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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 fourth newsletter of the St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange. 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 almost 100 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 below) at: swansttf@slu.edu.

One important piece of news is that the STLMRE website will be administered in the future by RegionWise, a Danforth Foundation funded regional think tank that recently moved to Saint Louis University. By integrating our website with RegionWise’s we will have several features that are presently missing from our site. One is searchability. In the future researchers will be able to go to our website and enter in terms that reflect their research interests and they will be taken to the relevant research projects or books. Also, RegionWise’s website has interactive abilities that our website presently lacks. It is
important to note that when we move our website over to RegionWise’s website, you will still be able to access us with the same address as always: http://stlmre.slu.edu.

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. We are planning to have a meeting with county governments to see if we can devise a systematic way to archive tax assessment data.

Finally, we are planning a book discussion group starting this January. The book we have chosen is Brady Baybeck and Terry Jones, eds., *St. Louis Metromorphosis: Past Trends and Future Directions* (Missouri Historical Society Press, 2004). We plan to have one chapter discussed each month, with the author of the chapter leading the discussion. Participants will be expected to read the chapter before the discussion. We will send out a notice to all of our subscribers as soon as we have the times and places pinned down.

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

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**Conferences, Meetings, Talks, and Exhibits**

**RACE, POWER & MONEY: A Missouri Historical Society Series**

In the fall of 2004, the Missouri Historical Society — in partnership with the University of Missouri–St. Louis, Saint Louis University and Washington University, and in collaboration with FOCUS St. Louis — launched a provocative new series. Through a variety of formats, the series will present three highly sensitive issues that affect Americans’ daily lives.

*Lee Auditorium; Southwestern Bell Multipurpose Education Center*

$15 per person; $10 for MHS members

Reservations required; call (314) 361-9017

12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 5:** *Black Wealth/White Wealth*: Dr. Melvin Oliver, Dean of the Social Sciences Division of the College of Letters and Sciences at the University of California Santa-Barbara, former Vice President of the Ford Foundation, and co-author of *Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality*, shares insight into the economic disparity between African-Americans and Caucasians based on an analysis of private wealth. At issue, is the prevailing notion of the expansion of the Black middle class. Dr. Oliver’s work shows how an analysis of wealth total-assets and debts rather than income alone paints a different picture.

For information on future sessions, please visit the Missouri Historical Society’s event page: [http://www.mohistory.org/content/EventCalendar/eventsummary.aspx](http://www.mohistory.org/content/EventCalendar/eventsummary.aspx)

**African-American History Series**

9 a.m. — Breakfast ($8.50 per person; Free for MHS members)

10 a.m. — Lecture (Free)

Reservations required; call (314) 361-9017

In 2004–05, we will be examining such questions as: What is race? What is racism? How has racism been manifested and what are its effects? How have we attempted to address Conferences, Meetings,
Talks, and Exhibits (continued)

this persistent issue? and Where do we go from here?
To subscribe to the African American History Series e-Newsletter, send your name and e-mail address to mcj@mohistory.org. Specify “AAHS” in the subject field.

Saturday, December 18: Biological Racial Classification: An Endangered Species?
Join Dr. Donna Hart, Pierre Laclede Honors College Adjunct Professor at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, as she presents the topic of human evolution. Dr. Hart will explore human origins and through physical anthropology explore human variation.

Saturday, January 15: The Roots of American Slavery in 18th Century British Culture & Thought: Dr. Michael Rozbicki, Associate Professor of History at SLU examines the links between social relation and intellectual construction and their connection to the contemporary meanings of rights and freedoms, the nature of inequality. Dr. Rozbicki will also explore the paradox of the language of liberty that contributed to the drawing of boundaries between social groups and to the legitimization of slavery.

Saturday, Feb. 19: Journey Into Blackness: Representing Mutinies & Revolts in the Middle Passage: Dr. Jonathan Smith, Associate Professor of American Studies at SLU examines the Middle Passage as the crucible in which racial identity developed.
For information on future sessions, please visit the Missouri Historical Society’s event page: http://www.mohistory.org/content/EventCalendar/eventsummary.aspx

Community Design for Healthy Lifestyles
The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Department of Urban & Regional Planning presents its 6th Annual Planning Institute March 3 and 4, 2005. The institute will focus on enhancing healthy, active lifestyles through community design. For more information, visit the institute’s website: www.urban.uiuc.edu/ce/.

Research Projects (in alphabetical order by principal investigator)

Harris-Stowe Center for Neighborhood Affairs: Lucas Heights
Mark Abbott, Harris-Stowe State College

Harris-Stowe’s Center for Neighborhood Affairs continues its work in Lucas Heights to facilitate the rejuvenation of this Midtown neighborhood. Having successfully completed a HUD grant for Lucas Heights where the Center developed a neighborhood plan, assisted youth entrepreneurs, and funded a home improvement program, the Center is in the process of forming a community development corporation to facilitate commercial and residential development in the Midtown community. In addition to the work of the Center, Mark Abbott continues his research on factors that support neighborhood stabilization. He anticipates delivering a paper at next year’s Society of American City and Regional Planning Historians’ (SACRPH) conference.
Research Projects (continued)

Mining State Educational Assessment for School Culture Change
Marvin Berkowitz, Vic Battistich, and Cody Ding

The MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education systematically surveys school staff, students, Board, and parents as part of the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) through the MSIP Advanced Questionnaire. This team is psychometrically analyzing those data to generate school culture change scales which will help local districts track changes in school culture, especially related to character education.

For information: Marvin W. Berkowitz, Ph.D. Sanford N. McDonnell Professor of Character Education College of Education Marillac Hall 402 University of Missouri-St. Louis 8001 Natural Bridge Road St. Louis MO 63121-4499

Evaluating School District Reform in St. Louis
Marvin Berkowitz and Vic Battistich

In partnership with the Francis Howell School District, all 26 FHSD schools are in the midst of a project to implement research-based character education school reform into their existing structures. We are assessing outcomes on school climate and student development.

For information: Marvin W. Berkowitz, Ph.D. Sanford N. McDonnell Professor of Character Education College of Education Marillac Hall 402 University of Missouri-St. Louis 8001 Natural Bridge Road St. Louis MO 63121-4499

American Lives Project  http://amlives.artsci.wustl.edu/
American Culture Studies Program in Arts & Sciences at Washington University
Deborah Jaegers, Washington University in St. Louis

The American Lives Project combines oral histories, historical documents, artifacts, sound and visual media in a searchable digital collection that creates a research environment for our multidisciplinary approach to the study of American culture. The project is structured to break down barriers between categories of primary resources for research, study and teaching. A digital interface enables a fluid, immersive environment that allows users to see how the resources inform each other and the diverse ways we can "read" culture.

The prototype online exhibit, Student Activism at Washington University (1964-1972), focuses on the rise of student activism through such groups as the Association of Black Collegians (ABC), the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the Smash-ROTC movement through alumni, faculty, and administration oral histories, personal papers and artifacts currently housed in University Archives. These documentary records are complemented by media and publications, including Student Life, The Hatchet, and St. Louis newspapers, television and radio reports. Students have added to this collection by researching the time period and conducting additional oral histories. New materials will broaden the cultural contexts of these events and add local, regional and national perspectives.

American Culture Studies is continuing the project by adding oral histories collected on various subjects: St. Louis Loop and Hill neighborhoods, impact of 9/11 on WU students
Research Projects (continued)

and within St. Louis Muslim communities, and the St. Louis Civil Rights Movement. We are also exploring how to add personal and family histories and artifacts to the collection and interface. For information: Deborah Jaegers, Coordinator, American Culture Studies Program, 314-935-4912 or djjaeger@wustl.edu.

St. Louis Circuit Court Historical Records Project
Deborah Jaegers, Washington University in St. Louis
http://stlcourtrecords.wustl.edu/index.php

This project is a broad collaboration between government, university, legal, and business organizations to preserve and make available these unique judicial records to the citizens of Missouri and the nation. The project's intent is to stimulate research that will lead to a greater understanding of the American past. American Culture Studies has built a website that places these cases online with a keyword-searchable database. This electronic archive includes 81 cases related to Lewis & Clark and the Corps of Discovery, over 280 freedom suits brought by slaves who sued for their freedom between 1814 and 1860, including the Dred Scott Case, and 68 cases relating to the fur trade in the St. Louis region. For information: Deborah Jaegers, Coordinator, American Culture Studies Program, 314-935-4912 or djjaeger@wustl.edu.

Community-based Voter Advocacy Assisted by Geographic Information Systems
Alan Lamberg, Saint Louis University.

This investigation created a model for describing voter behavior among the smallest ecological units that differentiate characteristics of place. Year 2000 data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Year 2004 data from the City of St. Louis Board of Elections were utilized to ascertain the percentages of voters and non-voters (non-registered citizens of voting age) in levels of census block and census block group. Voter behavior was compared to socioeconomic variables including poverty status, education, age, race, etc. The census block is the chosen unit of analysis because it is large enough to facilitate G.I.S. 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 socioeconomic variables and voting behavior by census block. For information: Alan Lamberg: lamberab@kirkwoodmo.org

Refugees in St. Louis
Uma A. Segal, UMSL

Refugees are an untapped resource in many communities, yet they bring with them a wealth of experience, a desire to reestablish themselves, and a belief in the American Dream. This 5-year project seeks to determine (1) the demographic profile of new refugees (those who have been in the U.S. for less than a year), (2) their level of education, (3) their English language competence, (4) work skills that may be transferable to St. Louis based business/industry, and (3) their ability to work. Findings
of the first four years suggest that St. Louis area businesses may find it beneficial to collaborate with resettlement agencies in filling gaps in the St. Louis workforce.
For information: Uma Segal: umasegal@umsl.edu

Asian Americans in St. Louis
Uma A. Segal, UMSL

Asian Americans are stereotypically perceived as a single homogenous group that constitutes a "model minority." These perceptions have masked the range of differences among groups as well as the needs a large segment of the population evidences. While as a group they are financially more secure than most other minorities, there is a bi-modal distribution of success. Furthermore, since most shy away from assistance from those outside the family, most do not access available social service and support services they may sorely need. This project began with 13 focus groups of seven Asian American subgroups (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Indian, Vietnamese, and Thai) in the St. Louis metropolitan area with an aim to identifying their unique needs. Questionnaires were designed based on the outcome of these focus groups and data collection is in progress. Future plans are to seek federal/state funding to establish a clearinghouse, an information and referral service, or a small community agency to address the needs of this population.
For information: Uma Segal: umasegal@umsl.edu

Savings for Education
Research Team: Margaret Sherraden, Shirley Porterfield, Elisha Chambers (UMSL), and Lissa Johnson (Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis)

This research examines implementation and effects of a savings program for primary school children and their families. I Can Save is a university-community initiative that offers matched savings accounts to low and moderate income children. The program, operated by a non-profit community development agency in a public school, incorporates incentives (a savings match), financial education, and access to savings accounts for post-secondary education. The quasi-experimental research design compares saving, financial decision-making, and academic achievement in experimental and comparison groups, and explores program design issues in the school-based program.
Contact: Margaret Sherraden

Jobs-Housing Mismatches in the St. Louis Region
Todd Swanstrom, Department of Public Policy Studies, Saint Louis University

With the help of RegionWise Todd Swanstrom is conducting research on job/housing mismatches in six counties in the St. Louis region. The primary data used is zip code level data on jobs and housing. The primary goal is to determine if different parts of the region meet the demand for affordable housing based on the jobs that are located in each zip code. A preliminary analysis using the dissimilarity index (normally used to study racial segregation) between retail jobs and affordable apartment suggests that jobs and affordable housing are moving in different directions in the St. Louis metropolitan area. We hope to have a completed report by January 2004.
Contact: swansttf@slu.edu
Metro-East TIF Study
Andrew Theising, Assistant Professor of Political Science, SIUE and Nicholas Guehlstorf, Assistant Professor of Political Science, SIUE

Funded study by the SIUE Institute for Urban Research of the use of Tax Increment Financing in Metro East. This study will replicate in Illinois the recent Brookings Institution study of Missouri TIF law. The study will help define key policy issues that are unique to Metro East, provide understanding of how Illinois TIF law is being applied in various Metro East Communities, and examine resulting dynamics. Currently underway with completion in early 2005.

Research Project Updates (in alphabetical order by principal investigator)

Racial Housing Segregation in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area, 2000.
John E. Farley, Professor, Department of Sociology, SIUE.
This study involves measurement of the level of racial housing segregation in the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and its constituent parts, as well as an examination of trends in segregation in different parts of the metropolitan area. Results from the initial phase of the research project can be found at http://www.siue.edu/SOCIOLOGY/journal/FARLEYV2.HTM. A second phase of the research project will involve the use of two methods to examine the role played in racial segregation by economic disparities between whites and African Americans in the area. This phase will involve computation of racial housing segregation indices within income levels in the area, and the use of indirect standardization to estimate what the area wide index would be if only economic factors were involved in segregation. Past research has shown that economic disparities account for a relatively small proportion of the total segregation in the area. This research was funded in part by the SIUE Graduate School. e-mail: Professor Farley: jfarley@siue.edu.

Update: The second phase of the project has been completed, and as of late August, a paper reporting this research is under review for possible publication. Findings from this research are also discussed in an Issue Paper issued by RegionWise in 2004 entitled “One Community: Racial Integration.” This Issue Paper is available from RegionWise.

Interracial Exposure Indices: A Case When “Average” is Not “Typical”?
John E. Farley, Professor, Department of Sociology, SIUE.
Interracial exposure indices are often interpreted as representing the typical neighborhood racial composition experienced by people in a particular racial group. However, these indices are mean indices, and when the distribution of racial compositions is skewed, the mean composition experienced by people in a racial group may be quite different from the composition experienced by the median person in that group. It is demonstrated using 2000 census data from the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area that 1) differences between mean and median exposure are substantial and that 2) the exposure indices in
common use today significantly overstate the level of interracial exposure that the majority of people actually experience in their neighborhood. A median exposure measure is proposed as an alternative to the mean exposure indices now in common use, because the median measure understates the actual degree of racial separation and isolation that the typical individual experiences. Research is now under way to examine the extent to which these findings for the St. Louis metropolitan area can be replicated in other metropolitan areas. e-mail: Professor Farley: jfarley@siue.edu

Update: Articles based on this research are forthcoming in Critical Demography and in The Sociological Quarterly, publication dates still to be determined.

The Geographic Distribution of the Metro-East Region’s African American Population and Racial Housing Segregation in Relation to the Geographic Distribution of Health Care Providers in the Metro East Region.
John E. Farley, Professor, Department of Sociology, SIUE.
The purpose of this proposed research is tri-fold. First, it examines the geographic distance between the Metro-East area’s African American population and the locations of health care providers, using several different approaches to estimating this distance. Second, it uses the index of dissimilarity to examine the degree of unevenness between the geographic distribution of the area’s African American the geographic distribution of health care providers. Third, it will develop a methodology for and generate a proposal for external funding for studies to compare the patterns that I find in the Metro East area to patterns in other metropolitan areas. Preliminary findings from this study will be presented at the annual meetings of the Illinois Sociological Association to be held in East St. Louis October 10 and 11, 2002. This research is funded through the SIUE Institute for Urban Research. e-mail: Professor Farley: jfarley@siue.edu.

Update: An article based on this research has been published in the online Edwardsville Journal of Sociology, available online at http://www.siue.edu/SOCIOLGY/journal/v4farley.htm

Analysis of the Climatic Mechanisms Contributing to Lower atmospheric Ozone Exceedances with Metropolitan St. Louis.
Mark L. Hildebrandt, Assistant Professor, Geography Department, SIUE.
While some past climatological studies address ozone transport across various spatial scales, few studies address the linkages between meteorological processes at multiple spatial scales and their role in ozone transport. This study will employ a method for analyzing the linkages between ozone transport and multi-scale processes on days that violated the U.S. EPA standard (0.12 ppm over one hour) from 1990 to 2000 in St. Louis. The dominant presence of high pressure at the synoptic scale and variability in air temperature and wind speed at the microscale complicate forecasting ozone exceedances in the St. Louis metropolitan area. The results of this proposed study may help local scientists to improve ozone forecasts for St. Louis and other cities dominated by similar meteorological conditions. This research is funded through the SIUE Institute for Urban Research. e-mail: mhildeb@siue.edu

Update: High levels of ozone are known to have detrimental effects on persons with respiratory and/or cardiovascular problems, especially among the very young and
Research Project Updates (continued)

elderly. High levels of lower atmospheric ozone are generally associated with warm days (≥85°F) with abundant sunshine and very little wind at the surface, low specific humidity at 850 mb, and dominant high pressure at the 500 mb level. These conditions promote the efficient generation and accumulation of ozone. In most instances, federal exceedances of ozone occur later in the week (Thursday and Friday) when traffic volumes are greatest. The West Alton (MO) area tends to have the most exceedances, likely due to the advection of ozone from downtown. This research was funded through the SIUE Institute for Urban Research.

Since completion of the above research, follow-up projects include investigations on the impact of large concentrations of pollutants on (a) the enhancement of precipitation events downwind of St. Louis, and (b) the possible exacerbation of daily temperature extremes during the summertime.

Decision-Making In Industrial Suburbs
Andrew Theising, Assistant Professor of Political Science, SIUE.

An ongoing research agenda examining the effect of industry on local decision-making structures, especially as it pertains to the greater East St. Louis area.

Update: For this project, an extensive archive of East St. Louis primary and secondary material, images, and artifacts has been developed and was published in 2003 as Made in USA: East St. Louis, Illinois (St. Louis: Virginia Publishing). The book was adapted into a public television documentary of the same name by KETC Channel 9 in St. Louis (see www.ketc.org). Currently seeking funding for a scholarly assessment of state government intervention in East St. Louis (both city hall and schools).
Bibliography - Recent Publications with a St. Louis Connection

Recent Books

Baybeck, Brady, and Jones, Terrence E., editors. 2004. *St. Louis Metromorphosis: Past Trends and Future Directions*. Missouri Historical Press. *Metromorphosis* contains essays by 12 scholars from across the St. Louis Region: Scott Cummings, Dan Keck, and Jeff Rojek from Saint Louis University; John Farley from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville; Eric Baumer, Brady Baybeck, Scott Decker, E. Terrence Jones, David Laslo, Lois Pierce, Mark Tranel from the University of Missouri-St. Louis; Richard Wesenberg from Washington University in St. Louis. Focusing primarily on the past half century, these authors examine demography, spatial expansion, economic transformation and restructuring, labor force developments, minority business location, transportation policies, residential segregation, neighborhood stability, family structure, homicide patterns, municipal competition and educational policies. Contact Brady Baybeck: baybeck@umsl.edu or E. Terrence Jones: terry.jones@umsl.edu

Mumford, Eric, editor. 2004. *Modern Architecture in St. Louis: Washington University and Postwar American Architecture, 1948-1973*. St. Louis and Chicago: Washington University School of Architecture and University of Chicago Press. This publication edited by Eric Mumford traces the emergence of what then came to be known as modern architecture in St. Louis from the 1930s to the early 1970s. It includes essays by Kathleen James-Chakraborty on postwar religious architecture, including Eric Mendelsohn’s former B’nai Amoona synagogue (1950), and Helene Lipstadt on the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial competition in 1947 that resulted in the selection of Eero Saarinen’s Arch, completed in 1965. It also has memoirs by three former deans of the School of Architecture, alumnus Gyo Obata, one of the founders of Hellmuth-Obata Kassebaum, and former faculty member Fumihiko Maki, the architect of the new Sam Fox Art Center, currently under construction. It also has more than 100 archival photographs, many of them never before published.

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
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., 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