

Dear SEWG members,

The SEWG's "University Research Sub-Committee" is planning on distributing this research packet to UW university students in the fall. The purpose of this research package is to inspire students to conduct projects on social equity issues by providing research questions, partner organizations and literature references.

We'd love your feedback in these ways:

- (1) Are there any other social equity-related **research questions** or topics we should add?
- (2) Are there any other social equity-related **organizations** we should add?
- (3) Are there any other social equity-related **resources** (books, articles, blogs) we should add?

Please let [Sandy Howard](#), [Jiarui Tao](#) or [Sophie Glass](#) know if you have any suggestions for improving this research packet.

Thank you,

Sandy, Jiarui and Sophie

## Social Equity Research Package

### Introduction to Students

Over the past two years, planners in our region have been meeting to discuss the complex and enormous challenges facing the Pacific Northwest. To chart a course forward, the Washington chapter of the American Planning Association identified “ten big ideas” that planners need to address.

1. Address Climate Change
2. Enhance Regional Decision-making
3. Restore and Protect Eco-Systems
4. Link Health & Urban Planning
5. Increase Local Government Capacity
6. Support Economic Development
- 7. Foster Social Equity**
8. Support Sustainable Agriculture
9. Build Social Capital
10. Rebuild Infrastructure

Part of **fostering social equity** is ensuring that academic research, practices and methodologies are pushing the boundaries of how urban planning can best support underprivileged and underrepresented communities. Within this goal, we have three objectives:

- Partner with universities and professional organizations to provide funding for research that targets social equity in the built environment.
- Encourage the national [APA Research Program](#) to prioritize social equity research projects.
- **Encourage students to explore these issues in capstone projects, theses, and dissertations.**

This research package addresses this last objective. Our hope is that this research package will inspire students to conduct projects on social equity issues by providing research questions, potential partner organizations and literature references. With the support of universities, planning departments and nonprofit organizations, we believe that students can find solutions to our most pressing social equity concerns here in Washington.

## Research Questions

Below are some questions that can be launching points for your own research regarding the relationship between urban planning and social equity, with a special focus on displacement.

1. Displacement of existing lower-income communities may tend to take place in neighborhoods with certain characteristics, trends and locations. What are metrics, indicators and conditions that would signal the potential for and start of neighborhood displacement?
2. Redevelopment and gentrification may displace previous residents and business. What are some ways to measure the impact of redevelopment on social equity (i.e. affordability, cultural preservation, access to services etc.)? Is it feasible to use these measurements when issuing development permits?
3. Policy tools may affect how redevelopment projects affect social equity issues. How can financing tools, land-use regulations, ownership transformation, historic preservation and other policies help make redevelopment projects more socially just?
4. Theories on urban form, travel behavior, public health, social psychology, consumer behavior, business location choice, real estate value, stakeholder game, operation management, and so on, have been employed to explain urban developments. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the theories in addressing social equity issues? How can new theories to be developed and existing ones to be adjusted in the context of redevelopment projects?
5. Aside from the economic factors, what are the social and cultural factors associated with gentrification that displace existing communities? How can those social and cultural factors be amended to enable existing communities to feel at home?
6. Affordable commercial real estate is necessary to allow existing businesses to continue operating in the face of gentrification. What are some ways to ensure affordable real estate and how can you balance these methods within a free market system?
7. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) has been increasingly popular in urban planning. How can GIS and geospatial analysis be utilized to monitor, evaluate and predict social equity conditions related to displacement?
8. In addition to quantitative data from censuses, surveys, and remote sensing, qualitative approaches such as storytelling, art and filming can capture detailed elements of displacement. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using quantitative data to research social equity studies in displacement? How will new formats and sources of data allow a better understanding of current issues?
9. Public participation is a popular topic in planning studies and an essential element in planning process. How can participatory actions be optimized for benefiting communities involved in displacement?

## Partner Organizations

Below are a selection of organizations in the Puget Sound area that are working at the intersection of urban planning and social equity. Some of these organizations might be open to working with students on a thesis or professional project relevant to their mission.

Name	Topic	Contact Name	Contact Email
<a href="#">ArtSpace</a>	Affordable (artist) housing	Kelley Lindquist <i>President</i>	<a href="mailto:kelley.lingquist@artspace.org">kelley.lingquist@artspace.org</a>
<a href="#">HomeSight</a>	Affordable housing	Tony To <i>Exe Director</i>	<a href="mailto:tony@homesightwa.org">tony@homesightwa.org</a>
<a href="#">Seattle Housing Authority</a>	Affordable housing	Anne Fiske-Zuniga <i>Deputy Exec Dir. Development</i>	<a href="mailto:Anne.FiskeZuniga@seattlehousing.org">Anne.FiskeZuniga@seattlehousing.org</a>
<a href="#">Seattle Office of Housing</a>	Affordable housing	Steve Walker <i>Director</i>	<a href="mailto:Steve.Walker@seattle.gov@seattle.gov">Steve.Walker@seattle.gov@seattle.gov</a>
<a href="#">Seattle Department of Neighborhoods</a>	Community development	Bernie Matsuno <i>Director</i>	<a href="mailto:bernie.matsuno@seattle.gov">bernie.matsuno@seattle.gov</a>
<a href="#">Community Capital Development</a>	Economic development	Josephine Tamayo Murray <i>Board President</i>	<a href="mailto:info@seattleccd.com">info@seattleccd.com</a>
<a href="#">Rainier Valley Chamber of Commerce</a>	Economic development	E.J. Gong <i>Board President</i>	<a href="mailto:mail@rainierchamber.com">mail@rainierchamber.com</a>
<a href="#">MLK Business Association</a>	Economic development	Julie Pham <i>Board Chair</i>	<a href="http://www.mlkba.org/contact/">http://www.mlkba.org/contact/</a>
<a href="#">Mercy Corps Northwest</a>	Economic development	John W. Haines <i>Executive Director</i>	<a href="mailto:jhaines@mercycorporsnw.org">jhaines@mercycorporsnw.org</a>
<a href="#">Seattle Office of Economic Development</a>	Economic development	Steve Johnson <i>Director</i>	<a href="mailto:steve.johnson@seattle.gov">steve.johnson@seattle.gov</a>
<a href="#">Rainier Valley Community Development Fund</a>	Economic development	Wayne Lau <i>Executive Director</i>	<a href="mailto:wlaui@rvcdf.org">wlaui@rvcdf.org</a>
<a href="#">PolicyLink</a>	Economic and Equity Research	Angela Glover Blackwell <i>Founder and CEO</i>	<a href="mailto:Otilia@policylink.org">Otilia@policylink.org</a>
<a href="#">Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition</a>	Environmental justice	James Rasmussen, <i>DRCC/TAG Coordinator</i>	<a href="mailto:contact@duwamishcleanup.org">contact@duwamishcleanup.org</a>
<a href="#">Washington CASH</a>	Social capital/financing	Beto Yarce <i>Interim Executive Director</i>	<a href="mailto:beto@washingtoncash.org">beto@washingtoncash.org</a>
<a href="#">Craft 3</a>	Social capital/financing	John Berdes <i>President &amp; CEO</i>	<a href="mailto:jberdes@craft3.org">jberdes@craft3.org</a>
<a href="#">Impact Capital</a>	Social capital/financing	Judith Olsen <i>Executive Director</i>	<a href="mailto:judith@impactcapital.org">judith@impactcapital.org</a>
<a href="#">HopeLink</a>	Social services, transit	Lauren Thomas <i>CEO</i>	<a href="mailto:hopelink@hope-link.org">hopelink@hope-link.org</a>
<a href="#">Transit Riders Union</a>	Transit advocacy	General Secretary <i>Katie Wilson</i>	<a href="mailto:contact@transitriders.org">contact@transitriders.org</a>
<a href="#">Puget Sound Sage</a>	Labor rights, community development	David West <i>Executive Director</i>	<a href="mailto:dwest@pugetsoundsage.org">dwest@pugetsoundsage.org</a>

<a href="#">Seattle Department of Planning and Development</a>	Equity in Comprehensive Planning	Tom Hauger <i>Comprehensive Plan Manager</i>	<a href="mailto:tom.hauger@seattle.gov">tom.hauger@seattle.gov</a>
<a href="#">Congress for the New Urbanism, Cascadia Chapter</a>	Inclusive walkable, livable community design	Bill Lennertz <i>Board President</i>	<a href="mailto:cnucinfo@cnucascadia.org">cnucinfo@cnucascadia.org</a>
<a href="#">Office of Housing Community Cornerstones</a>	Community Development	Nora Liu <i>Chair Multicultural Planning</i> Ryan Curren <i>Chair TOD Funding</i>	<a href="http://www.seattle.gov/housing/Cornerstones/default.htm">http://www.seattle.gov/housing/Cornerstones/default.htm</a>
<a href="#">Puget Sound Regional Council</a>	<a href="#">Growing Transit Communities Project</a>	Sara Maxana <i>North Corridor</i>	<a href="mailto:smaxana@psrc.org">smaxana@psrc.org</a>
<a href="#">The Health Atlas; Plan for a Healthy LA</a>	Health Equity and Planning	Beth Altshuler	<a href="mailto:healthplanla@gmail.com">healthplanla@gmail.com</a>

### Sample Introductory Email

We encourage you to reach out to the organizations listed above to assess their capacity for partnering with students. Feel free to use the sample introductory email below when making initial contact with these organizations.

Dear (**ORGANIZATION/CONTACT**),

My name is (**YOUR NAME**) and I am a student at the (**UNIVERSITY**). I understand that one of the goals of the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association is to connect university research to the needs of organizations working to advance social equity in our region.

Since (**ORGANIZATION**) is doing important work at the intersection of urban planning and social equity, I was wondering if you were open to partnering with urban planning university students looking to do independent research or a thesis related to your mission.

Organizations can partner with students in a variety of ways. For example, (**ORGANIZATION**) can simply provide data or provide students with research oversight.

I'd love to describe the mutually beneficial possibilities of partnering in more detail. Are you free for a phone call or coffee date on (**DAY**)?

I hope to hear from you soon.

(**NAME**)

(**CONTACT INFORMATION**)

## Articles and Resources

Here are a selection of journal articles, books, reports and other resources to inform your understanding of social equity and urban planning.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Format</b>
1	<i>The Geography of Opportunity</i>	de Souza Briggs	Book
2	<i>The Paradox of Urban Space</i>	Sutton, Kemp	Book
3	<i>The Black Metropolis in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</i>	Bullard	Book
4	<a href="#">Disorientation Guide</a>	Planners Network	Guide
5	<a href="#">Local Land Use Regulation and the Chain of Exclusion</a>	Pendall	Article
6	<a href="#">The Geography of Inequality in the US, 195--2000</a>	Massey, Fischer	Article
7	<a href="#">Racial Enclaves and Density Zoning: The Institutionalized Segregation of Racial Minorities in the United States</a>	Rothwell	Article
8	<a href="#">Equity Development Toolkit</a>	PolicyLink	Toolkit
9	<a href="#">Affordable Housing and Smart Growth: Making the Connection</a>	Arigoni	Report
10	<a href="#">Finding Common Ground: Coordinating Housing and Education to Promote Integration</a>	Tegeler	Report
11	<a href="#">Building policy from the ground up: Regionalism, equitable development, and developing new leaders</a>	Glover Blackwell	Essay
12	<i>Writings on Cities</i> (including “Right to the City”)	Lefebvre	Book
13	<i>Towards Cosmopolis: Planning for Multicultural Cities</i>	Sandercock	Book
14	<a href="#">Older Smaller Better</a> : Measuring how the character of buildings and blocks influences urban vitality	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Report
15	<a href="#">Transformative Community Planning: Empowerment Through Community Development</a>	Kennedy	Article
16	<a href="#">Seattle Healthy Living Assessment</a>	Sharon Lerman	Report