

UCLA

Annual Reports

Title

Director's Report 2020

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0h2957ft>

Author

UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies

Publication Date

2020-07-24



UCLA

Lewis Center
for Regional Policy Studies

Director's Report 2020

INVESTING

in the

FUTURE



Director's Message



“The multiple crises facing our region — the dual COVID-19 and racism pandemics — highlight the need for both knowledge and action in achieving regional equity and our responsibility to do more in the fight for racial justice.

This year, as a center, we've been investing in our future. We launched the Randall Lewis Housing Initiative, developed the groundwork for research and programming on the role of transportation in accessing regional opportunities, and hosted a series of policy-relevant events. All of our efforts are made possible by the growing number of committed faculty, staff, students, and external partners with whom we work.

I invite you to engage with us as we tackle the monumental challenges ahead.

— Evelyn Blumenberg, Director

By The Numbers

In 2019-20, the UCLA Lewis Center continued to advance research and knowledge on how people live, move and work in the Los Angeles region.



13

New reports and briefs



39

Students supported



\$67,800

Funding provided to students through fellowships, research grants and center projects



20

Community events



16%

Growth in reach



\$246,000

Additional support

Impact



Golden Age Park

A “little oasis in the city” designed from a Lewis Center research blueprint of senior-friendly open spaces



Data for Democracy

With UCLA’s Center X, this brief helps K-12 students think critically about inequality and access to public parks and open spaces.

The Science of CicLAvia

With colleagues in the Fielding School of Public Health, we participated in the UCLA Centennial Celebration, CicLAvia - Heart of LA showcasing past event research and real-time interactive, fun data collection.



Understanding How Women Travel

Lewis Center researchers conducted the literature review for LA Metro’s seminal report on women’s mobility needs, travel patterns, commute demands and safety concerns.

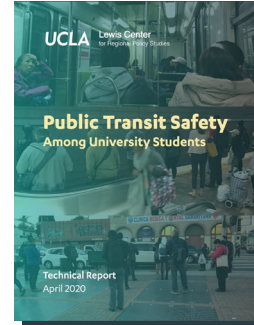
From LA to Osaka

UCLA alumna Kimiko Shiki, MA UP ‘01 PhD ‘08, is back in LA as a visiting scholar from Ritsumeikan University researching housing choice vouchers, residential mobility and access to opportunities.



Research Spotlight

Report Sheds Light on Harassment and Travel



Fear leads female students to take precautions, including not using transit.



10% do not use the bus after dark.

Events Spotlight



Housing and the Pandemic

The COVID-19 crisis provided an opportunity to delve into housing inequities — eviction protections, overcrowding, challenges for unsheltered Angelenos — in the era of coronavirus and how today’s challenge might shape future policy.



Routes to Opportunity

From auto access to congestion pricing and decision-making power, the 29th Annual UCLA Arrowhead Symposium centered the role transportation plays in maintaining and addressing inequities — and the sheer amount of work and learning we still need to do.

Bruin on the Move

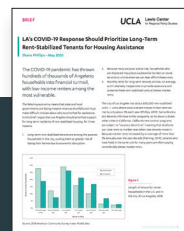


Sam Speroni, MURP ‘20

Analyzed school-bound trip data from HopSkipDrive for his capstone and found the mobility service provides essential transportation for foster youth.

Up Next: Sam will stay at UCLA to pursue a PhD in urban planning

Select Research



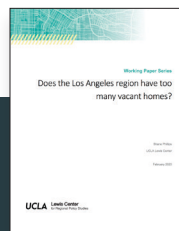
LA’s COVID-19 Response Should Prioritize Long-Term Rent-Stabilized Tenants for Housing Assistance



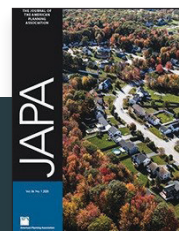
Affordable Housing Primer



Increasing the Duration of Affordability Requirements for New Affordable Housing



Does the Los Angeles Region Have Too Many Vacant Homes?



It’s Time to End Single-Family Zoning



A New Approach to the Housing Element Update



Data for Democracy: Parks in Los Angeles



Revisiting LA’s Rent Stabilization Ordinance and “Allowable Rent Increases”

Initiative



Introducing the Randall Lewis Housing Initiative

This year, we launched an initiative to produce and promote research on how to make housing more affordable. And we hit the ground running — hiring a manager, producing work on rent control, affordable housing preservation, vacancy, housing policy priority shifts due to COVID-19, and much more. Our Housing, Equity & Community event series further highlighted these issues, in addition to homeownership and eviction. Our current health and policing crises have laid bare our country's failure to value Black life, and given the central role of housing in exacerbating these failures, our work feels more urgent than ever.

— **Michael Lens, Associate Faculty Director**



Leading

Single-family homes exacerbate inequality, undermine efficiency

In a peer-reviewed journal article, Michael Manville, Paavo Monkkonen and Michael Lens called for an end to single-family zoning.

Advocating

Prioritizing housing assistance during COVID-19

The pandemic has thrown hundreds of thousands of Angeleno households into financial turmoil, with low-income renters among the most vulnerable.

Explaining

What does “affordable housing” mean?

This primer breaks down categories and affordability levels to develop better-informed policy that improves affordability and protects against displacement.

Influence



Research in Action

Los Angeles City Councilmember **Mike Bonin** introduced a motion to update the city's Rent Stabilization Ordinance, reflecting suggestions from a Lewis Housing Initiative brief. Over the past decade, rent increases have outpaced inflation and Bonin's motion would tie future increases to a percentage of the consumer price index, instead of the current model that includes a 3% minimum.



Thought Leadership



We brought our expertise to various local and regional committees

Madeline Brozen

LA Metro Westside Service Council

Michael Lens

HHH Citizens Oversight Committee

Paavo Monkkonen

SCAG RHNA Methodology Subcommittee

Shane Phillips

LA Housing Element Task Force

Sought-After Expertise



The neighborhoods where COVID collides with overcrowded homes



Are you paying too much for rent, even in a rent-controlled apartment?



'Car Accident' Or 'Traffic Violence'? The Way We Talk About Crashes Is Evolving



Southern California must plan for 1.3 million new homes in the next decade, Newsom says



Newsom says he's done a good job fixing California's housing crisis. Facts say otherwise



Housing: California is moving in right direction, but must go faster



Poor, essential and on the bus: Coronavirus is putting public transportation riders at risk



Vacancy Taxes: The Next Frontier In Housing Policy?



Unbundle the Police



About Us

Los Angeles is the center of one of the largest and most economically powerful regions in the world. But it also has some of the country's highest levels of racial and economic inequality, driven by surging housing costs, residential segregation, historic and systemic racism, stagnant wages, and gaps in access to high-quality transportation and education.

The Lewis Center produces high-quality research, programs and events, and accessible publications on how people live, move and work in the Los Angeles region.



Live

Housing Affordability
Quality Communities
Gentrification & Displacement



Move

Transportation Equity
Access to Opportunities
Environmental Justice



Work

Regional Economy
Employment Distribution
Workforce Policies

Looking Back at Our Legacy



Since 1990, the Lewis Center has been studying major policy issues in the Los Angeles region. The former center directors joined Evelyn Blumenberg during a 30-year celebration event in March 2020.

UCLA

Lewis Center
for Regional Policy Studies

2381 Public Affairs Building
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1656

lewis.ucla.edu
@UCLALewisCenter

