

Can Public Housing Overcome Its History of Racial Discrimination and Segregation?

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Derek S. Hyra is a community development expert at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, a research affiliate of the University of Michigan's National Poverty Center, and a commissioner of the Alexandria, Virginia, Redevelopment and Housing Authority. His research focuses on inner-city economic development, with an emphasis on national policy, urban politics, affordable housing finance, neighborhood poverty, and race. A former policy analyst at the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development, Hyra is the author of *The New Urban Renewal: The Economic Transformation of Harlem and Bronzeville*.

Susan J. Popkin, an expert on assisted housing and mobility, is a principal research associate in the Urban Institute's Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. Her research includes the *HOPE VI Panel Study*, the first large-scale, systematic look at outcomes for families involuntarily relocated from public housing. Earlier, she directed the only national study of public housing desegregation. Popkin was the lead author of *The Hidden War: Crime and the Tragedy of Public Housing in Chicago* and is a coauthor of *Public Housing and the Legacy of Segregation*.

Wendell Pritchett is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the author of *Robert Clifton Weaver and the American City: The Life and Times of an Urban Reformer*, which examines the life of the first African-American cabinet secretary and the first head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He also wrote *Brownsville, Brooklyn: Jews, Blacks and the Changing Face of the Ghetto*. The former deputy chief of staff and policy director for Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Pritchett is the president of the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation and vice chair of the Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia.

Lynette Rawlings is a research associate in the Urban Institute's Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. Rawlings's research has focused on concentrated poverty, neighborhood racial and ethnic change, public housing transformation, and inter-municipal cooperation in metropolitan areas. Rawlings, a coauthor of *Public Housing and the Legacy of Segregation*, founded and directs the Urban Institute Summer Academy for Public Policy Analysis and Research, a program for promising minority undergraduates.

Margery Austin Turner (moderator) is the Urban Institute's vice president for research and director of its Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. She analyzes issues of residential location, racial and ethnic discrimination and its contribution to neighborhood segregation and inequality, and the role of housing policies in promoting residential mobility and location choice. She cowrote two national housing discrimination studies and is a coauthor of *Public Housing and the Legacy of Segregation*. Turner served as the deputy assistant secretary for research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 through 1996.