

**ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**Doctoral Program in Public Administration**

**DOCTORAL FIELD DESCRIPTION:**

**URBAN POLICY**

Updated August 2004

This field aims to prepare students to undertake research related to urban areas and the problems that they face. Fundamentally, cities are about proximity and heterogeneity, which bring both benefits and costs. Bringing large numbers of diverse people together in small spaces means opportunities for exciting and productive interaction on the one hand, but also greater possibilities for conflict, contagion, and congestion on the other. We expect students to gain a solid understanding of these benefits and costs and how they are related.

To do so, students must have some knowledge of contributions from a variety of disciplines, including political science, economics, sociology, and history. But students are expected to achieve substantial expertise in the urban subfield of one of the core social science disciplines, understand its theories regarding cities, and be familiar with the leading empirical research. We expect students to appreciate, for instance, why cities exist in the first place and why some grow more rapidly than others. To what extent does the empirical literature provide support for different theories of growth? We will also assume knowledge of theories and evidence regarding urban spatial structure. For example: How do people and businesses sort themselves within urban areas? What drives these decisions and what are their consequences? How does the fragmented structure of American local government contribute to residential sorting? Finally, to assess the efficacy of different urban policies, students must clearly understand what research has taught us about urban political dynamics and the role that governmental and nonprofit organizations play in implementation.

The field is divided into two main parts. The first – cities and urban government – provides a foundation in urban growth and development, government, and public finance. The second half of the field focuses on specific policy areas. We include a broad array of issues, such as racial segregation, infrastructure, transportation, high housing costs, homelessness, crime, health problems, education, economic development, and poverty. The areas are tied together by their focus on the spatial aspects of these problems and the policies directed at them. What does theory and research tell us about the ways in which location affects these problems and the ways in which these problems affect location decisions in turn? We expect students to gain substantial expertise in three of these areas and to be sufficiently familiar with the others so as to understand their many interactions.

In advance of taking the exam, students should meet with faculty members supervising the field to discuss their course preparation and outside reading and to

declare which three policy sub-areas they intend to focus on. While questions will not be limited to these areas, faculty will take into account student interests when writing and reading exams. Moreover, because of the broad nature of the field, the comprehensive exams will provide students with a significant degree of choice. The exam will include eight questions, from which students must answer three.

#### Field Advisors

Ingrid Gould Ellen  
Amy Ellen Schwartz  
Beth Weitzman

#### Relevant Courses:

G93.2463: Urban Sociology (Molotch, Sociology Department, NYU)  
P11.2608: Urban Economics (Ellen, Wagner)  
G53.2330: Urban Government and Politics (Politics Department, NYU)  
P11.2616: Colloquium on Urban Affairs (Ellen, Schill, and Been, Wagner/Law School)  
P11.2443: Financing Urban Governments (Netzer, Wagner)  
P11.2665: Decentralized Development Planning and Policy Reform in Developing Countries (Smoke, Wagner)  
P11.2140: Public economics (Schwartz, Wagner)  
P11.2445: Urban poverty (Wagner)  
P11.2660: History and Theory of Planning (Moss, Wagner)  
G53.2564: Comparative Urban Politics and Policy (Politics Department, NYU)  
G31.1601: Economic Development (Economics Department, NYU)

#### Selected Journals

Urban Studies  
Journal of Urban Economics  
Journal of the American Planning Association  
Urban Affairs Quarterly  
Regional Science and Urban Economics  
Journal of Urban Affairs  
Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs  
Journal of Urban Health

## **Reading List**

### **Part I: Cities and Urban Government**

#### ***Urban Growth***

Brueckner, J.K. 1980. "A Vintage Model of Urban Growth." *Journal of Urban Economics*. November: 389-402.

Chinitz, Benjamin. 1972. "Contrasts in Agglomeration: New York and Pittsburgh," in *Readings in Urban Economics*. eds. Matthew Edel and Jerome Rothenberg. New York: Macmillan Company: 90-103.

Davoodi, H., and H. Zou. 1998. "Fiscal Decentralization and Economic Growth: A Cross-Country Study." *Journal of Urban Economics* 43.

Glaeser, Edward. 1998. "Are Cities Dying?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 12(2): 139-60.

Glaeser, Edward L., Heidi Kallal, Jose Scheinkman, and Andrei Shleifer 1992. "Growth in Cities," *Journal of Political Economy*. 100(6): 1126-1152.

Henderson, J.Vernon. 1988. *Urban Development: Theory, Fact, and Illusion*. New York: Oxford University Press.

---. 2002. "Urbanization in Developing Countries," World Bank Research Observer, Vol. 17, No. 1: 89-112.

Jacobs, Jane. 1969. *The Economy of Cities*. New York: Random House.

---. 1961. *Death and Life of the Great American Cities*. New York: Random House.

Krugman, Paul. 1991. "Increasing Returns and Economic Geography." *Journal of Political Economy*. 99:483-499.

Moss, Mitchell. 1998. "Technology and Cities," *Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research*, 3 (3), pp. 107-127

Quigley, John M. 1998. "Urban diversity and economic growth." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 12(2):127-138.

Rauch, Jonathan. 1993. "Productivity Gains from Geographic Concentration of Human Capital: Evidence from the Cities." *Journal of Urban Economics* 34: 380-400.

### ***Urban Spatial Structure and Location Theory***

Alonso, William. 1972. "Location Theory." In *Readings in Urban Economics*, ed. M. Edel and J. Rothenberg. New York: Macmillan.

Bradbury, Katharine L.; Anthony Downs; and Kenneth A. Small. 1982. *Urban Decline and the Future of American Cities*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution.

Downs, Anthony. 1994. *New Visions for Metropolitan America*. Brookings Press.

Garreau, Joel. 1991. *Edge Cities*. New York: Doubleday.

Glaeser, Edward L., and Matthew E. Kahn, "Decentralized Employment and the Transformation of the American City." *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs 2001*: pp. 1-47.

Glaeser, Edward L., Matthew Kahn and Jordan Rappaport. 2000. "Why do the Poor Live in Cities?" *NBER Working Paper #7636*. April.

Jackson, Kenneth. 1995. *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the U.S.* Oxford University Press.

Muth, Richard. F. 1969. *Cities and Housing: The Spatial Pattern of Urban Residential Land Use*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Mieszkowski, Peter and Edwin S. Mills. 1993. "The Causes of Metropolitan Suburbanization." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 7(3) Summer:135-147.

Mills, Edwin S. 1972. *Studies in the Structure of the Urban Economy*. Johns Hopkins Press.

Park, Robert Ezra, Ernest W. Burgess and Roderick McKenzie. 1967. *The City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Wheaton, William. C. 1977. "Income and Urban Residence: An Analysis of Consumer Demand for Location." *American Economic Review*. 67: 620-631.

Wirth, Louis. 1951 [1938] "Urbanism as a Way of Life." *American Journal of Sociology*. July 1938. Vol. 44.

### ***Urban Politics***

Altshuler, Alan, William Morrill, Harold Wolman, and Faith Mitchell, editors. 1999. *Governance and Opportunity in Metropolitan America*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

Brecher, Charles and Raymond D. Horton with Robert Cropf and Dean M. Mead, *Power Failure: Politics and Policy in New York City Since 1960*, Oxford University Press, 1993.

Elkin, Stephen. 1987. *City and Regime in the American Republic*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Kantor, Paul. 1987. "The Dependent City: The Changing Political Economy of Urban Economic Development in the United States." *Urban Affairs Quarterly*. 22:493-520.

Logan, John R. and Harvey L. Molotch. 1987. *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. Berkeley: University of California.

Mollenkopf, John. 1983. *The Contested City*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Molotch, Harvey. 1976. "The City as a Growth Machine." *American Journal of Sociology* 82(2): 309-332.

Peterson, Paul E. 1981. *City Limits*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Stone, Clarence N. 1989. *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas.

### ***Local Public Finance***

Bahl, Roy, 2000. "How to Design a Fiscal Decentralization Program," in *Local Dynamics in an Era of Globalization*, S. Yusef, W. Wu, and S. Evenett, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 94-100.

Bahl, R., D.M Holland, and J.F. Linn. 1990. "Urban Growth and Local Taxes in Less-Developed Countries," in *Readings on Taxation in Developing Countries*, R. Bird and O. Oldman, eds. Baltimore, Md: Johns Hopkins University Press: pp. 409-423.

Bradford, David F., and Oates, Wallace E. 1974. "Suburban Exploitation of Central Cities and Governmental Structure." In: Hochman and Peterson (eds.), *Redistribution Through Public Choice*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Buchanan, James M. 1974. "Who Should Distribute What in a Federal System?" in Hochman and Peterson, (eds.), *Redistribution Through Public Choice*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Gramlich Edward M. and Daniel L. Rubinfeld. 1982. "Micro Estimates of Public Spending Demand Functions and Tests of the Tiebout and Median-Voter Hypotheses." *Journal of Political Economy* 90: 536-60.

- Inman, Robert P., Daniel L. Rubinfeld. 1997. "Rethinking Federalism." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 11(4): 43-64.
- Ladd Helen F. and John Yinger. 1989. *America's ailing cities: fiscal health and the design of urban policy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. [HJ9145 .L32]
- Ladd Helen, F. and Fred C. Doolittle. 1982. "Which Level of Government Should Assist the Poor?" *National Tax Journal*, 35 (3): 323-36.
- Musgrave. Richard A. 1997. "Devolution, Grants, and Fiscal Competition." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 11 (4): 65-72.
- Netzer, Dick. 1992. "Differences in Reliance on User Charges by American State and Local Governments," *Public Finance Quarterly*. 20(4): 499-511.
- Oates, Wallace E. and Robert Schwab. 1988. "Economic Competition Among Jurisdictions: Efficiency Enhancing or Distortion Inducing?" *Journal of Public Economics* 35:333-354.
- Reschovsky, Andrew. 1980. "An Evaluation of Metropolitan Area Tax Base Sharing." *National Tax Journal* 33: 55-66.
- Smoke, Paul. 2001. *Fiscal Decentralization in Developing Countries: A Review of Current Concepts and Practice*. Geneva: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
- Tiebout, Charles M. 1956. "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditure," *Journal of Political Economy*. October: 416-424.

## Part II: Urban Policy Areas

### *Economic Development Policy*

Bartik, Timothy J. 1991. *Who Benefits from State and Local Economic Development Policies?* Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute.

Bingham, Richard D. and Robert Mier, eds. 1993. *Theories of Local Economic Development*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

---. 1997. *Dilemmas of Urban Economic Development: Issues in Theory and Practice*. Urban Affairs Annual Review Series 47. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Blair, John P, ed. 1995. *Local Economic Development: Analysis and Practice*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Proceedings of a Symposium on The Effects of State and Local Public Policies on Economic Development. 1997. *New England Economic Review*. March/April.

Oates Wallace A. and Robert Schwab. 1988. "Economic Competition Among Jurisdictions: Efficiency Enhancing or Distortion Inducing?" *Journal of Public Economics* 35:333-354.

Papke, Leslie. 1994. "Tax Policy and Urban Development: Evidence from the Indiana Enterprise Zone Program." *Journal of Public Economics* 54(1): 37-49.

Porter, Michael. 1997. "New Strategies of Inner-City Economic Development." *Economic Development Quarterly*. 11(1) February :28-38.

### *Urban poverty*

Brooks-Gunn, Jeanne, Greg Duncan, and Lawrence Aber. 1997. *Neighborhood Poverty: Volumes I and II*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation Press.

Jargowsky, Paul. 1997. *Poverty and Place*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation Press.

Jencks, Christopher, and Paul Peterson. 1991. *The Urban Underclass*. Washington, DC: Brookings Press.

Katz, Lawrence, Jeffrey Kling, and Jeffrey Liebman. 2001. "Moving to Opportunity in Boston: Early Results of a Randomized Mobility Experiment." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 116(2): 607-654.

Mills, Edwin and Luan Sende Lubuele. 1999. "Inner Cities," *Journal of Economic Literature*. June (35):727-756.

O'Regan, Katherine. 1993. "The Effect of Social Networks and Concentrated Poverty on Black and Hispanic Youth Unemployment." *Annals of Regional Science* 27(4): 327-342.

Sullivan, Mercer. 1991. *Getting Paid: Youth, Crime, and Work in the Inner City*. Cornell University Press.

Wilson, William Julius. 1987. *The Truly Disadvantaged*. Chicago University Press.

### ***Housing policy***

Aaron, Henry J. 1972. *Shelter and Subsidies*.

Ellen, Ingrid Gould, Michael H. Schill, Amy Ellen Schwartz, and Ioan Voicu. "The Role of Cities in Providing Housing Assistance: A New York Perspective." In Amy Ellen Schwartz, ed., *Collected Essays in Honor of Dick Netzer*. Cambridge, Mass: Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, forthcoming.

Hays, R. Allen. *The Federal Government and Urban Housing*.

Quigley, John M. 1979. "What have we Learned about Urban Housing Markets?" in *Current Issues in Urban Economics*. P. Mieszkowski and M. Straszheim. Johns Hopkins.

Olsen, Edgar O. 2001. "Housing Programs for Low-Income Households" NBER Working Paper W8208. Cambridge, Mass: National Bureau of Economic Research.

### ***Homelessness***

Jencks, Christopher. 1994. *The Homeless*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

O'Flaherty, Brendan. 1996. *Making Room*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

Rossi, Peter. 1989. *Down and Out in America: The Origins of Homelessness*. Chicago University Press.

Shlay, Anne B., and Peter Rossi. 1992. "Social-Science Research and Contemporary Studies of Homelessness." *Annual Review of Sociology* 18: 129-160.

Shinn, Mary Beth et al. 1998. "Predictors of Homelessness Among Families in New York City: From Shelter Request to Housing Stability," *American Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 88, No.11, November 1998, pp. 1651-57.

### ***Racial Segregation: Causes and Consequences***

Anderson, Elijah. 1990. *Streetwise*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Cutler, David, and Edward Glaeser. 1997. "Are Ghettos Good or Bad?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 112.

Cutler, David, Edward Glaeser, and Jacob Vigdor. 1999. "The Rise and Decline of the American Ghetto." *Journal of Political Economy*. 107(3) June: 455-506.

Ellen, Ingrid Gould. 2000. *Sharing America's Neighborhoods: The Changing Prospects for Stable, Racial Integration*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

Galster, George C. 1977. "A Bid-Rent Analysis of Housing Market Discrimination." *American Economic Review* 67(2): 144-155.

Gans, Herbert. 1962. *Urban Villagers: Group and Class in the Life of Italian-Americans*. New York: Free Press.

Kain, John F. 1968. "Housing Segregation, Negro Employment, and Metropolitan Decentralization." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 82:175-197.

Massey, Douglas, and Nancy Denton. 1993. *American Apartheid*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

O'Regan, Katherine, and John M. Quigley. 1996. "Spatial Effects Upon Employment Outcomes: The Case of New Jersey Teenagers." *New England Economic Review*, May/June: 41-58.

Yinger, John. *Closed Doors, Opportunities Lost*. New York City: Russell Sage Foundation Press. 1995.

### ***Urban Infrastructure and Transportation***

Downs, Anthony. 1992. *Stuck in Traffic*. Washington: Brookings Institution.

Easterling, Keller, *Organization Space*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999.

Gleick, Peter H. *The World's Water, 2000-2001*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2000.

Hanson, Susan, editor. *The Geography of Urban Transportation*. New York: Guilford Press, 1995. 2nd edition.

Hulten, Charles R. and Robert M. Schwab. 1993. "Infrastructure Spending: Where Do We Go from Here?" *National Tax Journal*, September: 261-273.

Gómez-Ibáñez, José A., William B. Tye, and Clifford Winston, editors. 1999. *Essays in Transportation Economics and Policy*, especially Part III, Transportation and Cities, essays 11, 12, and 13, by John F. Kain; Don Pickrell; and Katherine M. O'Regan and John M. Quigley. *Washington: Brookings Institution Press*.

Meyer, John R., and José A. Gómez-Ibáñez. 1981. *Autos, Transit and Cities*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Rondinelli, D. and J.D. Kasarda. 1993. "Privatization of Urban Services and Infrastructure in Developing Countries: An Assessment of Experience," in *Third World Cities: Problems, Policies, and Prospects*, J. Kasarda and A.M Parnell, eds. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications: 134-160.

Smoke, Paul. 1999. "Improving Infrastructure Finance in Developing Countries through Grant-Loan Linkages." *International Journal of Public Administration* 22(12): 1561-1585.

Winston, Clifford, and Chad Shirley. 1998. *Alternate Route: Toward Efficient Urban Transportation*. Washington: Brookings Institution Press.

Zimmerman, Rae. 2001. "Social Implications of Infrastructure Network Interactions," *Journal of Urban Technology*, Vol. 8 (3): 97-119.

### ***Urban environmental policy (including sustainability and justice)***

Barnett, Jonathan. 1995. *The Fractured Metropolis: Improving the New City, Restoring the Old City, Reshaping the Region*, Westview Press: Boulder, Colorado.

Beatley, T. and K. Manning. 1997. *The Ecology of Place*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Been, V. and F. Gupta, "Coming to the Nuisance or going to the Barrios? A Longitudinal Analysis of Environmental Justice Claims," *Ecology Law Quarterly*, XXIV (1997), pp. 1-56.

Bullard, R.D., ed., *Confronting Environmental Racism. Voices from the Grassroots*. Boston, MA: South End Press, 1993.

Freilich, Robert H. 1999. *From Sprawl to Smart Growth: Successful Legal, Planning, and Environmental Systems*, American Bar Association Publishing: Chicago, Illinois.

Hamilton, J.T., "Testing for Environmental Racism: Prejudice, Profits, Political Power?" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (1995), pp. 107-132.

National Research Council. 1999. *Our Common Journey: A Transition Toward Sustainability*, National Academy Press: Washington, D.C.

Vig, Norman J. and Kraft, Michael E. eds. 2000. *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-first Century*, Congressional Quarterly Press: Washington, D.C.

Zimmerman, Rae. 1993. "Social Equity and Environmental Risk," *Risk Analysis: An International Journal*, Vol. 13, No. 6, pp. 649-666.

### ***Urban Health***

Geronimus, Arlene. 2000. "To mitigate, resist, or undo: Addressing structural influences on the health of urban populations." *American Journal of Public Health* 90(6): 867-872

Haan, Mary N., Kaplan, George A., & Syme, S. Leonard. (1989). Socioeconomic Status and Health: Old Observations and New Thoughts. In John P. Bunker, Deanna S. Gomby, and Barbara H. Kehrer (EdS.), *Pathways to Health: The Role of Social Factors*. Menlo Park, CA: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

House, JS, Lepkowski JM, Williams DR, Mero RP, Lanz PM, Robert SA, Chen JM. 2000. "Excess mortality among urban residents: How much, for whom, and why?" *American Journal of Public Health* 90(12): 1898-1904.

McCord, Colin, & Freeman, Harold P. (1990). "Excess Mortality in Harlem." *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 322(3), 173-177.

Waitzman, Norman J. and Ken R. Smith. 1998. "Phantom of the Area: Poverty-Area Residence and Mortality in the United States." *American Journal of Public Health*. 88(6): 973-976.

### ***Urban Education***

Burtless, Gary ed. (1996) *Does Money Matter? The Effect of School Resources on Student Achievement and Adult Success*, Washington D.C.: the Brookings Institution.

Card, David and Alan B. Krueger (1996) "School Resources and Student Outcomes: An Overview of the Literature and New Evidence from North and South Carolina", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 10, No. 4, pp.31-50.

Chubb, John E. and Terry M. Moe (1990) *Politics, Markets and America's Schools*, Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution.

Duncombe, William and John Yinger (1997) "Why Is It So Hard to Help Central City Schools?," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp.85-113.

Hanushek, Eric A. (1986) "The Economics of Schooling: Production and Efficiency in Public Schools", *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 24, No. 3, pp.1141-1177.

Hoxby, Carolyn Minter. 2000. "Does Competition Among Public Schools Benefit Students and Taxpayers?" *American Economic Review* 90(5): 1209-1238.

Jencks, Christopher and Meredith Phillips (1998) *The Black-White Test Score Gap* Brookings Institution.

Ladd, Helen F. ed. (1996) *Holding Schools Accountable*, Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, pp.265-298.

Murray Sheila E., William N. Evans and Robert M. Schwab (1998) "Education Finance Reform and the Distribution of Education Resources", *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 88, No. 4, pp.789-812.

Orfield, Gary, and Susan E. Eaton. 1996. *Dismantling Desegregation: The Quiet Reversal of Brown v. Board of Education*. New York: The New Press.

Peterson, Paul E., and Bryan C. Hassel, eds. (1998) *Learning from School Choice*, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.