state shared revenues formula despite continuous criticisms from suburban municipalities.

Maier and the alliance struggled to make significant changes towards social justice and were able to change the shared revenues formula in 1971, but was it enough? Also, how does Wisconsin compare to other cities and states that used alternative methods and various levels of revenue sharing?