Regional Spotlight Sessions

Feeling Race and Resistance in Philly: The Role of Arts, Culture and Healing in Social Movements for Transformation
Session Organizer: Christina R. Jackson, Stockton University and Sheena Sood, Temple University
Presider: Sheena Sood, Temple University

Description: Philadelphia’s history and livelihood is incomplete without an understanding of how ordinary people, despite the city’s repeated attempts to exclude and marginalize their existence, have organized themselves to resist structural oppression. The invitation to explore “feeling race” comes with a great responsibility to lift up Philly’s distinct approach to challenging and organizing against the existing racial order. Traditionally marginalized groups in Philadelphia have consistently created and cultivated resistance through a framework of arts, representation and culture simply because these mediums more holistically embody the reality and nature of their racialized emotions. Using DuBois, Lefebvre and Bourdieu’s frameworks around the intersections of art, politics, power and the right to the city movements, we highlight Philly’s distinct forms of community-based cultural resistance as a vehicle for societal transformation. Despite the layers of collective trauma and harm woven into Philly’s most marginalized communities and neighborhoods, the city’s legacy of organizing persists through the cultivation of artistic and healing spaces.

Participants:
- Perry “Vision” DiVirgilio, Philadelphia Youth Poetry Movement
- Pep Marie Felton, Media Mobilizing Project
- Christina R. Jackson, Stockton University
- Esther Hio-Tong Castillo, Moravian College
- Ramona Africa, The MOVE Organization

The Philadelphia Negro Then and Now: Implications for Survey Based Research on Blacks in the United States
Session Organizer: Ryon J. Cobb, University of Southern California
Presider: William Darity, Duke University

Description: The goal of this session will be to bring together scholars across the social sciences to honor the scholarly contributions of William Edward Burghardt Du Bois’s, The Philadelphia Negro. Panelists will not only expand our understanding of the importance of Du Bois’s work, but also discuss the prospects and limitations of using population based survey data to examine blacks’ life chances in the United States.

Participants:
- Tukufu Zuberi, University of Pennsylvania
- Quincy Thomas Stewart, Northwestern University
- Evelyn Joy Patterson, Vanderbilt University
- Thomas A. LaVeist, Johns Hopkins University
- Darrick Hamilton, The New School

Race and Space in Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Region: Lessons in Segregation, Exclusion and Integration
Session Organizer: Christopher Mele, State University of New York-Buffalo
Presider: Christophre Mele, State University of New York-Buffalo

Description: The panel provides multiple scholarly perspectives on ongoing collective struggles for racial integration in light of enduring patterns of residential segregation and exclusion in the Philadelphia region. Philadelphia and its suburbs have rich connections to issues of racial segregation and integration, such as the suburban integration efforts of Quakers/Friends, the development of Levittown as the suburban ideal, and the persistence of segregation and appearance of new forms of exclusion as key parts of the city are gentrified. The panel would use the regional focus to highlight larger historical political, social and cultural dimensions to the segregation/integration divide and collective efforts to address it. The panel’s participants offer different perspectives – historical, demographic, political economic and cultural- to address racial segregation, exclusion and integration.

Participants:
- Abigail Perkiss, Kean University
- Len Albright, Northeastern University
- Christina R. Jackson, Stockton University
The Philadelphia Barrio: Lessons in Symbolic and Social Struggle

Session Organizer: Frederick F. Wherry, Princeton University

Description: Half of the presentations provide a textured description of the Philadelphia barrio and what it teaches us about symbolic and social struggles. The second half of the panel turns to the ecosystem of neighborhoods in Philadelphia to examine how hyper-segregated barrios interact with other neighborhoods in Philadelphia as well as what these patterns look like across the United States.

Participants:
- The Reputational Battle of the Barrio: Symbolic Resources in the Struggle for Recognition
  - Frederick F. Wherry, Princeton University
- Recognizing What We See: A Social History of the Philadelphia Barrio
  - Johnny Irizarry, University of Pennsylvania
- Barrios and Hyper-Barrios: Situating Philadelphia’s Latino Communities
  - Onesimo Sandoval, Saint Louis University
- Nonspatial Dimensions of Isolation among Mexican Immigrants in Philadelphia and Atlanta
  - Helen B. Marrow, Tuft University

Inequality in the Philadelphia Area

Session Organizer: Diane M. Sicotte, Drexel University
Presider: Diane M. Sicotte, Drexel University

Description: This session features four presenters, each focused on one aspect of inequality in the Philadelphia area. Diane Sicotte’s work from her recent book focuses on inequality in the distribution of environmental hazards in the Philadelphia area, and how inequality since 1970 was shaped by new environmental laws occurring simultaneously with deindustrialization, impoverishment and racial inequality; Len Albright will discuss recent patterns in housing segregation and affordability in the South Jersey region, with a focus on the Fair Share Doctrine in NJ, a statewide inclusionary zoning effort aimed at socio-economic integration; Joan Maya Mazelis will present findings from her new book, which features in-depth interviews with poor people in Philadelphia’s Kensington neighborhood, in which the Kensington Welfare Rights Union (KWRU) has forged mutually supportive relationships between members that allow people to survive the worst consequences of dire poverty. Finally, John Balzarini will discuss his work on gentrification and how it drives neighborhood inequality.

Participants:
- Len Albright, Northeastern University
- Joan Maya Mazelis, Rutgers University-Camden
- John Edward Balzarini, Delaware State University