

Re-Viewing Richmond in Time and Place: Issues of Equity and Inequity in a Regional Context

A One-Day Symposium and Bus Tour
575 McCone Hall, The Clarence Glacken Seminar Room
Department of Geography, University of California Berkeley
Saturday, October 14, 2006

Presented by
The Department of Geography, UC Berkeley
The Center for Community Innovation, UC Berkeley
The Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH), Rutgers-Camden, New Jersey
With support from the Ford Foundation

The image of Richmond, California, is shaped mostly by press coverage of crime, gang activities, and drug dealing and to a lesser extent by that of plans to deal with problems and create opportunities from city hall and local community organizations. Other important topics are barely discussed: How Richmond's residents shape their city by responding to crime, how they find ways to make a living, how they come together in churches, and how families help each other to find work, improve their dwellings, and give support to those in need. Also neglected are the ways culture is expressed in food, fashions, home décor, signs, and murals; and how the conditions inside public institutions such as John Kennedy High School reinforce the regional inequalities of American cities.

For the past three years, the Ford Foundation has supported New York photographer and MacArthur Foundation fellow, Camilo José Vergara, to create a resource for re-visualizing the post-industrial city. The project lives at www.invinciblecities.com and features Richmond, California, and Camden, New Jersey. This web site, like the photography of Lewis Watts, together with the publication of recent books such as Howard Gillette's *Camden After the Fall*, and Robert Self's *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland*, offers new resources—free of the pejorative labels often applied to such areas—for seeing and assessing the ways that people are working to make a new kind of city in areas that have lost and have been unable to replace their former industrial base.

Program

- 9:00 AM **Registration and Coffee**
- 9:15-9:30 **Welcomes and Framing for the Day**
Howard Gillette, Professor of History, Rutgers University-Camden, New Jersey, author of *Camden after the Fall: Decline and Renewal in a Post-Industrial City*
Paul Groth, Professor of Geography and Architecture, UC Berkeley, co-editor of *Everyday America: Cultural Landscape Studies after J. B. Jackson*
- 9:30-11:30 **Session One: Richmond—A Permanent American Ghetto?**
Questions for the session: How can photography projects like the Invincible Cities website connect disinvested places like Richmond with the rest of the nation and the world? How are residents of these communities reinventing work and using places in new ways? How can a new generation of Americans learn about our permanent ghettos and become involved? How do photography projects help explain the history of the present? How is photography a tool for changing the perceptions of residents, visitors, policy planners, and other groups? How can the Invincible Cities site be more effective?
- Moderator:* Paul Groth

Initial presentations:

Camilo José Vergara, writer and photographer, New York; author of *How the Other Half Worships*, *The New American Ghetto*, and *American Ruins*

Lewis Watts, photographer, Richmond, and Professor, UC Santa Cruz, author of *South to West Oakland* and *Harlem of the West: The San Francisco Fillmore Jazz Era*

Discussants:

Liam Kennedy, Professor of American Studies and Director of the Clinton Institute for American Studies at University College, Dublin. Author of *Race and Urban Space in American Culture*, and co-editor of *Urban Space and Representation*.

Shirley Ann Wilson Moore, Professor of History, California State University, Sacramento, and author of *To Place Our Deeds: The African-American Community in Richmond, California, 1910-1963*

Donna Graves, Richmond, Project Director of the Rosie the Riveter Memorial and Preserving California's Japantowns; past Project Director of the Power of Place, Los Angeles

Loic Wacquant, Professor of Sociology, UC Berkeley, author of *Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Sociology of Advanced Marginality*, *The Two Faces of the Ghetto*, and *Pierre Bourdieu and Democratic Politics* [not yet confirmed]

11:30 to 12:30 **Lunch**

12:30-2:15 **Session Two: Re-Placing Inequality**

Questions for the session: What are the links between documentation and policy-making, the seen and the unseen, official and unofficial ways that shape the life of a community? What are the key issues of social and political structure in places like Richmond, California, and other cities that have lost a past industrial base? How can the Richmond site generate interest in the city? Where? Among whom?

Moderator: Howard Gillette

Initial presentation:

Manuel Pastor, Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies, and Director of the Center for Justice Tolerance and Community, UC Santa Cruz, co-author of *Up Against the Sprawl: Public Policy and the Making of Southern California*, and *Searching for the Uncommon Common Ground: New Dimensions on Race in America*

Discussants:

Robert O. Self, Associate Professor of History, Brown University, and author of *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland*

Karen Chapple, Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning and Executive Director of the Center for Community Innovation, UC Berkeley

A. J. Napolis, Associate Director of Urban Habitat, Oakland, California

2:15-2:30 **Summing Up: Howard Gillette**

2:30-3:00 **Break**

3:00-5:30 **Session Three: Visiting Richmond—A Bus Tour leaving from Hearst and Euclid Avenues**
\$10 fee from participants, plus the cost of dinner in Richmond

5:30-7:00 **Dinner at Portumex Restaurant, 721 - 23rd Street, Richmond**
Phone: 510-237-7513 Near the intersection of 23rd Street and Burbeck Avenue

7:00-7:30 **Bus returns to UC Berkeley campus, Hearst and Euclid Avenues**