# Gentrification and public health: Opportunities and challenges in change



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY EPIDEMIOLOGY SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

COLUMBIA MAILMAN SCHOOL EPIDEMIOLOGY

# 9:00 - 9:30 BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

- 9:30 9:45 WELCOME & 10-MINUTE VIDEO: "ROAD TO RECOVERY REDUX"
- 9:45 11:30 PANEL 1: GENTRIFICATION: CAUSES AND PROCESSES

Richard Marciano, PhD Trushna Parekh, PhD Marisela B. Gomez, MD, PhD

# 11:30 - 12:30 LUNCH

## 12:30 - 2:15 PANEL 2: GENTRIFICATION: CONSEQUENCES

Andrew J. Padilla Angela A. Aidala, PhD Zoë Levitt Dawn Phillips

# 2:15 - 2:30 BREAK

## 2:30 - 4:15 PANEL 4: GENTRIFICATION: SCHOLARSHIP

Jackelyn Hwang Susan Saegert, PhD Rodrick Wallace, PhD

# 4:15 - 4:30 CLOSING REMARKS

# HOSTS



#### **ROBERT E. FULLILOVE, EdD**

Associate Dean, Community and Minority Affairs

Professor of Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University Medical Center

Co-Director, Cities Research Group



#### **MINDY THOMPSON FULLILOVE, MD**

Research Psychiatrist II, New York State Psychiatric Institute

Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Sociomedcial Sciences, Columbia University Medical Center

Dr. Fullilove has authored numerous articles in the area of minority health. From 1995 to 2001, he served on the Board of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the Institute of Medicine (IOM) at the National Academy of Sciences. Since 1996, he has served on five IOM study committees that have produced reports on a variety of topics including substance abuse and addiction, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and damp indoor spaces and health. In 2003 he was designated a National Associate of the National Academies of Science. In 1998 he was appointed to the Advisory Committee on HIV and STD Prevention (ACHSP) at the Centers for Disease Control, and in July 2000, he became the committee's chair. Finally, between 2004-2007, he served on the National Advisory Council for the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health [NIH].

Dr. Fullilove serves on the editorial boards of the journals Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and the Journal of Public Health Policy. He has been awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award at the Mailman School of Public Health three times (in 1995, 2001, and 2013), and in May, 2002, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Bank Street College of Education. Dr. Fullilove is a research psychiatrist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and a professor of clinical psychiatry and public health at Columbia University. She was educated at Bryn Mawr College (AB, 1971) and Columbia University (MS, 1971; MD 1978). She is a board certified psychiatrist, having received her training at New York Hospital-Westchester Division (1978-1981) and Montefiore Hospital (1981-1982). She has conducted research on AIDS and other epidemics of poor communities, with a special interest in the relationship between the collapse of communities and decline in health. From her research, she has published Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America and What We Can Do About It (2004), and The House of Joshua: Meditations on Family and Place (1999). She is a co-author of Rodrick Wallace's Collective Consciousness and Its Discontents: Institutional Distributed Cognition, Racial Policy and Public Health in the United States (2008). She has published numerous articles, book chapters, and monographs. She has received many awards, including inclusion on "Best Doctors" lists and two honorary doctorates (Chatham College, 1999, and Bank Street College of Education, 2002). Her work in AIDS in featured in Jacob Levenson's The Secret Epidemic: The Story of AIDS in Black America. Her latest book, Urban Alchemy: Restoring Joy in America's Sorted-Out Cities, was released in June 2013.



#### **GINA S. LOVASI, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Columbia University

Dr. Lovasi's research examines how local policies and initiatives influence cardiovascular and respiratory health, seeking to understand whether the anticipated health benefits have been realized and to explore any unanticipated health effects. She works to incorporate GIS into a range of health-related research projects in vulnerable populations. Dr. Lovasi also teaches a doctoral course on advanced techniques for epidemiologic research (advancedepidemiology.org) and serves as co-director for the Epidemiology and Population Health Summer Institute at Columbia University (cuepisummer.org).

# PARTICIPANTS



#### ANGELA A. AIDALA, PhD

Research Scientist, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Columbia College



#### MARISELA B. GOMEZ, MD, PhD

Social Health Concepts and Practice, Inc.

Dr. Aidala's work focuses on research, teaching, and service delivery strategies to work effectively with disadvantaged populations in urban settings including people who are homeless, mentally ill, substance users, street youth, formerly incarcerated, and/or living with HIV/AIDS. Dr. Aidala has directed over 20 collaborative community health or services research projects. Her recent work has focused on housing/ lack of housing and HIV/AIDS prevention and care, and methodological approaches to improve 'practice based' evidence. Dr. Aidala grew up in a 'model cities' neighborhood of Akron, Ohio. Dr. Gomez is a community activist and public health professional. After leaving the Air Force, she earned her MS at the University of New Mexico, her PhD, MD, and MPH from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She spent over 20 years as an activist/organizer in East Baltimore. Her current action research includes health effects of community rebuilding, power of public vs. private narratives, and social determinants of health. Along with other peer-reviewed research articles, she is the author of Race, Class, Power, and Organizing in East Baltimore: Rebuilding Abandoned Communities in America.



### **JACKELYN HWANG**

PhD Candidate, Sociology and Social Policy, Harvard University



# **ZOË LEVITT**

Alameda County Public Health Department

Ms. Hwang's research examines the relationship between racial and ethnic inequality and neighborhood change in contemporary urban America. Her work uses innovative forms of data and methods for measuring neighborhood characteristics, and she is particularly interested in understanding how residential selection processes and racial and ethnic compositional changes intersect to reproduce neighborhood inequality. Her current projects focus on two areas: 1) how racial and ethnic composition shapes how gentrification unfolds over time and space; and, 2) how residential segregation has structured the recent housing crisis and recovery. Ms. Levitt is a Local Policy Associate for the Alameda County Public Health Department's Place Matters initiative. She coordinates community-based research partnerships to advance local policy change related to the root causes of health inequity. Before leading ACPHD's contributions to Causa Justa::Just Cause's report, Development without Displacement, she coordinated a participatory Health Impact Assessment of regional bus funding, which used primary data collected by and from bus riders to analyze the health impacts of service cuts and fare increases on transitdependent communities. Ms. Levitt has a Bachelor's degree from Stanford University in Urban Studies and a passion for research justice and equitable development.



#### **RICHARD MARCIANO, PhD**

Director, Digital Curation Innovation Center, University of Maryland



#### **ANDREW J. PADILLA**

Journalist, Educator, Creator/Director of the award-winning documentary El Barrio Tours: Gentrification in East Harlem

Dr. Marciano's research interests include cyberinfrastructure for the curation and management of digital assets at scale, and justice, human rights, & cultural heritage partnerships. Two such partnerships are: "Mapping Inequality," a representation of racial, ethnic, and economic redlining in the 1930s and 1940s, and the "Human Face of Crowdsourcing," an exploration of urban renewal for the Southside neighborhood in Asheville, N.C., a historically African-American community.

Mr. Padilla's family immigrated to New York City from Puerto Rico during operation bootstrap and his work has centered around communities' fight to and right to determine their own fate. Since premiering his film "El Barrio Tours: Gentrification in East Harlem" at the San Diego Latino Film Fest in 2012, he's been screening and holding dialogues on gentrification and displacement across NYC. In the fall of 2013, he raised 12k from 240 people all over the world to take the film nationwide and begin creating a new film on the effects of gentrification and displacement across the USA.



#### **TRUSHNA PAREKH, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Geography, Department of History and Geography, Texas Southern University



#### DAWN PHILLIPS

Co-Director of Programs, Causa Justa :: Just Cause

Dr. Parekh's research is focused on gentrification, social justice, cultural memory, and African-American identity. She conducted an NSF-funded ethnographic project to examine the process of gentrification in the Tremé neighborhood in New Orleans, LA. This work revealed the detrimental impacts of gentrification (beyond residential displacement) on the lives of long-term residents. Her current research examines the gentrification of the Fifth Ward in Houston, TX. She is also contributing to a mental health focused grant at Texas Southern University. Dr. Parekh has published in the journals *Urban Geography, American Quarterly*, and in the book *In the Wake of Katrina*, edited by Clyde Woods.

Ms. Phillips has been an organizer engaged in a range of social, economic and environmental justice organizations and fights in the Bay Area and nationally for over 20 years. She is currently the Co-Director of Programs at Causa Justa :: Just Cause (CJJC), a Bay Area membership organization focused on community development, housing and immigrant justice issues. CJJC builds grassroots power and community leadership through rights-based services, policy campaigns, civic engagement, direct action and movement building. CJJC strives to improve conditions both in the neighborhoods we organize in and regionally, as well as to contribute to building the larger multi-racial, multi-generational movement needed for fundamental change.

Ms. Phillips leads the local, regional and national policy campaign work for the organization and was lead author on CJJC's report "Development Without Displacement: Resisting Gentrification in the Bay Area." This was a study on the impacts of gentrification and displacement on working class communities of color, which included policy recommendations for addressing these issues.

Ms. Phillips serves as Chair of the Steering Committee of the Right to the City Alliance, a formation of almost 40 community organizations based in 13 cities around the country. The alliance is dedicated to building a strong housing and urban justice movement nationally and internationally through an urban human rights framework and agenda. Causa Justa :: Just Cause is a founding member of the Right to the City Alliance.



#### SUSAN SAEGERT, PhD

Professor of Environmental Psychology, The Graduate Center CUNY

Director, Housing Environments Research Group, Center for Human Environments



#### **RODRICK WALLACE, PhD**

Research Scientist, Division of Epidemiology, New York State Psychiatric Institute

Dr. Saegert publishes research on health, housing, community development, social capital, and environmental psychology. Books include The Community Development Reader (with James DeFilippis, Routledge, 2008, 2011); Social Capital in Poor Communities (Russell Sage, 2001) (with J. Phillip Thompson and Mark R. Warren), From Abandonment to Hope: Community Households in Harlem, with Jackie Leavitt (Columbia University Press, 1990) and Urban Health: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Research and Practice with Nicholas Freudenberg and Susan Klitzman, Jossey Bass, 2009. Dr. Wallace received an undergraduate degree in mathematics and a PhD in physics from Columbia University. He worked ten years as a public interest lobbyist before returning to research. He is a past recipient of an Investigator Award in Health Policy Research from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and is the author of numerous books and peer reviewed papers on the relations between public policy, public health, and public order.