The Inegalitarian Metropolis
Prelim Reading Lists

Questions
1. How have mid-century policies in urban planning, market actors, white homeowners, and trends in policing urban space created the socially, spatially, and racially divided metropolis of today? What is the range of local, state, and federal laws that created these divisions today?
2. How were state and federal policies responsible for white flight and economic flight from Newark? And how did urban planners, politicians, and other actors use urban renewal and slum clearance as tools to economically stabilize the city?
3. From urban and working-class non-white activists to suburban and middle-class white activists, how did regular people and community groups shape the programs of urban renewal?
4. How can Newark’s story be framed as a national story? How did the processes of segregation, desegregation, deindustrialization, and urban decline play out in Newark and other metro areas like Newark? What is unique about Newark?
5. How can the tools of visualization and cartography reveal new aspects of American urban history, and communicate this history to larger audiences?

Committee
Robert Fishman  Chair  Urban Planning History
Ana Morcillo Pallares  Co-Chair  Architectural History
Matthew Lassiter  Cognate  20th-c. Metropolitan History (Urban/Suburban)
Dan O’Flaherty  External  Urban Economics

From Columbia University to be added at dissertation stage
Project Brief

“Wherever American cities are going, Newark will get there first” Mayor Kenneth Gibson declared in 1970, as the first black mayor of any major city in what is now the American Northeast and the Rust Belt. The history of Newark’s urban decline is specific to Newark and unique to the details of this city. And yet, Newark’s story is national in its implications, and mirrored in hundreds of other American cities large and small that also experienced decline.

From the 1950s through 1970s, Newark embarked on one of the most extensive programs of state-funded urban renewal in the nation, less costly only than those of New York City (20 times Newark’s population); Chicago (eight times larger); Philadelphia (five times larger), and Boston (twice as large). Newark’s program was certainly among the most ambitious: to clear out the areas called slums, to construct highways, to build public housing, to stimulate the urban economy, and – in the end – to stop urban decline. And yet for all the billions spent and an estimated 70,000 out of Newark's 400,000 people displaced, the program failed spectacularly. What mixture of actors and institutions – city planners, politicians, realtors, developers, and banks – caused Newark’s program to fail?

This project describes how two national programs impacted Newark: urban renewal (a program that invested in keeping the city stable) and redlining (a program that deprived investment to make the city unstable). The two programs – both initiated by the state and designed to profit real estate developers – coexisted and undermined each other in a decade of flaws and contradictions. Redlining usually refers to the practice when banks choose to not invest in a certain neighborhood or city because of the race of who lives there. Redlining is racial discrimination. More importantly, although rarely framed in such terms, redlining describes the practice more broadly of choosing not to invest in a place because it is a city and considered a less profitable investment. Banks, developers, realtors, businesses, department stores, and the fabric of social institutions vital for urban life all migrated from the city to the suburbs. These other institutions all redlined Newark independently of the real estate lobby. More than anti-black, redlining is anti-urban.

This project frames Newark’s story in national terms. Each chapter examines one form of redlining in Newark, and then frames this form of localized redlining in the national picture of urban abandonment. There are five frames: transportation, finance, housing, welfare, and employment. This range of actors across areas – public and private, local and national – did not collaborate in a conspiracy to deprive Newark and the American city of wealth. But their actions overlapped and mutually reinforced each other to leave the American city behind and ensure that attempts to save the city through state-funded urban renewal would fail. Through anti-urban redlining practices in each of these five areas – transportation, finance, housing, welfare, and employment – urban decline was the inevitable result. The history of all places is told through one place, and the history of one place is told through all places.
Major in Architectural History with Ana Morcillo Pallarés
Major in Urban Planning History with Robert Fishman

1. Walking in the City / City as Poetry
2. History of Streets and Street Network Development
3. Impact of Redlining (esp. Chicago)
4. Impact of Public Housing (esp. Chicago)
5. Assorted Histories of the Urban Form
6.0 History of Newark
6.1 Newark General History
6.2 Newark Black and Ethnic History
6.3 Newark Urban Planning and Public Works
6.4 Economics of Newark
6.5 Newark Primary Sources

Minor in 20th-century Metropolitan History
Urban/Suburban with Matthew Lassiter

1. Downtown Economics, Urban Economics
2. Early History of the Suburb
3. Great Migration and Its Effects on Northern Cities
4. Later History of the Suburb
6. Trans-Historical Comparisons of Urban Decline and Urban Renewal
7. American City as Carceral State

Major in Architectural History with Ana Morcillo Pallarés
Major in Urban Planning History with Robert Fishman

1. Walking in the City / City as Poetry

Not strictly historical books, but books that think of the city in poetic and lyrical terms. How did history happen vs. how did history feel?


2. History of Streets and Street Network Development


3. Impact of Redlining (esp. Chicago)


4. Impact of Public Housing (esp. Chicago)


Website – Mapping Inequality: 
https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=11/40.802/-74.431&city=essex-co.-nj

5. Assorted Histories of the Urban Form


6.0 History of Newark

6.1 Newark General History

Not particularly groundbreaking in historical methods, but helpful as a point of reference for fact checking and the equivalent of encyclopedia.
Atkinson, Joseph. The History of Newark, New Jersey: Being a Narrative of Its Rise and Progress, From the Settlement in May 1666, by Emigrants From Connecticut, to the Present Time, Including a Sketch of the Press of Newark, From 1791 to 1878. Newark Public Schools, 1913.


Website – Newark Changing: Mapping Neighborhood Demolition 1950s to present: https://newarkchanging.org/

6.2 Newark Black and Ethnic History


Governor’s Select Commission on Civil Disorder: Report For Action. Trenton: Governor’s Select Commission on Civil Disorder, 1968, edited by William C. Wright.


### 6.3 Newark Urban Planning and Public Works


[Harland Bartholomew developed both Newark’s 1913 and 1945 master plans]

### 6.4 Economics of Newark


[Most examples in text are drawn from his study of Newark. Study of Newark and national affordable housing policies post Pruitt-Igoe.]


6.5 Newark Primary Sources

Historical news clippings, government reports, and city planning documents from the collections of the…

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<td>Trolley and transportation history</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Jersey State Archives</td>
<td>Highway construction history</td>
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<td>National Archives</td>
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Newark Housing Authority publications and plans, only partially digitized at: https://archive.org/details/newarkcitydocs?and[]=subject%3A%22Housing%22

City of Newark Master Plans from 1933 (start of New Deal) through 1967-68 (“Riots” and MLK assassination)

Historical news clippings:

- *Newark Evening News* (on microfilm, in person access only)
- *The Star-Ledger* (Newark local paper digitized through NewsBank.com)

Website – The History Makers:
https://www.thehistorymakers.org/search?search_api_fulltext=newark
Search term: Newark. Oral histories of Black Newark residents through time.
Minor in 20th-century Metropolitan History
Urban/Suburban with Matthew Lassiter

1. Downtown Economics, Urban Economics


O’Flaherty, Brendan. City Economics. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010. [Not specific to Newark, but he is from Newark. And the literature from urban economics provides a solid framework to understand urban decline.]


2. Early History of the Suburb


### 3. Great Migration and Its Effects on Northern Cities


### 4. Later History of the Suburb


### 6. Trans-Historical Comparisons of Urban Decline and Urban Renewal


**New Haven, Boston, New York City**


7. **American City as Carceral State**


