
CAROLINA PLANNING JOURNAL

VOLUME 46 CALL FOR PAPERS

THE WHITE PROBLEM IN PLANNING

"It's not the Negro problem, it's the white problem. I'm only black because you think you're white."
– James Baldwin¹

Writing in 1898, DuBois called for the systematic study of “the Negro problem”,² which has unfolded over the following century across many fields, from anthropology and sociology to public policy and, of course, planning. Yet this frame—where the problems are Black poverty, Black unemployment, and Black crime, among others—has gone largely unchallenged within the planning field. Much of the contemporary discourse continues to pathologize conditions in and phenomena affecting Black and other communities of color, while normalizing and idealizing white communities and white affluence.

As Goetz, Williams, and Damiano emphasize in their recent piece [Whiteness and Urban Planning](#),³ this frame largely ignores the benefits that whites derive from the systems that create and perpetuate racial inequities. In response, they call for a more explicit analysis of whiteness in planning, including how policies both disproportionately disadvantage communities of color and produce disproportionate advantages for white communities. The authors also highlight approaches planners can take to mitigate and make amends for racialized (dis)advantage, including disparity and racial impact analysis, antisubordination planning, reparative planning, and capacity- and power-building strategies within communities of color.

We welcome articles that respond to the calls for action and research outlined in the piece by Goetz et al.

EXAMPLE TOPICS INCLUDE

LAND USE—Leveraging upzoning and housing subsidy to increase housing affordability in white neighborhoods

HOUSING—How pro-homeownership policies and institutions such as wealth transfer mechanisms disproportionately benefit whites

TRANSPORTATION—Racial impact analyses of proposed or past transit infrastructure expansions

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT—Case studies of economic development programs that disproportionately benefited whites

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

By **August 30, 2020**, interested authors should submit a two-page proposal. Proposals should include a title, a description of the proposed topic and its significance, a brief summary of the literature or landscape, and a preliminary list of references (not counted toward the two-page limit). Final papers typically do not exceed 3,000 words. Submit proposals and questions to CarolinaPlanningJournal@gmail.com.

By **September 18, 2020**, Carolina Planning Journal will notify authors regarding their proposals. Drafts of full papers will be due by December, and editors will work with authors on drafts of their papers over the course of the winter. The print version of the Journal will be published in the Spring of 2021. Carolina Planning Journal reserves the right to edit articles accepted for publication, subject to the author's approval, for length, style, and content considerations.

¹ Quoted in David Leeming, “The White Problem.” PEN America: A Journal for Writers and Readers, Issue 2 (2001).

² Du Bois, WE Burghardt. “The study of the Negro problems.” The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science (1898): 1-23.

³ Goetz, Edward G., Rashad A. Williams, and Anthony Damiano. “Whiteness and urban planning.” Journal of the American Planning Association 86.2 (2020): 142-156.