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CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN & LATINO STUDIES

**American University's Annual Latino Public Affairs Forum:  
Inclusive Communities, Welcoming Neighborhoods? Urban Planning for  
Latinos in Changing US Cities**

**Marla Bilonick** is the Executive Director of the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC), a non-profit servicing Latinos and other D.C.-area residents with the skills and financial tools to create a better future for their families and communities. She also served as LEDC's Director of Small Business Development and as a microloan officer. Previously, she worked for Seedco with entrepreneurs in New York City affected by the September 11, 2001, attacks. Ms. Bilonick has also worked in microenterprise development and microfinance in the international arena for DAI in settings such as Bolivia, El Salvador, Mexico, and Panama. Ms. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Community Asset Builders, the Enterprise Community Loan Fund and the National Housing Trust's Institute for Community Economics. She is also a non-Board member of the Opportunity Finance Network-OFN's Equity Committee. Ms. Bilonick is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison and received her M.A. in International Economics and Latin American Studies from the Johns Hopkins University.

**Fernando Burga** is Assistant Professor in the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. He holds master's degrees in architecture and urban design from the University of Miami and a PhD in city and regional planning from the University of California, Berkeley. His research addresses equity in urban planning particularly in relation to the incorporation of immigrants, and combines planning history, ethnographic fieldwork, and design techniques to evaluate how planning addresses immigrant life but also how immigrants can engage planning to build political power and to mobilize immigrant-based planning agendas. Prof. Burga is currently developing two projects: a book on Cuban Americans and urban planning in Miami, Florida, and a participatory action research project focused on capacity-building with undocumented women in San Jose, California. He also collaborates with the University of Minnesota Extension on civic engagement projects in rural and urban Minnesota. Prior to joining the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Prof. Burga was a fellow at Center for Research on Social Change at UC Berkeley.

**Ernesto Castañeda** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at American University. He received his PhD from Columbia University. Prof. Castañeda's research and writing address topics relating to migration, cities, health disparities, vulnerable populations, and social movements. He has conducted ethnographic fieldwork and surveys in the U.S., France, Spain, Switzerland, Mexico, Algeria, and Morocco. Prof. Castañeda's 2018 book, *A Place to Call Home: Immigrant Exclusion and Urban Belonging in New York, Paris, and Barcelona* (Stanford University Press) compares immigrant integration and ethnic political mobilization in the U.S. and Western Europe. His forthcoming 2019 book, *Building Walls: Excluding*

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*Latin People in the United States*, (Lexington Books), addresses implications of recent calls for a U.S. southern border wall. Prior to coming to AU, Prof. Castañeda taught at the University of Texas-El Paso, among other institutions, and was a Visiting Scholar at L'Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and Institute d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po).

**Katherine Donato** is Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. She holds an MSW in Social Welfare from the University of Wisconsin, and both an MA and PhD in Sociology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Her research and writing encompass questions relating to migration, including the economic consequences of U.S. immigration policy, health effects of Mexico-U.S. migration, deportation and its effects for immigrants, the great recession and its consequences for Mexican workers, and immigrant parent involvement in schools in New York, Chicago, and Nashville. Her recent book is *Gender and International Migration: From Slavery to Present*, published by the Russell Sage Foundation (with Donna Gabaccia), where she was also a visiting scholar during the 2017-2018 academic year. Prior to joining the Georgetown faculty, she was on the faculty of Vanderbilt and Rice Universities.

**Chenoa Flippen** is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago, and conducts research on such topics as racial and ethnic inequality in the United States, life-course and aging, and Hispanic immigrant adaptation, especially in new areas of destination across the American South. Her research and writing have been published in the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Demography*, *Social Forces*, and *Population Research and Policy Review*, among other peer-reviewed journals. Her current project, "Vivir Racionado (Living on Rations): A Study of the Economic Survival Strategies of Migrant Latinos," examines the labor market experiences of undocumented Hispanic migrants in order to provides insight on the main impediments to Hispanic asset accumulation. Prior to coming to Penn, Prof. Flippen was research faculty at Duke University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

**Sonya Grier** is Professor of Marketing in American University's Kogod School of Business. She received her PhD in Marketing, with a minor in Social Psychology, from Northwestern University. She conducts interdisciplinary research on topics related to target marketing, race in the marketplace, the social impact of commercial marketing, and social marketing. Recently Prof. Grier has examined how demographic changes in DC might relate to consumption, and the role of neighborhood diversity as both a draw and potential basis for tensions. Professor Grier has policy experience based on two years at the Federal Trade Commission, and also has practical industry experience in Market Research, Brand Management and Marketing consulting. She is currently the Director of food marketing research for the African American Obesity Research Collaborative Network (AACORN).

**Eric Hershberg** is Director of the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies and Professor of Government at American University. He was previously Professor of Political Science and Director of Latin American Studies at Simon Fraser University (SFU), in Vancouver, Canada. He received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has taught at New York University, Southern Illinois University, Columbia, Princeton, and The New School. Prior to arriving at SFU he served for fifteen years as a Program Director at the Social Science Research Council in New York City. At the Center he has conceived and led multiple projects focused on the circumstances of Latinos in the DC metro region, including those of unaccompanied minors, temporary protected status, the health of Latino children and families, and the arts in afterschool programs, among others. He has served as a consultant to numerous development and educational agencies, including the Ford Foundation, the World Bank, and the Swedish International Development Agency.

**Derek Hyra** is Director of the Metropolitan Policy Center and Associate Professor in the Department of Public Administration and Policy at American University. He received his PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago. Dr. Hyra's research and writing is concerned with processes of neighborhood change, giving particular attention to housing, urban politics and race. He is the co-editor of *Capital Dilemma: Growth and Inequality in Washington, DC* (Routledge 2016) and author of *The New Urban Renewal: The Economic Transformation of Harlem and Bronzeville* (University of Chicago Press 2008). His third book, *Race, Class, and Politics in the Cappuccino City* (University of Chicago Press 2017), is an ethnographic study of the redevelopment of Washington, DC's Shaw/U Street neighborhood. Over the years Dr. Hyra's work has been supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. He has also served as board chair of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, as an Alexandria Planning Commissioner, and as an Obama appointee on the U.S. Small Business Administration's Council on Underserved Communities.

**Clara Irazabal-Zurita** is the Director of the Latina/o Studies Program and Professor of Planning with tenure in the Department of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. She received her Ph.D. in Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. In her research and teaching, Dr. Irazabal explores interactions of culture with politics, and place-making, and their impact on community development and socio-spatial justice in Latin American cities, Latino and immigrant communities in the U.S. She is the author of *Urban Governance and City Making in the Americas: Curitiba and Portland* (Ashgate, 2005) and editor of *Transbordering Latin Americas: Liminal Places, Cultures, and Powers (T)Here* (Routledge 2014) and *Ordinary Places, Extraordinary Events: Citizenship, Democracy, and Public Space in Latin America* (Routledge 2008, 2015). Dr. Irazabal has worked as a consultant, researcher, and/or professor in Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Germany, Spain, Vietnam, and the U.S., and lectured in many other countries. Before joining UMKC, she was the Latin Lab Director and Associate Professor of Urban Planning in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University, New York City.

**Sakina Khan** is Deputy Director for Citywide Strategy and Analysis at the DC Office of Planning. She oversees the State Data Center, Geographic Information Systems as well as systems planning related to housing, transportation, sustainability, economic development and capital facilities. She is a graduate of MIT, where she earned her master's degree in city planning. Ms. Khan was previously OP's Senior Economic Planner, specializing in economic development analysis with a focus on emerging sectors and neighborhoods. In this role, she led numerous strategic planning, policy and implementation efforts, including the Creative DC Action Agenda, the DC Vibrant Retail Toolkit, the Retail Action Strategy, creative placemaking, and the St. Elizabeths Innovation Strategy. She was also the lead author of the District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and managed all systems-based technical analysis for the 2006 Comprehensive Plan update. Ms. Khan has more than fifteen years of planning experience in the public and private sectors. Prior to joining the Office of Planning, she was a senior associate at a consulting firm, specializing in socioeconomic impact assessment of large-scale infrastructure projects in economically disadvantaged locations.

**Johana Londoño** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies at the University at Albany, SUNY. She holds a PhD in American Studies from New York University. Her current research examines how late 20th and early 21st century urban experts, including designers, planners, developers, ethnographers, and policy-makers interested in U.S. Latino urbanization transform the way barrio culture has been thought about and discussed. Dr. Londoño's research has appeared in *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, *Antipode Foundation: A Radical Geography Community*, *Social Semiotics*, and *American Quarterly*, among others. She was a 2014-2015 Princeton-Mellon Fellow. Dr. Londoño's soon-to-appear book, *Abstract Barrios: The Crises of Latina/o Visibility in Cities* (Duke University Press), focuses on the ways city officials, architects, and business owners,

attempted to manage and reduce the threat that Latina/o barrio environments were thought to pose on the economic viability and cultural normativity of twentieth-century US cities.

**Willow Lung-Amam** is Assistant Professor in the University of Maryland's School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation. Dr. Lung-Amam also serves as Director of Community Development at the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education. She received her PhD in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning from the University of California-Berkeley. Her scholarship focuses on the link between social inequality and the built environment, and is concerned with how the conditions in disadvantaged communities are shaped by urban politics, policy, and planning and design practice and the changing metropolitan geographies of social and economic inequality. She is the author of *Trespassers? Asian Americans and the Battle for Suburbia* (University of California, 2017). Other recent projects have focused on equitable development, gentrification, the suburbanization of poverty, and the geography of opportunity. Her research has appeared also various journals and books such as *Journal of Urban Design* and *Journal of Planning, Education and Research*, and media outlets, including *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, and *The Atlantic's CityLab*. She was a 2017 Nancy Weiss Malkiel Scholar and former Ford Postdoctoral Fellow.

**Amelia Tseng** is Assistant Professor in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at American University. She received her PhD in linguistics from Georgetown University. Dr. Tseng's research and writing addresses how language shapes and is shaped by identity across immigrant generations in Latinx diasporic contexts, focusing on multilingualism, dialect variation, discourse, and understandings of ethnocultural identity. She currently directs the project "Bilingualism and Latin@s in D.C.: Exploring Language Use and Cultural Identity, Resource Access, and Metropolitan Mobility." Dr. Tseng also holds a research appointment at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and directed the American University Bilingual Education program from 2014-2016.

**Diego Uriburu** is Executive Director and co-founder of Identity, Inc., which works to empower Latino youth in Montgomery County, MD. Identity is an influential and trusted community resource, whose priorities are guided by research-based programs and advocacy that respond to the specific needs of the community it serves. Originally from Argentina, through his leadership, advocacy efforts, and coalition-building efforts with local government, school system, and businesses, Mr. Uriburu has worked to improve access to educational and employment opportunities for underserved immigrant youth. In 2014 he was one of ten community leaders to be named a Cesar E. Chavez Champion of Change by the White House under Barack Obama. His academic background is in psychology and his work has been published in the *American Journal of Health Behavior*. He is a graduate of Columbia University's Institute for Non-Profit Management and holds an MS in Clinical Psychology from the University of Belgrano.