

RUTGERS

Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

**RALPH W. VOORHEES CENTER
FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

2021/2022

Annual Report



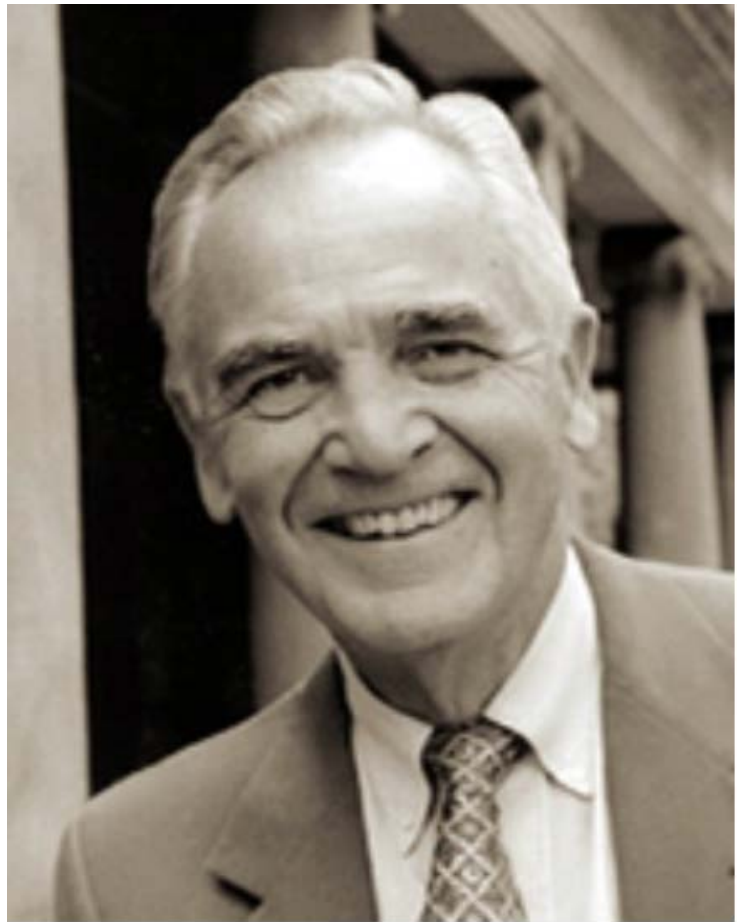
Artwork by Andrea (Zixuan) He

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ABOUT RALPH W. VOORHEES



Ralph W. Voorhees was a 1948 graduate of Rutgers University, where he was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honorary society. Mr. Voorhees was senior vice president for investments at Paine Weber, served as a member of ASA Holdings Inc.'s Board of Directors, and as chairman of the boards of the United Way of Central New Jersey, Family Counseling Services of Middlesex County, the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, and the New Brunswick Cultural Center. At Rutgers, he was chairman of the University Foundation and served on the University Foundation's Board of Overseers. He was inducted into the Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni and received the Presidential Recognition and the Loyal Son of Rutgers Awards. He served as a member of the Voorhees College Board of Trustees where he received the Keeper of the Flame Award for continuing his family's legacy of supporting the college. Mr. Voorhees lived in Highland Park, NJ where his activities spanned health, urban renewal and education and then in New Brunswick. A sterling example of volunteerism and civic engagement at its very best, Mr. Voorhees dedicated many years to service in several areas of university and community life, demonstrating vision, unquestionable altruism, and outstanding success as a philanthropic leader.

ABOUT THE RALPH W. VOORHEES CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

In honor of Mr. Voorhees' vision, civic engagement and service contributions, in 2011 the Voorhees family established the Ralph W. Voorhees Center for Civic Engagement at the Bloustein School. A collaborative effort of university faculty and students and community development actors, the center enhances educational opportunities, facilitates innovative research and engages with communities. The center conducts community based research and is an important place for the discussion of urban problems and innovative policy and practice solutions. The center seeks to

- enhance dialogue and discussion among communities, government, students, and scholars
- increase community development capacity
- conduct research on urban problems and in partnership with communities
- enhance educational opportunities in and outside of the classroom
- support the development of innovative responsive public policy and practice, and
- encourage innovation and entrepreneurship

Since 2011, the Center has

- conducted research about community food security, foreclosure, affordable housing, non-school barriers to children's success in school, and the needs of aging adults
- employed and trained more than 90 undergraduates, masters, and doctoral students
- raised approximately \$1.5 million dollars
- organized 4 large convenings and many smaller ones to discuss research and urban issues

The Center can be found online at rwv.rutgers.edu and on Instagram @voorheescivicengagement



ADVISORY BOARD

An advisory board comprised of Scott Voorhees, Susan Voorhees Hunt, Steven Allard, Alle Ries, and Amy Michael guides and supports Center work.

The Center draws on the inspiration, passion, brilliance, energy, and creativity of Professor Janet Smith, who served as advisory board chair.

CENTER AND PROJECT SPONSORS AND FUNDERS

Family of Ralph W. Voorhees

City of Elizabeth

Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and
Public Policy Advisory Committee Seed Grant
Fund for New Jersey

Jewish Federation of Northern NJ

Johnson & Johnson Corporation

Louisville Institute

NeighborWorks America

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Rutgers University Community Engagement Grant

Rutgers University Provost

Rutgers University

The Nicholson Foundation

The Taub Foundation

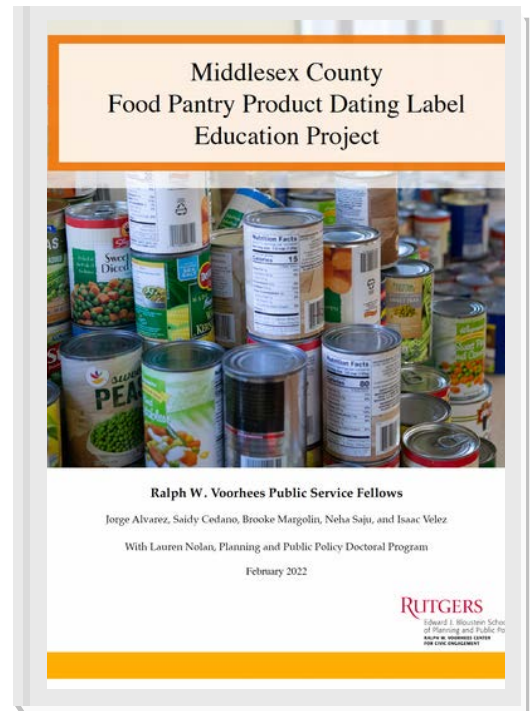
Urban Studies Foundation



RALPH W. VOORHEES PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWS

The Ralph W. Voorhees Public Service Fellowships are awarded annually to students who have chosen to focus their academic pursuits on civically-engaged learning through research projects in community development and planning, community-based education, entrepreneurship, housing, public transportation, public health or public policy.

Five Ralph W. Voorhees Public Service Fellows worked with MCFOODS, the Middlesex County Food Bank during the 2021-2022 academic year to gather a baseline of information about the state of food product date labeling knowledge within food pantries. Middlesex County educators and waste managers will use this information as they develop a coordinated education and awareness plan to expand food security and improve waste management.



ABOUT THE VOORHEES FELLOWS



Jorge Alvarez is majoring in Public Health with a minor in Biological Sciences. Jorge is passionate about learning about the U.S. healthcare system to create spaces for marginalized people. Jorge was a participant and Site Leader with Rutgers Alternative Breaks where he discovered his passion for serving others. As an avid mental health advocate, he served three years on Active Minds at Rutgers E-board. Jorge works to destigmatize mental illness by shadowing psychiatrists and works as a Patient Monitor at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, where he cares for people experiencing mental health conditions. During Fall 2020, Jorge served as a Research Intern with @columbia where he worked on a federal pilot program that served Medicaid clients with mental health and substance use issues. He was the International Veterinary Health Intern with Merck Animal Health. He works with others to provide countries experiencing outbreaks of transboundary diseases like FMD and Rabies with the necessary vaccines. Jorge enjoys making TikToks about his experiences as a first-gen pre-med and healing (@jorgealvarez), where he has grown his platform to +3000 amazing supporters. After Rutgers, Jorge plans to pursue a post-baccalaureate science master's program (SMP) to obtain his Master's in Biomedical Sciences and medical school.



Saily Cedano is a senior at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy majoring in Public Policy, minoring in Women's and Gender Studies, and is completing a certificate in Women's Leadership. Saily is dedicated to improving urban policymaking, minority youth civic engagement, and community-based organizing. She is a summer research intern at Brown University's Leadership Alliance Program, where she researched disenfranchised communities' relationship with their governments to highlight the need for accountable policy-making practices that support vulnerable and disempowered populations. As a Ronald E. McNair Research Scholar, she investigated the impact of socioeconomic class and racial/ethnic identity on minority youth life navigation and political action through year-long collaborations with the Rutgers SECD Lab and support from the Rutgers Interdisciplinary Research Team Fellowship. Saily has been the Verbal Mayhem Poetry Collective's Community Outreach Chair and organized in-community service projects, volunteered at the New York Legal Assistance Group as a translator for recent refugee-seekers from Central and South America, and mentored and tutored New Brunswick Middle and High School students, where she led biweekly youth development workshops on accessing college education. Saily was a project intern at New Brunswick Tomorrow, where she researched models for increasing minority youth civic participation. She spearheaded youth poetry workshops with New Brunswick High School, where students used creative writing to engage in self-reflection and practice policy advocacy tools. Saily plans to expand on her internship experience by designing a social action project with the Rutgers University Institute for Women's Leadership that will assist local youth with researching policy interventions they are passionate about.



Brooke Margolin is a senior in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences' Honors Program and the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy majoring in Public Health, minoring in Political Science and Women's & Gender Studies, and pursuing a certificate in Health Disparities. She is simultaneously working towards her MPH in Epidemiology at the Rutgers School of Public Health. She is an Undergraduate Associate at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, a Rutgers Scholar at the Intelligence Community – Center for Academic Excellence, and a G.H. Cook Scholar. She is a Programming and Development Intern at the New Brunswick Development Corporation and a HealthMap Intern at Boston Children's Hospital's Innovation and Digital Health Accelerator. She previously interned at GlobeMed Headquarters, Rutgers Global Health Institute, and RU's Center for Women's Global Leadership. Brooke is President of the Rutgers Global Health Institute's Student Council, Student Advisory Panel Member of the Rutgers University Climate Task Force, Vice President of Triota – Women's & Gender Studies National Honor Society, Director of Community Outreach of GlobeMed at RU, and Global Awareness Representative of She's the First – RU. She is a Senior Fellow for the Pandemic Task Force at Eagleton's Miller Center for Community Protection and Resilience and a Research Assistant for Dr. Johanna Schoen's NIH-funded, multi-institutional research on the eugenic sterilization of women in North Carolina. Brooke has been a Teaching Assistant and Alternative Break Site Leader for the Honors College Byrne Seminar, "Hunger and Food Insecurity in New Brunswick."



Neha Saju is pursuing a dual major in History and Political Science with minors in French and Women's and Gender Studies. She is a Leadership Scholar with the Institute of Women's Leadership, a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow, and an Eagleton Undergraduate Associate. As an intern with the Center for American Women and Politics and the Center for Youth Political Participation, she helped design the RU Voting National Microsite. As an Aresty Research Assistant with Dr. Beth C. Rubin, she worked on The Civically Engaged Districts Project. She is the Chief Copy Editor of the Aresty Undergraduate Research Journal, Secretary of Pi Sigma Alpha (the political science honors society), and a correspondent for the Inside Beat section of The Daily Targum. She led a first-year seminar on Law and Leadership in the Political Science Department. Neha is dedicated to service. She has been a participant, site leader, and executive board member with the Rutgers University Alternative Breaks program and has worked with the Rutgers Collaborative Center for Community Based Research and Service and Youth Empowerment Services, a community organization in New Brunswick. A lover of fantasy novels and language learning, Neha hopes to study law after graduating from the School of Arts & Sciences in 2022.



Isaac Alejandro Velez is a student in the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and the School of Arts and Sciences studying Public Policy and Political Science. Velez is interested in the intersection of politics, policy, and economics and their effects on working families and underserved communities. As an Undergraduate Associate at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Velez studies the application of politics in government and community engagement. As a former member of the Rutgers University Student Assembly, he instituted and formalized a process for minority communities that have a disproportionate amount of police contact to hold voting positions on the Rutgers University Police Department Hiring Board. In 2018, he interned for the Fairfax County, VA Board of Supervisors, and, in 2019, he interned for Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (VA-10), where he supported constituent service programs and outreach. Velez currently serves as the State and Federal Policy intern at Results for America, where he advocates for data-driven and evidence-based policies, practices, and budgets. He was the Political Director of a Congressional campaign for NJ-10, and a volunteer for Virginia Governor Ralph Northam. Passionate about promoting policies that stimulate upwards economic mobility, Velez is pursuing a Master's degree in Public Policy at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. He hopes to attain a JD to protect vulnerable communities.

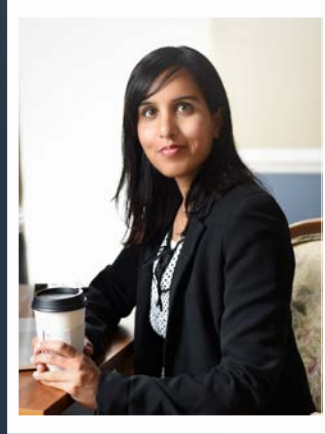
RALPH W. VOORHEES CENTER TEAM



Cara Cuite, PhD
Assistant Professor



James DeFilippis, PhD
Professor



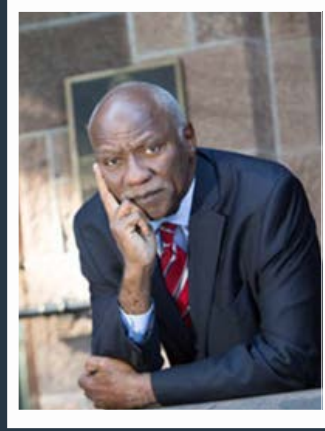
Nadia Mian, PhD
Senior Program Director



Kathe Newman, PhD
Professor, Director



Will Payne, PhD
Assistant Professor



Ron Quincy, PhD
Professor of Practice



Eric Seymour, PhD
Assistant Professor



Mi Shih, PhD
Assistant Professor



Naomi Uchida
Fulbright Visiting
Professor

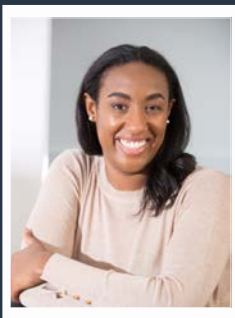
STUDENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATES



John F. Bonilla
MCRP Candidate 2023



Esther Colon
RISE Fellow 2022



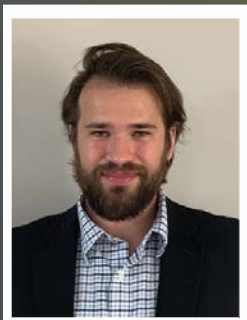
Erica Copeland
MCRP Candidate 2023



Malembe Dumont
Copero
MCRP 2021



Kyle Cruz
MCRP Candidate 2023



William Downie
MCRP Candidate 2023



Mila Hamilton
MCRP Candidate 2023



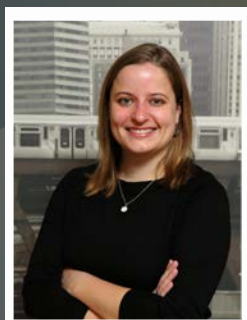
Andrea He
MCRP 2022



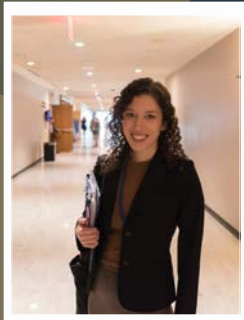
Wael Kanj
MCRP Candidate 2023



Ananya Kashyap
MCRP 2021



Lauren Nolan
Doctoral Candidate



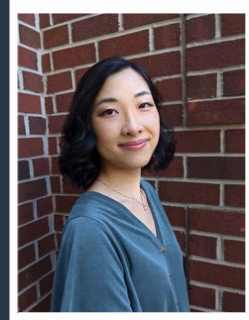
Elana Simon
MCRP 2022
MPI Candidate 2022



Smriti Singh
MCRP Candidate 2023



John Fidel
Klarke Smith
MCRP Candidate 2023



Natalie Tse
MCRP 2021



Ooha Uppalapati
MCRP 2022



Tiffany Yong
Rutgers Collaborative
Center

STUDENT RESEARCHER PROFILES



LAUREN NOLAN
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE

My motivation for pursuing my PhD is to better understand the ways in which change and inequality impact communities and urban landscapes. My dissertation focuses on the changing geography of goods movement and the impact of the expansion of warehousing and distribution facilities on local communities and planning processes. The changing nature of goods movement and the growth of e-commerce have placed strategically-situated communities at the center of debates over the benefits of such facilities and the environment and infrastructural costs they impose, raising questions about who bears these costs, who reaps the benefits, and how planning decisions are being made. I am working on a case study of recent distribution facility construction in Chicago's south suburbs, which I will present at the Negotiating Social Futures case study conference. I am also working with Kathe Newman, Eric Seymour, and Will Payne on a project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that seeks to understand rental housing challenges in New Jersey.

I received a Master of City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania in 2011. Prior to starting my PhD at Rutgers, I was the Director of Research at the Woodstock Institute, a Chicago-based nonprofit research and policy organization working in the areas of fair lending, wealth creation, and financial systems reform. I also previously served as a researcher for the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement at the University of Illinois at Chicago where I also taught in the undergraduate urban studies/public policy program.



ESTHER COLON
RISE FELLOW

My motivation for doing research in the field of urban studies is to understand the different processes of urban change, specifically those related to my neighborhood in Puerto Rico, and to understand the different ways in which these processes affect the people who live in the neighborhood. I'm working with Kathe Newman and Eric Seymour on a project about housing insecurity in New Jersey, as part of the RISE summer program. I'm investigating recent changes in population, housing, transportation, and commerce in different neighborhoods within Hudson County that, according to project interviewees, have suggested that these communities are experiencing gentrification. At the University of Puerto Rico, as part of the Honors Studies Program, I am completing a dissertation in urban anthropology with Carmen A. Pérez-Herranz about the recent process of gentrification in the neighborhood of Santurce. Through these various research projects, I hope to help create neighborhoods with more social justice.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

State of New Jersey Affordable Rental Housing (NJSOARH)

Eric Seymour, Kathe Newman, Will Payne, Lauren Nolan, Joel Kantor, Nadia Mian, Jonathan F. Bonilla, Lily Chang, Erica Copeland, William Downie, Mila Hamilton, Smriti Singh, John Smith, Ooha Uppalapati, Lily Chang, and Esther Colon

With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Professors Eric Seymour, Kathe Newman and Will Payne and undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students are studying affordable rental housing in NJ and processes that shape housing insecurity. The team is conducting interviews, gathering and synthesizing administrative data about housing assistance, and surveying the state of rent control in NJ municipalities. The team is currently concluding the planning phase by convening an advisory committee, planning research report and issue brief releases, and considering a process to identify a set of rapid research projects.

Faith-based Affordable Housing

Nadia Mian, Kyle Cruz

Nadia Mian was awarded a grant by the Louisville Institute to study faith-based affordable housing. The research study is examining how US faith-based institutions use their property to build affordable housing, and at the same time advocate for and change land use, zoning and housing policy.

Landscape Analysis of Shared Equity Housing

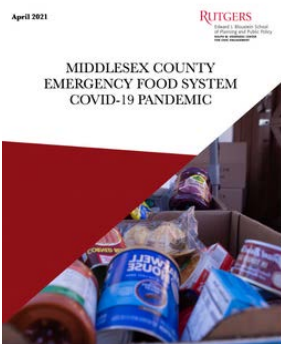
James DeFilippis, Erica Copeland, Mila Hamilton, Celeste Royo, and John Smith

The team is conducting a nationwide "landscape analysis" of the field of shared equity housing for the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF). CDF is interested in moving into co-op and other forms of shared equity housing, and we will be providing a "state of the field" analysis for them as they move into this work.

Housing Insecurity and Health in Orange, NJ

Eric Seymour, Kathe Newman, Lauren Nolan, Ananya Kasyap, Natalie Tse, Ooha Uppalapati

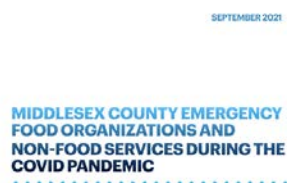
Eric Seymour and Kathe Newman with students Lauren Nolan, Ananya Kasyap, Natalie Tse, and Ooha Uppalapati explored how we think about the intersection of housing insecurity and health in Orange, NJ. They studied how we understand housing insecurity and the processes that shape it. They focused on historical and spatial patterns of disinvestment and segregation, reinvestment and rising housing costs, and labor markets and the geography of work. The team received support from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Public Policy's Advisory Board and the Rutgers Research Council. The work contributes to and complicates the way we think about the social determinants of health to more clearly reveal the complex relations between place, work, housing, and health.



Middlesex County Emergency Food System Covid-19 Pandemic

Rohit Aita, Lily Chang, Josepina Libero, Kinnary Shah, and Wamia Siddiqui with Evan Iacobucci, Wael Kanj, Nadia Mian, Cara Cuite, and Kathe Newman

The 2021 Voorhees Fellows examined how emergency food providers in Middlesex County, New Jersey changed their practices during the pandemic. Their report looks at how food pantries navigated challenges related to food demand, supply, and distribution, and highlights the experiences of individual pantries.



Middlesex County Emergency Food Organizations and Non-Food Services During the Covid Pandemic

Tiffany Yong, Nadia Mian, Kathe Newman and Cara Cuite

In partnership with the RU Collaborative Center for Community-based Research and Service, and REPLENISH, the Middlesex County Food Bank, Tiffany Yong, along with Nadia Mian, Kathe Newman, and Cara Cuite, explored the non-food challenges that food pantries confronted during the pandemic and how pantry staff navigated demand for services through July of 2021. The report identifies the type of information that might be useful to food pantries moving forward.

Digital Case Studies: An Innovative Pedagogy to Diversity and Global Urbanism in Planning Curricula

Mi Shih, Kathe Newman, Andrea He, and Elana Simon

Professors Mi Shih and Kathe Newman and masters students Andrea He and Elana Simon are developing digital case studies to address challenges of diversity and global urbanism in urban planning curricula. The team is focusing on tensions related to the politics of land and value. Working with graduate students and instructional technology specialists, the team will launch a set of 2-4 digital case studies in 2022. The objective is to create a robust pedagogical approach to learning that synthesizes the benefits of innovative technologies, critical thinking, and experiential learning.

Research in Brief

Food Pantry Practices During the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Voorhees Center released a new research brief that highlights the challenges faced by pantries during the Covid-19 pandemic.

FACULTY AND STAFF PROFILES



James DeFilippis
Professor

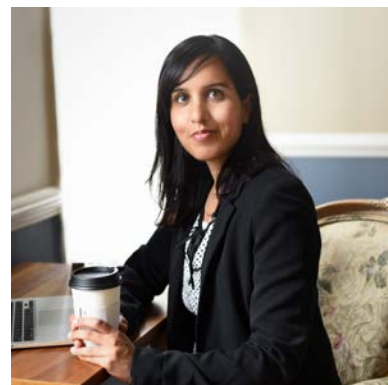
I am working on several projects. The first is a book called *Social Justice and the Immigrant City*, which is focusing on Queens, NY. Queens is the most diverse county in the United States, and is 47% foreign born. The book encompasses very detailed discussions of efforts for social justice around: housing, neighborhoods/ communities, labor/ work, electoral politics, and immigration law and the state.

I have published a couple of articles out of that work, including a recent one about the fight over Amazon's planned – and defeated/ withdrawn – HQ2 in Long Island City, Queens.

I am also co-authoring a book about community land trusts (CLTs) with Jeffrey Lowe (Texas Southern) and Olivia Williams (Madison Area CLT). The book is designed to be used by practitioners, policy-makers, and advocates, and is focused on the issues, complications, difficulties, and contradictions in CLT work. I am a founding member of the New York City Community Land Initiative (NYCCLI), and also a founding member of the Western Queens CLT. So I have long been involved in CLT work, and this book – as a collaboration with a practitioner and another practice-oriented academic – is a logical project for me.

Third, I am doing an almost completely revised edition of the *Community Development Reader*. I was inspired to revise the reader because of the excellent students we have had in Bloustein the last several years, who I feel, are part of a transformation of the field of community development that is underway. I want the Reader to fit into this transformed field. Finally, I am doing a project with a set of students – Erica Copeland, Mila Hamilton, Celeste Royo, and John Smith – which is a landscape analysis of the field of shared equity housing for the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF). CDF is interested in moving into co-op and other forms of shared equity housing, and we will be providing a “state of the field” analysis for them as they move into this work.

I have a PhD in Geography from Rutgers. I taught at King's College London and Baruch College (CUNY) before returning to Rutgers to teach in Bloustein. I am the author or editor of six books, and more than 50 articles and book chapters. I have also written many reports, white papers, and short articles in outlets like *Shelterforce*.



Nadia Mian, Senior Program Director and Lecturer

My research broadly focuses on the role of non-profit organizations in neighborhood change and community development, specifically faith-based development. I am conducting a study that examines the role of houses of worship across the country in building affordable housing on their property, and how they advocate for and change land use and zoning policy. Faith-based organizations have always been involved in community development, including housing, but as congregations struggle with declining attendance and large, underutilized properties, many houses of worship are looking at how they can repurpose their buildings to continue their mission work and remain vital members of the community. My research looks at how municipalities are changing zoning regulations by creating religious overlay zones and reducing parking requirements to allow houses of worship to build affordable housing. I have also found that municipalities are creating capacity building programs for houses of worship to explore their property's development potential. The result is a change in neighborhood dynamics as houses of worship become active partners and stakeholders in the provision of affordable housing.

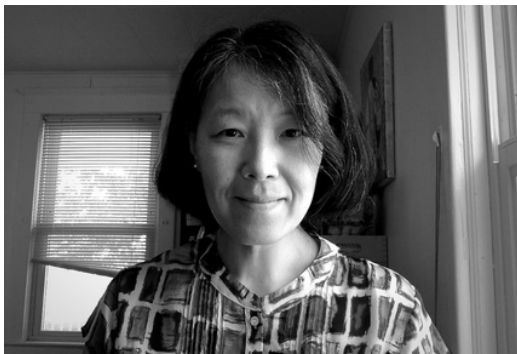
I am active in planning in my community and volunteer on the Environmental Commission and Economic Development Advisory Committee. I am working on a streetscape plan that will increase pedestrian and bike trails, and create design standards in the Township, and I just finished collaborating on an inclusive mobility plan that improves physical infrastructure, programs and services for individuals with disabilities.



**Eric Seymour,
Assistant Professor**

My principal area of research is rental housing insecurity in New Jersey. With Kathe Newman and Will Payne, we are working to understand the range of rental housing issues across the state, with a focus on barriers to producing and preserving housing affordable to lower-income households and barriers households confront accessing and retaining quality affordable units. NJ is a diverse state in terms of housing markets, from increasingly high-cost cities in North Jersey where renters are being priced out or forced to pay an unsustainable share of income, to rural communities and cities with weaker housing markets where tenants also face fewer quality options they can afford. With the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the participation of organizations to help shape the research, we will be working on this project for the next two years.

I am continuing research on changes in US housing markets following the foreclosure crisis, with attention to the resurgence of high-risk contract sales in weak markets like Detroit and the emergence of large single-family rental companies operating principally in Sunbelt cities. I am continuing work on rental housing investment and evictions during and preceding the pandemic in Las Vegas, which has one of the highest concentrations of single-family landlords. I received my PhD in urban planning from Taubman College at the University of Michigan in 2016, where I focused on mortgage and tax foreclosure in metro Detroit, after which I worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Population Studies and Training Center at Brown University.



Mi Shih, Assistant Professor

My research focuses on two major areas. One is the politics of land development and calculative practices in Taiwan. I look at various density bonusing programs, transfer of development rights mechanisms, and land readjustment techniques, etc. I try to understand how these regulatory tools produce a kind of calculative politics where land is increasingly seen as a reservoir of money from which monetary value can be extracted to provide not only private profits but also public benefits, often overlooking contradictions that may exist between those ends. Vertical urbanism has become a salient feature of cities in Taiwan. The material landscape is a direct outcome of these regulatory tools and calculative practices. The result is an extremely speculative real estate market and worsening housing affordability.

I have also recently begun case study research of a squatter settlement, called Treasure Hill, in Taipei. The focus is to interrogate the years-long and highly contested process of participatory, action-based planning through which community planners and residents negotiated the politics of occupation of public land in order to give value to self-built housing, community networks, and the material landscape of urban autoconstruction.

With Kathe Newman, we will be hosting an in-person case study conference on the politics of land development and value capture. This conference is part of a three-event similar series supported by the Urban Studies Foundation. I plan to present the Treasure Hill case study at the conference.

I received my PhD in urban planning from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University in 2010, where I studied social conflicts over inner city redevelopment and residential relocation in Shanghai, China. I was then a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Technology, Sydney. Before I joined the Bloustein School in 2014, I was an assistant professor in the urban planning program at the University of Alberta, Canada.

EVENTS

Negotiating Social Futures Conference Series

The Negotiating Social Futures seminar series, supported by the Urban Studies Foundation and hosted by Professors Mi Shih and Kathe Newman, focuses on the politics of land and value and what it means for the city's social future when public policy objectives are addressed through negotiated land deals and capture techniques. The series kicked off with a two-day virtual paper conference on September 23-24, 2021 that drew an international group of more than 90 who participated as panelists, discussants, and attendees. Following the formal conference, the team hosted an early career training opportunity. The series then offered a virtual mini-workshop on case study methodologies in January 2022 for scholars participating in the September 22-23, 2022 case study conference to be held at the Bloustein School. Mi Shih and Kathe Newman are editing a special theme journal issue about the politics of land and value with a set of scholars who participated in the September 2021 Negotiating Social Futures conference. And they are working on a book proposal about the politics of land and value with the participants of the September 2022 case study conference.



Pantries and Pandemics

A poster for a virtual event titled "Pantries and Pandemics: Let's Rise to the Challenge of Food Insecurity". The poster features the Rutgers logo at the top left. Below it is a photo of a food pantry with people in yellow shirts. The text on the poster includes: "Did you know food pantries continued serving during the pandemic?", "Learn about community resilience and connect with organizations!", "Pantries and Pandemics: Let's Rise to the Challenge of Food Insecurity", "Friday, October 1, 2021", "12:00 pm - 1:00 pm", "Virtual event - Join with Zoom", "Register now at getInvolved to receive a link!", "In partnership with Scarlet Knight Challenge & Rutgers Ralph W. Voorhees Center for Civic Engagement", and a QR code. The featured speakers are Dr. Nadia Mian (Rutgers Ralph W. Voorhees Center for Civic Engagement), Jennifer Apostol (Replenish, Nourishing Neighbors), and Mario Vargas (Suydam Street Reformed Church).

The Ralph W. Voorhees Center participated in a joint virtual event with the Rutgers Collaborative Center for Community-Based Research and Service on October 1, 2021 for Rutgers undergraduates who are interested in engaging on issues of community food security. NJ Bonner AmeriCorps member and RWVC research affiliate Tiffany Yong hosted a panel focused on community resiliency, food pantries, and food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Panel participants included Jennifer Apostol, Director of REPLENISH, Nourishing Neighbors, Mario Vargas from Suydam Street Reformed Church Food Pantry, and Nadia Mian from the Ralph W. Voorhees Center for Civic Engagement.

10-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

RALPH W. VOORHEES PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWS



2022-2023

Arielle Cohen
Anamika Desai
Nina Gohel
Shreya Gupta
Taha Umar

2018-2019

Riley Link
Curtis McDaniel
Daniel Rodriguez
Sabeen Rokerya

2014-2015

Francine Glaser
Ruthie Goldstein
Ashley Mena
Kellie Palomba
Saad Shamshair

2010-2011

Weis Baher
Natasha Ramsey
Rachel Swanson
Diana Won

2021-2022

Jorge Alvarez
Saidy Cedano
Brooke Margolin
Neha Saju
Isaac Velez

2017-2018

Ananyasri Thiriveedhi
Anjanette Vaidya
Sarah Lin
Naweed Karimi
Camille Charles

2013-2014

Abdul Abad
Katherine Fudacz
Kevin Dahaghi
Erin Maguire
Sarathi Tuli

2009-2010

Victoria Gilbert
Drew Hart
Michael Lamm
Ashley Sawyer

2020-2021

Rohit Aita
Lily Chang
Josie Libero
Kinnary Shah
Wamia Siddiqui

2016-2017

Antoinette Gingerelli
Rhiannon Jones
Vanessa Raymond
Esther Rose-Wilen
Patrice Williams

2012-2013

Nolan Patel
Tyler Seville
Jeanifer Uwaecheie
Sarah Yeung
Cynthia Willems

2019-2020

Hina Arshad
Nashia Basit
Cassie Bolinger
Aiza Nageeb
Julien Rosenbloom

2015-2016

Ana Bonilla-Martinez
Daniela Ortega
Reshma Parikh
Katarina Piasevoli
Abigail Thompson

2011-2012

Chike Achebe
Anita Kambhampati
Harini Kidambi
Ronit Leib
Katherine Nosker
Alexandra Tereshonkova

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROJECTS AND RISE

Lily Chang, (former Voorhees Fellow) completed her Bloustein Honors Research project on student housing in New Brunswick, NJ

Esther Colon, RISE Fellow is exploring gentrification in three communities in Hudson County, NJ

STUDENT RESEARCHERS

Extraordinarily talented undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students have worked on housing and community food security projects



Jonathan F. Bonilla is studying city and regional planning with a concentration in community development, housing and redevelopment. He is interested in sustainable socio-economic development, equitable planning practices and policies addressing racial justice, urban governance, community engagement, and alternative forms of development. Previously, he interned at the Metropolitan Council working climate change, affordable housing, and as an environmental justice for the twin cities region in Minnesota. He has worked on urban issues in Guatemala, South Africa, and Denmark. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from DePauw University.



Erica Copeland is studying city and regional planning with a concentration in community development and housing. She previously worked for several years promoting social equity in urban environments. Most recently, she served as a Housing Fellow with the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, a regional planning agency serving around 2 million residents in Los Angeles County, to encourage affordable housing development. Prior to that position, Erica worked as a community organizer in South L.A. helping local residents advocate for better neighborhoods and as a non-profit program manager focused on educational equity for communities of color. She hopes to continue working with public and private institutions to build more just and livable cities for underrepresented populations.



Malembe Dumont Copero is studying city and regional planning with a concentration in community development and housing and environmental planning. A Fulbright Fellow, she wants to advance resilient, healthy and environmentally just communities and cities. At Bloustein, she was Social Justice Chair and student leader on the Diversity, Belonging, and Inclusion Task Force. She worked for international and local organizations to improve access to basic services for low-income communities living in inadequate housing conditions in Colombia, Mozambique, and the Dominican Republic. She holds a Master's degree in International and Sustainable Development and a Bachelor's in Political Science from Spain. She recently started painting.



Kyle Cruz is graduate student in the Master of City and Regional Planning program at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. He is interested in affordable housing, sustainable land-use, and environmental and social justice. He recently earned a Bachelor's degree in Geography and Urban Studies at Temple University. He has researched pressing issues such as illegal dumping, air pollution, public space evaluation, and emergency rental assistance. Kyle plans on continuing his passion for research by studying the growing relationship between religious institutions and affordable housing. He hopes to become a city planner and create healthy, equitable, and sustainable communities. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family and playing Pokemon Go.



William Downie is studying city and regional with an interest in affordable housing development, equitable economic development, neighborhood revitalization, and brownfield redevelopment in post-industrial communities and wants to help stressed and disadvantaged communities develop in equitable and sustainable ways. Previously, Will worked in city planning in Rhode Island, before moving to the National League of Cities, and then into the legal realm, where we worked on a number of issues related to international trade and industrial policy. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and Political Science from The George Washington University in Washington, DC.



Mila Hamilton is studying city and regional planning with a concentration in community development and housing and an interest in developing pathways for reparative and transformative justice. Previously, they served as a youth worker and educator in Minneapolis in public schools and community-based youth programs. Their focus has been towards co-building racially equitable educational and community spaces. They earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Metropolitan State University and a Master of Education in Youth Development Leadership from the University of Minnesota with an emphasis on youth policy and youth civic engagement. A lifelong Quaker, Mila has a keen awareness and skill towards supporting organizational and community development projects through consensus-based processes.



Andrea (Zixuan) He is studying city and regional planning with a concentration in urban informatics, international development, and spatial design. Previously, she studied Architectural Design and Art History at MassArt in Boston. Exploring art and architecture in different cities led her to pursue urban planning. She likes to illustrate what she sees in cities and bridge the urban environment with her artistic mind.



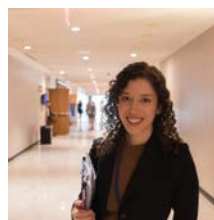
Wael Kanj is studying city and regional planning with a concentration in sustainability and food systems. He is passionate about how urban food systems can promote human, animal, and planetary health. Some of his research interests include how private and public interests in food play out in urban communities, urban food systems adaptation in a changing climate, and the role of community organizations and public institutions in influencing positive change. Previously, Wael worked as an analytics and strategy consultant for a variety of nonprofits, progressive advocacy organizations, and higher education institutions. He received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Rutgers.



Ananya Kashyap is studying city and regional planning with a dual concentration in community development and housing and urban design and redevelopment. She is interested in housing affordability and insecurity and its intersection with climate change, gentrification, and displacement. Previously, Ananya finished a degree in Architecture from the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. Through her work on housing research and design projects, Ananya developed an interest in housing, particularly around the issues of housing informality, insecurity, and affordability.



Lauren Nolan is a doctoral student in planning and policy. Previously, Lauren was the Director of Research for the Woodstock Institute, a nonprofit research and policy organization working in the areas of fair lending, wealth creation, and financial systems reform. She worked as a researcher and economic development planner at the Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement at the University of Illinois at Chicago where she taught a course in Policy Analysis Methods. Lauren is a certified planner and member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.



Elana Simon is studying city and regional planning and informatics with a concentration in community development. She is interested in equitable economic development frameworks, community development finance, and housing development. Previously, she lived in Kaohsiung, Taiwan for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program and later worked for nonprofit organizations in Washington, DC, finding her way to urban planning through volunteer community organizing. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Politics from Whitman College in Washington State.



Smriti Singh is studying city and regional planning and pursuing a concentration in community development and housing. Her research is focused on urban governance, land and housing rights, informality, feminist political economy and social justice. Previously, she worked with a non-profit organization in Delhi, India, where she led pilot projects to improve informal women worker's land tenure security, access to basic infrastructure services and housing finance to improve their economic empowerment. She is part of two city-wide campaigns in Delhi aiming to make city planning processes more representative and inclusive by engaging citizens in the 2041 Master Plan process.



John Fidel Klarke Smith is studying city and regional planning with a concentration in community development, housing and finance. He is interested in development interventions that promote collective ownership, community control, affordable housing, sustainable infrastructure, green builds, retrofits, and increases in union density. Previously, he worked in construction as a carpenter apprentice with Union Local 27 and 183 for four years, as well as in arts and culture as a community organizer. He is co-founder of two community arts and activist spaces in Toronto, 187 Augusta and Tea Base Co-op. He holds a BS in Equity Studies and Psychology from University of Toronto.



Natalie Tse is a recent graduate with a Master of City and Regional Planning degree with a concentration in housing and community development. She is interested in issues of housing affordability and insecurity as well as community engagement. Previously, Natalie received her BS in Urban Studies and Statistics from the University of Pittsburgh, where her passion for urban-related data and issues first blossomed. She loves to cook and bake.



Ooha Uppalapati is studying city and regional planning with a concentration in community development and housing. Previously, Ooha worked with a non-profit in Mumbai, where she researched self-built neighborhoods and their relationship with the urban planning processes in Indian cities. She organised workshops to facilitate exchange of vocabulary of planning practice between the residents and planning documents. She was an Urban Fellow at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements. She pursued architecture during her undergraduate studies and worked with an architectural studio on public infrastructure projects including the Bus Rapid Transit System in Ahmedabad and Amritsar.



Tiffany Yong is a New Jersey Bonner AmeriCorps member and the Food Security Team Leader at Rutgers Collaborative Center. She works with community partners to assess their needs and address food insecurity in Middlesex County. She is a member of the Rutgers Bonner Leader Program and previously held a leadership position as the Communications and Social Media Coordinator. She is a student advisor with Rutgers Institute for Corporate Social Innovations and an event volunteer for Rutgers Student Involvement. Tiffany is a junior in the School of Arts and Sciences, majoring in Information Technology and Informatics and minoring in Art.

STUDENT RESEARCHERS

2011-2019

Shreya Barot, MCRP
Pritpal Bamhrah, MCRP
Alison Blazey, MCRP
Aretousa Bloom, doctoral
Reginald Best, MCRP/JD
Samantha Bowden, doctoral candidate, Geography
Gregory Brodie, MCRP
Daniel Burton, MCRP
Anthony Capece, MCRP
Cailean Carr, MCRP
Laura Chamberlain, MCRP
Xueying Chen, doctoral candidate
Daniel Chiabbaro, MCRP
Lindsey Connors, MCRP
Ryan Cote, MCRP
Kristin Crandall, MCRP
Kate Davidoff, doctoral
Kaitlynn Davis, MCRP
Sarah DeGiorigs, MCRP
Medha Dixit, MCRP
Margaret Dobbs, MCRP
Michael D'Orazio, MCRP
Mary Gaiennie, MCRP
Josh Glickenhause, MCRP
Ryan Good, doctoral
Luis Gonzalez, MCRP
Daniel Harris, MCRP
Breanna Hudson, MCRP
Gregory Hughes II, undergraduate
Vishal Jani, MRP
Sujee Jung, MCRP
Ami Kachalia, Undergraduate Byrne Scholar
Ketki Kularni, MCRP
Sayan Kundu, MCRP
Ronit Leib, MCRP
Justin Lesko, MCRP
Nicole Marrocco, MCRP
Michael McCabe, MCRP

Seth McClerklin, MCRP
Isabel McLoughlin, MCRP
Ashley Mena, undergraduate
Christian Mercado, MCRP
Azka Mohyuddin, Undergraduate Byrne Scholar
Bhavin Patel, MPP/MCRP
Julene Paul, MCRP
Theadora Paulucci, MCRP
Vineela Pentyala, MCRP
Kelly Pflicke, MCRP
Katherine Plotnick, MCRP
Lee Polonsky, doctoral candidate in planning and policy,
Rutgers University
Manas Ranjan, MCRP
Vanessa Raymond, undergraduate
Margaret Ricke, MCRP
Matthew Rigney, MCRP
Annette Ritchie, MCRP
Juan Rivero, doctoral
David Rodriguez, MCRP
Erin Royals, doctoral candidate in geography
Matthew Sarsycki, MCRP
Jakob Schneider, MCRP
Nicholas Shatan, MCRP
Timothy Shek, MCRP
Anjali Srivastava, doctoral
Annelisa Steeber, MPP
Benjamin Teresa, doctoral
Michael Thompson, MCRP
Richard Trent, undergraduate
Katherine Vail, MCRP
Liana Volpe, MCRP
Patricia Voltolini, doctoral
Lorezo Waters, MCRP
Joni-Leigh Webster, MPH
Amy Winter, MCRP
Xunjing Wu, MCRP
Michael Yaffe, MCRP



RESEARCH REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Ralph W. Voorhees Public Service Fellows Reports

Voorhees Fellows: Alvarez, Jorge, Cedano, Saidy, Margolin, Brooke, Saju, Neha, and Velez, Isaac. 2021. *Middlesex County Food Pantry Product Dating Label Education Project*. 36pp.

Voorhees Fellows: Aita, Rohit, Chang, Lily, Libero, Josepina, Shah, Kinnary, Siddiqui, Wamia. 2020. *Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 on People, Pantries and Practices in the Emergency Food System*. 45p.

Voorhees Fellows: Link, Riley, McDaniel, Curtis, Rodriguez, Daniel, and Rokerya, Sabeen with Rosenthal, Amy, Bloom, Aretousa, Leonard, Elizabeth, McClerklin, Seth, Ranjan, Manas, and Newman, Kathe. 2019. *Food Insecurity in Middlesex County*. A report to MCFOODS, the Middlesex County Food Bank. 26pp.

Voorhees Fellows: Camille Charles, Naweed Karimi, Sarah Lin, Ananyasri Thiriveedhi, Anjanette Vaidya. 2018. *Mobile Farmers Markets: Taking Food Access on the Road*. Report for the New Brunswick Community Farmers Market. 23pp.

Voorhees Fellows: Annette Gingerelli, Rhiannon Jones, Vanessa Raymond, Esther Rose-Wilen, and Patrice Williams. 2016. *Community Food Incubation: The Potential to Create Small Food Businesses in New Brunswick*. Report to the Food Economic Development Group of the New Brunswick Community Food Alliance. 43pp.

Voorhees Fellows: Ana G. Bonilla Martinez, Daniela Ortega, Reshma Parikh, Katarina A. Piasevoli, Abigail M. Thompson with Aasish Chhajer, Katharine Nelson, Amy Rosenthal and Kathe Newman and Cara Cuite. 2015. *Study of Food Pantries in New Brunswick, NJ*. A Report to the Feeding New Brunswick Network. 48pp.

Voorhees Fellows: Francine Glaser, Ruthie Goldstein, Ashley Mena, Kellie Palomba, and Saad Shamshair with Daniel Chibbaro, Julene Paul, Matthew Rigney, and Patricia Voltolini. 2014. *Improving Community Food Security in New Brunswick: An overview of food access, education, community economic development, advocacy, and research activity*. A report to Elijah's Promise. 47pp.

Voorhees Fellows: Chike Achebe, Anita Kambhampati, Harini Kidambi, and Alexandra Tereshonkova with Marc Brotman, Athony Capeve, Emily Joiner, Dorothy Kieu Le, Ronit Leib, Doris Nguyen, Katherine Nosker, and Timothy Shek. *Urban Agriculture in New Brunswick*. A report to Elijah's Promise and the New Brunswick Community Food Alliance. 64pp.

Voorhees Fellows: Abdul Abad, Kevin Dahaghi, Katherine Fudacz, Erin Maguire, Sarthu Tuli, and Arielle Wortzel. 2013. *Farm-to-Freezer: An Institutional Guide to Saving Summer's Bounty*. A report to Elijah's Promise.

Voorhees Fellows: Nolan Patel, Tyler Seville, Jennifer Uwaechie Cynthia Willems, and Sarah Yeung; Community Development Studio: Shana Attas, Pritpal Bamhrah, Alison Blazey, Medha Dixit, Margaret Dobbs, Sujee Jung, Kathryn McKelvey, Ghulam Hassan Mir, Joshua Wilcox, and Joseph Zagari. 2012. *A Food Hub in New Brunswick II*. A report to Elijah's Promise, the New Brunswick Community Food Alliance, and New Jersey Community Capital.

Community Development Studios

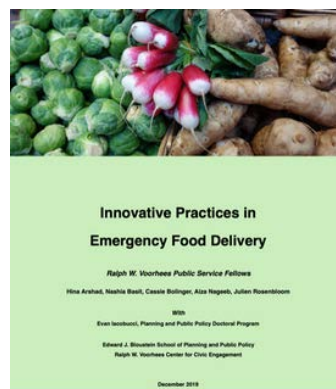
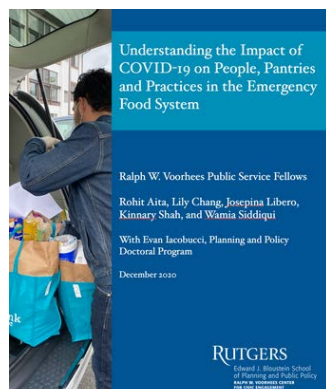
Community Development Studio. 2016. *The Community Economic Potential of the Food System*. Report prepared for Elijah's Promise and Unity Square Neighborhood Revitalization Project. Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University.

Community Development Studio. 2012. *Growing New Brunswick's Food Hub*. A report to Elijah's Promise, New Brunswick Community Food Alliance, and New Jersey Community Capital.

Community Development Studio: 2012. Faust, Benjamin, Jensen, Joshua, McKoy, Brandon, and Sharpe, Charlene. *Revitalizing South Jersey's Food Economy: Rutgers University Food Innovation Center*. Report to the New Brunswick Community Food Alliance.

Reports

Yong, Tiffany, Mian, Nadia, Newman, Kathe and Cara Cuite. 2021 (September). Middlesex County Emergency Food Organizations and Non-Food Services during the Covid Pandemic. Joint project between the Collaborative Center for Community-based Research and Service. Rutgers University, New Brunswick.



Newman, Kathe, Cuite, Cara, and Royals, Erin. Ed. 2017 (September). *New Brunswick Community Food Assessment*. Working Together for a Food Secure New Brunswick Project. A collaborative project of the New Brunswick Community Food Alliance, Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and Johnson & Johnson. 153pp.

- Ch 1. Cuite, Cara, Newman, Kathe, and Royals, Erin. 2017. Working Together for a Food Secure New Brunswick.
- Ch 4. Bellows, Anne, Fenyk, Heather, Finston, Lianne, Newman, Kathe, Cuite, Cara, Voorhees Fellows, Michael, Amy, and Volpe, Liana. Anti-poverty and Food Security Initiatives in New Brunswick.
- Ch 5. Cuite, Cara, Cote, Ryan, and Newman, Kathe. Food-related Programs Across the Lifespan.
- Ch 6. Cuite, Cara, Dixon, Sarah, Errickson, Lauren, Newman, Kathe, and Shatan, Nick. Food Outlets in NB.
- Ch 7. Newman, Kathe, Plotnik, Deborah, and Capece, Anthony. School and Community Gardens
- Ch 8. Bonilla Martinez, Ana G., Ortega, Daniela, Parikh, Reshma, Piasevoli, Katarina, Thompson, Abigail, Newman, Kathe, and Cuite, Cara. Food Pantries and the "Emergency Food System in New Brunswick."
- Ch 9. Newman, Kathe and Cuite, Cara. Food-related Education.
- Ch 10. Newman, Kathe, Cuite, Cara, and Volpe, Liana. Food and Community Economic Development.

Barot, Shreya, DeGiorgis, Sarah, Good, Ryan, Harris, Daniel, McCabe, Michael, Newman, Kathe, Rigney, Matthew, Schneider, Jakob, Srivastava, Anjali, and Voltolini, Patricia. 2014 (December 31). *Challenges Facing Aging Adults in Northern NJ*. A Report to the Jewish Federal of Northern NJ. 58pp.

Newman, Kathe, Good, Ryan, Ricke, Margaret, Harris, Daniel, and Schneider, Jakob. 2014. *Impact of Paterson's Environment on Children*. A Report to the Taub Foundation and the Paterson Alliance. 56pp.

Newman, Kathe et al. 2013. *New Jersey Urban Indicators Project*. Camden, Newark, Trenton, Irvington, East Orange, Asbury Park, and Jersey City. Report to The Nicholson Foundation. January.

Proceedings

Cuite, Cara and Newman, Kathe. 2017. "New Brunswick Community Food Assessment." Urban Innovation Building Collaborative Partnerships Across University, Community, and Civic Leaders. Nov 29-30. Northeast Regional Urban Extension Conference. Conference Proceedings.

Events

- 2022 Negotiating Social Futures. Virtual Paper Conference. Funded by the Urban Studies Foundation. Remote.
- 2021 Negotiating Social Futures: Virtual Case Study Workshop. Funded by the Urban Studies Foundation. Remote.
- 2021 Pantries and Pandemics: Let's Rise to the Challenge of Food Insecurity. Organized with the Collaborative Center for Community-based Research and Service. Remote.
- 2016 Community Food Security Roundtable. With the NB Community Food Alliance. Heldrich Hotel. New Brunswick.
- 2015 Assessing the Household Credit Recovery. Post-Crisis Developments in Credit Use and Credit Repair. Ralph W. Voorhees Center, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Bloustein School.
- 2012 Foreclosure Task Force Peer Education Event. Partnership with three Foreclosure Task Forces to share their work and experiences with those from other counties who were interested in forming task forces. Bloustein School.

RUTGERS

Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

**RALPH W. VOORHEES CENTER
FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**