



Urban Affairs Association 36th Annual Meeting

Montréal, Canada
April 19 – 22, 2006

Neighborhoods and Urban Transformation: the New Global Context

Centre Sheraton Hotel
1201 René-Lévesque Boulevard West
Montréal, Québec

Call For Participation

In 1950, approximately one-third of the world's population lived in cities. By the year 2000, the proportion had increased to one-half. Most importantly, it is projected that by 2050, that nearly two-thirds or 6 billion people will occupy urban places (UN-Habitat, 2005). And where do the majority of these humans live? In neighborhoods. As such neighborhoods are, as Jane Jacobs argued, the building blocks of urban life. But much has changed about urban neighborhoods during the past fifty years. Major processes of globalization, disinvestment, decentralization, redevelopment, and cultural differentiation have combined to create a challenging environment in which neighborhoods exist. Governments (local, regional and national) across the globe are attempting to confront these challenges with strategies that run the gamut from targeted employment and redevelopment, to growth management and immigration policies. Non-governmental organizations also are active in seeking solutions to the service and opportunity needs that exist in urban neighborhoods.

Research on neighborhoods has changed as well. Globalization has renewed social inquiry into how neighborhoods are affected by immigration, social movements, corporate investment and disinvestment, and declines in social capital. Moreover, analyses of neighborhood dynamics have been enhanced through innovation in a variety of important methodologies, among them ethnographic techniques, Geographic Information Systems, and social indicators of local conditions. These changes signal an increased importance and opportunity for the examination of urban neighborhoods. It is time to revisit what neighborhoods mean in the context of the urban place, and how they will help shape the future of cities on a global scale. Montréal is a particularly appropriate environment for examining urban neighborhoods, as well as an intriguing example of metropolitan development and governance.

Papers covering a broad array of approaches to the conference theme are welcomed. Suggestions include the following major themes of urban neighborhood transformation:

- 1) Neighborhood Identity - grassroots leadership, social capital, community-based planning, gentrification;
- 2) Neighborhood Environments and Economic Sustainability – measures of health and safety, environmental justice, poverty alleviation, employment and economic opportunity;
- 3) Neighborhood Culture and Organization- gendered space, race/ethnicity/class, community organizations, capacity building;

- 4) Transnational Neighborhoods – immigration and ethnic enclaves, social movements, population dynamics;
- 5) Neighborhood Renewal – New Urbanism and urban neighborhoods, redeveloping downtowns, transit planning, alternative zoning, affordable housing; and
- 6) Governance, Public Policy and Neighborhoods – municipal, regional and national government policy initiatives that affect neighborhoods; politics and neighborhoods.

We also welcome (and fully expect) a wide variety of urban research topics for presentations that is typical of UAA annual meetings. These topics run the gamut from health and environmental issues to transport, local governance and growth management. Domestic, international and comparative cases studies play an important role in the conference.

You are invited to submit proposals for papers, panels, colloquies (i.e. formal discussions without papers) and breakfast roundtables (i.e. informal discussions). Given the importance of cross-national policy learning, we strongly encourage proposal submissions from our colleagues in Europe, Asia, and South America, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

UAA Institutional members are encouraged to submit proposals of special interest to their on-going research and program development efforts.

Proposal Deadline: October 1, 2005

Proposal Submission:

We anticipate a large demand for participation. Program space is limited. Proposals received by October 1 will receive full consideration. Late proposals will be considered only if space is available. We strongly recommend early submission of proposals to reduce the risk of last minute problems. Due to space constraints, participants are limited to ONE PAPER PRESENTATION (Note: You may be a co-author on multiple papers, but can only make one presentation).

Proposals should be submitted on-line at www.udel.edu/uaa. Proposals received by the deadline will be reviewed by the program committee, and potential participants will be notified of its decision no later than December 1, 2005.

Pre-registration and Payment of Registration Fees:

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST PRE-REGISTER AND PAY THE APPROPRIATE FEES FOR THEIR MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY. UAA members receive a discounted registration rate. To become a member, visit the UAA website. Details regarding 2006 conference fees will be posted on the UAA website by August 1, 2005.

Accommodations

We are pleased to offer our participants a unique opportunity to stay at one of the top-rated hotels in Montreal. The Centre Sheraton Hotel is a business class property with exceptional amenities, and a location in the heart of the city's major dining, shopping and entertainment district. The negotiated room rate is: \$172 Canadian Dollars (approximately \$141 US) for a single or double. These rates do not include taxes of 7.0% (Federal sales tax-WHICH IS FULLY REFUNDABLE to non-Canadian citizens), 7.5% Provincial sales tax plus a \$2.00(CND) per night occupancy fee. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-325-3535. **EARLY RESERVATIONS ADVISED!**

We are already busy planning a number of stimulating sessions as well as tours. Hope to see you in Montréal!

Local Host Committee

Jean-Pierre Collin, INRS-UCS
 Claire Poitras, INRS-UCS
 Pierre Hamel, Université de Montréal
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 Website : www.udel.edu/uaa