

Preface



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This volume marks the tenth anniversary of the College's Chicago Studies Program, which was founded to encourage students to learn about the city through direct engagement and to foster through these encounters a deeper sense of local citizenship. Chicago Studies took up the University of Chicago's historical connection to the city as an inspiration for curricular development and research projects and its use of the city as an urban classroom and laboratory. The *Chicago Studies Annual* was the centerpiece of this project. It promised to share the very best, Chicago-focused BA theses each year with the vital exchange of research and knowledge about the city and people of Chicago. The present collection of essays is likewise the tenth anniversary of the *Annual*, a significant record of the ways that our students are bringing the city into their development as scholars.

In 2018, *Chicago Studies* rests within a very different College, and it goes without saying that the College rests within a very different neighborhood and city, with challenges and prospects that are both familiar and novel. In broad strokes, the growth of the College from roughly five thousand in 2008 to more than six thousand five hundred on campus this autumn has brought significant changes in student demography and interests, career ambitions, extracurricular activities, and other areas of

academic and student life. The student body is significantly more diverse, more coastal and international in its composition, and more interconnected with the other schools and units of the university. A list of these developments, from new majors to internships and research opportunities to the Arts Pass, could extend several pages. Certainly, one welcome effect has been the new flows of intellectual traffic between the classroom and the city that did not exist in 2008.

The last decade has forged other ties to the city that would have been hard to predict, including the debates and planning surrounding the Barack Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park. Here the focus of civic planning and engagement came to the university neighborhood itself, bringing with it the potential for programs and development which, seen positively or negatively, are likely to draw students closer to the economic and political pulse of the city for many years to come. The reputation and identity of the College have also become increasingly reliant on our civic context, even as we draw less of our students from the state of Illinois. A recent report found that the university's diversity of opportunities for personal, career, and social development is extremely important to external perceptions of the College. For those with no connection to campus, in other words, the proximity of resources for considering one's future and commitments is a defining and valuable quality. Once on campus, our students are also taking greater advantage of para-curricular bridges outside of Hyde Park. In the 2017–18 school year, just over one quarter of undergraduates participated in some university-sponsored engagement with the city, while a significant number from this group turned to the city for multiple activities, such as internships, volunteer work, and experiential learning.

Shifts of these kinds have opened up spaces and needs for programming that the Chicago Studies Program is designed to address. It does not aspire to be an urban studies program, nor does it sponsor any other academic major. As a para-curricular service for the College as a whole, Chicago Studies can facilitate new coursework and research in every area of undergraduate study and support initiatives that take root elsewhere in the university.

Just last year, Chicago Studies launched several noteworthy programs to complement the existing suite of courses and events. The Chicago Studies Certificate, with advising in the University Community Service Center, now allows students to earn a certificate and transcript designation for completion of a multiyear program that integrates coursework with three hundred to four hundred hours of meaningful and direct engagement with the city. In the area of research, Chicago Studies cosponsored with the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation and the Program on the Global Environment the Chicago Studies Undergraduate Research Prize, which drew thirty-four BA thesis submissions from across the College in its inaugural year. The six finalists presented their work to an interdisciplinary audience of peers and faculty at a research symposium in the spring quarter; Madeline Anderson, AB'18 (Public Policy Studies), received the inaugural prize and her essay will be published in the 2018 *Annual*, together with the other finalists. As a further stimulus to research, we have opened a data portal to archive all Chicago-focused, student research, which points the way to further datasets, questions, and record collections about the city. New programs and partnerships are planned for the current academic year, and we invite you to browse an updated listing of offerings at chicagostudies.uchicago.edu.

The present volume builds upon a wide field of student engagements, pairing BA thesis preparation with experience in local journalism, volunteer work in schools, museums, political campaigns, environmental restoration, internships, and more.

Bess P. Cohen, AB'16 (Public Policy Studies), investigates the impact of budget cuts to library services at Chicago Public Schools and asks how the school system can compensate for these losses by effective coordination with Chicago Public Libraries. Her 2015 case study from the Bronzeville neighborhood, where the sudden dismissal of the DuSable High School librarian, a well-publicized student protest, and a working relationship with the local branch library brought the complexities of this relationship into sharp relief. In a time when school libraries compete with a growing list of priorities in a shrinking budgetary framework,

Cohen's study makes a case for the irreducible benefits of professionally staffed libraries on school campuses.

Mari Cohen, AB'17 (History), enters the tumultuous era of urban renewal in Chicago through the figure of Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein of Hyde Park's Kehilath Anshe Ma'ariv (K.A.M.) congregation. Weinstein's record, Cohen shows, offers more than the voice of a notable in local and national religious issues. With his strong record of civil rights advocacy, Weinstein reveals how politically liberal Jews in Hyde Park navigated a morally complex issue that made competing demands on their religious and ethical values. Cohen uses research in several media, including archival sources, to reconstruct an approach to social justice that prioritized interpersonal sacrifice and attitudinal change and arguably underestimated the power of structural racism. Though not without misgivings, Weinstein and his congregants were able to harmonize their support for urban renewal with social justice and religious ideals; all three were really part of the same cloth.

The built environment of Hyde Park is also the theme of Juliet Sprung Eldred's thesis on the University of Chicago's approach to the planning and development of the mid-South Side from the 1890s up to the present day. Using methods from geographical sciences, Eldred, AB'17 (Geography), extends a rich story line across the whole of the university's history by focusing on discrete episodes in its expansion, beginning with the initial design of the quadrangles as an area enclosed and protected from the surrounding world. Where other urban universities expanded outward from a center, Eldred argues, the University of Chicago has sought to define its borders and then cultivate the space within. In this sense, the quadrangles offer a kind of developmental script for the university's historical approach to the built environment, shedding light on discussions of urban renewal, policing boundaries, and real estate acquisitions.

Valerie Gutmann, AB'17 (Sociology), looks into the efficacy of public housing policy and the stubborn problems of housing discrimination in Chicago in her study of the outcomes of *Gautreaux et al. v. Chicago*

Housing Authority (1967, 1969). This ruling prohibited racial discrimination in the placement of federally funded public housing sites, leaving municipalities to find ways to "scatter" public housing residents throughout the city. The solution of choice was, and has been, housing vouchers, but Gutmann argues that this program has failed to improve the state of housing security. Gutmann skillfully mines interviews with housing voucher participants and Chicago Housing Authority staff to clarify the social and bureaucratic obstacles faced by program participants to securing housing in the city.

Our focus turns to Chicago's Southeast Side and the complex alliances of environmental work in an essay by Nora Hardy, AB'17 (Environmental Studies), on relations between environmental groups operating in the region. The legacies of industrial pollution, economic disinvestment, and environmentally caused health problems have drawn the advocacy of actors at many levels, from large NGOs to grassroots groups and local residents, and it should be no surprise that these groups have struggled since the 1970s to form a shared agenda for the region. Hardy explores today's social world of environmental reform on the Southeast Side and the possibilities for a productive alignment of interests that will allow these groups to work in mutually beneficial ways. While the current outlook is brighter than in earlier decades, the consensus will require ongoing efforts and compromise from all parties involved.

Jeanne Lieberman, AB'16 (Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies), tells the story of the Coalition to Save the South Shore Country Club, the group of activists who mobilized to preserve, restore, and then symbolically reinvent the South Shore Cultural Center in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Where the country club had formerly represented elitism and exclusion on the South Side, the efforts to reclaim the site as an arts-focused community anchor in a black middle-class neighborhood show very different visions of the city competing for position in public view. The coalition, Lieberman argues, summoned images of the South Side's vibrant history of expressive arts to build support for the restoration project. In the process, it generated an identity for South Shore

quite at odds with the dominant discourse about postindustrial, urban, black communities, which had much in common with the twenty-first-century image of cities as sites of entertainment, cultural festivals, and consumption.

Chicago's public housing again provides the topic for our contribution from Angela Irene Theodoropoulos, AB'16 (Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities), but here through the lens of Bernard Rose's 1992 horror film *Candyman*. Set in the Cabrini-Green projects on the Near North Side, *Candyman* reflects a troubled historical moment, when escalating violent crime, deindustrialization, and a decrease in social services during the Reagan era converged to deepen the sense of isolation and decline within the Cabrini-Green community. Theodoropoulos creatively situates the narrative, imagery, and tropes of *Candyman* within this referential system to show how the film participates in a dialogue about the history and reality of racial boundaries and discrimination in Chicago.

This tenth anniversary is an occasion to express gratitude to all those who have contributed to the Chicago Studies Program. It is a special privilege to acknowledge James Dahl Cooper, AB'76 (Political Science) whose generosity has made this volume of the *Annual* possible.

Daniel J. Koehler, AM'02, PhD'10 (History)
Associate Dean of the College

Acknowledgments



BESS P. COHEN | Since graduating in 2016 Bess Cohen has worked at Kaleidoscope, a child welfare agency serving youth and families healing from abuse and neglect in Chicago. She is also working towards her master's degree at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration where she is specializing in school social work and clinical practice. She lives on the South Side. She would like to thank Sara Sayigh, Sabaria Dean, and Chris Crotwell for sharing their stories with her and Professor Chad Broughton for his ongoing support. A special thanks to all of the young people who, like Sabaria, use their art, bodies, and voices to fight for justice in their schools and communities, and the adults who back them up.

MARI COHEN | Since graduating with a bachelor of arts in history in 2017 I have worked as a reporter for Injustice Watch, a Chicago nonprofit news outlet that covers mostly criminal justice. I regularly use the research skills learned in my history major for investigative reporting. This thesis would not have been possible without the guidance and encouragement of Matthew Briones, my adviser, and Sarah Jones Weicksel, my BA preceptor. I am also thankful for the support of my family and friends, including a close-knit group of women writing history theses who

provided community during the daunting process. I credit the University of Chicago Community Service Center and the *South Side Weekly* for sparking my interest in learning about Chicago's history. Finally, I would like to honor the memory of Arnold R. Hirsch, who died earlier this year. Hirsch's book, *Making the Second Ghetto*, was a crucial resource for this thesis and for mountains of other scholarship on the history of Chicago housing and racial inequality.

JULIET SPRUNG ELDRED | There are so many people who helped to make this paper possible. First, I would like to thank Professor Michael Conzen for his invaluable assistance in both the research process and throughout my time as a geography student and Daniel Koehler for his assistance in revising my thesis for publication in *Chicago Studies*. I would also like to thank all the professors in the Committee on Geographical Sciences, the Department of Visual Arts, and the Department of History who worked with me on earlier incarnations of what ultimately became this paper. Finally, I would like to thank my incredible parents, who raised me with a keen appreciation for the built environment that has undoubtedly gotten me to where I am today. Since my graduation from the University of Chicago in 2017 I have been employed as an analyst at Spy Pond Partners, a transportation consulting firm in the Boston area.

VALERIE GUTMANN | I would like to thank my parents, Jennifer and Clifford Gutmann, and my grandmother, Betsy Shore, for their infinite love and encouragement. I would also like to thank my thesis advisor, Charles Barlow, for supporting this project from inception to completion. I am deeply appreciative of the Chicago Housing Authority residents and staff members, affordable housing advocates and organizers, legal aid attorneys, and academics who shared their time, stories, and perspectives with me. After graduating from the University of Chicago in June of 2017 with a bachelor of arts in sociology, I worked for a year with a reports analyst as a contractor for the Chicago Housing Authority. As

a 2018 Marshall Scholar I will begin a master's degree in the sociology of marginality and exclusion at the University of Cambridge in October of 2018, where I will study issues of housing access and affordability from an international perspective.

NORA HARDY | To Sabina and Alison: a sincere thank you for your feedback, expertise, and investment in the success of this project. To my family: thank you for your love and understanding, especially on those days when the prospect of finishing this paper, graduating, and facing the future seemed so daunting. In the year since I completed my thesis, I have had the opportunity to work with several nonprofits in Chicago on projects as diverse as community outreach, event planning, curriculum creation, mapping, and habitat restoration. The Calumet has remained a focal point in my professional life, and I have been involved in the evolving projects at play in the region—from coordinating community listening sessions on the Southeast Side, to teaching East Chicago sixth graders about food webs, to restoring Calumet natural areas through invasive plant-species removal. I am excited to continue to contribute my time and effort to work that betters the health of Chicago's people and environment.

JEANNE LIEBERMAN | I would like to thank the members of the Coalition to Save the South Shore Country Club and South Shore residents who generously shared their invaluable knowledge with me and all of the other coalition members whose hard work kept the South Shore Country Club intact for future generations to enjoy. I am especially grateful to Raynard Hall for his extensive feedback and guidance. I thank Rebecca Zorach and Jacqueline Stewart for their thoughtful comments on drafts of this essay, Cindy Ji and Zelda Mayer for their company during the writing process, and Elizabeth Uddyback for the cookies and patient support that made this possible. Starting in August 2016 I spent a year and a half in Colombia supporting the work of the *Proceso de Comunidades Negras*, funded by a University of Chicago Pozen Family

Center for Human Rights' Dr. Aizik Wolf Post-baccalaureate Fellowship. I helped farmers in the Cauca Province fight for the rights to collective territory and political autonomy and made an educational film about local history and resistance to forced displacement. In January 2018 I returned to Chicago to work for Chicago Studies and the Pozen Center. In the summers of 2016 and 2017 I was also a teaching assistant in the Illinois Humanities' Sojourner Scholars program, which provides college-level courses to public-school students on the South Side. I continued to work with some of the Sojourner teens at the Smart Museum of Art this summer on an oral history about the Alley, where South Siders congregated to listen to jazz and appreciate murals from the 1950s to the 1970s.

ANGELA IRENE THEODOROPOULOS | After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Chicago in 2016 I performed HIV/AIDS research at Chicago's Howard Brown Health, an LGBTQ+ community health center. Currently I am attending the University of Michigan Law School as a Clyde A. DeWitt Scholar and am an associate editor for the *Michigan Law Review*. In summer 2018 I worked as a legal intern for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. My sincere thanks to my thesis advisor, Adrienne Brown, who extended herself in extraordinary ways to help advance this work. Thank you to Daniel Koehler and the editor for preparing this work for publication. Thank you to my father, Evan, for providing for my education and to my sisters, Annie and Elaine, for developing my interest in community histories and the horror genre, respectively. My greatest thanks to my mother, Helen, whose dissertation in the Regenstein Library inspired me to keep going.