



Racial and Economic Segregation in US Metro Regions: What Does It Cost in Lives, Income, and Human Potential?

Speaker Biographies

Ianna Kachoris is a visiting fellow affiliated with the Policy Advisory Group at the Urban Institute and a senior officer at the MacArthur Foundation. At the MacArthur Foundation, she oversees the \$25 million How Housing Matters to Families and Communities research initiative. Kachoris joined the MacArthur Foundation in 2010 after directing Pew's Economic Mobility Project, including all programmatic aspects of the project, overseeing research publications, and guiding the development of a policy agenda with bipartisan consensus. Before her time at Pew, Kachoris was senior policy adviser to Senator Edward M. Kennedy on issues ranging from housing and community development to telecommunications, research and development, international trade, and economic policy and was his liaison to the Joint Economic Committee. She also managed the Fannie Mae Foundation's Midwest office and worked on cross-jurisdictional housing issues for the Metropolitan Planning Council in Chicago. She began her career as an analyst with the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Evaluation and Inspections conducting program evaluations of federal programs including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start, Medicaid, and Medicare. Kachoris has a bachelor's degree in sociology from Emory University and a master's degree in public policy from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago.

Marisa Novara is vice president of Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC). She directs MPC's housing and community development work and manages technical assistance and support to communities facing development challenges related to housing, transportation, transit-oriented development, and economic development. She designed and manages the multiyear Cost of Segregation project. Before joining MPC, Novara spent a year in Milan, Italy, completing her master's degree in urban planning with a focus on international community development. Her studies were informed by work on the ground in Chicago, most recently as the senior project manager for Lawndale Christian Development Corporation. There, she directed more than \$30 million in affordable rental and for-sale housing development in the North Lawndale neighborhood. She also worked in community development at the Steans Family Foundation and Carole Robertson Center for Learning. Novara has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Michigan, a master's degree from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, a certificate in affordable housing finance, development, and management from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a master's degree in urban planning from the Istituto Politecnico di Milano, where her master's thesis explored the role an intermediary could play in advancing the community development field in northern Italy. Novara serves on the community development committee of The Resurrection Project and on the public policy committee of the Urban Land Institute. She was a 2014 Marshall Memorial fellow and a 2016 Leadership Greater Chicago fellow.



Rolf Pendall is codirector of the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. In this role, he leads a team of over 40 experts on a broad array of housing, community development, and economic development topics, consistent with Urban's nonpartisan, evidence-based approach to economic and social policy. Pendall's research expertise includes metropolitan growth trends; land-use planning and regulation; federal, state, and local affordable housing policy and programs; and racial residential segregation and the concentration of poverty. He directs the Urban Institute's Mapping America's Futures project, a platform for exploring implications of future demographic change at the local level. Other recent projects include Urban's evaluation of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods demonstration; a HUD-funded research study on the importance of cars to housing choice voucher users; and long-standing membership in the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on Building Resilient Regions. Between 1998 and mid-2010, Pendall was a professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University, where he taught courses and conducted research on land use planning, growth management, and affordable housing.

Erika Poethig is an Institute fellow and director of urban policy initiatives at the Urban Institute. She leads the Policy Advisory Group, which assembles Urban experts to help leaders draw insights from research and navigate policy challenges facing urban America. She also leads partnerships to develop new programs and strategies, translate research into policy and practice, and align philanthropic investments and federal policy. Before joining Urban, Poethig was acting assistant secretary for policy, development, and research at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. During her tenure in the Obama administration, she was also deputy assistant secretary for policy development and was a leading architect of the White House Council for Strong Cities and Strong Communities. At the MacArthur Foundation, she was associate director for housing. She also was assistant commissioner for policy, resource, and program development at the City of Chicago's Department of Housing. In the 1990s, she developed Mayor Richard Daley's campaign to combat predatory lending, prevent foreclosures, and stabilize communities. Previously, she was associate project director of the Metropolis Project, which produced the Metropolis 2020 agenda for regional leadership around the major issues faced by the metropolitan Chicago area. Poethig serves on the boards of the Center for Community Progress, Mercy Housing, and the College of Wooster board of trustees. Poethig was a Phi Beta Kappa member at the College of Wooster, a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Vienna, and has an MA with honors in public policy from the University of Chicago.

Joanna Trotter is the senior program officer in economic and community development for The Chicago Community Trust. She leads grantmaking that supports regional and community-based organizations forwarding equitable development. Before joining the trust, Trotter was director of neighborhood development for the University of Chicago's Office of Civic Engagement, where she guided and coordinated university investments largely in the Woodlawn and Washington Park communities. Trotter also spent 10 years forwarding the Metropolitan Planning Council's (MPC) community building work across the Chicago region. In 2013, she was promoted to vice president of programs, directing MPC's community development activity. Before joining MPC, Trotter was the commercial district planner for the Rogers Park Business Alliance, the community and economic development organization in Rogers Park. Trotter is the cochair of the Urban Land Institute public policy committee and is on the board of the Quad Communities Development Corporation. Trotter earned an MA in urban and regional planning from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Gustavo Velasquez is director of the Urban Institute’s Washington-Area Research Initiative, a cross-center initiative and multidisciplinary program of evidence and policy analysis focused on the national capital region. As a reliable source of evidence and advice, Urban’s Washington-Area Research Initiative provides insights from research to policymakers and practitioners in ways both relevant and actionable. Velasquez served for nearly three years as assistant secretary for fair housing and equal opportunity at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He served on behalf of the president as the strategic lead of the fair housing and inclusive community agenda for the Obama administration. During his tenure, HUD achieved groundbreaking enforcement victories in fair lending and in major housing discrimination cases. Velasquez led efforts to promulgate the landmark Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule, a key tool for cities, states, and other HUD funding recipients to reduce inequality and disparities in access to opportunity. Velasquez worked in executive roles in the administrations of DC mayors Anthony Williams, Adrian Fenty, and Vincent Gray. He also has nonprofit experience as executive director of the Latino Economic Development Center, a local community development organization in Washington, DC, and Congreso de Latinos Unidos, the leading social service provider to Latinos in Philadelphia. Velasquez has served in numerous boards and committees of financial institutions, civil rights groups, and educational organizations at the local and national levels. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a master’s degree in public administration.