

St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange (STLMRE)

Newsletter, January 2004

Contents

STLMRE Board	1
Welcome	2
Where Are We Going?	2
Conferences, Meetings and Talks	3
Research Projects	4
Studio Project	8
Bibliography - Recent Research on the St. Louis Metropolitan Area	9

STLMRE Board

Managing Editor

Todd Swanstrom, Ph.D. (scope and methods, housing policy)
Professor
Department of Public Policy
College of Public Service
Saint Louis University (SLU)
swansttf@slu.edu

Institutional Editors

Mark Abbott, Ph.D. (planning history, neighborhood history)
Professor
Department of Urban Specializations/Center for Neighborhood Affairs
Harris-Stowe State College (HS)
abbottm@hssc.edu

Elizabeth Baker, Ph.D. (social and community factors related to health, community-based participatory action research)
Professor
School of Public Health
Saint Louis University
baker@slu.edu

John E. Farley, Ph.D. (Racial Housing Segregation, Census Data Analysis)
Professor and Chair
Department of Sociology
Southern Illinois University--Edwardsville (SIUE)
jfarley@siue.edu

Joseph Heathcote, Ph.D. (American urban history, metropolitan studies, architecture and the built environment, urban theory)
Professor
Department of American Studies
College of Arts and Sciences
Saint Louis University (SLU)
heathcje@slu.edu

STLMRE Board (continued)

Terry Jones, Ph.D. (metropolitan politics/policy, public opinion)
Professor
Department of Political Science and Public Policy Administration Program
University of Missouri--St. Louis (UMSL)
terry.jones@umsl.edu

Paula Lupkin, Ph.D. (history of the built environment, history of cities, modern and American)
Professor
School of Architecture
Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL)
lupkin@architecture.wustl.edu

John Wolford, Ph.D. (American studies, cultural history)
Director, Research and Publications
Missouri Historical Society (MHS)
jbw@mohistory.org

Welcome to the St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange (STLMRE)!

STLMRE is an effort to put researchers on St. Louis in touch with one another. We have no desire to institutionalize ourselves. Our mission is to exchange information about past, present, and future research on the St. Louis region that is of interest to urban scholars and concerned citizens.

We trust that, like us, you will be impressed with the breadth and depth of the research being conducted on the St. Louis region. We think we have only scratched the surface, however. There is even more research out there that we have not heard about. We need your help. Tell us about your research, reports, and conferences. And give us your reaction to our website. We welcome your criticisms and suggestions for making it better.

Where Are We Going?

By Todd Swanstrom, Managing Editor

Welcome to the third newsletter of the St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange. Besides announcing a few talks and conferences, we describe ten new research projects and provide citations for eight books and articles. Previous newsletters are archived on our website so that you can access our past reports on St. Louis research. Since our inception in October 2002 we have reported on a total of 67 research projects on St. Louis. If you are doing research with an important St. Louis component, please send it in to me (in the format we use) at: swansttf@slu.edu.

STLMRE is a work in progress. One feature of our website we are developing is a collection of course syllabi with significant St. Louis connections. If you have taught a course that uses St. Louis materials, please send the syllabus to Joseph Heathcott (heathcje@slu.edu). You can view the syllabi archive and read how to submit by going to the STLMRE website and clicking on the "Syllabi" button.

Where Are We Going? (continued)

Our main initiative at this time is looking into preserving regional data sets. Governments in the region collect a great deal of data, but after a few years it is often destroyed or made much less accessible. A good example is data on assessed values collected by county tax assessors. With computers it is now relatively easy to archive this data for historical research.

Cassandra Butler, a research assistant for Prof. Terry Jones at UMSL, has been researching regional databases for us. We plan to meet at the end of January to decide if there is anything STLMRE can do to preserve data. We are not necessarily interested in being the one that actually stores the data. More likely, we would apply for a grant to prepare the data and then have the data stored at university libraries or the Missouri Historical Society. STLMRE would then serve as a kind of traffic cop to direct researchers to the proper data repository.

If you have any ideas about data archiving, email me.

Finally, we have other ideas for developing our website which we plan to work on in the future:

- 1) Annotated bibliography of unpublished Master's theses on St. Louis;
- 2) An archive of key planning documents and other reports which are difficult to obtain in libraries;
- 3) An archive of St. Louis images or photographs.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any ideas for making STLMRE a more valuable resource for St. Louis researchers.

Conferences, Meetings, Talks, and Exhibits

Discover St. Louis Speakers' Series

In collaboration with University of Missouri-St. Louis, Saint Louis University, and FOCUS St. Louis, the Missouri Historical Society is offering a free lecture series on regional issues. All talks are at the Missouri History Museum at Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park. For each talk a panel of local experts will be on hand to offer commentary and engage in Q&A. Five talks will be offered in 2004. For further information, visit www.mohistory.org or call (314) 746-4599.

Vertical City: Public Housing in the Life of an American City

The Sheldon Art Galleries in Grand Center presents a fascinating photography exhibit that provides a social and architectural examination of the massive Pruitt-Igoe public housing complex in St. Louis. Dynamited in 1972, Pruitt Igoe became a symbol of the failure of urban policy and design. The exhibit shows that the roots of the "failure" of public housing extended well beyond federal housing policies and the modernist design. The exhibit is curated by Joseph Heathcott, Professor of American Studies at Saint Louis University, along with graduate students in the American City Studio. The gallery hours are Tuesdays, 9am to 8 pm, Wednesdays, 9 am to 5 pm, Saturdays, 10 am to 2 pm,

Conferences, Meetings, Talks, and Exhibits (continued)

and one hour prior to Sheldon performances and during intermissions. The exhibit is only open until January 17th. Don't miss it.

Regional Collaboration: Lessons for Economic Development

A committee composed of representatives from St. Louis University, the Urban Land Institute, and other interested parties in the region will put on a conference on March 24-25 at Saint Louis University. The conference will begin with a dinner the night before at

which a regional collaboration will be announced. The conference will meet all day on Thursday, March 25th. The basic idea of the conference is to learn how other regions have done regional collaboration and try to adapt those ideas to the St. Louis area. Speakers from outside the region include Amy Liu of the Brookings Institution, an expert on collaborative economic development initiatives around the country; Judy Rawson, the Mayor of Shaker Heights, Ohio and head of the First Suburbs Consortium in Cleveland, an organization of inner-ring suburbs; Rita Athas, Director of Regional Programs in Chicago; and representatives of regional initiatives in Louisville and Minneapolis. Key actors in St. Louis will report on "successes" in regional collaboration, including the Metro Parks and Recreations District (now Great Rivers Greenway), the Regional Empowerment Zone, and St. Louis County collaboration around Lambert Airport. For further information, contact: Christine Luebbert at luebbeca@slu.edu

Past Speaker Series of Interest

Siegle Seminar in American Culture Studies Metropolis Unbound: The Destruction and Reconstruction of American Cities

The American Culture Studies Program at Washington University in St. Louis hosted Professor Thomas J. Sugrue as the keynote speaker for 2003 Siegle Seminar in American Culture Studies on October 2 and 3. Author of *The Origins of the Urban Crisis* (Princeton University Press, 1996), Professor Sugrue presented a lecture titled "Metropolis Unbound: The Destruction and Reconstruction of American Cities" as well as two faculty seminars: "Housing, Housing Policies, Housing Reformers and the Origins of Segregated Urban Landscapes in the 20th Century" with Professor Margaret Garb of Washington University, and "From Segregation to Standardization: The Neo-Liberal Agenda in Urban Education" with Professor William Tate.

Research Projects (in alphabetical order by principal investigator)

Voting Technology and Election Reform

David Kimball, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri--St. Louis

This research examines efforts to upgrade voting methods in the wake of the 2000 presidential election recount in Florida and the Help America Vote Act passed by Congress in 2002. The federal law tries to address the problem of "unrecorded votes" in which some voters cast ballots but fail to record a valid vote for key offices. Punch card ballots commonly used in the St. Louis region have significantly higher rates of unrecorded votes than any other voting method. Recently I have used GIS data and software to create voting precinct maps of the St. Louis region indicating where the

Research Projects (continued)

highest rates of unrecorded votes occur. More information on the overall research project can be found here: http://www.umsl.edu/~kimball/dk_vote.htm

More information on voting technology used in the St. Louis region can be found here: http://pprc.umsl.edu/data/policy_brief_14_votingmethods_region.pdf

Contact David Kimball: 314-516-6050; dkimball@umsl.edu

Voter advocacy assisted by geographical information systems (GIS)

Alan Lamberg and Abigail Moland, Saint Louis University

We intend to illustrate a model for identifying clusters of non-voters in a particular geographic locality. We utilized year 2000 data from U.S. Census Bureau and City of St. Louis Board of Elections to ascertain the percentage of non-voters (including non-registered citizens of voting age and registered voters who are inactive) per Census block in low-poverty versus high-poverty election districts in the City of St. Louis. The census block was the chosen unit of analysis because it is large enough to facilitate GIS display relative to other Census blocks while being small enough to realistically implement the outreach efforts of voter advocacy groups. Maps generated from the model will not only assist voter advocacy groups to more efficaciously target particular clusters of non-voters, but also assess the relationship between poverty and voting behavior by census block.

Pre-proposal. Contact Alan Lamberg: lamberga@slu.edu

Evaluating Interactive Databases for Optimal Economic Development in the neighborhood of Covenant Blu - Grand Center, City of St. Louis.

Alan Lamberg, Saint Louis University

The proposed study will explore the preferences of stakeholders in the development and implementation of a streamlined process for providing development incentives. One way to streamline the process is to provide an interactive database of incentives to a developer, which, after an input of information by the developer would yield a set of applicable optimal incentives. By surveying representatives from key stakeholder groups and then analyzing their median preferences, we may find the answer to the primary question: What is the best way to develop and implement a potentially effective interactive database for optimal economic development (IDOED) for Covenant Blu - Grand Center? In order to answer this question, sets of questions need to be investigated. (1) What would stakeholders consider to be optimal economic development? (2) What is the stakeholders' perception of hypercompetition? (3) How willing are stakeholders in utilizing knowledge-based systems in relation to economic development? (4) What strategies of engagement among organizations do the stakeholders subscribe? Contact Alan Lamberg: lamberga@slu.edu

Early St Louis Families

Senior Thesis Project, History Department, Washington University in St. Louis
Natalie Levine

This research looks to examine nontraditional families in early St. Louis (1764-1804) with a particular emphasis on female-headed households and female property ownership. The 1787 and 1791 censuses of the region compiled by the Spanish government form the basis of the research with additional information from assorted collections in the Missouri Historical Society Archives and the Missouri Recorded Archives which detail legal

Research Projects (continued)

proceedings in St. Louis. Contact Natalie Levine: Nlevine@artsci.wustl.edu or mgarb@artsci.wustl.edu

St. Louis and the Midwestern Origins of the Gated Community

Paula Lupkin, Washington University

Preliminary research into the history of private streets in St. Louis has revealed direct connections with the planning and development of gated residential districts in Houston, Fort Worth, New Orleans, and other American cities. Focusing on the geographical diffusion of the concept of the private street in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this project will map and examine the activities of designers and planners like Henry Wright, Julius Pitzman, and George Kessler as well as elite St. Louisians responsible for introducing these men and this residential development concept to other cities. The role of these men, as well as Harlan Bartholemew, in defining a strong planning tradition in the Midwest are well established but the discussion has thus far been focused upon public planning and park system development. This research project will focus on the residential dimension that often followed alongside these City Beautiful-inspired efforts. Additional research into the pre-history of the late 20th century gated community will identify the potential significance of the St. Louis model and its followers to the contemporary phenomenon. Contact Paula Lupkin: lupkin@architecture.wustl.edu

Modern Architecture in St. Louis: Washington University and Postwar American Architecture, 1948-1973

Eric Mumford, Washington University School of Architecture, editor

A 200-page illustrated publication on the history of modern architecture in St. Louis is underway with the support of grants from the Washington University Sesquicentennial Fund, the Graham Foundation, and the Washington University School of Architecture. This will bring together a set of essays by Helene Lipstadt on the Arch Competition, Kathleen James-Chakarborty on modern sacred architecture in St. Louis, including Erich Mendelsohn's Bnai Amoona Synagogue, and Eric Mumford the relationship between modern architecture in the city and the School of Architecture at Washington University. The book will include archival photographs and drawings, reminiscences about the school, and a chronology as well as brief statements by key figures in the history of the school that are still living, including Joseph Passonneau (Dean, 1956-67); George Anselvicius (Dean, 1967-73); Constantinos Michaelides (Dean, 1973-93); Gyo Obata, alumnus; and Fumihiko Maki, architect and professor 1956-62. The intent is to bring together material about nationally and internationally significant aspects of the School of Architecture and modern architecture in St. Louis in the postwar period. This was a period of tremendous change in the physical and social structure of St. Louis, and we intend to situate the specific architectural works within this changing social context. It is a history that has never been told, despite a small literature on some specific aspects. Contact Eric Mumford: epm@architecture.wustl.edu

Research Projects (continued)

How and Why an African-American Suburb Develops **Senior Thesis Project, History Department, Washington University in St. Louis** David Perlman

This research investigates the Howard and Evans Place neighborhood and its transition to a predominately African-American demographic. This area used to border Brentwood Boulevard and Eager Road and is currently occupied by the Brentwood Target Shopping

Center. This suburb was first subdivided around 1909 and witnessed many changes, first being home to many Italian immigrants and poor White Americans, and eventually becoming a majority black neighborhood. The Downtown St. Louis, Evens and Howard Fire Brick Company, opened a clay mine near that neighborhood during this period. It provided the area's main source of employment. My principal resources are achieved in the Missouri Historical Society and the St. Louis County Offices in Clayton. The census manuscripts from 1910 to 1930 and neighborhood deeds are valuable sources to help recreate the evolution of this unique St. Louis neighborhood. I continue to collect and analyze data with the goal of shredding light on the development of suburban minority communities. Contact: David Perlman: perlmand@olin.wustl.edu or mgarb@artsci.wustl.edu

Literacy for Social Justice Action Research Group: A Collaboration between Washington University and St. Louis Public Schools Rebecca Rogers, Education, Washington University in St. Louis

The Literacy for Social Justice Action Research Group, founded by Dr. Rebecca Rogers of Washington University and Mary Ann Kramer of St. Louis Public Schools Adult Education and Literacy is comprised of adult education instructors, elementary teachers, and university faculty and students committed to the relationship between literacy and social justice in classrooms, schools, and communities. We have met twice a month since fall 2001 to discuss educational readings, videos, CD-roms, presentations by guest speakers, educational policy, and to explore how theory and practice work in our classrooms toward democratic aims. As teachers we are immersed in our students' learning on a daily basis and have questions and issues that arise in the context of our classrooms, schools, and the communities in which we work. The group serves as a forum where teachers pose questions and think of multiple possibilities for strategic action in their classrooms. This includes collecting resources (e.g. children's and adult literature, lesson plans, websites, interaction strategies) that teachers can use in their classrooms. Teachers in the group conduct an action research project in their classrooms on the relationship between literacy and social justice. They collect data on their interventions (e.g. examples of student work, transcripts of classroom interaction, a videotaped lesson) and, with the group's assistance, analyze the data looking for patterns and themes that can aid in further strengthening the teaching and learning in the classroom.

As a group we conceptualize our work as literacy advocates operating at the societal, institutional, and classroom levels. Participants experience a sense of connectedness with other teachers from different schools. We have participated in the IRA's African-American Read-In and at national conferences. We believe the unique combination of adult and elementary teachers in this group allows us to conceptualize and act toward more socially just communities.

Research Projects (continued)

Teacher-Research Group Members: Sarah Beaman-Jones, Sara Bramer, Sheila Carves, Tambra Cross-Black, Janet DePasquale, Anne Ellis, Carolyn Fuller, Sara Hobson, Rhonda Jones, Melissa Kniepkamp, Mary Ann Kramer, Rebecca Light, Melissa Mosley, Kelly Neighbors, Rebecca Rogers, Earline Scott, Phyllis Thomas, Dorothy Walker.
Contact Rebecca Rogers: Rogers3948@aol.com

Community Partnerships: A Sustainable Resource for Nongovernmental Organizations

Mark Tranel and Kay Gasen, University of Missouri – St. Louis

Community development brings together residents of distressed urban neighborhoods to shape their own strategies to confront the daunting challenges of abandonment, disinvestments, poverty and unemployment. Although more decision-making responsibility has been directed to the local level, federal funding to support these efforts has declined. This has stimulated the formation of partnerships between neighborhood residents, acting through nongovernmental organizations (NGO's), and institutional partners, both public and private. Case studies of two St. Louis, Missouri communities examine the process of initiating and sustaining a development partnership, the capacities each of the partners brings to the process and the challenges to making these partnerships work. Ideally the partners would share common goals and equal involvement in decision-making, producing both physical development and development of the residents capacity to improve the quality of life in their community. The research finds the partnerships face their own challenges of clashing cultures, finding a means for inclusive neighborhood representation, differences in staff capacity, and distribution of resources. Paper presented at the 2003 Federal Reserve Research Conference.

Contact Mark Tranel: mtranel@umsl.edu

The St. Louis World's Fair of 1904: German and German-American Participation Washington University in St. Louis

Professor Michael Lutzeler of Washington University in St. Louis is currently offering a graduate course in German "The St. Louis World's Fair of 1904: German and German-American participation". The result of the seminar will be presented in form of a paper during the next St. Louis Symposium on German Literature and Culture in March. The seminar is being taught this semester, and it will be offered on the undergraduate level next semester. Contact Professor Paul Michael Lutzeler: jahrbuch@wustl.edu

Studio Project

Graphic Design Assignment: Lewis and Clark School of Art, Washington University

In this assignment, students were asked to use three texts (two primary sources and one secondary source) and a map about the beginning of Lewis and Clark's journey westward in 1804 as the content for a typographic book. Specifically, they developed an overarching idea about the significance of this early stage of the journey, which could be expressed through letterforms and text settings. Steps of the process included

Studio Project (continued)

sketching thumbnails on paper, exploring a range of book shapes and sizes, testing out typefaces and type settings on the computer, refining for greater clarity, stronger composition, and typographic play, and, eventually, crafting the books themselves. PDF available. Contact Heather Corcoran: heather@sweetplum.com

Bibliography - Recent Publications with a St. Louis Connection

Recent Books

Crone, Thomas. 2003. *Portraits Along the River*. A new book chronicling the working lives of 50 St. Louisans. Local writer Thomas Crone and photographer Bob Reuter worked on this book for two years, talking with, and photographing, local residents about their jobs, their neighborhoods, their hopes and dreams and other good things in life. Contact Thomas Crone: info@thomascrone.com

Theising, Andrew. 2003. *Made In USA: East St. Louis – The Rise and Fall of an Industrial River Town*. Virginia Publishing. The first ever-scholarly comprehensive history of this troubled city. The book includes more than 200 photographs and documents showing the people and events that shaped East St. Louis. Andrew Theising, a professor of political science at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, examines the city's past from the prominent role it played in the growth of 19th century industrial America to its present depleted state. It examines the reasons East St. Louis (and other cities like it) was created, how it operated, and why it was abandoned. Theising spent 10 years researching East St. Louis for this book. For Theising, East St. Louis is more than just a depressed urban area – it is a legacy of industrial control and chronic institutional failure. The companion documentary, *Made In USA: The East St. Louis Story*, is based on the book and examines both industrial and residential themes of East St. Louis. The one-hour feature was broadcast over the summer. *Made In USA*, the book, was named 2003 Best Book by a Local Author by the staff of the *Riverfront Times*. It is available in bookstores across the region and through the major on-line sources. Virginia Publishing: (314) 367-6612; <http://www.wordnews.com> *Made In USA*, the documentary, won the 2003 Excellence Award for Public Affairs Journalism from the Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists. Copies of the documentary are available in DVD format from the KETC website: <http://www.ketc.org>

Jones, E. Terrence, and Brady Baybeck (Eds.) Forthcoming. *St. Louis Metromorphosis*. Editors affiliated with University of Missouri--St. Louis draw upon thirteen St. Louis area scholars to examine how St. Louis's past trends will shape its future. The Missouri Historical Society Press will publish the book this summer. The book's fourteen chapters and their respective authors are "The Region's Demography: 1950-2000" (David Laslo, UMSL), "Dynamics of Density: 1960-2000" (Brady Baybeck, UMSL), "The Transforming Economy" (Mark Tranel, UMSL), "St. Louisans at Work: 1960-2000" (David Laslo, UMSL), "Economic Restructuring and Development Disparities" (Scott Cummings, SLU), "Minority Business Development" (Scott Cummings, SLU), "The Transportation Experience" (Mark Tranel, UMSL), "Residential Segregation" (John Farley, SIUE), "Housing Quality and Neighborhood Stability" (Richard Wesenberg, WU,

Bibliography (continued)

and Michael Sherraden, WU), "Family Structure" (Lois Pierce, UMSL), "A Century of Homicide" (Scott Decker, UMSL, Jeffrey Rojek, SLU, and Eric Baumer, UMSL), "The Municipal Market" (E. Terrence Jones, UMSL), "Education and Race" (Dan Keck, SLU), and "How St. Louis's Past Frames Its Future" (E. Terrence Jones, UMSL, and Brady Baybeck, UMSL).

Kramer, M., & Rogers, R. (Forthcoming). *Learning from exemplary adult education teachers*. Contact Rebecca Rogers: Rogers3948@aol.com

Porter, Carol S. Forthcoming in February 2004. *Meeting Louis at the Fair: The Projects and Photographs of Louis Clemens Spiering, World's Fair Architect*. Virginia Publishing Company. With a Foreward by Carolyn Hewes Toft. Book in progress. Carol S. Porter is a journalist and independent scholar in Kirkwood, Missouri. Louis Clemens Spiering (1874-1912) was a St. Louis-born architect who spent fifteen months on the design staff of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Hand-picked by design director Emmanuel Masqueray, Spiering worked on elements of the fairgrounds; lagoons, bridges and elaborate plaster ornamentation. He also accepted independent assignments to design several of the smaller structures, and acted as supervising architect for the French and Austrian pavilions. Part I of the book focuses on Spiering's life prior to the fair: growing up in Old North St. Louis in the noisy, intellectual Bernays family compound (the Bernayses, a free-thinking German family, were influential in St. Louis journalism, politics, literature, music and medicine throughout the latter 19th century), followed by years of schooling in Berlin and culminating in seven years at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where Spiering earned a diploma.

Part II examines each LPE structure associated with Spiering, including the architect's own photographs of his projects. (The photographs are published for the first time in this book.) Research for this section included detailed readings of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat (1901-1904), portions of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Collection at Missouri Historical Society, and Spiering's own surviving correspondence, collected by his 96-year-old niece and only remaining relative. Though Spiering was fluent in the Beaux-Arts architectural vocabulary of the St. Louis World's Fair, his work on the lesser-known "little buildings" reveals sympathy for Arts and Crafts and Secessionist trends. This interest was evident throughout the brief remainder of his career as a Washington University faculty member and architect in private practice. The final chapter touches on highlights of his work 1905-1912. Louis Spiering's final project was the Sheldon Concert Hall. He died of cancer seven months before its dedication. Contact Carol Porter: CporterInk@aol.com; also see <http://www.wordnews.com/worldsfair.html>

Rogers, R. & Mosley, M. (Forthcoming) *Learning to Be Just: Interactions of White, Working Class Peers*. In D. Volk & S. Long (Eds.) *Multiple Pathways to Literacy*. NY: Routledge. Contact Rebecca Rogers: Rogers3948@aol.com

Rogers, R., Light, R., & Curtis, L. (Forthcoming). *Anyone can be an expert in something: Exploring the complexity of discourse conflict and alignment in a 5th grade classroom*. Contact Rebecca Rogers: Rogers3948@aol.com

Rogers, R. (Forthcoming, expected December, 2003) *Discursive Alignment and Conflict in Social Transformation*. In R. Rogers (Ed.) *New Directions in Critical Discourse Analysis*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. Contact Rebecca Rogers: Rogers3948@aol.com