Andrew Abbott, Gustavus F. and Ann M. Swift Distinguished Service Professor
Department of Sociology, and the College

Andrew Abbott is known for his work on urban inequality and social processes, ecological theories of occupations, and algorithmic analyses of social sequence data. He has written on the foundations of social science methodology, city character and urban tradition, and the evolution of the social sciences and the academic system.

Research funded by NSF

Luc Anselin, Stein-Frieler Distinguished Service Professor
Department of Sociology, and the College
Director, Center for Spatial Data Science

Luc Anselin’s research focuses on the analysis of spatial data (i.e., data containing a specific location) ranging from exploration to visualization and modeling. Anselin looks at the development of appropriate methods, their implementation in open source software, and application in empirical studies. Specific application fields include urban studies, environmental and natural resource economics, real estate economics, economics of innovation, criminology, public health, electoral studies, and international relations.

Research funded by AHRQ, NIH, NSF, NIJ

Leora Auslander, Arthur and Joanne Rasmussen Professor in Western Civilization
Founding Director, Center for Gender Studies (1996-99)

Leora Auslander specializes in the history of France and Germany, focusing on 19th and 20th century social history, material culture and the built environment, gender history and theory, and Jewish history. She is interested in the intersection of material culture, politics, society, and economy. Her current research involves a comparative analysis of Paris and Berlin in the 20th century.

Research funded by ACLS, NEH

Margaret Beale Spencer, Marshall Field IV Professor of Urban Education
Department of Comparative Human Development, the College

Margaret Beale Spencer specializes in adolescent psychology, with a research emphasis on resiliency, identity, and competence formation. Her work focuses on the cognitive and socio-emotional aspects of development, particularly with low-resource, ethnically diverse urban adolescents. She also examines the mechanisms that urban adolescents use to cope with social and economics disadvantage.

Research funded by NIH

Sian Beilock, Stella M. Rowley Professor
Department of Psychology, and the College
Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives

Sian Beilock’s research sits at the intersection of cognitive science and education. She explores the cognitive and neural substrates of skill learning as well as the mechanisms by which performance breaks down in high-stress or high-pressure situations. Her most recent research focuses on methods to advance math performance by disadvantaged students in urban public schools.

Research funded by IES, NSF, Overdeck, Spencer
Marc Berman, Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology, and the College
Marc Berman examines the relationship between individual psychological and neural processing and environmental factors. He uses brain imaging, behavioral experimentation, computational neuroscience, and statistical models to quantify the person and their interactions with natural versus urban environments. Berman is interested in applying his research to design urban environments that will optimize human mental and physical health. He is also a Computation Institute fellow.
Research funded by NSF, TFK Foundation

Kathleen Cagney, Associate Professor
Department of Sociology, and the College
Director, Population Research Center
Kathleen Cagney’s work examines social inequality and its relationship to health in an urban context with a focus on neighborhood, race, and the life course. She focuses on the development of new neighborhood-based metrics that reflect the perceptions and experiences of older residents. Currently she works on two Chicago-based studies of neighborhood context and older adult health, and is examining the role of the social and physical environment in older adult well-being with The National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project. She is also partnering with Charlie Catlett on the Array of Things project.
Research funded by NIH, NSF

Terry Clark, Professor
Department of Sociology
Terry Clark’s work uses decision-making theory to approach urban politics and other social phenomena. He is also the international coordinator of the Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation Project, which is surveying city officials across the U.S. and in thirty-five other countries. Clark has published on post-industrial urban stratification, and urban political processes and fiscal strain.
Research funded by NSF

Cathy Cohen, David and Mary Winton Green Professor and Department Chair
Department of Political Science, and the College
Founder, Black Youth Project
Cathy Cohen specializes on American politics, and her research interests include African-American politics, women and politics, lesbian and gay politics, and social movements. She is also the founder and director of the Black Youth Project, the only organization to consistently monitor the thoughts and actions of young people of color, and disseminating research to the media, policy-makers, activists, advocates and academics. Topics of inquiry have included urban gun violence and segregation.
Research funded by Arcus, Ford, MacArthur, McCormick, Voqal

Michael Conzen, Professor
Department of Geography, and the College
Chair, Committee on Geographical Studies
Michael Conzen’s research interests include urban organization and change, resource use and management strategies, and landscape studies. He is best known for his work on modern urban change focusing specifically on Boston. His current work investigates the organization of area, exploration of the earth environment and of its interactions with human life, and inquires into the geographical dimensions of cultures and societies.
Research funded by NSF
Shannon Dawdy, Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology, and the College

Shannon Dawdy’s examines how material objects mediate human relationships via fieldwork that combines archaeological, archival, and ethnographic methods. Her previous work offers ‘rogue colonialism’ to explain how French New Orleans, and many colonies like it, functioned outside state controls to develop a political economy moored to metropolitan interests. Recent fieldwork in New Orleans, at the former site of the Rising Sun Hotel and St. Antoine’s Garden behind St. Louis Cathedral, is the largest archaeological excavation undertaken to date in the city and will be critical to documenting the city’s singular archaeological heritage.

Research funded by Getty, MacArthur, Mellon, NEH, NSF

Michael Dawson, John D. MacArthur Distinguished Service Professor
Department of Political Science, and the College
Director, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture

Michael Dawson’s research interests have included the development of quantitative models of African American political behavior, identity, and public opinion, the political effects of urban poverty, and African American political ideology. His work focuses on delineating the differences in African American public opinion from those of white Americans and, more recently, he has combined his quantitative work with work in political theory.

Research funded by Ford, Joyce, Rockefeller

Michael Fisch, Assistant Professor
Department of Anthropology, and the College

Michael Fisch’s interests include urban anthropology, media and communication studies, and science and technology studies. He focuses on modernity in Japan from the perspective of the evolution of mass mediated society and contemporary new media. He is currently examining the commuter train network in Tokyo as a diagrammatic matrix of human machine interaction and as an intersection between old and new media and competing precepts of labor.

Research funded by Harvard Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies

Brodwyn Fischer, Professor
Department of History, and the College
Faculty Director, Center for Latin American Studies

Brodwyn Fischer is a historian of Brazil and Latin America whose research is focused on the historical dynamics of Brazilian racial inequalities, criminal law, Brazil’s 20th century great migrations, and the relationship between the urban poor and Brazil’s political left. Fischer’s current work addresses some of the paradoxical ways in which struggles for survival and social mobility have historically reinforced rather than disrupted larger inequalities within Brazilian society.

Research funded by ACLS, Fulbright, Rockefeller

Marco Garrido, Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology, and the College

Marco Garrido studies the effects of spatial inequality in urban contexts on social division and political subjectivity. He focuses on Metro Manila, Philippines, where segregation is characterized by the interspersion of slums and residential enclaves, with the urban poor and middle class living side by side in distinct spaces divided by physical and symbolic boundaries. His work describes the social mechanisms connecting this segregation to a heightened class consciousness among Manila’s residents, everyday practices of class division, and the divergent political views of the urban poor and middle class.

Research funded by Ford
Adam Green, Associate Professor
Department of History, and the College
Adam Green’s research looks at twentieth century U.S. history, African American history, urban history, cultural studies and social movements. His current book deals with the history of the black struggle for happiness, and he is developing several articles projects dealing with segregation, police torture, and post-1970 culture and society in Black Chicago.
Research funded by IAC-CAAS

Michael Greenstone, Milton Friedman Professor in Economics
Department of Economics, the College, and the Harris School of Public Policy
Director, Energy Policy Institute at University of Chicago (EPIC)
Michael Greenstone is focused on advancing research and policy related to the cost and benefits of environmental quality and government regulation. His work has broadly influenced energy policies in developing countries including India and China, and looks more specifically at urban areas – the engines of innovation and job creation, but also sites to the adverse impacts associated with increased energy production and resource use, such as air and water pollution.
Research funded by DOE, NIH, NSF, Sloan

James Heckman, Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor
Department of Economics, the College, and the Harris School of Public Policy
Director, Center for the Economics of Human Development
James Heckman has devoted his professional career to understanding the origins of major social and economic problems related to early childhood education, poverty, inequality, discrimination, skill formation and regulation, and to devising and evaluating alternative strategies for addressing problems on a national and global scale. His research has given policymakers important new insights into such areas as early childhood education, urban education and job-training programs, minimum-wage legislation, anti-discrimination law, and civil rights.
Research funded by Buffet, IES, MacArthur, NIH, NSF

Guanglei Hong, Associate Professor
Department of Comparative Human Development
Guanglei Hong has focused her research on developing causal inference theories and methods for evaluating educational and social policies and programs in multi-level, longitudinal settings. She communicates with a broad audience through applying the causal inference methods to studies of urban policies and instructional practices such as grade retention, within-class grouping, intensive math instruction, and early childhood interventions.
Research funded by Spencer, NAE, IES, WT Grant

William Howell, Sydney Stein Professor in American Politics
Department of Political Science, the College, and the Harris School of Public Policy
William Howell has written extensively on inequalities within the U.S. education system including voucher initiatives in urban schools, charter school expansion, the politics of school boards, and public-school choice under No Child Left Behind. His current research examines federal education policy under the Obama administration.
Research funded by Smith Richardson, NSF
Micere Keels, Associate Professor
Department of Comparative Human Development, and the College

Micere Keels’ research concerns issues of race/ethnicity, poverty, and inequality in an urban context. One strand of her current research focuses on understanding the causes and consequences of the widening gender gap in educational attainment, a gap that is largest among Black and Latino/a Americans. The other strand of her current research focuses on the intersection between neighborhood and school poverty, and inequality in public school choice. Specific research projects examine the ways in which school-choice in Chicago has affected the link between neighborhood of residence and school of attendance.

Research funded by W.T. Grant

Alan Kolata, Bernard E. and Ellen C. Sunny Distinguished Service Professor
Department of Anthropology, and the College

Alan Kolata leads ongoing interdisciplinary research projects studying human-environment interactions in Bolivia, Peru, Thailand, and Cambodia. Recent research interests include comparative work on agroecological systems, human-environment interactions, the human dimension of global change, urban development and archeology, and the life and work of women in urban Cambodia.

Research funded by NSF

Benjamin Lessing, Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science, and the College

Benjamin Lessing studies “criminal conflict”—organized armed violence involving non-state actors who, unlike revolutionary insurgents, are not trying to topple the state. He examines armed conflict between drug cartels and the state in the urban centers and peripheries of Colombia, Mexico, and Brazil. Lessing also studies prison gangs’ influence on urban criminality and its pernicious effect on state authority and how paramilitary groups use territorial control to influence electoral outcomes.

Research funded by Fulbright, SSRC, Tinker

Susan Levine, Rebecca Anne Boylan Professor and Department Chair
Department of Psychology, and the College
Faculty Director, UChicago Center for the Science of Learning

Susan Levine’s research focuses on the development of early mathematical thinking, including numerical and spatial aspects of math, and how variations in home and school input relate to children’s learning in this domain. Dr. Levine also studies the effects of early parent-child language interactions on the language and cognitive development of children who have incurred a pre- or perinatal brain injury. Levine partners with colleagues at the Urban Education Institute to examine these areas of interest and to develop and test interventions for children in an urban context.

Research funded by NSF, NIH, Overdeck

Steven Levitt, William B. Ogden Distinguished Service Professor
Department of Economics, and the College
Director, Becker Friedman Institute

Steven Levitt studies topics including the economic aspects of crime, corruption, sports and education. He has investigated the impact of police on crime, the effect of abortions on crime rates, prison populations, urban drug gangs, and a wide range of social and urban phenomena using the natural experiment methodology.

Research funded by NSF, Sloan
John List, Homer J. Livingston Distinguished Service Professor and Department Chair
Department of Economics, and the College
John List has developed scientific methods for testing economic theory via field experiments.
His work has offered new insights in various areas of economics research, such as education, private
provision of public goods, social preferences, and charitable giving. He currently investigates early
crondhth interventions in a metrics-based environment in Chicago Heights. This research focuses
on the critical elements that children need in early education for short and long-term success.
Research funded by Griffin Foundation

Omar McRoberts, Associate Professor
Department of Sociology, and the College
Omar McRoberts' research interests include the sociology of religion, urban sociology, urban
poverty, race, and collective action. His work focuses on the role of religious activity in poor, urban,
predominantly black neighborhoods. He currently is conducting a study of black religious responses
to, and influences on, social welfare policy since the New Deal, culminating with George W. Bush's
Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives. He is also initiating an ethnographic project on
cultures of death and dying among black congregations in low-income urban contexts.
Research funded by Ford

Magne Mogstad, Professor
Department of Economics, and the College
Magne Mogstad's research focuses on applied microeconomics, mostly in the areas of labor econom-
icss and public economics. He is currently studying the causes and consequences of the rise in dis-
ability insurance receipt, and how the receipt of disability insurance affects individuals and families. His
research provides insight on demographic change in cities and policies concerned with the interaction
of working life, inequality, family well-being, and a country’s social safety net.
Research funded by Sloan

Kevin Murphy, George J. Stigler Distinguished Service Professor
Department of Economics and Booth School
Kevin Murphy primarily works on urban and labor economics, looking specifically at the empirical
analysis of inequality, unemployment, and relative wages as well as the economics of growth and
development and the economic value of improvements in health and longevity.
Research funded by NSF, MacArthur

Derek Neal, Professor
Department of Economics, and the College
Derek Neal’s current research focuses on the design of incentive systems for educators. Neal is
exploring the causes and consequences of the prison boom and is particularly focused on why
prison populations grew so rapidly during recent decades and how the changes in policy that drove
this growth affect inequality in the United States. Neal is also examining the links between home and
school experiences of urban youth and future outcomes in the criminal justice system.
Research funded by Mellon, Smith Richardson, Sloan
Eric Oliver, Professor  
Department of Political Science, and the College  
Dr. Oliver’s research interests include contemporary American politics, urban and suburban racial politics, political psychology, and the politics of science. He is currently working on research about the evolutionary origins of contemporary political cognition and the effects of metropolitan economic segregation on local civic participation.  
Research funded by NSF, Russell Sage

Stephen Raudenbush, Lewis-Sebring Distinguished Service Professor  
Department of Sociology, the College, and the Harris School of Public Policy  
Chair, Committee on Education  
Stephen Raudenbush is interested in statistical models for child and youth development within social settings such as classrooms, schools, and neighborhoods. He is currently studying the development of literacy and math skills in early childhood with implications for instruction; and methods for assessing school and classroom quality. He has looked specifically at classroom settings in urban contexts and has published on the relation of disorder in urban neighborhoods to crime.  
Research funded by NIH, WT Grant, Spencer

Forrest Stuart, Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology, and the College  
Forrest Stuart’s research investigates how recent developments—specifically mass incarceration, zero-tolerance policing, digital social media, and new forms of music—have reshaped the social fabric of disadvantaged urban neighborhoods in the twenty-first century. Stuart conducted an in-depth ethnography of Los Angeles’ Skid Row district to examine how new “no tolerance” policies led to a reconstitution of poverty, crime, and space, as well as the relationship existing between the state and the urban poor. He currently investigates the intersections of poverty, culture, digital social media, and hip-hop on Chicago’s south side.  
Research funded by Ford

Emily Talen, Professor  
Social Sciences Division, and the College  
Emily Talen’s research focuses on interplay between urbanism, urban design, and social equity. Recent research investigated the link between subsidized housing and walkability of urban neighborhoods, and is active in developing methods to teach urban design. Her current research examines the link between urban design and social issues like equity and affordability, and considers the ideal of the neighborhood, comparing a wide range of perspectives on what makes a neighborhood, and the relationship between idealized neighborhood plans and reality.  
Research funded by Guggenheim, NSF, NEA

Mauricio Tenorio, Samuel N. Harper Professor  
Department of History, the College, and the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures  
Mauricio Tenorio’s work focuses on the cultural and social history of Mexican urbanism, particularly of Mexico City. His research connects the realms of literature, architecture, music, popular language, art, and public health to investigate the city in a variety of contexts: as a living history textbook, as an expression of the state, as a modernist capital, as a laboratory, and as language.  
Research funded by NEH
Linda Waite, Lucy Flower Professor  
Department of Sociology, and the College  
Director, Center on Aging  

Linda Waite’s current research interests include social demography, aging, the family, health, working families, and the link between biology, psychology, and the social world. She examines these via both nationally representative and city-specific data collection and analysis projects. Waite’s work on biomarkers and pharmaceutical data on population-based aging research has yielded groundbreaking knowledge about the sexual behavior of older Americans as part of the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP).

Research funded by NSF, NIH