

Gordon C. C. Douglas, Ph.D.

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Current Position

Postdoctoral Fellow and Associate Director, The Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University.

Education and Awards

PhD, Sociology, University of Chicago, 2014

Dissertation: *Do-It-Yourself Urban Design: Inequality, Privilege, and Creative Transgression in the Help-Yourself City*.

Committee: Mario L. Small (chair), Andrew Abbott, and Kristen Schilt.

Recipient of the 2013-14 Henderson Dissertation Fellowship, a 2010 Doolittle-Harrison Travel Grant, a 2009 Provost's Summer Research Fellowship, and the 2009 Society for Social Research Writing Prize.

MA, Sociology, University of Chicago, 2008

Thesis: *The Impact of Social Norms on Growth Machine Development: Local Culture and the Development Process in an Identity-Conscious Community*.

MSc, Global Media, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2005

MA, Global Communication, USC Annenberg School for Communication, 2005

Thesis: *The Art of Spatial Resistance: The Global Urban Network of Street Art*.

Recipient of the 2004-05 Annenberg Lenny Sands Fellowship.

BA, magna cum laude, International Relations, University of Southern California, 2003

Recipient of the 2003 Michael Sullivan Award.

Books & Edited Volumes

2012 C. L. Ho & **G. Douglas** (eds.) *Spontaneous Interventions: Design Actions for the Common Good*, catalogue for the exhibition of the same name, United States Pavilion, 13th Venice International Biennale of Architecture. Washington, DC: *Architect Magazine*/Hanley Wood. August, 2012.

In preparation

Douglas, G. C. C. *The Help-Yourself City: What DIY Urbanism Tells Us about Inequality, Citizenship, and New Cultures of Placemaking* (revise & resubmit with Univ. of Chicago Press).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles & Book Chapters

forth. **Douglas, G. C. C.** "The Formalities of Informal Improvement: Technical and Scholarly Knowledge at Work in DIY Urban Design," *The Journal of Urbanism: Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability* (in press; published online 9 April 2015).

- 2014 **Douglas, G. C. C.** "Do-it-Yourself Urban Design: The Social Practice of Informal 'Improvement' Through Unauthorized Alteration," *City and Community*, vol. 13, no. 1. 5-25.
- 2012 **Douglas, G. C. C.** "The Edge of the Island: Cultural Ideology and Neighborhood Identity at the Gentrification Frontier," *Urban Studies*, vol. 49, no. 16. 3579-3594.
- 2012 **Douglas, G. C. C.** "Cultural Expectations and Urban Development: The Role of 'Cultural Sensitivity' and 'Cultural Sincerity' in Local Growth Politics," *Sociological Perspectives*, vol. 55, no. 1. 213-236.
- 2010 **Douglas, G. C. C.** "Rail Transit Identification and Neighbourhood Identity: Exploring the Potential for 'Community-Supportive Transit,'" *The Journal of Urban Design*, vol. 15, no. 2. 175-193.

In preparation

Douglas, G. C. C. "Do-it-Yourself City," in Orum, Anthony M., ed., *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies*. Chichester, UK & Malden, MA: John Wiley & Sons (invited).

Douglas, G. C. C. "'We Should be Able to Do it Ourselves': The Politics of DIY Bicycle Infrastructure," in S. McCullough & A. Lugo, eds., *Bicultures* (chapter proposal accepted for inclusion).

Douglas, G. C. C. "Translocal Cultures of Creative Transgression: Inspiration, Reproduction, and Innovation in Multi-City Street Art and DIY Urbanism" (working paper).

Douglas, G. C. C., L. Koslov, & E. Klinenberg. "Organizational Cultures and Complex Infrastructures in New York's Experience of Hurricane Sandy" (working paper).

L. Koslov, **Douglas, G. C. C.** & E. Klinenberg. "Cities, Class, and Climate Change: Evidence from Superstorm Sandy" (working paper).

Douglas, G. C. C. "The Sociology of Urban Planning – A Critical Review of a Century-Long Transdisciplinary Dialogue" (working paper).

Other Publications

- forth. **Douglas, G.** Review of *Tactical Urbanism*, by Mike Lydon and Anthony Garcia, *Journal of the American Planning Association* (in press; published online 30 June, 2015).
- 2015 **Douglas, G.** Review of *Cities by Design*, by Fran Tonkiss, *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 120, no. 4. 1264-66 (invited).
- 2015 **Douglas, G.** Review of three books on informal placemaking, *Architectural Record*, vol. 203, no. 6 (June 2015). 70.

- 2012 **Douglas, G.** "L.A.'s Do-it-Yourself Urbanism Featured in International Architecture Exhibition," *Streetsblog*, 22 Oct. 2012. <http://la.streetsblog.org/2012/10/22/l-a-s-do-it-yourself-urbanism-featured-in-international-architecture-exhibition/>.
- 2012 **Douglas, G.** "Open Source Urbanism: Venice Biennale Puts Spotlight on Renegade Designers," *GOOD*, 29 Aug. 2012. <http://www.good.is/post/open-source-urbanism-venice-biennale-puts-spotlight-on-renegade-redesigners/>.
- 2012 **Douglas, G.** "Do-it-Yourself Urban Design in the Help-Yourself City," *Architect* / Ho & Douglas, eds. *Spontaneous Interventions: Design Actions for the Common Good*, catalogue for the exhibition of the same name, United States Pavilion, 13th Venice International Biennale of Architecture. Washington, DC: *Architect* / Hanley Wood, Aug. 2012.
- 2012 **Douglas, G.** "Guerrilla Bike Lanes and Other Acts of Civic Improvement Through Civil Disobedience," *Architect* / Ho & Douglas, eds. *Spontaneous Interventions*, catalogue for the exhibition of the same name, United States Pavilion, 13th Venice International Biennale of Architecture. Washington, DC: *Architect* / Hanley Wood, Aug. 2012.
- 2011 **Douglas, G.** "DIY Urban Design, from Guerrilla Gardening to Yarn Bombing," *GOOD*, 12 April 2011. <http://www.good.is/post/diy-urban-design-from-guerrilla-gardening-to-yarn-bombing/>.
- 2010 **Douglas, G.** "The Back Garden Project" (series), *GOOD*, April - Aug. 2010. <http://www.good.is/series/back-garden-project/>.
- 2009 **Douglas, G.** "What is Glamour? The Production and Consumption of a Working Aesthetic," *MU-DOT: the Magazine for Urban Documentation, Opinion and Theory*, no. 2, Aug. 2009. 44-63.

Conference Presentations

- forth. "Conveniently Located Disaster: Socio-Spatial Inequality in Hurricane Sandy and Its Implications for the Urban Sociology of Climate Change," paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Chicago (with *Eric Klinenberg* & *Liz Koslov*).
- 2015 "Trans-Local Cultural Geographies of Creative Transgression: Inspiration, Reproduction, and Innovation in Multi-City Street Art and DIY Urbanism," paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, Chicago (invited).
- 2014 "Help-Yourself City: Market-Driven Planning and DIY Responses in Making the Neoliberal Streetscape," paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco.
- 2013 "The Formalities of Informal Urbanism: Technical and Scholarly Knowledge at Work in Do-it-Yourself Urban Design," paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Conference, New York.

- 2012 "The Self-Conscious Gentrifier: The Paradox of Authenticity and Impact Among 'First-Wave' Neo-Bohemians in Two Changing Neighborhoods," paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Denver (*with Naomi Bartz*).
- 2012 "Lefebvre and Whyte Hit the Streets: The Diffusion of Scholarly Urbanism and the Rise of the Informal Urban Designer," paper presented at the Chicago Ethnography Conference, Chicago.
- 2012 "Don't Wait for Anybody to Give You Permission: Unauthorized Urban Design 'Contributions' in the Contemporary City," paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, New York.
- 2012 "Parsing the Evolving Politics and Practice of D.I.Y.," invited panel organized at the Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, New York (*with Brian J. Hracs*).
- 2011 "Do-It-Yourself Urban Design: Making Local Improvements through Unauthorized Alterations of Urban Space," paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Las Vegas.
- 2011 "Do-It-Yourself Urban Design: Reimagining the Built Environment through Place-Based, Site-Specific Art and Activism," paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, Seattle.
- 2011 "Architecture for Everyone? The Synthesis of Design Interface and Individual Expression in the Age of Malleable Architecture," paper accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Design Principles and Practices, Rome (*with Joshua Van Blankenship*).
- 2010 "Expression, Critique, and Resistance in Localized Practices of Contesting and Reclaiming Urban Space," paper presented at the Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference, London.
- 2010 "The Edge of the Island: Neighborhood Identity and Evolving Community in 'Liminal Places,'" paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Atlanta.
- 2009 "Cultural Sincerity in Urban Development," paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco.

Teaching Experience

'Photographing Chicago Landscapes,' Fall 2008 and Fall 2009 (instructor of record)

Adjunct Lecturer, DePaul University Dept. of Sociology

Employing photography as a way of reading urban place and culture, my course used in-class discussion, regular excursions, and student field research to introduce the city and its neighborhoods to undergraduate students while providing an introduction to the urban sociology literature. Topics included culture and identity, community history, inequality and demographic change, the use and meaning of the built landscape, and local politics and development issues.

'Field Research Practicum in Public Policy,' Winter and Spring 2009

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Chad Broughton, University of Chicago Public Policy Studies Program

Sole instructor for methods sections on demographic and spatial data analysis, presentation skills, and graphic design. The two-quarter undergraduate course organized students to think of themselves as a provisional think tank or consulting group, learning a variety of research, writing, and presentation skills through studying a real local issue and crafting a report with actionable recommendations commissioned by the City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services.

'Urban Structure and Process,' Spring 2008 and Spring 2009

T.A. for Dr. Omar McRoberts, University of Chicago Dept. of Sociology

Gave full lectures and assisted in writing exams, in addition to traditional T.A. duties. Course reviewed competing theories of urban development and consideration of emerging metropolitan regions, the microstructure of local neighborhoods, and the limitations of past American experience as a way of developing urban policy in the U.S. and elsewhere.

'Urban Policy Analysis,' Fall 2007

T.A. for Dr. Terry Nichols Clark, University of Chicago Dept. of Sociology

Provided tutorials on policy analysis techniques and assisted in course re-design and exam writing, in addition to other duties. Course addressed explanations for varying policy patterns that cities provide through examination of migration, group theory, citizen preference theory, incrementalism, economic base influences, and an integrated model.

'Health and Human Rights,' Spring 2007

T.A. for Dr. John Schumann, University of Chicago Human Rights Program

Led weekly discussion sections for 30 students, in addition to typical T.A. duties. Course examined health and health care in context of human rights theory and practice. Topics included health care system of the U.S. in comparison with other nations, issues of health and medical practice in urban areas and areas of conflict, and the study of vulnerable populations and social determinants of health.

'Intervention and Public Practice,' Spring 2007

Student Teaching Assistant for instructor Theaster Gates, University of Chicago Dept. of Visual Arts

Invited to serve as teaching assistant for course on history, criticism, and practice of public and interventionist art. Helped to lead reading discussions and to orchestrate large-scale art intervention happening on the South Side of Chicago and university campus.

Invited Speaking Engagements

Guest Instructor, "Research Methods (Urban Core Lab)," Prof. Aurash Khawarзад, Parsons the New School for Design, 2014

Guest Instructor (*with James Rojas*), Arch. Studio, Pratt Institute School of Architecture, 2012

Guest Instructor, "Qualitative Research Methods," Prof. Daniel Huebner, American University, 2013

Guest Instructor, "The Sociology of Deviant Behavior," Prof. Kristen Schilt, University of Chicago, 2011

Invited talk, "Methodological Considerations for a Sociology of Urban Planning," University of Chicago Urban Network, 2015

Invited talk, "From Park(ing) Day to Parklet Dining: Creative Placemaking and the Spatial Reproduction of Inequality," NYU Furman Center for Real-Estate and Urban Policy, 2015

Moderator, "Oculus Book Talk: Tactical Urbanism," American Institute of Architects New York Center for Architecture, 2015

Moderator, "Placemaking in the Creative Capital," Brown-RISD Innovating Urban Districts colloquium, Brown University, 2015

Moderator, "Scholarly Perspectives on Spontaneous Interventions," Chicago Cultural Center, 2013

Moderator, "The Social Life of Urban Spaces," U.S. Pavilion, Venice Architecture Biennale, 2012

Moderator, "Productive Landscapes," U.S. Pavilion, Venice Architecture Biennale, 2012

Panelist, "Good Neighbors: Gentrifying Diversity in Boston's South End" book talk, NYU, 2015

Panelist, "Syracuse University Gentrification Lab NYC: Politics of Place," Van Alen Institute, 2015

Panelist, "The Open City: Rapid Prototyping Strategies that Enable Citizen-Led Improvements to Places, Neighbor Interactions, and Civic Processes," World Maker Faire New York, 2014

Panelist, "Spontaneous Urbanisms," Chicago Cultural Center, 2013

Panelist, Chicago Urban Network / Doc Films screening of *Urbanized*, University of Chicago, 2012

Panelist, Spontaneous Interventions Discussion, NYC International Contemporary Furniture Fair, 2012

Other Professional Activities and Appointments

Project Manager and Curatorial Advisor, *Spontaneous Interventions: Design Actions for the Common Good*, The Institute for Urban Design / U.S. Department of State (New York), Nov. 2011 – Oct. 2013

Visiting Researcher / Volunteer, Isla Urbana (Mexico City), Feb. 2012 – Aug. 2012

Translation Editor for *Transatlantische Bereicherungen*, Dr. Christian Fleck, University of Graz / Suhrkamp Verlag (Berlin), May – July 2010

Consultant, "Urban Art Changes Neighborhoods" Public Service Initiative, Sundance Channel (New York), Dec. 2009

Research Assistant, Historical Spatial Analysis of U.S. Fall Line Zone, Dr. Hoyt Bleakley, University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Mar. 2008 – Oct. 2008

Spatial Data Analyst, Obama for America Presidential Campaign (Chicago), Mar. 2008 – July 2008

Mapping Assistant, "Subjective Constructions of Neighborhood Boundaries," Dr. Julia Henly, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, Winter 2008

Special Projects Officer, Relief International – Schools Online (Los Angeles & New York), Sept. 2005 – Dec. 2007

Sands Research Fellow, Center on Public Diplomacy, University of Southern California Annenberg School, Aug. 2004 – July 2005

Academic Service and Affiliations

Member, Association of American Geographers, since 2010

Member, American Sociological Association, since 2007

Reviewer, *Public Culture*, since 2014

Reviewer, *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 2014

Reviewer, *Planning Practice and Research*, 2014

Reviewer, *City and Community*, since 2013

Reviewer, *Journal of Urbanism*, since 2012

Reviewer, *Journal of Urban Design*, 2010

Reviewer, *American Journal of Sociology*, since 2009

Participant, NYLON workshop, New York University, 2012 – present

Participant, NYLON conference, Max Planck Institute for Human Development (Berlin), 2014

Participant, Gil Lopez Ace AIR residency – Creatives as Social Capital, Ace Hotel New York, 2014

Participant, NYLON conference, New York University, 2014

Participant, Governance and Politics in the Changing American City conference, Harvard University, 2013

Participant, Exploring the Creative Economy conference, University of Toronto, 2011

Participant, Politics and Protest workshop, CUNY Graduate Center (New York), 2010-2011

Participant, Social Theory and Evidence workshop, University of Chicago, 2008-2011

Participant, City Society and Space workshop, University of Chicago, 2007-2011

Technical Skills and Qualifications

Skilled in ESRI ArcGIS (ArcInfo, Map, Catalog) spatial analytics, Adobe Photoshop Pro, SPSS, HTML, Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, etc.). Experience with U.S. Census Bureau TIGER files and other government data, spatial and otherwise. Published photographer. Speak, read, and write Spanish and German with fair proficiency. (Also studied French, Arabic, and Chinese at rudimentary levels.)

References

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Grafstein Family Professor of Sociology
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