



**BOSTON  
UNIVERSITY**

**American Political History Institute  
12th Annual Graduate Student Conference  
presents**

# **Making the American City**

**March 20-21, 2020  
Boston, MA**

## **Welcome!**

Hello and welcome to the 12th Annual APhi Graduate Student Conference. We're glad you could join us and are looking forward to a great meeting!

BU Facilities Management has been working hard to keep our meeting areas safe and sanitized. We ask that all attendees be mindful of handwashing and do their best to limit direct physical contact.

## **Special Thanks to:**

The BU Initiative on Cities, Professor Robert O. Self, our Commenters, and our Student Organizing Committee.



## **Wi-Fi Connection Info:**

1. Select network "BU Guest (unencrypted)"
2. Open your browser to sign in
3. Follow the registration instructions on-screen

**Friday, March 20th**

**George Sherman Union | Room 310**

**775 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215**

**Breakfast and Welcome: 8.45am**

**Panel One: 9.00am – 10.15am**

Early American Cities

**CHAIR:** Gregory Tirenin, Boston University

**Donovan Fifield, University of Virginia**

“Finance, War, and Urban Political Crisis in the  
British-American Northeast, 1739–1768”

**Courtland Ingraham, George Washington University**

“The First American City”

**Amy Smith, University of New Hampshire**

“The Power of the Pew”

**COMMENT:** Andrew Robichaud, Boston University

**BREAK: 10.15am – 10.30am**

**Panel Two:** 10.30am – 11.45am

Suppression, Resistance, and Organizing in the  
Postwar American City

**CHAIR:** Cari Babitzke, Boston University

**Marc Arenberg, The Ohio State University**

“The Murder of Richard Heakin: Antigay Violence and Queer  
Community in Tucson, Arizona”

**Andrew Olden, University of Missouri – Columbia**

“Paying the Price: The Food Desert in the Pruitt-Igoe  
Housing Complex”

**Kyle Stelzer, University of Maryland – College Park**

“A New Year’s Pipe Bombing: Residential Segregation, White  
Homeowner Identity, and Black Civil Rights Organizing in 1970s  
New York City”

**COMMENT:** Ella Howard, Wentworth Institute of Technology

**LUNCH:** 11.45am – 12.15pm

**Panel Three: 12.15pm – 1.45pm**

Histories of Conflict, Exclusion, and Control in  
American Cities

**CHAIR:** Jamie Grischkan, Boston University

**Brigitte Dale, Yale University**

“A Capitol Offense: Protest, Pageantry, and the  
Democratizing Force of Urban Feminist Demonstration”

**Caitlin Fendley, Purdue University**

“Population Control Begins at Home: Urban Stress Tests and the  
Effects of Overpopulation on American Cities”

**Andrew Grim, University of Massachusetts – Amherst**

“Newark’s High-Impact Anti-Crime Program: De-centering Police  
in the Era of Mass Incarceration”

**Kenneth Wohl, The State University of New York at Stony  
Brook**

“Agriculture over Labor: How the New Deal Reinforced an  
Agricultural Bias”

**COMMENT:** Heather Schoenfeld, Boston University

**BREAK: 1.45pm – 2.00pm**

**Panel Four:** 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Whose City is It? – Forming and Contesting Identities in Urban and Suburban Spaces

**CHAIR:** Cole Parker, Boston University

**Kerry Green, Brandeis University**

“‘Tread Softly, this is Consecrated Dust’: Space, Gender, and Politics at Pittsburgh’s Allegheny Arsenal”

**Crystal Jing Luo, University of Virginia**

“‘We have seen the enemy and he looks like us’: Urban Renewal and the Asian American Movement in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, 1969–1977”

**Aron Ramirez, Yale University**

“Business as Usual: Metropolitan Commerce and the Making of a Mexican American Middleclass Suburb”

**COMMENT:** Andrew Pope, Harvard University

**BREAK:** 3.30pm – 3.45pm

**Panel Five:** 3.45pm – 5.15pm

Policing the Spaces of the American City

**CHAIR:** J. Seth Anderson, Boston University

**Kenneth Alyass, Harvard University**

“Garrison Suburbs: Urban Crime, Suburban Fear, and Metropolitan Politics in Detroit During the Late Twentieth Century”

**Kelsey Ensign, Vanderbilt University**

“Finding the Line Between Punishment and Rehabilitation: Alcoholic Citizenship in 1960s Urban America”

**Bryan Kessler, University of Mississippi**

“‘Don’t Let Them Monkey with Our Pure Water’: Antifluoridation Activists, Public Health Administrators, and the Battle Over Bull Run’s Watershed, 1955–1985”

**Gillet Rosenblith, University of Virginia**

“Tenant Management as Defensible Space: When Empowerment Became Criminalization in Public Housing”

**COMMENT:** Robert O. Self, Brown University

**BREAK:** 5.15pm – 5.30pm

**KEYNOTE:** 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Robert O. Self, Brown University

“The Unhappiest Place on Earth: The Family Economy in the American Century”

**RECEPTION:** 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Immediately following the conclusion of the keynote address, you are invited to join us at a reception hosted by the Boston University Initiative on Cities.

75 Bay State Road, Boston MA 02215



Initiative on Cities



**Saturday, March 21st**

**Rajen Kilachand Center for Integrated  
Life Sciences and Engineering**

**775 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215**

**Breakfast: 10.00am**

**Panel Six: 10.30am – 11.45a**

Redefining the Postwar American City

CHAIR: Johnathan Williams, Boston University

**Elizabeth Barahona, Northwestern University**

“Black and Latinx Coalition-Building in the Urban South”

**Kelly Goodman, Yale University**

“The Detroit Cases: Urban Fiscal Crisis and State School  
Finance Reform”

**Kyle VanHemert, University of Delaware**

“‘What a Citizen Sees Every Day Is His America’: Natural Beauty,  
Man-Made Ugliness, and the Aesthetic Origins of Postwar  
Environmental Politics”

COMMENT: Sarah T. Phillips, Boston University

**LUNCH: 11.45am – 12.30pm**

**Panel Seven: 12.30pm – 1.45pm**

Politics, Reform, and Social Control in the  
Progressive Era City

CHAIR: Henry M. J. Tonks, Boston University

**Ian Gavigan, Rutgers University**

“Municipal Socialists Against the New Deal: Struggles Over the  
City in Reading, Pennsylvania, 1927-1939”

**Jamie Marsella, Harvard University**

“‘Better Babies. Better Mothers. Better City.’: The Babies  
Welfare Association and the Better Babies Contest”

**Mackenzie Tor, University of Missouri – Columbia**

“Prohibition in Black and White: Temperance and Race in the  
American South, 1890–1920”

COMMENT: Bruce J. Schulman, Boston University

**BREAK: 1.45pm – 2.00pm**

**Panel Eight: 2.00pm – 3.15pm**

Imagining and Reimagining the American City

CHAIR: Sean Case, Boston University

**Jeffrey Berryhill, Rutgers University**

“We Are as Proud of Our Gayness as We are of Our Blackness: Gay Men of African Descent and the Social and Political Mobilization of Black Gay Men in New York City”

**Adam Tomasi, Northeastern University**

“Battlefield Streets: ‘Black Mask,’ Anarchism and Counterculture in Sixties New York”

**Oscar Winberg, Abo Akademi University**

“The Lovable Bigot from Queens: Debating Racism, Liberal Satire, and Archie Bunker”

COMMENT: Kate Jewell, Fitchburg State University

**Paper Award and Farewell: 3.15pm — 3.30pm**



Public School 47

K&S Brooklyn  
High School  
of the Arts

Atlantic Ave

4th Ave

Bergen St

Bergen St

Butler St

Degraw St

5th Ave

St Johns Pl

Sackett St

Union St