

GCI Monthly

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

May/June 2011

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Dear Friends of the Great Cities Institute,

Summer is here, and though our calendar of public events slows down a bit over the next two months, we are busy planning public events and activities for the fall while also reflecting on the past academic year. We are in the process of rolling out the strategic rethinking plan, and as part of this process we continue to consult with the wide range of people who are interested in the work of the Great Cities Institute. We appreciate the feedback we have received: thank you. I am looking forward to a lively year ahead as the report's recommendations are implemented.



GCI said farewell to another excellent cohort of faculty scholars this past month. Convening one last time with this interdisciplinary group of researchers, we discussed how the program could be transformed in the future to best suit the interests of the individual scholars, their home departments, and the Institute. As I mentioned previously, for the first time, faculty scholar proposals for the 2011-2012 academic year were invited from research teams, which represented a strategy for nurturing large-scale, long-term, truly collaborative projects that might not otherwise occur without GCI support. This summer I am convening a group to consider changes to the program, and I look forward to these discussions.

Finally, we had a great turnout for the lecture and reception on May 13th to celebrate David Perry's eleven years as Director of GCI; it was truly an event to be remembered. GCI was honored to have former University of President James J. Stukel in attendance as well as more than 100 other distinguished guests. The speaker, Wim Wiewel, president of Portland State University, was the Institute's first director and a collaborator with David on two books. It was exciting to see the former leadership of the campus and the Institute brought together for the purpose of honoring David's years as Director. Please visit our website to check out the full podcast from this event.

Best wishes for a productive summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Judd".

Dennis R. Judd
Interim Director, UIC Great Cities Institute
Professor, UIC Department of Political Science

PODCASTS

We convert all of our public lectures into Podcasts for those of you who can't make it to the Institute in person. Visit our website for a complete list of our past **podcasts**.

Recent Podcasts:

Wim Wiewel

"Economic Growth and Social Equity: Dilemmas for the Urban University"

May 13, 2011

Stefanie Dühr

"Governance for the Spatial Development of EU Macro-Regions and US Mega-Regions"

May 26, 2011

Upcoming Certificate in Nonprofit Management Courses

**Financial Management
Fundraising Management
Operations Management**

Course Dates:

07/07/11 - 08/10/11

For registration info, visit

<http://cnm.cuppa.uic.edu>

Social Media

"Like" GCI on Facebook for another avenue to stay in touch with us and to keep updated on our public events, workshops, research, and community engagement. **Click here!**



Weber Joins Mayor's Task Force on TIF Reform

On May 19, 2011, Mayor Emanuel announced the formation of a task force on TIF reform with the intention of bringing transparency, accountability and efficiency to the TIF system in Chicago. Along with nine other civic leaders from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, GCI Associate Director Rachel Weber was asked to be part of this time-limited task force of economic and finance experts charged with evaluating and reforming Chicago's TIF program. Accountability through formal guiding principles, setting return-on-investment criteria, increasing TIF transparency through taxpayer access to information, and evaluating procedures constitute major elements of the task force's responsibilities. This work is to be completed over a three-month period. The Press Release stated that its recommendations will be incorporated into the 2012 city budget.



For the complete Press Release, [click here](#).

GCI Fellow Zhang Awarded Best Planning Article

For the second year in a row, GCI Fellow TingWei Zhang was awarded *First Prize: Best Planning Article of 2009*, the highest honor in the planning profession in China given by the Urban Planning Society of China and the Jin Jing-Chang Planning Education Foundation, for the article "Changing Planning Paradigm in China in the Post-Neoliberalism Era" *Urban Planning Forum* (2009)5:1-13.



Co-authored with Dick LaGates, this paper describes the post neo-liberal context and the evolution of planning theories both in China and in the West in order to propose a hybrid planning theory for China that has human development as its main goal. For more information, contact Professor Zhang at tzhang@uic.edu.

GCI Co-Sponsoring Urban Conference in the Fall

On September 16 - 17th, 2011, the Great Cities Institute, UIC College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, UIC Department of Sociology and UIC Department of Political Science will be sponsoring the "Great Cities/Ordinary Lives Conference: A look at the city's residents from the bottom up," to take place at UIC. This two day event will celebrate two things: Professor Tony Orum's retirement from UIC in June 2011 and the continuing commitment of UIC to a program of teaching and engaged research in cities. Themed panels and discussions based on participant papers will run throughout the conference.

Panelists include: Japonica Brown-Saracino, Robert Bruegmann, Xiangming Chen, Harvey Choldin, Andy Clarno, Claire Decoteau, Nancy Denton, Peter Dreier, Michael Ebner, Dennis Judd, Maria Krysan, Jan Lin, Richard Douglas Lloyd, Harvey Molotch, Zachary Neal, Philip Nyden, Anthony Orum, Mary Pattillo, Krista E. Paulsen, Wanda Rushing, Moshe Semyonov, Hilary Silver, and Sharon Zukin. Further details forthcoming. Contact person: tmccoo2@uic.edu.

In the Media

Weber Discusses United Center's Impact on Chicago's West Side on WBEZ's 848

On May 9th, GCI Associate Director Rachel Weber and 848 host Alison Cuddy discussed why the United Center has not revitalized Chicago's Near West Side since its construction more than 15 years ago. The United Center is one of the largest sports arenas in the country, yet despite its massive footprint, it has had minimal spillover effects and development has largely been in spite of its presence rather than because of it, according to Weber. Westward expansion of the Loop's residential market has been the source of much of the development in this area that has been heavily impacted by waves of redevelopment.

To listen to the audio excerpt, [click here](#).

GCI Fellow Phil Ashton discusses West Loop Development and Harpo Studios on NPR

Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Studios opened in 1990 in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood, which had been experiencing disinvestment for years. In this segment, Phil Ashton commented on the how the studio and Oprah's success "introduced a population of employees and consumers who were there on a day-to-day basis." The article also speaks in depth to the jobs and other development that Oprah brought to Chicago.

To listen to the audio excerpt, [click here](#).

Research and Publications

GCI Fellow Tingwei Zhang Co-Authors New Book

GCI Fellow Zhang's most recent book titled "From CBD to CAZ: Spatial Need and Planning of Diversified Economic Development," published by the Architecture & Building Press in Beijing in April 2011 (Chinese language), explores shifting patterns of economic development planning from a Central Business District spatial model to one characterized by Central Activities Zones. Co-authored with Wang Lan, this research traces the emergence of new spatial zones to accommodate diversified economic development strategies using color maps and spatial analysis.



Former GCI Faculty Scholar Ramirez-Valles Publishes Book

Professor Jesus Ramirez-Valles, a professor of community health sciences at UIC and a former GCI Faculty Scholar, recently had his book "Compañeros: Latino Activists in the Face of AIDS" published by the University of Illinois Press. This book tells the affecting stories of eighty gay, bisexual, and transgender (GBT) Latino activists and volunteers living in Chicago and San Francisco, detailing how these individuals have been touched or transformed by the AIDS epidemic.



During his tenure as a Scholar at the Great Cities Institute over the 2009-2010 academic year, Ramirez-Valles began exploring links among health, social connectedness, and stigmatization in older gay and bisexual (GB) male populations of Caucasian, African-American, and Latin American origin or descent. For more information on "Compañeros: Latino Activists in the Face of AIDS," [click here](#).

GCI International Visiting Scholar to Hold Workshop on Co-Production in Community Research this Fall

On September 8, 2011 from 12pm - 3pm, GCI International Visiting Scholar Catherine Durose and her co-researcher, Yasminah Beebeejaun, will facilitate a participatory workshop on the co-production of research in order to make meaningful change in and with communities. Some of the key questions explored in this workshop include: What is an academic-activist/ activist-academic? What drives people to try to bridge the gaps, or perform both roles? Why isn't there more cross-over? What are the institutional incentives and disincentives? How do we balance authenticity, expertise, and academic rigor? Does co-production in research with communities make a difference and for whom? If you are interested in attending, please contact tmcco2@uic.edu.