



**SAN JOSÉ STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Institute for Metropolitan Studies



**Report on Activities
Fall 2019**

Mission Statement

While many of our most vexing urban problems are metropolitan in nature, they are often left unresolved due to the lack of appropriate governmental machinery to deal with metropolitan issues.

***The Institute for Metropolitan Studies** was created to address these problems by facilitating the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and general spirit of cooperation between San José State University and its surrounding metropolitan community.*



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Introduction and Summary of Activities

The Institute for Metropolitan Studies at San José State University is an interdisciplinary center for research, service, and public programming with a focus on issues of significance to San José and the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Based in SJSU's Department of Urban and Regional Planning, the Institute was founded to bring the expertise of Silicon Valley's urban university to bear on the urgent challenges facing our city and region. The Institute's current principals are Asha Weinstein Agrawal, Serena Alexander, Gordon Douglas, Richard Kos, Shishir Mathur, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Kathrine Richardson, and Kerry Rohrmeier.

In 2017, I was offered the opportunity to become the Director of IMS when I came to SJSU from NYU as an assistant professor. With renewed funding from the Office of the Dean of the College of Social Sciences, my goal has been to breathe new life into the Institute, which had been largely dormant for over a decade, by expanding its presence on campus and beyond through public events and other prominent initiatives.

I'm pleased to say that in the two years since I took the reins, the Institute has begun to thrive. This report presents the progress we have made thus far: public events, a scholarly working group, and as a home for funded research on pressing urban issues.



A major initiative of the Institute during this time has been the production of an ongoing series of public events featuring important new books in urban studies. Willow Lung-Amam, assistant professor of urban planning at the University of Maryland, was our first guest when she visited in Fall 2017 to present *Tresspassers?*, her book about the influence of Asian Americans on culture, politics, and place in Silicon Valley. We also screened the award-winning documentary *East L.A. Interchange* followed by a conversation between the director and SJSU Professor Marcos Pizarro and an audience of some 60 students, staff, and community members. In 2018, Derek Hyra, Director of American University's Metropolitan Policy Center, spoke about *Cappuccino City*, his

book on the gentrification of a historically Black neighborhood in Washington; Fran Stewart presented *The STEM Dilemma: Skills that Matter to Regions*; and sociologist Japonica Brown-Saracino presented her important new ethnography of queer identities in smaller cities across the United States, *How Places Make Us*.

Every semester since then has occasioned more exciting book talks, research symposia, and other events supported by the Institute. Highlights include a visit from prominent urban design thinkers Elizabeth Timme and James Rojas, a presentation from Alex Schafran about his influential book *The Road to Resegregation: Northern California and the Failure of Politics*, and the launch of an initiative from the local Rotary Club to fund student research on housing and homelessness.

Another success has been the establishing of a University-wide working group for faculty and graduate students working on urban issues. As a new arrival to campus myself, it has been an incredibly rewarding and educational experience just to seek out these people and invite them to help start something new. Over lunches and coffee in whatever meeting space we can find, I've been pleased to find how many others value the working group culture (sometimes recalling it from their own doctoral experiences) and relish the chance to talk about research with colleagues.

Finally, the Institute has long served as an organized research unit for consolidating the considerable externally funded research and community service projects led by its principals. As one of the SJSU's most research-active faculties, members of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in funding. The final section of this report lists these projects, totaling nearly \$900,000 during the last two years.

Having carefully stewarded our initial pot of funding from the College of Social Sciences, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish with limited resources. Our goal now must be to seek renewed and additional sources of funding, along with partnerships both on and off of campus with those who are committed, as we are, to being at the center of metropolitan debate and problem solving in San José and beyond.

If this report finds you and peaks your interest in the Institute for Metropolitan Studies, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I look forward to welcoming you to one of our fantastic events or working group discussions, connecting you with the dynamic group of scholars affiliated with the Institute, or simply continuing the conversation about the issues that matter most to our region.

Sincerely,



Gordon Douglas, PhD
Director



Public Events

The production of engaging public events, bringing big names and important thinkers in urban studies to SJSU while expanding our visibility in the Bay Area, has become central to the Institute's mission. IMS organized ten public events in AY 2017-19, including book talks, panel discussions, and public forums. A sampling of event flyers can be seen on the following pages. Co-sponsors have included SPUR, the Rotary Club of San José, the SJSU President's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and numerous University departments and student groups.



The Institute for Metropolitan Studies Presents

TRESPASSERS?

ASIAN AMERICANS AND THE BATTLE FOR SUBURBIA

Over the last few decades, California's Silicon Valley has become not only the world's technological epicenter, but also one of the fastest growing, and most racially and ethnically diverse regions in the U.S. Spurred by the rise of tech giants like Google and Facebook, the region has attracted diverse, highly-educated immigrants from across the globe, particularly Asia. These migrants have built their new lives among the region's many predominately white, middle-class suburbs. *Trespassers?* explores the dreams and struggles of Asian Americans as they have made their homes in Silicon Valley suburbia, and the tensions that have often emerged over the region's changing character.

SJSU's Institute for Metropolitan Studies invites you to join Dr. Willow Lung-Amam as she discusses her new book on the role of immigrants in the changing urban landscape and their fight for inclusion within the suburban American Dream.

NOVEMBER 15TH | 4:30PM

Location: DMH 150

Please RSVP by clicking the flyer



WILLOW S. LUNG-AMAM
Willow Lung-Amam, Ph.D. is Assistant Professor in the Urban Studies and Planning Program and Director of Community Development at the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education at the University of Maryland, College Park. She has written extensively on immigrant suburbanization, equitable development, gentrification, suburban poverty, and geographies of opportunity.

The Institute for Metropolitan Studies presents

East L.A. Interchange



Free film screening and discussion with Director Betsy Kalin

Date: November 29, 2017
Time: 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm)
Location: Student Union Theatre
Free Food!!

Tells the story of working-class, immigrant, Boyle Heights, the oldest neighborhood in East Los Angeles and how it has survived discriminatory housing covenants, Japanese-American internment, redlining policies, the building of the largest freeway interchange system in the nation, and the current forces of gentrification.

Please join us for the screening of this award-winning film followed by a discussion with the director.



THE INSTITUTE FOR METROPOLITAN STUDIES PRESENTS:

RACE, CLASS, AND POLITICS IN THE CAPPUCCINO CITY

DEREK HYRA, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Monday February 5th at 5:30PM
San José State University - ENG 285 (7th & San Fernando)

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SPUR

"A SOPHISTICATED, ACADEMIC APPROACH TO STUDYING SOCIAL TENSIONS AT THE FOREFRONT OF CURRENT POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT, AND CULTURE." - THE WASHINGTON POST

Derek Hyra is Associate Professor of Public Affairs and Director of the Metropolitan Policy Center at American University. A nationally recognized scholar of neighborhood change, race, and urban politics, he is also the author of *The New Urban Renewal: The Economic Transformation of Harlem and Bronzeville*.

"A POIGNANT, PROVOCATIVE, AND WELL-WRITTEN STUDY OF GENTRIFICATION" - ELIJAH ANDERSON



SJSU's Institute of Metropolitan Studies Presents

Through the lens of LBQ communities in four small US cities, Brown-Saracino tells the story of the myriad ways that place and community influence LBQ cultures, politics, and identities." - Verta Taylor, UC Santa Barbara

How Places Make Us

Novel LBQ Identities in Four Small Cities

May 2nd @ 5:00 PM in BBC 226

JAPONICA BROWN-SARACINO



New Development Politics in Small City America



Join us for a presentation and discussion with Richard Ocejo (CUNY Graduate Center)!

The author of books on upscaling downtowns and the rise of craft economy will discuss his new work on the complex redevelopment and gentrification of smaller cities as the middle class flees expensive urban cores.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Tuesday, November 27th, 2018
4:30 - 5:30 pm
San Jose State University
MLK Library - Room 255



SJSU'S INSTITUTE FOR METROPOLITAN STUDIES AND THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAN JOSE PRESENT

SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

Tuesday, March 19th
12:30pm - 2pm
MLK Library, Room 255

Panelists:

Ray Branson, Chief Impact Officer, Destination Home
Megan Colvard, Regional Director, PATH
Geoffrey Morgan, President and CEO, First Community Housing
Andrea Urton, CEO, Homefirst Services of Santa Clara County, Inc.
Moderated by John Kovaleski Senior VP, Colliers International
Featuring San Jose Councilmember Raul Peralez

Join experts on housing and homelessness from across our region for a critical look at the affordable housing crisis in Santa Clara County and what needs to be done now. Learn about an exciting new initiative from Rotary and SJSU to support research on the most pressing urban issue of our time.



TACTICAL URBANISM IN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

OCTOBER 17, 2018

12-1:30PM | MLK LIBRARY ROOM 225

TACTICAL URBANISM AND OTHER "LIGHTER, QUICKER, CHEAPER" APPROACHES TO STREETSCAPE REDESIGN HAVE BECOME PROMINENT TRENDS IN CITIES AROUND THE WORLD IN RECENT YEARS. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BRING SUCH THINGS TO LESS TRENDY PLACES, TRADITIONALLY UNDER-SERVED COMMUNITIES, OR NEIGHBORHOODS THREATENED BY GENTRIFICATION, AND HOW CAN DESIGNERS MAKE SURE IMPROVEMENTS LIKE THESE REFLECT THE NEED AND PRIORITIES OF LONGTIME RESIDENTS?

JOIN FOR A CONVERSATION WITH A PANEL OF EXPERTS FROM CITIES ACROSS CALIFORNIA.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

The Road to Resegregation



In Conversation with Alex Schafran (University of Leeds)

Urban planner and geographer Alex Schafran will present his new book, *The Road to Resegregation: Northern California and the Failure of Politics*, about how political fragmentation among institutions at all levels have led to a newly segregated geography of NIMBYism, sprawl, and the suburbanization of poverty.

Tuesday, December 4th, 2018
12:30 - 1:30 pm

San Jose State University
Student Union - Room 2B
Lunch provided





Urban Studies Working Group

Founded in 2018, the IMS Urban Studies Working Group brings together faculty and graduate students from across San José State and beyond. The group meets regularly in person, roughly once a month, to build interdisciplinary connections and opportunities for collaboration. It also provides an opportunity for members to share work in progress for workshopping and constructive feedback. Presenters to the working group so far have included Anthony Raynsford (Art and Art History), Tyler Spence (Aviation), and Matthew Holian (Economics). Other members include both part-time and full-time faculty representing 14 departments, programs, and administrative offices ranging from Anthropology and Economics to Chemistry, Linguistics, Justice Studies, the MLK Library, and more.

Externally Funded Projects

The Institute for Metropolitan Studies consolidates the funded research and community service efforts of its principals, the affiliated faculty of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. During the two-year period reported on here, these principals organized and conducted a wide array of projects, bringing in a total of \$885,981 in funding (the vast majority of it in grants). These include several studies of the use of ride-sharing and micro-mobility conducted by Asha W. Agrawal, as well as the continuation of a multi-year survey of public opinion on transportation taxes that she has been leading for ten years. A community placemaking project led by Gordon Douglas connected students with community members to design and build a new public space in San José's Northside neighborhood, with funding from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. A study of climate change resilience and diversity was conducted by Serena Alexander with funding from the National Science Foundation. A study of the 2018 VivaCalleSJ open streets event was completed for the City of San José with funding from the Knight Foundation. Rick Kos and others continue to produce a variety of other transportation, land-use, and community-based planning services in the city of San José, including ongoing collaboration with CommUniverCity. IMS principals contributed to funded studies based at other institutions as well.



List of all grants and external contributions for research projects, special courses, and other projects of the principals of the Institute for Metropolitan Studies, FY 2017-19.

IMS Principal	Project Title	Sponsor	Principal Investigator	Grants	Gifts	Total Inflow
Asha W. Agrawal	Will Older Californians Step into Ride-Sharing Services?	Mineta Transportation Institute	Asha W. Agrawal	\$73,428		\$73,428
Asha W. Agrawal	How and Where Should I Ride This Thing? “Rules of the Road” for Personal Transportation Devices	Mineta Transportation Institute	Kevin Fang	\$69,313		\$69,313
Asha W. Agrawal	Crime and Harassment on Public Transportation: A Survey of SJSU Students Set in International Context	Mineta Transportation Institute	Asha W. Agrawal	\$55,241		\$55,241
Asha W. Agrawal	Promises and Projects: Examining Accountability and Equity in County Sales Tax Measures for Transportation in California	Mineta Transportation Institute	Jaimee Lederman	\$68,395		\$68,395
Asha W. Agrawal	The Future of California Transportation Revenue	Mineta Transportation Institute	Martin Wachs	\$10,000		\$10,000
Asha W. Agrawal	The Impact of ZEV Adoption on California Transportation Revenue	Mineta Transportation Institute	Martin Wachs	\$1,500		\$1,500
Asha W. Agrawal	What Do Americans Think About Federal Tax Options to Support Transportation? (Year Nine)	Mineta Transportation Institute	Asha W. Agrawal	\$83,968		\$83,968

Asha W. Agrawal	What Do Americans Think About Federal Tax Options to Support Transportation? (Year Ten)	Mineta Transportation Institute	Asha W. Agrawal	\$20,259		\$20,259
Asha W. Agrawal	Investing in California's Transportation Future	Mineta Transportation Institute	Asha W. Agrawal	\$46,014		\$46,014
Serena Alexander Asha W. Agrawal	Harmonizing Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Transportation and Land-Use Planning in California Cities	CSU Transportation Consortium	Serena Alexander	\$73,911		\$73,911
Serena Alexander Asha W. Agrawal	Harnessing the Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs) Mitigation Potential of On-demand Mobility and Autonomous Vehicles	Mineta Transportation Institute	Serena Alexander	\$25,836		\$25,836
Serena Alexander	Germinating Transformative Climate Change Research through Diversity	National Science Foundation	Serena Alexander	\$5,000		\$5,000
Serena Alexander	Building a Smart and Connected Community Network Platform for Smart City and Campus	SJSU College of Engineering	Serena Alexander, et al.	\$19,500		\$19,500
Serena Alexander	Urban Goods Movement and Local Climate Action Plans: Assessing Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Urban Freight Transportation	Mineta Transportation Institute	Serena Alexander, Andrew Goetz	\$24,711		\$24,711
Serena Alexander	Microscopic Simulation, Complete Streets, and Tactical Urbanism Strategies	Mineta Transportation Institute	Serena Alexander, Anurag Pande	\$69,955		\$69,955

	to Enhance Multimodal Transportation in Downtown Jose					
Serena Alexander	Mobility for All: Housing and Transportation Best Practices Toolkit for San Mateo County	San Mateo County	Serena Alexander, Joseph Kott	\$89,320		\$89,320
Serena Alexander	Safe Routes to Schools Intersectional Analysis	Mineta Transportation Institute	Anurag Pande	\$66,679		\$66,679
Gordon Douglas	Community Tactical Placemaking in Central San Jose	Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Gordon Douglas	\$45,000		\$45,000
Gordon Douglas Asha Agrawal	Evaluating VivaCalleSJ 2018	Knight Foundation, City of San Jose	Gordon Douglas, Asha Agrawal	\$25,000		\$25,000
Rick Kos	Census of California Water Transportation Services	Mineta Transportation Institute	Rick Kos	\$9,949		\$9,949
Rick Kos	Community Assessment of Diridon Station Area Neighborhoods	CommUniver City	Rick Kos		\$1,000	\$1,000
Rick Kos	Community Assessment of Delmas Park Neighborhood	CommUniver City	Rick Kos		\$1,000	\$1,000
Rick Kos	Community Engagement in Ouro Preto Brazil	CommUniver City	Rick Kos		\$1,000	\$1,000
				Grants	Gifts	Total
<i>Totals</i>				\$882,981	\$3,000	\$885,981

Looking Ahead

The Institute for Metropolitan Studies will continue its mission of producing research and public programs on the urban issues facing our city and our region for many years to come. The 2019-20 academic year is already off to an exciting and productive start. We opened the fall semester with a busy schedule for the Urban Studies Working Group. One meeting even took advantage of Backyard SJ (a pop-up public gathering space built upon a surface parking lot in Downtown San José as a project of WeWork) as the location for our meeting. In December, Prof. Frannie Edwards, director of the Masters Program in Public Administration, will present her new book on housing after disasters. Adonia Lugo, author of *Bicycle / Race: Transportation, Culture, and Resistance*, also recently visited campus to speak about her book and dialogue with a packed room of students, faculty, and more than a few interested staffers from City Hall.

Already planned for next semester is a lecture from transportation researcher Chelsea Richer about the results of a groundbreaking new study on how women experience public transit. Other events in the works include a panel discussion of critical perspectives on smart cities, another on the role of high-tech corporations in urban planning and real estate, and talks from the authors of new studies in environmental psychology, real estate development, and geography. The Urban Studies Working Group looks forward to building an online collaborative space (via Canvas) on which to post draft manuscripts, commentaries, and other collaborate virtually around other projects.

The Institute is also planning for its growth. We are currently in the midst of a substantial redesign for the IMS website, in keeping with the University's new web template. Combining a more prominent and functional web presence with ever-stronger connections on and off campus, we can further increase the Institute's visibility across the Bay Area and beyond. Our goal must be to build supportive relationships with other players in San José's urban renaissance, from foundations and advocacy groups to our friends and alumni in local governance. And with continued support from SJSU's administration as well as growing partnerships throughout the region, I believe the Institute for Metropolitan Studies can become a vital source of knowledge and activity and a forum for the metropolitan conversation that we need to have.



For more information, please contact:

Dr. Gordon Douglas

San José State University

gordon.douglas@sjsu.edu

www.sjsu.edu/urbanplanning/instmetstudies/



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San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192