Crime and the Transformation of Urban Neighborhoods: Problems and Solutions

Join us for a Panel Discussion:
Friday, February 20, 2015
1:00pm - 2:30pm in Room 133 SSB

Charis E. Kubrin
Charis E. Kubrin is Professor of Criminology, Law and Society and (by courtesy) Sociology at the University of California, Irvine. She is also a member of the Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice- Network. Charis’ research focuses on neighborhoods, race, and violence as central to social disorganization theory. A related line of research examines the intersection of music, culture and social identity, particularly as it applies to hip-hop and minority youth in disadvantaged communities. Charis is co-author of Researching Theories of Crime and Deviance (Oxford University Press 2008) and Privileged Places: Race, Residence, and the Structure of Opportunity (Lynne Rienner 2006), and co-editor of Introduction to Criminal Justice: A Sociological Perspective (Stanford University Press 2013), Punishing Immigrants: Policy, Politics, and Injustice (New York University Press 2012), and Crime and Society: Crime, 3rd Edition (Sage Publications 2007). In addition to books, Charis’ work has been published in various academic journals including American Journal of Sociology, Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, City and Community, Criminology, Criminology & Public Policy, Homicide Studies, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Justice Quarterly, Men and Masculinities, Social Forces, Social Problems, Social Science Quarterly, Sociological Perspectives, Sociological Quarterly, and Urban Studies. In 2005, Charis received the American Society of Criminology’s Ruth Shonle Cavan Young Scholar Award and in 2014, she was awarded The Coramae Richey Mann Award from the American Society of Criminology’s Division on People of Color and Crime in recognition of her outstanding contributions to scholarship on race, crime, and justice.

Todd Swanstrom
As Des Lee Professor of Community Collaboration and Public Policy Administration at the University of Missouri – St. Louis, (UMSL), Todd Swanstrom specializes in urban politics and public policy. He has an MA from Washington University (1971) and a Ph.D. from Princeton (1981). Prior to joining UMSL Todd taught at Saint Louis University and the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany (SUNY). He also worked as a neighborhood planner in Cleveland and as the Director of Strategic Planning for the City of Albany, NY. Todd’s book, The Crisis of Growth Politics: Cleveland, Kucinich, and the Challenge of Urban Populism (Temple University Press, 1985) won the Best Book Award from the Urban Section and Policy of APSA. His co-authored Place Matters: Metropolitics for the Twenty-first Century, 2nd ed., (U. Press of Kansas, 3rd edition, 2014) won the Michael Harrington Award from the New Politics Section of APSA. In 2011 he published a co-edited volume, Justice and the American Metropolis (University of Minnesota Press), which develops the idea of “thick injustice.” He is presently doing research on neighborhood dynamics in weak market metros and the causes and effects of high levels of involuntary residential mobility. Todd uses the resources of his endowed professorship to support the Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis.
Sandra M. Moore
Sandra M. Moore is President of Urban Strategies, a not for profit corporation founded in 1978, that works with developers to re-build distressed urban core communities into vibrant, safe residential neighborhoods with new housing, good schools, strong institutions and a range of human service supports and amenities. She leads a team of more than 80 professionals working in communities across the United States where mixed income housing communities have recently been completed or are in development. Ms. Moore formerly served as the CEO of the Missouri Family Investment Trust, a public-private partnership entity leading Missouri’s multi-system reform efforts. As CEO she was responsible for helping communities across the state, develop, implement and evaluate strategies to improve education, health, mental health, human resources and economic development outcomes for vulnerable Missouri families. Prior to joining the Family Investment Trust, Ms. Moore was Senior Vice President of St. Louis 2004, Inc., an all-out, citizen-based effort to make the St. Louis Region a recognized leader in the 21st century by accomplishing major projects. She is the former Director of the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DOLIR) where she served as a member of Governor Mel Carnahan’s cabinet, and a former administrative Judge with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Ms. Moore is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She received her J.D. degree from the School of Law in 1979 and a B.A. degree in Urban Studies in 1976. She is a native St. Louisian, is married to Eric L. Moore, Sr. and has two adult children. Ms. Moore is committed to the growth, development and empowerment of people, as it is individuals who act as the threads that weave and form the tapestry of neighborhoods. She serves on a number of boards and committees that work to strengthen the fiber of community, including Advantage Capital, Barnes-Jewish Hospital Foundation, Loop Trolley Company, McCormack Baron Salazar Urban Initiatives CDE Advisory Committee, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis Black Leadership Roundtable, Urban League of Metro St. Louis, Washington University National Law Council, National Blues Museum, UMSL Chancellor’s Council, and Heat Up/Cool Down St. Louis.

Ralph Taylor
Ralph Taylor is a Professor in the Criminal Justice Department at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. He is a member and core faculty at the Center for Security and Crime Science and has a secondary appointment in the Department of Geography and Urban Studies at Temple. He received his MA (1975) and Ph.D. (1977) from Johns Hopkins University in social psychology. Before arriving at Temple he held positions at Virginia Tech and Johns Hopkins University. His work, described in over 75 refereed research papers has addressed, among other topics, person-place links, crime dynamics, reactions to crime, delinquency, and social and physical incivilities. Recent projects examine spatiotemporal, intra-metropolitan crime patterning, and factors shaping views of local police. Most articles and chapters can be found online at www.rbtaylor.net/pubs.htm. The National Institute of Justice, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Corrections, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation have funded his research. He has authored Human Territorial Functioning (1988), Research Methods in Criminal Justice (1994), Breaking Away From Broken Windows (2001) and Community Criminology (2014). In 2011 he was elected a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology.