

GCI Monthly

A Publication of the **Great Cities Institute** at the University of Illinois at Chicago

March/April 2012

Dear Friends of the Great Cities Institute,

Welcome to what promises to be a beautiful spring season in Chicago. The next month will be pivotal to the next stage in the evolution of the Great Cities Institute. In April, three candidates for the position of Director of the Institute will be on campus for presentations and interviews. Keep your eyes peeled for our announcements. Each candidate will give a formal presentation about their own research and their vision for the Great Cities Institute. I know the candidates would like to meet as many UIC folks as possible; please attend so that you can give us your views and evaluations.



April is the busiest month of the year for public seminars. This month we have scheduled five interesting events. Christopher Muellerleile, a Ph.D. candidate from UW-Madison, will give a GCI Comparative Urbanisms Seminar titled “Turning Financial Markets Inside Out: Chicago and the Ghosts of Agricultural Derivatives” on April 3rd at 3PM. At noon on April 12th GCI Faculty Scholar Pamela Quiroz will give a presentation on “Marketing Diversity and the ‘New’ Politics of Desegregation” in our GCI Scholar Seminar Series. We are delighted that her presentation will be co-hosted as a Brown-Bag Seminar in a series sponsored by the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRPP). On April 17th at 2PM GCI Faculty Scholar Sultan Tepe will present her research on “The Transformative Forces of Religion and the City: Chicago’s Muslims and the Emergence of American Islam.” The Institute is also sponsoring two international scholars who are visiting GCI to share their recent research. On April 23rd at 3PM the former dean of CUPPA, Dean Robin Hambleton, will give a talk in our Comparative Urbanisms Seminar Series on “Place-Based Leadership and Public Service Innovation - An International Perspective,” and on April 24th at 3PM Marisol Garcia from the University of Barcelona will give a presentation on the “Governance and Social Innovation in European Cities.”

In addition to these activities, on April 27th and 28th GCI and CUPPA are co-sponsoring the Neoliberal Urbanisms Symposium, a special event to be held in honor of, and to be co-hosted by, Nik Theodore, the outgoing director of the Center for Urban Economic Development (CUED). Be sure to get more information on this exciting event from the [online flyer](#).

Finally, I am very pleased to announce the 2012-2013 cohort of GCI Faculty Scholars. The selection process was difficult because many high quality proposals were submitted. The new Faculty Scholars and their project titles, each addressing this year’s theme of Envisioning Equality, are:

Simone Buechler, Assistant Professor, Latin American and Latino Studies Department
“Declining Levels of Inequality in Brazil: The Significance for Low-Income Women in Sao Paulo”

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GCI Comparative Urbanisms Seminar

Christopher Muellerleile
“Turning Financial Markets Inside Out: Chicago and the Ghosts of Agricultural Derivatives”
April 3, 2012; 3:00pm

Joint GCI Faculty Scholar Lecture/IRRPP Brown Bag

Pamela Anne Quiroz
“Marketing Diversity and the New Politics of Desegregation: An Urban Education Ethnography”
April 12, 2012, 12:00pm

GCI Comparative Urbanisms Seminar

Robin Hambleton
“Place-Based Leadership and Public Service Innovation - An International Perspective”
April 23, 2012; 3:00pm

NEW PODCASTS

We convert many of our public lectures into MP3 Podcasts, made available on the GCI website.

Louise Nelson Dyble. 3/8/2012
“**The Chicago Skyway and the Future of Urban Infrastructure**”



Registration ends April 5th for CNM's Newest Course

“Building Partnerships and Collaborations Across the Sectors,” the Certificate in Nonprofit Management’s newest course, begins April 12th; registration ends April 5th. This course will explore the benefits and risks associated with partnerships and collaborations and will examine innovative models and strategies through case studies and best practices. For more info, [click here](#).



Social Media

“Like” GCI on Facebook to keep updated on our public events, research, service, and educational programs by [clicking here](#).



Benet DeBerry-Spence, Associate Professor, Marketing
“Leveling the Playing Field for African Microenterprises: The Establishment of a UIC Platform for Engaged Social Entrepreneurship Research”

John Hagedorn, Professor, Criminology, Law & Justice
“Bringing the State Back into Gang Research”

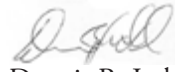
Kelly LeRoux, Assistant Professor, Public Administration
“Unequal Policies, Unequal Access: State Voting Laws and the Nonprofit Response”

Brenda Parker, Assistant Professor, Urban Planning and Public Policy
“Households, Gender, Inequality and ‘Life’s Work’ in Chicago”

Nik Theodore, Associate Professor, Urban Planning and Public Policy
“Organizing in Hard Times: Day Laborers’ Freirean Movements”

Congratulations and welcome to the new GCI Faculty Scholars!

Best wishes for a productive semester,



Dennis R. Judd

Interim Director, UIC Great Cities Institute
Professor, UIC Department of Political Science

Upcoming Events

GCI Comparative Urbanisms Seminar “Turning Financial Markets Inside Out: Chicago and the Ghosts of Agricultural Derivatives”



Christopher Muellerleile
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Geography

Tuesday, April 3, 2012
3:00pm - 4:30pm

Great Cities Institute
412 S. Peoria St, 4th FL, CUPPAH 400

How can financial markets increasingly impact every part of daily life but also seem to be immune to significant reform and progressive politics? In this talk, Muellerleile will look at the development of financial derivatives markets in Chicago in the 1970s and 1980s in order to explore the relative autonomy of contemporary financial markets and the long history of self-regulation that dates to the Chicago derivatives markets’ founding in the 19th Century. Muellerleile will also discuss different theoretical frameworks for understanding financial markets, including a Polanyian lens and one that stresses the “performativity” of finance. Christopher Muellerleile is a Ph.D. candidate in human and economic geography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he is writing a dissertation on the invention and regulation of financial derivatives in Chicago beginning in 1972.

For more information on other GCI public events in April, please visit our website: www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci

GCI Partners with The Participatory Budgeting Project

GCI, in collaboration with the Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP), has received support from the Chicago Community Trust to begin project planning for a new participatory budgeting process initiative in up to six wards of Chicago.



Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. In this way, it offers people a fundamentally different way to engage with government. This initial support will provide the opportunity for the partnership to expand the PB process, which in effect will enable development of new grassroots leaders, educate the public, expand political participation, engage people in civic democracy, and build stronger communities.

Weber Gives Tour to OECD Delegates

Organized by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Chicago, GCI Associate Director for Research and Program Development Rachel Weber led a tour of the UIC/Pilsen/Hospital District in March for international delegates in town for the 4th annual Round Table of Mayors and Ministers, convened by the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD). The tour showcased urban revitalization through current health, institutional, environmental and cultural redevelopment projects in neighborhoods of Chicago.



Feature: GCI Civic Leadership Training Program

With support from the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE), GCI launched the Spring 2012 GCI Civic Leadership Training Program in March. Managed by GCI Associate Director/Urban Planning & Policy Professor Rachel Weber and GCI Economic Development Planner Thea Crum, this program brings over 20 emerging leaders from various Chicago community-based organizations to the Institute to engage in seven half-day workshops on policy issues that are relevant to anyone seeking political office or higher leadership positions in non-governmental organizations that influence policy.

This year, these topics include foreclosures, tax increment financing, balancing the City of Chicago's budget, and youth violence. Through expert instructor led discussions, readings, case studies, public speaking, and political strategy exercises, students familiarize themselves with the changing landscape of urban policy and learn how to take an informed stance on these issues facing contemporary cities. Participants, as future political leaders, develop effective leadership skills including building public relationships and creating successful campaigns; those who complete the assignments and attend all 7 meetings earn a non-degree certificate. Questions about this program can be directed to Thea Crum at tcrum@uic.edu.



Research: Publications and Presentations

GCI and CUED Fellows, Faculty Scholars, Staff and Research Assistants have been busy sharing their work far and wide via presentations and publications, including:

Thomas Lyons, GCI Fellow and Director of the HIV/AIDS Research and Policy Institute at Chicago State University, presented a talk "*Interventions for MSM (Men Who Have Sex with Men) who use Drugs and Alcohol*" at a Conversations on HIV Research Summit at the University of Chicago. He also presented at the Society for Medical Anthropology annual meeting in Baltimore, MD in late March.

Nikolas Theodore, Director of CUED, co-authored "Under the Radar: Tracking the Violation of Labour Standards in Low-Wage Industries in the U.S." with Annette Bernhardt and James DeFillipis in C. Warhurst, F. Carré, P. Findlay and C. Tilly, eds., *Are Bad Jobs Inevitable? Trends, Determinants, and Responses to Job Quality in the Twenty-first Century*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan., published in March.

Michael Iverson, GCI Research Assistant, organized and will be presenting at the 7th Annual Green Tuesdays in the Village, an annual public weekly lecture series in Oak Park, IL during April 2012 on various environmental topics and issues specifically relevant to the Village of Oak Park. This year's theme is 'Hydrologic Oak Park: The Story of Water.' [Details are available here.](#)

Have Questions or Suggestions? Email us at gcities@uic.edu.