

# URBAN STUDIES UPDATE



Fall 2019

Newsletter for Alumni and Friends

## Director's Letter

Dear USP Community,

Greetings and welcome back to fall semester! I hope everyone had a good summer break. As for myself, I ended up spending most of the summer here in Milwaukee – not a terrible place to spend the summer months. My family lives in Shorewood just a block away from the Oak Leaf bike trail, and one of my favorite summer activities is to head north on my bike after dinner and see how far I can get before I run out of daylight. (No farther than Mequon, it turns out.) My friends in Chicago are always jealous when I tell them about the great biking infrastructure that we have here in Milwaukee. Not something to be taken for granted in an urban area like this.



Here at Urban Studies, our new cohort of master's and PhD students is bringing new faces to the seventh floor of Bolton Hall. This group is especially diverse. We generally have some incoming international students, but this year the number is larger than usual with students from Ghana, Nigeria, and China joining the USP community. Welcome all!

The past year has been an eventful one. **Evelyn Perry**, associate professor of sociology at Rhodes College, joined us last fall for a terrific presentation on her ethnographic study of Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood. Her book, *Live and Let Live: Diversity, Conflict, and Community in an Integrated Neighborhood*, was published in 2017 by the University of North Carolina Press.

We were also fortunate to have **Paige Glotzer**, assistant professor of history at UW-Madison, as keynote speaker for our twenty-fourth annual student research forum this past spring. Professor Glotzer presented findings from her forthcoming book, *Building Suburban Power: The Business of Exclusionary Housing Markets, 1890-1960*, focusing on how suburban housing developers, financial institutions, and policymakers worked in combination to produce and maintain racially segregated neighborhoods in cities like Baltimore.

Our USP students and faculty, both past and present, continue to have an impact in the community and more broadly. Distinguished Professor Emerita of History **Margo Anderson** received national and international attention this past spring for her work on a "friend of the court" brief to the U.S. Supreme Court criticizing the proposal to add a citizenship question to the 2020 U.S. Census. Closer to home, USP Alumnus **Trevor Jung** (BA '17) was recently elected to the Racine Common Council, handily defeating his opponent. Congratulations, Trevor!

For the many alumni who have made contributions to USP this past year, we thank you for your support! Your generous gifts have enabled doctoral students with limited financial resources to complete fieldwork and other costly activities. We hope you have fond memories of your time at UWM, and that you will continue to keep us in mind as you plan your future charitable contributions.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and productive year.

Joel Rast



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*All of us in Urban Studies would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our donors whose gifts go directly to support graduate student research.*



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Jeff Eagan (MS '78)

Kristi A. Luzar (MS '06)  
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Kenneth E. Robinson (MS '80)  
James K. Sponholz (MS '89)

Avelardo Valdez (MS '73)  
Henry M. Weiner (MS '75)  
Aaron J. Wolfe-Bertling (MS '79)



# Updates from the Associate Director

## Undergraduate News

Please join me in congratulating our Urban Studies Major (BA) and Certificate Grads!

- Robert Anderson, Certificate, *Summa Cum Laude*
- Ryne Boinski, Certificate
- Colin Flanner, Major, *Summa Cum Laude*
- Evan Hietpas, Major, *Magna Cum Laude*
- Graciela Herrera-Hernandez, Major
- Matthew Leser, Major
- Pilar Olvera, Major



Jamie Harris, Associate Director and Undergraduate Studies Coordinator

## Graduate News

*Congratulations to our Urban Studies Master's and PhD Grads*

### Master's in Urban Studies

Joshua Diciaula (Advisor: Kirk Harris), Thesis Title: "Transit-Oriented Development and the Implications for Equitable Development: A Case Study of the Milwaukee Streetcar"

Paul Davidson (Advisor: Joel Rast), Paper Title: "Foxconn and its 4.5 Billion Dollar Incentive Package: An Economic Development Conflict Analysis"

### PhD in Urban Studies

Shuayee Ly (Advisor: Chia Vang), Dissertation Title: "Elements of Capacity in Hmong Community-based Organizations"

## Student Research and Travels



Urban Studies major Allison Sweere presenting her poster at the Undergraduate Research Symposium

This past year two urban studies students presented posters at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. Their posters were based off a service learning project they were involved in during their Fall 2018 Urban Studies 150 course, Multicultural America (City-building, Social Movements, and Urban Change).

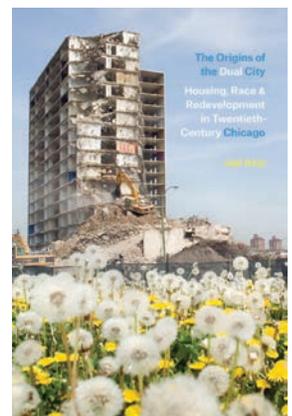


Urban Studies major, Fiona McGilligan, studied at University College Dublin during the Fall 2018 semester. She, along with PhD student Toni Johns, were part of the first cohort to take part in the Urban Studies – University College Dublin exchange program. You can read her travel reflection here. <https://uwm.edu/urban-studies/fiona-mcgilligan-reflects-on-travels/>

## New Faculty Publication

### The Origins of the Dual City

USP Director Joel Rast's new book will be published this fall by the University of Chicago Press. It examines how ideas, especially policy paradigms, influenced Chicago's evolving approach to problems of slums and blight during the twentieth century.



e.polis

an online student journal of Urban Studies

Check out our new e.polis website and submission formats in Currents: <https://people.uwm.edu/epolis/>



## Alumni Spotlight In Their Own Words



### Colin Flanner, BA '19 (*Summa Cum Laude*)

I always had a passion for cities, their places, people and the inner workings that grease the gears of modern urban America. I have interests in many different areas and always struggled to 'pick a lane' and stick with it. Upon hearing about the Urban Studies program at UWM, I knew it was the right fit for me: a degree that pulls from a wide variety of academic disciplines. My capstone course research focused on faith-based community-supported agriculture. I found that faith-based urban farming can produce effective results due to the dedication and social networks present in local faith-based community groups like All Peoples Church in the Harambee neighborhood. Throughout my college career, I interned for The Water Council – an economic development organization that seeks to promote and foster innovation in water technologies here in Milwaukee. I was involved on the talent development side of the organization, but after being there for 4+ years, I decided a change was needed. I am now working for the Roberto Hernández Center on campus as their Program Associate, managing student workers and helping develop and facilitate programs for Latinx students at UWM. I also plan on conducting independent research on a variety of topics I did not have the time to explore during my undergrad.



### Paul Davidson, MA '19

I pursued a master's degree in Urban Studies with the goal of learning how different actors are working (or opposing) one another in the pursuit of successful and equitable cities. I learned about these issues in both an academic and professional setting being a Milwaukee Idea Economic Development (MIED) fellow, where I worked at the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee. This unique combination prepared me to confidently approach, analyze, and critique different programs that organizations and governments are adopting. Being in Milwaukee presented me with a unique case study to pursue for my master's paper. I examined the incentive package Foxconn was granted through interviewing local residents, politicians, and activists around southeastern Wisconsin. It was exciting to highlight local voices regarding Foxconn because important viewpoints are not always highlighted in newspaper articles or polls. The decisions of a very small group of leaders has the potential to alter the lifestyle, environment, and economy for certain groups, so I wanted to document some of the concerns and hopes regarding Foxconn.

I am excited to use the skills cultivated during my time at UWM in my future professional endeavors. For the Summer, I will be working at Johns Hopkins University as the Dean of Residential Life for their summer program for gifted high school students. After the summer, I hope to continue working in government, higher education or at a nongovernmental organization with the mission of building more economically just cities.



### Shuayee Ly, PhD '19

My time in the Urban Studies' PhD Program has been great learning experience. With the additional guidance of indispensable mentors that exemplify who I should strive to be, the Urban Studies Program has advanced my knowledge in qualitative and quantitative research methods, data analysis, and in the social, economic, and political problems that disproportionately affect minorities and disadvantaged populations. My dissertation focused on the capacity building efforts of minority community-based organizations. With less funding opportunities in combination with the increasing number of non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations competing for scarce resources, how to increase organizational capacity is one area of research scholars are pushing for further analysis. This dissertation continues that investigation through a case study of Hmong mutual assistance associations in Wisconsin. I argued that the lack of financial resources coupled with the absence of knowledgeable and skilled human resources in community-based organizations negatively affect their ability to determine where to apply capacity building efforts and develop strategies to increase their capacity. This produces additional hardship in organizations with limited resources seeking to increase their capacity.

As for my current and future plans, I will be pursuing employment as a civil servant at the city, county or state level. My interests rest within several key themes which include small-business development, minority-business advancement, and economic development. I am also open to pursuing employment in the non-profit sector in similar fields.



## Incoming Students



### **Bernard Apeku (Master's Student)**

I grew up in Nkurakan, a small town in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Being there, I was anxious about the city life and perceived living in the city as an avenue to life's best opportunities, convenience and quality of life. Upon moving to Accra, the capital of Ghana as a graduate from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, it took me no time to experience the toughness of city life – constant traffic, congestion, housing deficits, the gentrification, persistent poverty, and the perennial floods that we “celebrate” like festivals. The June 3<sup>rd</sup> water and fire disaster claimed 154 lives and injured

150 people. These unsavory circumstances in the urban areas heightened my interest to pursue a Master's in Urban Studies to build upon my first degree in Land Economy and equip myself with the expertise and knowledge which would enable me to play a vital role in combating African urban problems. I look forward to taking advantage of the research opportunities at UWM, and I am very eager to start the program this fall. [Bernard is a recipient of the UWM Chancellor's Award, and will be a Project Assistant in Urban Studies].



### **Maddi Brenner (Master's Student)**

I am from the Chicagoland area and am pursuing a dual master's in Library and Information Sciences and Urban Studies. I currently work as an Adult Services Reference Associate at my local public library and am interested in understanding how libraries develop and maintain a community hub for its members in urban environments.

After spending four years in Chicago as an undergraduate from DePaul University, I found my passion for cause-connected initiatives through non-profit organizations and grassroots movements. These experiences provided

me with many perspectives and tools, while encouraging my aspiration for higher education in Urban Studies. I am curious and excited to begin these next steps with a goal to create a positive impact in communities. In my free time, I enjoy reading, running, and traveling. Most recently, I went to Colombia to meet with various government officials and parties. While there, I engaged in political dialogue and conversation that could better connect and foster parallels from there to America.



### **Larry Kilmer (PhD Student)**

I am a native Wisconsinite. I grew up in New Berlin and moved to Milwaukee to attend UWM to pursue a degree in Architecture. Upon completing my undergraduate degree, I worked for a local architecture firm until returning for graduate school. Since graduating from UWM in 2009 with master's degrees in both Architecture and Urban Planning, I have focused time and energy working and volunteering in many of Milwaukee's great neighborhoods. Since 2013, I worked for the City of Milwaukee's Department of City Development on housing

and neighborhood development work. Prior to working for the City, I was the housing rehabilitation manager for the non-profit ACTS Housing. Additionally, I have been an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Urban Planning department teaching Great Cities of the World and Housing Markets and Public Policy. My wife and I purchased our home in Washington Heights in 2009 where we currently reside with our six-year-old son. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time camping in Wisconsin's beautiful state parks, traveling, and tirelessly making improvements to our 96-year-old Milwaukee bungalow. I look forward to continuing my research around public policy, specifically affordable housing and community development.



### **Ayodeji Obayomi (Master's Student)**

I hold a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning (URP) from the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria (2018), and a Bachelor's of Technology Degree in URP, Federal University of Technology, Akure (2012). My MSc thesis studied a departmental pioneer research topic on planning for night-time activities in the biggest city of West Africa (Ibadan). This research gave me the opportunity to investigate how urban dwellers appropriate spaces

at night towards planning for sustainable urban development. For my undergraduate studies, I researched urban environmental sustainability in Lokoja, Nigeria. This investigation unraveled many subtle and active environmental maladies my city and her dwellers suffer, which begged for multidisciplinary and holistic intervention afforded by the field of urban studies. In addition, my professional experience in the public and private sectors increased my interest in a study like this. I am excited about the prospect of learning transdisciplinary research approaches to studying the city through the lenses of sustainable urban policies from the best faculty and multicultural professionals from around the world at USP. An amalgamation of foreign urban ideas and that of the indigenous ones will not only make me a complete urban planner, but also a robust researcher for my beloved nation Nigeria. [Ayodeji is a recipient of the UWM Chancellor's Award, and will be a Project Assistant in Urban Studies].



## Incoming Students (continued)



### Yuchen Zhao (PhD Student)

Having acquired a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in mass communication, I believe this interdisciplinary program can incorporate and enhance what I learned. City born and city bred, I lived in urban areas and witnessed its enormous – geographical, social and cultural – changes over time. My primary interest is to study how new technology (especially in communication) help to shape our metropolitan area and how to develop viable communities by promoting integrated approaches and innovative solutions.

My enthusiasm in urban studies was piqued when I researched a Bus Rapid Transit construction in Taichung, Taiwan, during my senior year in college. Citizens took part in urban planning meetings to exchange ideas regarding different initiatives. The inclusion of the general public in developing the public transportation project has made its implementation even more effective. During my master's program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, I navigated the dense metropolis through actively engaging in the strategic planning process for local governments to make the community more inclusive and effective. I hope to utilize planning and problem-solving skills in creating and developing a more sustainable urban environment. The doctoral program in urban studies at UWM will definitely serve as a milestone in my journey to pursue my professional career in the field. [Yuchen is a recipient of the UWM Chancellor's Award, and will be a Project Assistant in Urban Studies].

## Urban Studies Awards



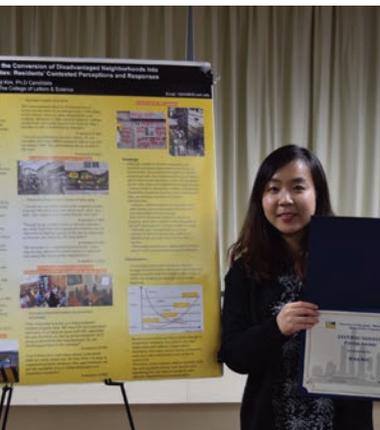
### Fiona McGilligan, BA student in Urban Studies

Fiona won the Undergraduate Best Poster award for her poster: "Neoliberalism, Act 10, and Changes to Education: A Milwaukee Educator's Perspective."



### Abigail Lynch, BA student in Urban Studies

Abigail won the Undergraduate Service Learning Project award for her poster: "The Poverty and Eviction Crisis in Milwaukee: How Legal Advocacy is Facilitating Social Change One Case at a Time."



### Minji Kim, PhD student in Geography

Minji received the Graduate Student Best Poster award for her poster: "The Paradox of New Urban Tourism and the Conversion of Disadvantaged Neighborhoods into Tourist Destinations: Residents' Perceptions and Experiences."



### Kat Kocisky, PhD student in Urban Studies

Kat received the Urban Studies Dissertation Research Grant award for the 2019-20 academic year. Her dissertation explores the connection between new green developments and neighborhood gentrification. The award provides support for research expenses related to the dissertation and awardees present their research as part of the Urban Studies colloquium during the award year.

## 2018-19 Event Recap



Dr. Perry addresses questions after her talk about her recent book at the Fall Lecture

Last year's Fall Lecture speaker was **Dr. Evelyn Perry**, Rhodes College sociology professor and author of *Live and Let Live: Diversity, Conflict, and Community in an Integrated Neighborhood* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017). She gave a lively talk to a packed Greene Hall where she discussed her recent book that focuses on Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood, and the meaning and significance of a stable, diverse, and integrated neighborhood in an otherwise highly segregated city and region.

### Urban Studies Milwaukee Summit Examines Immigrant Rights and Advocacy in the Trump Era

"Immigration and the City in the Trump Era" was the title of Urban Studies Programs' 12th Annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit that was held on Nov. 15, 2019. Nearly 200 people turned out to the Alumni Fireside Lounge and an overflow room (with another 200 who live streamed during the event) to listen to a panel discussion on immigration policy, immigrant rights' movements, and refugee resettlement experiences in Milwaukee under the current administration. The panel included:

- **Rachel Buff**, UWM History Professor and Cultures and Communities Program Director
- **Mary Flynn**, Program Manager of Refugee Resettlement, Lutheran Social Services
- **Janan Najeeb**, President, Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition
- **Jasmine González**, Communications Coordinator, Voces de la Frontera
- **Karyn Rotker**, Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU of WI
- UWM Provost **Johannes Britz** gave the introductory remarks



A video recording of the event can be viewed at: <https://uwm.edu/urban-studies/milwaukee-summit-2018/>

### 24th Annual Student Research Forum

This year's keynote speaker was **Dr. Paige Glotzer**, Assistant Professor and the John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe Chair in the History of American Politics, Institutions, and Political Economy in the History Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In keeping with the event's theme of exclusionary spaces,



UW-Madison professor Paige Glotzer gives the keynote address

her talk examined the very first planned community to develop racially restrictive covenants in the U.S; utilizing extensive archival research, Dr. Glotzer detailed how Baltimore's Rolland Park Company's planned suburban development was influenced by British investors to legally zone for white only residents. The significance of the Rolland Park development is that it quickly became a model that spread to other cities and shaped early suburban development and housing segregation in the U.S—the effects of which continue to this day. Her forthcoming book is *Building Suburban Power: The Business of Exclusionary Housing Markets, 1890-1960* (New York: Columbia University Press, April, 2020).



Urban studies graduate students gather at this year's Student Research Forum



## 24th Annual Student Research Forum (continued)

On May 3rd in the UWM Golda Meir Library Conference Center, Urban Studies majors enrolled in the Capstone Seminar, presented their semester-long research during a juried poster session along with graduate students in urban studies and several other graduate programs.

Part of the afternoon event included a panel on writing environmental justice histories. The discussion



Panelists discuss the process of writing environmental justice histories

was part of crafting the UWM exhibit for the Humanities Action Lab Initiative on Climate and Environmental Justice that draws on the Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures (BLC) living archives, community voices, and student research.

Urban studies major Pilar Olvera presents her capstone poster at the Student Research Forum



## Lands We Share Project

*Lands We Share* was a collaborative public history project from several UW campuses that focused on the intersection of farming, land, race, and ethnicity in Wisconsin, featuring five farm sites, including Metcalfe Park Legacy Garden in Milwaukee. The project included an exhibition that was an initiative of the Wisconsin Farms Oral History Project. Urban Studies students and alumni worked on the project and USP faculty member **Jasmine Alinder** was the lead investigator in Milwaukee. An opening reception and presentation of student work while the exhibit was located in the UWM Golda Meir library took place on March 8, 2019. More information about the project can be found at: <https://landsweshare.org>.

Lands We Share exhibit at UWM library

## Save the Dates



### Urban Studies Fall Lecture

Please join us for the Urban Studies Fall Lecture, which will be held on Friday, October 4, 2019 in Room 191 of the Student Union. Our speaker is **Dr. Sara McLafferty**, who is a professor of geography and geographic information science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research focuses on place-based inequalities in health and well-being, particularly as it relates to women and racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. Her most recent books include *GIS and Public Health* (with Ellen Cromley), *A Companion to Health and Medical Geography* (with Tim Brown and Graham Moon), and *Geospatial Analysis of Environmental Health*. Her talk is part of a year-long theme in urban studies focused on health and urban inequality.



### The 2019 Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit

Please join us for the 13th Annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit. This year's Milwaukee Summit investigates connections between urban inequality, public health, and urban planning and more generally urban health outcomes and initiatives. The panel will consider examine such public health challenges as lead poisoning, violence and trauma, and climate change and their intersection with inequality. The event will be held in the UWM Golda Meir Library 4th Floor Conference Center on Thursday, November 14, 2019 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. For more information and updates, check our website: <https://uwm.edu/urban-studies/category/milwaukee-summit/>



### The 25th Annual Student Research Forum

Please join us for the 25th Annual Student Research Forum which will be held on Friday, May 1, 2020, from 12:00 to 6:00 pm in the UWM Student Union Alumni Fireside Lounge. This event will include a lunch and poster session, paper roundtables, awards ceremony, and a keynote address and reception. Our keynote speaker is **Dr. Juan De Lara**, Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity at University of Southern California and author of *Inland Shift: Race, Space, and Capital in Inland Southern California* (University of California Press, 2018). See <https://uwm.edu/urban-studies/research/student-research/> for more details.



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