The Plunder of Black Wealth in Chicago:
New Findings on the Lasting Toll of Predatory Housing Contracts

Thursday, May 30, 2019 | 2:00pm-5:00pm | Federal Bank of Chicago | 230 South LaSalle Street Chicago, IL

Research and Symposium funding provided by the Samuel Dubois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University and by the generous support of the UIC Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, Pierce Family Foundation, Polk Bros. Foundation, Steans Family Foundation, and Wieboldt Foundation.
Registration

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Jane Dokko, Assistant Vice-President Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
- Bruce Orenstein, Artist in Residence at the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University
- Deborah Bennett, Senior Program Officer, Polk Bros. Foundation

Presentation of Research Findings

- Amber Hendley, MPP from Sanford School of Public Policy @ Duke, 2019
- Jasson Perez, BS in Math & Computer Science, University of Illinois Chicago, 2020
- Alfonso Vaca-Loyola, BBA in Economics from Loyola University, 2018
- Samuel George, BA in Urban Studies from University of Illinois Chicago, 2018

Presentation of Episode III Shame of Chicago

Panel Reaction and Discussion to the Research and Documentary

- Moderated by Professor William “Sandy” Darby
- Beryl Satter, Professor of History @ Rutgers University
- Mary Pattillo, Harold Washington Professor of African American Studies @ Northwestern University;
- Adam Green, Associate Professor of African American History and the College @ University of Chicago;
- Jack Macnamera, Former Lead Organizer of the Contract Buyers League;
- Taz George, Senior Researcher Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Audience Discussion

Closing Remarks

- Natalie Moore WBEZ Reporter

Reception

5:00pm to 6:00pm

Special thanks to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago for graciously hosting this symposium and to our financial sponsors: UIC Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement, Pierce Family Foundation, Polk Bros. Foundation, Wieboldt Foundation, and Steans Family Foundation.
Speakers and Panelists

Deborah E. Bennett has more than 20 years of experience as a community development practitioner. She is currently a Senior Program Officer at the Polk Bros. Foundation, where she is a program area leader for workforce development, affordable housing, community economic development and safe communities. Prior to joining the foundation, Deborah held several positions at Shorebank Corporation including senior consultant for Shorebank Advisory Services where she crafted housing, labor force and commercial development strategies for a variety of community development entities around the country. She has also worked as an economic development planner at the UIC Center for Urban Economic Development and as director of an employment initiative for low-income women. Deborah has a bachelor’s and master’s degree in economics from Stanford and Kent State Universities, respectively. She is currently a board member of the Chicago Low-Income Housing Trust Fund and the National Public Housing Museum and a member of the Community Investment Advisory Council of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago.

William A. ("Sandy") Darity Jr. is the Samuel DuBois Cook Professor of Public Policy, African and African American Studies, and Economics and the director of the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University. He has served as chair of the Department of African and African American Studies and was the founding director of the Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality at Duke. Previously he served as director of the Institute of African American Research, director of the Moore Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program, director of the Undergraduate Honors Program in economics, and director of Graduate Studies at the University of North Carolina. He has published or edited 12 books and published more than 210 articles in professional journals.

Jane Dokko is Assistant Vice-President, Policy Studies at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She is an economist with a rare combination of high-level public policy experience and a strong academic research publication record. Her expertise spans housing finance, consumer finance, retirement security, and financial regulation. She is the author of widely-cited academic journal articles, policy briefs, and general interest publications, and her work has been frequently covered in the mainstream media. In her work for the Obama Administration, she was a leader in the development of housing finance policy, the fiduciary rule, and infrastructure policy.

Taz George, is a Senior Research Analyst in the community development and policy studies division in the economic research department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Among his publications he co-authored Residential Mortgage Lending for Underserved Communities: Recent Innovations with Emily Engel, Jason Keller, and is currently conducting a study on present day land installment contracts.

Adam Green is Associate Professor of American History and the College at the University of Chicago; Faculty Affiliate; Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture; Faculty Board Member, Karla Scherer Center for the Study of American Culture; Senior Fellow and Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, the College. He is the author of Selling the Race: Culture and Community in Black Chicago, 1940-1955; and co-editor with Charles Payne, Time Longer than Rope: Studies in African American Activism. He received his Ph.D. from Yale in 1998.

Jack Macnamara is a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola University. A former Jesuit seminarian, Macnamara is renowned for organizing for the Contract Buyers League in 1968. For thirty-three years, Jack owned and operated Fred Busch Foods Corp., a sausage manufacturing firm. Macnamara served as Chairman of the School Board at St. Francis Xavier in Wilmette, on the Board of Trustees at Loyola Academy and as the founding chairperson of the Archdiocese of Chicago Pastoral Council. He also served on the Advisory Committee and directed the Feasibility Study for Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School opening in 2008 in the Austin neighborhood on the West Side of Chicago. He currently serves on the board of Austin Coming Together (ACT). Macnamara is the inspiration behind Plunder of Black Wealth in Chicago: New Findings on the Lasting Toll of Predatory Housing Contracts.

Natalie Moore is WBEZ’s South Side Reporter where she covers segregation and inequality. Her reporting has tackled race, housing, economic development, food injustice and violence. Her work has been broadcast on the BBC, Marketplace and NPR’s Morning Edition, All Things Considered and Weekend Edition. Moore is the author of The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation, winner of the 2016 Chicago Review of Books award for nonfiction and a BuzzFeed
best nonfiction book of 2016. She is also co-author of The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall and Resurgence of an American Gang and Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation. Moore writes a monthly column for the Chicago Sun-Times. Her work has been published in Essence, Ebony, the Chicago Reporter, Bitch, In These Times, the Chicago Tribune, the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Guardian.

Bruce Orenstein is Artist in Residence at Duke University where he directs the Telling Our Stories Student Working Group at the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity and teaches documentary production at the Arts of the Moving Image Program. Orenstein founded and directed the Chicago Video Project, one of the nation’s first studios dedicated to producing organizing-driven videos for grassroots social change organizations. His television credits include the Emmy-winning WTTW documentary No Place to Live, and the nationally broadcast PBS documentaries, The Democratic Promise: The Life and Legacy of Saul Alinsky and American Idealist: The Story of Sargent Shriver. Prior to becoming a filmmaker, Orenstein was a community organizer for 13 years where he led direct-action community organizations in low-income communities in Seattle and on Chicago’s South Side and West Side. He is the producer/director for the Shame of Chicago Documentary Series.

Mary Pattillo is the Harold Washington Professor of Sociology and African American Studies and a Faculty Affiliate at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. Her areas of research include race and inequality, housing, urban politics, education reform, and stratification within the black community. She is the author of two award-winning books – Black Picket Fences: Privilege and Peril among the Black Middle Class (University of Chicago Press, 1999) and Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City (University of Chicago Press, 2007) – which focus on class stratification, public housing, education, crime, urban planning, community organizing, and youth culture in African American neighborhoods in Chicago. She is co-editor of Imprisoning America: The Social Effects of Mass Incarceration (Russell Sage, 2004). She has also published articles in American Sociological Review, Social Forces, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Journal of Affordable Housing Research, and other journals. Pattillo has won awards, grants and fellowships from the Ford, Fulbright-Hays, George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard, Spencer, and MacArthur Foundations. She is currently doing research on the effects of monetary sanctions in the criminal justice system. Pattillo holds an MA and PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago, and a BA in Urban Studies from Columbia University.

Beryl Satter is Professor of History at Rutgers University-Newark. Her book Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America (2009) won the Organization of American Historians’ Liberty Legacy Award for best book in civil rights history and the Jewish Book Council’s National Jewish Book Award in History. It was a finalist for the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize and for the Ron Ridenhouer Book Prize, awarded to “those that persevere in acts of truth telling.” She is a co-founder, with Darnell Moore and Christina Strasburger, of the Queer Newark Oral History Project. To support her current book project, a history of late twentieth century battles over urban reinvestment, she won a Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in 2015 and was selected as an Andrew Carnegie Fellow in 2016.

Janet Smith is Professor of Urban Planning and Policy, Co-Director of the Nathalie P. Voorhees for Neighborhood and Community Improvement. Smith’s teaching, research and community service have focused on equity issues in housing planning and policy. Her work involves issues that range from the transformation of public housing projects throughout the U.S. and the expansion of housing options for people with disabilities to the relationship between housing and health, and community-driven strategies to keep housing costs affordable. Her co-authored books include Where are Poor People to Live? Transforming Public Housing Communities and Claiming Neighborhood: New Ways of Understanding Urban Change. Smith is also the lead researcher for a U.S. Economic Development Administration-backed program to develop a model to promote green economic development in the Chicago region with a focus on manufacturing and workforce development.

The Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University is a scholarly collaborative engaged in the study of the causes and consequences of inequality and in the assessment and redesign of remedies for inequality and its adverse effects. Concerned with the economic, political, social and cultural dimensions of uneven and inequitable access to resources, opportunity and capabilities, Cook Center researchers take a cross-national comparative approach to the study of human difference and disparity. Ranging from the global to the local, Cook Center scholars not only address the overarching social problem of general Inequality, but they also explore social problems associated with gender, race, ethnicity and religious affiliation.