

Global Perspectives of Chicago

Seeing the City through the Eyes of Our
International Students

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UChicagoGRAD



DIVISION OF THE
HUMANITIES
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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Join the Ninth Planet Hunt



Photo by Adler Planetarium

Background:

I still remember the day that I took my junior high final exam and got one important question wrong: Total number of planets in the solar system. I had answered nine. However, after the exam, I realized that Pluto had recently been “killed” by Michael E. Brown, so the answer should have been eight. When I arrived in Chicago, I heard that the Adler Planetarium has a new show named Planet Nine, and they are working together with Michael E. Brown AKA the “Pluto-Killer”. My memories flew back to my junior high final exam moment and I decided to go to the show the very next day.

This show is basically not only about the ninth planet, but also Kuiper Belt – the area of solar system beyond Neptune. They present Eris, Haumea, and Sedna. Eris is an object with ice/rock mixture (just like Pluto) and it has 25% more mass than Pluto. Haumea has a unique shape: football. It is caused by its fast rotation, once every four hours! Sedna has an eccentric orbit, and it travels to the far reaches of the Solar System - almost 20 times as far as Pluto ever goes! Many scientists believe it is influenced by a gravitational force that is competing with the sun. Scientists don’t know what the source of the gravitational force that effect Sedna is, but it would have to be a big object if it competes with the sun.

Broader Issues:

The hunt is still on for the ninth planet and at the Planet Nine show, visitors are invited to join the hunt. Instead of telling about something when it is all finished, they bring people under the hood of scientific process (Shaw, para 6). The high-resolution central dome theater, huge spherical screen, mega-telescope photography, and great computer graphic simulation will make visitors experience an “eye-gasm” – visually stunning moment (Johnson, para 3). Those technologies help non-scientists easily understand what scientists are talking about. Planet Nine will increase awareness and knowledge about our future science and space knowledge. Increasing awareness could help scientists and other stakeholders involved in space knowledge to get the nation’s spotlight, and hopefully it could make them get more money from government.

In addition, Chicago is a big city not only in the US but also in the world. Planet Nine could be prestigious evidence that Chicago is in front of other big cities about space knowledge. They succeeded in transforming complex scientific knowledge to enjoyable and understandable information for all visitors.

With everything that Planet Nine offers, it is really a must that people in Chicago, especially students to visit there.

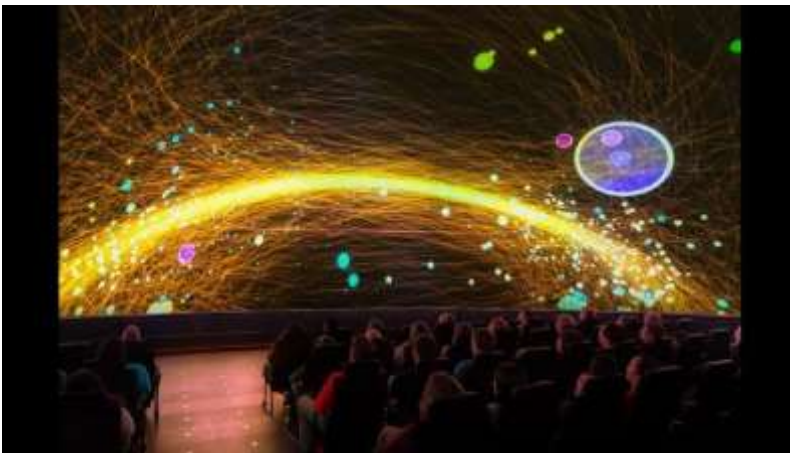


Photo by Adler Planetarium

Adler Planetarium, 1300 S Lake Shore Dr.

By CTA: Use bus 28 from South Hyde Park & 55th Street until 1100 S Columbus (35 minutes)

By car: 15 minutes
By bike: 38 minutes

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Introduction to Chicago-Style Pizza



Giordano's deep dish pizza (Photo by author)

Background:

One of the most famous features Chicago has to offer is its unique style of pizza. Unlike the conventional one we probably already know, brought to us by Italians, this city developed a landmark type in a field many had though nothing remained to be discovered. As a result, the dish became not only a favorite one among locals, but also even one more reason for tourists to pay a visit to this great city!

So then, what is it so distinctive for? To begin with, it does not look like a pizza at all! At least not the one we may be accustomed to. To the eye of the lay it would pass more as a pie -or even a cake- one may ask during tea-time, than to anything resembling a pizza. The way it is made and the order of its main ingredients make the whole difference. With a crust thicker than conventional, and deep enough to fill it with a wide array of ingredients up to the eater's choice, the pizza is then filled with the ever-present mozzarella cheese and tomato sauce. Secondly, challenging conventional wisdom, cheese is placed first. But, why such a change -or even blasphemy if Italian? The answer is pure logic. As a consequence of the great amount of filling that has to be cooked at the same time, it is necessary to place the sauce only after the

cheese, so to avoid the later from getting burnt.

What else to bear in mind? Size, cost and waiting time. In case you have not been told already, the dish offers a huge amount of food. The pizza in the picture, which is an average "small" size, offers six generous slices, so you can imagine what the "large" one has to offer. From personal experience, one might suggest three slices per person –that is of course, for an average-eating one. Regarding cost, and barring in mind you will probably be splitting it in two, one may say it is more than convenient. The average price offered by the most popular houses goes around \$15 for the basic type. Last but not least is the waiting time. Ever since thickness and amount of ingredients are their main features, cooking time takes a good 40' at minimum, which of course, pass-by pretty fast if one is in good company. If Otherwise, be aware: if you arrive at the place starving, give it a second thought!

Broader Issue:

The founder of Chicagos's famous pizza style is not without controversy, and still remains unclear. However, as some sources appear to suggest, the father of the owners of "Lou's Malnattis" -one of the most famous places in the City- is believed to be one of its co-creators back in the middle of the 19th century. It seems that the first place to coin this unique style was a place called "The Pizzeria" in 1943, then re-named twice; first as "Pizzeria Ricardo", and then as "Pizzeria Uno". Apparently, as one of his sons claims, Adolpho "Rudy" Malnati was once an employee at Pizzeria Uno who helped create the original dough recipe. But of course, vested interests in this matter suggest we take this information with a pinch of salt. (Source: "Who Invented Deep Dish?". Feb. 18 2009. Chicagos's Tribune).

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Reuse and...Gentrify?



Photos by Barry Brecheisen. Taken from http://www.urbandaddy.com/slideshow/chi/6026/Johnny_s_Grill_Chicago_CHI#slide-8

Background:

Living in a new city poses the great challenge of learning its customs and rhythms. In addition to commuting and getting to know the streets, it takes time to find the places to make a persons feel at ease. In my case, Chicago has not been the exception. This quest motivated my AEPP team and me to visit Logan Square, a neighborhood known for its changing, inclusive, and chilled environment. Some may just call it hipster.

We arrived to the neighborhood through the main park, Logan Square. The view verified the vague ideas we had of the neighborhood. A wide green boulevard that led to a similarly large green space gave me the sensation of an environmentally-friendly atmosphere, and some vintage small restaurants and stores in the southeast block made me recall the reduce, reuse and recycle green slogan. I believe this sensation emerges because I read this old-fashioned style as if these places wanted to integrate with the history of the neighborhood and its environment, reusing previous designs and recycling various objects.

Johnny's Grill, an old-style American grill, stands as a good representative of this trend. On the outside, the restaurant has an off-color, 1990's styled sign with the name of the restaurant (picture above—left panel), and a small welcoming terrace facing the park. On the inside, the

place has an open aluminum kitchen, cushioned, red-leathered stools and bar-like wooden tables bordering the space (picture above—right panel). The place looks like a brand new restaurant extracted from *Grease*, the 1978 romantic musical film.

Broader Issues:

Johnny's Grill is located close to what used to be, until 1970, the terminus of the 'L' blue line. The area was the commercial and resting spot for passengers and train drivers. Today, the restaurant tries to acknowledge its history, preserving itself as a spot for food for the common people.

Places as Johnny's Grill, and the people that visit them, are attracted by the authenticity of the neighborhood and try to integrate to its environment. However, in this process, they end up changing their essence through a gentrification process. In the past decades, Logan Square has suffered a process of gentrification. Though total population is falling, the white population soared from 21.7 to 32 thousand between 2000 and 2014 (Biasco, 2016). Housing prices have also increased (Trulia).

While diversity and low prices initiate gentrification, the process is naturally a tendency towards homogenization and soaring prices.

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Biasco, P. (26 de May de 2016). *Logan Square Hispanics Vanishing As Neighborhood Becomes More White*. Obtenido de DNA Info: <https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20160516/logan-square/logan-squares-hispanic-population-dropped-by-19000-since-2000>

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Pedro Armengol

National Museum of Mexican Art: The Museum of “Los Chicanos”

“Chicano” is a word that tell us little and much at the same time: little, because it is just the word that we use to refer a Mexican-American people or, in other words, people that live in the United States with Mexican background (they were born or their fathers were born in Mexico). Much, because is a word that lead us to the history of a fearless, hard-working and skillful group of people. That word has the intrinsic meaning of the courage that the Mexican immigrants have shown to build their communities and improve their living standards from scratch.

The Chicano culture is well reflected in the National Museum of Mexican Art, “culture” meaning general history, arts, ideologies and socio-political movements. Understanding the culture of “Los Chicanos” is relevant for everyone in the city of Chicago just for one reason: the culture of “Los Chicanos” is the product of development and progress, development through hard work and progress through education. At last, “Los Chicanos” are another exponent of how all the immigrant’s groups have build the United States through their work and aspirations.

The National Museum of Mexican Art is composed of permanent and itinerant expositions. The permanent section begins with the pre-Hispanic culture that is the origin of almost all the Mexicans. The Pre-Hispanic societies were very rich in culture and they flourished before the arriving of the Europeans to America. Later on, comes the movement of the Mexican American frontier due to a war between both nations. In an exogenous event, the people that used to live in the north part of Mexico became citizens of the US. That created the first huge cultural integration between both countries. After the Mexican-American war, the influx of immigrants between both nations has been constant, mostly explained by economic reasons. At last, we have the political art exposition; because “politics is art”, that section refers to the art works that emerged from the social protest of the “Chicanos” farmworkers back in the decade of the 60’s.

The Museum has original portray pieces that are widely known in Mexico. Also you can find the clothes that Cesar Chavez, a very popular leader of the farmworker union, used in his famous speech in Chicago. There is original pre-Hispanic pottery, traditional Mexican clothes and

sculpture. However, I would like to highlight two portraits: first, "The Lady and the Warrior" (Image n.1) that is the Mexican Pre-Hispanic tale about how two huge volcanos in the Mexico City surrounding where created (a story with an amazing likelihood with Romeo & Juliet). Second, the portrait of a Mexican soldier just seconds before being caught by the German forces. That portrait is a representation of the Mexican courage at the service of the US: his new home.

To conclude, the Museum is located in a neighborhood that also is a representation of the Chicanos progress: Pilsen. A middle income community conformed mostly by retired blue collar Mexican workers and their descendant: professionals that receive their education thanks to their parents hard work and the framework of the US society.

To arrive to the museum departing from the University of Chicago you should drive in average twenty minutes and the admission is free.

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Consumer Culture in Chicago



Variety of eggs in a typical Chicago supermarket

By Raysonho @ Open Grid Scheduler / Grid Engine - Own work, CC0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=19810280>

Background:

When I first arrived in Chicago from Lahore, Pakistan, I had only brought with me the bare essentials which were mostly clothes. While strategy might have allowed me to travel lightly, this also meant that I had to go to the market on the first day of my arrival. Having never been in Hyde Park before I had no idea what to expect in the local markets. A quick look at the google maps app told me that Treasure Island was the place to go. What surprised me the most was the level of variety in a typical grocery store. I found at least four varieties of cow's milk from a single brand ranging from no fat varieties to whole milk. Then there were other brands as well. The same was the case with eggs, milk and even salt. I even found a brand of salt claiming that it was mined from a particular area. What surprised me even more was the price difference among similar quality items among different brands could be as much as 200% and still those brands were in business. These price differences were not limited to certain brands and in some instances the exact same product from the same brand was sold at two different stores at different prices. For example Valley of Jordan was selling grade A Dutch Farm eggs for

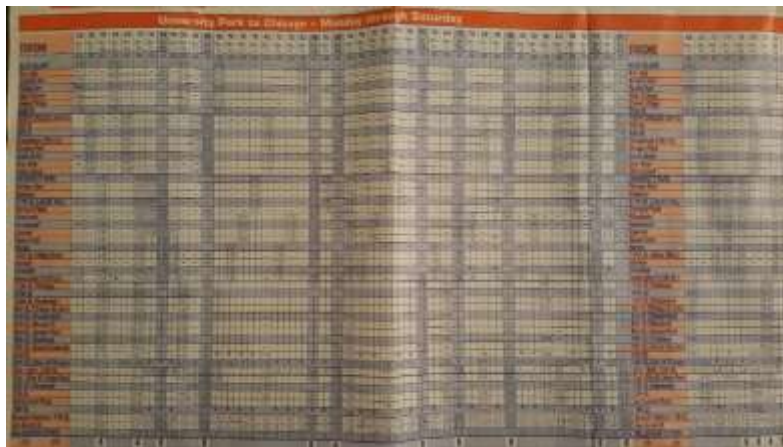
twice the price at which The Hyde Park Produce market was selling them even though those two stores were less than five minutes away from each other.

Broader Issue:

Compared to Pakistan, the markets for grocery items in the US are more developed in certain ways and less developed in others. For instance when you go to buy eggs in Pakistan you just buy non branded eggs not grade A Dutch Farm eggs. Also, the prices in Pakistan for most household essential items like eggs, milk, sugar, bread and salt are fixed across the city by the government. Those who fail to conform to government pricing policies are fined or sometimes even jailed. For those nonessential items whose prices are not fixed by the government sellers rarely charge a different price. This is because they know that they will go out of business if they start charging more for items that are sold cheaply elsewhere. While eliminating consumer ambiguity makes markets more developed in Pakistan, the lack of consumer choice often has the opposite affects. While Pakistanis do have choices in their purchase of non-essential items, that choice simply disappear when we move into the essentials spectrum.

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Metra, The Most Old-Fashioned Thing in This High-Fashioned City



Picture#1 Metra timetable brochure, Photo by author

Background:

Taking the Metra is a great option when you want to go to Millennium Park from Hyde Park. However, as a person who expected everything in Chicago - such a big and fantastic city - to be high-fashioned, my first experience with the Metra was a little bit embarrassing. In order not to be frustrated, get things ready before leaving.

First, check the timetable. Unlike the subways in most East Asian countries, Metra trains in Chicago do not run frequently. If you miss your Metra train, you might have to wait for another 20-60 minutes for the next train to come. Imagine you are wasting such a long time in scorching or in freezing weather. It will ruin your supposed-to-be perfect day in downtown Chicago. You can check the timetable online, on the Metra app, or timetable pamphlets at stations. (Refer to the picture #1)

Second, ticket machines might be broken, so be prepared and use the Metra app to buy tickets. I've never had such a hard time buying train tickets anywhere in the world. However, in

Chicago, when I was trying to go back to Hyde Park from Millennium Park station, the ticket machines were broken and I was about to cry. There was no clerk who would help me when machines were broken, nor did I know that there was Metra app. Thanks to one of the passengers at the station who taught me how to buy tickets through the app, I could safely come back to home. Thus, download Metra app before you get embarrassed by broken ticket machines.

Third, make a good guess where to get on the train. When you arrive at the station, you will have no idea where to wait for the train. People might be just standing somewhere between the long hall, so stand somewhere between them. What's more, although there are many doors on the train, you should find which door the attendants will appear and call you like 'over here!'. Therefore, be alert when the arrival time is coming.

If you keep in mind the aforementioned tips, then your trip to Millennium Park will be much more pleasant.

Broader Issue:

After arriving in downtown Chicago, you will see other trains which are not Metra. Those are CTA trains, or the 'L'. If you have been to New York, you might find it abnormal for trains in Chicago to run through elevated railways. Along with the splendid architecture in downtown Chicago, trains make breath-taking sceneries, as you can see from the picture #2. I am not sure if elevated railway system is more common around the world than underground subway system, but as a person who is used to subway system, I was curious why the trains in Chicago would run up in the sky.

According to what I found, it was normal for the first railways in the U.S. to be elevated, including those in New York. However, in 1888, New York experienced a severe snowstorm for two days and trains froze and got stuck in the middle of the lanes. After this incident, New York started to dig deep into the ground for trains to evade the cold weather. Yet, one question remain unsolved. I thought the winter in Chicago is more severe than in New York, so how could trains in Chicago bear the cold weather that even the trains in New York could not stand? Maybe trains in Chicago are stronger than those in New York, or maybe someday in the future if it gets colder, trains in Chicago might have to hide themselves under the ground too.

(information about the elevated railways retrived from "Namu Wiki",
<https://namu.wiki/w/%EC%8B%9C%EC%B9%B4%EA%B3%A0%20%EC%A0%84%EC%B2%A0>)



Picture #2 L in downtown Chicago, Trains and Trams Part 1: New York to San Francisco, RailTale, <https://railtale.wordpress.com/2013/01/25/trains-and-trams-part-1-new-york-to-san-francisco/>

Then why would you choose to take Metra to go to Millennium Park despite of all the shortcomings? Because it has no traffic. It is too crowded in downtown Chicago, so it would take more time to go to downtown by car or by bus. For example, it took the same time for me to take Uber from Cobb Hall to Museum Campus, which is about 7.7 miles, and from Museum Campus to Millennium Park, which is about 3.3 miles. However, if you take Metra, it would always take the same amount of time to go to Millennium Park from 51st/53rd street Hyde Park station: 14 minutes. In addition, it is much cheaper to take Metra than to take Uber. It only costs \$3.75 to take Metra, whereas it costs over \$15 to take Uber. Therefore, if you want to be punctual and to save money, then take Metra, and don't forget the tips!

Germán Villegas Bauer

Argentina

Social Sciences - Economics PhD

Efficient Reallocation

Background:

When I arrived to the US, after paying the flight tickets, the rent and the month deposit, I ended up without much money. I needed some furniture and different kind of goods, but I could not afford them all. Luckily I was told about the UChicago MarketPlace (an online site for buying and selling), where I found great used items much cheaper than the new ones!

Broader Issue:

As an economist I know that when you buy something it is because you value that object more than the money you spend on it. It does not mean that you value money by itself; for example, when you are deciding whether to buy a bicycle or not, you compare it with the other items you would be able to buy with the money that you would spend on that bicycle (or your most preferred item that you could buy with that money). The same happens with the person selling that item; if he sells it, it is because he values the money he is going to receive more **than** the item itself.

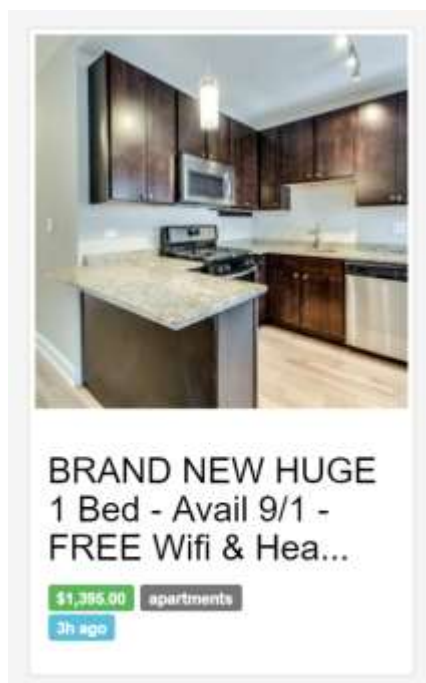
Then, when two people make a transaction, both of them end up better than before; if that was not the case, the one who would end up worse would not do that transaction. That happens every day when you go to the supermarket, to a store or wherever you buy or sell something.



UChicago
Marketplace

<https://marketplace.uchicago.edu/>

The problem that arose some time ago was that maybe you had some furniture that you did not want any more, but you may have worked as a waitress at a restaurant for example, so you could not take that furniture with you and put it there for sale. And maybe there was a person who wanted that furniture but did not value it as much as to buy it new (or could not afford it). That person could be delighted with the idea of buying the used furniture for a lower price than with buying the new one, and the waitress could also be delighted to sell it at that lower price. But they might never have met, and that transaction may have never happened, a transaction that would have left both of them better; one that would be great if it had happened.



<https://marketplace.uchicago.edu/>

What people used to do some time ago (and still do) was to sell those kind of things at their garage sales during the weekends. But maybe the one who would be interested would not be able to go, or may not even have known that there was going to be such an event.

Nowadays we have much more efficient and effective ways of getting those transactions done: online pages to buy and sell used things. One in particular that is great is the UChicago Market Place. It is for people from the University of Chicago, people that mostly live close to the university. Every year a lot of students move out of Hyde Park and a lot of other students move in, so it is a great place to find cheap and wonderful items to buy. That page is not only positive because it promotes transactions that leave the participants better off, but it also helps the environment; it keeps a lot of things from being thrown away and new ones from being bought, ending with a lot of garbage.

Cinta Benet

Spain

Cinema and Media Studies

Pullman: Following the Traces of Social Movements



Located 14 miles south of downtown Chicago, extending from 111th Street to 115th Street and from Cottage Grove Avenue to Langley Avenue, the Pullman Town was built between 1880 and 1894 to host the Pullman's Palace Car Company, becoming the first factory town planned in the United States. Architect Solon S. Bemen designed a town conceived as an optimal environment to work - and to live

The contemporary Historical Pullman District is, since 1972, a National Historical Lanmark; and since 2015, a part of the National Park System. The maintenance and the consciousness of the historical heritage that this part of the city contains not only among its neighbors but also though the political institutions contrast to the way in which the American history of the 20th century emerges in other parts of the city. It can be accurate to say that on the South Side, it is from the plots and blocks once filled with stunning stone houses and now empty or deserted that the historical traces can manifest.

In Pullman, one way to think about and perceive the historical heritage of the city is through the **materiality** of its buildings -former houses of the factory's workers and nowadays residences for their descendants or for many artists. In other districts, however, the heritage of the economic and social process caused by the industrialization and the later removal of the industrial activity (that so intensely shaped the Chicago urban space) is recognized and understood through a **manifest emptiness** that surrounds isolated houses. A migration to the suburbs, an impoverishment of the districts, an abandonment and a later demolition are revealed and displayed by the invisible.

Interested in the entwined relationship between poetics and politics, as well as the potential role of art in political and social transformation, the Pullman's factory engaged me as a potential starting point to understand the social struggles and their artistic representations and responses through 20th century American history.

From that planned Pullman's community emerged, on one hand, worker's strikes, due to the decreasing of wages, which became a pivotal moment in the history of the US labor law. On the other hand, the first union of black workers, impulsed by Pullman porters, which turned into an impulse and a force for the Civil Rights Movement.

Different forms of art followed and take into an account these moments, as a direct response to them or as a reflective and historical representation. *The Last Pullman Car*, directed by Gordon Quinn and Jerry Blumenthal and presented in 1984 not only depicts the Pullman worker's struggle during the beginning of the second half of the 20th century, but also the unions, corporate policies, and the nationwide effects that accompanied the history of the Pullman factory. *Miles of Smiles, Years of Struggle*, by Paul Wagner, reflects on the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, formed by organized black Pullman porters, as a seed for the advent of the Civil Rights Movement.

The Historical Pullman District can be experienced as an evocative impetus for the research of different artistic forms engaged with the revolutionary culture.

Daniela Bergmann
Mexico
Harris School of Public Policy

Entertainment for Millennia!



Choose Chicago.

<http://www.choosechicago.com/articles/view/about-millennium-park/895/?micrositeid=337>

Background:

23% of the days that I have been in Chicago, I have attended the summer events held at Millennium Park. I have heard from classical music like Mozart symphony to salsa and indie pop. You make your own plan and it is free! You can sit on one of the 4,000 fixed seats that are next to the stage and truly enjoy the different bands and orchestras or you can sit on the Great Lawn that is furthest from the stage and enjoy some music but also the company and talks with friends or family. For this second plan I recommend bringing a blanket, towel or plastic sheet to sit, beverages such as soda or wine, and some snacks to enjoy even more the show. In the park you can buy drinks, but they are more expensive than if you buy them in a supermarket. For example, a beer or a glass of wine costs \$7 dollars, while a bottle of wine costs \$28 dollars. One thing to keep in mind is that the park has restrooms.

What is unique about these events is that you are in contact with the landscape as you are listening to music outdoors. You are also in contact with the city and its architecture as you can see a wonderful view of all the skyscrapers and even more wonderful when they are illuminated at night.

The most important show offered at Millennium Park during the summer is the Chicago Jazz Festival on Labor Day Weekend because of the history of jazz in the city. Besides the live music shows, every Saturday from 7 to 11 a.m. the park offers Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates, and Zumba classes accompanied by live music. On Tuesdays people is invited to watch outdoor movies in a 40-foot LED screen!

It is really worth enjoying these events, before the cold invades the city. For further information you can visit: <http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en.html> or <http://www.choosechicago.com/>.

Broader Issue:

Listening free music outdoors is new for me as in Mexico we do not have this type of events. That is why I decided to enjoy them as much as possible. I think they increase the value and quality of life of a city and it is something invaluable and irreplaceable for its inhabitants. In my opinion, it is what distinguishes developed and cosmopolitan cities. However, every citizen in any city in the world should have the right to enjoy high quality and free events. Unfortunately, in most countries this is not possible.

Millennium Park is Chicago's favorite green space that was once occupied by rail yards and parking lots. Its construction began in 1998 and was completed in July, 2004. Moreover, the Jay Pritzker Pavilion is a "revolutionary outdoor concert venue" that was designed to imitate the acoustics of an indoor concert gallery by equally distributing the sound throughout the fixed seats and the Great Lawn (City of Chicago). In 2004, the Pavilion began hosting the Grant Park Music Festival which is a series of concerts of classical music. The event started during the Great Depression to provide the citizens of Chicago a free and positive way to escape the harsh economic situation, at the same time that it created jobs for unemployed musicians (City of Chicago).

Before or after the shows at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion you can visit other important spots in Millennium Park such as "The Bean", Crown Fountain, Lurie Garden, Boeing Galleries (outdoor spaces for public exhibitions), Wrigley Square and Millennium Monument, BP Pedestrian Bridge and Nichols Bridgeway.



City of Chicago.

http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/millennium_park7.html

Millennium Park

201 E Randolph St, Chicago, IL 60602

CTA: 40 minutes

Car: 30 minutes

Bike: 45 minutes

Ran Bi

China

Harris School of Public Policy

Tracing Patti Smith's Childhood in Logan Square



Johnny's Grill: Photo by author

Background:

I went to Logan Square before knowing that Patti Smith was baptized there.

Located on the northwest side of Chicago, Logan Square is a vibrant neighborhood boasting extended green space, stately boulevards, and some of the city's finest restaurants. My teammates and I went there for our neighborhood project. After interviewing several local residents, we were fascinated by the fact that nearly everyone recommended a restaurant called Johnny's Grill—a typical refined American diner near the busy community center.

My re-encounter with Logan Square took place earlier than I thought. While I was reading through the first few pages of *Just Kids*, the award-winning memoir written by Patti Smith, my breath was taken away by the fact that the legendary artist spent her childhood in Logan Square. I tried to search every comment she had made about Logan Square online. To my delight, she keeps Chicago dear to her heart although she moved to New York City sixty years

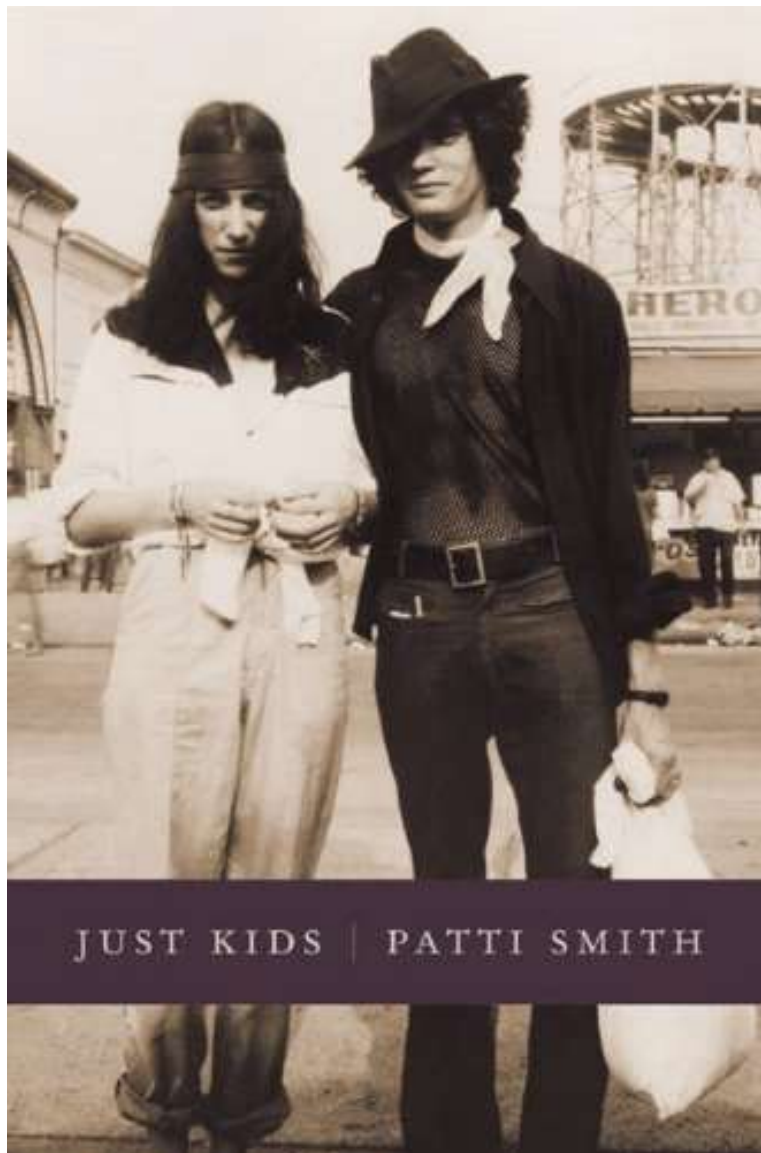
ago. During a live show, she even recalled the restaurant she loved to visit in childhood—(un)surprisingly, it was the Johnny’s Grill. A street restaurant cherished by three generations is unimaginable for me. Brought up in a major Chinese city undergoing rapid a city-renewal process, I am too used to the neighborhood landscape that is constantly changing. In contrast, Logan Square remains constant, as Patti Smith comments, “it’s exactly as I remember”. Her remarks provoke my thoughts on neighborhood preservation.

Broader Issue:

The landscape of Logan Square is composed of sedimentations of different historical periods. Minnekirken Church—the only Norwegian language church in Chicago as a legacy of Scandinavian immigrants in the late 19th Century—Latin American shops operated by Hispanic settlers since the 1950s, and high-end restaurants as a result of recent gentrification, all coexist in the neighborhood. The influx of immigrants and gentrifiers have left their own footprint without completely erasing their predecessors’ traces.

Several factors contribute to the preservation of Logan Square. Firstly, a well-established community preservation organization is dedicated to educating residents about the history and beautification of the neighborhood. It organizes walking tours, community gatherings and newsletters regularly to promote the identity of the neighborhood. Moreover, residents are vocal when new real estate projects potentially threaten the existing landscape. For instance, they filed a petition against two billboards set up in the historic district in 2013. Recently, the preservation organization has advocated for a re-design of the Mega Mall project underway to make it a proper complement of the historic neighborhood. It also monitors the land use closely to ensure the integrity of the community scene. Meanwhile, residents cherish the virtue of being local. People purchase groceries from a locally-run farmers market, drink craft brews in neighborhood bars, and go to indie galleries that exhibit local artists. The strong local connection makes restaurants like Johnny’s Grill thrive over decades.

Active neighborhood preservation is not only confined to Logan Square, but also inherent to Chicagoans. Therefore, strolling on the thoroughfares in Chicago is like time-traveling across the rich history of the city. Just as rock music fans today can devour the same cuisine as Patti Smith used to enjoy, neighborhood preservation makes sharing collective heritage possible and attaches multiple generations to their land of their birth.



Cover of *Just Kids*

(Source: https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Just_Kids)

Travel time from UChicago:

Car: 40 mins

Metra+Blue Line: 55 mins

Amine Bouhayat
Morocco
Humanities Division

Chicago Fire Soccer Team



Photo by Tottenham Hotspur FC.

Background:

When I learned that I was admitted to the University of Chicago, one of the many thoughts that came to my mind was “Damn! I won't be able to watch soccer games anymore ...” - due to time difference. The joy that I was feeling regarding my academic accomplishment was somehow tainted (not so much) by the idea of losing one of my favorite hobbies : crack a beer open among a bunch of friends, and relax in front of an entertaining soccer game.

I must confess that I do not understand much about US' most popular sports. Baseball and Football are a complete mystery to me, and I am only a little bit more familiar with basketball. I was therefore relieved to learn that Chicago has its own soccer team, that it had already won many trophies and that the MLS was increasing in professionalism and popularity among US residents. Plus, many MLS clubs star in their team former soccer glories. All of this can promise only good soccer shows.

So here I am, ready to become one of the Fire's fans. Go Fires !

Broader Issue:

Chicago has always had a reputation for being a sports-crazed town. With a wide range of professional, collegiate and amateur sports facilities, the region excels at indeed hosting a variety of tournaments. The Bulls (for Basketball), the Cubs and the White Sox (for Baseball) are indeed some of the most excelling teams in the country.

Therefore it is a pressing need for the city that the soccer team reaches the same level of accomplishment that these teams, so Chicago can maintain its reputation. With a growing fanbase (data shows that the average affluence almost fills the whole stadium), more and more Chicagoans expect the Fires to bring trophies home.

By car : 50 min.

By public transport : 1 h 30 min.

Mayra Alejandra Cabrera Matlalcuatzi
Mexico
The Harris School of Public Policy

A Window to Pilsen: 5 Rabanitos



(Photo credit: author's Instagram)

Background:

I am quietly sitting at one of the window tables in this Mexican restaurant, 5 Rabanitos, almost paying no attention to the music, that was popular in Mexico when I was 5 years old. The Mexican chef Alfonso Sotelo opened this restaurant and taqueria last year, preserving much of the original recipes. I am finishing my *café de olla* and the *tres leches cake* I ordered a dessert. It is 6 pm and I am feeling nostalgic. Perhaps it is the sunset and that I am already satisfied and exhausted. Perhaps it is just the clove and the cinnamon that spice up my coffee the way my mother would do it.

The fact is that I feel both comfortable in a place that embodies Mexico so well but, at the same time, curious and expectant. I am surrounded by white families and hipster customers that seem to live in the area and who are more fascinated about Mexican food than I myself am. Because I am not in Mexico City, my hometown. I am in Chicago, in Pilsen, and I had never experienced these encountered feelings in any other Mexican restaurant I have visited outside my country.

The whole experience in Pilsen was unexpectedly satisfactory and fulfilling. I was actually reluctant to go, but the walk through the 18th Street, “La Dieciocho”, the visit to the National Museum of Mexican Art, and the view from 5 Rabanitos’ window, showed me the origins, the importance, and the richness of the Mexican community in Chicago.

Particularly, I came across the figure of César Chávez (a street was named after him), a labor leader and civil rights activist, and whose image and life story reminded me of my grandfather’s. I think Chavez is a mayor icon because his struggle and his character resemble those of the Mexican men and women—honest hard workers with a strong sense of community and family.



(Photo credit: author's Instagram)

Broader issue:

Pilsen sums up the history and development of the Mexican community in Chicago. The first wave of Mexicans who came to Chicago began in the first decade of the 20th Century, displaced by the Mexican Revolution. The migration slowed down during the great depression and was reactivated by the Second World War, bringing more than 15,000 *braceros*, semi and non-qualified workers who arrived in Chicago under a governmental agreement between Mexico and U.S. After that, many workers stayed after the expiration of their visas, and many others kept coming, settling in the metropolitan area. By 1960, the total population of Mexicans was 56,000.

Pilsen was originally a Czech Catholic community (founded by German and Irish immigrants back in the 1840s), and the Mexican community continued its expansion from the 18th Street towards 26th Street, an area known as *La Villita* (Little Village, the informal name of the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico, the most important places of catholic worship around the world).

Throughout Pilsen, one can recognize old buildings with some European style and, at the same time, advertising written in Spanish for the local businesses, and murals of Mexican street artists.

The appropriation of the space is blatantly colorful, and the National Museum of Mexican Art crowns this cultural and social process. The Museum is even a statement itself on the permanence of this Mexican community in Pilsen. The community is resisting the gentrification experienced in the last few years, and Pilsen is still the entry for the Hispanic migration into Chicago.

Travel times:

From 5811 S Ellis Ave.

Driving/Uber: 20 minutes ride. This is the safest option, considering the public transportation routes available.

Transit: 55 minutes. Bus 55 (55th Street and S Ellis Ave towards Garfield and Ashland) and Bus 9 (Garfield and Ashland towards 18th Street and Ashland). Then, head West, two blocks.

Camila Carrasco
Chile
The Harris School of Public Policy

Converted into a Chicago Blues Fan



Photo by <http://uplup.com/music/blue-chicago-chicago>.

Background:

In my first week in Chicago, I had a friend of Chile coming over for two days. I did my best effort to show him the finest attractions this city has to offer (based on my –not very profound– knowledge acquired in the seven preceding days), but he was obsessed with something else. He was a great admirer of Blues Music and he wanted to see by his own eyes some of the genuine shows that still exist in the Windy City. At first I was not very interested, but I realized that this feeling was caused more by my ignorance about this kind of music than by a real sense of its existence. So, I did my research and in less than 2 minutes navigating in Google I found a place that caught my attention: Blue Chicago. So, we ate something swiftly and went to this little bar on 536 N. Clark St. What happened next is something I will never forget.

Broader Issue:

Since the very first minute I was inside this bar, the rhythm and the sounds transported me to somewhere else. From those walls full of pictures and memories to that vivid audience that was

old and young and white and black altogether, I started to be involved by a solid sentiment of excitement. Lyrics were all about loneliness, frustration, hope and dreams. One can feel the African roots this music has, and some vague image of what Afro-Americans had to deal with throughout history was inside my head. I felt grateful and privileged that those singers and musicians were willing to open their souls so freely to us. After two hours –against my will- we came back to my apartment. Weirdly enough as it sounds, I felt I was converted into a Chicago Blues fan in just one night. And as Robert Johnson wrote in one of his songs, I felt that I want to be back to that same old place, to my sweet home Chicago.

Travel times from U. Chicago:

Blue Chicago Bar is located in the River North district on 536 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60654.

It is open from Sun-Fri: 8:00pm-2:00am and Sat.: 8:00pm-3:00am.

How long does it take to get there from The University of Chicago?:

- By car: 22 min (9,4 miles)
- By public transportation: 43 min
(taking the bus 55 and then the Red Line to Grand Station).
- By bike: 54 min (via Lakefront Trail)

Andres Celis
Colombia
Harris School of Public Policy

Big River, Small Museum, Bigger Citizens



View of Chicago and the Chicago River from the South West Bridgetower of Dusable Bridge. Source: photo by the author

Location:

McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum
South West Bridgetower at Michigan Avenue & Wacker Drive

Broader Issue:

The museum is managed by an independent organization, which in addition to running the museum, is engaged in other activities to improve the river's health and its role as a valuable asset to the city's revitalization. More than being a curiosity, the museum and the organization that manages it represent a key and distinctive feature of the American society: the spontaneous organization of citizens. Unlike many other countries, it is very common in the United States that citizens establish associations based on common interests. These vary from climate change and gun holders associations to advocacy groups that fight for the rights of cats and dogs.

Despite the stereotyped image of the United States as a very individualistic society, the idea of communities handling their own problems has a very long history in this country. In fact, this kind of self-organizing instinct is behind big projects like those related to the Chicago River. The

implications this phenomena has to the design and implementation of public policies are huge and can determine their success in a particular context. In Europe social and economic problems used to be handled by the Almighty State, that's the reason why people pay big taxes. In Latin America people expect the same of the State, but it does not have the capabilities or transparency or collect enough taxes to do so. Could a more active engagement of citizens make any difference? Maybe, if it can do its part in maintaining the health of the Chicago River, it probably can help in addressing many of the problems of the developing world.

If during your trip to Chicago you have the opportunity of visiting this museum, which will take you no more than 10 minutes, please do not think of it just as a small museum but also as the work of some anonymous citizens who want to change the world for the better. And, maybe, you can found your own museum in your hometown!

By Car: 21 minutes

By CTA: 45 minutes

By Metra: 36 minutes

By bike: 47 minutes

You-Lin Chen
Taiwan
Statistics department

Change Starts from Minor Thing



Photo by author

Background:

After being in the U.S. for one month, I feel excited and, however, notice there are so many things here that are different from where I come from. I am from Taiwan, which is south east of mainland China. The total area of Taiwan is 36,193 square kilometers, so it is the world's 137th largest country. However, the population in Taiwan is 23.4 million, and this makes it the seventeenth most densely populated country in the world. Since Taiwan is such a small and crowded island, it is very hard to build landfills because people always protest against them. It is very important, therefore, to implement garbage classification and teach the public environmental concepts. In Taiwan, the recycling rate is up to 55%, and every plastic bag and disposable table product has a price in supermarkets, restaurants, and cafeterias. People are encouraged to use their own chopsticks and spoons when they go out to have lunch and dinner and have the shopping bag or reusable plastic bags when they go to buy groceries.

I feel surprised that people in the U.S. use so many plastic bags in supermarkets and stores and there is no way to classify garbage in the home because there is only the trash chute in the apartment. All I need to do is to put the rubbish, papers, plastic bottles, and kitchen waste into a bag and then dump it all into the trash chute, which is easy and simple. I went to Walmart one afternoon to buy the things I needed. Since plastic bags all are the same size and too small to

easily put items into, the cashier put only one or two items into one plastic bag. I got almost ten bags but, after I reorganized my purchases, I realized that I only needed three plastic bags to put my all items. People in the U.S. waste the resource in unbelievable way.

Broader Issue:

The U.S. is one of the countries that consume energy and create garbage the most. Students in the university use many disposable items for taking food and beverages in cafeterias. Some may think we cannot change anything by one person. The fact is, nevertheless, environmental problems impact everyone. The extreme climate happens more frequently during the last decades. Many areas suffer from drought or flood, heat waves or blizzards.

It is difficult to change people's habits and concepts. Putting another can used to collect recyclable items does not help much. Only by combining law, policy and education can we change this. First, use the law to force people to do garbage classification by penalty charge and create agencies and funds to deal with the recyclable and developmental policies. The policy needs to, next, make a initiative to conduct garbage classification and reduce using plastic bags. For example, people can make money by selling recyclable items and by charging for the disposable items. In Taiwan, garbage bags are provided at a cost, which makes people decrease the amount of trash by increasing the recycle rate and doing strict garbage classification. The education, finally, can cultivate the environmentally friendly habit. If children are used to using their own tableware set and practice classifying garbage in school and even at home, it is natural to follow this rule when they grow up. If we do not change this minor custom, how can we expect a better world?

Chih-Yu Chiang
Taiwan
Division of the Social Sciences

A Better Integration with Local Community—Northwestern vs UChicago



Background:

If you are from the University of Chicago and it's your first time in Evanston, you'll probably be surprised by the ubiquitous existence of "Northwestern University" in this neighborhood. Purple 100 is everywhere. It is the color representing this school— Northwestern Purple—they even use the name for this specific color. You will see it not only in school building, but in private stores, apartments, community arts, and so many. And don't forget the "purple line" of L system connecting Evanston and L red line. Often appearing with the purple color are Northwestern's school logo and Wildcat mascot from their sports teams. You'll see their t-shirts worn by almost everyone. I'm not talking about the students or people working for the school, but the grandmother sitting on a wheelchair or the little children running on those public lawns.

These are definitely not you'll encounter in Hyde Park area where University of Chicago locates. I'm not saying that there're no merchandise of the school brand or no one have the t-shirts or mugs of this school. It's just not that much. In Hyde Park, you would see some young students wearing in maroon, but never the elderly on the sidewalk or the store clerk selling you doughnuts.

While both schools are great, I'm personally so interested in what causes the difference—an obvious difference of community integration level between these two school—a field Northwestern is definitely doing better. When interview local residents, you'll really see Evanston community which is so proud of "their" school.

Broader Issue:

Possible Explanations

1. Lack of secular bond between local ethnicity and academy.

Hyde park area suffers serious ethnicity problem throughout the history. Black and white population voluntarily and involuntarily moved in and out because of several "community development" projects. The goal of a community with mixed races has never been completely accomplished even in today. According to data from U.S Census, with 30.4% in Hyde Park, 71.9%, 97.04%, and 85.23% in three adjacent communities, Kenwood, Washington Park, and Woodlawn, African Americans are undoubtedly the majority of the area. While many of them come from middle to lower income families, higher education and academic activities UChicago provides is far away from most of their life and, said, out of reach.

On the other hand, Evanston has a 65.6% white population with a median household income 50% higher than Hyde Park. Academic strengths of Northwestern such as in communication, film, acting, and business are well matched into wealthy white people's life and culture needs. This definitely contributes to the strong bond between Northwestern and Evanston.

2. Lack of traditional bond with local community.

Northwestern was founded in 1851 by John Evans, an American politician. Evanston city was since developed around the school and was finally named after one of the school founders. This showcases their relationship built right from the beginning.

On the other hand, Hyde Park community and UChicago never have that deep bond. With the name of "Chicago," UChicago seems far away from local residents. "Perhaps the school is for city Chicago, not the local neighborhoods and us," this might be the real recognition of some local Hyde Park residents.

3. The withdrawal from sport fields.

In 1946, UChicago withdrawn from Big Nine Conference, the oldest Division I collegiate athletic conference in the United States. On the other hand, president of the school in 30s and 40s, Robert Maynard Hutchins, dropped then popular sport football and directed UChicago putting more focus on academic development. These two events announced the decreased popularity of UChicago school sports, and sport games are one of the common connections between the school, community, and the merchandise.

What can UChicago Do?

While not possible to change demographic constitution and geographic limits, UChicago have to embrace them and try to combine the strength of this school with local society and economy. There have been a lot of community projects, but maybe it needs more, especially those incorporating African American culture and issues into the academia and brining about the interaction between classes, faculty, students, and local residents and businesses. Maybe university students could provide free tutor services for local high school students; school activities could involve more rapping culture; or maybe the school provides more scholarships for lower-income African American students seeking academic advancement. We need those activities pull people together, build up mutual trust and recognition, and eventually change lower-income families' attitude toward study. With all these, hopefully not a long time later, UChicago would be able to extend its influence into nearby communities, learn from local people, and shoulder more responsibility of local neighborhoods' wellbeing.

Northwestern University
120 minites

HyungJin Cho
Korea
Social Sciences

Mind the Gap



Mind the Gap, Photo by HyungJin Cho

Background:

Do you call it public transportation or mass transportation? A subtle choice of a word reflects your own view on a specific object. Using the word 'public' nuances it's for everyone's common good. The word 'public' has almost identical status with its antonym 'private'. Public transportation has advantages over private transportation in some aspects, for example, taking a subway to avoid rush hours' traffic jam, and vice versa.

On the contrary, 'mass' implies it's untailored and pedestrian. 'Mass' sounds like it's inferior to 'exclusive' options. Imagining the mass transportation, messy and crowded image comes into my mind. When taking mass transportation, you become a part of the mundane masses.

In a community which has 'public' transportation, you can meet people with diverse backgrounds. People with high-income take a bus because they don't want to be bothered by parking their car in a busy city. Since they're paying more taxes, indeed, they deserve the benefits of using public transportation.

On the other hand, in a society which runs 'mass' transportation, you will encounter people within only a narrow range of class, usually underprivileged. Mass transportation would be

occupied by the people in need, while wealthy people would leave for their fancy automobiles. Certainly, there is a distinct gap between 'public' and 'mass' transportation. What do you think Chicago has; public or mass transportation?

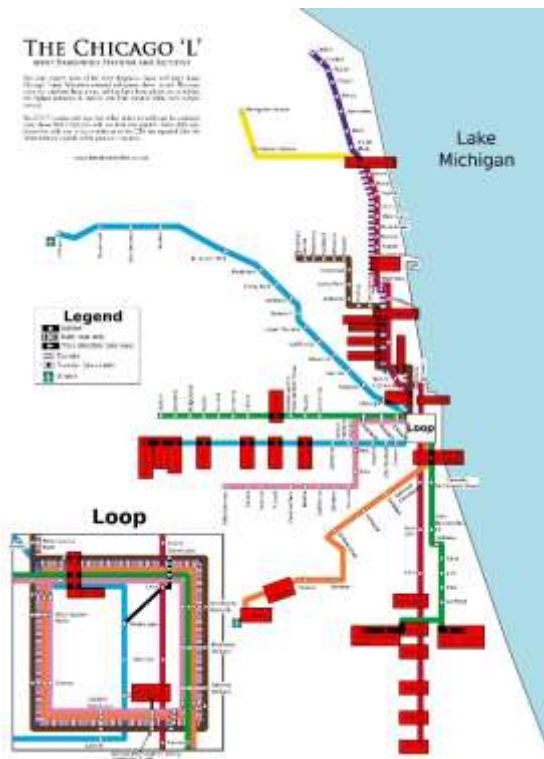
Broader Issues:

If you've ever felt unclean and unsafe on Chicago's rail system, you may answer Chicago has 'mass' transportation. Before we discuss the issues, I want to make sure that it's not from a failure of people with low income, but from a failure of society with severe income inequality. In the long term, it ought to be our ultimate goal to resolve income disparity and make Chicago's rail system a safer place. Along with the effort of social change, however, in the short run, it is wise not to put yourself in the unfavorable situation. Therefore, as an individual, it is a help to have background knowledge where the place you need to be more cautious is.

Safety matters. Again, this is not an attempt to stigmatize a specific area, rather it is a pursuit for grasping a sense of neighbors by reviewing statistical information. The Red Line station at 95th was listed with the most violent crimes, and the Red Line platform at Jackson was ranked as the highest thefts (Data Reveals Most Crime-Ridden CTA Stations, Stefan Holt and Katy Smyser, 2014, nbcchicago.com). The map of The Most Dangerous Stations in Chicago by Travis Dewitz (2015) hints which stations require your extra attention.

As the other map of Chicago-Area Real Estate Prices by Transit Stop reveals, there is some evidence how inequality in socioeconomic status contributes to crimes. The statistic suggest that the impoverished area, which can be also inferred by home prices, is linked with the violent crimes such as arson, assaults, battery, burglaries, criminal sexual assaults, homicides, kidnapping, and robberies. On the other hand, the downtown area is related to thefts; pickpocketing and swiping. These associations provide some insight into what type of risk we may face in a certain area.

We need both wisdom and courage; wisdom to avoid adverse situations and courage to confront social injustice. It is my hope that we have 'public' transportation in Chicago, and that everyone can enjoy a safe trip!



The Most Dangerous Stations in Chicago, Image by Tavis Dewitz (2015), therailroadcollection.com



Chicago-Area Real Estate Prices by Transit Stop, Image by Estatefy, estatefy.com

Location

The Junction 18, The Chicago Loop

W Lake St & N Wells St, Chicago, IL 60606

Transportation

Transit time from University of Chicago:

Car (25mins) / Bus & Rail (40mins) / Bike (55mins)

Yeongsu Cho
South Korea
Physical Sciences Division

“Nitrogen Snacks” from Amazon



Photo from www.naver.com. Example of Korean Nitrogen Snacks.

Background:

There is a phrase “Nitrogen Snack” in Korea. It is a sarcastic way of referring to Korean snacks. These snacks are contained in big plastic bags or boxes. When you open one of them, you can find that there is an only small amount of snacks and the rest of the volume is filled with nitrogen gas, which was infused by the company to “protect” the snacks from damage. This makes customers angry, who paid quite a lot of money expecting a full bag of snacks.

I experienced something similar when I ordered products through Amazon. Last Monday, I ordered 23 products from Amazon for daily necessities such as cups and tableware. I received 9 big boxes from Amazon after 3 days. It was uncanny because all of the products I ordered were small in size except a laptop cart. When I opened the box, I found that about 50% of the space was in waste, filled with space filling paper and plastic air bags. It didn’t make me angry because I already knew what was in the box, but I was shocked by their careless waste.

Broader Issue:

This is not a simple waste of paper boxes. It wastes labor of the delivery men and the customers. Carrying a number of large boxes, they have to spend more time and effort. The customers become unhappy because they have to move all those parcels into their apartment,

rip off huge tape, flatten every box, and carry them somewhere else to throw out. This is also damaging Amazon because Amazon has to pay more costs on shipping and buying boxes. Moreover, Amazon should be spending lots of money to buy filling papers and plastic air bags.

Why are they using so many boxes? The answer probably is a simple economical reason. Amazon is an enormous corporation, and one of the most brilliant features is free two-day shipping for Prime members. Therefore, the retail process should be complicated so that it might be cheaper to just grab a product and throw it into a huge box that can literally contain anything than to find a box of a proper size.

It is, however, still advisable to reduce the use of boxes. Apart from the inconvenience of delivery men and customers, it is a meaningless waste of resources. Although the paper can be recycled, the paper comprising the boxes could have been utilized in a better place with more value. Saving this paper can reduce logging, thus saving the real Amazon forests. Amazon is capable of putting little more effort on picking up a box of reasonable size. As one of the leading online shopping corporations, Amazon should consider the environmental cost, the cost of damaging forests.



Photo by author. 6 times bigger box for only one small set of adhesive hooks.

Ratchanon Chotiputsilp

Thailand

Social Sciences

Health Insurance: Can it be More Complicated?



Photo from Inception (2010)

Background:

As an international student, you are probably running blindfolded in the maze of information that even Americans have a hard time trying to make sense of. Coverage, claims, co-pay, co-insurance, deductible, FFS, HMO, PPO, U-SHIP, ISO, !@#%\$^!, @#, and many more abbreviations. It would be much easier if we didn't have to choose our own plan and let the university decide what plan is best for us as international students. Instead, we are given an option to waive that plan—which already costs you both arms and a leg (which leaves us limping along in the dark) —and choose to enter any comparable plans from other companies. And when you decided that arms and a leg is too a bit too much to give up for a year of coverage, then you will be bombarded with million terabytes of information about 'things-you-need-to-know' to make an informed[?] decision on your health plan.

Here is how it does not work: you pay the insurance and you are good. Because of the 'moral hazard' excuses, the insurers think that when you are covered, you want to be sick so you could

enjoy the hospital more often. So they think it is a good idea to charge you every time you visit the hospital and call that deductible, co-pay, and co-insurance. Because the price of medical services is insanely high, each insurance company wants to minimize its cost by having their own physician network for its members called HMO and PPO. You will have to choose whether you want some flexibility (HMO) or you are okay with any (PPO). Frustration ensues, and I don't want to flood you with unnecessary information any further.

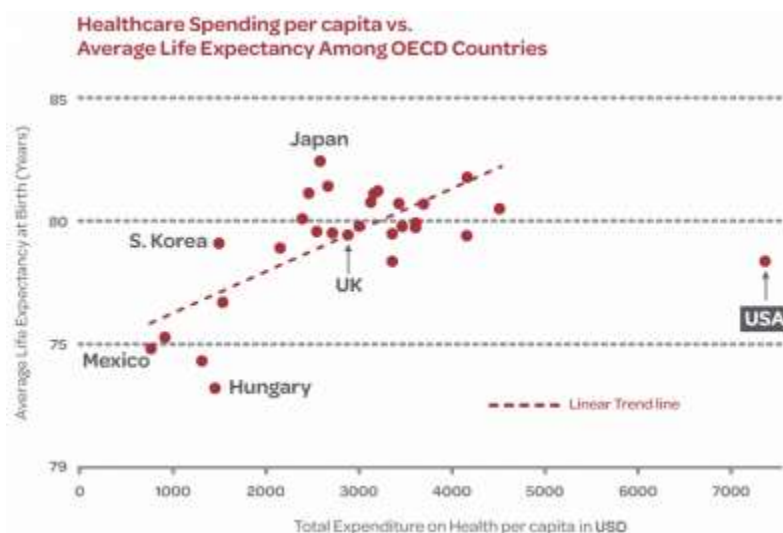
So, what exactly do you really need to know and look at? (1) What you are paying is called a premium and the coverage is the amount that the insurance will pay (2) Look at the deductible which is the amount of money you have to pay before the insurance will cover the rest; the smaller the better (3) Co-pay is the amount of money you have to pay each time you visit a physician even if you are covered; Again, the smaller the better (4) Look at maximum out-of-pocket which is the highest amount of money that you have to pay if things go really wrong.

Even if you understand all these numbers, it does not really help us much. What does it really mean to be able to save \$2,000 by having to accept the risk of higher maximum out-of-pocket? Without a reference point, all these numbers are nothing but confusing digits. Don't bother finding this information on the internet; each area and each hospital charge differently for exactly the same service. Until you get sick and have the experience with medical bills yourself, you will continue to be perplexed by this bizarre system—I highly encourage you to stay foolish on this point.

Broader Issue:

Health expenditure per capita in the U.S. is the highest in the world. This is a \$3 trillion industry which would be the fifth largest economy according to Consumer Reports, yet the quality does not seem to catch up very well. The U.S. has one of the worst health care systems in the developed country—ranked 37, among the lowest in OECD countries. Despite having the best technology in the industry, physicians per capita are fewer than many developed countries. Yet, when facts are revealed, it seems like the healthcare industry in the U.S.—which is a market-based system—defies many economic principles. Any excess profit would attract competitions which would drive down the price of the goods and services, or profit may stay if the products or services are differentiated. Neither are true in the U.S. Many academics have investigated this matter for a long time, but no actual policy was really carried out to address the problem. Though Obamacare increases access to health care, the real wound is left untreated—absurdly

high cost of health care is the real disease. Whether to regulate or not, attention is needed because the market is not working as it should. Until this problem is solved, we as international students continue to suffer from both the insurance price and this bizarre insurance system.



Graph from Mary Meeker of KPCB

Himanshu Dave
India
Harris School of Public Policy

Beware of Guns!



Illinois State Police Post Approved Concealed Carry Signage
Source: (<http://www.isp.state.il.us/media/pressdetails.cfm?ID=762>)

Background:

As a first time visitor in Chicago, you will notice a lot of strange, amusing, and disturbing things for the first time. One of the things you will have surely noticed by now is the “No Guns” sign. These signs are approved by the Illinois State Police and usually seen at the entrance of areas where guns are prohibited and private properties of the owners who chose to prohibit concealed guns on their premises. You can see this sign at almost every store, restaurant, bar and even college buildings and libraries. Coming from India where common citizens rarely possess a firearm, I was shocked to see this sign as commonplace as “No Smoking” sign. It raised several questions in my mind. (1) If no guns are allowed inside, are there really guns outside? (2) Who carries a gun everywhere other than cops? And finally (3) Who is checking if this law is being followed or not? Or (4) Is this sign just a symbol to make people feel safe?

To get the facts straight, you could actually check the statistics of armed robberies and property crimes on various websites. Otherwise, I would suggest to the faint-hearted, just to avoid nightmares about walking on the streets of Chicago while dodging bullets. I really wonder if

these signs work, if at all, to stop criminals from entering the stores or other places, since there is no system to check if the law is being followed.

Broader Issue:

Chicago is famous for being one of the most dangerous cities in America. Last weekend, on my visit to the Loop, while walking by a grocery store, I saw nearly a dozen Chicago Police cars cordoning off an entire block outside the grocery store Roosevelt and Wabash. Apparently, after stealing a BMW at gun-point, a 15-year old boy entered the store while being chased by the police. This is just one example. Just this past weekend, there were over 25 shootings and four dead across the city. (source: <http://crime.chicagotribune.com/chicago/shootings/>)

These signs do nothing to stop a gun-carrying person with criminal intent, and there is no evidence of a decline in gun violence since implementing the signs. Also, criminals are assured of finding unarmed victims at these places, which could in reality increase the risk of violence. In fact, the sign has merely become a symbol of the political fight between advocates and opponents of gun-control. Proponents of gun-control support the businesses with "No Guns" signs, while opponents are doing just the opposite. And over all the political fight, hundreds are dying due to gun-violence.



Source: By Chris Knox



Source: <http://www.gunssavelife.com/?p=15547>

Lucía Delgado
Mexico
Harris School of Public Policy

A Bike for the Summer



Photo by Lucía Delgado

Background:

Since my first day in Chicago, I noticed a lot of people riding bikes to travel around Hyde Park and the lake. After almost melting under the summer heat while walking to and from classes, I realized how useful a bike would be. Before coming to Chicago, I used to ride a bicycle to work whenever the weather permitted it; naturally, I was eager to find a bike that would help me get around. Moreover the warm weather and proximity to the lakeshore trail made the idea of riding a bike even more exciting. I knew there were only a few more months before the start of winter, so I had to hurry up on my endeavor of finding a bike.

Once I got a bike, I was surprised to find out that Chicago is such a friendly city to cyclists. In my home country, it is only recently that bicycles have become a popular form of transportation. Rules in Mexico for car drivers do not really provide incentives for car drivers to respect cyclists, and bike trails are only developing in the cities, making it is somewhat dangerous to ride a bike in the cities, in particular in Mexico City. Another advantage of riding a bike in Chicago is the quality of air. In my home country, I used to hesitate about riding my bike due to air pollution, even though Chicago is a crowded city, the air quality along the lake is good.

Broader Issue:

During summer, riding a bike is a great way to get around Chicago. For incoming students, there are plenty of options to get a bike at an affordable price. In addition, Chicago is a city with a highly developed culture of respect to pedestrians and cyclists, which makes it easier to use bikes as a mean of transportation if you are new in the city.

There are plenty of options to get a bike in Chicago. It is important to explore some options, to find a bicycle that fits you well and matches your budget. The price of bicycles can range from \$30 to \$1000, so taking some time to explore some options may be worth it. To start with, there are three main categories: Divvy Bikes, used bikes, and new bikes.

Divvy Bikes is the bike sharing system in Chicago; these are the blue bikes that can be found all around Chicago. This is a very practical way to get around. The fee for students is \$75 dollars per year. This is actually a great deal, since you won't have to worry about your bike being stolen, flat tires, and bike maintenance. These are also going to be useful when you want to get somewhere by bike and return by some other form of transportation, especially if it gets too late or the weather gets bad.

Regarding getting a used bike, there are plenty of options. A great place to start looking is the marketplace web page of the University of Chicago. You will be able to find nice bikes at good prices, though sometimes you might have to be patient and wait until a right bike for you is posted. You only need to make sure to find a bike that is the right size for you. Besides marketplace, there are also some other options in the internet.

A second alternative to get a used bike is visiting a recycled bike shop. There are a few of these stores around Chicago; If you are living in Hyde Park it would be a good idea to visit Blackstone Bicycle Works. This is a community bike shop located at 6100 S. Blackstone, just a few blocks from the University of Chicago. This shop also has an educational program to teach mechanics and customer services to kids from underserved neighborhoods in and around Hyde Park. Finally, you may also decide to get a new bike. You may get a good deal if you visit one of the big cycling stores in Chicago. A good thing about big stores is that they usually have discounts and bikes on sale, especially during summer. You can look at special discounts on line, so this might save you time when deciding which bike to get. In addition, if you already have a bike, these stores are a good option to get accessories at affordable prices. There are also many small bike shops, but because they are smaller, they are usually more expensive.

If you decide to ride a bike, you will find out that riding a bike in Chicago is easy. Car drivers are careful with bikes. There are many trails and you will save a lot of time, especially when you travel around the university. You will also find nice and friendly bike shops where you can fix your bike if it ever breaks or get a flat tire.

Xiaoan Ding
China
Computure Science

A Nation of Immigrants



(Photo by the author) Murals in Pilsen



(Photo by the author) Mexican Sugar Skull

Background:

Before I came to the United States, I never thought of the meaning of populations. I also had no idea about the lifestyle of immigrants in a totally different country. So, for me, the most exciting thing about living in Chicago is that you could enter a totally different place with strong exotic scenery only by walking through a few blocks.

I went to Pilsen on a Saturday morning and found it to be a lovely neighborhood. I saw an old lady enjoying her sun bathing with her lazy cat, three housewives whispering in the yard, and lovers sharing their brunch in the café. In contrast to the peaceful scenery, the bright and colorful murals conveyed strong emotions in their silent ways. Pilsen was a Mexican neibourhood decades ago. Mural artists gathered here to create their pieces on the street. Now Pilsen is filled by people from different places, but the spirit of Mexico are preserved successfully. We could find the icon of Mexico – the Sugar Skull, which is used for celebrating one of the most important Mexican Festivals – almost everywhere. There are also lots of restaurants here, which combine Mexican flavor into American food. People with different colored skins and different languages enjoy living here. They brought their special customs into this place. I was so excited when I found a sculpture of a dragon on the street.

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Broader Issue:

In China, we have few places with culture fusion. I think it is because the United State is a country of immigration. According to the statistical data of 2013, the United States has the largest population of migrants, and China has the lowest population of migrants. The reason behind this is that Chinese people have lived in the land for thousands of years. We have strong connection to our homeland, and we had a closed-door policy to the world for decades for historical reasons. It's interesting that most Chinese cannot distinguish people from different places. Those people has the same name – “foreigners.” We also called pizza, burger, and paella Western food, no matter where they came from. The facts reflect that Chinese people had little chance to get access to foreign culture in our main land.

China has became stronger and stronger in the past 30 years and has a high international status nowadays. It has attracted people migrating to China for more opportunities these days. I think the culture infusion will finally happen in our high-speed growing country and Chinese people will have more chances to see different customs in the future.

Travel Times from UChicago:

By CTA: 54 minutes

By Bike: 1 hour and 12 minutes

By Car: 20 minutes

[Click or tap here to enter the Travel Times section text.](#)

Nhat Do
Vietnam
Department of Chemistry

Riverwalk in Chicago



Photo via the Curbed Chicago Flickr pool/[erocketship7](#)

Background:

Built in 2009, Chicago Riverwalk has become one of the most fantastic walkway to enjoy the Chicago River, attracting numerous tourists and Chicagoan all year round. The construction of the riverwalk was designed during Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's term and was finished by current Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel [1]. The riverwalk is located along Chicago River, stretching around 0.69 mile from State Street to Lake Michigan.

It offers a variety of recreational activities, from dining to exploring. No matter how you want to take on the riverwalk, you can always be fascinated by what it can provide. Just some examples, one can enjoy the flavors of coffee and gelato while sitting on the bank of the river and watching the green current. City Winery may be the best place for this activity. You can also board a ship, hire an electric boat, rent a bike or catch a water taxi for a sightseeing tour along the river with your friends and family. If you want a trip with more sense of exploration, Urban Kayaks and Wheel Fun Rentals can be unique and excellent choices; or if you want a restful experience, please be informed that fishing is allowed on the Chicago Riverwalk as long as you get the license from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Further information can be

found in the 2016 Illinois Fishing Information guide [2], [3].

Actually the current riverwalk is a part of the ongoing ambitious corridor development project in Chicago which aims to render Chicago River more approachable and attractive. The plan is an effort of Chicago's government to give Chicagoans a better access to Chicago River and has been expected to be the most visible public space in the Windy City, second to the well-known Millennium Park. Basically, the city will continue expanding the riverwalk to generate "a continuous, 1 1/4-mile pedestrian and bike path reaching from Lake Michigan to Lake Street". There will be magnificent lighting display. The project hinges on creating an eye-pleasing scenery as it will convert the riverwalk "from a hard-edged industrial waterfront to a welcoming post-industrial amenity". The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2016 [4], [5], [6].

Broader Issue:

Walking along the winding riverwalk, relishing the tranquility of the downtown from the level of the river and having lunch at a restaurant while watching the boats floating by can be of first-class experiences. Unfortunately, a quite serious problem has been compromising the beauty and the allure of the walkway. In fact, visitors are recommended not to go in the water. Water testings conducted by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District - a taxpayer-funded agency - indicated "high levels of bacteria from human waste at more than a dozen spots stretching through the North Side and downtown to the Bridgeport neighborhood. Levels of disease-causing germs routinely exceed state standards for recreational waterways." The daunting condition can be traced back to the fact that Chicago takes advantage of its out-of-date sewage system to process the stormwater. Therefore, intense rainfalls can usually overwhelm the capacity of drainage system, thus flushing out a combination of sewage and stormwater into the river. Moreover, the issue tends to be exacerbated as climate change is increasing the rainfall level in Chicago region and burdening the drainage system [4], [7], [8].

In an effort to deal with the problem, together with the expansion project of the riverwalk going on, Chicago kicked off a \$50 million, five-year green project to improve its current water management system. Specifically, there will be "rain gardens and permeable pavement parking lanes" all over 4,000 miles of streets and 2,000 miles of alleys that are able to absorb the water. This prevents the stormwater from being pushed directly to the river. Nonetheless, the prospect of the project emerges not totally bright as there has been uncertain in adequate funding source so far though the city has managed to ensure an amount of \$22.5 million [7].

Overall, there have been some basic changes needed to be made upon Chicago infrastructure to address a significant concern, and they definitely pose challenges to the city. However, given

bold plans and attempts of the city to improve Chicago River and its Riverwalk, one can feel confident of a coming transformation of the Chicago riverfront into a “next great recreational frontier of our great city in 2016” [2].

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- [6] Whet Moser (October 14, 2014). What the Chicago Riverwalk will look like, and what that means. Retrieved September 13, 2016 from ChicagoTribune.com.
- [7] Editorial Board (September 18, 2015). Enjoy the riverwalk. But don’t go in the water. Retrieved September 15, 2016 from ChicagoTribune.com.
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Chicago Riverwalk Photo credit: ©Christian Philips

Location: Chicago River

Travelling Time from Hyde Park: around 30 minutes for 6th CTA, 20 minutes for the Metra.

Gerardo Egana
Chile
Harris School of Public Policy

The “Explanatory” Point



Visual # 1 – North view from the Promontory Point.
Photo by Ebarney (Flickr); July 12, 2016.

Background:

While approaching the Promontory Point for the first time, I was excited about what I would find in a place targeted as one of the city’s highlights because it has the best view of the city (see visual # 1)... that city called by many as one of the most beautiful because of its architecture, or one of the most important for the economy of the country because of its age-old strategic location, among many other ‘mosts’ you could continue completing.

In fact, all of the above mentioned is absolutely true. This human-built peninsula summarizes in an imperfectible way all the deep sensations you may experience in this amazing city: feeling the immensity of Lake Michigan hugging Chicago’s beautiful shores and beaches, which even gives you an idea of being near the sea as vision gets lost when looking into the lake’s infinity; enjoying sports as this beautiful park is part of the almost endless lakefront trail, a superb setting for walking, running or biking; savoring a barbecue with family, friends or whoever you may want (if wanted), as it even offers barbecue pits to its visitors, revealing the ‘family friendly’ doubtless character of the city, which hosts families with hundreds of parks, museums

and activities to enjoy without leaving anyone out; and finally, of course, taking in beautiful views you may have of the city's imposing downtown, full of skyscrapers that are example of an architecture that covers the city with a beauty hard to equal.

Broader Issue:

You may enumerate hundreds of other reasons that will turn this point onto an amazing place to spend time, but it is worth noting there is a single mistake regarding the initial statement about its best view of the city: unfortunately, you do not just watch towards the north where you can find one city —the beautiful one—, but also towards the south where you can find another city, or if preferred —paradoxically— “the second city” (see visual # 2). Thus, it explains a history that talks about segregation, isolation, and differentiation (see visual # 3). Despite the Museum of Science and Industry, which is almost behind the Promontory, when looking to the south there are no buildings, nor signs of progress and economic prosperity anymore; you see no longer green parks inviting to practice sports.

Of course, the goal is not to deepen the wound but only to remember that, even though the city sometimes might seem just perfect, it still has several issues to deal with. Fortunately, there have been some who already led the way —such as Jane Addams or Dr. Fannie Emanuel— in order to build a new city, this time not from its infrastructure but from human values.

Travel Times from UChicago:

Walking: 30 min

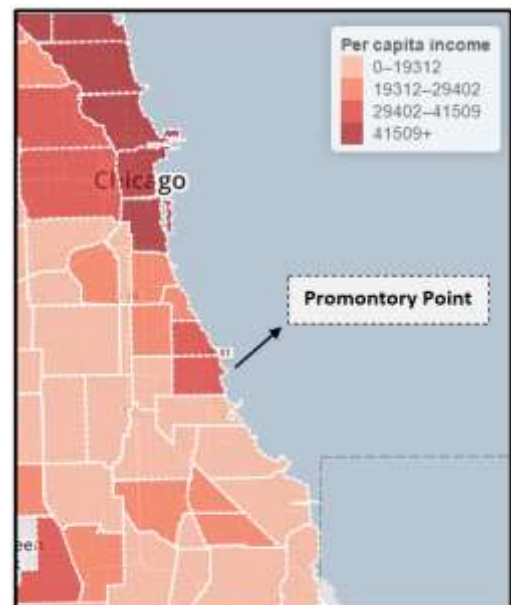
By Car: 5 min

By Bike: 10 min

Visual # 3 – Per capita income by neighborhood
Photo by Evan Morrison; September 9, 2010.
(Chicago)Info. from “Chicago Health Atlas”



Visual # 2 – South view from the Promontory Point.



Charline Fournier-Petit

France.

Humanities.

The Untouchable Jazz Club



credit: Chicago Reader

credit: hostelbookers.com

Background:

Pushing the door of the Green Mill was like travelling 90 years in the past. I visited the venue for the first time two years ago, and I directly smelled the warm dust and the varnished wood. Surrounded by an art deco and art nouveau style decoration, I was impressed by the ballet of the waitresses wearing black old fashioned-dresses covered by a little white apron slaloming into the crowd and carrying their tray up. The show was as much in the room as on the stage. While I was trilling to the gitan swing, I scanned the people in the half-dark. They were from all walks of life, regular clients who are passionate about jazz, young people dating for the first time or tourists; everyone seemed to be in the club for the love of jazz and to enjoy a part of the gloomy history of Chicago. In the very back of the room, squeezed on a low tiny stage, the jazz band performed till late; meanwhile, a glorious alabaster Ceres, Goddess of Harvest, kept an eye on the musicians. Beyond the old and authentic wood bar, a little altar reminded me, if needed, that the spot was the favorite of Al Capone. I imagined the maze of tunnels accessible behind the bar which was

the secret way for Capone and his guys to escape or to hide from the authorities and their rivals. And while I was enjoying the music, I finally escaped myself through the tunnel... in my dream!

Broader issue:

The ghosts of Al Capone and Jack McGurn still glide over their hangout. However, beyond the myth of the Chicago Outfit, this club recalls the darkest years of Prohibition. Also known as the Dry Crusade, Prohibition started to spread state after state in the 19th century. Supported by several movements as the Woman's Christian Temperance Union born in Evanston in 1873 and several rural protestant unions, nationwide Prohibition began in 1920 when the 18th amendment went into effect through the Volstead Act. In order to eradicate alcoholism and domestic violence in the poorest population, the production, importation, transportation and sale of alcohol beverages turned illegal. The first consequence was the shortage of alcohol which resulted in a huge development of adulterated booze. This alcohol was dangerous and created hand and feet paralysis as well as blindness. Chicago was ideally located to become the central hub of the alcohol bootleg. The well-served rail-road and moreover lake Michigan gave direct access to Canada from where the liquor was imported. A leader in the smuggling, the Chicago Outfit was the Italian-American organized crime syndicate led by Capone in the 20's. Influential and powerful, the organization earned money through the smuggling, but also the crime. At the end of the Prohibition in 1933 through the ratification of the 21st amendment, the venue hosted much more respectable celebrities like Harry Connick Jr. or Clifford Jordan.

Location

Uptown

4802 N. Broadway Ave.

How to get there

Car: 30 minutes

Bike: 1hour

Bus & Metro: 1hour, CTA 2 Hyde Parke Express bus,
Red line stop at Lawrence station.



Photo credit: Wikipedia

Yuxin Fu
China
Harris School of Public Policy

Modern David

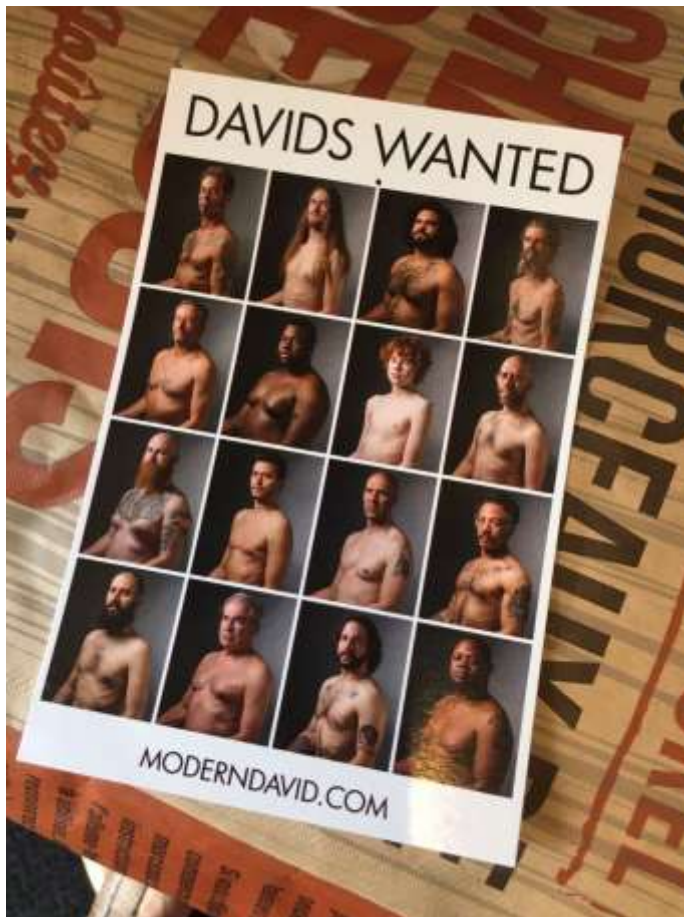


Photo by author

Background:

I ran into this special postcard outside a grocery store in Logan Square. With its neat layout, strange content and funny title, I noticed that because my ex-boyfriend was named David. On the back of the card, it says, "Seeking individuals named David to pose with shirts off, depicting Davids of all colors, shapes and sizes." I was rather confused about what this person intends to

convey, until I saw the website name of MODERNDIVID.COM.

Almost simultaneously, I thought of the David in the Bible, as contrast to the “modern” Davids in the picture. However, when I looked up the project on the website, I found it’s far from religious what the artist is meaning to say. Actually, it’s about how modern people define beauty. No matter what, it is still an interesting art project and reflects the vibrant and artistic culture in Logan Square neighborhood. Hope you’ll like it.

Broader Issue:

“Modern David” is a photo documentation that is still developing. It depicts people named David with clothes and accessories off, in the same position and pose, with the same light and background. The artist tries to figure out if there is something in common among these Davids except for the name. In the era of modern media, people have changing definition and recognition of beauty. Sometimes the color is too loud and the beauty silences. The art project, oppositely, celebrates the participants in static and straightforward manner to form a sum of representations of the modern people and real beauty.

Mariah Karson, the lady with sharp bright eyes, is the Chicago based artist behind this project. She has education experience in the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and knows well how to tell compelling stories through photos. Currently, 22 images from Modern David are exhibited in Masculinity, a group show curated by Exhibition Projects (Chicago) at Freeport Art Museum, Freeport, IL (May- August 2016). And in March next year, there will also be a solo exhibition of Modern David at the Robert F. DeCaprio Gallery in Palos Hills, IL. If you are as interested as me, don’t hesitate to go.



Mariah Karson, the artist

Photo by Photobooth SF

Xiaoyu Gao
China
Division of the Social Science

Ravinia Festival: Enjoy the Oldest Outdoor Music Festival in North America with Huge Student Discounts



Photo by Xiaoyu Gao

Background:

Starting in 1904, Ravinia is the oldest outdoor music festival in North America. It holds every year from June to September in Highland Park. Chicago Symphony Orchestra provides series of masterpieces here. It not only makes you enjoy music, but also provides you a chance to get familiar with the local culture: how Chicagoans live in summer.

I went there on August 21, 2016 to enjoy the All-Tchaikovsky Program. When performing the

final piece “1812 Festival Overture”, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra used live cannon fire. It was so electrifying. People who have watched the movie V for Vendetta know that the soundtrack relies on the “1812 Festival Overture”, which incorporates the climax of the movie in its final two minutes. I have experienced various versions of Tchaikovsky’s masterpieces, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra provided me the best.

Picnic on the Lawn When Enjoying Concert

Ravinia is a unique place to hear music. There is a Pavilion with chairs which provides traditional concert experience or people can sit on the lawn. The lawn is very popular because people can bring their own food and drinks. Many people can bring their own chairs and blankets and then make a party on the lawn while listening to the concert, thanks to the cutting-edge broadcasting equipment. Also, you will enjoy the performance given by cicadas. When the concert ends, thousands of people take all their picnic belongings home. The scene is spectacular.

Transportation

The Ravinia Festival is a little bit far from University of Chicago. There are 2 ways to get there. First, you can take Metra Rail at Ogilvie Transportation Center. The stop name is Ravinia Park. It takes about 1 hour from Ogilvie Transportation Center to Ravinia Park. Please note that the train leaves only once every hour. The roundtrip tickets are as low as \$8. You can visit Metrarial.com to gain the time schedule and more information. Otherwise, you can drive to Ravinia Park. There is a big parking lot, but some concerts will have a parking fee.

Student Discount

As Uchicago students, we can enjoy huge discounts. Free lawn passes are available for college students for all classical concert. Also, if students want to take a seat in the Pavilion, you can save money with the help of your student card, too. For instance, I only paid \$10 for my Pavilion ticket for the All-Tchaikovsky Program compared with \$90 per person as the normal price. The



discount policy is fantastic for student music lovers.

The Ravinia Festival is highly recommended. For the concert schedule and tickets, please visit www.ravinia.org.

Photo by Xiaoyu Gao

Eduardo García Bejos
Mexico
Harris School of Public Policy

New in Town and Need a Car?



Photo by Smarter Travel

Background:

Before coming to Chicago I never heard about car sharing companies in my entire life and it has become such a big thing here, that you should definitely give it a chance. The main difference between your regular car rental companies is that you can rent a car just for a few hours or even minutes for as low as \$4 including insurance and gas, and not limited by office hours; it is a self-service experience in every way. You just have to go to their webpage and apply, which can take a while as they have to make sure you have a valid driver's license. Once you get accepted you just go to their webpage or use their app if they have one, and look for a car that meets your needs near you. Using the card they will send to you after applying, you can access all cars at any time as long as they are available.

Broader Issue:

Car sharing is perfect for those people who do not drive daily. It is perfect for out of town trips and moving large items. So, if you are an international student and just got to Chicago, one of the things you have to include on your to do list should definitely be applying to one of this car sharing companies. I'm telling you, you are going to need one, especially when it's time to go to Ikea, Costco, etc...

Gustavo Gil Ramos

Rockefeller Chapel: Lessons of Gender Equality to a Non-Religious Person

Location: The University of Chicago.

The University of Chicago (UChicago) is a place full of history: the first nuclear chain reaction happened there; its Department of Economics shaped the discipline in the last century; some very hard working and brilliant people called this place home; and the list goes on and on. In a very moving essay for the New Yorker, the great thinker George Steiner tells the story of how he loved his experience on UChicago so much, that he did everything he could to return to that place after his brief experience in the “sclerotic” —he wrote— University of Harvard.

UChicago is also an incredible destination for architectural tourism. Among its gothic buildings, the Rockefeller Chapel stands out. John D. Rockefeller donated it to UChicago in order to be “the central and dominant feature of the campus. Beyond its use as a classic temple, the Rockefeller Chapel also serves as a venue for concerts, recitals, convocations and extracurricular activities such as meditation.





Broader issue:

It is no secret UChicago is one of the epicenters of research, knowledge and science around the world. For that same reason, it is easy to forget this place is at the forefront of social change as well.

Anyone could make an excellent reflection about something that strikes them on a personal level about the Rockefeller Chapel: a church turned into a venue for a Jon Stewart interview? An originally Christian temple with ecumenical services? A place where you can see sculptures of Christian Martyrs next to Plato

and Zoroaster?

However, on a sunny summer Sunday the thing that might strike a person that attends the morning service is that women are in charge of it. The debate of the place of women in society is not new; deep reflections on it exist on a whole bibliography. Nevertheless, the experience at this service at the Rockefeller Chapel is not a theoretical but a real one: women leading the spiritual path for their congregation.

There are obviously great social issues for Chicagoans. Principally, the racial divide resonates immediately. Nevertheless, a person who loves freedom will rejoice in the opportunity to witness that some of the most conservative institutions in the world are taking steps to ensure equality between women and men. And that experience is taking place in UChicago, to the pride of all the people related in one way or another with this amazing institution.



Christian Gomez
Argentina
Division of the Physical Sciences

Of Old Towns, Great Fires and Media with Dubious Ethics



St. Michael's Church, Old Town. Picture by Christian Gomez

Background:

Old Town is located within the Near North Side community Area, in North Side, Chicago, Illinois. Not only it represents a historical district of the city, but its region also can be associated with Native-American cultures that preceded the European inhabitants. The first thing you notice once you enter Old Town, is the striking contrast with the adjacent neighborhood of Gold Coast, where high-rise buildings dominate the skyline.

When I first visited Old town, what interested me the most was its history, including how it was affected by the Great Chicago Fire. Thus, one of my first destinations was the Old Town Triangle District. This place, settled by German immigrants in the 1850s, is located around St. Michael's Church, a building that serves as the heart and center to the whole neighborhood, and one of the few that partially withstood the Great Fire, able to be rebuilt later within its original exterior walls. The narrow and tree-lined streets contribute to the distinct feel of the area. Its alleys and roads, which many defy the typical Chicago grid pattern, are a living proof of the times before the Fire.

It is easy to spend hours exploring the district, walking around the streets, enjoying the view of the residential area, and admiring the different architectural styles that coexist in the same place, which in fact depicts the city ordinance that prohibited further wood construction and instead replaced it with brick and stone. Tours are available for tourists and interested people alike, but I would definitely recommend to take a little time and try to explore the district as a personal experience, not through a guided path. I found it to be the only way to be completely immerse in the experience that is Old Town. And do not be worried about straying too far, there is an easy way to know if one is still in Old Town, since "[t]his neighborhood is supposed to be as much a sound as a place, and it's from the bells of St. Michael's Church. The story goes you only really live in Old Town if you can hear them" (Alan G. Artner, Chicago Tribune, March 29, 2008)

Broader Issue:

The disposition, structure and history of Old Town and other districts are strongly defined by the event that happened in October of 1871: The Great Chicago Fire. Houses had to be rebuilt, businesses had to start over, the dead had to be mourned, and survivors' lives had to be restored. But were the flames the only ones which caused ruin? Astonishing, at least from an outsider's point of view, they were not, and an example lies around the very source and origin of the fire.

The substantiated facts locate the start of the fire in the surroundings of 137 DeKoven Street, around 9 p.m. on October 8, 1871. The recent dry climatic conditions, and the fact that almost two-thirds of the buildings in Chicago were made of wood, aided in the spread of the scorching flames, which wreaked havoc in more than 3 square miles of the West side of the city. However, the actual cause of the fire is still unknown. The local media at that time, nevertheless, felt that the story could use an even more interesting angle. Nearby the source of the fire was located a barn belonging to the O'Leary family. A popular story tells about how Mrs. Catherine O'Leary lit up an oil lantern in the barn, and afterwards one of the cows kicked said lantern, causing the flame to spark up the fire. Even a children's

song is related to that story. In the following days, reporters continually showed up in her doorstep, calling her "shiftless and worthless" and a "drunken old hag with dirty hands." The social impact of these accusations was fast and tough. She was forever considered an outsider, the person responsible for one of the biggest American catastrophes in the nineteenth century. This feeling tagged along until the very day of her death.

Michael Ahern, the man who wrote the O'Leary story for the Chicago Republican, later admitted that he had invented the event involving O'Leary's cow in order to obtain a more interesting story, as if the Great Chicago Fire had not been enough. Despite that, the damage had been made. The public's eye never exonerated Mrs. O'Leary, who grieved the place that had been assigned for her in history.

O'Leary was an Irish Catholic immigrant, a population rather despised at that moment, and she served as the perfect scapegoat. The individual figure that could be blamed for the horrendous events that injure and maimed Chicago, she was the public enemy everybody needed to keep on, and the local media facilitated this fiction.

Catherine O'Leary died on July 3, 1895, at her home at 5133 Halsted Street. In 1997, the Chicago City Council exonerated her, as well as her cow, from all blame. In retrospective, one can say that Mrs. O'Leary was not as fortunate as St. Michael's Church.



Location:

Around St. Michael's Church, at
1633 N Cleveland Ave

Travel Times from UChicago:

By car: 20 minutes

By CTA: 50 minutes

Sunqing Gu
China
Harris School of Public Policy

Chicago Kids and Kites Festival



source:http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/kids_and_kites_festival.html/

Background:

Having the opportunity to study in the University of Chicago is my pleasure. And in my mind I think this is the experience of two years hard work. But when I have the AEPP class, our instructor Pamela let us know not only studying hard is important, but also playing hard is required. And this really impressed me a lot. So I made the decision to explore the Windy City Chicago on weekends. As for the third biggest city in the US, there must be something interesting happening. What attracts me most is the leisure activities. This is the required entertainment for the people who live in the big cities to release the pressure and relax. So after searching online, I know the Chicago Kids and Kites Festival is one of the most popular kites festivals in the Chicago.

The Chicago Kids and Kites Festival

The Chicago Kids and Kites Festival is sponsored by the government of Chicago. All of the citizens can take part in this activity for free. Parents take their children there and make the kites with their children by hand. Because of the hardwork everyday, almost all of the families live under pressure. So this is also a precious time for the parents to relax and let the children to feel the love of their parents. This activity also provides an opportunity of each family to entertain themselves in the fresh air and to embrace nature. The sponsor of the activity will provide all of the materials and tools for making kites for free. Children can use their imagination and creativity to assemble, to design the kites in their mind as much as they can. After finishing making the kites, children will fly the kites with the help of their parents. At that time, the sky will be embellished by thousands of beautiful and unique kites designed by waching families. Think about it: that's a brilliant scene you could never have seen before. If you are lacking good ideas to design your kite, don't worry about that beause the sponsor will invite the professional and artists to come to the activity to show their concept of kites. And they also bring some pretty huge kites which they made before to the activity. You can enjoy the professional flying kites show at that time. In particular, if that day is a lovely day, there will still have the show of "Big Kite Candy Drop": the kites made in the shape of piñata that have candies inside will fall down from the sky. This really surprised children a lot. Excluding flying kites, you can also have other interesting activities, just like the mask painting, balloon puncture and various products in kites theme to sell.

Broader Issue:

The Chicago Kids and Kites Festival is held once every year. It's sponsored by the government of Chicago, Boeing Co., Pepsi Co., CTA, Whole Foods and other companies. The intent of this activity is to enrich our life and to activate the atmosphere of arts in Chicago. This is the 18th festival that has been held. If this is a rainy day, the activity would be canceled. So when you get out, you need to pay attention online about the weather report. Or you can also look at the official Facebook account and Twitter account of the government of Chicago.



source:http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/kids_and_kites_festival.html/

Travel time from UChicago

Cricket Hill in Lincoln Park

Cars:30 min/bus:172-6 80min

Wenliang Han
China
Social Sciences Department

Elijah Muhammad's House and Community



Photo #1 (Photo by author)

Background:

Elijah Muhammad is the former leader of NOI (Nation of Islam), which is a basically African-American religious and political community founded at Detroit in the beginning (1930), but then expanded to many cities such as Chicago. Its started goals are to “improve the spiritual, mental, social, and economic condition of African-Americans and even whole humanity.” (Source: NOI.org) Or, just as the disciples there told me, what they long for is “peace, which people lose but finally find back”.

Elijah has a luxurious and exotic-style house in Kenwood (photo #1), and four houses across the street built for his family and disciples. In addition, the famous boxer Ali was also a follower of Elijah, whose figure is used on NOI official website for publicity purposes. The most interesting thing is that Ali built his house just one block away to be close to his mentor, Elijah, and at first that is the reason why I notice NOI's history.

The official newspaper of this community is <The Final Call> (photo #2). And they also have their temple called “Mosque Maryam” at very south of Chicago.

Broader Issues:

The racial diversity largely shapes the community of Chicago, and NOI is definitely an example of how African-Americans unite themselves and argue for social change. And it is very interesting that people whose race or nationality are neither Islam convert to such kind of Islamic religion. However, just as many critics put it, this community mainly inherits the most radical part of Islam ideologies, and even became black-supremacist.

In my opinion, any kind of supremacist will all do harm to the real equality of different groups. A similar example can be made between men and women, since some activists want to establish some kind of “women-supremacist” society, which may not be the original purpose of Feminism.



Photo #2 (Photo by author)

Travel Times

Approximately 25 minutes' walk, 15 minutes' bus (172) or 8 minutes' Uber ride from UChicago to this place.

Location: 4855 S. Woodlawn Avenue

Xue Han
China
Social Science

God is Calling Me!



Photo by Xue Han

Background:

I arrived in Chicago on Saturday, August 20th. The next day I planned to visit Chinatown to find hometown stuff, but the place selling Ventra cards is closed on Sunday so I changed my plan to walk around campus. As a sociology major, my first destination was the social science institute, which is located on 59th street. However, there was some construction on my original route, so I turned right instead. There I came into the crossroad, 56th Street and University Avenue. A red billboard caught my attention (see the picture). I looked at my watch: 10:30 am. What would you think if this happened to you? A voice whispered in my ears: God is calling you!

Broader Issue:

From then till now I have gone to the church and worshiped four times every Sunday morning, and it is gradually becoming the most worthwhile thing I look forward each weekend. When I walk in the sanctuary, an old gentleman wearing decent suit shakes my hands gently and gives me an instruction brochure tremblingly. I am impressed with his pure joy and fulfillment satisfaction from his job. The brochure is very simple but useful, which helps new participators know about the route quickly, especially for foreigners who have no idea about church rites and

natives not coming to church frequently. For example, first time I didn't know the meaning of "Passing the peace" and "Benevolence Fund Collection," but I wasn't at a loss and embarrassed thanks to the explanation (see the picture). What's better, now I am very glad to prepare some pennies for the fund collections part as the children coming to me with little baskets are so cute and innocent. And I am excited to pass peace with others due to their passion and big smile. So these brochures become my treasure and I collect them sincerely as souvenir of beautiful memory.

The worship concerns one subject each week according with news and needs by inviting a person to deliver a speech, and I could recall them all neither because it happened in recent period nor I have good capacity of memorizing. It is the uncomfortable feelings arising from these speeches that push me to reflect on some unfamiliar questions, like how the last one athlete feels in the Olympic Games? and inherent assumptions, like unemployed people are lazier and less competitive than others. And I could rethink some familiar things in a more well-rounded perspective. For example, upheavals are not only risks and adventures, but also chances to change and comeback; mental health matters to everyone as a social justice issue. Our attention and compassion should be paid to people with mental illness as well as their family members. What's more, I take some actions to catch my dream. I am not good at singing so I could not join in any choir before, but the church choir gives me big warm and confidence so I participate in choir practice every Wednesday! When I was singing "Glory, Glory Hallelujah" with the choir together, I really laid my burden down mentally and physically.

Why this University Church is so captivating to me? The sign in front of the church is meaningful to me: "This church practices union; has no creed; seeks to make religion as intelligent as science, as appealing as art, as vital as the day's work, as intimate as home, as inspiring as love." (E. S. Ames, pastor of University Church, 1900-1940). The mission of this church is in accord with my own mission: how can we live in the global village harmoniously with people from different civilizations?



Photo by Xue

Yiran Hao
China
Harris School of Public Policy

Why Does Chicago Go One-Way?



Picture from <http://www.roadtrafficsigns.com/one-way-city-signs-for-sale>

Background:

I feel compelled to write about Chicago's one-way street system, or to put it more accurately, to complain about the system. One of my complaints is when Uber drivers carry me off route and start circling around my destination just to get their cars' position ready for a one-way street. Another problem with one-way streets is when I get off a bus in a one-way street and see no bus stop across the street for opposite direction of the same route. How do I know where to find the bus to go back? As the saying goes, "the devil's in the details", and foreigners always get caught in small details like these. Thanks to these frustrating moments, I came to realize the big difference between the streets in my city, which are mostly two-way, and the streets in Chicago, which are often one-way. Here's my question: When and why did Chicago choose one-way?

Broader Issue:

Chicago has not always been so extensively one-way. When people started to buy cars in the 1940s, traffic became a problem in Chicago. The one-way system was a solution and became a powerful tool of urban planning across the city of Chicago (<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/1210.html>).

The demand for one-way street has not always been on the rise. Also, in many cases,

streets were converted back and forth between one-way and two-way many times. This kind of hesitation can cause problems. The one-way system is generally considered to be more efficient because it allows traffic to flow smoothly and reduce traffic.

Traffic not only needs to flow smoothly, but also has to flow in ways that serve the needs of everyone in the streets. Motorists want to reach their destination with the least twists and turns possible, while pedestrians need to cross the street with a stable expectation of which way to look for a passing car. Two-way street serves these two needs better than one-way street. What's more, two-way streets benefit businesses along the streets. For one thing, it provides better accessibility for stores because drivers can reach it from either side; For another, all four corners of the crossing will have equal chance of being seen by the passing drivers.

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Make Americans Patriotic Again, in a Cool Way



Photo by Yuxin Fu

Background:

This is the annual Chicago Air and Water Show, a mixture of aerobatics, skydiving, and military parade. First held in 1959, this show marked its 57th anniversary from Aug 20th through 21st, 2016. And for the first time in my life, I witnessed real air fighters roaring past my head and climbing to ten thousand feet within a blink of the eye. Most of the other audience there, however, treated this show as a perfect chance to bring out the whole family and enjoy a pleasant sunny afternoon on a beautiful beach with a splendid view of Lake Michigan and the Loop skyline. Lazily, they sat in their beach chairs, with a box of pop corn or French fries in their hands, occasionally glimpsing the roaring planes overhead and checking their sausages on their BBQ grills. They appeared just as if this was so normal that it happened every day. How would I comment on this show? Even without the NASA, Thunder Bird, Blue Angels, Leap Frog, Golden Knight and all the cool stuff there, I would still highly recommend this. I mean, sunny beach, bikini girls and slightly over-burnt barbecue, can you think of even one scene that is more American than this?

Broader Issue:

We've disconnected the consequences of war from the American public.

— Mike Haynie, director, Institute for Veterans and Military Families, Syracuse University

For a very long time, Americans have forgotten the feeling of being in a war. It doesn't necessarily mean their country is not in a war against others. It's just that war happened on the other side of this planet, more than ten thousand miles away. Too far for them to care. Far enough for them to neglect. Then they forget what it means to be a national hero. "We glorify the military in this country in a way that's really weird," said Eric Harmeling, 21, a Carrboro-area resident who often argues with his father, a politically conservative minister, about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "It's like the Roman legions.... It's like we're being told to kneel down and worship our heroes" (2016). People don't know what it's like to be a soldier, to sacrifice and to serve your country. They don't know because soldiers live in fortress-like military bases behind high, impenetrable walls. This indifference of civilian citizens to military lives leads to their misunderstanding and distrust of armed forces. It tears apart the once close military-civilian connection. Making Americans patriotic again is one thing that can no longer wait. And in a time without a matched military component, it's hard to gather public attention onto national defense. The Chicago Air and Water Show, however, serves well as a chance for soldiers to demonstrate their practiced skills thus shedding light on their military lives, which is mysterious to the public. "The pilots are so cool!" said my companion. She was deeply impressed by this show and an extensive curiosity towards general military lives had been planted into her heart. Letting people feel cool is a very promising start to rebuilding a close military-civilian relationship. After all, we did go so far to the moon just because someone thought, it's gonna be really cool.

Take CTA Bus line 6 and exchange to CTA Bus line 151 in Millennium Park. Takes about 50 minutes to get to North Avenue Beach.

China
Harris School of Public Policy

Umm...It's Nothing, Sir!



Photo by Dan Black

Background:

I went to Blackstone Bicycle Works to adjust my stuck bicycle seat. It was in the late afternoon and the chain of my bike dopped on my way to the shop, so I was almost freaked out. People from Blackstone saw me in a very far distance, and a teenager ran to me to help carry my bike. I asked him if he was a student. He answered: "Well, kind of...I am not a student in a school, but I am a 'student' here". "Oh, apprentice", I said. "Exactly", he said. He asked me to wait until someone came. I observed the little shop – a complete set of kit, a large collection of tools, and all kinds of bicycles...oh, and a Bruce Lee poster on the wall! I noticed all workers here were black. Soon somebody came to see the bike. He put my chain back but said the seat could be tough 'cause my seat was so stuck. He tried to pull it but didn't work. He lubricated it and pulled again but still failed. He looked at me with a sorry face. I was quite disappointed until a stronger man in black apron (meaning he is a master!) came. The man started to pull, and pulled again. He twisted and he dragged but neither worked. He told me to hold the bike and he used all his strength to pull the seat. He pulled like he was confronting a steel Godzilla. Finally it moved slowly. I could see him holding his breath and his face turning very red. And eventually, he made it! I was so happy but he was even more elated. He danced like crazy and gave me a high five. I was really touched by his passion.

But the repair wasn't done yet. The mechanic failed to put back the seat pole so he decided to cut it. I was worried about the price 'cause I knew labor in US could be exorbitant. I asked: "how much would that be?" He smiled, asking me not to worry, but I still did...After the first cut the seat did not fit. I said it was fine, I could live with that, but he insisted to cut it again. I was like OMG, another cut? Gotta be more money...Anyway, it fitted perfectly in the end. And I was ready to pay like 20 dollars since the whole repair took like 40 minutes. I asked for the price. He said: "Umm...It is nothing, Sir. You don't have to pay me." I could not believe my ears. Nothing at all?

He said: "That's right." My worry faded away immediately. I started to feel bad 'cause I thought I was taking advantage of them. I insisted on paying, so he said: "Ok, 5 bucks if you want." He said "bucks" like "books", which sounds hilarious for me. Well, 5 books could be incredibly expensive here.

I asked his name. It was Melo. He asked my name but got so confused with my Chinese and English name. Well, I guess Melo and I are friends now, my very first black friend out of UChicago campus, but I hope I don't have to see him too often in the future. It was a very nice afternoon.

Broader Issue:

I have to be honest that I was kinda nervous when standing among all blacks who wore baggy pants and had all kinds of hairstyles. I now wonder where my fear comes from. Chicago does not have a good reputation in terms of security. My family and friends worried about me when I decided to study in Chicago. One of my friends screamed out: "Oh my God! Chicago is the most dangerous city in America!" No, it's definitely not. So far I feel safe and respected. I know sometimes it could be unsafe but most of the time we are just scaring ourselves. They say Chicago is dangerous because of the large number of African Americans. I don't agree with the statement. Most African Americans are very nice. Like the mechanics in Blackstone, they worked so hard to obtain a better living. They greeted me cheerfully even before they knew me. Why do they have to bear unfair criticism? Sometimes fear comes from ignorance. I feel sad that Chicago is still a segregated city. I walked by downtown where it was almost all whites and here in Hyde Park is mostly black people. I am tired of the stereotypical slogan that "all humans are equal" because superiority lies in human instinct, consciously or unconsciously. We are sometimes so prejudiced by our first impression. We don't know each other and we fear to know, which makes us even more ignorant.

"The road ahead will be long and our climb will be steep." (Obama.2008)

Blackstone Bicycle Works is located in 6100 S Blackstone Ave.
It is within walking distance and it is a wonderful place.

Shoichi Hikami
Japan
Law School

Three Places I Recommend to Run Close to Loop

For serious runners, in short, those who want to run to improve your physical ability and who are not satisfied with only jogging, running through the streets in Loop is too dangerous. So what should we do? I recommend three places close to Loop: (i) Lake Shore Park, (ii) Milton Lee Olive Park, and (iii) Lake Front Trail.

Lake Shore Park is a dream place if you are or once were track and field runners.



Photo by author

The park is located at 808 N. Lake Shore Drive. The park has a quarter mile soft surface running track!



Photos by author

You can use the track for free. This surprised me because in Tokyo, where I come from, it is impossible to find such a free track. People in Tokyo have to pay about 4 to 5 dollars for using a track field each time. The track is covered with soft running rubber so that you can avoid hurting your joints or knees with stiff asphalt. I highly recommend to do interval training here: for example, running a quarter mile (one lap) in a fast pace while jogging a one-eighth mile (a half lap) for taking a rest, and repeat this 10 times. This will surely make your leg muscles, hearts, and lung stronger.

Milton Lee Olive Park (500 N. Lake Shore Drive, right across from Navy Pier) is also a good place for avid runners.



from <http://tclf.org/sites/default/files/microsites/kiley-legacy/MiltonLeeOlivePark.html#!prettyPhoto>



Photo by author

The excellent point of this park is it has a large field covered with clean grasses. The grass grounds are very good as cushion. In addition, you can train your muscles effectively by running on the ups and downs of the surface. Here, I again recommend doing the interval training. Or, how about endurance training (running in a comparatively fast pace) for 40 to 50 minutes? But watch out for dogs! Even though a sign of the park displays that “dogs must be kept on leash in park” as shown in the picture below, many people bring dogs unleashed. I was chased three times by three different dogs on one day. According to the Chicago Municipal Code Chapter 7-12-030 unleashing dogs is strictly prohibited and people will be fined at least \$300 if they do so, but it seems people often do not comply that clause.



Photo by author

Lake Front Trail is a very famous place for cycling, but it is also good for runners who want to enjoy a workout. It extends from Ardmore Street (5800 N. Sheridan Road) on the North Side to 71st Street (7100 S. South Shore Drive) on the South Side[1]. The trail has cycling roads that faster runners can also use. It feels great to cut the wind and compete with slower bikes. I suggest to run the trail in a mild but not slow pace (in a pace you feel stressed if you try to talk during running) for 10 miles to improve your endurance ability! One thing I want to note is that to be cautious about fast-moving bikes that pass you. They are supposed to signal by saying, for example, “ON YOUR LEFT!” when they pass you, but sometimes they forget to do so, or you may be too concentrated on your running.



Photo by author

Chicago Park District maintain 22 running tracks, and people use them for free.
(<http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/facilities/running-tracks/>)

Broader Issues:

Chicago Park District maintains 22 running tracks, and we can use them for free. [2] Chicago Park District also maintains various kinds of facilities including baseball fields, beach, fitness centers, and golf courses. [3] Some are for free, some are subject to reasonable fees. Chicagoans have a lot of places for playing sports!

[1] <http://www.choosechicago.com/articles/view/the-lakefront-trail/454/>

[2] <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/facilities/running-tracks/>

[3] <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/facilities/search/>

Yang Hou
China
Social Science Division

To Give or Not to Give



(source: <http://blog.marylandrestaurants.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/tips.jpg>)

Background:

The day before I wrote this article, I was in a restaurant with my friend. When we were busy enjoying our delicious dishes, we sensed tension at the next table. A nicely dressed Asian couple at the next table was having a polite argument with the server. Soon it became an unpleasant quarrel. The man angrily asked for the contact information for the owner of the restaurant, and then left. My friend and I were so confused until we heard the server explain the fight with another customer, an elegant senior. The server told the man that it was about the tip: the customers thought it was enough, the server thought it wasn't. However, the event really caught my interest when the senior asked the server if they were Chinese. You see, tip is so unfamiliar to Chinese, that we even have a reputation for not tipping! Tip it is, I should write about it.

According to Watchter (2008), "By the 17th century, it was expected that overnight guests to private homes would provide sums of money, known as vails, to the host's servants. Soon afterwards, customers began tipping in London coffeehouses and other commercial

establishments (para. 5).” Nowadays, tip have become common in some countries. Some places will include tip in the bill, some will expect customer to pay extra tip. Based on my limited experience in the U.S., I believe the latter one is more common. Usually, the tip rate is about 15% of the bill. However, the couple I mentioned above gave only 10%, so the argument began.

Broader Issue:

Some economists think that without tips, servers would be lazy because there is not incentive. Nevertheless, other researchers suggest tips are weakly correlated with service quality. On the other hand, researchers have found a relationship between tip amount and er potentially discretionary factors, like age, the price of the food, race, or breast size (Surowiecki, 2005; Should Tipping be banned?, 2013).

I think nowadays tips do not improve the quality of service on average, but as a foreigner, this is a tradition we must obey. Tips began as an optional way to express gratitude, and the mysterious power which could inspire servers to serve better lies with the word optional. Once it becomes a social norm and a must, the incentive becomes much weaker. Further, it gives the owner of the restaurant a chance to escape from their responsibility to pay their employees. Not to mention the extremely confusing tipped wage law that sets a lower minimum salary for workers who receive tip, as if they are earning too much that we need to show justice for other poor workers like CEOs who only receive salary, bonus and stock option. However, incentive failure is one thing, showing respect to a country’s culture is another thing. In my opinion, people from different cultures should obey the host country’s culture, even if you don’t like it. A basic analysis would be, no matter you follow this tradition or not, yourself will be unpleasant, but if you choose to follow, everybody else will be happy, and there is a chance their happiness and appreciates will affect you. If you stay long enough, you will simply get used to it.

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Jingxiong Hu

China

Division of Social Science

Rainbow PUSH



Photo by Takuya Otani

Background:

Our encounter with the Rainbow PUSH Coalition was a lucky one. We didn't know what it was when we first entered from its side door. We saw a group of kids in uniforms getting on a bus in front of a house with the letters "community house" on it. We thought it was an activity center for the neighborhood and went in to look around. We met Ms. Chinta Strausberg, and she took us to her office and told us about the amazing Rainbow PUSH story.

The Rainbow PUSH Coalition is an organization that fights for social justice, diversity and voter registration and against racism, violence and restrictive laws. Martin Luther King and other leaders started the organization in 1966. Rev. Jesse Jackson was the first director.

Broader Issue:

Ms. Chinta Strausberg also showed us around their headquarter. At the community hall they have a weekly forum every Saturday morning watched by 3.5 million people on TV. There was also a broadcasting studio for radio broadcasting and many classrooms for classes. They provide many classes for kids such as financial literacy and sewing. They also have many branches in other cities for different projects such as the Wall Street Project in New York to improve financial equality and the Silicon Valley Project to expand the participation of people of color in technology industry.

Learning about these amazing things that the Rainbow PUSH Coalition is doing was a great opportunity for me to better understand the social and political status of America as a multiracial country, especially how Blacks fought for their civil rights. The racial problem in America is unique and attracts attention from all over the world. For an international student like me whose home country doesn't have a similar problem, learning about the racial problem in America is a great help to understand the culture here.



Photo by Takuya Otani

Rainbow/PUSH, 930 East 50th Street, Chicago, IL 60615
Within walking distance from Hyde Park

Agustín M. Hurtado
Santiago, Chile
Booth School

Cobb's English Gothic Legacy



Cobb Lecture Hall's main entrance. Photo by author.

Background:

When I was in the middle of the Main Quadrangles walking to Cobb Lecture Hall I was impressed and I thought I was in Oxbridge. I did not know that I would have my regular classes in the first and most expensive of the campus' original gothic buildings.

My curiosity led me to learn that the Hall was designed by Henry Ives Cobb but named after benefactor Silas Bowman Cobb, who pledged \$150,000 in 1892—roughly \$ 4 million in 2016 US dollars—for classrooms, offices, and other functions. It could be bizarre, but Silas had no relation to Henry. It was a simple and plain coincidence.

Broader Issues:

Henry Ives Cobb's legacy to the University is broad and the Cobb Hall is a symbol of this legacy. His original proposal for the campus, presented in 1893, was in the Romanesque style but was quickly revised to "the very latest English Gothic". This style was "selected as far as possible to remind one of the old English Universities of Cambridge and Oxford; in fact, to remove the mind of the student from the busy mercantile conditions of Chicago". The Founders Fathers of the university wanted to contribute to the culture of Chicago by replicating the great, ageless universities of Europe. That is why a succession of later architects of the campus traveled to the Great Britain to get ideas for future buildings. They even brought black squirrels from Oxford University to replace Chicago's squirrels.

According to architect Eero Saarinen, who took on master planning for the university around the time Cobb designed the Law School, the Gothic style was used not only by Cobb but by a number of architects for almost fifty years. Saarinen judged the result "a beautiful, harmonious visual picture" and implied that Cobb's Gothic style, and the use of uniform materials and thoughtful proportions, inspired later architects to build agreeable neighbors in the Hyde Park campus.



Left: Henry Cobb. Right: Silas Cobb. Retrieved from Ryerson and Burnham Libraries.

Travel times

Cobb Lecture Hall is located on the Southwest side of the Main Quadrangle. The travel times from the Booth School, the Loop, and the O'Hare International Airport are 5, 15, and 35 minutes, respectively.

Wanlin Ji
China
Social Science Division

Get Close to Nature in Chicago



In Conservatory, Lincoln Park. Source: Photo by a friend of author.

Background:

What would come to your mind with the word Chicago? Most people say skyscrapers. But I happen to find an amazing world of nature just here, a fairyland you would find nowhere else. Tired of shopping around downtown and paddling along streets, it is so easy to fall in love with the green nature in the Lincoln Park Zoo and Conservatory, near the heart of Chicago. Just arriving two weeks ago, we feel confident exploring every corner unknown to us. “Why not go there?” “Let’s do it!” So here we are, trying to find surprises Chicago has prepared for us.

Founded in 1868, Lincoln Park Zoo is a free 35-acre park, which is also one of the oldest zoos in the U.S. Lincoln Park Conservatory is just next to it. They have big cats, polar bears, penguins, gorillas, reptiles, monkeys, and other species totalling about 1,100 animals from some 200 species. Also located in Lincoln Park Zoo is a burr oak tree which dates to 1830, three years before the city was founded. They are enormous and beautiful, but most importantly, these parks are free to everyone!

After arriving in the morning, we went to the North Avenue Beach near the zoo first. There were a lot of people on the beach, running, biking, playing yoga or beach volleyball. The sounds of the waves, which attracted me most, filled up my ears and heart, making fresh air and staright sunlight even more enjoyable. After two hours on the beach, we found a seagull on the beach staring at the distant sky. The scene was so interesting that I took a picture of him. Just as everyone knows, a lake can always make one's inner world calm and peaceful. Michigan Lake reminded me of the lake near my homwtown on that day.

Honestly, the Zoo and Conservatory are better. Many animals here enjoy more freedom than most zoos I ever visited. We saw rabbits and squarrls running just around us, and the lions or rinos are just meters away, isolated by a single wire entanglement. Birds all have their own spaces built like where they used to live. The temperature and the light are strictly controlled for their best. It is the Garden of Eden for animals and a feast for tourists.

Broader Issue:

No doubt that Africa is deemed as the best place for wild animals with the largest plains and hills. But when we visited the zoo and its conservatory, it seems everything is perfectly matched here and you would not feel even a tiny discord. It is not just the matter of nature, it is the harmony and connection between human beings and nature that counts. For a zoo, it is very valuable. By letting some of animals run freely on the streets, the zoo made me feel what I would not have sensed before, so differently, but so familiar to my heart and soul.

Only if you are willing to get close to nature can you really want to take care of it. All behaviors just come out of our own feelings and emotions. To maintain sustainable development for human beings, this kind of education should be taught to every teenager.

The Lincoln Park Zoo is also dedicated to helping people connect with each other, especially the families. In each area, you can easily find a staff of two with kids and their parents or grandparents, telling the kids some knowledge about the animals they are watching. That free, family-oriented wildlife experience makes it a wonderful place for families. For families, it is experience that matters, no matter how happy or sad. I would never forget that family experience with my father and mother, even though our small city never had a real zoo. They take care of you when you are nothing. And they raise you regardless of any difficulty. Having families makes you feel at ease. That is familial affection.

Lincoln Park has more to offer about nature. Beach is also a wonderful place to stay in touch with nature. Feel the free air and water here, and you probably will not want to leave. If you are looking for some spiritual experience, just go to the St. Depaul Parish Church for mass every

weekend to get refreshed. After all of these, I would say Lincoln Park neighborhood is “the garden of Chicago.”



In North Avenue Beach. Source: Photo by author.

Lakeshore Drive: 40 mins from Uchicago. (Best!)

Renata Marinoni Jonczyk
Brazil
Harris School of Public Policy

The NFL Gives Chicago Hundreds of Yards



Photo by livedesignonline.com

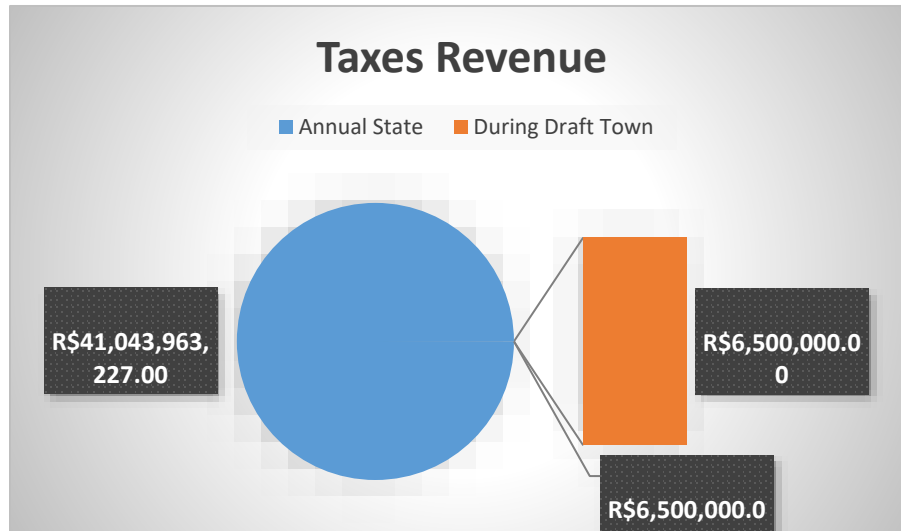
Background:

The NFL Draft Town used to take place in New York, but in 2015 they decided to do it in Chicago. That is an event that happens during the annual NFL Draft, which is a kind of auction of players. Here is how it works: players that are or were in college football can go to the major league by qualifying for the Draft; after that, he can be chosen by one of the teams; there are seven rounds, and each team has a choice in each round. But the important thing is that those who had the worst results in the prior season will be the first to choose, and the winner of Super Bowl will be the last, so that is how NFL keeps parity among the teams. Of course, there is a complex negotiation process involved, but I won't get further into the subject.

Broader Issue:

This major event came to Chicago because it has more space, so they are able to make the event even bigger. In 2016 the event was also in Chicago, but the place for the 2017 Draft Town is still undefined. The Draft took place in the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University expanding to Grant Park and Congress Plaza, all located in the Loop. The event in Grant Park is free, and for those who want to experience the Draft live there are free seats for fans in the

Auditorium or in the Selection Square at Grant Park. Meanwhile, for those who don't want to watch the Draft, it is also a three day party full of sports and non-sports fans, with beer, food, free samples, pictures with players, kicking balls, etc.



(Illinois Department of Revenue) (Sport Industry Research Center and Temple University)

Hosting an event of that proportion was a touchdown for Chicago's economy. Statistics shows that approximately two hundred thousand visited the event and 8.8 million watched it on TV. It also generated 849 new temporary jobs, and, as almost half of the visitors were not from Chicago, it increased incomes for local restaurants, hotels and stores. And, even though it wasn't a huge increase in tax revenue matters, since 6.5 million dollars is 0.016% of the total raised by the State, it was a significant impact for the taxpayers that had household incomes increased by almost 33 million dollars. With that in mind, we can say that one can profit from having fun, and that I hope the NFL Draft Town comes back to Chicago in 2017.

Changwook Ju
 South Korea (Korea)
 Harris School of Public Policy Studies

Become Somebody - Move the Needle

Table 1. Voter Turnout by Age Group			
The United States 2014 general election		South Korea 2012 general election	
Age	%	Age	%
18 – 24	7	20 – 29	41.5
25 – 34	14		

Sources: The Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago & The National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea

Background:

Excited to dive into American culture in Chicago, I had myriad opportunities to converse with young Chicagoans. According to my interpretation, youth in Chicago think that public issues facing their country are no longer out of sight and out of mind. Chicago is the third largest city in the United State and involves diverse groups including people from different backgrounds, age groups, races, occupations, and nationalities. Chicago also shares a sound culture of criticism and healthy suspicion of whether or not public officials tailor their attentions to the people's needs and care about what the people think. Thus, I assumed that all of these characteristics Chicago offers would understandably lead to strong, colorful, and active political engagement—what I have been considering as a distant ideal in Korea.

Driven mainly by the global economic downturn, young Koreans are becoming disillusioned and upset because of their disadvantaged status, feeling that their experience and qualifications are of little to no avail. Even with the lack of stable and lucrative job opportunities, the young are still expected to care for the increasingly aging population. These reasons have been reflected in their lowest level of electoral engagement; the turnout of voters ages between 20 and 29 remains at the lowest level among all electoral segments over time. Criticisms have been levelled at the apparent apolitical orientation of Korean youth today. Unfortunately, however, the problems of young Chicagoans' electoral involvement have been much worse than that—even though they are not apolitical.

Broader Issue:

The low voter participation of young people is becoming a universal trend, and the city of Chicago is no exception. Chicago's voter turnout is even lower than that of Korea's, for example. Looking at Table 1, it is observed that in the last 2014 general election, voter turnouts in Chicago by age groups 18-24 and 25-34 were 7 percent and 14 percent, respectively, significantly lower percentages than those in the Korean national profile in the similar age bracket, that is, 41.5 percent in the general election of 2012. A similar observation was made before the United States 2014 general election, where voters ages 18 to 34 accounted only for roughly 18 percent of votes of total ballots cast in the city elections of 2011.

It seems like youth in Chicago think that political matters are ten to one "out of reach." This may be in large part because they have been recognizing that most public officials do not care much about what young people think. Although more attention is given to youth now than a century or even a decade ago as governments use media as a place for responsive communication, there have not been sufficient corresponding changes in political and policy outcomes to allow youth to fully incorporate into public decisions.

Granted, considering that youth voter turnout in Chicago remains at the lowest level, young Chicagoans have not been adequately fulfilling their role of participating in politics. Even so, the value of having this age group increase their political participation lies in the fact that participation is the reflection of a sound democracy which embraces both majority and minority citizens from all walks of life and which concentrates on their needs.

Fundamentally, the ultimate solution to the problem may be structural. Regardless of the exact reason for the malaise, however, addressing it is neither the job of the young Chicagoans alone nor the government and its officials alone. Perhaps what is important is that there is a greater responsibility for the young to begin to design their own future within current conditions. Young Chicagoans must realize the significance of engaging in the political process instead of leaving it to run its own course. Substantive changes will come only if a "critical mass" of people demand it. On the other hand, the government and practitioners must respond with accountable and responsive policy making to help the young Chicagoans make up this critical mass, so they can maintain the opportunity to exercise a meaningful and productive role again.

Isabel Arantes Diniz Junqueira
Brazil
The University of Chicago Law School

Finding Brazilian Traces through the Streets of Chicago



Source: photo by author

Background:

During my classes at the Academic English Pre-Matriculation Program of UChicago, I had the opportunity to discuss various issues relating to the city of Chicago and its people. The Neighborhood Project presented to me a new perspective of this great metropolitan center,

which is enriched by the influence of so many ethnicities and cultures. I discovered that Chicago welcomes people from innumerable nationalities, who leave their mark on its streets by shaping its art, culinary, architecture, and music. This way I came to learn a bit about Chicago's Mexican, Chinese, Polish, Porto Rican, and African American.

Still I was struck by the fact that I had not yet identified any trace of Brazilian culture in this land. As a Brazilian student of the LL.M. 2017 class of UChicago, I decided I wanted to discover traces of my home country in this place that was now so warmly welcoming me. I was sure this would make me feel more at home.

Brazilian Art

Muddy Waters by Kobra. First I found that Chicago has some fine Brazilian pieces of art. In the Loop, the crossroad between State Street and Washington Street shows a beautiful mural of Muddy Waters, painted by Brazilian artist and muralist Eduardo Kobra. Waters was honored by Kobra in multiple colors, as the father of modern Chicago blues.

Niemeyer's sketch work. The Art Institute of Chicago, next to Millennium Park, is home to some of the sketches of Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer. Niemeyer is a celebrated figure in the world of modern architecture and was responsible for the design and planning of Brazil's capital Brasília, which most notorious buildings are the Houses of Congress, the Supreme Federal Courts and the palaces of the Executive Power. Niemeyer projected several other buildings in Brazil and helped design the headquarters of the UN in NYC.

Hélio Oiticica: to organize delirium. On February 2017 the Art Institute will also host an exhibition by Brazilian artist and sculptor Hélio Oiticica, recognized as one of the most influential artists of the post WWII period and a significant sponsor of contemporary art. He is well known for his immersive artwork, which goes beyond gallery walls to gain broader spaces, where the audience can become part of the exhibition. The Art Institute will explore in depth the later works of Oiticica's career, and spectators will be able to wear and manipulate copies of the artist's work.

Brazilian Music

A little MPB with Rio Bamba. Rio Bamba is a band based in Chicago that performs an original blend of Brazilian, Latin, and American jazz. Their songs explore a variety of cultural notes among which the Brazilian samba, the bossa nova, and American jazz. The bossa nova is a music movement created during the late 1950's by João Gilberto, Tom Jobim and Vinícius de Moraes. It is influenced by the samba and the jazz. Its most famous song is the Girl from Ipanema. Some of Rio Bamba's music samples are available on their website www.riobambaband.com. They perform a lot of concerts around Chicago.

Chicago Samba. Another Brazilian band based in Chicago is called Chicago Samba, specialized in authentic Brazilian dance music. The band plays a variety of styles combining the best of Brazilian musical expressions. They frequently use costumes that resemble the Brazilian carnival costumes wore during the February festivities in Brazil – when the popular samba schools parade in Rio de Janeiro. They frequently play at the Logan Square Auditorium. More information at www.chicagosamba.com.

Gingarte Capoeira. During my research I also found that Chicago has a Brazilian community of students and performers of the Capoeira dance. The Capoeira is a type of dance that blends martial arts, rhythm and popular culture. It was originally created by descendants of black slaves as a cultural expression of their resistance against white European domination. The community teaches classes at 3 main locations which can be found at www.gingartecapoeira.org.

Brazilian Cuisine

The Caipirinha. Known as the most famous Brazilian drink, the Caipirinha is a cocktail that features Cachaça (a sort of rum made out of sugar cane) with sugar and all sorts of fruits, but specially lime. The Cachaça can often be replaced by Vodka or Sake. It is a huge success in Brazil, because it's a refreshing tasty cocktail, and not so strong as most European/American drinks. In Chicago, some of the places that offer traditional and creative versions of Caipirinha and Cachaça drinks are the Naha bar, Fogo de Chão Brazilian Steakhouse, La Sirena Clandestina, and Barra Ñ.

Brazilian Food. If you are looking for Brazilian cuisine, Chicago surprisingly has a lot of options to offer. For popular day-to-day meals, Sinhá is a good choice. They have the famous shrimp and fish dishes from Bahia (bobó and moqueca) and the delicious Brazilian sirloin steak. An option of traditional steakhouse is Fogo de Chão, a sort of barbecue restaurant. And if your taste is for appetizers such as coxinhas and risoles, your best decision is Brasil Legal Café; and they also have the Guaraná soft drink!

Broader Issue:

One can easily measure how internationalized a city is by walking around its streets in various different neighborhoods. By looking at outdoors, shop windows, restaurants, or just listening to the languages spoken on the streets, we can clearly sense if a certain area is influenced by an alien culture. In Chicago, foreign communities are welcome to express their cultural habits and tastes in a way that is not so commonly seen in Brazil. Nonetheless, some processes of cultural shock can frequently produce conflict. Gentrification, racial segregation, xenophobia, and social

exclusion are phenomena frequently perceived in great metropolitan centers. This scenario presents enormous challenges to politicians, lawmakers and public leaders when dealing with urbanization: how can a city embrace foreigners and their culture without losing its own cultural features and traditions? How can a community get along with different religious traditions and expressions? And most importantly, how should the government act when receiving foreigners who leave their home countries, regardless of reason (work, asylum, humanitarian crisis)? In times of terrorism and violence, these questions become imperative. In my own view, U.S. still stand out as a center for freedom of expression, where the most brilliant minds can gather together to create and develop, regardless of social origin or nationality.



Source: http://chicagoist.com/2011/05/25/dont_call_it_rum_cachaca_cocktails.php#photo-1

Thiago Braga Junqueira
Brazil
Law School

Escaping From First Impressions: Chicago's Streets



Michigan Avenue. Photo by Gerald D. Tang

Background:

A developed nation is generally seen as a well-educated nation. And education reveals itself on many different aspects, including in how citizens treat their respective public spaces. Generally, a country in which their streets, parks and avenues meet high standards of cleaning are seen as very developed nations – more commonly encountered in the so-called “first world countries”.

That is precisely the idea you get when resting your eyes for the first time at Chicago's worldwide famous “Magnificent Mile”. More specifically, the surroundings at the beginning of the Michigan Avenue just after crossing DuSable bridge is astonishing in summer time. The sidewalks in front of the many really nice and fancy stores and some of Chicago's landmarks located in that region (such as the Tribune Tower and Wrigley Building) are unbelievable clean. Sometimes you get the impression that it would be fine if a dinner is served in the sidewalks. This is especially more impressive to someone coming from a country in which people are still struggling to keep the streets clean by educating local citizens. Indeed, and albeit we have seen

a lot of progress within the last years, there are still some places in Brazil in which streets cleanness does not seem to be a priority. In fact, it is not unusual to hear from a Brazilian first arriving at the Magnificent Mile something along the following lines: “This is so beautiful and clean. I would love to live in a place like this”.

Broader Issue:

There is an old saying in Brazil which generally translates as “To really get to know a person, you have to eat a bag of salt with her”. The idea is that you only effectively know someone after spending a lot of time with her (a bag of salt arguably takes a long time to be finished!). Ultimately, this means that first impressions are generally tricky. Chicago is not an exception to this rule. In fact, to meet Chicago you may need to further explore the city and leave the many landmarks areas behind.

Once you decide to do that, you will find that not every area in Chicago follows the same parameters, especially when dealing with the cleanliness of the streets. Indeed, heading north you may find the fine West Ridge neighborhood. This place hosts a vast Pakistan and Indian community. Deavon Avenue it’s probably the ideal spot to learn a bit of their tradition, visit local stores and enjoy some really good ethnic cuisine.

It might catch your attention, though, that the streets are not clean as you usually see in other parts of Chicago. Indeed, and visiting Devon Avenue on an ordinary day, you may find streets in really bad shape, with garbage all around the sidewalks. And once one is used to the cleanness parameters experienced in other more usual places, the dirty streets may hurt the eyes. It is unquestionable that Chicago is generally a fantastic place, very clean and really makes you want to live here. The Magnificent Mile, Chicago River, Hyde Park, Loop, Millennium Park and the entire Lakeshore (my favorite), just to name a few, are just truly beautiful and very interesting places. But the city is much more than just this.

Before settling the final impressions of Chicago (which will likely be positive), it is worth spending some time exploring some other neighborhoods and aspects of the city. This is certainly an important step to get a more global understanding of Chicago’s culture. After all, we should always be mindful to go deeper and escape from the first impressions.



Devon Avenue. Photo by HyungJin Cho

Magnificent Mile from UChicago Campus: (i) Bus 2; 49min; \$ 2.00; (ii) “L” green line; 55min, \$ 2.25; or (iii) Uber pool, 20min, \$ 10.50.

Devon Avenue from UChicago Campus: (i) Buses 2, 147 and 155; 105min; \$ 2.00; (ii) “L” green and red lines; 117min, \$ 2.25; or (iii) Uber pool, 35min, \$ 16.79.

Zeynep Kahveci

Turkey

Harris School of Public Policy

The Midway



Source: <http://dev.historythings.com/chicagos-popular-1893-worlds-columbian-exposition/>

Background:

In the first day of my school's orientation program I was trying to reach out my department. After learning my AEPP class information from the teachers in Cobb Hall, I started to find the Harris. I have passed through a calm park called "Midway Plaisance" and thought that this park could be the line separating two neighborhoods which makes the Harris a little bit distinguished from the Quad.

In the second week of the AEPP, we learnt that the "Midway Plaisance" is not a place separating two neighborhoods. I have pretty surprised since this tall park has a unique meaning in the history of Chicago. The green area here was hosted the World's Columbian Exposition in 1890s. People from all around the world came to the Midway Plaisance to exhibit their cultures, traditions and arts. When looking at the pictures of this great exposition the picture of "Turkish village" in the exposition caught my attention because this was the first time I heard my home

country's name when learning the history of Chicago. I was knowing that Turkish population in Chicago is not high. I have started to wonder the details about the big exposition in 1890s that brought together the nations all around the world.



Source: <http://www.saintjohnsabbey.org>

The Columbian Exposition, also known as the Chicago World's Fair, was located in Jackson Park, at the current site of the Museum of Science and Industry and the Midway Plaisance. It drew an estimated 27 million visitors, 14 million from outside the United States, at a time when the population of Chicago was just over one million. The reason behind it is called as "The Columbian Exposition" is that the exposition was arranged at four hundredth anniversary of Christopher Columbus' "discovery" of the Americas. Chicago competed with cities such as New York and St. Louis for the right to host the fair.

It is believed that the Midway should be a living exhibit showing how the human race evolved starting with exhibits from the African continent which would be at the western most end of the Midway and then progressing through civilization and culminating with the entrance to the Columbian Exposition which was at the eastern end of the Midway Plaisance.

Exposition planners wanted to showcase the nation, still coming to terms with the Civil War that had ended 28 years earlier. They also wanted to demonstrate Chicago's international stature just 22 years after much of the city had been destroyed by fire. Therefore planning such a big exposition could be seen as a symbol of the power and wealth in these times. To illustrate Paris was also holding a world's fair with the popular Eiffel Tower in 1889.

Daniel Burnham served as the fair's lead architect and oversaw the design and planning of the fair's main buildings. These massive, neoclassical structures came to be known, collectively, as

the White City. Despite their imposing appearance, the buildings were made from wood frames wrapped in staff, a plaster mixture that created the illusion of stone. The exposition closed in late October 1893 and, that winter, almost all of the buildings were destroyed by fire.



Source: <http://www.gettyimages.com/detail/video/view-of-midway-plaisance-with-cityscape-chicago-stock-video-footage/608721619>

This area is known as a big green place where neighborhood residents walk their dogs and students from the University of Chicago across the street take a break to relax on fine, sunny days. It is impossible to make a guess about the history of Midway Plaisance by looking at its appearance today.

I love discovering the histories of the places. Midway Plaisance is quiet, largely forgotten, dominated by its great grassy median of park land but actually it has a great history that makes me excited every time I pass through this green park.

Naoko Kawabata
Japan
Law School

Divvy Up Fund and Healthy Life in Chicago



Divvy and Downtown; Photo by Naoko Kawabata

Background:

When I first arrived in Chicago, I saw many people riding their bikes by the lakeshore on my way from the airport to my new apartment. They seemed so comfortable and the scene fascinated me. Even though I rarely ride a bike in my home country, Japan, I was eager to ride a bike here in Chicago. However, I was hesitating to buy my own bike because it is unlikely to be ridden during Chicago's long cold windy winter. A few days later, I realized there are a number of people riding the same bright blue colored bikes. I went online and found out there is a bike-sharing system called "Divvy" in Chicago. Divvy is a bike sharing system with thousands of bikes at more than 580 stations within Chicago from Andersonville to Hyde Park and some neighborhood suburbs. By paying close attention, I found there are two Divvy stations near my apartment, and 16 Divvy stations within Hyde Park. By using student discount codes, we can use Divvy for a year only for 75 dollars, and if we do not need an annual membership, we can use Divvy for 9.95 dollars for a day. We can basically go anywhere by riding Divvy without any additional fee as long as we return bikes within 30 minutes for each ride. I use Divvy everyday to go home from U Chicago or for shopping. It helps me to get to know the neighborhood very

well. We can travel from Hyde Park to Downtown Chicago in only 45 minutes cycling along the lakeshore. It is my most favorite cycling route, and it feels amazing!

Broader Issue:

Obesity is a huge issue in United States. According to the annual report from the State of Obesity, 30.8% of Illinois population is classified as obese (Segal L, Rayborn J & Martin A, 2016). Well-balanced food and a certain amount of exercise are required to escape from obesity. Divvy can provide good opportunities for Chicago to combat high rates of obesity among its citizens. Divvy is well designed to cooperate with the other public transportation systems because Divvy is also a part of Chicago Department of Transportation. According to the Divvy website, 75% of Divvy members are using Divvy to get to or from a public transportation station. Divvy encourages people to ride bikes for short, quick trips instead of using Taxi or Uber. The data semiannually disclosed by Divvy shows a wide range of people from diverse generations use Divvy. Unfortunately, the obesity rate of Illinois is increasing in recent years, up from 20.4 percent in 2000 and from 12.1 percent in 1990 (Segal L, Rayborn J & Martin A, 2016), and I could not find the transition date of Chicago obesity rate. However, I believe as Divvy is more implemented in Chicago, the obesity rate or at least the health condition of Chicago citizens will be improved.

Joohee Kim

South Korea

Master of Arts Program in Humanities

Mokdong, Dorchester and Gates

Whoever knows my hometown, Mokdong, that person will come up with the concept of the town as quiet or boring. I was born there and lived there all my life. I have never disliked living there. The only problem it has is that it is boring. Every resident seems to have a mature sense of citizenship; also the town has a low crime rate. Above all things, our town is known for long-term residents.

Last year, red signs of protest were appearing in our town. And all those signs were saying “Opposed to construction of happy housing.” So when looking up the meaning of the happy housing, it is a building which offers a lease at a low price to lower-income group and young people. The young people group might include me and people who are in my similar age group.

Obviously, local residents were upset about the target of lease. They gave several reasons why the city government should not implement that policy in Mokdong: high possibility of increasing crime rates when having outsiders – especially outsiders who do not have stable income, and deep concern about getting serious traffic jam. As a result, the Seoul government decided to withdraw the proposal to construct happy buildings in Mokdong area and find another place instead.

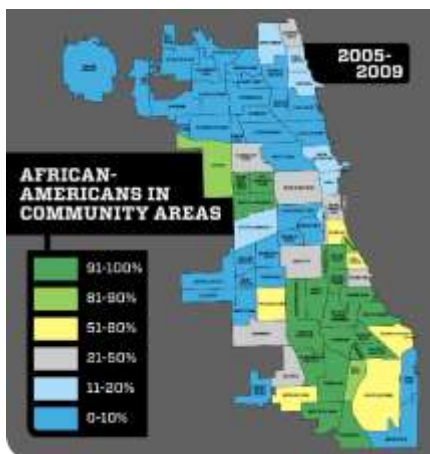
Soon after, I came into Chicago. I passed a lot of people who are assumed as Chicagoans during the trip from O’Hare airport to Hyde park. On arrival, I could see right away that the diversity of residents is remarkably decreased. Moreover, when I went to the South Side neighborhood, I saw a large number of houses with iron bars across the windows and the poor who were lined on either side of the road – and most of them were African American. I could not find any people other than African American passing through that area .

What I witness was just a tip of an iceberg. To tell the truth, the long shaped Chicago is distinctly divided into two parts like as the picture on the left. Most of the north part of Chicago, which is a wealthy area, is occupied by affluent white people; on the other hand, the other part of the city has a majority of African American dwellers. Also this fact is connected to the crime rate of that area.

So, if the Chicago government suggests the similar policy with my hometown, will it go over well with Chicagoans? We can expect it will not be easy to get enough agreements from the majority of citizens, because it is hard to imagine a town having both lovely buildings and shabby buildings. Then, what about reforming the houses in poor areas in terms of use and appearance?

Theaster Gates, artist in Chicago, moved into the South Side in 2006. It was a notorious area for high crime rates and poverty. Anyway he decided to move there, South Dorchester Avenue 6918, and this single event transfigured the scene of street. He proceeded to design a project named 'Dorchester Project' with three houses. Now his original house has become a culture center where local residents can listen to music, and another house, South Dorchester Avenue 6916, has been transformed as an Archive House, which has thousands old books. Finally, the last one is not only the artist's house, but also the Black Cinema House.

Those three reformed buildings are the result of the Dorchester Project. He transformed the house by only replacing the surface appearance. As shown in the picture, those houses look beautiful to look at. By changing the street scene little by little, Gates is trying to get rid of prejudice of poor area. It could change a picture of our society today, little by little.



African American in Community Areas, photo by google



Photo by Sara Pooley/Theaster Gates Studio

Dorchester Project Listening House, 6918 South Dorchester Avenue
By CTA: 15 min / By car: 10 min / By feet: 1 hr

Siyoun Kim
South Korea
Institute for Molecular Engineering

The Great Books Program



Chicago Shakespeare Theater - Picture from Steinkamp/Ballogg Chicago

Background:

'To be, or not to be, that is the question,' The audience keeps their silence. When an actor ends his soliloquy, a big round of applause has been echoed in Shakespeare's globe. A big clap is so loud that it goes over River Thames and even to Shakespeare's Grave.

This year is the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's death. When I traveled Europe this year, the word I saw as many as a 'restaurant' was 'William Shakespeare'. Especially, in the United Kingdom, whether you are a big fan of Shakespeare or not, you might be forced to see at least one of his works.

Does the anniversary matter to you? Yes, if you are a University of Chicago student. William Shakespeare has been the biggest enemy of the University of Chicago students because of the Great Books Program. Even if you are in the Physics department, the cup of Shakespeare cannot pass from you.

Broader Issue:

The university asks students to be truly interdisciplinary. Students are required to take equal numbers of courses in their major, general education, and electives. Basically, the university is egalitarian in order to broaden the student's knowledge. The history of classics reading started from the fifth president, Robert Maynard Hutchins associated with Professor Mortimer Adler. He established Chicago Plan or The Great Books Program, which required students to read classics and classical philosophy regardless of their majors. He was convinced that it would improve critical thinking and creativity. Guess what? After his big project, 85 Nobel prize winners were born for 85 years. It is one Nobel prize winner per every year. Now The University of Chicago is always #1 when something is related to the Nobel Prize. As he thought, the reading of humanity totally changed students' and professors' perspectives. I see one of my friends whose major is Politics taking math classes. Still, the university wants students to be interdisciplinary even though she is a Ph.D. student. I open my bag. There are textbooks for quantum mechanics, analytical mathematics and etc. Among them was Hamlet. Act III, Scene i, his agonizing soliloquy finishes like this: 'Nymph, in thy Orisons, be all my sins remembered.'

Akihiro Kondo

Rowing in Chicago River



Chicago River around Bridgeport, Photo by author

Background:

If people hear the name of the Chicago River, they will imagine the scenery from the Michigan Avenue Bridge surrounded by skyscrapers. Or they may imagine the history of the Chicago River that has played an important role in explanation of the economy of Chicago. In case of me, in addition to them, I'm interested in whether it is a good river for rowing. When I was a high school student, I did rowing on an isolated artificial lake surrounded by forest. When I was an undergraduate student, I rowed on the river outflowed from the largest lake in my country (may be only one twentieth of the size of Lake Michigan). The pleasure of rowing has an essential relationship to the water area. I found some website of rowing clubs in Chicago including the University of Chicago. They practice rowing on the Chicago River around Bridgeport. One day in the early morning, I visited a boathouse in Park 571 in Bridgeport. I asked a senior man taking a newspaper in front of his house that where a boathouse is. He answered, "I don't know." "Of course not", I agreed with him in my heart. Boathouses are always located in the edge of the area, and their front is toward a river. They sometimes look like a garage remained closed from street side. After a while, I found a site under construction. It seems a cool and sophisticated designed architecture. The city says that it costs about \$6mil and it tries to make the Chicago River fun place using the power of water sport.

Broader Issue:

Chicago has another three newly built public boathouses along the river. If Chicago successfully attracts people to the river playing and watching water sports, its success gives additional value to both the City of Chicago and water sports. Traditionally, rowing is strongly tied to British university culture. In the U.S., you can see the culture of rowing typically along the Charles River in Boston. There are many university owned boathouses along the river, and the scenery of rowers practicing orderly in the early morning fits in calm academic areas surrounding the river. In Chicago, the energetic atmosphere of the city may bring about a change to the sport. The edgy boathouse will contribute to the change. Lively and interactive environment of the Chicago River requires rowers to express himself in rowing rather than being stoic. There should be different race styles that make people more exciting. While looking at the canal and skyscrapers veiled in the morning haze, I thought that sort of thing.



Boathouse under construction, Photo by author

Travel Times

Train : 1hour; Garfield St. ~(Green Line)~ Roosevelt St. ~(Orange Line)~ Ashland St. + 10 min. walk

Car : 20 min.

Jia Kong
China
Mathematics

Imaginary Town



Photos from Google Streetview

Background:

Chinatown in Chicago was totally different from my imagination. I still remembered that day, on my first trip to Chinatown, I imagined what this place would be like. I was experiencing cultural shock at that time, struggling to fit myself into the unfamiliar language environment. It was painful. And all I believed about Chinatown was that it must be a comfortable healing shelter for suffering Chinese international students like me. However, I was totally wrong.

The more expectation, the more disappointment. I partly blame my pessimism about Chinatown for my excessively high anticipation. Objectively speaking, however, Chinatown is not so satisfactory. The food there lacks diversity. Over 90% of the restaurant are Cantonese, which, according to my friend from that region, are “not authentic.” The Szechuan places are not spicy at all for Southeastern Chinese, and Hotpots are uniform, despite different hotpot types in China. Besides, the staff in restaurant and stores, when facing Asian customers, choose to try Cantonese, which is a language I cannot understand at all, instead of Mandarin first. It doesn't live up to my expectation. It doesn't help curing my homesickness. I am an outsider here. But why is that? What leads to the gap between an ideal and reality?

I already knew the answer but never thought about that, until the other day when my

instructor Pamela talked about Chinatown in class. In her opinion, Chinatown is a part of American culture. What a sharp comment! It's the answer to my question. Chinatown is not the Chinese Town. What I look for is a Chinese place that belongs to America only in the geographic sense, but sadly, Chinatown is not this.

Broader Issues:

Over 200 years, the United States accepted waves of Chinese immigrants. The first Chinese immigration wave was in 1840s–1860s, inspired by the Gold Rush. From then on, Chinese immigrants gradually became assimilated into U.S. society. Chinatown was formed early on with a steadily rising population. They experienced the Rock Springs massacre, Chinese Exclusion Act, Vietnam War. Now, the second, or even the third generation of American Chinese, have already become a part of the mainstream of American society.

Chinese immigrants try several ways to maintain Chinese lifestyle and resist Americanization. However, cultures blend at last, inevitably. These Chinese lifestyles integrate into American society, either adjusting themselves into some existing American convention or being absorbed and becoming part of the new American culture. The whole process is hard and takes long. Over 200 years, it was set out, pushed forward, inhibited, almost stopped, resurrected, and finally realized. It gives birth to a distinct American Chinese culture. "American Chinese food is not Chinese. It's just some new food neither American nor Chinese." These words are not a critique, nor irony. They give the right definition, discover a new outcome of cultural integration. It's not the end. What's the next stage of this fusion? What new things will it bring us? We will see.

Location

Chinatown Neighborhood

Centered on Cermak and Wentworth Avenues

Travel Times from UChicago

By CTA: 30 mins By bike: 50 mins By car: 10-20 mins

Debsouri Kundu

India

Graduate School, Department of Chemistry

Pursuit of American Dream: U.S. Born vs. an Immigrant



Photo taken from Migration Policy institute :

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states>

Background:

The American dream has different meanings to different classes of people. To a United States born citizen, it is associated with moral values and ideals like democracy, liberty, equality, financial security etc. The “Declaration of Independence” which acknowledges all men to be born equal provides them the right to “pursuit of happiness”. On the other hand, the definition of the “American dream” is the opportunities that this great country offers according to ability and achievement, protection from war and terrorism, reduced social barriers etc. While it is said in the United States that achieving American dream are becoming harder and harder data shows that number of immigrants coming to the United States are increasing continuously since 1970s suggesting that the immigrants are more hopeful about reaching the “American Dream”. This essay will be an excerpt from the conversation with an immigrant who works in a shop in Boystown, Chicago and its connection to “American Dream”.

Conversation: Akash is from a caste-affected society in Uttar Pradesh, India where the social status of a person is totally determined at birth. Even if that person possesses many rare and good qualities the social status will never be raised only because he belongs to a family which is considered “Untouchable” to the upper class of the society. Being oppressed and deceived for many generations, these people have limited employment which is not enough to get financial stability. Akash is a brave and intelligent person; he came to Chicago in search of a job so that he can send some money to his families in India. In India, along with his brother he wants to set up a new business which will provide them a good house outside the regime of caste-affected society and financial stability to the family. Currently, he is working in a Tobacco shop in Boystown; works 12-15 hours a day at even low wage rate to earn money as quickly as possible. While asked about the concept of democracy, equality in society his viewpoint is nothing really matters if it does not affect his earning. In future, he wants to look for better jobs and go back to India when he has sufficient capital for business.

Broader Aspects:

Chicago has been a place to fulfill young people’s dreams for some centuries now. This city has a very rich work-ethical culture which allows everyone to perform their duties with ease. Now, to Akash and immigrants like him Chicago is home to an opportunity to fulfill their dream. They have a job; they are not restricted to go to someplace, mix with people from different cultural and social background in Chicago which was not possible where they grew up. People like him think that they have seen “The land of opportunities” and achieved “American Dream”.

Data from Migration Policy institute shows that the number of immigrants has increased steadily since 1970s which in turn suggests that most of the immigrants think that they have reached “American Dream”. So, the important question that comes out is why the American people are not happy with their home country whereas with the same condition immigrants are happier. To the extent that I can infer, it is a problem between the expectations from the government as a U.S. citizen and an immigrant. I believe that Americans expect much more from the government because they think their government can provide more.

On the other hand, the government has its practical limitations. But, dissatisfaction is a good sign which is necessary for improvement. At the same time it is also important to realize that they are born in one of the richest and most powerful countries. Many third world countries are unable to provide the amount of comfort that the United States provide to its citizens. Also, it is notable that the life of an immigrant is not as easy as a U.S. citizen. So, if an immigrant is happy with the government there will be more reason for a United States citizen to be happy with the government. A country cannot move on if its citizens do not respect government and I believe that the traditional concept of “American Dream” is inhibiting that process.

Location: N Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois. Travel time from UChicago: 75 minutes

Anran Li
China
Social Science Division, Department of Economics

Chicago Symphony Center: Dying Classical Music in a Thriving Modern City?



Source: Picture from www.manhattanchorale.com



Source: Picture taken by author

Background:

As a die-hard fan of classical music, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is exactly one of the reasons driving me to this particular city. Chicago is a city where flourishing local talents made their names and a rich and vibrant history of innovation in music is cultivated. Under the baton of a renowned conductor and boosted by a highly regarded brass section, CSO ranked the fifth in world's greatest orchestras by The Times in 2015 and topped U.S. orchestras. Since the moment I arrived in Chicago, every cell in my body has been yelling for visiting the home to CSO, Chicago Symphony Center.

Chicago Symphony Center is a music complex that offers a variety of elegant spaces inside, Orchestra Hall included. The Orchestra Hall was specifically designed as a home for CSO by celebrated Chicago architect Daniel Burnham in 1904, and CSO has been performing there ever since. The building has "Theodore Thomas Orchestra Hall" inscribed in its façade in honor of the orchestra's first music director, and the names Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, and Wagner

inscribed above the ballroom windows on the façade. Walking up the spirals stairs to the Orchestra Hall in a warm light and standing in front of the clear quiet podium, I could feel agile fingers moving accurately on strings and elegant classical music flowing in the air.

It would be a pity if you pilgrimaged at the Symphony Center but left out the Symphony Store. CSO's own symphony store specializes in a wide array of gifts for music lovers of all ages. Not only can you find a complete catalog of CSO recordings, but also anything from a "Here comes treble" T-shirt to musical instrument Christmas ornaments. I got my piano keyboard liked shoelaces from the store for four bucks. And I found some delicate ornament violins and bookmark cellos for my friends. There's also great opportunity of meeting musicians at the store since CD signings are held by CSO musicians and guest artists every season.

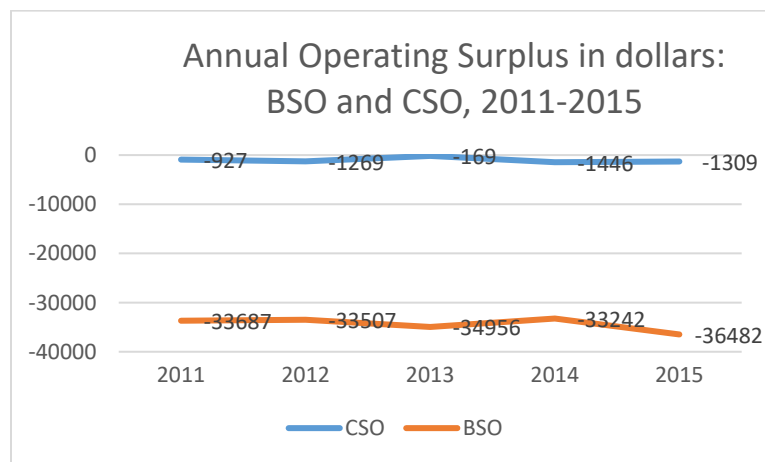
Broader Issue:

Requiem for Classical Music Nowadays

If you love classical music, you must have doubtlessly read more than a handful of think pieces about either why classical music is dying or how to revive classical music from its impending death. According to 2015 Nilsen U.S. music report, the share of recording sales for classical music was a mere 1.3% of the whole music industry, a tiny piece compared to 24.5% for rock and 18.2% for hip-hop. This figure continues to decline, as shown in 2016 mid-year Nilsen U.S. music report, the market share shrinks again. Even if every seat were filled in a concert, the vast majority of U.S. symphony orchestras still would face significant performance deficits. Excellent music as it produces, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra suffered from deficit in five consecutive years and experienced a musician strike in 2010 Season. Even so, the CSO is not gooding bad considering the bankruptcy of its peer, the Philadelphia Orchestra, or the struggle of other members of "Big Five Orchestra".

From an economic discipline's perspective, the problem with classical music lies in homogenized and never-changing supply. Classical musicians who work in this field are taught and uniformly praised for achieving a set of values that are exceptionally homogenized. These goals, such as winning a competition or obtaining an orchestra position, often cannot satisfy the demand of a diverse, economically stimulating and rapidly changing market of classical music audience. Uniform values could result in a fundamental lack of understanding in change and difference in art forms and inevitable stagnancy. Could you imagine if engineers were praised for doing the same practices and achieving the same goals that were valued a hundred years ago? But classical musicians are praised for accomplishing the same valued goals held fifty, sixty and even a hundred years ago. This all directly leads to a widespread perception that classical music is not able to change and suit current market needs, or in other words, dying.

But is classical music actually dying? At least in Chicago, no. Some musicians have already realized the crux and devoted efforts. A glimpse at CSO's program list would make you understand why CSO is not doing bad in such a harsh winter for classical music. MusicNOW, CSO's critically acclaimed new-music series, is never afraid to shake things up a bit and get more modern. And the popular series, CSO at movies, fuses two great art forms, cinema and classical music, and groundbreaking includes musical selections from several Pixar films. Music schools are also reforming to favor multiple skills instead of uniform specialization. Free performance featuring youthful Civic Orchestra of Chicago and prominent musicians from CSO drew young audience back. And music school are also reforming to attach more emphasis to multiple skills instead of uniform specialization. In such an energetic city as Chicago, classical musicians will never refuse to keep pace with the thriving culture. Their efforts would steal them most of the nation's musical spotlight as pioneers to revitalize classical music



Notes:

CSO is the abbreviation for Chicago Symphony Orchestra. BSO is the abbreviation for Boston Symphony Orchestra. Both CSO and BSO are members of the "Big Five" U.S. orchestras.

Source:

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association Annual Report (2011-2015)

Boston Symphony Orchestra Inc. Annual Report (2011-2015)

Travel Times

Chicago Symphony Center is located on 220 S Michigan Ave in Loop Area and is accessible by public transportation. Departing from Cobb Lecture, #4 bus will take you there in 42 minutes. Cycling via Lakefront Trail costs approximately 45 minutes, and driving costs around 20 minutes.

Chenghan Li

China

Chemistry

Buses in China and in the US



Photo from cta@Twitter

Background:

As an UChicago student living in the Regents Park, taking bus to campus is quite common. During Academic English Pre-matriculation Program (AEPP), I have to get up early at around 7:30 and wash up and have breakfast in a hurry to be able to catch the 8:19 CTA bus 172. And when classes are over, after having lunch on campus, UChicago shuttles are my choice. Also, cheap prices comparing to taxis often attract me when I plan going to places like Chicago downtown and Chinatown.

In China, buses are the same important transportation means as in the US. I used to take buses going between my school and my house almost every day. Buses in the US, however, are quite different from those in China in many aspects. I missed my bus stop at the first time riding by

bus because I had never seen stop request cords on Chinese buses! Another thing that surprised me was that every bus in the US has strict time schedule. The wait time for a bus in China is really a stochastic variable, which could be as short as 30 seconds or long as 30 minutes. People do not know when a bus will come and everything depends on luck. Although complaints about buses in China are not rare, buses are basically playing important roles in city's public transportation even without cords and time schedules.

Broader Issues:

I came up with some reasons for the differences.

In China, the bus driver actually has no idea at which stop there are customers who want to have a stop without cords, so he just stops his vehicle at every bus stop. In the US, the reason why buses do not stop at every stop is to save time I think. It would avoid wasting time to some extent because US buses are typically carrying fewer passengers than Chinese ones, so the probability of the existence of a stop at which no one wants to get off in the US is larger. Besides, the distances between bus stops are smaller in the US and then the number of bus stops is bigger, which means the probability above is even larger. Actually, according to my bus experience in China, at every stop there are often several people either wanting to get on or to get off. Another reason for not setting up stop request cords may be that Chinese buses are usually crowded, especially in rush hours. If there are too many people on a bus, it becomes difficult for those who are surrounded by others to pull the cord.



Photo from <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01>

As for the time schedule, I think the truth is Chinese buses do need one but any time schedule is not feasible. The traffic situation in China is not good, which is the result of too many cars. In the US, driving would be a much easier thing because there are not many cars in roads, even in big cities like Chicago. We hardly ever see stop sign crossroads in China because those crossroads would be inefficient when the number of cars

becomes tremendous. Thus, driving in China often means waiting a long time for traffic signals, which makes time schedules impossible to follow. Two buses are easy to meet with each other at a bus stop while they are actually expected to appear at the same place separated by 10 minutes. It is the case that the first bus must stop at too many red lights on its way but the second one is fortunate to see more green lights.

Chi Li
China
Department of Computer Science

Connection Between Strangers



Photo by author

Background:

What Chicago has impressed me most so far is how easily people are connected, even if they are totally strangers. It is quite common that my neighbors or even strangers greet to me by saying “How are you doing?” when I am walking on the street. At first I was totally stupefied, thinking about how to answer it properly without being rude. The way I learned English back in my country was when people ask “How are you?” I should reply “Fine. Thank you. And you?” So what on earth should I reply when people say “How are you doing”? Things get even more complicated when someone said “What’s up?” to me. Literally, for me, “what’s up” means “What is happening here?”. So how should I answer that? Suddenly, an idea came across my mind. When I saw my neighbor entered the elevator, I said to him first, “How are you doing?”. I was so proud of myself that I came up a solution that I said first and to see how he would answer me. To my surprise, he answered, “How are you doing?”. I was completely petrified. I planned to get the answer by asking first, but he thrown the question back to me.

As a result, I decided to Google it and ask Shane, my AEPP’s teacher, at the same time. I found out that “How are you doing”, “What’s up”, “How are you” is just a way of saying hi naturally. One can answer by asking the other “How are you”, which is quite informal, or just answer “I

am great”, “Nothing”, which is more formal. Having got the answer, it leads to my original point. People are easily connected, saying hi to people you don’t know. In my country, people only say hi to their friends. If it is case that two people are standing in one elevator or waiting for bus at a bus station, there is no way for them to talk when they don’t know each other. In addition to spontaneously talking to stranger, another notice I found also supports my point. The first AEPP project required my partner and me to interview at least five people. At the beginning, I supposed it would be very difficult and I was afraid that nobody wanted to be interviewed, not to mention by an Asian. To my surprise, all the people we met during the process were really nice. They were very willing to be interviewed, and they were willing to contribute to our project as much as possible. It is quite different from where I came from. I did some interview in my country and the response rate was about less than 10%, which means only about one person is willing to do interview after I approach ten people. And the only person would try to get the interview done as quickly as possible.

Broader Issue:

It makes me think. Why? Why do people in Chicago or people in U.S. are more willing to open up to a stranger? To answer this question, I have a theory, which is combined by two reasons.

The first reason is culture. In western country, people are more extraverted, so people are more open to talk, even to strangers. In contrast, people in eastern country are more introverted, avoiding talking to strangers.

The second reason is alertness. From the day I was born, my mother used to tell me not to talk to strangers, because they may have bad intention and may harm me. Things get even worse when we grow up and watch news, hearing about how people are cheated and harmed by people they don’t know. It is a kind of mindset that we are alerted all the time. When a stranger approach us, the first intuition is to judge whether this person will harm me or not. As a result, people tend to avoid talking to strangers, just in order to stay out of trouble. In Chicago context, people are talking to each other all the time, and there are far less accidents happen. So people are less alerted and willing to talk to strangers.

Guoying Li
China
Physical Science Division

Drinking is Illegal for Anyone Under 21



Photo from: <http://www.nipic.com/show/3469582.html>

Background:

USA has a very free environment for us to state our opinion. But there is one thing strange here. When I tried to order a beverage with alcohol, the servicer refused me because I was less than 21 years old. I was a little shocked since I always drink alcohol in China. Also, in many countries around the world including China, teenagers are allowed to drink from 18 years old. Why does the USA have such a different rule from other countries? Does alcohol affect the body of 21 year olds differently in the US? Does this policy really work?

Broader Issue:

This policy was established for those several reasons. In the 1980s, drinking became a serious issue. Many people believed that if people couldn't drink until they became 21, there would be fewer deaths and accidents due to alcohol. Also, people are worried about teenagers and their brain development. They think that alcohol can cause irreversible damage to teenagers brain. For both of these reasons, the drinking law was raised to 21.

But this policy doesn't have such an effectiveness. Some research shows that, by itself, Legal Age 21 has had very limited success. In my opinion, drinking is not totally a bad thing for your

body. If you drink properly, it may bring some benefit to your body. Drinking does not always mean drunk for teenagers. If we can do more education about drinking problem to teenagers, it would have better effect. There is no way to prohibit teenagers to drink, because the teenagers can ask other people to buy some drink for them. And this would also cause series of problems. Anyone under 21 sees alcohol as a “forbidden fruit.” The curiosity leads to more people under the age of 21 to drinking anyway. If drinking is made legal for the 18 and older, it will serve much better as the curiosity isn’t as high and the fruit isn’t forbidden anymore.

Water is important to stay alive. Food is important to stay alive. However, alcohol is not essential and it’s not essential for teenagers. Although this policy may do not have such effectiveness, at least it is helpful in some degree. I didn’t drink that day. I’ll stay sober for now. My 21st birthday is in 2 weeks. I already got into UChicago and I know how to use Uber. I’m ready to turn 21 in the U.S

Hua Li
China
Computer Science Department

Morality and Religion in Chicago



Source: author

Left: Buddhist Center in Wicker Park with a sentence on the wall

Right: The sign of Wicker Park

Background:

I'm really interested in the morality and religion in Chicago. Two weeks ago, I had a chance to visit the Wicker Park neighborhood and there was an interesting thing that happened in Bongo Room, which is a restaurant. I with my two classmates walked into the restaurant and chose an unreserved seat to sit down. The waiter soon brought us three cups of ice water for free. Then my classmates ordered two servings of foods. I ordered nothing, just a cup of ice water. Two shop managers started to whisper in private, just like to furtively describe my behavior. I heard what they were talking about. They said: "Oh, this guy orders nothing. He must be cheater, sitting and cheating for food."

In fact, I was stuffed and didn't need to eat anything. What's more, I got to the restaurant with my classmates, not alone. And I also paid the tip. Therefore, why did those guys make such bad comments about me and let me hear about it? I didn't think it was good moral conduct, so I was a bit unhappy.

When I passed through Buddhist center, however, my mood became better because I saw a sentence on the wall: without inner peace, outer peace is impossible. This taught me that the most beautiful scenery in our lives is the inner peace and calm and the world is our own and has nothing to do with others. If you keep inner peace and calm all the time, you will be strong enough and no one can hurt you.

Next, we got to Wicker Park which is a very small park. What impressed me the most was not the lonely tree, not the green grass land, but the park sign. Why did I pay attention to the sign? I paid attention because it was dirty and once someone scribbled on the sign. Public utilities and facilities should be protected by us and it's our responsibility. We should do something to protect them.

Broader Issue:

We can see that the moral level of Americans in Chicago is not very high. There are so many serious problems that happen in Chicago. Can we use religious beliefs and religious thinking forms to solve some of these problems.

First of all, from the table below we can see that 59.62% of the people in Chicago, Illinois are religious, meaning they belong to a religion while 48.78% of the people in United States are religious. This means that there are more people who are affiliated with a religion than the average level of United States.

Secondly, an essay named "The Definitive and Final Ranking of All 50 States," which was written by Kevin Alexander and Matt Lynch shows that Illinois, which is represented by Chicago just ranks 27. The situation is below the average level. So the relationship between the coverage of religion and the condition of the city are not linear. The better one place is, the higher quality lives people lead. We can conclude, therefore, that we can't use religious beliefs and religious thinking forms to solve morality problems.

Then what can we do to improve the morality of the whole society? Improving the education may be a good choice. But American education is the best education of the world. Why don't American people have the best moral quality in the world? So the improvement of education is not a good choice. Maybe we can try our best to work and make the whole country become more advanced and more civilized. Everybody should make a small contribution to the society and the job he or she works for. And then a big progress would be made for the whole society.

RELIGION	Chicago, Illinois	United States
Percent Religious ¹	59.62%	48.78%
Catholic ²	38.51%	19.43%
LDS ²	0.32%	2.03%
Baptist ²	3.74%	9.30%
Episcopalian ²	0.36%	0.63%
Pentecostal ²	1.22%	1.87%
Lutheran ²	1.88%	2.33%
Methodist ²	1.39%	3.93%
Presbyterian ²	1.71%	1.63%
Other Christian ²	4.90%	5.51%
Jewish ²	1.10%	0.73%
Eastern ²	0.62%	0.53%
Islam ²	3.87%	0.84%

Source: <http://www.bestplaces.net/religion/city/illinois/chicago>

Travel times to Wicker Park from UChicago

By CTA: 40 minutes By Uber: 25minutes By bicycle: 60minutes

Jinyang Li
China
Physical Sciences Division

Frequent Fire Alarms, But No Fire



Photo by Author. An engine driving out of the fire battalion at 1150 E 55th Street.

Background:

I have been in Chicago for only three weeks, but I have seen fire engines drive by me five times and heard the alarms from the fire engines countless times, even in class. If fire fighters only fight against fire and rescue people trapped or stuck, which are the responsibility of the fire department in China, fire engines should not appear so frequently. Do people in Chicago start fires so frequently?

Actually, at most time, the fire engines handle more than just fires (Tabarrok, 2012, fig. 2). They also handle medical emergencies (Tabarrok, 2012). Medical calls to fire department are much more than fire calls and the tendency is that medical calls is becoming more and fire calls fewer. Given the facts that I hardly hear ambulances alarms, it is confusing why fire departments are responsible for more medical emergencies than hospitals.

One reason is that the government needs to persuade the public to maintain the system for fire accidents (Tabarrok, 2012). If the fire department were only responsible for fire

accidents, fire engines would rarely be needed. Therefore, the taxpayers would think it a waste of their money to maintain fire department. However, once a fire accident happens, it is urgent to have well-maintained equipments on site soon. To handle this dilemma, expanding the functions of fire department is a good choice.

The other reason is that the government can increase revenue by making fire department involved in medical services (Maruca, 2016). Medical services are expensive. Medical emergency services are even more expensive. Nearly one thousand dollars will be spent if a vehicle for emergency goes out of the garage (Maruca, 2016). The fire department is a part of the government, while many of hospitals and clinics are private. The fire department, also the government, actually share the market of medical emergency services. Although some people are in the government insurance programs, which means the profit in medical emergency services are paid by the government themselves, the government still benefit because these fees might have gone to private hospitals and clinics if the the services were not provided by the government.

In sum, the ideal solution that only hospitals handle medical emergencies is not adopted due to the principle of game theory (Myerson, 1991). The division of stock incredibly enhances the efficiency of production (Smith, 1776), so it is ideal that the fire department only handle fire emergencies and the medical system medical emergencies. This would maximize the benefit of both the government and the public. However, if either side betrayed while the other side was implementing the ideal solution, the former would benefit more and the latter would be damaged. This fact inhibits the implement of the ideal solution; rather, the solution that secures the benefit of both sides will be adopted.

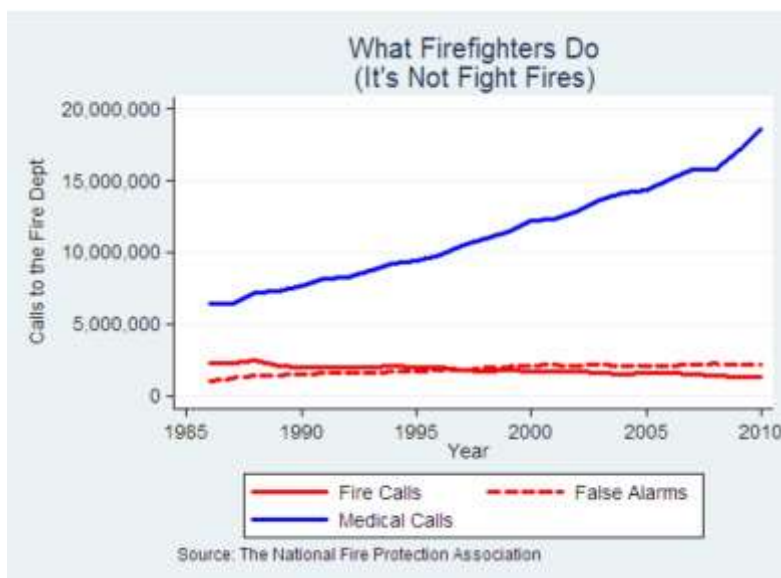


Figure 2 in Tabarrok, A. (July 18, 2012). Firefighters Don't Fight Fires. Marginal Revolution. Retrieved from <http://marginalrevolution.com/marginalrevolution/2012/07/firefighters-dont-fight-fires.html>

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Renhe Li
China
Chemistry Department

Cooking Chinese Food in Hyde Park



Photo by Xin-yuan

There is no doubt that Hyde Park is a good place to live. There are a lot of markets and restaurants around this area. However, if you'd like to try some traditional Chinese food, the best way would be cooking by yourself, since there are few Chinese restaurants in Hyde Park. In order to cook tasty food, you will have to buy both appropriate cookers and fresh raw food. In addition, some seasoning will make cooking become more easily.

Market

For the fresh vegetables, fruits and meat, there are three markets and one of them will be your best choice. They are Whole Foods Market (5118 S Lake Park Ave), Treasure Island (1526 E 55th St) and Hyde Park Produce (1226 E 53rd St). Whole Foods offers organic vegetables and meat, which by no means are healthier. But it only has limited kinds of vegetable and the price is always high. Compared to Whole Foods, Hyde Park Produce has much more kinds of vegetables with very low price. We can even buy bean sprout and fennel, which are traditional Chinese

vegetable and can be used to make dumplings. However, the meat in Hyde Park Produce is not good, with limited type and high price.



Picture 1 Whole Foods Market (5118 S Lake Park Ave)

I highly recommend that Treasure Island would be the best choice if it is convenient. It is a large market, even larger than both Whole Foods and Hyde Park Produce. We can buy a lot of vegetables and meat in it, and they also have great snacks and ice cream. The price is cheaper than Whole Foods, and students have a special discount if they have an ID.



Picture 2 Hyde Park Produce (1226 E 53rd St)

Cookers

A good wok is necessary for cooking Chinese food, and you can buy it from both Amazon and Target. I also recommend that if it possible we can buy a pressure cooker, which is very helpful when stewing beef and pork. What's more, there is another shop located in Chinatown, Rongcity Equipment (2124 S Archer Ave), in which we can buy bowls, dishes and other necessary cookers.



Picture 3 Chinese Style Wok

Seasoning

Whenever you cook, seasoning is always very important. However, some popular Chinese seasoning, like aniseed and Sichuan Pepper, are not available in those American markets. So in this case Chinatown will be the best place to get these seasoning. There are two markets in Chinatown in which we can get almost all the stuff. The one is called Chinatown Market (2121 S Archer Ave), and the other is Mayflower Food (2104 S Archer Ave). We can buy those seasonings in both of these two shops, and we can also get some traditional Chinese food, like steamed buns and dumplings in there. Also, vegetables and meat are available, and they are usually very cheap with good quality.



Picture 4 Chinatown Market (2121 S Archer Ave)

After you guys grab all the stuff for cooking, cook Chinese food at home will become easier. Also, don't forget read cooking guidebook, which is very useful for improving your cooking skills. Good luck!

Zhefu Li
China
Department of Chemistry

“No Firearms Allowed on This Property”



This is a picture randomly taken in front of a random bar.

Background:

There are many interesting differences in policies that affects people's daily life between my homeland, China and the United States. For example, common people in China cannot purchase, own or carry any sort of deadly firearm. Actually, even possessing wargame airguns may result in fine or jail. Very few police officers are equipped with pistols, and it is very unusual for a police to actually fire the pistols - the tons of bureaucratic paperwork following up can bury the officer's body, and probably also his career life.

However, among all the developed and stable countries in the world, America have a interestingly high tolerance for firearm ownership and carrying. Cops have guns, gangsters have guns, the charming lady cashier has a gun underneath the checkout counter, and the kind old granny driving by in a Volkswagen Beetle has a disassembled shotgun in her trunk - these are some first impressions that I got from the movies and TV series before I came here. Yet not every one of these stereotypic concepts are proven to be wrong. Lol.

Broader Issue:

I believe these huge difference in the attitude toward firearm possession could be based on many reasons, both historically and socially. Guns for the pioneer Americans are weapons to fight against the beasts, the European tyranny, (and the Indians). I guess that is when "gun culture" was formed and took an irreplaceable position in the gene of the United States of America. On the other hand, China has a very long history of agricultural civilization, during which common citizens don't really need weapons, steel or fire, to defend themselves. Also, the huge population and the low police-citizen ratio make it impossible for Chinese government to allow people to own firearms.

Xi Liang
China
Physical Science Division

Uber Experience in Chicago



Photo from: <https://newsroom.uber.com/us-illinois>

Background:

I've used Uber 12 times, but only took public transit once since I arrived in Chicago. Simply take out your phone, enter your destination, set a pickup point and you can wait for your ride. Uber is so convenient to use that every time I need to go somewhere it is my first choice. Besides the convenience it brings, riding Uber is also fun, especially in a diverse city like Chicago.

My first ride with Uber was from O'Hare Airport to my apartment on 53rd street. The driver was an old man in his 60s. Excited at the arrival after a long flight, I asked a lot of questions and he was happy to share. He said he had lived in Chicago for 40 years and now he is a grandfather with a big family. He became an Uber driver one year ago because as an Uber driver he gets to meet different people every day. He likes to live in Chicago but the winters are tough even though the last two were warmer. When I pointed at a high rise and asked him "Is that the Trump tower?" he put on a serious face and said "Do not mention that name in my car" and laughed immediately. From his little joke, I learned about his political position but we didn't stop there. We discussed a little more about why he preferred the other candidate and the coming election. Then we talked about cars and he was very helpful and shared his experience of purchasing and choosing his own cars.

My last ride with Uber was from Costco to my apartment. After getting in the car, the driver asked, "How long have you been using Uber and how do you feel about it?" My first instinct

was "Is he doing a market survey for Uber?" but it turns out he was not. He was just trying to start a conversation. I told him that I started using Uber since my first day in Chicago and I had used the "Chinese Uber" in China. He told me that he worked as a chef for 20 years and has been driving Uber for 3 years. What surprised me is according to him, driving Uber actually makes than working as a chef, and now he is a full-time Uber driver. Then we talked about the Chicago Bulls. I asked him "You said you were a chef for 20 years so I guess you are in your 40s?" he laughed immediately and said, "Yeah, we can be friends, Leo, and that is very polite. I'm 42." Well, I thought it was OK to ask a man about his age but a lesson is learned from his sarcasm. Anyway, that little mistake and the laugh actually brought us closer and we talked more and found we have some more in common. When we got to my apartment, we shook hands and exchanged our numbers and thanks to Uber I made another friend in Chicago. My other drivers have also been very nice and riding Uber has helped me adapt to this new environment because every time I learn more about the city and its residents.

Broader Issue:

Uber and its competitors not only create an innovative way for travel but also provide plenty of job opportunities for the society. Despite its widespread success in some countries, Uber is still controversial. For example, Uber is banned in Taiwan, Japan, and Thailand, it is also banned in Oregon and Nevada, etc. Countries like China and South Korea are in the progress of settling legislations and regulations. Here in Chicago, the heated debate about Uber has recently cooled down, the city council passed rules that specifically pointed out what an Uber driver needs to comply in order to be legal. Even though these rules still add some burdens to the drivers but they are much welcome than the previous proposal that threatens to ban Uber in the city.

As an Uber rider and an international student myself, I have no doubt that I will survive without Uber. But I also know certain tasks that were easy with Uber would become much more challenging. Imagine how hard it would be for an international student who has never been abroad, trying to catch a Taxi at midnight in the airport. Also, my last trip to Costco would not happen without Uber, because I will never try my luck to wait for a Taxi in a place that is far away from downtown. Actually, I bought a lot of things in Costco that day. After I finished organizing and putting all the things in two big boxes. I asked myself "How am I going to get home with all these things?" And Uber saved my day. It is true that there are some problems with Uber, for example, some of the Uber drivers may not be as professional as Taxi drivers and there are certain security concerns. Also Uber might compromise the benefit of Taxi companies but I really hope more governments could embrace this ridesharing business and pass regulations that help the business to grow healthily so that more people can benefit from it. After all, it is not a zero-sum game, there could be a win for everyone.

Pedro Liedo Orozco
Mexico
Harris School of Public Policy

Buying a Bike in Hyde Park



Photo taken by the author.

Background:

For many residents of Hyde Park, a bicycle is a very convenient mode of transportation. If you have a bike, you can travel as fast as a bus without having to wait for it. With this, finding a bike on your budget can be a demanding activity. Many people in Hyde Park sell and buy bikes. The options are so many that even starting to search for one is overwhelming. In my case, I was looking for a used bike because they tend to be cheaper. Among students at the University of Chicago, the most common place to look for a bike is U Chicago Marketplace. On this website you can find a wide range of options. However, none of them suited my preferences. This motivated me to search unconventional markets and that's how I found Blackstone Bicycle Works which is a place where you can buy an affordable bike and help the community.

Broader Issue:

Blackstone Bicycle Works is not only a Hyde Park community bike shop but also a youth education program. Its mission is to provide educational and vocational opportunities to young

people from some of Chicago's most underserved neighborhoods. The bike shop is open from Tuesday to Friday from 1 pm to 6 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm. This schedule allows young people to attend school in the mornings and learn a task after class hours.

The bike shop runs on system of colored aprons that indicates level of achievement. The beginner level is grey, meaning they can fix a flat tire. The highest level is black, meaning they can build a bike on their own. In between, there are other colors that represent different abilities, just like belts in martial arts.

During weekdays, it is possible to get your bike fixed or even buy one of the few options they have. However, on Saturdays there is a big bike sale where the bikes that have been assembled during the week outnumber those that can be bought during the weekdays. One can purchase a good mountain bike for as low as \$80.

The bike shop runs on donations of bikes and bike parts. Because the labor cost is low, and the parts are donated, the bike costs are also low. Buyers can get a good bike under their budget, and the people at Blackstone Bicycle Works can sell them easily while learning a craft and building community.



Photo by Pedro Liedo Orozco
<http://experimentalstation.org/blackstone/>

Walking: 18 min from Cobb Hall

Address: 6100 S Blackstone Ave, Chicago, IL 60637

Weinan Lin
China
Department of Mathematics

Squirrels



Photos by Dolphin Dreamer (www.flickr.com)(left) and Tom Morris (right)

Background:

It was my first time seeing a squirrel with my own eyes when I arrived in Chicago as an incoming student of U of C. The squirrel was looking around on the lawn. When it heard my footsteps, it escaped quickly to a tree and it didn't even let me to watch it climb the tree – it climbed on the other side of tree and moved slowly to make sure that the tree was between us. That totally made my day.

I have lived in Chicago for one year. I can see squirrels on my way to the school every day. It is a great pleasure to watch them playing on the lawn, peeping under the bush, or staying still on the trunk with their ears perking up. They are just so adorable that I cannot help watching them while I am walking.

There is a very famous children's folk song called "one two three four five" in China. When kids sing "one two three four five" in the song they are counting squirrels. It is sad that although we like squirrels we rarely see them in China, even in rural areas, maybe because we have different ecosystems and different types of squirrels which don't like to live in the living zone of people. But the rapid growth of cities is still the main barrier that blocks the wildlife out of our eyesight. That is why I like Chicago so much. I was informed that Chicago is dangerous before I came

here. But squirrels really help me alleviate my tension of this issue. I did some research on the internet about squirrels and I found many interesting things. Chicago is a typical city in United State which has lots of squirrels. There are two main kinds of squirrels: Grey squirrels and fox squirrels. When I searched squirrels in Google, I even saw many websites of the service of squirrel removal because sometimes squirrels can hide in the attic and make noise in the night. But usually people are happy to see them in the neighborhood. There are some people doing projects online to study squirrel and many people post their photos of squirrel in social media. Some people raise squirrels as pets. The most interesting thing I saw was Chicago's Pizza Squirrel. It is a Photo of a squirrel eating pizza on the tree which went virus in March this year. And Chicagoans said that it was much cuter than New York's Pizza Rat, which is also a video went virus online.

We can see that people are much happier with these cute wild animals around. They live on the trees, people live in the buildings and we are friendly to each other we all play on the lawn. That is a wonderful relationship.

Broader Issues:

Not all cities in the world are as green as Chicago. Many burgeoning cities in developing countries like China don't leave much space for the virescence work. And more and more new cities are taking over the natural area. Although we cannot stop the trend of the world, people should be always aware that there are other wild lives living with us on the earth. Not seeing them in the daily life doesn't mean that they are not important to us. And people who grew up without knowing this fact will show no mercy when they cut down the forest. So it is very important to make our neighborhoods more eco-friendly.

There are fewer and fewer species of wild animals nowadays. Even some species of squirrels are disappearing. When we see squirrels beside the road next time, we should remind ourselves of how lucky we are, and it is our responsibility to continue the good relationship between the human beings and natural world



Left: Pizza Squirrel of Chicago Photo Source: Mellissa McEwen/Twitter.
Right: Pizza Rat Photo Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPXUG8q4jK>

Wen-Ting Lin

Taiwan

Division of the Humanities

Harper Theatre: The Film Distributor of Hyde Park



Photo from official website (<http://www.harpertheater.com/>)

Background:

It's a Friday night. All you want to do is walk into a theatre and enjoy the 2 hours of entertainment, lie back, and chill. It had better be somewhere nearby, so that you don't have to rush downtown and be trapped in a traffic jam, and it doesn't have to be fancy. But it would be fantastic if it comes with some beer. If that is what you're looking for - go to the Harper Theatre at 53rd Street and Harper.

Being the only commercial theatre in Hyde Park, Harper Theatre is a small, neighborhood oriented cinema. It was opened in 1913, and has been run by several different companies. The architecture is designed by Horatio Wilson (1857-1917), and has been listed as a historic place.

There are four screens in the theatre. The largest in capacity, which is the 3rd screen, seats 131 people (though I personally don't recommend row A to C, unless you want to stick on the screen), while the rest of them are about half of the 3rd screens size, providing about 60 to 70 seats.

In addition to its short distance from UChicago, another good thing about Harper Theatre is the decent ticket prices they offer. The tickets are \$6 before 6 pm, \$9 from 6 pm, and \$5 all-day on Tuesdays.



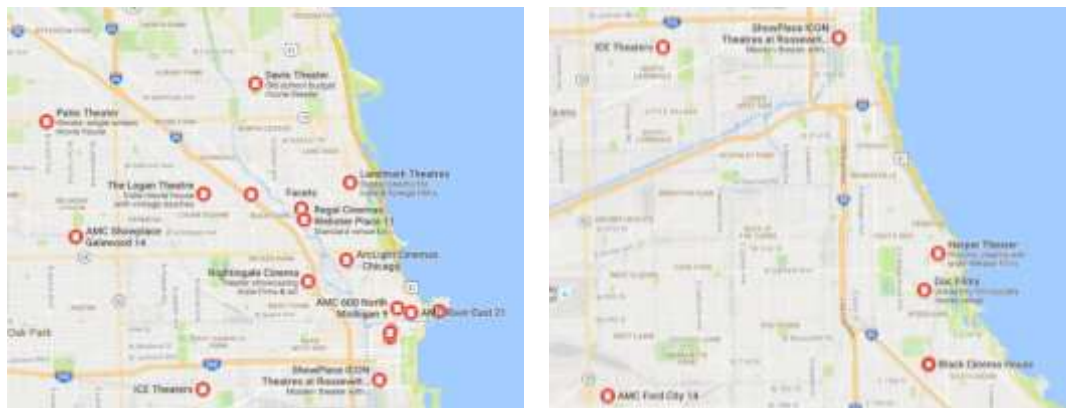
Screen 3 (Photo by author)

Broader Issue:

The Diversity of Movies in the Theatres

Because the United States is the giant in the film industry, one simply expects that there would be more diverse films in the theatre because Chicago is such a big city. However, it is actually difficult to find a theatre screening indie films and foreign/international films in the south half of Chicago. In the most theatres, according to their schedule for the past weeks, the choices are highly limited to the American mainstream films.

There are several cinemas that screen indie and international film, such as the Logan Theatre, Landmark Theatres, and Gene Siskel Film Center (which might be the closest to Hyde Park). Here you can see another issue - the south and the north. Almost all of the cinema art houses are located in the northern part of Chicago, which takes about 1 to 1.5 hour by CTA from Hyde



Park. I'm so glad that at least we have a decent art museum, a professional theatre, and the film society - Doc Films, here at UChicago.

Movie theatres at the northern (left), and southern (right) parts of Chicago

(Print screen from Google Map)

\\Location\\

At 53rd Street and Harper Avenue. 5238 S Harper Ave, Chicago, IL 60615

\\Travel time from UChicago\\

Walk: within 30 min Bike: within 15 min

UChicago shuttle stops: (1) Harper Court (2) 53rd&Blackstone

DAY- 53rd Street Express, Polsky Express NIGHT - East

\\Price\\

Before 6 pm - \$6 From 6 pm - \$9

Tuesdays - \$ 5

Showtime available on website: <http://www.harpertheater.com/>

Tickets available both online and at venue

Vlad Lisnyak
Russia
Chemistry Department

City by the Lake

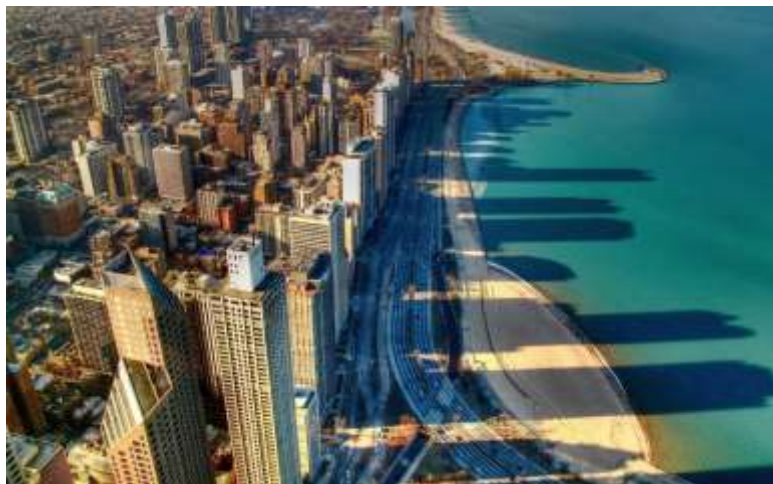


Photo from <http://www.chicagoivy.com/>

Background:

One of the many attractions that Chicago has to offer to its visitors is its proximity to Lake Michigan – the second largest lake of five Great Lakes, that is entirely situated in the U. S. Before I came to Chicago I read a lot of information about the city and kept noticing the important role Lake Michigan played in its history and history of the state starting from the early days when Native Americans populated its area. So I couldn't wait to see the mighty waters of the Lake with my own eyes.

Broader Issue:

Actually, Lake Michigan was the first thing I saw even before we landed at O'Hare Airport. I saw its blue waters miles away from Chicago in the airplane's window. I even remember myself wondering about how huge it was, estimating its approximate length by having an airplane's speed on the display. The first day I arrived to Chicago for the first time in my life, I couldn't help myself and went to the Lake straight ahead. Finally, I made it and here I am, on the shore, admiring the beauty of the Lake Michigan! I was pretty amazed by the warm wind, steady

waves around and a blue sky above me. I put off my shoes and tried the water with my feet, and even had an intention to jump in it and begin swimming, but I wasn't pretty sure about whether or not people swim in Lake Michigan back then. That day gave a lot of positive emotions and since then when I am free from classes I go there and relax. Recently, I've discovered that Lake Michigan freezes at winter, so I consider ice-fishing this season!

By foot: from UChicago Campus go straight east for about 25 minutes

Chang Liu
China
Department of Chemistry

How to get your Coupon?

It is interesting to find that there are so many kinds of coupons everywhere in the United States, or maybe just Chicago as I have found. You can get one online to make regular purchase or just capture it in the store and use the discount when you check out. But it is also a little bit wired that those coupons are tend to be secret secrets. Unlike things in China, where people are told that there is a discount or shopping assistants would use coupons automatically, we would have to keep an eye on those tiny coupons and counter staff would not apply them if you don't ask or show yours. So how to get coupons to buy your favorites in a lower price?

Ask for it

Don't be shy to ask whether a shopping mall or a food store has a student discount. Some may have about 10% discount off (like Treasure Island) or other kinds of coupons. For example, Discover Bank credit card offers an annual \$20 cash back if your GPA is above 3.0 every year for college students. You may also have free access to many museums just with your UChicago Student ID in hand like Art Institute of Chicago, Contemporary Art Museum, and Museum of Science and Industry. So just speak out, don't be afraid to ask.

Look for it

We have to be active first. If you pay more attention to your surroundings, you may have already come across with lovely coupons. They may be on the reception desk of your condom. I have just found one from Treasure Island with \$10 off on a \$50 purchase and according to my experiences, one shall have the coupon code when checking out if he want to use it. And I succeeded. So these coupons are not for everyone, but for lucky or scrupulous people. If you feel embarrassed standing at the reception table or at the door of a shopping center, just take it away and read it thoroughly when you go back home later. You would surely find something that motivate you to pay another visit.

Wait for it

Yes, even if you are not active enough, you may still get coupons since companies hope to expand their business. I was about to buy a coupon for \$300 cash back on opening a new bank

account in Chase Bank. But I later found one lying silently in my mailbox just on that day. Excitedly, I cancelled my purchase and went to the bank with the special coupon for me and opened my bank account the second day. So pay attention to your mailbox although it may often be filled with useless advertisement, you would find what you have been looking for.

Pay for if

We love to get coupons for free, but there are times when we are not lucky enough. Don't just sign and hold back. Go to EBAY and search for the coupon you have been waiting for. It may cost you a few bucks, but things like paying \$5 to get a coupon of \$300 are still inspiring. With EBAY or other second-hand websites, you can choose your coupons as you like.

Remember not to be a miser to yourself, enjoy your life with various coupons. You may follow my suggestions and get yours today!



Museum of Science and Industry (photo by Chang Liu)



Coupons waiting for you on the reception table of your condo (photo by Chang Liu)



Special coupon for me in my mailbox (photo by Chang Liu)

Chang Liu
China
Department of Chicago

Chicago Pizza & Oven Grinder Co.



Photo from rockandrolljunkie.com

Background:

Have you ever waited for one and a half hours for a seat and another half an hour to get the order? I have, in Chicago Pizza and Oven Grinder Company. But it turned out to be worthwhile.

Chicago Pizza and Oven Grinder company is located in Lincoln Park. It was built in 1972 and it is every popular nowadays.

The restaurant stands out due to its special cuisine, 'pot pie'. Almost everyone in the restaurant came for it. My partner and I were doing some researches about Lincoln Park neighborhood, so we talked about the restaurant with a customer. She told us she was from Texas. In spite of a full schedule in the afternoon, she was willing to wait two hours for the dishes because it was so delicious. Thus, despite tiresome, we decided to wait for a seat.



Photo by Jing Zhang

After two hours' waiting, we finally got our 'pot pie'. It was so tasty that I thought even waiting for three hours was worthwhile! It was the best pizza I had ever tasted!

The 'pot pie' includes cheese, tomato sauces and other special seasonings in the crust. Besides that, we ordered mushroom and sausage to be added in the pizza. It was amazing! With the hard crust and soft seasonings, the pizza combines different textures and flavors together. It tasted much more delicious if we sprinkled some salt, pepper and cheese on it.

To sum up, I highly recommend this restaurant and I am sure that you will like it!

Chunwei Liu
China
Division of the Physical Sciences

The Blue Sky in Chicago



Photo by Chunwei Liu

Background:

I felt in love with the blue sky in Chicago when I first arrived at the O'Hare international airport, since it recalls memories in deep of my heart. The sky is actually what I missed for years. I spent my childhood in a small rural village, which is far away from the factory and market. My memory of my childhood is the limpid water in the brook, the fragrance of the wild flowers and the blue color of the sky. however, everything in my hometown changed a lot as I was growing up: the water became turbid, the wild flowers had to give way to the factory building, and at last, the blue sky was gradually replaced by grey one. But when I walked out of the airport terminal building, all the memories came to me. I love this city especially its blue sky!

Without doubt, the blue sky is a simple and accurate evidence of a pleasant air condition, Unfortunately, most cities in China are losing their blue sky. Following two photos display two different colors of sky in U.S. and China.



Photo taken by Chunwei in Uchicago and CAS

However, the skyline in the city of Chicago is not always so pristine. Like most large cities, Chicago has a history of poor air quality: Many of the buildings were dim and black, covered with dust and soot from coal-fired furnaces in every corner of the city; in some days, air pollution turned day into night, ruining clothing, sickening the people. Air pollution haunted the city for many years even though Chicago legislated against dense smoke since 1881. Air condition did not significantly improve until coal use began to decline after World War II (chicagohistory.com).

In 1959, the Department of Air Pollution Control was created to investigate air issues and several previously ignored emission sources were highlighted. After that, a series of measures were pushed by Mayor Richard J. Daley to control air pollution. Even though, Chicago was still one of the most polluted cities in U.S. in the 1960s. With effective regulation of emissions from heavy industry and automobiles in the city, the blue sky gradually came back to Chicago. By the end of the 1990s, Chicago was no longer listed on the nation's most heavily polluted cities.

The history of Chicago is thought-provoking: It takes Chicago more than one century to recapture the blue sky, but how long it will be before the human race really learns to respect nature rather than conquer it.

Jiachen Liu
China
Social Science Division

Strange American-Chinese Cuisine



Photo by Jiachen

Background:

For foreigners, the most tough part of native language must be the menu. I cannot recognize what the ingredients are on a American menu, even the waiter or waitress explains them for me. Therefore, when I first saw the traditional Chinese menu with familiar names, I was really looking forward to the tasty cuisine they served.

This restaurant named Chengdu Impression is located at Lincoln park with four stars at yelp. But if you hope to taste the most authentic Chinese flavors, you may feel disappointed. Although in such a great Chinese restaurant with traditional menus, the cuisine is still American-Chinese.

Broader Issue:

When I moved in Hyde park, my roommate, a 28-year Missouri girl asked me “hey Jiachen, do you know Szechuan chicken?” I felt confused about the name, as I did not know what was Szechuan chicken, though I lived in China for more than twenty years. This question recalled me the trip to NYC and Los Angeles last year. When I looked at the menu offered by Chinese restaurants, I had to ask the waiter to explain it. Furthermore, I tried a lot of strange food with flavor I never tasted before in China.

Actually, many popular Chinese dishes for Americans, such as Governor Tso’s Chicken and fortune cookie are definitely not Chinese. The United States is probably the only country that you can find them. Therefore, the American Chinese dishes is not only novel for locals, but also for Chinese. When I talked this finding with my Mexican friend Rodrigo, he said “you are right! The burritos and tacos at here are not Mexican food.”

If you think Chinese food is what you taste in American Chinese restaurant, I have to say, that is incorrect. And if you believe China is what you witness in Chinatown, you are absolutely wrong too. Personally, the Chinatown in the United States, from Chicago to San Francisco, must be the worst community in that city, and often next to other minority communities like little Italy and Greek neighborhood. Chinese immigrants bring their memory of China to the United States to seek their American dreams several decades ago, and the China in their memory is noisy, orderless and untidy. However, my country changes so fast in past forty years that the Chinatown does not represent a real China anymore. If you hope to see a previous China, the Chinatown is a brilliant place to teach you a history class.



Selfies with two AEPP friends and two PHDs.

Photo by Rodrigo

Fortunately, the new Chinese community in Chicago has emerged in Bridgeport. The authentic flavor of Chinese cuisine could help me to beyond the nostalgia.

Yijun Liu

China

Social Science Division

Is Here Really the “Land of Opportunity”?



Photo credit: John Gress/ Reuters

Background:

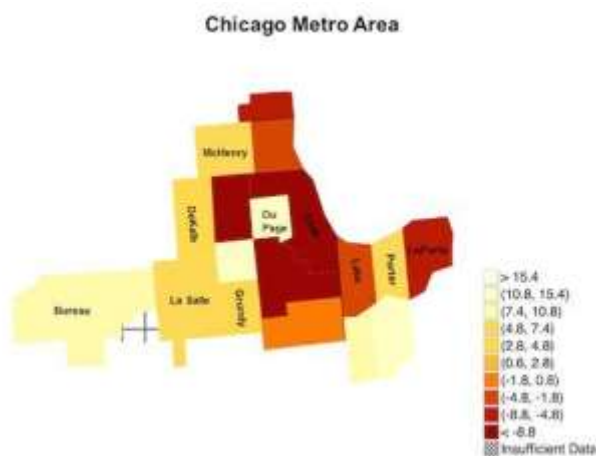
The United States has been famous for being the “Land of Opportunity”, which means providing equal opportunity for success to people from different backgrounds. Before, I had long heard about the “American Dream” which includes freedom, liberty, equality, and democracy. In my mind, being a nation of immigrants, the United States is country where people from a variety of places and different backgrounds integrate into this “land of opportunity” to pursue their “American Dream”. However, when first encountered the education segregation and inequality problem from my AEPP class, I was entirely shocked. As the majority of residents in Hyde Park neighborhood are African American, I did realize the ethnic segregation in Chicago. But I didn’t expect such an unfair distribution of educational resources.

The inequality in education is fundamentally caused by the education system. In the United States, more than 90% of the education funds for public schools come from state and local governments, and the main source of the school funds is local property tax. As a consequence, dramatic contrast exists between public schools located in different districts. For example, while schools in affluent communities provide spacious well-decorated architecture, large

libraries, new facilities and excellent teachers, students in schools located in poor communities have to bear with gloomy and narrow buildings, crowded reading rooms, outdated equipment as well as large-size classes taught by incompetent teachers.

In my home country, China, there also exists a similar situation, but things are not exactly the same. Public schools are sponsored by city and province governments. As is often the case, schools in a wealthy city or province receive more money than schools in poor districts. This educational inequality is similar to the case in the U.S., but happens on a larger geographic scale. Similarly, students are usually required to attend schools in their residential area; however, they also have the chance to choose schools in other areas if quite a bit of transfer fees are paid. Meanwhile, there are good and bad schools within the same area. Students are admitted by their scores in the School Entrance Examination.

Education is essential to every person. Education determines career development, personal achievement and socio-economic status. Therefore, equal education for children born in different families, rich or poor, and live in different neighborhoods is the most important part of realizing the “American Dream”. In fact, there are scholars like Raj Chetty and Nathaniel Hendren who quantitatively study the impact of neighborhood on children’s future earnings. The map of the Chicago Metro Area depicts the impact of living in different neighborhoods. It displays the percentage earnings gain from growing up in each county relative to an average place for child from low-income families. Darker color indicates places that produce lower income. That means children who grow up in the suburbs of Chicago have more chance to earn more money than children from the urban area except Du Page. Ultimately, this phenomenon of inequality cannot be eliminated before a thorough reform of the education system takes place. To make this place a real “Land of Opportunity”, there is still a long way to go.



Map retrieved from <http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org/>

Yifan Lou
China
School of Social Service Administration

A City Designed for People with Disabilities



Picture1

source:

<http://www.governing.com/topics/mgmt/gov-paratransit-drivers-benefits-medicaid-metroaccess.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/07/26/ada.history/>

Background:

Living in south side of Chicago, lack of shopping places is the main reason why me and my roommate “commute” downtown every week. It is our regular routing. Among all the stores, Target is a must for us to purchase one-week necessities. One Saturday, while taking the bus “E Hyde Park& East End” to the Target, a lady sitting on a wheelchair was trying to get on the bus. During the about 4-minute waiting, I witnessed how Chicago public transportation make traveling convenient for disabled people. Coincidentally, when I checked out in Target, a staff with disability provided services for me. After searched online, I found Chicago is endeavoring to help people with disabilities to live as a normal people.

Public facilities designed for disabled people

As we can see in the picture1, each bus has a big space for disabled people to place their wheelchairs. They just need to hold the strains and move the wheelchair fixed into the pit on the floor. But, how can they get on the bus? As the inferior photo in picture 1 showed, when the bus driver sees a passenger on the wheelchair is waiting at the bus stop, he would carefully park the bus directly in front of this person and presses the special button to release an artificial slope slowly to the ground, connecting the bus floor with the ground. Then, this person could operate the wheelchair, “climbing” on the bus by himself/ herself.

Another warm specific point is the audio broadcast at the crossroad. While our bus was waiting for the green light, there was a loud broadcast saying the dynamic real time signal light status. I cannot understand its function at first. The bus driver pointed the typhlosole, answering that:” it is designed for the blind people. Now the major road in Chicago allow blind people to pass through, the broadcast combined with the typhlosole are used to ensure their safety.”

Disabled people in workforce

There are many companies present for people with disabilities to enter the workforce. Target is one of these committed companies. When I came to the check-out table, a staff with muscular atrophy proficiently taking out the goods from my shopping basket, starting calculating the total prices. His motion was slower than other staffs’, but he was trying his best to working on his position. Looking around the Target, I found this man was not the only case. There are many people with disabilities there, including Down syndrome, deaf people and other handicapped people, working as cashiers, sorters and consultants. They were extremely dedicated to their work. Working as a normal people help them find their strengths and potentials, enlarging their social circles, and improving their self-esteem and self-satisfaction. Allowing people with disabilities enter the job market is beneficial for them to maintain healthy emotion status. This measure is also a kind of self- empowerment and has long-term benefits for disabled people.

Broader Issue:

Although the Chicago city planning has considered all the needs of people with abilities to live a normal life, the attitude which the Chicago people treat them most touches me. The people in this city truly consider disabled people as same as themselves, respecting them and understanding them with empathy. For instance, the idea of special design on the bus is to allow people on the wheelchair completing the process by themselves. While sitting on the bus, waiting the lady moving to the prior area on the bus, all the passengers show 100% patience. The driver and other people didn't stand up to help her, not because they didn't want to, but because the lady and others all believe that she was competent to do it. As a social worker, I concern not only how the city designed for people with disabilities, but also the society's attitude towards them, because this social recognition to a specific group largely influence this group's self-cognition and living environment. Fortunately, Chicago is a city both designed for people with disabilities and a city tolerate diversity deeply.

Target is taking real action to perform social responsibility. Recommend you to go there and enjoy your shopping!



Picture2

source:

http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/csr/information_and_resources/children_and_young_people_in_tasmania_snapshot/disability

Travel Times:

Uber:15min

Bus:30min

Alexandro Maya
Mexico
Harris School of Public Policy

Hopper's Hope



Background:

Eight years after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, in the zenith of the reconstruction of Chicago, The Art Institute of Chicago was founded as a museum and a school of fine arts in 1879. Three years later, while Edouard Manet was finishing its last masterpiece (A Bar at the Folies-Bergère) and Van Gogh started painting oils, Edward Hopper, the greatest American painter, was born.

By the end of the 19th century Hopper started studying arts at the New York School of Art and Design. His travels to Europe allowed him to study more closely his two main influences: Manet and Degas. Even though Hopper sold his first painting in 1913, he didn't get his breakthrough until 1927, after which he started producing his famous scenes from New England.

Broader Issue:

Melancholy, loneliness and isolation are adjectives commonly related to Hopper's oeuvre, and his painting *Nighthawks* from 1942 might be the best example of his genius when depicting these emotions.

According to the Art Institute of Chicago, Hopper started painting this masterpiece just days after the Pearl Harbor attack, and the pessimism related to the war has been thought as the possible reason for the moody feeling of this painting.

At first sight, this painting is undeniable "eye-catching", and the position and "thinkingness" of the man on the left in addition to the emotional distance between the woman in red and the man standing next to her might be a sign of the bad omen breathable during the war years; but if you look closer to the painting, you might be able to feel that this people are in fact waiting for good news. But instead of hopping for better days by themselves, they are spending their time in one of the most public and American places of the 20th century (the dinner), wearing their best clothes and maybe even acting modern (woman perhaps lighted the man's cigarette).



The time of travel from the University of Chicago to the Art Institute of Chicago is around 40 minutes in public transportation (green line, red line, bus 4 or bus 55 + bus 6) and between 15 and 25 minutes in Uber.

Takuji Miyagi
Japan
Harris School of Public Policy

“Coldness” in Summer



Photos taken by Takuji Miyagi

Background:

It is well known that Chicago suffers severe winter every year. Nevertheless, coming to Chicago this summer, I experienced “winter” in the café where I often study or relax: air-conditioner.

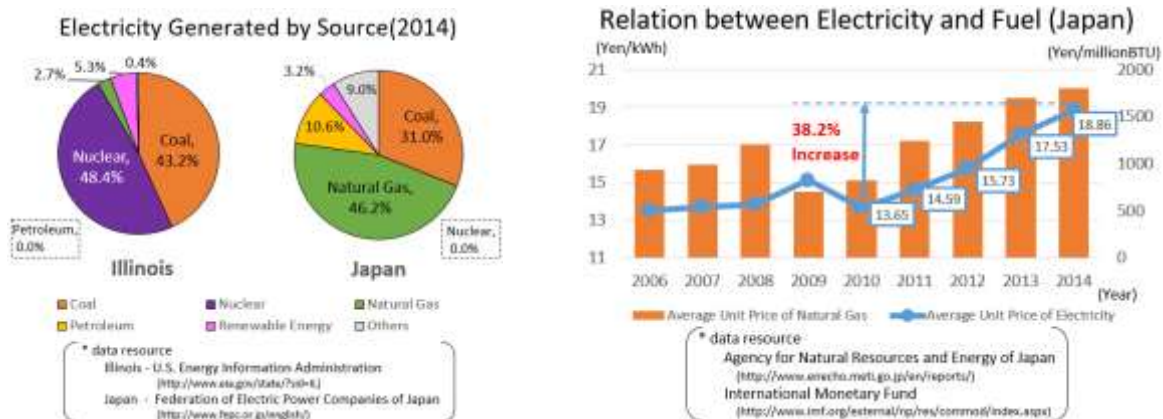
The coffee house above is one of my favorite cafés, since it is not so crowded and its clerks are always pleasant. Entering cafés, restaurants or some department stores, I am always surprised that most customers are only in scanty clothing, even when the air-conditioning is functioning highly. As the four seasons are clearly defined in Japan and winter always brings snowfalls, I have confidence in putting up with coldness. However, it is sometimes intolerable for me to stay inside unless I’m wearing long sleeves.

As it shows below, I attempt to compare the relative situation about electricity, supposing the cold indoor-temperature in Chicago could result from the difference of charge for electricity. In contrast to this argument, some scholars, point out that the medical difference of sensory temperature between Asians and other nations originates from their difference in body temperature and muscular quantity: a temperature of 37.2°C , 98.9°F , is considered as an illness in Japan, while other countries it is not.

Broader Issue:

Concerning the electricity generation by the source below, in the state of Illinois, coal and nuclear energy each provide over 40% of the electricity production. With 11 reactors at 6 nuclear power plants, Illinois is the U.S.'s top nuclear generator and provides more than one-tenth of the country's total nuclear power. On the other hand, in Japan, natural gas, whose source is 97.8% imported, consists of 46.2% in total electricity generation, while coal (99.3% imported) represents no more 31% than nuclear does. For many years, Japanese electricity has depended on importing fuels because of narrow land and fewer resources, while the total energy self-efficiency rate in the U.S. is relatively high. Relying on the import of fuels is easily affected by foreign exchange, foreign political situation and yields of sources. In Japan, the charge of electricity has escalated 38.2% in the last five years. Making a trial calculation of same electricity usage, the charge in Japan (Tokyo Electric Power Co.) costs 2.1 times as much as the charge in Illinois (Commonwealth Edison Company, i.e., ComEd). In order to make a stable electricity market, the policy in Japan that enables consumers to choose the electricity supplier of their own will was launched since 2016. Needless to say, the Japanese government tries to diversify the power supplies, including to use nuclear power, for the purpose of risk and price management after being confronted with the the accident at Fukushima Nuclear Power Station of Tokyo Electric Power Company caused by Great East Japan Earthquake.

As a citizen and government official, I am concerned about the charge of electricity and Japanese policies while drinking a cup of coffee in my favorite café, in a long-sleeved shirt.



Public Transportation: 15 minutes (using CTA No.172)

Bicycle: 15 minutes

Car: 5 minutes

Takanori Miyazato

Japan

Harris School of Public Policy

World's Columbian Exposition: The Bright and Dark Sides and What Remains Today



Photo by Takanori Miyazato (author)

The Bright Side

When you explore Hyde Park by foot, by bike, by bus or by any means, you can't miss a massive, all-white, Beaux-Arts style palace in Jackson Park. It is the Museum of Science and Industry of Chicago. The museum is truly famous for a great series of exhibitions which will take you a couple of days if you want to see everything in the museum. It is a bit expensive to see exhibitions, but it is definitely worth going inside, and you can take advantage of the resident discount of \$3 off, like many other museums in the city of Chicago. However, once you enter inside the museum, you may wonder "Why is this old-style building used for the science museum? What was this building used for before? What was the first purpose of this building?" The answer to your questions lies in the history of Chicago; When the city of Chicago acquired its reputations as center of advanced technology.

Chicago is an international city and it all started in 1893 with the World's Columbian Exposition which brought fame and honor to Chicago. During 19th century, Chicago had one of the fastest growing populations in the U.S. At the end of 19th century, the city of Chicago was full of vigor and optimism; the city had the confidence to lead the country and was ambitious for international reputation. The whole city of Chicago must have been exhilarated when the city was elected as a host of the Exposition, defeating New York, Washington, D.C. and St. Louis. So, what is the connection between the Museum of Science and Industry of Chicago and the Exposition? The building used for the museum, is a legacy of the Exposition. This is even more remarkable as few buildings remain from before the great fire of 1894 and the exposition. The building was originally The Palace of Fine Arts. One of the main buildings of the whole exhibition which was spread all around the area. The Exposition ended successfully, and made Chicago an international reputation as a symbol of American advancement and optimism.

The Dark Side

Chicago was already full of diversity: black and white, poor and rich, native and immigrants. Did a whole city unite as one during the Exposition? The answer is, as you may predict, "No". Among the many gorgeous exhibitions mainly delivered by white Americans, there were very few exhibitions reflecting Black or Native American culture. Therefore, it was quite symbolic that black female activists at that time, prepared booklets titled "The Reason Why the Colored American Is Not in the World's Columbian Exposition" and distributed at the Exposition site (Graff, 2012). Furthermore, ironically, the great buildings and pavilions themselves were the symbols of "Whiteness" and "Segregation", as those were constructed right besides the slum area, which clearly reflects the egoism of administrative bodies.

What remains today

After more than 100 years, many people visit the museums and parks on the site of the former Columbian Exposition, enjoying freely, no matter what color they are, and no matter where they originally come from. This is very meaningful because the sad context has faded over time and has been almost forgotten.

However, if you have a chance to visit the museum, remember its history if only for a few minutes. You will see a long and complex historical context, and truly, it can enrich your experience in Chicago. The Museum of Science and Industry of Chicago is not the only building which has context of bright and dark sides of the city; you have much more to explore!

References

Graff, R. S. (2012). Dream City, Plaster City: Worlds' Fairs and the Gilding of American Material Culture. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, 16(4), 696-716. doi:10.1007/s10761-012-0198-6

Rudwick, E. M., & Meier, A. (1965). Black Man in the "White City": Negroes and the Columbian Exposition, 1893. *Phylon* (1960-), 26(4), 354-361.

From the University of Chicago, it may take about 20 minutes walk to the Museum of Science and Industry of Chicago. There are several paths, and if you walk midway toward East, you will automatically enter Jackson Park, where the museum is located.

Sen Na
China
Department of Statistics

Multicolor Beliefs



(Photo by Sen Na) The Breant House

Background:

Living in the Chicago, we can feel the freedom smell everywhere. In the university, students always propose different opinions and enrich their knowledge from debates. Out the university, there are many neighborhoods having different main races but can harmoniously coexist. Everyone can find a sense of belonging.

The most eager thing I hope to do near the campus is experiencing the impact from different cultures. The free policies in America make it possible. Specifically, religions are my first focus. Whenever I saw so many people can fight together for their common beliefs, I was always surprised by this mysterious power. So, one day, I went to an episcopal house.

The Brent House locates at 5540 South Woodlawn Ave. Once I came to this house, I was attracted by its architectural style and tranquil environment. The building color is red, which

makes it very outstanding from surroundings. You can feel a very strong sense of religion if stepping near the building. Out the house, an old tree, which partly hides the house, adds a sense of mystery. There is always a family pizza party on the big green lawn and many neighbors will also attend. In the house, several delicate decorations catch your eyes immediately. It has three floors in total. For the first floor, there is an exclusive room for Anglican Communion prayer. The current house manager, Kenji Kuramitsu, often holds a family meeting to exchange their beliefs. For the second and third floor, there are several bedrooms and an office room for renters living in this house. Those stale furniture make this house very solemn.

Broader Issue:

When we think about the beliefs in America, besides some common beliefs like liberty, equality and diversity, we will find there are so many followers of different religions around you. Maybe your roommate is a Catholic! Believe it or not, only 23% people are unaffiliated to any religions. 16% people although do not have specific creeds yet, they are still trying to blend themselves into multicolor religions. For those religionists, more than 70% people are Christian. But the diversity is also shocking. Catholicism, Christianity, Episcopalianism, Orthodoxy, Lutheranism, Unitarians, so many kinds of religions mixed together in this nation. If you are interested in knowing about the religion world, this country is definitely a good place to come.

Sometimes, you just exclaim out: what an amazing nation. Many followers having different creeds and speaking different languages can just live together in one neighborhood without any religion conflictions. I think this is also another charm of this country.



(Photo from pewforum.org)

Muhammad Umer Naeem
Pakistan
Harris School of Public Policy

Adjusting to Life in Chicago: A Muslim's Perspective



Picture of Devon Avenue

Photo by Kitab Ghar Chicago (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/27435394@N07/2588151525>)

Background:

“Culture Shock” was a term I had been hearing from every person before coming to Chicago. Imbued with all kinds of apprehensions, for the first time in my life, I travelled outside Pakistan. Fear mongering by the media about an impending “Trump phase” made me cautious as I am a devout Muslim, complete with a beard and skullcap. And to top it off, I was coming from Pakistan. But after spending two days in Chicago, I realized that the challenges which I am going to face are lot different from the ones which I had imagined.

Living as a student in Pakistan for the past 6 years, I had access to the college cafeteria and round the clock food shops to fulfill my late night cravings. Therefore, I had never felt the need to learn how to cook.

Even if I had known how to cook in Lahore, I would have to find places in Chicago where I could

get halal food. Fortunately, a grocery shop near my house made it possible for me to get eggs and bread.

To my utter surprise, I discovered that even bread has some ingredients that can render it non-halal. After doing some research, I found that stores in the US have special food for the people who prefer Kosher meals. If a person wants to have the Kosher option, he/she just has to look to the symbols “U”, “K”, or “PARVE” on the product. Also, some mobile applications such as Halal Scan can scan the barcode of the product and tell if it is halal or not.

These discoveries made it easier for me to buy bread and dairy products. But being a non-vegetarian, I wished to eat meat. After some research and consultation, I found a shop in Hyde Park called "Valley of Jordan" that sells halal meat. But then again, to cook the meat in Pakistani fashion, I needed spices. I went to a street called “Devon Avenue” which is on the North side of Chicago. The visit to Devon Avenue was a serendipitous experience. The entire street was filled with Pakistani and Indian restaurants. Eating Halwa Poori (a traditional Pakistani breakfast) with Lassi (a sweet drink made from milk and yogurt) reminded me of my home. Also, listening to people speak in Urdu made me elated. I was able to find all kinds of halal meat, spices, and roti (traditional Pakistani bread) in Devon Avenue.

Being a Muslim, however, does not entail only fulfilling bodily desires. We also have spiritual needs. Back in Pakistan, I used to go to the mosque regularly and pray with the congregation. I found a mosque in Hyde Park at 47th street called “Masjid Al-Faatir,” and I hope to go there soon. For the Friday prayer, which is a special weekly prayer, I heard that at UChicago the congregation is held inside “Bond Chapel” during the regular academic year. But during summers, it is hosted at the chapel in “Center for Care and Discovery” which is located on S. Maryland Avenue. Upon discovering the places to eat and to pray, I fulfilled my corporal and spiritual needs.

Broader Issue:

In hindsight, a person’s ability to “feel at home” is not just based on his/her physical location but it is about the connection he/she makes with the people and the place. My transition to the life in Chicago would never have been this easy had I not met some incredible people who made me realize that the intrinsic ability to do good is not based on one’s color or religion.

Travel Times:

Masjid Al-Faatir: 30 minutes on foot

Valley of Jordan: 15 minutes on foot

Bond Chapel: 2 minutes on foot

Center for Care and Discovery: 8 minutes on foot

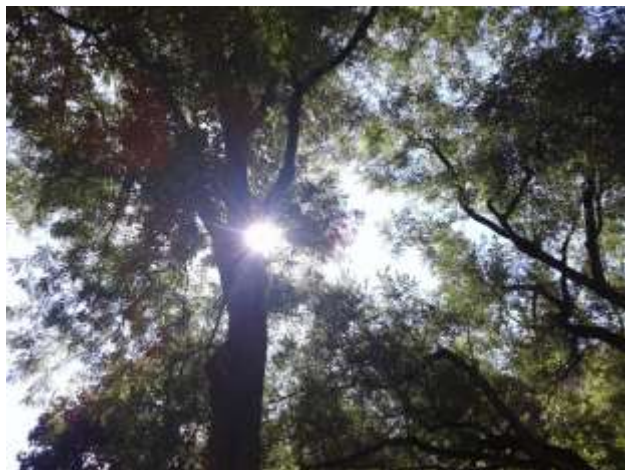
Devon Avenue: Almost 1hr 30 min on CTA bus and train

Vishnu Nair

India

Physical Sciences Division- Chemistry

The Neighborhood of Kenwood: A Ray of Hope



Sunlight through a canopy at Madison park, Kenwood
(Photo by Author)

It's always been interesting to look at history to understand how societies have evolved with time and how people's mentality and ego have influenced the neighborhood compositions. Social segregation is known as segregation of a community based on income, ethnicity, age, demographic status, or education. Most often the social segregation we talk of are based on religion or ethnicity, found in varying degrees across the globe. However, the story of such a segregation and its present day situation is indeed a hope for the fact that they can have a positive side contradicting conventional thoughts and mindset of people. If we look upon the United States and its history, it's well known for its beautiful transition from Slavery of 1700s to

present day equality. We basically look upon this aspect of United States through a neighborhood called Kenwood in Southern Chicago.

Countably finite neighborhoods exist in this world, one among them being Kenwood. There is nothing fancy about this place that may attract a tourist toward it but you will definitely feel happy talking to people here on the streets taking a walk with their with dogs! It's a place with a blend of culture's with important people from history like Muhammad Ali, Elijah Muhammad, Maurice Rabb etc. or be it Barack Obama. The people here are of different color, race, religion but all like Kenwood and what it is about. Contrary to conventional notion of people about the African-Americans this neighborhood sets an example to the present da world an evolved version of the same African –Americans from a perspective which probably dissolves the mental blockade people have in their minds. It's not just about the African-Americans but about the Jews, the Muslims and the Whites who live here. Not just race but it's about the religion too, a factor of concern when we talk about social segregation.

We talk about the evolution of people whom we talk about poignantly in history for being discriminated, especially in a world where history written by the western world dominates. Their evolution is said to start with their great migration post world war two when they migrated from southern parts of the US to the north and the Midwest, Kenwood being a byproduct of the same. With opportunities growing up they too realized their capabilities and moved out of a life burdened with stigma, with confidence building their society of elite people. It's quite encouraging to see the realization that past events actually do not affect one's capabilities nor do they affect your personality. If you walk across the streets of Kenwood having churches,

mosques and an Israeli temple and talk to people across they would tell you how they co-exist in a peaceful way.

Leave alone the religion or race discrimination, the place is an ideal location for living. Most of the people find it safe though the crime rates map show that it's quite dangerous which is mainly due to unarmed robberies but less gun violence. Apparently it's a more livable place for being socially accepting and accommodating for people from different backgrounds. Its rich in its recreational facilities and education making it attractive to families apart from being accessible by public transport and safety by the University of Chicago Police Department.

Overall Kenwood is a story of motivation for anyone who underestimates his capabilities because of the negative experiences he has in life and to point out the evolving attitude of the upcoming generation of people who dissolve the social walls of religion and race!

Takashi Ono
Japan
Law School

Are They Stealing the View?



(Entrance of one of the rooftops of Wrigley Field. Photo by the author)

Background:

I will like to introduce the rooftops of Wrigley Field.

As everybody knows, Wrigley Field is the home stadium of Cubs. There are many aspects that make Wrigley Fields a special ball park. It is one of the oldest ballpark in Major League. It has a beautiful Ivy covered outfield wall. I've also heard that they sell nice Chicago hot dogs inside. I

personally think, however, that the rooftops around Wrigley Field are one of the most interesting, unique parts of this ball park.

When you go to Wrigley Field, you will soon notice that there are some seats on the rooftops of the buildings surrounding the ballpark. They are located across the street of Wrigley Field. It looks like a part of Wrigley Field, but it's just a rooftop of other buildings.

I knew about these rooftops from before, and was wondering how much they cost, and whether they are paying to the Cubs or to the owner of the building. In the neighborhood project of AEPP, I chose to do a research about Lake View and one of the places we focused was Wrigley Ville (the area around Wrigley Field).

When we arrived to Wrigley Field, I went to a building which has a rooftop view, and I asked a few questions to the guy who was checking tickets in front of the building. The first question was about the price. The guy told me that it is around \$150. This was surprisingly expensive for a baseball game. You can find a ticket from \$30 for a baseball game. These rooftops are located outside the stadium, so they won't have the best view for the ballpark. How can it be so expensive? The guy told me the answer. The price includes an all you can eat and drink service. You can have hamburgers, hot dogs, and other BBQ menus, and many alcohols. When we consider about prices of alcohols in Wrigley Fields (i.e. one beer usually costs \$10), \$150 doesn't sounds a bad deal.

I also asked about the connection between rooftops and Cubs. The guy told me that most of the rooftops are owned by the same owner of Cubs so they don't have to pay royalty to the Cubs. The guy also told me that there were some legal problems in the past, but those were solved since the owner of Cubs purchased most of the buildings.

I didn't know about those stories so I decided to do some research about it and find out that there were some interesting legal disputes between Wrigley Field and rooftops.

Broader Issue:

Rooftops around Wrigley Field used to be free and the access was limited to guest of the owner or tenants of the building. However, when Cubs game became popular and the stadium became crowded, the owners of the building started to business by charging an admission fee (Matthew Gast http://archive.oreilly.com/pub/post/the_roof_as_a_copyright_infrin.html). In those days, the building owners didn't pay any royalty to Cubs.

In 2002, Cubs sued those buildings owners, arguing that the rooftops are infringing copyright. They argued that the baseball game is protected by copyright. This case was settled and the owners and Cubs made an agreement that the owners will pay some royalties to Cubs. This case gives us an interesting issue of US copyright law. To be protected by Copyright, a work

has to be fixed in a tangible medium of expression. In addition to that, to infringe copyright, others have to copy, make a derivative work, distribute a copy, perform or display the work. There are also other requirements like originality. A baseball game might be fixed if it was by a TV camera, but the people on the rooftop are spontaneously watching it. Usually a work has to be fixed "before" it is infringed, so in this case the rooftop owners can argue that the game was not "fixed".

In addition, the owners can also argue that they are not "copying", and of course not preparing a "derivative work" of the baseball game. Then how about displaying? It sounds like they are "displaying" the game. However, in US copyright act, Display means to show a copy of the copyrighted work to public. The owners are showing the real live baseball game, not the copy. Of course the owners are not "performing" or "distributing" the work. Thus, if the owners have refused settling the case, it was more than likely that the court would have decided in favor of the owners. Does this mean that the owner's lawyer were not knowledgeable about Copyright? Maybe yes. However, the following disputes about the rooftops and Wrigley tells that the rooftops owners entered in to a good business.

When Cubs tried to install some score boards that will obstruct the view from the rooftops, the owners sued Cubs. They based their argument on the contract they made between Cubs. Eventually the owner of Cubs purchased most of the buildings and most of the cases were dismissed. We can easily imagine that the owners of the building received a decent compensation for losing their business of rooftop. What if they haven't settled in the previous case. Then, they wouldn't have any legal argument to stop the Cubs to install score boards (There is one building that didn't make any agreement between Cubs. Cubs placed the scoreboard in front of this building.).

From University of Chicago, take cta bus 55 to the Garfield station (Red Line).
Take the Red Line to Addison station. You can find Wrigley Field in front of the station.

Guillermo Ortiz
Paraguay
Harris School of Public Policy

And Humour Shall Set You Free



Photo by author.

Background:

One of my firsts weekends here in Chicago, a friend invited me to what turned up to be one of the greatest, most revealing experiences both for the city and for human artistic capacity. He invited me to a comedy play hosted on the famous The Second City's UP Comedy Club, one of the most important comedy clubs worldwide. What's a comedy club? Is a theatre and a school of improvisation, where actors and actresses focus on boosting their comedy abilities and offer humor shows every night, which can be stand-ups, sketches or satires; which people enjoy while having a drink. At first I was exceptical, the tickets were pricey and, since I've never been in a show like this before, I didn't know if it was going to be worth it. But after a few minutes in I realized that it was not only worth the money, but also one of the greatests activities I've done so far in my recently new city.

The traffic that day was horrible, so I got there 5 minutes late. The show has already started. My friend was waiting for me inside so I asked the box officer for directions and went right in. I

was in a hurry, so I didn't hear him, and without knowing I ended up in another floor, in another room. I opened the door quietly to not draw attention and looked inside. There was no public at all, only some young actors on the stage, doing rehearsals, laughing and improvising among themselves and being incredibly funny at what they were doing. There was an instructor (I assume one can call him that) who was giving advice to the actors on timing, pace, gestures and movements, for them to be even funnier! I was astonished. I didn't know that you can practice to improvise. I started laughing at their jokes and soon enough, they noticed me. I quickly told them that I was lost and wanted to go to the main theatre for the show that started about 10 minutes ago. Between laughs and jokes, one of the actors happily took me there. Luckily my friend had reserved me a seat because it was fully crowded. I got in and started enjoying one of the most acclaimed shows of the place. The play was called "Unelectable You" and it was a political-themed revue.

In the middle of the presidential US elections, these actors were making the most hilarious, witty and brilliant jokes on the candidates, their spouses, their parties, the past US presidents, the current political climate and the population reactions on political proposals. It was genius! But, what amazed me the most were the improvisation sketches. In the middle of the play, they would ask the audience for a theme, anything that they could think of, and would make a sketch for them. The audience selected the theme "Hitler meets Donald Trump while being saved by the Power Rangers from a monster attack in the city". I can't describe how hilarious that sketch turned out to be. They managed to improvise something, and it was just genius. I would definitely go again to a comedy show, many times even during my stay here in Chicago; and I absolutely recommend it to anyone. It's nice to "LOL" every once in a while.

Broader Issue:

Humor is a very important aspect of human life and interaction. People can laugh at many things. They can make jokes from the good, the bad and the ugly things in their lives. Society uses humor as a way of interacting between one another, making friends, expressing disconformity or approval of different situations. In addition, humor is used as an emotional defense mechanism, escape or relief when something makes us uncomfortable. Humor is also healthy.

However, in a social context as the one referred here, the subjects that people laugh about, are relevant. There's a message behind every joke, a message worth hearing, something that most people in a community find themselves identified to. Deep, major issues are discussed not only in congress but also in everyday conversations, and in a far less formal way, through humor. When studying Public Policy, those messages should be decoded and taken into account. Memes on the internet are often telling policymakers of the needs and trending subjects of a

certain population. A show which is making the ridicule out of something serious and real, like an election, and the fact that it has so much repercussion and acclaim in a society, perhaps shows how dissatisfied people who are looking for something different and aren't being heard really are. Making a joke about how difficult it is nowadays to date, probably is reflecting the loneliness and the difficulty of establishing lasting relations in a society full of tech and apps which contribute to the contrary.

Drama, tragedy, comedy, arts, music, are all ways of human expression. To exhibit them enriches society. Human expression tells a lot about the culture of certain community and the city that's hosting it. Humor and drama are profound examples of human creativity and intelligence. But above all, improvisation, because, what are we if not improvised actors in the play of life?



Source: www.aroundthetownchicago.com

Location: 230 West North Avenue, Old Town.

Travel Time by CTA: 54 min (#55 + Red Line)

Travel Time by Car: 27 min.

Travel Time by Bike: 57 min.

Rodrigo Valdes Ortiz
Mexico
Division of the Social Sciences

Which is My Race?



Millenium Park, Chicago

Source: Chicago Traveler

Background:

One of the main features that I realized when I arrived in Chicago is the cohabitation and conflict among races and different ethnic groups. I am from a place where none ask for your race. It is just impolite and makes no sense. The clues that advertise me that America is different started during the applications to United States' universities. One of the most frequent questions is: what is your race? Sometimes, I did not know what race to select (there were not the option of Homo Sapiens Sapiens). Other universities allowed me to choose "all the races that I feel identified with."

Trying to find an appropriate answer to this question, I started to think about my family history. I realized that I had the blood of Native Americans, white Europeans, African slaves, and maybe Chinese immigrants. Of course, each of them in different proportions. Then, do I feel identified whit each of those races? Do I need to select Native—Kickapoo (because Mexican Nahuas were not an option), White—Hispanic, Black—Non-American, and Chinese—Maybe? Recapitulate,

the question said: "feel identified with." In spite all this family history, I did not feel connected to all these options. Some of them are identified with derogatory concepts. For instance, Native Americans looks like savages for many people; they used to eat other people's heart. White Europeans have been oppressors of half of the world in the last thousand years, I do not want to be part of that. People believe that Africans are European's victims, but they forgot that slave ownership had been a common practice before Europeans arrived, I want to be neither a victim nor a slave owner. Finally, I was not comfortable to declare myself as Chinese because people say that they are stealing jobs of American workers, I supposed it was bad.

I looked for advising of my friends to understand if the answer was evident to them. Friends in my home country told me that blood was unimportant, that the notable feature is how I looked. That is to say, if I look Chinese, I must be Chinese, for example. You are white, they said, you seem like one of them (?). However, I asked my American friends what should I answer, there must be an option for someone like you, they told me, but definitively not white, look for other answers. As I was confused, I inquire the wisest person, my grandmother. She said that I must select the most accurate answer: Other. I did it. Many times.

Broader Issue:

Hispanic countries history differs from America's. Spanish during the sixteen and seventeen centuries saw natives as sinners who needed meet Jesus. Meanwhile, as not many women immigrated to Hispanic countries, Spanish men started to cohabit with Native women. Afterwards, during the first years of independence, when countries were building their national identity, Mexican leaders decided to design a speech where races were not relevant. A memorial in the Three Cultures Square in Mexico City states: "the conquest was not a victory or defeat, it was painful born of the mestizos, the population of current Mexico."

Immigrants into the United States during the same era used to kill or displace native population. Pilgrims did not want to evangelize Natives, and they had conflicts with aborigines regarding the use of land. They were looking for a better life. Furthermore, Africans arrived in America as slaves. In addition, there was a racial and ethical conflict before immigrants arrived to America. A great example of the implications of these is the history of Chicago and their present problems. For instance, an Irish was blamed for starting the great fire of 1871; Irish police officers used to harass black people; Hispanics are building neighborhoods in only-Spanish environments; and whites used to dominate the political arena and be the high-paid workers.

After a while living in Chicago, I understood why races are of paramount importance in the American context. My perspective changed. Textbooks are not as useful to learn about racial differences than living in a place where you feel the attitudes of different ethnic and racial groups. Despite my understanding of this, for me, who was born in a place where we never state our race, I will continue to say that my race is the unique that I know: human.



Millennium Park, Chicago

Source: Becker's Hospital Review

Bruno Osorio
Mexico
Harris School of Public Policy

Deep-Dish Pizza in Chicago



Photo 1: took by author.



Photo 2: Gino's East website: www.ginoseast.com/deep-dish-pizza

Background:

I do love food. When I knew that I was to study at The University of Chicago, I was very excited about the food offer of the city. For this reason, the first thing I did once I arrived to Chicago was eating deep-dish pizza. When I visit different countries, I like to taste traditional food, the food that best represent a country or a city. All my friends recommended me to eat deep-dish pizza. I chose Gino's East. Even though the renowned chef Anthony Bourdain said this style of pizza "sucks", it was, in my opinion, one of the best gastronomic experiences in my life. Deep-dish takes 45-60 minutes to be ready. I did not know it takes so long time. However, it was worth every minute. Why? I do believe that one the best secrets in gastronomy is slow cooking. The fact that the pizza was almost an hour in the oven allowed all the ingredients to mix together slowly, to liberate their flavors and smells in way that makes this dish delicious.

What is deep-dish pizza?

It is probably one of the most famous foods in Chicago. Crust is deep. As a result, unlike traditional thin pizza, deep-dish is very thick. The crust is covered with Italian mozzarella cheese, meat (Italian sausage or pepperoni) onion, and mushrooms. An uncooked tomato sauce

is added over those ingredients. This sauce is added in the top; otherwise, the cheese would burn. Since deep-dish pizza is so thick, it requires a slow cooking process.

Who invented deep-dish pizza?

According to historian Tim Samuelson, there is little evidence about who invented this style of pizza. However, he suggested that deep-dish pizza was created in a restaurant in the 1940's in East Ohio St at Wabash.

Broader Issue:

Chicago-style pizza, hot-dog and beef are examples that food is not trivial for Chicagoans. From local specialties to world class restaurants, in this city diversity is the rule when talking about food. This is the result of the different ethnic groups that arrived to Chicago throughout XIX and XX centuries. This cultural diversity is reflected in the richness of Chicago's food. Unlike other cities, which are more pretentious, Chicago is more honest in its gastronomic offer. You can find traditional Chicagoan dishes, Mexican street food or molecular food cooked by top chefs.

Gino's has been offering pizza since 1966. It is located in 521 S Dearborn St. You have to take bus 6 (CTA) until Congress and Michigan. There you have to walk six streets.

Takuya Otani
Japan
Division of Physical Science, MSFM

Where to get Japanese Ingredients in Hyde Park



Napa cabbage on sale, Photo by author at Hyde Park Produce

Availability of Japanese food in Hyde Park

Store	WF	HPP	TI	HF	VJ	Memo
rice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	VJ: cheapest
udon	✓	✓	✓			rehydratable noodle
soba	✓	✓				rehydratable noodle
soy sauce	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
miso (bean paste)	✓	✓	✓			HPP & TI: made in Japan
rice vinegar	✓	✓	✓	✓		
ponzu		✓	✓	✓		
mirin (sweet cooking rice wine)	✓	✓	✓			HF: mirin flavor sauce
sake (cooking rice wine)	✓		✓			HPP: available at next shop
nori (dried laver seaweed)		✓	✓			
sesame oil	✓	✓	✓	✓		
green onion	✓	✓	✓			thinner than in Japan
burdock						
napa cabbage		✓				
Japanese radish		✓				
shiitake mushroom		✓	✓			
bean sprout		✓			✓	VJ: canned
tofu (bean curd)	✓	✓	✓	✓		WF & HPP: various types
shirataki (sliced white konjac)		✓				
konjac (devil's tongue)						
ginger	✓	✓	✓	✓		
wasabi	✓	✓	✓			TI: powder type
natto						

(*) The survey has been held by author in August 2016

Background:

Most Japanese students will miss Japanese food after living in Chicago for a long time. In Chicago, there are a lot of ethnic restaurants including Japanese restaurants. However, most of them often provide dishes at more expensive prices than American foods, and they are too far from Hyde Park for daily meals. Hence, the best way is to cook Japanese dishes by yourself to remind yourself of home, but you may find it difficult to get Japanese ingredients in Hyde Park in the first place. In this article, I will explain how to find ingredients you need in your local Hyde

Park supermarkets.

I conducted a survey of Hyde Park supermarkets looking for typical ingredients used in Japanese dishes: Rice, soy sauce, miso (bean paste), mirin (sweet cooking rice wine), sake (cooking rice wine), etc. I collected data from the following supermarkets regardless of price.

1. Whole Foods Market (WF)
2. Hyde Park Produce (HPP)
3. Treasure Island (TI)
4. Harper Foods (HF)
5. Valley of Jordan Food (VJ)

The availability of Japanese ingredients in Hyde Park exceeded my expectations. The great provider of them all is Hyde Park Produce, which sells not only seasoning and spices, but also vegetables indigenous to East Asia.

However, the prices are higher than in Japan. For example, mirin is too expensive to use for cooking Japanese cuisine on a routine basis although it is required for a lot of Japanese dishes. Mirin is typically 5-7 dollars per 10 oz. in Hyde Park compared with less than 1 dollar per oz. in Japan. This price is almost the same as the price on Amazon. Another example is sake. It is difficult to find “cooking sake,” sake specific for cooking, in Hyde Park. Cooking sake requires less purification than general sake, so it is sold at a substantial discount at almost every supermarket in Japan. Cooking sake can be interchangeable with general Sake in most recipes, although it requires a higher cost for cooking.

On the other hand, the price of soy sauce is almost the same as in Japan. This must be because soy sauce is widely used in various East Asian cuisine such as Chinese and Thai cuisines, so it is widely available in significant quantities.

Broader Issues (the best choice for homemade Japanese cuisine)

Based on the survey results, one of the most recommended dishes for cooking by yourself is Sukiyaki (thin slices of beef cooked in a heavy iron skillet with various vegetables and tofu), which is a typical traditional food in Japan. “Sukiyaki” is, as you may know, known as a title of a Japanese famous song, however, this originally indicates the Japanese cuisine. All of the main ingredients of Sukiyaki is available in Hyde Park. The recipe of Sukiyaki is as follows.

Sukiyaki (Hyde Park Special)

[Ingredients] (for two servings)

Main Ingredients

- 1/2 lb thinly sliced beef
- 1 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 oz napa cabbage, cut into pieces
- 1 bunch of green onions, cut into one inch long pieces

4 oz tofu (firm preferred), cubed

4 shiitake mushrooms

1/2 package shirataki

1 Tbsp. cooking oil

Optional

1/2 bunch of shungiku (garland chrysanthemum)

1 package enoki mushrooms

1/4 carrot, cut into pieces

In addition, whatever you want

Sukiyaki sauce

1/2 cup soy sauce

1/2 cup mirin

1/2 cup sake

1/4 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup water (or dashi if available)

Dipping sauce

2 raw eggs (at your own risk)

[Recipe]

1. Preheat a skillet with cooking oil on medium heat.
2. Place sliced beef and sprinkle with sugar.
(It is possible to pour a little bit of Sukiyaki sauce over the meat.)
3. After searing them lightly, add Sukiyaki sauce.
4. Add tofu, napa cabbage, shiitake mushrooms, and shirataki.
5. After it boils, add optional ingredients.
6. Keep boiling until all ingredients are cooked through.
7. Enjoy them dipping in stirred raw eggs.
(It is possible to add eggs into the skillet if you feel afraid of)

It is worth writing that the recipe provided above is not common in Japan in a very real sense. Sukiyaki is home cuisine usually cooked on a dining table, and each of the family members uses chopsticks to pick up the ingredients from the large skillet. Therefore, they generally put all the ingredients into the skillet little by little and sometimes add Sukiyaki Sauce as appropriate. The ingredients can vary based on area and family.

Enjoy Sukiyaki with your family or friends! Sukiyaki is the best choice as for reasonably priced Japanese cuisine which will keep you warm for a long cold winter in Chicago. It will also allow you to promote better relationship between those who are important for you.



Home made Sukiyaki, Photo & Cooked by author

Tips for travel (Addresses of supermarkets)

Whole Foods Market

5118 S Lake Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60615
(Hyde Park, 25 minutes walk from UChicago)

Hyde Park Produce

1226 E 53rd St, Chicago, IL 60615
(Hyde Park, 15 minutes walk from UChicago)

Treasure Island

1526 E 55th St, Chicago, IL 60615
(Hyde Park, 20 minutes walk from UChicago)

Harper Foods

1455 E 57th St, Chicago, IL 60637
(Hyde Park, 10 minutes walk from UChicago)

Valley of Jordan Food

1009 E 53rd St, Chicago, IL 60615
(Hyde Park, 10 minutes walk from UChicago)

Mingen Pan

China

Department of the Geophysical Sciences

The Identity of Chicago: Classic and Contemporary



Photo by Minggen Pan

Background:

Before arriving in Chicago, I once googled Chicago and read that Chicago was a relatively new city compared with the history of US and Europe. Chicago was established in 1837, sharing the same century with New York City. As a result, a stereotype implanted me that Chicago should be constructed as a modern city with countless state-of-art skyscrapers and complex road networks, i.e. similar as what the New York City looked like. After I arrived in O'Hare Airport and was heading to the city of Chicago, I found myself 50% correct: there are multiple skyscrapers and complicated road networks, but the building with gothic appearance also impressed me deeply. Despite the short history, Chicago showed tourists a combination of classic and contemporary styles. My impression was strengthened after visiting the Art Institute of Chicago which was famous for its collection of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and Abstract arts under his classic appearance. In addition, I found on the UChicago website – Architecture at the University: From Gothic to Contemporary, which showed a similar design idea. Therefore, I am going to write something about the identity of Chicago.

Broader Issues:

Identity is always important and essential for cities. When people talk about a city, they are likely to imagine some features and landmarks to characterize this city. For instance, people would symbolize New York City as a modern metropolis crowded with skyscrapers, Washington DC as a city full of buildings like White House and the Congress, Beijing as the capital of China with many elegant palaces, and Tokyo as a state-of-art city with brilliant shrines. In my home city, Shenzhen, which was established in 1979, it is very hard to find any historical landmarks or remnants to characterize the feature of the city. Therefore, Shenzhen people have picked up modernization as the city's feature. As a result, there are countless skyscrapers built and being built in Shenzhen, whose average height is more than 50 floors; the city network keeps developing and becomes increasingly complex, which can allow millions vehicles to use; The airport was designed to imitate a roc extending its wings, which now serves as a symbol of Shenzhen. However, a problem my home city might confront is that it needs to keep track of modernization with the lapse of time, i.e. the city needs to continually update its state-of-art buildings and facilities, which define and represent the term "Modernization".

Compared with my home city, Chicago selected another approach to find its own identity – Gothic Revival. Two hundred years seems to impress people an antique feeling, but stony Gothic architecture was definitely outdated in 19th century due to the technique explosion after Industrial Revolution. Chicago could be developed in a totally contemporary style just like other young cities e.g. Hong Kong and New York City, but it selected an innovative way – Gothic Revival – to identify itself. Literally, Gothic Revival is an architecture movement where the buildings adapted Gothic appearance while they were built in advanced and sophisticated technology. This identity should astonish many visitors in Chicago, who are attracted by compassion between a relatively short history of the city and plenty of Gothic buildings. Moreover, the Gothic buildings are not merely the copy from Europe, but they are combined with a modern style, resulting in many high Gothic buildings in the Loop of Chicago. An advantage of this feature is that people would still be attracted by their decorated and elegant appearance even after many years, because people tend to enjoy the city as an artwork rather than a city showing the modernization.



Photo by Mingen Pan

Travel Times from UChicago

There are several ways from UChicago toward the Art Institute of Chicago. Among them, the Metra is recommended since no transfer is needed. UChicago students can walk to the west along 55th Street, pass Washington Park, and arrive the Garfield Green Line Station. Then they can take the Green Line from Garfield to Adams/Wabash, and the drop-off stop is closed to the final destination. Students just need to walk to the east for one block and reach the Art Institute of Chicago. The total journey takes about 30 min.

Lina Pedraza
Colombia
Harris School of Public Policy

Has Jazz Been Whitewashed?



Photo by Time Out. <https://media.timeout.com/images/100919453/750/422/image.jpg>

Background:

I have always had a thing for Jazz. For me, It's not just about the perfect mix of instruments, melody and harmony that gives it a unique and rhythmic swing, It's also about taking me back to the 1920s when jazz was already a phenomenon and life was all about nightclubs, automobiles and a sense of freedom (of course, World War had recently ended). And don't get me wrong, I am no expert on jazz music, not at all, I just enjoy listening to it and I'm also curious about it. Just imagine listening to Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Nat King Cole, Benny Goodman or Louis Armstrong, very classic ones but no one like them.

So of course, when I found out that I was coming to Chicago, one of the epicenters of jazz music, I couldn't be happier. I thought, okay now is the time to get to know more about the jazz culture and get involved in it.

On my first weekend at Chicago I was walking around Navy Pier, and when I was heading back home, I saw a bar/restaurant called Andy's Jazz and of course I had to get inside. I went on a Friday and the atmosphere in that place was amazing. They had two bands playing that night and they were awesome, although I don't remember their names. Overall, I had a wonderful experience. Later on I was surprised to find out that Andy's Jazz club is one of Chicago's best-

known jazz bars.

Now, I'm definitely planning to go to more places like Andy's Jazz club and also to enjoy the multiple events that Chicago has to offer in this field, such as the Chicago Jazz festival on Labor Day weekend, the Jazz club tour and to experience different jazz clubs.

Broader Issue:

Being in Andy's jazz club made me realize of something: the majority of audience, I'd say about 90%, were white people. This was surprising to me since Jazz music has its roots in African American culture and it was very popular among them, so I expected to see something different. Jazz music was originated from African American Communities of New Orleans in the United States during the late 19th and 20th centuries. At the beginning of the 19th century, music festivals with drums, African dances and percussion and string instruments were very frequent in New Orleans. At the time, slaves had Sunday as their day off so they will make big reunions on this day where they played this music for hours, this was the early beginning of Jazz.

Today, although jazz has transformed itself radically through the years with different styles and musicians of every race, it's still a reminder of what African American culture contributed to American society and it also makes us see their history and culture. But has the audience for jazz music changed over the years? Is the perception I got from Andy's jazz club true? The answer is not really. Jazz music has influenced American culture in many ways and white American have become as fan of jazz music as African American population. According to a recent study by the Jazz Audiences Initiative about 80 percent of jazz listeners are white and 17 percent of jazz attenders are African American. However, these statistics need to be read carefully: they just show the predominance of white people in the United States' population since about 80 percent of the United States' population is white and 11 percent is black. Some other results show that Jazz listeners tend to be more educated on average and have higher levels of income.

In conclusion, the answer to the big question of whether jazz has been "whitewashed", is no. Support for jazz music is biracial. Both white and African Americans like and enjoy jazz music.



Photo by City of Chicago. http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/chicago_jazz_festival.html/

Location: Chicago Loop, 11 E Hubbard St, Chicago, IL 60611

Travel times from UChicago:

By car: 20 mins By CTA: 40 mins By bike: 50 mins

Oliver M. Peña
Mexico
Harris School of Public Policy

Opera in Chicago: The Twilight or Renaissance of Fine Arts?



Civic Opera Theater, home to the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Photo by Valery Pugatch (2016) on Google Maps.

Background:

When most people hear something about opera, the first thing that comes to their minds is loud singers in old-fashioned costumes in a sumptuous concert hall. Indeed, opera is regarded by many as one of the most exclusive or elitist arts. The abstract lyrics usually in a foreign language, the complicated plots they have, the never-ending singing where it is hard to appreciate what you are supposed to, and even the fancy outfits and drinks all over the place—that is quite enough to make it an intimidating experience for a first-timer.

However, the Chicago experience shows a different, non-elitist reality. We have recently seen the Lyric Opera of Chicago, one of the leading companies in the country, perform in collaboration with Second City (the well-known improvisational comedy company) in hilarious, relaxed performances, such as *Longer, Louder, Wagner!* or *Doctor Opera*, showing the counseling sessions of a therapist with Mimì and Rodolfo from *La bohème*, Figaro from *The*

Barber of Seville, Hansel and Gretel, and even the Von Trapp family from *The Sound of Music*. Also Chicago Opera Theater, another important company, launched the program Opera Underground, that brings operatic experiences performed at unconventional places, such as pubs and breweries.

Of course there are still many traditional opera performances in Chicago, where all the exclusivity elements can be easily noted. Nevertheless, the fact that the leading opera institutions in the city are developing these new initiatives also show us a more heterogeneous context, where we can perfectly identify an effort to engage broader audiences and attract younger operagoers. While opera in many parts of the world seems to be an endangered genre of fine arts, in risk of disappearing completely, in Chicago there seems to be a gradual yet distinct revival of this art form.

Broader Issue:

For a few decades now, a puzzling concern has been struggling the arts community—are fine arts dying? Much has been said on how most fine arts, classical music and opera included, seem to resist vulgarizing *Hochkultur* and the aesthetic values of the overly-established Western European canon. Two main perspectives lead this debate: one assumes that fine arts are, indeed, experiencing a historical crisis due to aging and declining audiences and artists, while the other remains skeptical and wonders if this has not been the perpetual story of classical arts.

According to the National Endowment for the Arts audience reports, classical music publics are aging considerably (and at a higher rate than the general U.S. population is aging). After analyzing these data, Juilliard Professor Greg Sandow (2013) concludes that classical music is becoming “far less important in our culture—far less honored, far less popular, far less listened to—than it once was.” This crisis has led many young artists to “kill their idols,” to subvert what the previous generations would have never done: minimizing the aristocratic, elitist elements of *Hochkultur* to present fine arts in more attractive, popular ways that could engage broader and younger audiences.

For opera, this movement is increasingly important in Europe and North America. Since the audiences seem to prefer listening to the same-old classics over and over, stage directors now thrive to present *La traviata*, *La bohème* or *The Magic Flute* in innovative settings, costumes, and sometimes even change the plot location, the original libretto or add contemporary political meanings to the performances. So now we have recently seen Mozart operas where the characters wear shorts, flip flops and Hawaiian shirts in Miami Beach, or adapted performances for children where we have happy endings instead of the original bloodbath. Some stage directors have even hyper-sexualized operas, showing the Roman dictator Julius Caesar touching himself while looking at Playboy magazines, a Salome doing a real striptease,

or a fully-naked Hercules. In many cases, the artistic authorities in the world of opera have severely critiqued these new approaches. However, it is still too soon to say whether they will be condemned or praised in the annals of art history. Either way, there is no doubt that Chicago is being part and parcel of this exciting new process.

Civic Opera House, home to the Lyric Opera of Chicago (20 North Upper Wacker Drive).

30-minute drive from UChicago. UberX fare:

50-minute ride in public transportation (green line towards Harlem, down in Roosevelt, connect to orange line, down in Washington/Wells).

Aleksander Prominski
Poland
Physical Sciences Division

Wind in Our Sail



Monroe Harbor, by Aleksander Prominski

Location:

Chicago Yacht Club
400 E Monroe St, Chicago, IL 60603

Travel Times:

CTA 49 min / Car 21 min / Bike 40 min

Background:

Free. There is no other word that can more accurately describe the feeling you get when taking the helm of a watercraft. There is just man and nature. Boat and the horizon. You can sense that there is no limit, nothing can stop you to go wherever you want. As you catch the wind in your sail, you harness the power of nature, you are in control, nothing can stop you.

I loved sailing since I was a little kid. I usually sail for sport, but I always dreamed of cruising the whole world. Although planes make travel a lot easier, you cannot enjoy the trip itself. Huge planes are burning tons of fuel harming the environment. A Sailboat needs no engine. The wind and crew's willpower is enough to challenge the waves striking the hull. When I stand at the edge of Lake Michigan, I wonder what I would find on the other side. I want to go there! I will sail the Great Lakes. Someday...

Big cities might be overwhelming, but not Chicago. When I leave the Loop filled with stress and hurry and pass the crowds crawling in Millennium Park, I reach the tranquil coast of Lake Michigan. I clear my mind and as I hear the waves hitting the coast - I can feel it - the free spirit of Chicago.

Broader Issue:

Lake Michigan is important to Chicago for a number of reasons. For once it is a source of freshwater, collected at the intake cribs build circa 2 miles from the coast, to provide water clear of pollutions. The Lake alters the climate, making waterfront neighborhoods slightly warmer in winter and colder in summer.

In the past the Lake was important route of cargo transportation, because of its interconnection, through the Great Lakes, to the Atlantic Ocean. Nevertheless, transport within the system of lakes was significant for the economy of United States and Canada. During the industrial era of early 20th century, enormous lake freighters known as "lakers" delivered billions of tons of iron ore and coal from the mines to steel mills. These giants, some of them 1000-feet in length, were silent heroes of steel military industry victory. Although with the recess of industrialization, lakers have became less significant, there are still about 140 boats cruising the Great Lakes everyday. ("Ship fans mourn scrapping of the Calumet" by the Grand Rapids Press on December 30, 2007)

Tian Qiu
China
Chemistry, PSD

Honorary Street: Streets' Other Name



The sign of a typical honorary road

Photo resource: <http://www.honorarychicago.com>

Background:

I was attracted by a special street sign when I traveled in Little Italy neighborhood. It was a brown sign with two line name, placed upon the green street sign. All of them had the same up line, 4 hexangular stars with "Honorary" in the middle. But different sign had a unique bottom line. Why a street had two names? Actually, I can only find green sign on the Google Map, so what was the brown sign used for? Next several days, I payed more attention on streets' sign, and I noticed that lots of street sign had another brown name, most of them were people's names. Maybe it was used for in memory of some famous people.

Later, I searched the internet, half right half wrong. It memorized the famous past, but also used for in honor with person who had made great contribution to the development of Chicago. Besides, some honorary streets were used to describe the characteristic of the street, such as "The Golden Mile", "Latin School", "Mario DiPaolo's Italian Lemonade" (This lemonade was strongly recommended!). Up to 2016, there have been over 1500 honorary streets in the Chicago city.

According to Chicago Tribune, the honorary street name program initiated from 1964, when the "The Golden Mile" was used to replace part of LaSalle Street in order to honor the city's financial institutions. In the past, city's government usually replaced the name totally when honor people or important event. But this time, city's government noticed that changing the such many addresses would cause a mess, so they just put another name below the original one, and used the brown sign to distinguish it from the original green one. Simple, but effective.

To my surprise, the process to name a honorary street was quite simple. City council voted the candidate which was proposed by aldermen. However, there is no official complete list of all honorary street in current, but I found some resources (Please see Location part).

Broader Issue:

The honorary street program is a simple but effective way to celebrate the people who made Chicago great.

There are lots of approaches to honor people or events in a city. Government can build a monument, set up a former home, or name it as a square or park. In my opinion, there are lots of advantages for honorary street program: First, there are lots of people who need to be celebrated, but limited space to put their name on. Chicago city makes a great example to settle this issue, since there are more and more streets in the city during the development. Second, when citizen walk on the street, they can find the honorary street in many places, which can remind them with honored people. However, they probably won't go to museum or monument frequently. Finally, the application process is quite simple and popularity. Everyone has chance to be honored. They need not to be a hero, just to be a person who makes Chicago greater.

Also, you can find Chinese name on some honorary street. In China town, there is Confucius Way and Sun Yat-Sen, which memorize the Chinese philosopher and Chinese revolutionary, respectively. Besides, you can find Zhou Brothers way on Morgan Street, which is in honor of famous Chinese American artists.



A street has two honorary name

Photo resource: <http://www.honorarychicago.com>

Location:

Anywhere in Chicago. There are two resources for you to know the location and history of them:

1 You can buy a guidebook on Amazon (links here:

<http://www.honorarychicago.com/guidebook/>) 2 You can look for this website to learn the story about some honorary street.

(<http://honoraryave.com/>).

Travel Times from UChicago

It depends.

If you look up the street sign from time to time when you walk on street, you can definitely see them.

Claudia Quintero

Colombia

Harris School of Public Policy

Public Beaches



North Avenue Beach. Photo by author

Background:

In my short time in Chicago I have been discovering the history and economic and social situation full of contrasts. I have been feeling a city that is proud of its diversity, but also with an important history of segregation that has shaped the social, economic and cultural dynamics of the city in negative ways. For instance, it has been amazing to feel the insecurity present in some areas of Chicago that I believe I would not have.

For that reason, in my search of places or activities to recommend to visit in Chicago, I wanted to find an activity or place that allow to "escape" of negative feelings of segregation and insecurity and turn them in something positive and inclusive.

I believe that public beaches provide exactly this. Beaches not only offer beautiful landscapes but also represent a center for integration and happiness. This is one of the spaces that unites people regardless of their race, economic situation or preferences. People come together to enjoy the water, play sports and to be with their friends and loved ones. Today Chicago has more than 26 miles of public beaches that you can enjoy during the whole year.

Broader Issue:

Despite of my positive view of beaches as places for integration and safety, a quick search of the historical background of public beaches in Chicago would go back to the narrative of segregation. According to Chicago Encyclopedia, there were several disputes due to the private and public natures of beaches. In part because it became another source of segregation among people from different ethnicities. Although there was no racial official assignation in practice only some groups visited certain beaches.



Source: <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/300111.html>

Photo 1: Beach on the Near South Side of Chicago, late 1980s

Photographer: Thomas Arndt; Source: Chicago Historical Society (ICHi-37330)

Photo 2: Oak Street Beach, 1952 and 1960

Photographer: Henry Dieterle; Source: Chicago Historical Society (ICHi-37339)

Precisely the restrictions to have access to the beaches for some groups of population, by the end of the nineteenth century, was the main motivation to establish public beaches in Chicago. The first public bathing beach was opened in 1895 in Lincoln Park.

Long time has passed since then, cultural changes and several policies make this situation transform. Today when people visit the different beaches in Chicago, they will have fun with different activities, enjoying the diversity of people in Chicago united to celebrate and share time with their loves ones.

Travel times from the UChicago campus to North Avenue Beach (One of the most famous beaches)

Walk: 186 minutes / Car: 23 minutes / Bike: 54 minutes / Bus: 71 minutes, CTA bus No. 6 and 151.

Jorge Quintero
Mexico
Harris School of Public Policy

About the No-Gun Sign



Photo by the City of Chicago's Official Website

Background:

One of the first things I noticed when I arrived in Chicago was a small sign of a black pistol inside a circle with a diagonal slash in red across the firearm against a white background. This sign can be found on the front door of many buildings and businesses and even at the University of Chicago. At first, I just interpreted it as if guns were not allowed within the building. But later on, I thought the sign implied that guns were in fact allowed in the streets, and that made me feel unsafe.

As an international student, seeing the no-guns sign re-inforced the American cliché depicted in the media about how Americans love firearms but also reminded me about the severe violence problem in Chicago and the rest of the country.

Broader Issue:

The no-gun sign originated in December 2012, when the seventh circuit Court of Appeals overturned the Illinois ban on concealed carry of weapons. Then, in July 2013, the State of Illinois passed the Firearms Concealed Carry Act, which allows qualified individuals to carry concealed weapons across the state.

The Concealed Carry Act also established areas where concealed weapons can not be carried such as elementary schools, legislative buildings, correctional institutions, public parks, playgrounds and universities, among others.

According to the Concealed Carry Act, “the owner of a private real property of any type may prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms on the property under his or her control”. To do so, the owner must post a clear and conspicuous sign at the entrance of a building or property. Moreover, the sign must have a uniform design as described previously and must be 4 inches by 6 inches in size, which explains why it is easy to recognize the sign everywhere around Chicago.

It is worth noting that this Act refers only to concealed weapons. In general, openly carrying a weapon is forbidden in Illinois. But by having a better understanding of how

Tamiur Reza

Atom Piece or Atom Peace?



Location: Ellis Avenue between 56th and 57th Streets

Travel Times from UChicago: It is located at UChicago Campus

Background:

On a beautiful, summer afternoon, I was strolling with one of my Professors through the lanes at the University of Chicago. It was my second week on the campus, and my Professor had just returned from a trip to India. The afternoon was primarily devoted to a healthy walk, but during the process, he took on to introducing me with some marvels at the campus. We saw the gymnasium, a gigantic bookshop, Barack Obama's favorite restaurant, and a sculpture. The artwork was created by Henry Moore—one of the iconic figures of modernism—featuring traits of his signatory mark, like the hollow and the convex. While pointing to a small plate, my Professor revealed that the work was a commemoration to the extra-ordinary achievement of



Enrico Fermi, an Italian immigrant, and later, Professor at the University of Chicago. The artifact is indeed a remarkable piece of celebration, and virtually devoid of any sense of ambivalence, at least the way it has been placed and curated it expresses no inkling. A large chunk

of empty space adjacent to the Central Library has been devoted to the sculpture. The site for this work was not arbitrary at all; it is the location of Chicago Pile-1 (CP-1), the exact same place where on December 2, 1942, a group of scientists, under the guidance of Enrico Fermi, demonstrated the first man-made self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. CP-1 had been



constructed at UChicago during World War II as part of the larger Manhattan Project, and the unambiguous purpose of this project was to create atom bombs to be utilized, not exclusively on the battlefield, but, as we would see soon, against a larger horizon of the planet.

Henry Moore was appointed by UChicago authority to create a sculpture to the commemoration of this grand success, and exactly twenty-five years after the invention had been made, it was erected on the site of CP-1. Moore initially built a working model for the assignment and named it as “Atom Piece,” but later renamed it as “Nuclear Energy” at the request of the University authority. It has been reported by a University Faculty that the former

name “Atom Piece,” which could easily fall prey to the pun of “Atom Peace,” was not to be comfortable for many of the university members. (Tate Catalogue)

Broader Issue:

At the level of introspection, the first thing comes into the mind is what actually we are celebrating through this amazing work of art? No doubt, the demonstration of first nuclear chain reaction was a great leap forward—if to borrow the term from Mao Zedong’s China—to the achievement of nuclear energy. But the consequence of this discovery was no less disastrous either, compared to the Chinese experiment; it was indeed worse, one of the gravest disasters in human history. The product of this discovery took only three years to constitute an assault on the city of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the form of the deadliest weapon ever the world had seen. Moore’s sculpture, however, partially succeeded in conveying this sense of anxiety. Herbert Read, a famous theorist and art critic, explains the artwork in the following way:

The whole concept [of the artwork] suggests the containment of a powerful force, in the way that a compact skull holds a brain capable of the wildest fantasies. The Atom Piece [former title of the sculpture] symbolizes those forces which modern man has released for ends which cannot yet be imagined or realized, but which for the present we inevitably associate with universal destruction. At the same time it negates this evil intention and returns the contemplating mind to a mood of stillness and serenity.

In the following decades, the outcomes of Fermi’s discovery have been understood as “liable to both positive and negative uses, namely nuclear power and the atomic bomb.”

So, this part of our introspection is relatively obvious and discussed at length in various forms. My second observation in relation to this act of celebration is an attempt to come to term with the concept of nationalism. It is well-regarded that the second world war was by and large motivated by a strong sense of nationalism propounded by powerful nations. People were fighting everywhere in the world in the name of their respective country or homeland. Nazism and Fascism, two most notorious ideologies flourished in the preceding years of war, was the direct produce of extreme form of nationalism. Yet, in the context of the Manhattan Project—the parent project of Chicago Pile-1—we can trace a strange form of mobility among members from different nationalities. Take, for instance, how the entire Manhattan project came into existence in the first place. The whole project was initiated by Leo Szilard—a Hungarian-born physicist, who had moved into the United States from Germany in 1938 in the wake of war—who wrote a confidential letter to the President of the United States, expressing his fear that Germany might have been working on a nuclear project. The letter was co-signed by Albert Einstein, who was, interestingly enough, a German-born scientist. And, eventually, the first controlled nuclear chain reaction was carried out under the guidance of Enrico Fermi, an Italian immigrant, who had fled to the United States in 1938, using the occasion of Nobel prize winning as a route to escaping. Fermi was still an Italian citizen while he succeeded in his experiment.

The multi-national origins of the key figures involved in this “arsenal-building program bear significant implication to the discussion of nationalism. What was at work behind their motivation into this project was twofold: 1) they were afraid of what would be the consequences of Germany’s exclusive access to atom bomb; 2) they were concerned about

their personal existence, the defeat of the allied force would in effect jeopardize their own freedom and physical existence as well. But, how to fit their respective sense of nationalism or patriotism in this schema of engagement? What were there nationalist allegiance? In order to make these questions, let's take part into a thought-experiment. Suppose, these various members of the Manhattan project were indeed US-born citizen, and for their own individual reasons, left for Germany, and dedicated themselves to the service at a laboratory to the creation of atom bombs? How would Americans evaluate their role in the warfare? Would it be simply an accusation of the war crime, bereft of any suggestion to their betrayal to their homeland?

Flavia Sacco
Paraguay
Harris School of Public Policy

Rocking the Boat: Security Matters



Picture 5: Part of Pearl Jam's Wrigley Field concert. Source: Photo by Author



Picture 2: A view from Nick Digilio's seat at Pearl Jam's Wrigley Field concert. Source: wgnradio.com

Background:

One of the most exciting things about moving to a big city like Chicago was the variety of concerts I would be able to attend that is not necessarily the same for all of the cities in the world. As a music fan I was really looking forward to move to the US and specifically, to the third biggest city of the country. Straightaway, after my arrival and right after I found my new home for the next 2 years, I started looking for incoming concerts around the city. My excitement was such after finding out that my favorite band was playing in the upcoming weeks

and I would be able to see them for the second time. It was Eddie Vedder's band Pearl Jam playing two shows at Wrigley Field -home of the Chicago Cubs- celebrating their 25th anniversary with a US tour, so I started looking for tickets from several concert tickets websites and I was really lucky to find one considering the short time remaining to the event date.

Before entering the stadium, I was carefully checked for safety which included a body search, an inspection of my bag and finally scanners and metal detection process, which I found very necessary considering how crowded the event would be. This situation really caught my attention, mainly because after so many concerts I attended in my entire life, I tend to compare the organization and security procedures in every event and this time I felt the safety controls were the most appropriate for this type of show particularly, comparing with those being held in my country or the rest of Latin America.

Immediately after entering the stadium I could feel the peoples' excitement, and what really impressed me was how crowded the venue was; there was not a single blank spot in the field and it made the night even more special since all of the souls there were singing every one of the 35 songs the band played. From the very beginning of the show, the band felt a real chemistry with the entire audience and showed a natural comfort which felt really intimate even though there were around 45,000 people in the stadium.

Broader Issues:

Security procedures at a crowded event like a rock concert should definitely not be taken for granted. Moreover, safety and security of the band and their fans should be the highest priority for concert promoters, especially after the terrorist attack that took place in one of the most important European capitals, Paris and ended with a loss of 89 souls that went to a theater to enjoy a rock concert. In addition, just a few months ago, two separate incidents took place in the US with a balance of around 50 dead people because of crimes related to gun violence that could have been avoided with tighter security controls.

The mindset of people who state that these were isolated situations should definitely change, especially because these tragedies would have been avoided if safety controls at the venue were stricter. These types of recent criminal attacks show the importance of proper security planning when organizing an event such as a rock concert in order to avoid crimes such as theft, robbery, assault or even terrorism to which major events are vulnerable to. After all, everyone needs live music, as well as everyone needs to be able to feel safe to go to a show and enjoy a concert.



Picture 3: Wrigley Field at full capacity for Pearl Jam's concert on August 22. Source: Photo by author



Picture 4: New metal detectors installed at Wrigley Field. Source: www.dnainfo.com

Location

Wrigley Field.

1060 W Addison St

Travel Details (from UChicago)

By CTA: 55 min

By car: 28 min

Toru Sakurai

Japan

Harris School of Public Policy

American Pastime



Wrigley Field

(https://www.google.com/search?q=wrighley+field&espv=2&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi0mvDk2tbOAhWJTSYKHWPZDDgQ_AUICCGB&biw=1192&bih=574#imgdii=XJPCETuKrasJoM%3A%3BXJPCETuKrasJoM%3A%3Bs98SYcKBP4ZduM%3A&imgsrc=XJPCETuKrasJoM%3A)

Background:

Baseball is the American national sport, as well as football, basketball and ice hockey. I watched a Major League Baseball (MLB) game and enjoyed singing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” and “Go! Cubs! Go!” with other spectators at Wrigley Field, the Chicago Cubs’ home stadium, just a few days after arriving in Chicago. This activity was on the top of the list that I really want to do in the United States. That is not only because I am interested in watching a baseball game with eating hotdogs and drinking beer, like many American guys, but also because I am excited about experiencing the unique atmosphere of baseball, which is called the “American Pastime.” According to a TV program, many American people tend to go to stadium with their family instead of their friends or workplace colleagues, and enjoy spending time with their family as well as watching the game. Moreover, American baseball lovers are generally fans of their local teams, whereas Japanese ones are often fans of certain popular teams or players. That is, watching baseball provides the important opportunity to strengthen their families’ bonds and the neighborhoods’ relationship.

Of course, I can watch a baseball game in Japan, my home country, as well, but there are a few remarkable differences between the ways of watching a game in the United States and in Japan. It has taken only a few minutes until I felt like something was wrong in Wrigley Field. What points are different between the United States' baseball and Japanese baseball? Let me explain those differences in the following paragraphs.

First of all, the attitude toward a game is totally different. For example, in Japan, spectators cheer for their teams with some musical instruments such as drum and trumpet. Although the sound encourages the players, sometimes it might disturb my concentration on the game. On the other hand, in the United States, people are completely absorbed in the players during the game, without too much cheering. At the same time, when the team they are in favor of gets scores, they burst into shouting with enormous joy.

In addition, another difference is the distance between the spectators and the players. The baseball stadiums in Japan basically have a lot of, occasionally more than necessary, nets which prevent the spectators from being attacked by the balls and so on. Unfortunately, however, they keep people away from the players and reduce the level of excitement. Conversely, most of the United States' stadium including Wrigley Field is equipped with a minimum of safety nets. This closeness produces a sense of unity in the stadium.

Lastly, in the United States, there are many data related to the players' achievements on the back screen, such as batting average (AVG), home runs (HR), runs batted in (RBI), on base percentage (OBP), slugging percentage (SLG), runner in scoring position (RISP), and so on. Even I, who love baseball very much, am not familiar with some of them. In contrast, in Japan, at best just AVG, HR, and RBI are showed. Looking at these data, I remember the movie of "Moneyball," which I watched about five years ago, and it moved me. I can find American national character of rationality in these enormous statistical data, which is opposite to Japanese one of mercy.

Broader Issue:

Today, on 2015 opening day, about 26.5% (230 of 868) of MLB players were born outside the United States and represent 17 countries and territories outside the United States, such as the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Cuba. About 26.3% (10 of 38) of Chicago Cubs players came from foreign countries. These rates are much higher than about 13.1%, which is the ratio of foreign born people to all population in the U.S.

However, it has not been so since the beginning. As you know, the minority groups such as African-Americans and Latinos have been segregated for a long time in the United States, in particular in Chicago. In the first half of the 20th century, African-Americans were not allowed to play on the stage of MLB (Hispanics and Native Americans were allowed). The first African-American MLB player was Jackie Robinson, who was under contract with Brooklyn Dodgers (currently Los Angeles Dodgers) in 1946 and was selected as the rookie of the year in 1947. His

success paved the way for African-Americans' being accepted, and the number of foreign born MLB players has gradually increased since this time.

Sports might be special and different from other social scenes because in the extreme case, playing sports does not require one to be highly educated. Nevertheless, we have to broaden and deepen this racial fusional movement. As MLB has developed and become the "American Pastime" with the system that players are evaluated not based on their race but based on their skills, American society has to face and overcome the problem of segregation, and should be the model country the rest of the world admires.

Travel Time from the University of Chicago

Neighborhood: Wrigleyville (Wrigley Field)

- 50 minutes by 55 and 6 bus, and CTA train
- 30 minutes by Uber

Evelyn Sanchez

Mexico

Harris School of Public Policy

Looking for Art? Start Walking!



Photo by Martha Williams <http://goo.gl/0uKICM>

Anish Kapoor, Grant Wood or Alexander Calder are big names that might resonate in your mind when you think in “Art in Chicago”. If not wrong, you have to know that most of the art in the Windy City is not lock into the four walls of the Art Institute of Chicago or laying in Millennium Park or other streets at the Loop, they are basically ...anywhere and the only thing you have to do is wear comfortable shoes, check the forecast of the unpredictable water and start walking!

The exact number of murals, painting or graffiti’s that you can find in Chicago is practically vast and the feeling, claims or ideas they represent are uncountable, reflecting the ethnic and cultural medley that distinguishes this city.

Even if you are a fan of the Street Art or not, be aware of your surrenders every time you steep outside home and if you are fan of it, I would recommend two tours that every street art lover should do: a visit to the Pilsen Murals and a Tour to the 51 most impressive murals in Chicago.

Pilsen has been historically an immigrant neighborhood, first mainly inhabited by a wave of Easter Europeans, is now a Latino area, and more recently a hub for street artist. Most of the murals in Pilsen reflect the share background of the community: histories of immigration, hope in achieve the “American Dream” and mix faith between the catholic religion and the Prehispanic deities.



- The Declaration of Immigration
- Stop the Gentrification of Pilsen
- Mexican Women of Different Generations
- Increíble Las Cosas Que Se Ven
- Gulliver En El País De Las Maravillas

The best way to start the journey through Pilsen murals is to start at the National Museum of Mexican Art (from Hyde Park you can take the subway blue line and change in Michigan and Randolph station to the pink line till you reach Damen station) and continue walking on the 18th and 19th street to admire the five principal murals.



"Oh, The Things You'll See" Photographer unknown <http://goo.gl/Rj1ilh>

If you have more time, feel free to walk over the streets and discover more of art hidden in neighborhood and enjoy some Mexican food. Be aware that, unfortunately, Pilsen is not one of the safest areas of Chicago, so better start your journey early and depart from Pilsen before the sunset.

A remarkable characteristic of the Pilsen murals that make them unique is their liveliness, not only the bright colors used in them, but also for their capacity to evolve at the same rate than the community interest and concerns do. For example, one of the largest murals "Prevent World War III" painted in 1980 as a response to Ronald Reagan's prospective election, the close threat of nuclear war and other global conflicts, has been enlarged just last July. The extra piece depicts the two actual presidential candidates fighting to control a missile, as a critic of the aggressive policy views, in one side, against the immigrants and against the terrorism.



"Prevent World War III" Photo by April Alonso <http://goo.gl/ojIzJC>



"Mexican Women of Different Generations" Photo by Mayra Cabrera, <http://goo.gl/HqCzlk>



Author unknown <http://goo.gl/BnYyOd>

Once you have enjoyed the richness of the Pilsen art, do not stop and continue exploring the art spread all over the city. One tip I can give you if you want to visit the most impressive murals is to follow the Guide of the 51 mural of Chicago Curbed, available in the following link <http://goo.gl/TnPha0> . In this web page you will be able to find the exact location of the murals and get to know a little background about the authors and what the painting represent. So now you have this information, let's get the artistic journey started!

Andre Santa Rita
Brazil
The Law School

Pushing Back the Frontiers of Economics and Public Policies



Saieh Hall of Economics
Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics

Background:

Chicago is easily remembered for its impressive architectural collection, the many bars and music festivals that excite the city's cultural scenario and even the corrupt, almost degenerate politics. More recently, it also became famous for being home to America's first African American President, the amusing comedy shows, deep dish pizza and some other interesting treats. Few people, however, associate Chicago with the continuing development of economic theories and the refining of modern public policies. More sadly, many seem to forget Chicago's decisive role in shaping what is perhaps the most controversial economic doctrine in the late twentieth century: Neoliberalism. Thank God that is not my case.

As an enthusiast for economics and a student at the University of Chicago Law School, I decided to search for a place in Chicago where I could not only learn the work of acclaimed scholars such as Milton Friedman and Karl Brunner, but also explore the blooming contemporary debates regarding the application of modern economic theories to the structuring and

implementation of governmental public policies.

At the Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics (BFI), a collaboration of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, the Department of Economics, the Law School, and the Harris School of Public Policy, I found a place fostering both inspiring research and innovative debates in economics. In short, the institute engages in the promotion of numerous events, including conferences, workshops and lectures featuring leading scholars and researchers from some of the most prestigious universities and organizations around the world, supporting and sometimes financing continuing academic research for prominent young scholars in public policy and related fields. It affords these young scholars and researchers the opportunity to spark new ideas and spread them throughout the academic community, counting on the support of a number of institutions such as Stanford University, Columbia University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technologies, University College London and many others.

If you are a student, visiting scholar or researcher at the University of Chicago, you will probably get free access to most of the events organized by the BFI. For some events, however, participants may be charged a participation or registration fee, which varies according to the duration and type of event. You are advised to confirm in advance the rules applicable to each event organized by the BFI before heading to the institute's facilities.

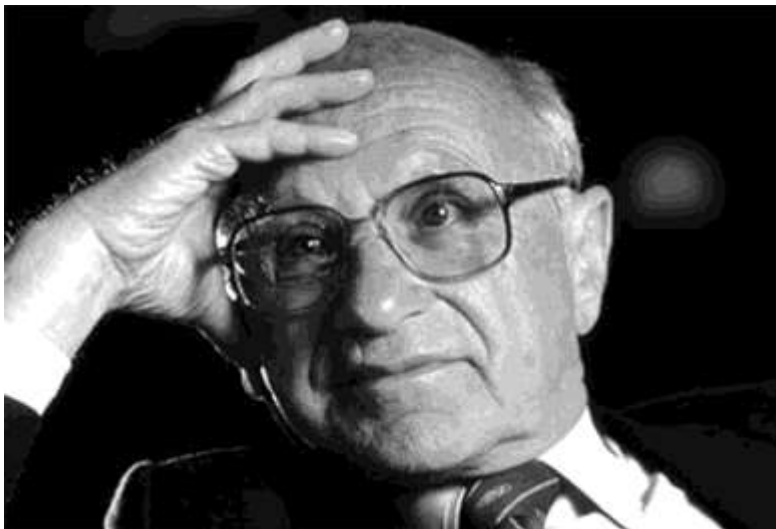
Broader Issue:

For decades the University of Chicago's academic community has actively participated in the formulation of economic theories, their gradual conversion into public policies, and ultimately the assessment of their factual results. Over the past forty years, economists associated with the University of Chicago have won more than one-third of the Nobel Prizes awarded in their field and many have been major influences on American politics and intellectual life. Much of this prominence still stems from the longstanding association of the university's faculty and members in general with the so-called "Chicago School" of economics, a cluster of methods, liberal economic principles and pro-free-market ideology primarily promulgated in the 1940s by Milton Friedman and his colleagues at the University of Chicago and fervently embraced in the 1980s by politicians such as Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. The Chicago School of economics has changed a lot since its momentum in the late twentieth century, particularly following the financial crisis that shook the world in 2008. Some of its foremost principles, however—markets deregulation and less governmental intervention in the economy—still make up the basis of neoliberal ideology and serve as inspiration for those defending free-market capitalism throughout the world.

The doctrines and legacy of the Chicago School of economics remain controversial, yet the BFI and its proponents celebrate the contributions of Milton Friedman and his peers to the debate of public policies. The institute's representatives deny any ideological motives for the BFI's activities, contending that it aims primarily at enhancing the quality of academic research and promoting debate in economics. Critics, on the other hand, allege that the BFI, which is funded by extraordinary private donations, serves mainly to bolster neoliberal defenses of free-market capitalism and support the views of wealthy elites.

In reality, the fact is that completely separating pure economic knowledge from political ideology has always been a daunting challenge. The formulation of economic theories and their application by politicians have long been driven by the immediate needs of society, which vary for different reasons and change rapidly from time to time. Moreover, economists formulate their theories based on society's behavioral patterns, predicting the outcomes of events and decisions in order to uphold their academic convictions. But human behavior, as much as economics itself, is anything but an exact science, and anticipating how people will react to certain market or political decisions is intrinsically related to one's political beliefs and position.

That being said, the truth is that the BFI and the debate surrounding its activities just illustrate how the relationship between economic knowledge and politics remains as complex as it was in the times of Milton Friedman, yet the institute's fascinating work might still help push back the frontiers of public policies and promote high-quality economic and social research in the near future. And that might ensure, despite divisive political ideologies, a strong and long future for Chicago economics



Milton Friedman
Public Domain

Francisca Sara-Zaror
Chile
Division of Social Sciences, Economics

Downtown Chicago: No Arts, No Parks



The Fountain of the Great Lakes, Art Institute of Chicago. Photo by Francisca Sara-Zaror.

Background

Since the first time I visited Chicago, I have been surprised by the confluence of public spaces and arts. As anyone can notice, parks in Downtown Chicago are not just green, calm spaces, as they are almost everywhere else: the location of each single tree seems though carefully to align the skyscrapers and blend men creations. It appears that each single sculpture or artistic installation complies with a specific role. For instance, "The Bean" serves as a ground connection between the sky, the buildings, and the park: one can look at it and see not only one's reflection, but also a summary of the modern civilization. It is impossible to pass by it without wondering how far men have come, but as the same time, how little we are.

Every piece has a special meaning, and some of them have other functions, more than decorative: The Bronze Cow sculpture at the entrance of the Chicago Cultural Center evoking the joint of cows and arts which happened in 1999, walking directly to the millemium park; The Fountain of the Great Lakes at the South Garden of the Art Institute of Chicago where each women represents one of the five great lakes; The Buckingham Fountain which symbolizes the Lake Michigan, and as the lake itself, draws people around it; or The Crown Fountain which

reunites the diversity in Chicago, and allows children to refresh in the middle of the city in summertime.

It is really amazing how each piece has the power of burst into our daily lives just by the fact of being there, and how they make Downtown Chicago a unique recreation space.

Broader Context:

At a worldwide level, visual arts are usually undervalued. This might be, primarily, because they do not provide a direct social or economic benefit, unlike research, services, and consumer goods production. When facing resources limitation, arts are the first subject schools cut back.¹ But what about the role of arts in the daily living?

As a society, we tend to forget the relevance of creativity for human development and innovation: those features might help humanity to progress. And, as visual arts may be a source of creativity, they should not be taken so lightly. Thus, everything possible should be done in order to make people, specially the youth, approach to visual arts.

This is an idea that the city of Chicago seems to support, and the arts-based parks and sculptures in several streets confirm this. Given that public arts constitute a great source of creativity, and are available to everyone, more cities should follow the example of Downtown Chicago and expose their citizens to them.

¹ "New proposal for LA schools reduces arts exposure to serve more students", Southern California Public Radio, 2014. (<http://www.scpr.org/blogs/education/2014/04/29/16501/new-proposal-for-la-schools-reduces-arts-exposure>)



Cloud Gate or "The Bean" at Millennium Park. Photo by Francisca Sara-Zaror.

Travel Times from UChicago

17 minutes by car, 42 minutes by CTA, 47 minutes by bike

João André Sarolli
Brazil
Harris School of Public Policy

Saúde!!!!



Resource: Google Images

Background:

August 2nd 2016. That is the day I arrived in Chicago for my Master's program. And even for someone coming from Brazil, would you know what surprised me the most? The high temperature of this city! I know this is summer, but I really did not expect that hot. That was my first day ever in Chicago, but every one of my friends that has been here before always talked about how cold this city is. I was very happy about the weather, but I got happier when I got the chance to visit a neighborhood called Andersonville in this project from the AEPP classes. I believe that everyone knows that *back in Brazil, we are big beer consumers mostly because of the hot weather that we have. And when I did a little research about the neighborhood, I found this place called HOPLEAF BAR with up to 400 kinds of beer! I just HAD to go there, and as certain as taxes, I did go.

There, besides tasting some, I learned that Chicago has become one of the most important and largest breweries city in the USA! I noticed that many Chicagoans not only just enjoy it, but are proud of it. Chicago has a fantastic night life, and there are a lot of bars and breweries that are part of it. If you like regular and craft beers like I do, you are at the right place!

Broader Issue:

Let's not just focus on beer; the boom of breweries is not all about that. There is also an economic perspective about it. According to Ellen Jean Hirst and Jessica Wohl, ChicagoTribune's report, "As the brewers grow in Illinois so do the businesses that supply them with everything from hops to honey." Of course most of them are in Chicago, but they are usually supplied by little farmers and companies from all over Illinois. This recent uptick in craft brewing helped people start new business. New business means news jobs, news jobs means opportunities, and opportunities bring development for society. Believe or not, the breweries have become one famous place for tourist tours!

One thing is that beer and craft beer is more expensive here than it is in Brazil; knowing that alcohol can bring some consequences, let's HOPE that the high tax on those drinks are well spent for the public good.

Combining economics development with pleasure, it is time (if you are reading after 05:00 pm) to have a beer and enjoy this amazing city. SAÚDE !! (Brazilian word for cheers).



Source: Chicagobusiness.com

Hops Farm
(Photo: Copyright Crosby Hop Farm)

Location :

5148 N Clark St., Chicago

Travel times from UChicago

By CTA : about 1 hour and 10 mins By car : about 30 mins

Yifan Shao
China
Physical Science Division

Where People Buy Fresh Vegetables



Photo by Yifan Shao

Background:

The first time I encountered a Farmers Market was on September 3. My friends and I visited Gold Coast neighbourhood in Chicago. Gold Coast is known as one of the wealthiest communities in Chicago or even in the United States. There is a beautiful beach on the east side of the neighborhood named Oak Street Beach. Everything in Gold Coast seems beautiful and quiet. However, when I walked around I saw a market and many people were selling or buying things there, which is lively and different from anywhere else in Gold Coast. Some people dressed like farmers were selling fruits and vegetables grown themselves. Some were selling homemade cookies and cakes. We interviewed some residents in Gold Coast. They all agreed Farmers Market is their favorite place because fruits and vegetables there are all nice and fresh. Also the price of fruit and vegetables is cheaper than in supermarkets. But Farmers Market is only open from May to October. When asked about where to buy vegetables in winter or spring, the residents said that they had to go to supermarket.

Broader Issue:

Chicago is one of the largest cities in United States. Farmers do not have many chances to bring vegetables grown by themselves here to sell. At the same time, if citizens want to buy vegetables, they have to go to the supermarket, where vegetables are sometimes not so fresh and much more expensive. What's more, organic food in a supermarket like Whole Foods is so expensive that many people cannot afford it. Farmers Markets, therefore, provide a wonderful place for both farmers and citizens. Farmers can sell their products easily and citizens can buy fresh food at a low prices. But there are not many Farmers Market in Chicago, so most citizens have to go to supermarkets. In China, the situation is exactly the opposite. There are farmers market in each neighborhood and almost everyone buys vegetables from the farmers market. Food in farmers market is fresher and much cheaper than in the supermarket. But there is also a problem, that is, the food in farmers market does not have to take safety testing before being sold while supermarkets can sell food to customers only after passing the tests. Customers have to distinguish the quality of food by themselves when buying food in farmers market.

Travel times to Gold Coast Farmers Market from UChicago: by CTA 50 min or by car 25 min

Kejian Shi
China
Social Sciences Division

Sunset Café: The Historical Witness of Bronzeville



Photo by Author

Background:

When I was searching tourist attractions in Bronzeville online, I found that there are very limited highlights in this area compared with attractive and populated Loop in Chicago downtown. Then I was presented with a piece of information by a Chicago-born student that Sunset Café, the present ACE hardware store, was a valuable place to visit. My friend Andre and I were kindly welcomed by the store assistant, a middle-aged lady helping the store owner with daily issues, but unfortunately the store owner was absent so we cannot gain more information about the history of place.

At first glance, Meyers Ace Hardware is just a humble and old hardware store locating at the 35th Street in Bronzeville, Chicago. Its unspectacular appearance easily covers up its rich history and previous luster that you would never know without stepping inside. In fact, this small building was the former legendary jazz club – Sunset Café.

This building was built in 1909, serving as an auto garage for local people. In 1921, it is redecorated and converted into the Sunset Café jazz club with around 100 tables, a bandstand and dance floor, which was owned by the famous jazz performer Louis Armstrong. From 1920s to 1940s, it was one of the most important Jazz clubs in Chicago, a creative capital of art and music to which a great number of black artists, performers, musicians were attracted to. At its peak, Louis Armstrong began playing in the Carroll Dickerson Orchestra at the Sunset Cafe in 1926, with Earl Hines on piano. Other jazz greats like Earl Hines, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Cab Calloway and Benny Goodman also played at the Sunset. Sunset Café was later renamed as “Grand Terrace Café”, the major nightclub for local blacks to seek entertainment at that time. Particularly, a black person could receive equal treatment as a white person at Sunset Café, which was very rare in the era of racial segregation.

After 1950s, when housing restriction policy which prohibited black people from buying property in a white community was abolished, more and more middle and upper class black family moved out of the Bronzeville. The Sunset Café lost its luster and came to a close. After serving as a political office, in 1960, this former café was transformed into a hardware store.

Broader Issue:

It is very interesting to see some remains of the historical Sunset Café in present hardware store. Its current owner, Dave Meyers, well preserved these historical remains and displayed a number of old photos in the store. Dave is a very kind and he is very much willing to show visitors around his store and tell stories about its fabulous past. Today, visitors can still see the old window frame which was attached with jazz show advertisements and a private club on the second floor.

Sunset Café is a significant symbol of the neighborhood Bronzeville, which was a concentrated community for southern blacks who had migrated to the north since 1915. The 35th street, which Sunset Café was located on, and its intersection with the Martin Luther King Drive (Previous South Park Avenue), were the most prosperous and lively places for black migrants who were unequally treated in white communities. This small jazz club not only witness the great migration of the black people, but also saw the concentration and revitalization of black culture in Bronzeville. Even though it is at present an unknown hardware store, it used to be a glaring page of the black's history.

However, it is a pity that very few historical buildings or remains are preserved in Bronzeville and very few people could realize their significant historical value in African American's history. As more and more people were moving outside the neighborhood, Bronzeville seems to become a ghost city with many vacant stores and run-down areas. As a result, historical heritages like Sunset Café should be further explored by local government and community,

because it will prompt residents to know more about the place they live in and recognize the historical identity by learning those previous glorious moments.



Photo by Stephanie Barto, November 3, 2013.

By CTA: 27 min

By Bike: 21 min

By Car: 11min

Yang Song
China
Department of Chemistry

Beautiful Architecture in Chicago



Photo by Yang Song



Photo by John Picken online

Background:

Chicago, known as the windy city, is famous for its beautiful architectures which distributes all over the city. It is also the home to some of best architectures known to people. It is very easy for you to find special and fantastic architectures when are you walking along the street/avenue in this city. Once I had a visit to Kenwood. I was deeply attracted by so many different but wonderful buildings there. It has public buildings, like the Blackstone Library, which is regarded as the Chicago Landmark, served as the first branch of Chicago Public Library System, and Churches, like the Eighth Church of Christ, Scientist which locates in 935 E 50th Street, regarded as the first Baptist Church in Chicago, as well as the private house like John A McGill House, representing the important early example of chateausque style architecture, which is also regarded as the Chicago city landmark. All these buildings are in different styles but they do have their own beauties, showing a certain age. As I was born in the rural area in China, it is really a amazing chance to explore this fantastic city with so many beautiful architectures. Personally, I think Chicago is the largest Museum of Architectures.

Broader Issue:

The Architectures of Chicago has influenced and certainly represented the history of American Architecture. With so many wonderful architectures around the city, each one can tell you a different piece of history about the Chicago city, like culture, race, economy, etc. In early 1880s, the architects of the Chicago School began to explore steel-frame constructions, and in 1885, Home Insurance Building, considered as the first architecture to use steel in its structural frame was completed. And Louis Sullivan brought about the skyscraper to Chicago, beginning to emphasize on vertical nature. And it is known as the “commercial Style”. Since 1960s, a new architecture style was developed in Chicago. Architects thought about using applying frame tubes in skyscraper design and construction. The first tube-frame construction was completed in Chicago in 1966, known as the DeWitt-Chestnut Apartment Building. And this idea had great influence on later skyscraper designs. Besides, pioneering architects in Chicago has build numerous landmarks, like Fisher Building, Marina City, Tribute Tower, Wrigley Building, etc. They made the Chicago city outstanding from the other cities in the U.S.. Even though the Windy City no longer boasts the tallest skyscraper in America, with so many stunning and wondrous architectures, it really does not matter. As for architecture, Chicago is on top of the world!



Aqua Tower

Source: duranvirginia.wordpress.com

Hiroaki Sugiyama
Japan
Law School

Windy City Wine Festival



Photo from Windy City Wine Festival Official Website

Background:

Generally, a products price in Chicago is higher than those in Japan, my native country. However, I found wines (especially American wine) is way more inexpensive in the US than in Japan. Some wines' price was less than 1/3 of that of the same vintage sold in Japan. For this reason, I decided to taste and enjoy American wine as much as possible during my stay in this country. There are some ways to enjoy wines: go to restaurants and order, buy bottles and drink at home etc. However, these ways are not suitable to tasting many wines at once. Fortunately, Chicago has the "Windy City Wine Festival" for those who want to taste wide variety of wines.

The Windy City Wine Festival takes place every September at Buckingham Fountain Park. During the festival, about 90 shops provide a wide variety of wine, including red, white, rose, sparkling and not only domestic products but also French, Italian, Spanish or other countries' wine as well. They also serve some foods, which perfectly pair with wines.]

Visitors only have to pay \$45 (\$35 for advance purchase) to taste 12 different wines. When you check in, they will give you a tasting glass together with 12 tickets. You can go to the whichever

shop you like and exchange one ticket for one serves. Shop staff can also give you a detailed explanation about that wine so that you can get information about it. From these features this event is perfect for those who want to taste many wines and know about them.

Broader Issue:

While enjoying the tastes of many wines, I also checked their price. Not surprisingly, the price of American wine is much lower than that in Japan. This huge price gap is brought by several reasons.

The first reason is export/import cost. Wine related companies use professional careers to export/import wines. This, of course, costs a certain amount of money. Wines are delicate products, so they should be treated more carefully than other beverages like water or juice. For this reason, trading wine is costlier than other products.

The second reason is the custom. Currently, the Japanese government imposes 15% of a custom to every imported wine to protect its domestic wine industry. This 15% is directly reflected in products sale price, which means consumers have to bear this cost.

Finally, traders are imposing margin. Since it is their business taking margin itself is understandable. However, their margin is too high. Plus, there are too many steps before wine reaches end customers. Importers sells to resellers, resellers sell to re-resellers and so on. All these brokers are adding margin to its sales price and again; those are also reflected in end sales prices; which customers should pay.

All of these factors cause the relatively higher price of American wine in Japan. To increase the number of American wine fans, it is important to decrease its final sales price. Currently, TPP (Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement) is being discussed among pan-pacific countries. If this agreement is executed, said 15% custom would be abolished. Although this is a just one of many factors, it is important to cut off this 15%.



(Photo by writer)

By CTA: 30 mins By bike: 40 mins By car: 20 mins

Kamolnich Swasdiphanich
Thailand
Law School

Hidden Under the Expressway



Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/269441990176307949/>

Chicago: the name has been familiar to me as one of the biggest cities in the world. Economics, businesses, fashion and education seem to reach a peak at this windy city and of course, I have no doubt about that. Nothing in the world, however, is flawless, as is the case with this seems-to-be-perfect place.

I walked along Lake Michigan one morning, seeing many things moving past my sight, but there was one particular thing which remained the same: the noise of cars on the very near

expressway. Somehow, the picture of Hollywood beach in Uptown popped up in my head. It was a calm, peaceful and gorgeous beach, suitable for enjoying fresh air.

“There was no noise and pollution up there,” I told myself.

The expressway running along South Side Lake Shore Drive, in my opinion, is one of the symbols of segregation in Chicago. You would not find grunge surrounding you in Downtown or Uptown, but the opposite can be found here, in the South Side. To be more specific, some aspects of South Side people’s lives tend to be ignored by authorities as the people themselves cannot generate enough incomes to pay higher tax rates, which could be used as a budget for such community’s development scheme.

But how could they enhance their status without appropriate education?

In Illinois, state schools’ funding comes from three resources, namely, local property tax revenue, state funding and federal education money.¹ Property taxes, the most prominent funding resource calculated from price of real estates, are allotted to public schools within communities of those who pay such taxes. In other words, the more wealthy people each community has, the higher quality of education their descendants will obtain.

There were debates about equality of education taking place all over Illinois, held by both private and public sectors, resulting in the Senate Bill 16 which was launched in 2014. The content of this legislation is the overhaul of public schools funding system by issuing new methodology of state funding calculation. This solution, however, would not have great positive impact on the gap of education.

¹ Caitlin Wilson, “Education calculations: the school funding Illinois districts receive,” *REBOOT Illinois*,

As mentioned above, the most important finances of public schools come from local property taxes paid by people within each community. The chart below shows the revenue of Chicago public schools in fiscal year 2015, categorized by resources:



Source: <http://cps.edu/fy15budget/Pages/overview.aspx>

The Senate Bill 16 focuses on only one piece of pie, while ignoring the biggest one. Every kind of taxes, theoretically, should be designated to reduce gaps of wealth as a priority; therefore, property taxes should be distributed to every neighborhood with the even amount. There might be some arguments blaming that it would lead to a huge loss of bigger (or wealthier) suburbs, but this is the meaning of taxes in the first place: to get rid of two extremities, too rich and too poor.

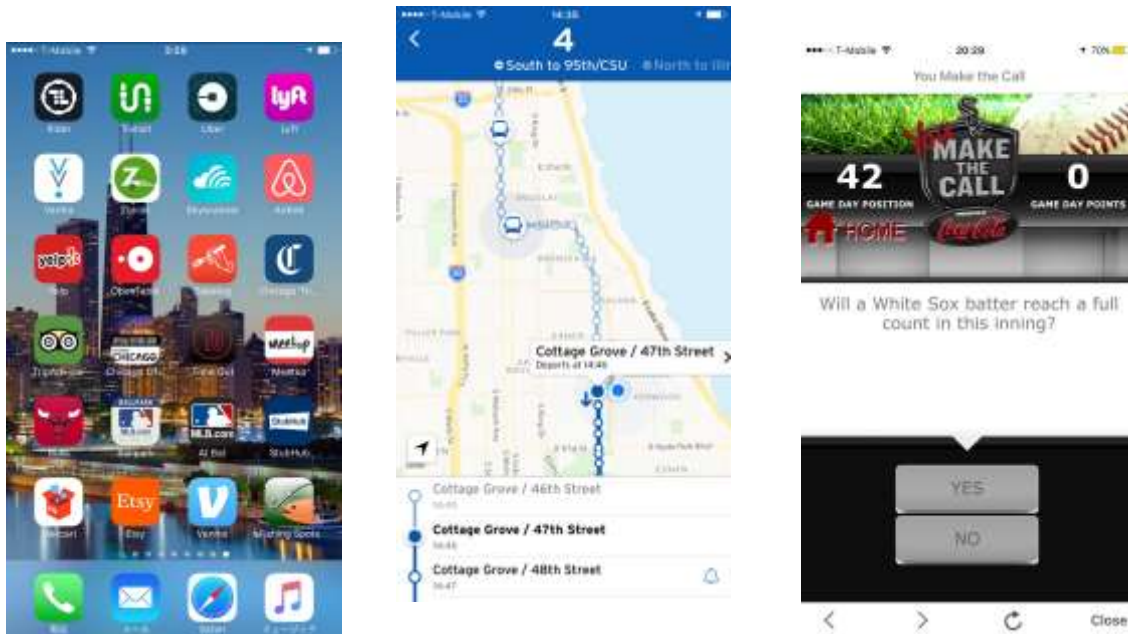
At some point while strolling along Lake Michigan, I came up with some thoughts of how this city could become even more perfect. If I have already fallen in love with Chicago and Chicagoans, then how could I dare to criticize them? But when I love someone or something, I want to see them growing better and better since nothing in the world is one hundred percent perfect. *So as my love for Chicago...*

Shinya Takatani

Japan

Harris School of Public Policy

Hack your Chicago Life with Essential Mobile Apps!



Note: app list on my iPhone (Left), Tansit shows real-time bus positions (Middle, captured on my iPhone), prediction game in Ballpark App in which fans estimate yes/no or numbers for questions before getting results (Right, captured on my iPhone)

Background:

If you are an international student and starting foreign life in Chicago for the first time, you did and will have much difficulty adjusting to new life. You may hardly have found a new apartment to live in, set up electricity and wi-fi at your home, dealt with many tasks in summer school, and made friends with some foreign students. When you are faced with troubles in the unknown land, who can you rely on? It is true that your friends, family, second year students, and staff at

your school are the most helpful for you, but I believe that your smartphone is as essential as they are. Now that we are in the information age, we can get much beneficial information from the Internet. In addition, smartphones enable us to curate big data and obtain graphical images and necessary information directly and easily through mobile apps. They are very simple but can be strong and convenient solutions for our tasks. In this article, I would like to introduce essential mobile apps to make your Chicago life smarter and more fruitful.

-Transportation Apps

Chicago Transit Authority publishes real-time bus location data for application developers, so we can use a lot of bus tracker apps such as **Transit** and **TransLoc Rider**, which inform us of where buses are now. One day I waited for 40 minutes to transfer to another bus at a bus stop. If I had known about this kind of app, I could have given up waiting for the bus and taken another method for transportation. If you are in a hurry, you should call a car by **Uber** or **Lyft**. Even though these apps may be rarely used in your country, there are many Uber and Lyft drivers and users in Chicago, so you do not have to wait for more than 5 minutes and can share your ride with strangers easily. Do not forget to install **Ventra App** if you have a Ventra card to ride on train or bus. You can manage funds of the card on the application. **Zipcar** is popular with car drivers, who can share cars with other users cheaply.

-Travel / Event Apps

Skyscanner and **Airbnb** are imperative to travelers with itchy feet. They give you affordable flight tickets and stay plans. When we guide family or friends from our hometown in Chicago, we can utilize many guidance apps with many tips, beautiful photos, reviews, and event schedules including **TripAdvisor**, **Choose Chicago**, and **Time Out**. **Meetup**, as is indicated by the name, provides you with opportunities to attend a variety of events and communities that you are interested in.

-Sports Apps

Chicago has some famous professional sport teams such as Cubs, White Sox, Bears and Bulls. Baseball fans can get not only real-time game scores but also data on players' performances and profiles through the app **At Bat**. At stadiums, they can take advantage of **Ballpark** to enhance their satisfaction by smart check-in, remote food order and prediction games. When I watched a baseball game of White Sox at Cellular Field, these apps were very useful. We need to prepare for the coming season of NFL and NBA. Anyway, I like fishing, so I am looking for good fishing spots around Chicago with the app of **Fishing Spots**, which includes recent fishing reports by many anglers.

-Restaurant Apps

Food is a necessary piece to know the diversity of Chicago. **Yelp** is the most famous online restaurant review website, which is collaborating with the online restaurant booking service of **OpenTable**. I wrote reviews of about 2,000 Japanese restaurants on **Tabelog**, the most largest

platform in Japan, and I will try to review on American food. After you enjoy the meal with your friends, you can split the bill easily with an online payment app, **Venmo**.

-Marketplace Apps

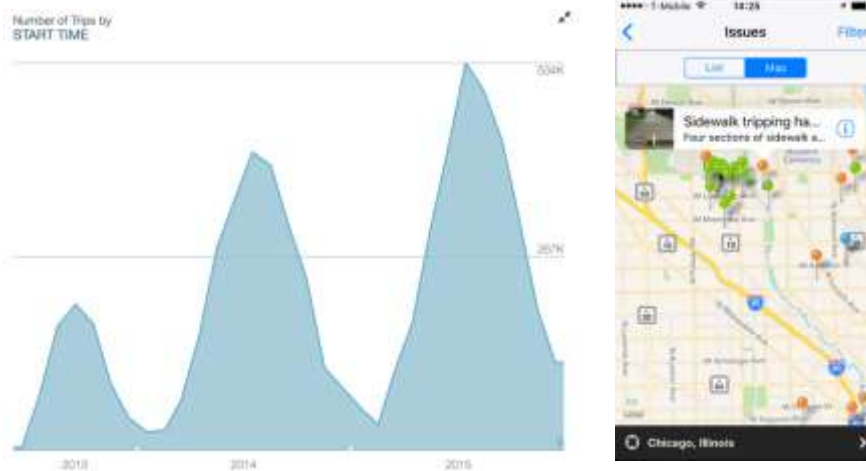
Foreign students need to buy furniture and home appliances as cheaply as possible. They can find second-hand or hand-made products at low price in the online global marketplace such as **Mercari** and **Etsy**.

Broader Issue:

I would like to expand the issue to the contribution by the government to development of mobile apps because my major is Public Policy and I have been supporting companies and innovators at Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry in Japan. I am confident that the creator of innovations should be private companies, especially startups and entrepreneurs. What, then, is the role of the government? I got some hints from the advanced challenges in Chicago.

Chicago is characterized as a big data city because the City of Chicago opened much public data to private sectors from the viewpoint of not only accountability but also promotion of application development to improve the quality of life in Chicago. This is based on the initiative of the federal government *CODE for America*. On the website *Data Portal*, the City of Chicago disclosed various types of datasets in free, editable and entire forms. For example, they include data of historical Divvy bike availability and trips, salaries and positions of Chicago employees, buildings permits, and reported incidents of crimes. Some innovative civic applications have been already developed by private tech communities. I will provide one example of a civic data app, **SeeClickFix**. This app encouraged residents to participate in public activity and improve their community. If you find any issues in the neighborhood, you can report them to the public and the government and track them through the mobile app service, which was integrated with the City of Chicago's 311 service. Reporters will get evaluation by civic points, which motivate them. As these outcomes illustrate, Chicago is seeing businesses or startups develop that make use of public data to improve life in Chicago. We can regard the open government data as an economic development tool.

Procurement and showcasing of apps are also important roles of the government. If the government purchases products, their companies can get credibility for the products in the market while the government can reduce costs for information systems. The showcase by White House *Apps.Gov* encourages cities or countries to compare and buy cloud services at lower prices instead of giving out orders to facilitate their unique system.



I would like to study the ways to stimulate social innovations by the partnership between the government and private companies including civic startups. From this viewpoint, I am concerned with how we can retain economic prosperity of Chicago by leveraging rich public data, information technology and talents at the conspicuous universities. It would be my future work.

Note: Number of Divvy bike trips as an example of datasets offered by City of Chicago on Data Portal (Left, from <https://data.cityofchicago.org>), issues reported on SeeClickFix (Right, captured on my iPhone)

Zihan Tan
China
Computer Science Department

What is Dead May Never Die



Photo by Author

Background:

In the neighborhood of enthusiastic Wrigleyville lies three serene cemeteries, the famous Graceland Cemetery and two other obscure ones. Repelled by the delicate decoration and big names of Graceland Cemetery, I walked into the Hebrew Benevolent Cemetery simply by pushing through its rusty gate, since the end makes us all equal, and death itself does not need decoration.

Also referred to as Jewish Graceland, the Hebrew Benevolent Cemetery has a long history. It was founded by the leaders of the Hebrew Benevolent community, and is the oldest extant

Jewish cemetery. It is said that almost all records before 1911 were destroyed in a fire so one can hardly find a tomb with a mark before 1911. Approximately 3000 people have been buried there, and all of them were Jewish.

As conceived by all, the fastest way to know the culture or story of a place is by talking to people there, but here I could find no one. However, as I walked around, I felt myself surrounded by live movies vividly depicting the stories of their progenitors.

When I saw the first picture I was picturing a woman with great beauty. Might be a singer? Might be a dancer? Or might be a model. But no matter what job she had, she must have kept a pure soul, with an affection of the simplest beauty in the world. The flowers, the angels, the sleeping beauty and the strong lion. She passed away right after her 50th birthday. In that deep sorrow her husband put all of her favorites beside her tomb and whispered to her. May everything you love in the world be with you forever.

Even if you are gone, my love, I can still feel your heart beating at every night. I like sunshine and I like winds, and all energetic things in the world. But when I met you, I felt that I met the most unique, powerful, endless energy on the earth. So I put a pinwheel by your side, to stay with you forever in my place, because you are to me what wind is to a pinwheel.

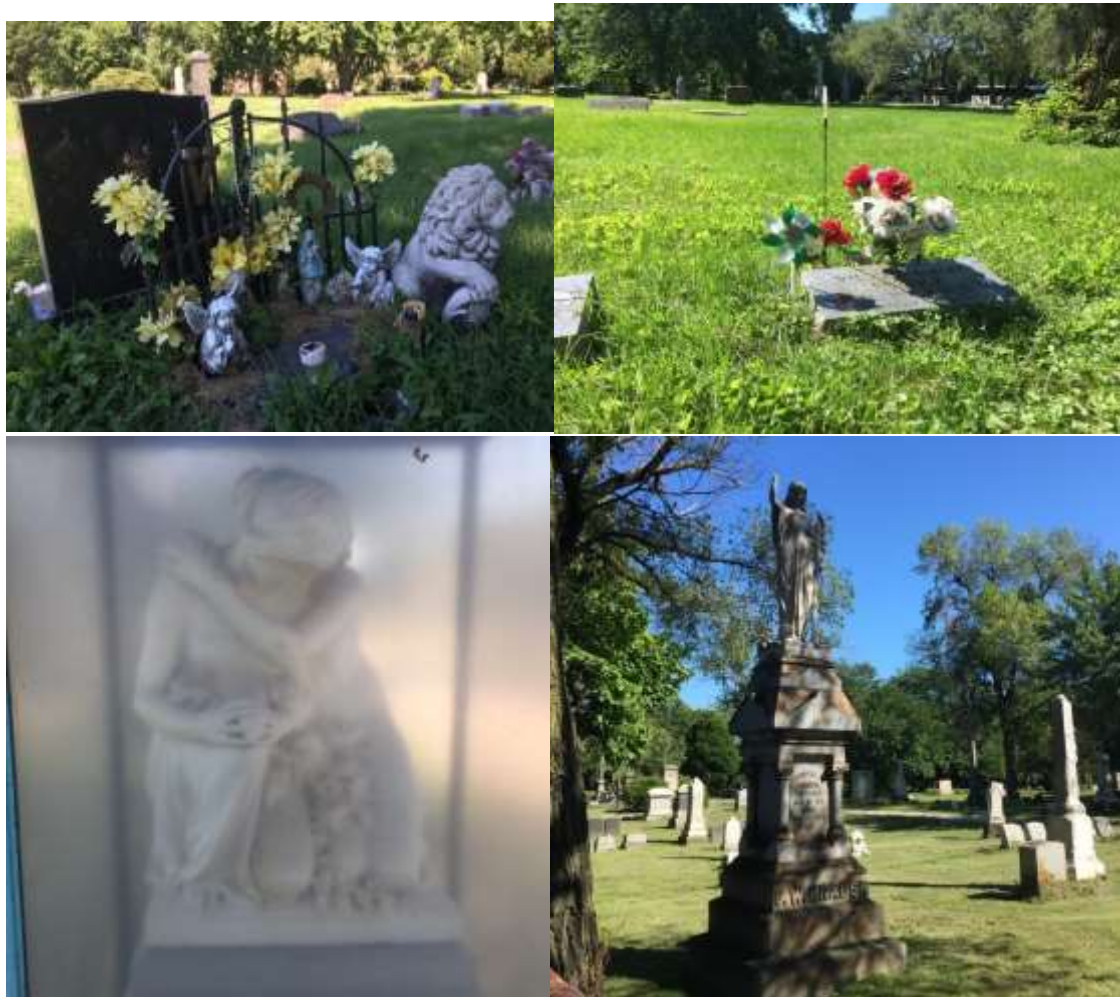
When the bullet came I held you in my arm without having a second thought, because you had the wisdom, you had the beauty, and you have our child, our only hope of the future. But when we realize that the bullet came through both hearts, we looked at each other and smiled, and recalled the sacred vow that we made on our wedding day. I am yours and you are mine, from this day, until the end of my days.

When the time came it was you who first picked up the weapon. It was your words and your speeches that inspired us all. Even if the rebellion failed, you would be remembered by every single Jewish household. When our children and children's children saw your status, may they repeat the same line in their mind. What is dead may never die.

Broader Issues:

Throughout history, antisemitism has made the Jewish people persecuted for 2000 years, in cultural, religious, economic, racial, and political aspects. After the slaughter of World War II a group of surviving Jewish people moved to American. Thanks to the inclusive tradition, they started a new life, and their high intelligence swiftly let them stand on the top of the hill. Among all Nobel Prize winners, half of them are Jewish, and one third of outstanding professors are Jewish. They proved their excellence in various of areas including financial engineering,

economy, literature and music. Now it is said that over 70 percent of American property was controlled by Jewish, a small group of people with population less than 2 percent of American population. Driven by the awareness of recurrent persecution from their history, the Jewish people are rigorous to themselves in order to be competitive enough to survive. That is probably why this Jewish Graceland is not being disturbed by anyone although located close to the crazy Wrigley Field. This is a nation to be respected, because what is dead may never die.



Photos by Author

Note: Pictures and last four paragraphs of Background are corresponding to each other.

Location: 3919 N Clark St, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, 60613.

Travel Times: CTA: 1.0hr, Bike: 1.5hrs, Car: 27min.

Apoorv Tandon
India
Physical Science Division

Farmers Market in Oak Park



Farmers market © Apoorv Tandon

Background:

As part of the Chicago Neighborhood tour we decide to explore Oak Park. Oak Park being a suburb is technically not a community of Chicago. While exploring through the suburb we went to Farmers market in the morning to start our project. The market was crowded with people browsing through fruits, vegetables, cheese, flowers and corn. While there were few retired people from the area singing songs and playing fine music. It was really wonderful to see such scenic area filled with amicable people. Farmers market near Church is organised every summer from May till Oct on Saturday morning. While speaking to some people they highly spoke about the farmer market traditions which has been going on for more than 30 years. Being surprised by its popularity it was nice to people from all ethnic groups different cultural backgrounds coming there enjoying music. It seems a wonderful event during weekends in summer.

Broader Issue:

Farmers Market is wonderful event to promote the locally grown seasonal food in this era of processed and inorganic food. Chicago city host more than 30 different farmers market across neighborhood with farmers from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin participating. In

these times of fast paced life where we do not have time to seek food after work, where capitalist corporation owning food supply. It is a delightful event to switch back to simpler times and enjoying high quality locally grown organic food surrounded by music.



Retired Church People singing songs and playing music © Apoorv Tandon

Travel Times from UChicago:

CTA: 1hr 15min

By Car: 34min

By Bike: 1hr 35min

Chengzuo Tang
China
Division of the Social Sciences

Staring at Chicago, Staring at Modernity



Photo of a full-scope view at Promontory Point, taken by author on 2nd, Sept., 2016

Background:

As a sociology student, especially if one's interest is profound and ongoing, you may never expect to meet Chicago, a far-away city in mid US, quite late in your life. After the several European talents, including Max Weber, Emile Durkheim—a bunch of geniuses had defined what sociology as a modern discipline is when stepping into the 20th century, World War I soon tore the international system maintained so far and put an unexpected end to the discipline's most engaged and deliberate thinking dynamic in the old continent. Dead, disappeared, unknown. And the next pinpoint of sociology, among many burgeoning metropolitans in the world, the invisible hand selects Chicago.

The first impressive meeting with the city was attained when I read some stories for leisure on Small's difficulty establishing a sociology department much earlier here, when I was still junior in high school. Who is Small? The first department director of the first formal sociology department of the first new research university, even in the world. It's along with the period from 1890s to 1930s that European's academic tradition crosses the Atlantic, like another Columbus' journey, to arrive in a new continent that gains its ever rapid and even rampant industrial development in the stretching 20th century.

As Harper decides to create a university, proud of its intellectual contribution, believed in its competitive ambition, Small is appointed to be the first director, not only to direct an academic unit, but also the future of a young discipline in this endlessly expanding new continent, and new hope. I am significantly attracted by the choice he would make and the following prospect

of this sociology department in US, and I am comforted when the story continues among different generations coming up. A long list: Parker, who has devoted himself to fieldwork to investigate the marginalized groups in Chicago's urban formation (poor, homeless, gangsters) and Mead, who has hatched new philosophical basis for modern social research, and so on. I am glad that the topic of modernity on human's transition in the latest centuries, one of the most intellectually magnetic topics of sociology facing modern society's formation, has not stopped by the war in the old continent. Imagine the sociologists carrying questionnaires and notebooks and running in the rain to different neighborhoods, with tremendous machine noise, jazz pieces playing, and people's mixed protesting voices. The Chicago School of Sociology witnesses the maturing of sociology, of the university, and of the city of Chicago also.

Broader Issue:

Is that quest for investigation towards modernity finished? The end is far yet, or more exactly, the process has just begun. Modernity is about human's radical change in the modern society formation, which is both an angel and a devil. On an international status, and also a sociology major status, the most of what I've witnessed upon arrival in Chicago tests my impression of the "devil": the serious neighborhood segregation, the severe growing poverty, the incurable government corruption, the horrible gun abuse and violent crime. The sense of responsibility of a sociologist—to be honest, a prospective sociologist—really attacks me all the way. Modernity, the concept itself exhausts what these social phenomena include and mean to us modern people. Is modernity completed and shall we curtail our curiosity and awareness about those phenomena? Can we do something to persist the fight and reflection on ourselves? All the formless, hidden feelings and opinions come to me at the moment I stare at Chicago—more exactly, the Loop—with the sun sinking. This is fairly where the most important moment occurs during my two-week long stay in Chicago. I know I am staring at something, but what am I staring at? Is it just a finished Chicago, or the unfinished modernity?

I soon return to my mind by when freeze blows over my face and brings a sense of impact from the far, by tide brushing upon the shore and releasing a roar from the depths. Sounds like a poem? Maybe hope, the faith itself is by essence a poem without rational thinking. I am staring at Chicago, and I am also staring at modernity, with its best indication in the world over here. Urban life's convenience and efficiency, as the hardworking gifts from our previous generations, should never doubted by us. It's especially we sociologists who head forward without hesitation. But the modernity's challenge by offering a series of problems, shall never either stop trying to prevent us from moving forward. This is what and why Chicago still stands here to face different and important issues every day, and also for our work. I immerse myself in the whistling wind, and once again as a sociology student of the sociology department of University of Chicago, I feel where my power and valor spring from.

So, I finally take a photo centering not on the Loop, but on the lake. The flowing and unfinished thing, the flexible and unexpected thing, is what I am staring at, is what we stand together to expect Chicago to be. I do not know how it will become after one year when my master's graduation and journey departure arrive, but at least it would be better than now. Small believes this, many of the generations believe this, inside and outside the sociology there are people believing this, and there's Chicago. That is what we all stare at.

Odyseas Theofanis

Chicago's Grace: Thalia Hall

Background:

Living in Athens, Greece, is sometimes tough for an indie/garage rock fan, like myself. Since the rock music market is quite small, it has been rare to attend a live show of my favorite bands. In fact, I felt grateful that I had the opportunity to attend a live show of two of them, the Black Keys and the Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, the last three years! Of course, watching these two bands did not satisfy my appetite for rock music.

When it became official that I would study in Chicago the academic year 2016 – 2017, I could not be more excited for the prospects ahead of me. Studying in Chicago, the heart of alternative rock music scene in the US, would give me the opportunity to attend many live rock shows and enjoy the music of my favorite bands. Not only that, but I was excited to visit one of Chicago's music halls, famous for their vibrant environment. The place to start was no other than the Thalia Hall, a landmark building located in Pilsen neighborhood.

Broader issues:

Thalia Hall in a sense represents many features of the city of Chicago. Commissioned on the late 19th century, it was originally built to serve as a complex residential housing building. What distinguished Thalia Hall from other buildings was its large meeting theater hall, designed to cultivate and accommodate the community's artistic expression. However, following the City's declining profile, Thalia Hall theater remained closed for many decades. In September 2013, the owners of several bars and clubs in Chicago, Bruce Finkelman and Craig Colden, decided that Chicago's rock music scene needed a bigger venue. But, they insisted on having it located in a neighborhood, trying to combine the macro and the micro level of Chicago's architecture and city planning.

This mixture of the macro and micro level is also represented by the selection of the bands that perform in Thalia Hall: they range from the most popular rock bands of the country to

underground bands that are just starting to kick off their career. This blend is apparent in other issues as well. I also had the opportunity to grasp the coexistence of different ethnicities and people seemingly coming from different economic backgrounds during the Growler's live show I watched on Wednesday 21st September. In fact, being at Thalia Hall made me realize that people come together no matter what to listen to great music, despite living in the deeply segregated Chicago. All this would not have happened without Thalia Hall.

Location

1808 S Allport St (Pilsen)

Chicago, IL 60608

Travel from the University of Chicago

By car: 22 mins | CTA: 54 mins | By Bike: 48 mins

Daniela Melisa Gómez Treviño

Mexico

Harris School of Public Policy

Almost Like Home



Harper Theater at Night
Source: <http://www.harpertheater.com/>

Background:

This is not my first time away from home. I have lived abroad before and, back in Mexico, I used to live by myself. It does not make me uncomfortable to go to places alone and I actually enjoy it. This is why, two weeks ago, I did not hesitate to go to the cinema without any companion. It was Sunday, and the movie started at 7:00 pm. It was a clear, beautiful, summer evening, so I wore shorts and a regular T-shirt, painted my lips and hit the road. I went to Harper Theater, because it is only two blocks away from where I live. Nothing extraordinary happened there, but when the movie was over, at 9:00 pm, it was already dark outside. In spite of the tickling voice inside every woman's head that told me I should stay alert because it could be dangerous to walk home, I told to myself Chicago was not Mexico and that I had nothing to worry about. The streets were crowded and I was not far away from my apartment.

However, the moment I stepped outside the building and started walking, a young man blocked my way, checked me out from head to toe and said "Hey gorgeous, where you goin'?" I froze and at the moment I could not find the words to reply, so I just avoided him and I started to walk faster. I felt that very familiar feeling of insecurity, frustration and impotence that usually comes after street harassment. Unfortunately, this was not the only time something like that

has happened to me in the three weeks I have been in the city. I have been catcalled while running in the Lake Shore Trail, when walking to school and I have even received inappropriate comments from a moving car. From these experiences, I would dare to say that street harassment in Chicago is, if not as common, as socially accepted as it is in Mexico City.

Street harassment started to gain importance in recent years. Women and men from many countries in the world have started to protest against this kind of violence. Efforts to combat street harassment and to create a awareness of the magnitude of the problem have been implemented all around the world. In Mexico, for instance, a couple of months ago, thousands of women marched in the streets against gender violence. However, policies implemented afterwards in Mexico City, showed that there is still no real understanding of this issue. The city government gave whistles to women so they could denounce harassment. Social media saw this kind of policy as insufficient, useless and claimed that it minimized the problem. Some official campaigns to stop harassment in Chicago have also been implemented, as the CTA campaign called: "It's not OK. If it's unwanted, it's harassment," which also includes information about the steps to follow after one has been harassed.

Even when the signs that tell people not to harass might be as inefficient as the whistles given by Mexico City, the information of how to proceed could be very useful. One of the several complaints about Mexican justice in case of harassment is that it is a very complicated process to denounce and even more to get justice. Information is not clear enough and there is a systematic disincentive to file an expedient on one's case. Even when further efforts and more efficient public policies are required in both cities, to begin to inform about this issue is necessary. In the end, whether you are in Mexico City or in Chicago, if you are a woman and it is dark outside, you can feel just like home, but in this case, home is not a good thing.



CTA campaign against harassment
Source: <http://www.transitchicago.com/speakup/>

Magaly Duarte Urquhart
Paraguay
Harris School of Public Policy

Conserving Spiritual Life in the City of Chicago



The most famous church in Paraguay: Cathedral
Source: (<http://www.easyfreshideas.com/see-asuncion/>)

Background:

As a catholic, one of my biggest concerns before coming to the city of Chicago was related to finding a church near to my house, neighborhood, or at least in the city.

The first thing that I did when I arrived to my neighborhood (Hyde Park) and started my new life here in the City of Chicago, was to look for a church in which I could be able to maintain and preserve my beliefs. A nearby church can satisfy my needs to participate in the Catholic rituals, share with others who enjoy those moments as much as I do, share the sacraments, and have a spiritual connection with God.

Compared with Catholic rituals in Paraguay, Chicago Catholic practices are quite different. The first one is the difference in language, in Paraguay the ceremony is in Spanish. The second is that here in Chicago the church buildings are more luxurious and beautiful. Finally, another important difference is the diversity of people who go to celebrate mass. People from different cultures and ethnicities, which I think is really wonderful. That is what being Catholic basically means. Everybody is equal in the eyes of God, and this place reflects that idea.

During the celebration people share as brothers and sisters and it helps to diminish the differences among them and to make the world a better place. Despite the differences that I have mentioned, the essence of the celebration is the same and it is perfect for me.

Broader Issues:

Chicago is one of the cities in the United States that has a huge Catholic population. In 1843 the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago was set up. More than 2.3 million Catholics are served by the Archdiocese in Cook and Lake counties in Northeastern Illinois (37% of the population). It is divided into six vicariates and 31 deaneries

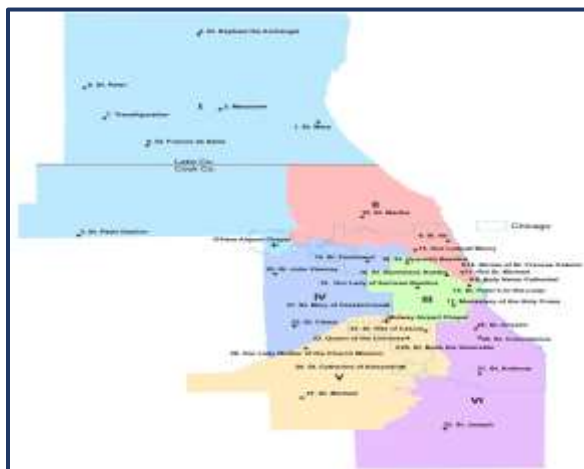
Source: (https://www.archchicago.org/about_us/statistics.shtm).

The diversity of people that go to church every day strengthens the beauty of the Catholic ceremony. The ethnic diversity constitutes the heart of this ceremony.

Nowadays, there are approximately 350 churches in Chicago where people can find sacraments like Eucharist, confession, wedding and baptism. You only need to ask or search online for the schedules.

When picking one from the many churches, I chose the Calvert House because I am a student at the University of Chicago and it is for me the best place to go and celebrate the mass (the Calvert House is the Catholic Center at the University of Chicago). Calvert House is located at 5735 S University Ave which is on campus. The summer mass schedule is Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 12.30 pm and Sunday at 5.00 pm.

Furthermore, the Calvert House has some very interesting activities to help other people. For instance: donation drives, homeless food run, blanket making, among others. For more information regarding these activities the best option is to visit The Calvert House page on the internet. For my part, I volunteered to be part of the Homeless Food Run activity. I'm looking forward to meeting people who share my beliefs and helping people who really need.



Map of some Chicago's churches divided by Vicariate



My personal picture in front of Calvert House

Source: (<http://www.catholicnewworld.com/topic/jubilee-of-mercy/pilgrimage-locations.aspx>)

Air and Water Show



Background:

I went to the Air and Water Show last Sunday with a couple of friends. This show consists of an amazing display of army airplanes with skillful moves. It took place on the August 22-23 weekend in the North Avenue beach. People go to beach with food, drinks and a blanket just to sit and enjoy the maneuvers of the Army. Old and new planes fly nearby and make pirouettes and figures with the smoke planes left behind. It is a spectacular show. It gives people the opportunity to assess how well trained their army is and how powerful is the American air force. It proves that the US Army is prepared to save the world from communism, terrorism, injustice, among others. Consequently, most Americans cheer really proud during the whole event and during every pirouette.

Broader Issue:

Although it was a very nice show, I was not as excited and thrilled as most attendees –mostly American citizens. For me, this display contrasts how most Americans perceive their army to the general opinion abroad. On the one hand, most Americans are really proud of their army, as it is most powerful army in the world that protects and keeps United States a safe place. On the other hand, people from abroad don't think of the US Army as a savior of the world, quite the

contrary. In other countries, US army reputation is far from being heroic. Instead, it is seen as the army that regularly shows up uninvited and makes things their own way. Moreover, they claim the US Army usually acts upon their own interests (i.e. Money, Oil, etc.), rather than acting upon humanitarian motives. As a result, US Army is perceived as both the most invasive and powerful army in the world.

The Air and Water show is a unique demonstration of skill and power in Chicago. It gives US citizens a nice event to enjoy the weekend and a reason for being pleased for their powerful and heroic army. Nevertheless, this viewpoint is not the case in the rest of the world. While most Americans see their army as the guardian and savior of the globe, non-American often see this army as the nosy unwelcomed army.

Fernando Castillo Villalpando
Mexico
Univeristy of Chicago Law School

Where Air and Water Merge



Photo Credit: Social Power Hour via socialpowerhour.com/

Background:

The Chicago Air & Water Show is an annual event held on the shore of Lake Michigan in Chicago, Illinois—right in front of North Avenue Beach. The show has been held each year in the city since the late 1950s and is considered the second most popular festival in the Windy City, just after the Taste of Chicago (“Chicago Largest Festivals”, Crain Communications, 2008, p. 1), and the largest free show of its kind in the United States.

The very same day I arrived to Chicago to pursue my LL.M. (master in laws) degree at the University of Chicago Law School, I realized a huge event was taking place that weekend in the city and that, somehow, such event was particularly important for American citizens.

My family came to visit the city where I will be living for the next academic year, and when I stopped by the hotel they were staying at, I found a crowd that was heading north towards “the most American show we have ever experienced”, according to my Dad’s words. I grabbed a brochure with information on the show and figured out that it was free, so I decided to go with my family to live the whole adventure. We rode the free shuttle the hotel offered its guests,

and the very first minute we arrived to the show, we became captured by the environment filled up with daredevil pilots, parachute teams, and jets flying in perfect formation emitting a chest-rattling sonic boom. The show also featured a water-skiing and boat-jumping component; however, it was not as interesting as staring at the civilian and military pilots in the air. One good thing to know about the show is that demonstrations are visible almost everywhere along Chicago's waterfront of Lake Michigan, due to its proximity to city beaches and skyline. My family and I spent almost four hours watching the event and we were completely amazed by what we saw.

Experts on this event explained that many of the Air Show performers use Chicago's third largest airport, the Gary/Chicago International Airport in nearby Gary, Indiana, for ground support (Norris, 2015, p. 1 www.goplugg.com).

Broader Issue:

Undoubtedly, the Chicago Air & Water Show represents modern U.S. military propaganda at its finest. Things have changed in the last decades speaking in martial terms; wars such as the ones the United States participated in during the 20th Century are conceived differently nowadays and research shows that U.S. citizens are increasingly moving away from the military culture that characterized their country for so many years. Thus, the government had to come with a different speech in order to recruit people to join the armed forces, so needed for a country that holds one of the most powerful militaries in the world.

Today, strategic political positions are no longer occupied by people with relevant military background who served the army as it had happened decades ago. In fact, some critics confirm that "America's recent wars are authorized by a U.S. Congress whose members have the lowest rate of military service in history, led by three successive commanders in chief who never served on active duty" (Zucchino & Cloud, 2015, p. 3). Non-military leadership is why new strategies in propaganda have to be implemented to recruit younger people who have never been in contact with the military service, because surveys suggest that as many as 80% of those who currently serve come from a family in which a parent or sibling is also in the military.

Additionally, the government has also increased benefits through public policies for those who serve in the army. Today's military enjoys a lifestyle that in many ways exceeds that of much of the rest of the country: "regular pay raises and lavish reenlistment bonuses, free healthcare, subsidized housing and, after 20 years of service, generous retirement benefits unavailable to many other Americans" (Zucchino & Cloud, 2015, p. 4).

In my opinion, it is no coincidence that the Air & Water Show, a modern military propaganda event, takes place in the jewel of the Midwest. Increasingly, America's warrior class is defined by geography, and southern states consistently provide the biggest proportion of recruits. For

instance, California had the highest number of enlistments in 2013. Also, the highest-rate contributors in such year were Georgia, Texas, Virginia, Florida and South Carolina (Steiner, 2011, p. 8).

In conclusion, the Air & Water Show could be seen as the new tradition of blatant military propaganda utilizing a different yet unique style to recruit new people interested in serving their country and making a difference by joining the most trusted American institution: The U.S. Army.



Photo taken by Rogelio Garza R.

North Avenue Beach: 1600 N Lake Shore Dr, Chicago, IL 60614, United States.
Drive: 33 min. - 17 km. - S. Lake Shore Dr northbound.
CTA Transit: 58 min. - Buses No. 2, 6 & 151 northbound.

Gerardo Viollier
Chile
Booth School of Business

Let's Meet Under the Clock at Marshall Fields



Visual #1 Marshall Field Clock.
Author: Gerardo Viollier

Chicago is the city that I chose to live in not only for being home of the Booth Business School, but also because of the unique atmosphere. By the time I arrived in Chicago I had a pre-conception of the city; I personally expected a Chicago full of jazz and gangster trends. Instead, I found a friendly place with breathless views and endless opportunities. The windy city that I have been able to explore in this three weeks, exceeds my expectations. I found a place where all stories of “my Chicago” converge, the Marshall Fields clock (State St. and Washington, see



Visual # 2 Tunnel Map 1910
Author: Illinois Tunnel Company.

visual #1). That clock has been the place where Chicagoans have met since 1897. However, that beautiful clock not only offers time to all pedestrians, but also offers a landmark point where Chicago's history meets. Forty feet below the street, a 62 miles long underground freight tunnel was built in 1899 by the Chicago Tunnel Company (See Visual # 2). Now this place full of history can be visited only with a permit.

During prohibition, the tunnel served as an escape route for gangsters and also as an underground path that connected saloons (bars), hotels and other locations to the illegal alcohol retailers. This tunnel offers a window to that old Chicago; Jazz, the great music influenced by African-Americans that served as the background music to a gangster society; a society built upon

a fast growing city, where the prohibition, the immigration, the world wars and others factors were the best fertilizer.

Just imagine for a moment that the famous Green Mill at uptown is connected to the loop by underground tunnels; those were used by Al Capone's people that ruled the underworld. For instance, in 1920 a gangster band attacked the tunnel workers and so 250 police man took the tunnels and made a full sweep, with no success (see visual # 3). Picture for a moment that listening to Louis Armstrong best jazz song, wealthiest old ladies could be shopping at Marshall Fields and gangsters could be moving illegal alcohol just a few feet apart with police mans in their tails. That was what Chicago was all about, a fast growing city that still offers a beautiful face but with a dark side. Is just a matter of the interests of the individual who are visiting the city, the side of the second city that they will find.



Visual # 3 Police Man in the Tunnel 1920
Author: Unknown

Travel Time from UChicago

Walking 2.5 hours

By Car 22 minutes

By Bike 48 minutes

Hao Wang
China
Arts program in Humanities

The Day of God



(The Day of God, Photo by author)

Background:

The Art Institute of Chicago contains a lot of famous paintings from different countries. Chicago used to be famous for its avant-grade arts during the 20th century. Today, its welcoming environment still appeals to a lot of artists who spend their life studying paintings. Before I came here, I had heard about the abundant exhibits of post-impressionism at the museum. As a student, I learned arts and poetry in China, so I really looked forward to seeing something that could give me inspiration. And the Day of the God by Gauguin shocked me a lot.

Gauguin had never been to the US, and I had never known the picture before. Frankly speaking, many people think it is not one of Gauguin's masterpieces. However, I found something really special in it. In the middle of the picture, there is an idol standing on a big stone. Generally, western artists always regard God as their idol (sometimes Satan), but that's usually true for Gauguin. Spending many years living in Tahiti, Gauguin had changed his belief from Christian to paganism. He preferred to add elements representing the religions of Tahiti or Polynesia to his works. But this time, the idol does not belong to either of them. He is staring at something

unknown, controlling the biggest power of the world in the picture. What's more, he seems to have no connection or communication with others. Standing just like a ghost. The Day of IGod is the only picture in which Gauguin describes a ghost/God directly.

Broader Issue:

Why did he do this? Before he created the picture, Gauguin had returned to France from Tahiti. But life was even harder in Paris. He was not famous but misunderstood by other people and even critics. Without money or support, his health became worse and worse. During 1894, he painted a series of pictures about his death. Many people believe that Gauguin became more and more interested in symbolism and mysticism in order to explore his end result. In the picture, there are three women washing or sleeping in front of the ghost, representing birth, life and death, but all of them are under a mysterious god-like figure. I was immediately touched not only because of the composition of the picture and the exotic scene, but also because of the artist's great spirit. As a student who learned literature and arts, I was often confused by death and life when I read books. I tried to show my understandings in my own poetry, which was just similar with the idea from this picture. What Gauguin did is try to understand life and death beyond philosophy and religion, and lead us to a universal belief. I was shocked by the painting's power, and it inspired me for my next poem. Because I am alone now in Chicago, I have to struggle to live a better life in America without any help from my parents and old friends. I need to do everything and rise to all the challenges in the new environment. And I am nobody. But as a young poet, or just a student, I will take the this opportunity to gradually approach the true meaning of my life, and I think that is very similar with Gauguin. I should be brave to examine my life like him.



Just like Gauguin, many artists in Chicago were also interested in exploring universal principles, which gave them more energy to control their lives. But today, although Chicago is still famous for arts, what artists really care is about consumerism. There are many art centers in Chicago, but I heard from my friends that none of them are teaching serious courses about arts. Instead, they mainly focus on entertainment. Maybe it is right, but as students in Humanities in U Chicago, maybe we should give careful reconsideration on the spirit of Chicago's art tradition.

(Photo by author)

Jiayi Wang
China
MAPSS

Is Lincoln Park Zoo a Public Space?



Photo by Jiayi Wang

Background:

I have some good memories with Lincoln Park Zoo, as well as bad ones. My friend and I did not plan to visit there, but it turned out to be our major destination. It was still early when we got out of The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, so we decided to have a causal walk in the Lincoln Park. Then we continuously got surprises, little but lovely, through this journey. We met wedding photograph taking by the river. We came across a free zoo (since the zoo and even the park are usually charged in my country and we did not realize there was a zoo initially) as if we

got a gift. While, we went through the lion house, the monkey room, and the seals underwater, but saw nothing moving. We mourned a few seconds for a poor fatty pigeon who fell off the branch and did not fly up again; the room was so small for it. We appreciated different styles of baby carriages as well as all the happy families. Those tiny interludes all contributed to my feeling just fine. I envied residents living nearby.

My mood turned a bit darker with the sun lower. I started to worry about my safety going home. There remained some light when we got to the Loop so I decided to take the Red Line. After the train passed Chinatown, the car was left sparse with everybody Black except for me. I could not control myself feeling more and more nervous. I held my bag tight and did not want to change any figure. I felt much more relieved after getting out of the train and seeing some non-Black persons at bus station. I could feel my face turned rigid when coming back home, the smile in Lincoln Park Zoo had lost.

Broader Issue:

Viewing the Lincoln Park Zoo within its boundary, it is definitely a good public space. It is open basically to everyone, with plenty of greens, public service facilities, and number of people visiting. As for accessibility, lots of baby carriages and wheelchairs are witnessed, indicating it is readily accessible for people with special needs. However, looking into who really visit there and how to get there, this issue seems more complicated. The contrast feelings of the personal experience above reflect that it is less accessible for some people out of the neighborhood. Though the minorities are visible, the White dominates that zoo. This composition may contribute to one's feeling of comfortableness about one place. What is more, some people living in certain neighborhoods may concern the safety on the way back after visiting. Feeling is rarely objective and may be different, but it does imply the complexity to measure how "public" is the space. There is no doubt that Lincoln Park Zoo is public within its neighborhood. However, it is hardly public at larger scale since only selected population go there and accessibility is unequal among the whole Chicago. Of course it makes no sense to extend the scale further, e.g. viewing from the USA. After all, it is an interesting question that at what scale a place is considered as public

1. 60mins. Bus No.6, S Hyde Park & 55th Street – Michigan & Randolph; Brown Line, Kimball – Fullerton; Walk for 10 minutes. (Recommend)
2. 60mins. Bus No.55, 55th Street & Ellis – Garfield Red Line Station; Red Line, Garfield – Fullerton; Walk for 10 minutes.
3. 25mins. Uber/Lyft.

Manyi Wang

China

Harris School of Public Policy Studies

To Embrace a Deep Dish Feast on Chicago's Windy Streets



Photo by Manyi Wang

Background:

Imagine slicing into a deep dish pizza. Your knife sinks through layers of meat and vegetables, thin tomato sauce, dense mozzarella cheese and finally, a resistant cracker-like crust. The oozing cheese, crushed tomato and crumbled sausage are perfect for warming your insides on a Chicago winter day.

Chicago's windy streets are dotted with deep-dish pizza spots, such as Pizzeria Uno, Lou Malnati's, Pizano's and Giordano's. Each is unique. Pizzeria Uno was the first one to serve such Chicago-style pizza, Lou Malnati's and Pizano's seem to enjoy the most reviews, and Giordano's is famous for its stuffed deep dish pizza. By the time I entered Giordano's near Millennium Park,

my eyeballs were entirely caught by the pictures of local basketball legend Michael Jordan and Chicago landmark buildings on the wall. As the waitress delivered the pizza, hot and dense, my amazing eating voyage began. Accompanied by local beers and lemonades, that meal made my day, and piqued my curiosity about how this Italian born but Chicago raised pizza came into being.

Broader Issue:

Similar to New York's hand-tossed pizza and San Francisco's wood-fired one, Chicago-style deep dish pizza sets its root in Naples but has developed some local characteristics, such as cake-like pans, par baking processes, pie-like crust, inverted layers of ingredients, and a unique knife-and-forkful eating style.

The story of this Chicago icon can be traced to the late 1800s and early 1900s, when Neapolitan immigrants first arrived in the US. Before long, Chicago was home to a thriving community of first and second generation descendants, hungry for the thin pizzas that represented their culinary culture. Eventually, Ike Sewell and Ric Riccardo decided to create something different. The two opened Pizzeria Uno in 1943, serving an entirely new Italian-American version of pizza with a much deeper dish.

Though the development of the recipe still remains a mystery, it reflects how immigrant culture influenced Chicago's culinary style and promoted positive changes. As the Second City, Chicago is known as one of the most segregated yet diverse cities nationwide. Various ethnic neighborhoods coexist, including Chinatown on the South Side, Greektown on Halsted Street and Little Italy on Taylor Street. Streets are highlighted with numerous eateries from different nations. For example, Middle Eastern fare can be found along Lawrence Avenue, while Polish cuisine is well represented along Milwaukee Avenue on the Northwest side and Archer Avenue on the Southwest side. Argyle Street district in Uptown is the center of Vietnamese restaurants.

These exotic culinary systems not only demonstrate regional diversities, but will also encourage more Chicago-born innovations as the Deep Dish pizza, contributing to Chicago's inclusive culture.

Travel Details

Giordano's Millennium Park Location: 130 E Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601

Time: Car 20 min/ CTA 40 min/ Metro 40 min

Mingyue Wang
China
School of Social Science

Break the Rule or Become Rude



The Wiener's Circle

Source: photo taken by Mingyue Wang

Background:

Studying in the University of Chicago means a lot to me. The only thing I would like to do is to study hard during my Master's program. However, our instructor Pamela told us enjoying our lives and learning out of the class is also one of the most important things in our lives. That's why we are so lucky to have assignment exploring one of the neighborhood---Lincoln Park.

As an exploration, restaurant is indispensable for our team of three. We tried sorts of different delicious food. The difference between Chinese restaurant and American restaurant is American waiters always introduce you about the culture and special things in the restaurant if the visitor is a newbie. They are always polite and patient. After two days nonstop researching restaurants on the Internet, how could we miss the Wiener's Circle's polish sausage? Is it just polish sausage? I don't think so.

It was raining outside on that Friday. I remember there were a few customers in that restaurant. One of our teammates considered which to order for a long time. The silence was

broken up by a “f” word from the clerk. We were so surprised and stopped there just like a picture until the clerk reminded us their culture is to abuse people.

People are here for Chicago hot dogs and also for the bad words. There are plenty of people waiting in line for the hot dog and curse words also, especially on Saturday night. There are two different comments about the Wiener’s Circle. Some people feel bad about this tradition; they think it is so impolite. Others think it is a good way to break the social rules. Everyone could straight forwardly speak out what they think about.

Broader issues:

The Wiener’s Circle opened in 1983. It is famous for its hot dogs and hamburgers, especially polish sausage. It also has the tradition to abuse people. This tradition was set off by one of the proprietors who wanted to get the drunk and distracted customer attention by calling them “a**h***”. Nowadays it becomes a tradition that customers and staff use aggressive words yelling and screaming together every Saturday night.

Our teammate was very happy after getting hot dogs and being abused. My friend at Weiner’s Circle is a straight A student in the class and always introverted. That time he told me he felt relaxed and comfortable and always said something back. Deep in his heart, he is not a straight-A student. Everyone has evil inside. He just wanted to find a comfortable way to talk to others instead of always pretending to be a good student.

Who do you think is the big fan of fast food restaurants? Businessman and white-collar workers, who are too busy to cook for themselves, have to face so many people, some who are not so nice. They are always under too much pressure and need some place to release their steam. Yelling and screaming are the common circumstances on every Saturday night in the Wiener’s Circle.

A bad word is a bad word. It will hurt so many people’s heart and offend others. Some people think that. The word is terrible, your mood become terrible, the food and drink become terrible.

Everyone has their own lives; they also have different perspectives on the Wiener’s Circle. How about you?



Polish sausage

Source: photo taken by Mingyue Wang



The Wiener's Circle on Saturday night

source: screenshot from Youtube "The Wiener Circle"

Location

2622 N Clark St

Chicago, IL 60614

b/t Wrightwood Ave & Drummond Pl

Lincoln Park

Travel time from UChicago

Cars:30min/bus:172-6 80min

Qi Wang
China
School of Social Service Administration

Falling into a Japanese Wonderland



Taiko performance, photo by Geroge Nagata

Background:

When we were looking for the Midwest Temple for the Neighborhood project in the old town, I was expecting a tranquil, zen-like place with few people except for an old monk sweeping the falling leaves. However, from afar, we were struck by two big lines of visitors in front of a vermilion tori (a traditional Japanese gate commonly found as the entrance of a shrine or temple) and the sound of a joyful crowd brimming over the top of the wall. Coming closer, I was able to see the posters and banners in vibrant colors that proudly read “Ginza Festival”.

Ginza Festival, held in every August, is a Japanese culture event that showcases a variety of aspects of Japanese culture including music, fine art, martial art, artcraft and food. Inside, under strings of colorful lanterns was a Japanese Waza market that represented a group of artists skilled in traditional crafts such as earthenware, dolls and tree sculptures dating back to Japan’s Edo period. Behind the Waza were rows after rows of tables with visitors submerged in the aroma of Teriyaki Chicken. And in the cool inside of the temple, small pots of bonsai (miniature trees) and ikebana (flower arrangement) were displayed elegantly on two rows of table that creates a space of quietness and meditation in sharp contrast with the bustling noise in the outside. The performance started after lunch at 1pm on the main stage featuring Taiko, Kendo and Japanese

folk dance that attracted a sea of visitors.

Broader Issue:

While enjoying the festival events, I found watching other visitors no less interesting. It wasn't a surprise for me to see a lot of Asian faces, but there were also visitors of perhaps half Asian root and many others that looked 0% Asian. Seeing people from different ethnic background having a good time in a Japanese culture event makes me reflect on the issue of cultural identity in this country of immigrants, and the shifting metaphor to represent America, from the melting pot, to the mosaic, to today's salad bowl. The image of the melting pot is for sure uninviting, so is the idea of wiping out individual differences to assimilate into an unanimous shared cultural identity; and the image of the mosaic looks too much like a long segregated city cut into different ethnic neighborhoods. The salad bowl, however, seems like a better symbol of ideal cultural identity-- as the salad stirs, different vegetables get to mingle with each other, borrowing some of the unique flavor from one another while still free to keep their own identity. This is exactly what I experienced in the Ginza festival, the art and performance are 100% Japanese, without any attempt to adopt the American flavor to please others, but the door of this Japanese wonderland is open to all.



Location: Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W Menomonee Street

Travel Time from UChicago

By CTA: 52 min

By Bike: 52 min

By Car: 32 min

Shun Wang

China

Master of Art Program in Social Science

Boystown-Chicago's Pride Zone



Photo by Shun Wang

Background:

Boystown, located in north part of Chicago, is the first officially recognized gay village in United States. And also, it is one of the largest cultural centre for sexual minorities, which contains lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transsexuals, and queers(LGBTQ), in America. There are dozens of restaurants and clubs where LGBTQ people can hang out, and of course various kinds of night clubs and bars. Even the street lamps are decorated with the rainbow color, which is a symbol of LGBTQ pride and LGBTQ social movement. Every June, there would be a gay pride parade in this community, which stand for fighting for sexual minority's rights, and be proud of your self.

Broader Issue:

In most part of the world, the sexual minority people, the lesbians, gays, bisexuals,

transsexuals, queers(LGBTQ), would choose to hide their sexual identities to avoid being judged, discriminated, bullied or even accused of crime. Most of them are not so proud of themselves because in some points, they don't like their lives. They cannot express their love in public places, they have no rights to marry the people they love, and they get rejected just because who they are.

But here in Boystown, everything is different. People here are so proud of who they are, whether they are minority or not. They hold their lover's hands, choose the lifestyle they like, and live a happy life. Just standing there, seeing people walking around, talking and laughing, you will have the feeling that this is a place full of love. Because minority people don't fear of love or life anymore, they love them, they are proud of them.

Boystown is a perfect sign to show that Chicago is a city full of diversity, tolerance, freedom and love. In my opinion, one of the most important characters of a good society is that people can choose whatever they like as long as they do no harm to others, and people would hold a positive attitude, show respect and welcome to those who are different from them. Certainly, people in Boystown can do that



Gay Pride Parade in Boystown, 2016

Photo source: www.destination360.com

It takes 30 minutes to drive from UChicago to Boystown. If you choose public transportation, you may spend about 1 hour to get there. Since Boystown is a community where you can find many interesting places, like art theatres, restaurants, clubs and stores, going there with a friends and spending a half day would be a good choice. And if you want to get into a night club, don't forget your passport.

Yunzhi Wang
China
Harris Public Policy School

CTA Obesity Accessibility Helpful or Not



Photo by Kevin Zolkiewicz

Background:

Chicago is a place where you can find the concerns for everyone, especially for the disabled. I found it really surprising when I took the bus. At the time the bus stops, the right front side of the bus will slowly lower down itself, descending to the level of curb so that it will be more convenient for the disabled to get on the bus. And it is not because of the requirement of the disabled, but a spontaneous reaction the bus driver operates when they see the disabled. This scene left me with a deep impression. Not only because of the facility but also the people who get on the bus. They are mainly the obese who need extra assistance rather than aged or handicapped. In fact, the number of obese people I see in Chicago is much greater than what I saw in China.

Broader Issue:

From the bus disability service case, it is obvious that Chicago has a sound system to protect everyone's rights. However, concerning the obesity problems caused by lack of self-control, there is another perspective we should take into consideration. It is certain that disability service provided in this city enables obese people to go around everywhere more conveniently. At the same time these people are always incognizant of their obesity problems thanks to the convenience. These facilities should exist for the disabled, not for the obese. It is reasonable that people become overweight because of health problems, which also happens in many other countries. But the extent of the obesity among people in other countries is controllable and they have the awareness to overcome this problem.

In Chicago, the truth is it is frequent to see that the obese get on the bus by using the disability service while chewing potato chips at the same time. Overweight children at a young age with potential obesity problems are always seen eating junk food on the bus. The political correctness requires us to mind our own business and not to offend other people. And that's exactly what Chicago has done for the obese with due respect, despite no attention the obese pay to their own health. In the 2016 Olympics Games, the United States won 121 medals in total, while gold medals account for 38%. But the triumph in Olympics does not mirror the whole health conditions of American citizens, with obesity rates ranking among the highest in the world. Given the stark contrast between obesity problems in the society and amount of Olympic medals, people in the United States should be more alert to the signals sent by the body and more attentively promote healthy lifestyle. Moreover, obesity leads to avoidable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension that harm people themselves ultimately. It is difficult to tell whether it is helpful or not when bus drivers operate that lever for the obese, but people should at least save themselves from preventable harms.

Location: Chicago Buses

Patricia Wee
Singapore
School of Social Service Administration

The Hull-House & Jane Addams:

A Reminder for Gratitude



From left to right: The Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, Plaques outside the Hull-House (Source: Patricia Wee), Portrait of Jane Addams (Source: media.pfeiffer.edu).

Background:

As a social worker, the Hull-House holds special significance to my profession as it was from here that Jane Addams developed professional social work education to the world. Among its accolades, it was at the Hull-House that Addams and her associates recognized the rights for everyone to enjoy recreational activities regardless of their ethnicities, nationalities and backgrounds. From the women's vision, the Hull-House built Chicago's first public playground, bathhouse and public gymnasium for the public to enjoy.

The Jane Addams Hull-House Museum is embedded in the neighborhood of Little Italy beside the University of Illinois. The Hull-House was set up by Addams and her friend Ellen Gates Starr in 1889 and was named after its owner, Charles Jared Hull (1820-1889) who was Chicago's real estate magnate then. It was Chicago's first settlement which offered schooling, medical care, legal aid, childcare, music, art and drama to the underprivileged. The Hull-House and Jane Addams have been associated with many firsts for Chicago and America, from its public playground to the first Juvenile Court for the young offenders in the city. In recognition of her

work, Addams also became the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

As I walked into the Hull-House, the experience was humbling. I have long heard the legacy of the Hull-House and it was surreal to set foot in the same hall and dining room that great people gathered and many ideas brewed. The museum retained the study and bedroom of Jane Addams and when I looked out of the windows, it was almost like a peek into the past. It felt as if you can see and hear the activities in the yesteryears. As they were thoughtful in the preservation of the building, the exhibits were also carefully curated and provided glimpses into the thoughts of the Hull-House residents.

Over the years, Addams went on to acquire 13 buildings surrounding the Hull-House to include more services for its residents. However only the original Hull mansion remains today, as a museum to commemorate its history.

Addams is remembered as a pioneer in the field of social work, and one of the leading pacifist in her time. And the Hull-House stands proof of Addams and her associates' contributions to America and the world.

Broader Issue:

The Hull-House stands as a light house in the field of social work and for the proponents of social reform. In their time at the Hull-House, Addams and her associates were trailblazers for many ideas and facilities which we have taken for granted in today's world – the playground, childcare centres, 8-hour work days, sanitation and more. They advocated for Chicago's poor and immigrant residents to enjoy facilities without prejudice. And Addams was also the among the first women to fight for women's rights to vote in America.

Today's Hull-House stands in the shadow of its heydays in the 1900s. It became easy for people to forget the difficulties and poor conditions that many Americans experienced 100 years ago. It appeared to be that yesterday's privileges became today's entitlements. And we came to practice complacency in place of gratitude.

Many lament that today's world has become a more complicated place. Many have also chosen to prioritize their own needs so as to protect themselves from the harshness and distractions from the outside world. There is no easy solution. In this aspect, the Hull-House and its past residents served as reminders for us to practice gratitude, to take care of our neighbors and community, and to assume responsible interest in the world's events.

Jane Addams Hull-House Museum
 800 S. Halsted
 Chicago, IL 60607-7017
 Time for stay: 1 hour

Travel Times from UChicago
 CTA: 58 minutes
 Bike: 49 minutes
 Car: 18 minutes

Jieqiong Wei
 China
 Harris school of public policy

Shooting Trouble Instead of Guns



The pole near campus *Photo by Jieqiong Wei*

Background:

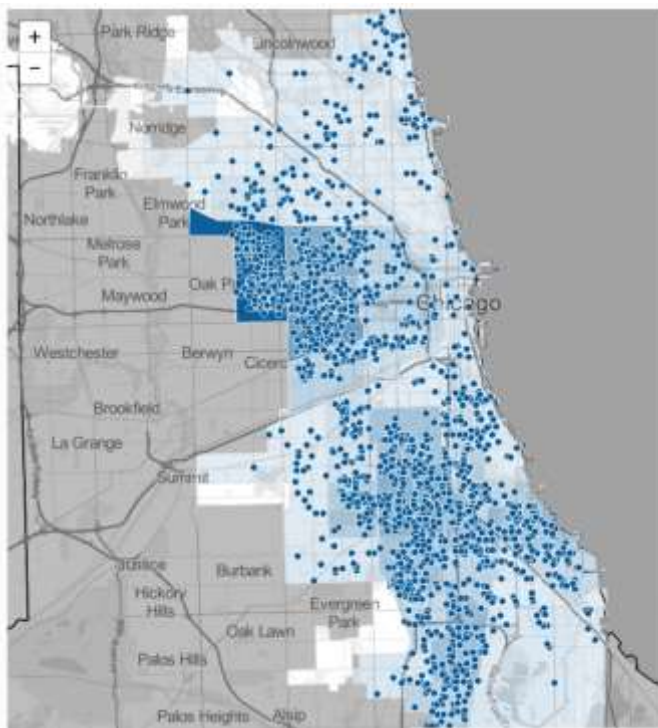
This is the third time I was wakened by the sound of receiving an email alert. I picked up the phone and read that another gun shooting just happened last night. Later I headed to the campus, thinking about the safety problem around us. I have heard a lot about safety problems in Chicago long before I got here. After my arrival, I was terrified to find most concerns true. People here always warn me not to go for a walk or a jog alone, nor to step into dangerous areas at night. Despite all this, the campus is still relatively safe. Having these thoughts in my mind, I lifted my head and saw the pole standing in front of me. This is an emergency pole with an alarm apparatus in it. It is close to Regenstein Library, at the nearest corner of campus. After 4 in the afternoon, there will be a campus policeman patrolling this area, which helps lower the crime rate in the areas on and around campus. As a matter of fact, however, the crime rate in the south side of Chicago is pretty high. Thus I decided to explore the reason why so many crimes, especially gun shootings, happened in Chicago but far fewer on campus.

Broader Issue:

First of all, the entrenched corruption in city and state government has led to an inability to provide effective policing. Hence, the University of Chicago has to hire campus guards to protect its students from being hurt on or around campus. However, corruption is not the underlying cause of this terrible epidemic where a city of 2.7 million people has over ten shootings per day.

There are some reasons for the awful violence in Chicago, but any list is incomplete. A vicious cycle cannot be ignored or easily stopped. Chicago is one of the most segregated cities in the country. Segregation exacerbates this problem. So does a violent culture. A relatively small population of the city, low income African Americans are killing one another at these incredible rates. Segregation of African Americans to poor neighborhoods with failing, underfunded public schools resulted in unevenly distributed educational resources. There are insufficient job opportunities for minority youth. Besides, lack of education weakens the competitiveness in the job market. And that may also lead to a lack of sense of community or personal responsibility. Few people want to hire the unqualified, and few people want to live with those who shoot each other so frequently. So, nothing improves ever.

I hope that all of us will not be awakened by email alerts again.



Where shootings occur in Chicago since Jan.1 2016 *date from Chicagotribune*

Location: the pole near campus

Travel details: 10 seconds from Uchicago on foot

Bo Wu
China
Harris School of Public Policy

Palace of Basketball



Photo Source: <http://www.unitedcenter.com/venue/introduction-history/>

Background:

In my view, Chicago bulls is definitely one of the most successful NBA teams not only in US but also around the world. Michael Jordan's legend planted the first basketball seed in China soil and became our initial memory of NBA. Actually I firstly heard the name of "Chicago" through Bulls and this is one of the reason I choose this city for my graduate study.

Air Jordan is undoubtedly great, and sometimes he becomes the synonym of Bulls or even NBA. However, one single superstar cannot always lead to win. Many years after Jordan's retirement, Chicago Bulls's influence is still strong. Successors like Drick Rose and Jimmy Butler still led and is leading Bulls as one of powerful competitors for O'Brien Cup. Numerous fans just like me are still crazy for Bulls. You can still see many Chinese young man play in courts alongside road, wearing Bulls uniform.

Chicago Bulls also has a strong influence for NBA players. In 2007, Kobe Byrant, the former Lakers player, almost wore Bulls uniform. This year, Dwyane Wade, a kid born and raised in south side of Chicago, has decided to play for his hometown team. Wade, Rando and Butler,

the new BIG THREE of bulls, will rewrite the legend of windy city.

Broader Issue:

Chicago Bulls's influence goes beyond basketball. In 1987, Bulls established a non-profit organization called CharitaBulls to help children in need. This organization provides both educational and recreational support for local youth, keeping them away from gangs, drugs and crimes. For example, ChiaritaBulls works closely with the U.S. Department of Education in some physical education programs in Chicago public schools. Also, Bulls players actively devote themselves in community events that inspire countless children. Starting with basketball and going beyond it, maybe this is another reason why we love Bulls so deeply.



Photo Source: Gatty Image, <http://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/derrick-rose-of-the-chicago-bulls-exercises-with-a-student-news-photo/97413466#derrick-rose-of-the-chicago-bulls-exercises-with-a-student-during-the-picture-id97413466>

Travel Times from UChicago

By car: 27 minutes

By CTA: 57 minutes

By bike: 1 hour 3 minutes

Longcan Wu
P.R.China
Division of the Humanities

Private Share or Group Talk



AEPP Friday lunch time, cellar of Stuart building, August 18th 2016, By Longcan Wu

Background:

There have been three Friday lunches on campus at the University of Chicago since the beginning of AEPP 2016 program. The different communication model between Chinese and American surprise me. Students were told to have a pitch and communicate something you encounter one by one, but finally Chinese students communicated in a group after a while. Meanwhile, the America teachers still talked one by one in all lunch time. When I went to Promontory Point in a sunny Saturday afternoon, there were many parties and almost every group was comprised of segregated units in which two persons talked with each other. One month ago, ten scholars took part in dinner after a conference at the University of Chicago, but they still talked one by one too. The American communication model may be difficult to accept by a new coming Chinese.

Broader Issue:

Several reasons may explain the different communication models between Chinese and American, which can be distinguished as group talk and private share. The idea of relation between others and me partly explains this difference. American mostly believe in individualism that one does something in his own way without being influenced by other people. Sharing one by one can help them talk with another one by the way he likes and ignore other's existence. Chinese generally takes the idea of collectivism that everyone in the group cares about others in the group around him/her. They will share everything in a party, lunch or dinner by group talk all the time. If someone only talks with another one in low tone, he/she would be regarded as having no respect for others, which will hurt other's feelings.

Privacy idea may be another reason of the difference. Privacy in America includes much more information such as wage, age, health, marriage etc., but in China those topics are shared naturally in a group. The private model share can protect privacy of Americans because one can decide whether to tell others some private information according to his evaluation about who deserves to know his private information, which extent tell and avoid letting out his privacy to a third person. By contrast, privacy scope is very narrow but gossip is terrible thing in China. Not everyone cares to share his private information with a group, but If someone talks to one other person in private, others would think these two were creating rumor about others.

Besides, the idea of efficiency leads to different communication models. Private share can recognize strangers quickly and communicate thoughts deeply. But this may be only American idea of efficiency. Chinese is always shy and implicit. If they take the model of private share, the party or dinner may be silent and cannot be continue. The group talk model just can conquer the weakness and let Chinese know each other quickly and talk out their ideas as brain storming.

Honestly speaking, both of the two communication models have their advantage and disadvantage. Different culture and ideas lead to different communication models. With globalization times coming, they will know each other better and accept two models little by little. If we appropriately use the two communication models together in suitable occasion, the two models can complement one another perfectly.

Siyu Wu
China
Harris School of Public Policy

Open House Chicago: Annual Architecture Festival



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/chiarchitecture/photos/pb.121617774556892.-2207520000.1471650573./1238278279557497/?type=3&theater>

Background:

I enjoy photography, especially for taking photos of unique architecture. Chicago is famous for its architecture, such as the Marina City and the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, which I have seen from pictures hundreds of times. When I searched information about architecture in Chicago, I found that there was an architecture festival, Open House Chicago (OHC), held in October every year.

I am really interested in this festival. When I was applying for my Master's program at UChicago last year, I was required to write a short essay about what I would plan to do in my spare time during the program. I still remember what I wrote in that essay. I planed to join the Open House

Chicago, take photos of historical buildings, and explore the beauty of the city. Now what I have written truly comes to life, and I want to share this unique activity with everybody here.

- About Open House Chicago

Open House Chicago, found in 2006, is the city's annual architecture festival, which is sponsored by Chicago Architecture Foundation. It provides people opportunities to explore Chicago's most iconic and unique architecture, which are rarely open to the public. From mansions to sacred spaces, theaters to private clubs, hotels to secret rooms---each year, about 200 different architectures give people the behind-the-scenes look at many of the city's great places and spaces for free.

Although the list of participating locations for Open House Chicago 2016 has not come out yet (it would be announced in the early September), we can still have a look at this festival from the last year's list: The Lake Point Tower, which is a clover-shaped, black residential high-rise overlook the lakefront by Navy Pier, The Kemper Building, which is a soaring Loop skyscraper with insane, wraparound views of downtown, and The Tribune Building, which is an historical landmark of Chicago, etc. Different sites would give people different senses of this great city.

- The spirit of Open House Chicago

I lived in Beijing for 10 years. Beijing is also famous for its architecture, which combines modern skylines with Chinese traditional construction. However, I have few chances to visit those appealing buildings, for most of them are private buildings or taking photos is not allowed. Only professional photographers have the access to them, and amateurs like me are always struggling with that kind of situation. In Chicago, the Open House Chicago gives me chance to take a look at the inside of the building and record the interior designs and beautiful scenes by my camera.

Also, lots of the buildings are worth seeing, not only for offering spectacular views of Chicago from high floors, but also it is the history and stories behind them that make them special. As for an international student, here is also a chance to venture into different neighborhoods, learn the stories of Chicago's buildings and experience the diversity and culture of each community.

Public engagement with architecture is one of the important civic issues, which is the spirit of Open House Chicago. It is not a professional activity for photographers to discuss and share their experiences and techniques together; instead, it is an architectural education event for the public. It breaks the barriers between the architecture profession and citizens, and invites everyone to explore and understand the value of well-designed architecture. Open House program started in 1992 in London, and now this program has spread internationally, with over 30 cities organizing the annual event in the same model. I am glad that I have the chance to join it in Chicago, and I hope I could also join it in Beijing in the near future.



Pictures from Open House Chicago 2015 source: <http://openhousechicago.org>

Time: Oct. 15th-16th in this year

Jiaze Xie
China
Chemistry

City in a Garden—Lincoln Park



Lincoln Park Map Picture resource: http://lucidrealty.com/lincoln_park.php

Background:

I visited Lincoln Park Neighborhood on Sep 3rd for the neighborhood project assigned by my instructor, Pamela. We were required to investigate it and interview at least 5 local residents there. This trip impressed me a lot and I'd like to share my experience with you, which I hope could guide your own journey.

Broader Issue:

If someone visits Chicago for the first time, I would like to recommend Lincoln Park as one must-see attraction. Lincoln Park wins not only because of good views and nature, but also owing to its young and energetic neighborhood. Actually, the whole Lincoln Park and its neighborhood can be divided into two functional zones—the western shore entertainment district and the

eastern residential part. Both functional zones contributes to the colorful life of local residents.

Let's begin with the introduction of shore entertainment district. Along the lake shore, the first sign is North Avenue Beach, which is located on the west and south of Lincoln Park. The beach is the longest one that I have seen in Chicago and there are a number of playgrounds. Residents are likely to exercise physically here on weekends—running, playing volleyball and even having Yoga classes on the beach. Trust me—running with blue lake and bright sun, people have no reason not to be good mood. Cross the North Lake Shore Dr, and that would be Lincoln Park. It is the largest park in Chicago and also one multifunctional grounds, consisting of zoo, conservatory, Lily Pool, Peggy Notebaert National Museum and even Chicago History Museum. There is no doubt that Lincoln Park Zoo is a very popular attraction. Since the zoo was opened in 1874, ten thousands of visitors come here. The most welcomed visitors must be children. A wide variety of wildlife animals are from around the world and you can easily see the king—lions in the central hall, not mention other star animals like sea walrus, wolves, giraffe and so on.

The most important thing I want to mention is the zoo is free all the day. Besides animals' homeland, Green City Market will be held every Wednesday and Saturday during May to October in the southern part of Lincoln Park, nearby the cultural center. Fresh and homemade vegetables and fruits are sold here at low prices. The best sale agriculture produce is maize (or corn). Apart from these places I visited and introduced above, you are able to find a lot of fun places here. As you can see, Lincoln Park serving as a public park provides citizens best entertainment experience and it deserves the call—city in a garden.

The Park zone and neighborhood are divided by Clark Street and Lincoln Park West Street. Around Clark Street, it's easy to approach a plethora of museums and top theaters. Numbers of live music clubs are along the Lincoln Avenue). In the neighborhood, you could find famous stores and restaurants in this area easily, such as Sister Arts Studio, Germini Restaurant, and Lori's Shoes. What's more, small parks will appear in corners of each road cross. The most well-known park in this neighborhood must be Oz Park. Natives like to take children over here for children could have fun with slides and family have a picnic in grass grounds. Another significant feature of this neighborhood is possessing countless schools and lunches. It is due to more school here that the neighborhood primarily made up of young urban professionals, recent college graduates, and young families. And therefore, this neighborhood is very young and full of vigor.

However, it's also for the reason of high-density school and parks that the housing price is the highest one in the Chicago, even in United States. "Lincoln Park is one of the wealthiest and most expensive communities in which to live. While the average single-family house is priced around 1 million dollars, many homes in the area sell for more than 10 million dollars. Forbes magazine named the area between Armitage Avenue, Willow Street, Burling Street, and

Orchard Street as the most expensive block in Chicago.”(Wikipedia)

At the end, I have to mention the history of Lincoln Park. Before today’s Lincoln Park became a well-known township, it was a city cemetery until 1860. In this view, Lincoln Park is somewhere closest to the heaven.



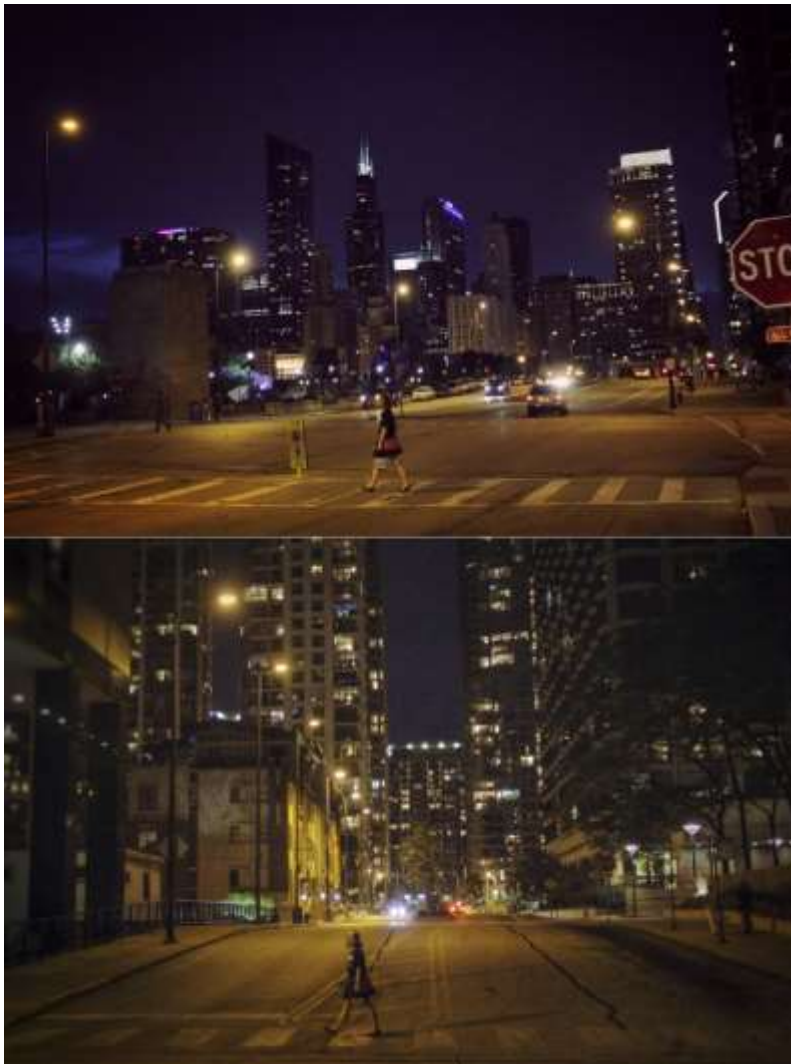
Lincoln Park Sign

I took the photo on Sep. 3rd in Lincoln Park

It takes us about 30 mins from UChicago to Lincoln Park by Uber.

Weijie Xin
China
Harris School

Enjoy Chicago's Skyline



Source: Photo by author

Background:

In a second, I fell in love with the city, Chicago, when I visited it one and a half years ago. Cloud Gate, Michigan Lake and the skyline, especially the night view of it are the most three attractive things to me of Chicago. When I applied for master's, Chicago is the No.1 city choice in my mind, a city with fantastic views, convenient transportation and prestigious schools, then followed by Seattle, my second favorite city.

I like architecture. I not only enjoy the design of every single master piece, but also enjoy the overwhelming whole picture of them, which is the skyline. In Chicago, the skyline of the city can be enjoyed anywhere. I can just stand by the Michigan Lake to view the skyline across the river when exercising in the morning, or I can go to the Signature Lounge at the 96th floor of John Hancock Center, hanging out with friends and drinking champagne under the magnificent night sight of the Chicago's skyline. I have seen the skyline of New York, Chicago, Las Vegas, Seattle, Tokyo, Shanghai, Hongkong, etc. The skyline of Chicago is the most impressive one, and also my favorite one. Every time I appreciate it, I gasp at the great achievements of human beings.

Broader Issue:

The skyline of Chicago is famous around the world. It is one of the world's tallest and the most magnificent one. The appearance of the landscape maintains historical reasons. Because of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, the downtown area literally became a plain white paper with ample space, an ideal place for ambitious architects to design in the late 19th century. In the mid-nineteenth, the residential population boomed in Chicago, along with prosperous commercial activities. Because of the raising prices of real estate, the limited cost of construction materials, and the high demanding of the large population, pioneer architects started to consider steel-framed high-rise buildings. These were the first modern skyscrapers.

In 1885, William LeBaron Jenney built the first steel-framed high-rise building, the 10-storey Home Insurance Building. After that, Chicago ushered in the skyscraper era. There were three booms following up, which contributed to the present skyline. The architecture of Chicago has influenced and reflected the history of American architecture. The architecture of Chicago has a typically style, which is known as the Chicago School, or the Commercial Style. It is the originality rather than the antiquity that makes the Chicago buildings noted around the world. The concept of skyscraper was originated from Chicago, and the skyscraper represented a new form of architecture, which emphasized the vertical nature of the buildings. The skyline of Chicago is a must-see view, and the deeper you understand the history and the story behind the skyline, the more you are amazed by the majestic view.



Source: Photo by author

Yosuke Yamashita
Japan
Harris School of Public Policy

A Different World 32-miles Away



Photo by Yosuke Yamashita

Background:

Before leaving Japan, I heard many times that Chicago, especially the south part of the city where the University of Chicago is located, is one of the most dangerous areas in the United States. Due to the bias, I couldn't be relaxed and avoided going out at night for a few days after arriving to this Windy City. In fact, it is true that the environment and ethnicity, which are dramatically different from my country, made me somewhat embarrassed.

Accustomed to my new life, I was asked by a friend of mine, who has worked for a year for an overseas branch of a Japanese company, which is located in Chicago to go to "Ravinia." Ravinia Festival, which he calls "Ravinia," is a festival held every July at Ravinia, which is a Northern suburb of Chicago and 32-miles away from Hyde Park. Every day during the festival, various famous musicians come to Ravinia and people can enjoy music in the open air.

At the day, my friend brought me to Ravinia by car with his wife. On the way to Ravinia, I enjoyed scenes from car, which changed as we headed north. Close to Ravinia, we couldn't see any apartments or cluttered shops but only big houses with beautiful yards. The atmosphere of the festival was really great. People brought their own chairs and tables and enjoyed foods and some wines with their family and friends on the grass, listening to the orchestra's performance. I knew what rich American life was. My friends and I also enjoyed Chicago Symphony Orchestra until 10 p.m. (Surprisingly, the fee was only 25\$!) I wish that there

were the same festival in Japan in which people could enjoy their time with relaxation.

However, the emotion I had at first when I arrived at Ravinia was nothing more than surprise. As I described the roadside to Ravinia above, what I saw was clearly different from the south. I couldn't see any African Americans there (they might be there, though), while people I saw in the South Side of Chicago are almost all African American. People in Ravinia enjoyed their time until late in the evening without any fear while I have to be concerned about my safety even in the afternoon in the South Side. It is a totally different world.

Broader Issues:

According to a census in 2010, 45% of the population in Chicago is White, 32.9% is Black or African American, 5.5% is Asian and 28.9% is Hispanic and Latino. In Highland Park where Ravinia is located, 91% of the population is White and only 1.8% is Black or African American in 2010. Though Highland Park is a different city from Chicago, the segregation is obvious within Chicago.

The segregation has caused various social problems, such as economic and educational gaps. For example, a school in the south of Chicago where the student body was 99.5 percent black and 95 percent low-income, 40 percent of the students "were meeting or exceeding standards on the ISAT, compared with 64 percent citywide and 79 percent statewide." (Steve Bogira, 2014).

It is typical of America for me that the difference and gap are very clear and obvious since my country is almost homogeneous and we, especially I, rarely are conscious about social class and ethnicity. In my opinion, this clarity has both advantages and disadvantages. The former is that we can recognize the problems and, therefore, it is relatively easy to tackle the issue. The latter is, though it is paradoxical, that we are likely to regard the problems as one that is unrelated to us since the situation of the opposite side is too far from us.

However, I think that the merit has surpassed the negative aspects in the United States. As history shows us, people who have strength will try to improve the situation and, though it is definitely not enough, make it better. The first step is recognizing matters correctly, which leads us to the right way. As an official, I want to cultivate my virtue, to develop an ability to face up to the reality and learn more professional skills in this diverse city.

Travel Time from UChicago

By Car: about 1 hour

By CTA&METRA: about 1 hour and 30 minutes

By Bike: about 2 hours and 45 minutes (I do not recommend)

Masayuki Yanagi
Japan
Harris school

Trouble Shooting – Clogged Toilet and Divvy –



Fig1: fixing a clogged toilet with rubber plunger retrieved from <http://www.familyhandyman.com/plumbing/toilet-repair/how-to-fix-a-clogged-toilet/view-all>



Fig2: divvy bikes

retrieved from
<http://www.loopnorth.com/news/divvy1031.htm>

Background:

Cultures are different from each other. They differ country by country as well as among more micro scales, even among families. Needless to say, the cultures between Chicago that is one of the biggest city of the U.S and Tokushima that is one of rural area of Japan differ far from each other. Some of the differences are beneficial for me, but others get me in trouble. To help you avoid similar troubles, I would like to tell you some of my troubles from my first month in Chicago.

The first one is clogged toilet. If you don't know this word, I think you'd better google it immediately. Once your toilet is clogged due to flushing too much toilet paper at once, you'd better run and buy a plunger at pharmacy like CVS and Walgreen, or request your apartment's office to fix it. It is risky to hope your apartment service will come to you soon because apartment offices also often get clogged with a lot of complains from their residents like you. It is difficult to fix a clogged toilet actually, so I think we should make it rarely happen. I recommend that flushing a toilet time after time before the basin is full of paper.

The another one is Divvy trouble. Although it is very convenient if you use it wisely, you may feel some difficulty using it. I am one those who was annoyed from Divvy at first. The second

day of my Chicago living, I used Divvy because I thought it seemed cool and allowed us to travel around our neighborhood easily. After a few times riding, I realized the bike had not been returned correctly because I could not use another Divvy. I tried to solve this, but I couldn't. I got very nervous because I would have to pay over \$1,000 if the bike wouldn't return correctly within 24 hours after my last use as the Divvy officials would assume I stole or lost the bike. To make things worse, I didn't have enough knowledges and devices to handle this situation at that time; I didn't have even a phone. Thanks to my friend; however, I solved the problem by visiting police office and calling Divvy office many times and using my friend's phone.

Broader Issue:

From these two troubles, you can get some tips.

First of all, read the instructions in detail before using something you haven't been familiar with. Generally speaking, most of the trouble in foreign countries come from misunderstandings. Secondly, relying on someone is one of solutions. As I get older, it's more difficult to make friends and trust new people. However, as a new international student, we will run into a lot of unique situations and we will need friends and support. Especially at first, almost everybody would have some troubles. Sharing troubles will be a good solution for you as well as your friends. Finally, your smartphone will be very helpful. In some situations, Google is wiser than your friends. In addition, you can use it in your native language for those times when you don't know how to say, "My toilet is clogged. Where can I buy a plunger?" Google translate is available 24/7.



Fig3: divvy key lamps, you must check lighting the green after returning, retrieved from <http://logansquarist.com/2013/07/15/divvy-bikes-logan-square/>

Location and Travel Times from UChicago: It depends on your location

Anqi Yang
China
MAPSS

Chicago Lakefront Trail



Photo by Anqi Yang

Background:

Sunrise at lake shore, divine and serene. The sunrise is a little bit different everyday. Sometimes the sky is heavy with clouds, sometimes not. When it is really windy, waves may come over to the shore, while the lake is perfectly calm and peaceful at other times. When it's around the 15th. every lunar month, moonrise can be observed over the lake, too. With the city skyline far away in the west, planes soaring slowing over our heads and stars twinkling at the velvet sky, you will think this is a fantastic dreamland.

Broader Issue:

The City of Chicago spreads itself along the Michigan Lake. People can enjoy the lake shore view nearly everywhere in Chicago. The Chicago Lakefront Trail is a 18.5 mile long route by the Lake Shore Drive and it really is a treat for people who love nature. Jogging, strolling, bicycling, photographing, meditating, sitting down to enjoy the view or doing whatever you want, you can never be at fault. There are also places along the coast where there are beaches. At certain points where it is permitted to swim in the lake, you can definitely enjoy the water in the Michigan Lake, too.



Photo by Anqi Yang

Chicago's Lakefront Trail extends from Ardmore Street (5800 N. Sheridan Road) on the North Side to 71st Street (7100 S. South Shore Drive) on the South Side. So it is really up to you which points would you like to visit. Famous spots along the trail include Shedd Aquarium, Millennium Park, a bunch of museums, the Promontory Point etc. Also for those who live in the Regents Park, a 5-min walk will take you to the Lakefront Trail.

Di Yang
China
Harris School of Public Policy

The Chicago (2002): A Glance at the Press in Chicago



(Photo from the Internet. Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_\(2002_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_(2002_film)))

Background:

A few years ago, my friend gave me a CD of the musical Chicago (2002) as a birthday gift. I was so fascinated with its dazzling songs and dances that I repeated watching it several times. This movie is a reinvention of the stage production of the same name, a reputable and popular one on Broadway, and stars Renée Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Richard Gere. It told a story about celebrity scandal in Chicago in 1920s. Two murderesses, fame-hungry Roxie Hart and celebrity Velma Kelly, went into Cook County Jail and waited for trial. Velma was once Roxie's idol but somehow aloof to her. In prison, Mrs. Morton, the warden, gave Roxie the opportunity to be represented by a Chicago lawyer, Billy Flynn. Billy could manipulate the media, brought fame to his client and made the public believe she was innocent. Thanks to him, Roxie was acquitted. At the very last, Roxie and Velma, two unsuccessful performers met again and decided to perform together. The movie ended with their spectacular performance in front of an enthusiastic audience.

The movie has several pieces of songs and dances that are rather classic and popular. In the episode “Cell Block Tango”, which is the most depressing one in the whole movie, six prisoners told their stories about murdering their lovers one by one and chorused the line “He had it coming. He only had himself to blame” at last. Through their narrations, the audience could learn that they were betrayed by their lovers in various ways. Unlike the musical version, the movie presents the scene with portable iron gates and uses red ribbons to represent blood and death, which is more powerful to express the characters’ anger and despair. Generally speaking, the movie Chicago is really a one that you can’t miss!

Broader Issue:

In the movie, the media, manipulated by Billy, made the public believe that the murderer Roxie was innocent. This made me think about the role of media in our society and intrigue my interest in exploring the newspapers in Chicago.

Tribune Company, the owner of Chicago Tribune and RedEye, is an influential and dominant press company in Chicago area. Founded in 1846, Chicago Tribune has been one of the leading newspapers in the US, representing the voice from the Midwest. It has been politically liberal throughout much of the 19th century, but become increasingly conservative under the leadership of Robert R. McCormick, who was known for his nationalist-isolationist views, before mid 20th century. Later, the paper became more diverse in perspectives and covered a great variety of topics, including commerce, industry, agriculture, government and social life. In 2002, the Tribune added a free tabloid edition, RedEye, to attract more young readers. Chicago Sun-Times is another popular newspaper in Chicago region, shared the same owner Sun-Times Media Group with the Reader. Began published in 1844, it is the oldest continuously published



(Photo by author)

daily newspaper in Chicago. Apart from these two major press companies, Paddock Publications, Inc. is an independent and local publishing company, running the Daily Herald, the third largest newspaper in Chicago. Holding the slogan “suburban Chicago’s information source”, the Daily Herald has its own influence in northern, northwestern and western part of Chicago. Any time you want!

Han Yang

China

Department of Chemistry

Chicago Chinatown: Past and Future



Photo by Han Yang

Background:

It has been such a long time since the first Chinese arrived in Chicago in 1869, who escaped from anti-Chinese violence in west coast of United States. After 150-year development, today's Chinatown has become one of the most important communities in Chicago. Chinatown is now a place to promote Chinese culture to the world. Each time you go to Chinatown, you will definitely see this gate, which writes 天下为公(Tianxia Weigong) in traditional Chinese.

These characters are from an ancient Chinese book which was written more than two thousand years ago. Tianxia Weigong is actually an ideal state dreamt by ancient Chinese that the world is governed by the people. On the other side, another phrase goes 礼义廉耻 (Li Yi Lian Chi). 礼 (Courtesy), 义(Righteousness), 廉(Integrity), 耻(Sense of shame) are believed to be the four bases of a country, without which the country is doomed to failure. This was also developed by ancient Chinese and it is still believed today.



Photo by Han Yang

These characters really tell you Chinese philosophy and the characteristics of Chinese. In ancient times, Chinese value ethics more than laws, because laws punish people after they made mistakes while ethics prevent them from doing bad from the very beginning.

Moreover, I want to talk more about my reflection. Firstly, Chinatown was formed, as I mentioned at the beginning, as a consequence of anti-Chinese violence. Never forget that in U.S., who claims to be a country of equality and freedom, a group of people once was treated with inequality. Never forget that throughout the history of U.S., there was only one act that was enacted to exclude a specific group of people. Today, Chinese American are not as many as African American or Latino American so Chinese American are still suffering from inequality, i.e., in education. It is true that Exclusion Chinese Act has been abolished today, but many Chinese have still been treated with inequality. We still have a long way to go.

Secondly, there is one thing special in U.S. that people tend to form distinct communities, such as Chinatown, African American community, White American community, poor community and rich community. This is strange to me, because in my country, we do form different communities but they are not so distinct. U.S. is a country consisting of many kinds of people. A better way is to form mixing community or I believe problems will definitely arise from this situation.

Junwen Yang
China
Computer Science

Fantastic Food Trucks at UChicago



Photo by Beavers Donuts on Twitter

Photo by Bob Cha Food truck on Twitter

Background:

There are plenty of food trucks nesting around UChicago, particularly on Ellis and University Ave between 57th and 58th streets. They provide different kinds of food including Korean rice bowl, Mexican taco, curry steak frites, and smoothies etc. Without taxes, without tips, I can enjoy a wonderful lunch by only paying \$10, which is really a good choice for a hungry student. And with one more dollar, I can drink a cold coke or sprite, which makes me cool down in the hot summer. While lining up for ordering food, I can watch diverse people passing by and encounter my new classmates by coincidence. Casual talk with different people from diverse department gives me the chance to relax after hard work. Food trucks make my lunch a fantastic journey.

Broader Issue:

Believe it or not, It's reported that there are 3 million food trucks in the whole country. America has become a Food Truck Nation. Many people on weekday have rare time to travel for food and so go through all restaurants venues near their workplaces. Food trucks offer variety and novelty with a fast service speed. And usually their food is cheaper and healthier than most other alternatives. Each truck has their own special menu which enables lunch hunters to find their favorite one. Hunting in different trucks also provides people the joy of discovery, which means that you never know when you will come across your favorite truck and it inspires the

same happiness as discovering a childhood toy in your grandma's basement. Besides, while waiting for your food in front of the truck, you can have a casual conversation with the strangers around you without worrying because you two have the same taste in choosing food truck. This gives you the sense of community.

You may think that street food is a recent phenomenon in this country. In fact, America has quite the history when it comes to mobile meal stations. Food trucks date back hundreds of years ago to the late 17th century when New Amsterdam began regulating vendors selling food from push carts. In 1866, Chuck wagon was invented to feed the cattlemen and wagon trains that were traveling to the Old West. It then took many years before the first gourmet food truck began popping up in Los Angeles after Kogi BBQ hit the street in 2008. Now, over 4700 food trucks vendors are spreading throughout the country at any given time. Websites and social network accounts direct you to where a food truck will be parked in a particular day. If you are wondering what to have for lunch, don't hesitate to join us in finding your favorite food truck.



food truck of old days, photo from millennialmagazine

Mei Yang
China
Physical Science Department

The Divvy Bike System

Background:

While walking on the streets of Chicago, you can see a bike station every two blocks. The bikes are a unique blue color which is easy to recognize. There are usually ten or more bikes in each station, but many of the docks are empty, so I think this kind of bike is very popular. Actually, all these bikes are called Divvy Bikes. They are a super convenient transportation, especially near UChicago campus. I am really impressed with the Divvy Bikes.

Besides its convenience and its fancy appearance, one of the reasons that I am interested in the Divvy Bike system is that there is a similar bike share system in my hometown in China. I am a bicycle lover, so I was also very interested in this bike system when I was at home. But unfortunately, I feel that the bike system in my hometown is far less convenient than the Divvy Bike system. There aren't enough bike stations in my home town, so it's hard to find, rent, and return the bikes. Even if I would like to ride a bike, this situation makes it difficult. In contrast, there are more than 580 Divvy Bike stations in Chicago. The density of the stations is really high, and there are more than 30 stations in Hyde Park (www.divvybikes.com). There are three stations within two minutes of my apartment. Moreover, the bikes in my hometown are old and worn, but the Divvy Bikes are new and comfortable. I think maybe it is because the Americans treat the bikes more gentle and careful than the Chinese, and perhaps the Divvy Bikes are originally better and more expensive than bikes in my hometown.

Broader Issue:

In my opinion, besides building up your strength, riding a Divvy Bike has another benefit that is to take a good trip among the city. As a new comer, everything in Chicago probably will attract your interest. If you go somewhere by bus or by subway, it is hard or even impossible for you to enjoy the beautiful scenes of the city. If you choose to go on foot, it may be too tiring or too long a trip for you. So, why not choose Divvy Bikes? While riding a bike on the streets, you will definitely enjoy what you have seen! Moreover, I think that riding a bike around will make you gradually more and more familiar with the neighborhood you live in, especially for those with a terrible sense of direction just like me. No matter by foot or in car, your movement will be

either too slow or too fast for you to observe the surroundings and make a comprehensive impression in your mind. But travelling with a bike may do so. At least for me, riding a bicycle around will be the fastest way to get familiar with a specific area.

Then how about the price? Well, there are basically three kinds of plans for you to enjoy Divvy. One is to pay \$9.95 a month for at least one year. For students, it will be \$75 per year. Another is to pay \$9.95 to get a 24-hour pass. To be honest, such price is not a cheap one, especially the 24-hour pass. Somebody might think that with the same amount of money, it is enough to buy your own bicycle. Actually, sometimes it will be hard for you to find a place to park your bike, especially when your destination is in downtown, and you will be afraid that someone might steal your bike when you are absent. If you get a Divvy Bike you will not have these problems. It is very easy to find a station. When you retrieve your bike, you will get a brand new one. But after all, if the price could be a little cheaper, definitely even more people would be attracted to use Divvy.

Yuki Yasarani

Indonesia

Harris School of Public Policy

Andy's Jazz Club: Warming up Your Heart in the Windy City of Chicago



Photo Credit : Yuki Yasarani



Photo Credit : Tito Adikusumo

Location: 11 E. Hubbard St.Chicago, IL 60611

Travel Time from UChicago: By CTA: 40 mins By Bike : 51 mins By Car: 18 mins

Background:

Soon after I settled in Chicago, one item on my bucket list in Chicago was to visit the best jazz club in town. After a little research on the web, I decided to visit Andy's Jazz Club downtown. Andy's has two performances each night, and on Friday, August 19, 2016, I was fortunate to watch Small Time Napoleon's (STN) performance. STN is a Louisville based band consists of 4 white males, defined as "a mad science blend of western swing, hot jazz and folk," by Insider Louisville. Judging from their performance that night, it is really hard to believe that they have only been established in 2013. They connect with the audience and sound like they have been playing together for years, if not decades. The place was crowded mostly with white people. Since I hadn't made any reservation, I stood near the bar waiting for an available seat in the bar. They have a wide selection of wine, beer, and tapas. I had a fulfilling french fries with truffle. If you want to have a dinner in Andy's, I would recommend making a reservation in

advance, otherwise, you may end up right up close and personal with the band, or relaxed and taking in the scene in the bar.

Broader Issue:

Cited by the media as one of the best jazz club in Chicago, Andy's Jazz Bar was founded as *Andy's 11 E Lounge* in 1951 by Andy Rizzuto, changed its ownership on April 30, 1975, and has been presenting performances seven nights a week since the 1990s. Though many claimed that jazz music originated in New Orleans, much of its history traces back to Chicago. Chicago's Afro-American culture was indispensable to the history of the jazz revolution. Between 1925 and 1928, a black Chicagoan Louis Armstrong launched historical records, labeled as "race records" for the African American market, which marked the reputation of Chicago being the nation's center of blues and jazz recording. The Great Migration of southern musicians to Chicago continued, followed by the launch of southern black musicians' records during the period of 1930 – 1960.

The growth of Chicago's nightlife particularly jazz club, led to the development of white jazz groups. While most of the earliest Chicago pioneers were Afro Americans, a white band named Stein's Dixie Jass Band performed at Schiller Café in 1916. The band subsequently evolved into Original Dixieland Jazz Band, and launched the first jazz records ever made by whites. Following that, many white jazz musicians made their debut in Chicago, such as Eddie Condon, and Chet Baker. Years later, the musicians often associate themselves with Chicago Jazz, even after they moved to another city such as New York.

Jazz created a sense of integration between whites and blacks in the music industry. Louis Armstrong whose skin color was secondary to his amazing talent, was one of the first truly popular African-American entertainers to cross over, in an America that was severely racially divided. His talent allowed him to be socially acceptable to elite American society, that was highly restricted to a person of color. He was also rarely publicly politicized of his race, often to the dismay of fellow African-Americans of the period.

With its attractiveness to whites and blacks, jazz provides a culture in which one was judged by his skills, and not by race or any other irrelevant factors. With their popularity, jazz musicians used their music as a tool to promote racial equality and social justice. Nowadays, Chicago has become a melting pot which presents a wide variety of jazz styles in clubs, concerts, and festivals, attracting a broad spectrum of tourists and jazz lovers. Many Americans still consider jazz in Chicago to be a vital expression of cultural diversity. Jazz is truly a heart-warming music, particularly amidst the chill wind of Chicago.

Wenyao Ye
China
The social science department

Discovering Michigan Avenue



Photo by Wenyao

Background:

A bling-bling world where you could find past and future of Chicago.

Broader Issue:

Chicago Water Tower, the Art Institute of Chicago, Millennium Park and the high-end shopping on the Magnificent Mile, everything to expect here, by the Chicago river, you could feel the wisdom of blending so much elements to a river, along a lake, through a city.

Someone has ever said Chicago is the clean version of NewYork, I'm not sure if it's right. But when you are walking down the street, you can feel are in the center of the world, being immersed in the smell of modern. When you look down from the top buildings, the beauty of creation is just under your feet.



Photo by Wen Yao

Heng Yi
China
Department of Chemistry

Public Transit in Chicago



A Metra train is arriving. Photo taken by author.

Background:

For a student of UChicago, there are many ways to go north to the Loop. We can choose No.6 bus, No. 28 bus, Red Line or Metra train. We can also take a Uber, though it will be a little expensive. However, I tried to go to Kenwood to buy a pillow on Aug 19th, my second day in the US, and it was an awful experience. Google Map told me to take the Metra train on 59th St., but there was something wrong with the ticket machine and it took me much time to deal with it. As a result, I missed the first train. I decided to wait for a second one. That was not a wise decision because the next train did not come for 40 minutes. What was worse was that the train did not stop at Kenwood station because no one asked for a stop! Finally, I got off at 27th St. and I had to take another out-round train to go back. I did not have enough time to buy a pillow that day.

Since then, I have experienced the inconvenience of public transit in Chicago. If I miss a bus or a train, I have to wait more than 10 minutes for another. Sometimes waiting time is longer than travel time. In big cities in China, 5 minutes are enough for another subway train. The train stations seem to be too old, even antique comparing with those in China. As shown in the photo, there is no shelter!

But things are not always terrible. As far as I've ever seen, the buses and trains are never too crowded. If you take the subway in Beijing in rush hours, you may feel like a sardine in a tin. Google Map can accurately predict the bus arrival time, which is nearly impossible in big cities in China because of common traffic jams.

Broader Issue:

However, after thinking deeply, I can find the advantages and rationality of this transit system. As the RTA map shows, Chicago has a busy and efficient transit system. This system has a long history, which must be longer than any public transit system's in China. Those simple stations have stood there for many years and still are working well. The fact indicates that this system must be perfectly built and organized from the very beginning.

I can see cars parking everywhere along the streets of Chicago. The US is a "country on wheels". Many families have more than one car and people often drive themselves. The buses are not necessarily to be more frequent. In fact that's enough for the city as they are not crowded.

The clear roads make a comfortable trip without traffic jams and save our time. It's very nice to build express ways through the whole city. They can easily lead people to where they want to go. I've never seen these kind of express ways in China. Because of the too large population, roads are always crowded in Chinese cities. This problem rarely occurs in Chicago.

Tips for new comers: check the bus schedule before you leave. Do not miss the buses.



A RTA System map. From the website <http://www.transitchicago.com>

Gizem Yilmaz

Turkey

Booth School of Business

Enjoying Lake Michigan



Photo by Gizem Yilmaz (author)

Background:

I was born and raised in Antalya, a beautiful city with a deep and endless sea. I left my hometown for my undergraduate degree. When I went home to Antalya at the end of my freshman year, I threw myself into the bright blue colors of the Mediterranean. Since that day, swimming has been the best way for me to relax and get away from my problems. The farther I swam from the shore, the more peaceful I felt. Sometimes, it is enough just to be by the sea, smell the salty air and feel the wind. Therefore, the sea has been always home for me and reminder of my city.

When I first came to Chicago in March, I knew that this windy city would be my town for the next five years. I was also aware that I would be really busy with my PhD and feel stressed. When I saw Lake Michigan, I felt that Chicago could be more than a town for me. I was not able to see the end of the lake. It was the largest lake that I had ever seen in my life. The lakeshore

was composed of sandy beaches and trails for biking and walking. If I had not known that this geographic landform was called "Lake Michigan", I would have thought that it was an ocean or a sea. I spent most of the day walking on the beach, sitting on the rocks, enjoying the view during my visit in March. I was happy that this new city would be my new home.

When I came back to Chicago again, I was looking forward to swimming in the lake as I did in my hometown every day. I went to a beach on the north side of Chicago. It was too crowded. Swimming was not allowed beyond a few feet from the shore, and I could not feel the refreshing effect of the water on my mind and my body like I felt in the sea back home. When I sat on the rocks, I could not smell the salty weather. Nonetheless, I started to see Lake Michigan as not a sea but a beautiful great lake and grew to love it as I spent more time in Chicago. I realized that there are things that I can do on the lakeshore that I cannot do in my hometown.

Broader Issue:

Chicago has 26 miles of public beaches which are great for many activities. Along the shore, many people enjoy walking, running, biking and walking their dogs. Promontory Point is a great place for relaxing, finding some peace, and watching the sunrise over the lake. People sit on benches, read their books on the lawn, and enjoy the views of Chicago and Lake Michigan. The north shore is more crowded than the south shore. The south shore is much more serene and relaxing. If you are a person who loves swimming in the deep sea, you should go to the beaches near Promontory Point, and talk to the life guards first. The lifeguard can help you find places where you are allowed to swim in the deeper waters.

Lake Michigan offers many sports activities on the beaches, especially in the north. Beach volleyball is a very popular activity among young people. Another fun activity and a great workout is stand up paddle boarding, and then visiting other beaches from the water. You can also rent a jet ski or kayak from the station on the beach. Renting a boat with your friends on the weekend also can be great way to discover Lake Michigan or just have fun. If you want to push your limits a little bit, you should try flying trapeze. You can even do some serious swimming if you stay in parallel lines with the shore in the shallow waters .

Lake Michigan may not give you the chance of feeling salty weather, and you need to follow the rules in terms of swimming as far out as you want; however, this great lake offers a vivid lakeshore, water sports, and amazing views.

Fangjie Yin
China
Department of Chemistry

Oriental Exhibition in UChicago



Left: Front gate of Oriental Institute (taken by myself)

Right: Brief history of Oriental Institute (taken by myself)

Background:

When I was working on the Hyde Park hunting assignment, I really got tired with the restaurants and the cafes in Hyde Park. In front of Chinese food culture, the food here is like the negligible star in the sky. Just on my way back, I saw the sign with 'Oriental Institute' outside a building. Since I was there, why not just pay a visit? Also, since I am a die-hard history fan, the unknown items on display inside the building really attracted me.

Oriental Institute was founded by James Henry Breasted in 1919, sponsored by John D. Rockefeller. Eleven years later, the construction of OI finally completed. Throughout the following decades, OI had become the center for the research of near east and middle east, which geologically includes Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Levant, Egypt, Nubia and Persia. Such a huge piece of land was the starting point of early human civilization, cultivating the empires like Egypt, Hittite, Assyria and Babylon.

Walking around inside the OI, you can find an amazing collection of ancient oriental civilization. From tiny golden jewels to the 40-ton human-headed winged bull, from the obscure cuneiform of the laws of Hammurabi to the sleeping mummy, from the officially used column seals to the

ancient instruments and games. You just can't image how much you can find just behind a humble wooden door.

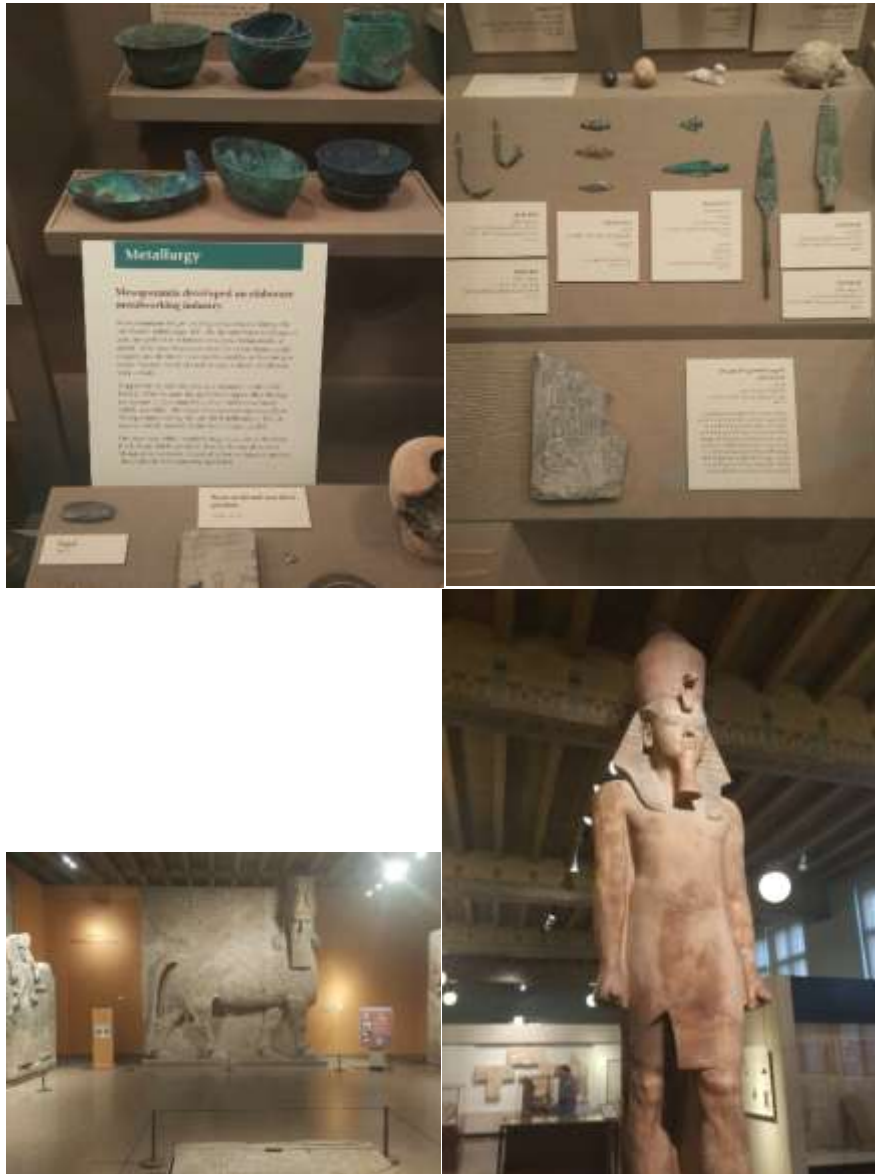
If you were a history fan like me, you would probably find the information beside the exhibits extremely awesome in helping you touch the history. For instance, in the ancient Egypt section, the exhibits in one carbinet are arranged along with the timeline from archaic period all the way to Byzantine time, with the card briefly describing the big events in each period. Upon this, we can directly compare the antiques in terms of material, art style and intricacy according to their times.

Broader Issues:

It is impossible to assemble a comparable collection of artifacts today since the governments of middle east countries no longer permit the outflow of domestic historical findings. Alough OI has done a good job in protecting theses valuable historical relics and doing research upon them, these relics were not from the digs of American land. So, should OI return its artifacts to the countries where they were from?

As I grew up, I was always told that the burning down of Yuanming Palace by British and French armies is a national shame. A huge royal collection of artworks flowed into private owners or museums after that event. Maybe the feeling of person from the Middle East seeing these exhibits is similar.

Overall, Oriental Institute is well worth a visit. The exhibition here really gave me a deep sense of history.



Upper left: metal containers

Upper right: ancient weapons

Lower left: a lamassu from the palace of Sargon II at Dur-Sharrukin

Lower right: the statue of Tutankhamun

(taken by myself)

Travel Times from UChicago

By Walk: less than 5 mins from main quadrangles

Yawen Yu
China
Humanities Division

Jaw-dropping: Murals in Chicago



Photo by Jeff Mancilla

Site: <http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/street-art-scene-artists-galleries-fans-variety/Content?oid=14273045>

Location: Pilsen neighborhood

Transportation: It's accessible by way of bus, Pink Line, Metra.

Background:

It's no secret that Chicago is mixed with a great variety of arts. Although I am enthusiastic about institution art and have paid several visits to Art Institute of Chicago, I have to admit that public art is a vital part. It is the public art that makes Chicago an attractive, unique, creative and inviting city.

Among so many neighbourhoods in Chicago, Pilsen is a recognizable one due to its wonderful array of murals and mosaics. Pilsen neighbourhood has a long and complicated history, with first Germany and Irish immigrants settling here in the 1840s. After more than 100 years, Mexican residents replaced European immigrants and became predominating. The ethnic shift

spur cultural changes, that Mexican artists came to decorate this area with murals and mosaic. And all of these Mexican art still remain vividly in every block of Pilsen. It is indeed a feast of color and imagination.

If you have enough time, the National Museum of Mexican Art is also worthy of a visit. It is one of largest Latino cultural organizations in the U.S. with thousands of permanent artworks in it. Go explore every block in Pilsen and forget your dropping jaw!

Broader Issue:

Immigration is still controversial in America. Is it a cultural invasion or enhancement? Hundreds of years ago, Americans worried that too many European immigrants, for instance German, Irish, Italian, would undermine the predominately British culture. This kind of worry has been hovering for several centuries. Perhaps Americans have not realized that more than 70 million immigrants, that is one of four Americans, have been welcomed to this land. And immigrants have been a vital part of American population.

Therefore, it is not surprising these immigrants more or less affect American culture, and to some degree is an integral part of it. And with immigrants flooding in, the core part of American culture has shifted from traditional British culture to today's "melting pot", every region of the world has an influence on American culture.

From a perspective of Chinese philosophy, American culture was born of and grew from *wu* (nothingness). The first group of settlers of this land was immigrants from Britain who escaped from their strict culture or religion, so that they lived in America without strictly persisting in their original culture was reasonable, as well as more tolerance to diverse cultures. It is such an acceptance and tolerance that "grew" American culture. What is more important is that first settlers abandoned part of their culture; and then there is a possibility that they were able to cover the gap by embracing other cultures.

Photo from Internet Site: <http://www.choosechicago.com/articles/view/pilsen-murals/472/>



Travel Time:
Regents Park –
Pilsen Neighbourhood
No.6 Bus – Pink Line
50 minutes

Hao Zeng
China
Department of Chemistry

UCPD: Be Smart or Be Right?



The headquarter of UCPD, from Google Map streetview.

Background:

Till now, over 500 people were killed in Chicago in 2016, more than the L.A. City and New York City combined. However, only one homicide occurred in the Hyde Park this year. Although higher than the last year (0 homicide), the number is still significantly lower than that of surrounding neighborhoods (chicagotribune.com). University of Chicago Police Department (UCPD), one of the largest private security forces in the U.S., clearly plays a significant role in this. Nowadays, UCPD officers patrol from 37th Street to 64th Street, and from Lake Shore Drive to Cottage Grove Avenue (uchicago.edu). Their daily engagement ensures a safe environment for everyone in this community to thrive. I had seen schools in different places use different tactics to promote the safety of campus, but this was the first time I ever saw a school having its own police department.

Broader Issue:

The UCPD was established more than 40 years ago. Although their efforts are widely recognized by members of University of Chicago, there are concerns and even protests against UCPD. One of the major issue, and probably the most sensitive one, is the accusation of racial profiling, which has also been a national debate for a while. Some African Americans reported they were

more likely to be “stopped and frisked” by UCPD offices for no reason (uchicagagate.com/). It is reasonable if we only focus on the statistics—the average crime rate of African Americans is higher than other races but obviously any problem associated with different races receiving different treatments is considered a problem beyond itself in the U.S. However, let’s think about this example. Imagine you are a salesman and you must sell 100 apples a day. Kids on average are ten times more likely to buy your apples than young people, who are ten times more likely to buy compared with middle-aged people. Assuming you can see enough people every day and the probability of seeing people from each group is the same, would you even bother to ask middle-aged people whether they want to buy your apples or not? Even though those kids may only have 1% possibility or less to buy your apples, you still will keep asking them. I understand this may somehow reinforce the so-called “stereotype”, but let’s face the truth: officers are not mind readers.



Two UCPD officers on bicycle, taken from Police Services brochure on uchicago.edu.

10 Min by Walk from Main Quardrangle

Andong Zhang

China

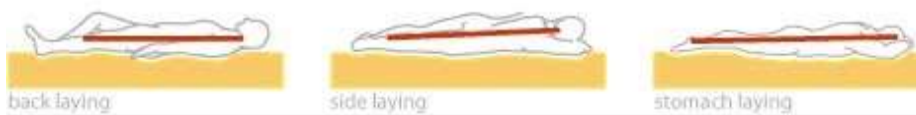
Harris school of public policy

How to Choose a Suitable Mattress

I have been sleeping on a secondhand mattress for three weeks. I bought a secondhand mattress because I wanted to save money, but I can't stand it!!! It's too soft! Everyday I wake up with a backache, so I started wondering how to choose a suitable mattress.

As for firmness and softness, seems like Americans prefer to sleep on a soft mattress, but if the mattress is too soft, your body will sink. The stomach weighs more than other body parts, so your spine may twist into a S shape, and you will wake up with a sore back. In addition, when you sleep on a too soft mattress, you will feel hot. However, if the mattress is too hard, the shoulder and butt become pressure points, and it won't be helpful for blood circulation and pressure relief.

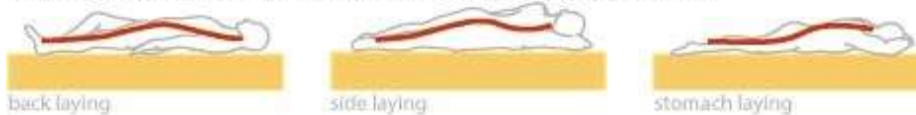
Just Right - Latex mattresses offer conforming support and even weight distribution to keep your spine naturally aligned in a fully relaxed position.



Too soft - While a soft bed may feel good at first, inadequate support of your lower back (where your body weight is concentrated) can cause pain and stiffness.



Too Firm - A hard sleep surface provides uneven support and causes uncomfortable high pressure areas that cause you to toss and turn during the night.



Picture from: <http://www.weknowmattresses.com/2012/02/proper-spinal-alignment/>

There are various types of mattress such as memory foam mattress, foam mattress, latex mattress, spring mattress, etc. Memory foam mattresses are unique because they rebound slowly, so they may be more contoured to your body shape. They primarily support the heavier parts of your body and keep them from sinking in too far. However, the memory foam mattress performs bad in breathability, so people may feel hot while sleeping on it.

Generally, foam mattresses are cheaper and softer than memory foam mattresses. They can be rolled up, and they are easy to carry for students without a car. But foam mattresses are not so durable because they may sink or depress after a couple years.

As for spring mattresses, they have better resilience. They will recover quickly to their original shapes and provide enhanced support and firmness for your body. Latex mattresses are made from milky liquid which comes from a rubber tree. They perform well in both durability and breathability. Their firmness or softness vary by changing the amount of raw material used in the core. However, a latex mattress is quite expensive. Even the cheapest one sold at IKEA is \$399.

Here are several steps to help you choose a mattress.

First, smell it. Some mattresses may have an unpleasant odor because of offgassing issues which are harmful to our body. You can also check whether it is certificated by Certipur or Eoeko-tex. If it is, that smell has already been controlled at a reasonable level that will do no harm to your health.

Second, pat it to check its elasticity and breathability. If you can feel wind through your hand while patting it, it surely shows that the mattress has good air circulation.

Most importantly, you should do your best princess-and-the-pea experiment to see which is the best for you. One's favorite may be another person's backache waiting to happen. Try to sleep on your side, back or stomach for 15-20 mins to see whether you fit with its firmness or softness. Make sure the mattress supports your spine in a healthy and comfortable way.

I understand that you want to save money, but not on the thing you are going to spend one-thirds of your Chicago time on!

Jing Zhang
China
Social Science Division

Chicago Architecture after the Great Fire



Architectures along the Chicago River (resource: photo by author)

Background:

Exploring architectures in a city is a good way to know the place. Architectures reflect a lot of things: the relationship between people and the space, social economic changes in the city, the history of the city and so on. To know the stories of Chicago told by architectures there, I took the Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise. During the 90-minute tour, the cruise took us to visit some of the most remarkable buildings in downtown. At the same time, the knowledgeable guide introduced us facts and stories related to the buildings, as well as stories of the Chicago city. One thing should be noted is that buildings there are remarked for their originality, but not their antiquity.

Most old buildings in the downtown area was destroyed by the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, and buildings standing there now were constructed after the fire. Buildings in Chicago embody vicissitude architectural conceptions, including contextualism, modernism, post-modernism and so on. Among these conceptions, contextualism impressed me the most. One instance of contextual buildings in Chicago is the 333 W.Wacker, which designed by architect William

Pedersen in 1970s. The design of the building echos the landscape and environment around. "It curves with the curve of the river bank. The shades of green in glass reflect the green of the water"(Carmichael 2007). Architectures in Chicago reflects how people can successfully utilize limited space. One instance is 150 North Riverside, designed by Goettsch Partners, completed in 2016. This building is constructed with a smaller base for a height of 8 stories (104ft), but the building cantilvers out to the full size of the office floor space (Wikipedia). Architectures also reveals the change of functions of downtown. The guide told us, in recent years, more and more apartments have been built along the riverside, and people are more willing to live there than before.

Broader Issues:

From the end of World War II to the early 1970s, Chicago experienced the so-called "urban renewal", which referred a series of public efforts to revitalize aging and decaying inner cities. Those efforts included massive demolition, clearance of slums, and rehabilitation.

Demolition and slum clearance "deplete the stock of middle-class consumers, and raise the cost of basic city services such as police and firefighting."(Hirsch) All those changes might lead to



rising taxes and declining property values in the downtown area. Worried about that, big companies such as Marshall Field & Co. and the Chicago Title and Trust Company moved swiftly to design projects to enhance the downtown(Hirsch). Later, in 1973, some of Chicago's most influential business and civic leaders released the Chicago 21 Plan, to create a new residential neighborhood in loop. The project aimed at preventing middle-class white people flight to the surrounding suburbs and revitalizing Chicago, which hit by declines in manufacturing and industrial employment after World War II (Wikipedia).

One instance of projects that targeting at renewing the city is the Carl Sandburg Village. The village site north of the Loop. It was completed in 1969. The village combines high-rise towers and townhouses, and encompassed 3,166 units.

150 North Riverside (resource: image courtesy of Goettsch Partners)

Travel time: 7:30 pm-9:00 pm

Liang Zhang
China
Harris School of Public Policy

Seeking for “the Sound of Chicago”



Chicago Blues records found in the two stores. Photos by author.

Background:

Yes, the sounds of Chicago are not only about the loud sirens of vehicles on the Michigan Avenue, the peaceful waves along the Lake Shore Drive, or the circling alarms of Chicago Fire Department cars. There is some music specifically belonging to the windy city- the Chicago Blues, a genre of blues that has originated from the African American communities in Chicago since late 1940s.

As a fan of Blues and a newcomer in Chi-town, I have been eager to dig out more about the Chicago Blues, as it spoke much about the ethnicities, culture, and history of the city. My strategy was to first search for the local best record stores, and go to check what they have to offer by myself. I went to Dusty Groove and Shuga Records, two brilliant record stores, in the afternoon of 20 August. Both stores boost a sea of records, which actually caused a problem for me to find out the exact records I wanted.

For a novice, Shuga Records could be a little bit more friendly, in terms of the atmosphere, the way staff greet you, and more importantly, the classification of records. The two stores share the methodology to classify the records according to the different genres, but Shuga goes even further to set out a specific area for “Local Music: Illinois”, where I fortunately found several records of Chicago Blues!

Now let me summarize my experience with a song called Sweet Home Chicago sung by Magic Sam:

“Oh baby don't you wanna go
Back to that same old place
Sweet home Chicago.”

Broader Issue :

Where did Chicago Blues exactly originate? The open-air market on the Maxwell Street. It is said that the music for the first time emerged as many African American workers, as street musicians, sung out loud enough so as to be heard on the street. As the music later evolved, people played electric guitars and amplified guitars with it. Soon, it gained its popularity in the west and south part of Chicago.



As I later enjoyed some pieces of Chicago Blues (online, of course), I was deeply touched by the passionate loudness conveyed by the music, and I even started to picture the furious and vivid scenes of the Maxwell Market in the 1940s. Though relevant records are actually hard to find even in Chicago's best record stores, the music can still find its followers who can truly feel the call when they are looking

for a space of acceptance, openness, and happiness, whatever their backgrounds and ethnicities are.

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_blueshttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maxwell_Street.

Dusty Groove (the left two) and Shuga Records. Photos by author

Travel Details (it approximately takes 1.5 hours from UChicago... but it's definitely worth it!)

Dusty Groove: 1120 N Ashland Ave, Chicago, IL, 60622

55# Bus (Midway Orange Line – Garfield Red Line), Red Line (Garfield – Jackson), Blue Line (Jackson – Division). Finally, walk for no more than 5 minutes to the store!

Shuga Records: 1272 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL, 60622

Actually the SAME. Yes, the two stores are within 10 minutes' walk!

Lingfei Zhang
China
Harris School of Public Policy

The Art Institute of Chicago



Photo by Author

Background:

Located on Michigan Avenue at Adams Street, the building of the art institute of Chicago (ARTIC) once served as a hall of World's Congresses during the World's Columbian Exposition. Then the ARTIC opened there on December 8, 1893. In order to build Chicago not only as the center of transportation hub and livestock and grain trade, but also the center of art, civic members and museum patrons have always been trying to fill the gallery with works of art of different kind, place, time and style.

Basic information about the art institute of Chicago:

Museum hours:

Open daily 10:30-17:00

Thursday 10:30-20:00

Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's day

Transportation:

Line 6 Michigan&Jackson

Tickets:

25 dollar/Adult

Free/ student of UChicago

The BEST museum in the world

For the last consecutive 3 years, the art institute of Chicago has been voted as the best museum in the world by thousands of travellers in Trip advisor, the world's largest travel site. After visiting the ARTIC, I began to know why it has been rated as the BEST.

Here are some reasons:

1. Different from other museums in America, "the acquisition of historical works of art was accompanied by an equally aggressive acquisition of contemporary art at the hands of forward-thinking Chicago collectors"(Douglas Druick 7). Although collections in ARTIC are far less than those in Musee d'Orsay or Musee du Louvre, we can enjoy a wider range of masterpieces, from ancient Asia, to Impressionism, finally arriving at modern and contemporary art. In ARTIC, the past has been perfectly connected with the future, which presents a complete timeline of art.

2. In addition to diversified collections, ARTIC also has a group of professional and passionate staff. Every staff working here seems to know the museum as familiar as their own house. When I was asking a staff about how to find the "Nighthawks", he drew a very detailed map for me. To my surprise, he also reminded me not to miss the "American Gothic" in special exhibition because he guessed I might take an interest in American Art. There was no reason to jump over this important collection. From my point of view, if you don't know how to plan your trip in ARTIC, just asking the staff here. They will never let you down.

3. Before my visit, I browsed the website of ARTIC: <http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/>. The information about every piece of collection is quite clear and useful. By doing so, I can arrange my tour in ARTIC in advance, and figure out what might attract me most. What's more, as time in museum is quite limited, reading the stories of collections online is also a good way to save time.

Broader Issue:

The balance between exhibition and preservation.

After knowing that <the Great Wave off Kanagawa>, one of the most famous masterpieces in Japanese art history was in ARTIC, I just couldn't wait to see it. However, when I walked into the

room of Chinese, Japanese and Korean art with huge excitement, I found nothing but a sign: "Because prints are works on paper, they are susceptible to fading with exposure to light. Therefore, the artwork in this gallery is changed every three months, and the lighting is maintained at a low level to protect the prints."

Firstly, I was quite disappointed, for not seeing the collection I expected most. As the staff in ARTIC told me that this painting has been replaced for almost one year, and they didn't plan to bring it back to the public in a short time. However, after going back home and reading some articles about how light will damage the painting, especially Japanese woodblock prints, I began to understand the situation. According to the experiment, the color of one Japanese painting faded much faster when exposed under sunlight than kept in a completely dark environment. Moreover, UV-Glass seemed to be useless, for preventing the paint from fading. From the picture, we can see the difference between the left and right, as the left ones were exposed under sunshine for 8 months.



Photo: <http://www.ukiyoe-gallery.com/sunfade.htm>

In conclusion, it was not easy to find a balance between the exhibition and preservation. Besides rotating one's painting or using duplicated one, searching online must be an alternative. Museums around the world need to pay more attention to build a detailed and informative website about their collections, just as ARTIC does in the past few years. By doing so, visitors will have another chances to get in touch with their favorite masterpieces, without worrying about to damage the paintings.

Lingxiao Zhang

China

Mathematics Department

Logan Square: A Good Place to Start Exploring Chicago



The left picture is of the Emporium Bar Arcade, downloaded from the Google Images; the right picture is of a graffiti on the street, taken by myself.

Location:
Logan Square

Travel Details (from UChicago):
By CTA: 1h 15min
By Car: 30min

Background:

I've been in Chicago for a year, but I had not explored many other neighborhoods in this city, and I wasn't willing to take my time to know the city well. I was always thinking I would spend my next five years here making do with things confined in Hyde Park, until I was confronted with this task to explore a different neighborhood.

Under the encouragement of our instructor, my partner and I set out on a one day trip to Logan Square. When we got off the subway, what we saw is totally different from what we had imagined. A huge graffiti just stood right outside the exit of the subway, with heavy blue and rich purple coming straight into our eyes, showing to us that we were entering into a different

area. We spent the whole day here trying to live in a way the residents here live; we ate what they eat, and drank what they drink. People here really loves brunches, so we also had a brunch in Jam's. It seems to me that people here don't live in a fast pace, since they eat brunches, kill time in bars, and walk in the park with a dog. The results of our interviews agree with what we felt about this neighborhood: they say they love Logan Square and that's because here are many green spaces, different things for them to explore, and this place is family-friendly and suitable for living.

Just before we left, I saw the Emporium Bar Arcade, and that's how I realized I'd actually been to Logan Square before. I came to the bar in my first year in Chicago with my best friend here, which was a very memorable and warm evening to me. And I kept saying to others about how wonderful this bar is without knowing that it is right here in Logan Square, just like Monsieur Jourdain in Moliere's *the Bourgeois Gentleman*, who has been speaking prose all his life without even knowing it.

Broader Issues:

When we interviewed with some people living here about what culture they think influence this neighborhood, the results were highly consistent: Hispanic. And some of them also mentioned young hipsters, which is closely related to the large number of graffiti in this neighborhood. Also, Asian culture, which was not mentioned by our interviewees, is another culture influencing this neighborhood. For instance, in a store we saw Indian straws and essence and many other Indian products, which are so exotic that are rarely seen in Hyde Park. Ironically, no one we interviewed is Hispanic; a neighborhood famous for its Hispanic culture does not have a large population of Hispanics. In fact, the portion of Hispanics in the entire population of Logan Square has been decreasing dramatically these years. There have been big changes happening in this neighborhood, such as difficulty to find a cheap place to live, old nice restaurants and stores being replaced, etc, all of which contribute to the result that many Hispanics are moving out of this area.

Logan Square, however, is still a nice place and is appealing to many people to move in here. For these people, Logan Square has many different things for them to explore. According to some of our interviewees, there is a bike festival celebrated each summer in Palmer Square Park here. It is free and welcomes everyone to share their bike travels worldwide, with beer served!

Shuang Zhang

China

Harris School of Public Policy

Ways to Enjoy Chicago Air & Water Show



Photo from map.chicago.com

If you attend AEPP in August, congratulations! You will have a rare opportunity to enjoy the Chicago Air and Water Show. It's a magnificent and amazing show which has been around for over 50 years. Now it has turned into a great show with the most-advanced aerotechnics but without any fee. It made me fall in love with Chicago.

With just curiosity but no knowledge in my mind, I started off from my apartment at 8 a.m. On my way to the Oak Street beach, I heard many people talking about great aircrafts, describing them with words like "most advanced" and "high tech". Obviously, they had read a lot of information before going to the show. During the show, I was sorry I hadn't done my own research about the Air and Water Show in advance because although I was totally impressed by their amazing positions and fantastic teamwork, I didn't know much about the planes or the pilots. I researched on the Internet as soon as I got back home and I was shocked by the big

names of these performers: U.S Air Force Thunderbirds and even F-35 Heritage Flight. They represent the most advanced aerotechnics, and I may never have had any chance to see them in my life if I didn't live in Chicago at this time. How I wish I could match their names with the performance when seeing the show! Therefore, don't forget to research in advance.

Another pity is that I missed a great view from 360 Chicago. The focal point of the show is North Avenue Beach while the audience along the lakefront from Oak Street to Fullerton are all supposed to have a great view. However, I'd like to strongly recommend 360 Chicago, which is on the 94th floor of John Hancock. It was a great pity for me because it was raining hard that morning, and I was told that there was totally zero visibility on the top of the building. It didn't turn sunny until afternoon, and we visited 360 Chicago after the show. I was quite shocked by the great view from the skyline. I could imagine seeing aircrafts flying across the buildings and right in front of my eyes. I felt quite excited even when I was just imagining. Therefore, don't miss this great opportunity to have a different view of aircrafts if weather permits.

All I mentioned above are ways to help you enjoy the great show as much as possible. But if you ignore all of them and go to see the show "impulsively" like I did, I am sure you will still be impressed by all the performers and this great show!

Travel Time from UChicago

By CTA: 1 hour

By Uber: 25 minutes

By Bike: 50 minutes

Xinxin Zhang
China
Harris School of Public Policy

The Baha'i House of Worship



(Photo sent by Charles Nolley)

Background:

The temple and the faith

A friend invited me to the Baha'i house of worship for a concert by a famous Lakota performer on Aug. 21st. Although Kevin Locke, the Lakota performer who is an indigenous North American and nobody can understand Lakota language, all the audience were joining the performer to learn to sing Lakota songs and dance with him. At that moment, I could feel that no matter what nationality you are, what language you speak, where you come from, all the people are the same and can communicate with each other openly and sincerely. "Unity in Diversity" is the

my most deep feeling of this event and this temple.

The Baha'i house of worship is located in Wilmette, close to Northwestern University. It is the only Baha'i temple in the United States. Bahá'i followers from around the world donated money to pay for the project. According to Wikipedia, the building has become a popular destination for tourists, and the Illinois Office of Tourism has named it one of the "Seven Wonders of Illinois".

Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith said: "The fundamental purpose of this faith is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race, and to foster the spirit of love and fellowship among men. "

Broader Issue:

Freedom of Religion in China and the U.S.

In China, people are very cautious about religion. For one reason, the Chinese government classifies many religious groups outside of its control as "evil cults." If you are a member of the Communist Party, you can not join any religious groups. What's more, In July 2015 the government put a Christian pastor, Shaojie Zhang, in prison for a 12-year sentence and removed 150 crosses from churches in Zhejiang Province. For the other reason, people believe more in materialism than spirituality at this stage of development. In addition, children are taught in school that there is a conflict between religion and science. While science is based on fact and truth, religion is founded on imagination and dogmas.

However, In United States, religion plays a very important role in American's lives. According to a 2014 study by the Pew Research Center, about 70 percent of Americans identified themselves as Christians. Various religious faiths have flourished within the United States, including the Baha'i faith. Freedom of religion is more guaranteed in the United States than in China.

Baha'i faith believes that the freedom to choose, hold, and change one's beliefs is central to human dignity and human development. Abdul-Baha said: "The shining spark of truth come forth only after the clash of differing opinions." Baha'i faith has an inclusive attitude to other religions. It believes that the great world religions are different conceptions of and reactions to the same divine reality, and baha'i faith can learn from the insights of other religions.



Travel Times

By car

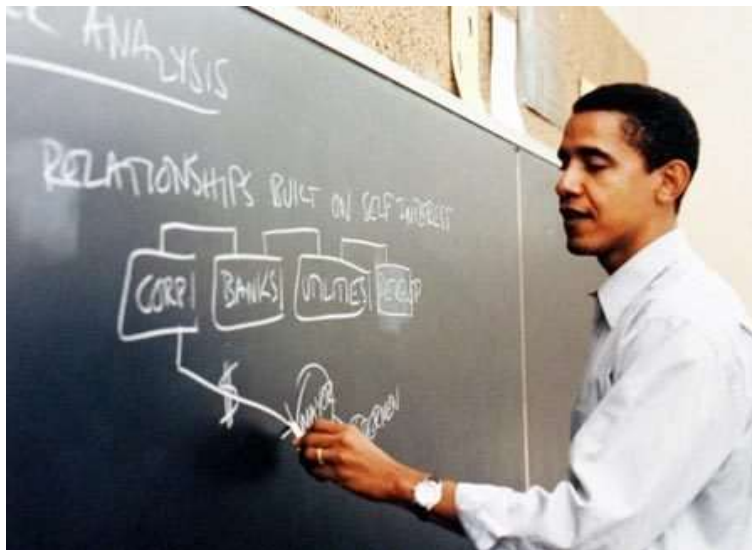
23miles about 1hr

By public transportation

SSL20 to Millennium Station
Then transfer to Purple Line to Linden Station
Then walk for 0.3mi about 1hr 36min

Xinyuan Zhang
China
Harris School of Public Policy

Barack Obama's Footprints in Chicago



Obama sharing Saul Alinsky Principles in Chicago, posted on February 2008 by PrestoPundit

Background:

President Obama was born in Hawaii, but he spent his most important years in Chicago, or more precisely, his politics career started when he taught at University of Chicago. In 1985, Obama moved to Chicago and held a nonprofit plan assisting local churches to offer vocation trainings. After 8 years, he refused the life tenure at the University but participated in 5 political campaigns. In 2014, Obama left the University since he won to become a congressman.

His charming style of speech and pedagogy of critical-thinking influenced many law school students. On the other hand, "professors at the University hated him because he was lazy, unqualified, and never attended any of the faculty meetings, and it was clear that the position was nothing more than a political stepping stool." (Mellisa Ferrari)

Obama's permanent house at 50th Street has now become a tourist hot spot. Floods of tourists come to his Georgian revival mansion at weekends. In 2015, Obama's Library addresses at

Jackson's Park in Chicago.

What Obama influenced me the most is that everything is not black and white. Even the rightest proposition could turn out to be bad; talking about justice, there isn't any policy could apply to every case. As a policy practitioner, we should always think out the most complicated challenges and take the responsibility to tackle with them. Things will become clearer after we work these out. The social problems always put us to break new frontiers and polish the policy with our consistent hardworking.

Broader Issue:

Obama taught the constitutional law, voting right and edited the 1919 lynched victim list of United States when he was teaching at the University of Chicago. Obama's unconventional behavior compared to the serious atmosphere of law school became students' favorite class at that time. Many of them went to the street and handed out the sheet for Obama campaigns. He brought the most tangled issues to the class and challenged students to carve them out.

Gun violence is one of the knottiest problems in United States. Chicago is a Democrats-controlled city where murder rate remains in a high level despite of the tightest gun regulations putting into practice. President Obama has more than once brought this into public speech since he is in power. In June 2016, a man tried to catch Obama on why people who has responsible use of guns should make sacrifice and take the collateral losses in PBS NewsHour. President Obama said we should play it safe step by step and prioritize civil rights ahead of anything else.

I think the gun control is skating on the thin ice since if the more stricter laws are implemented, the higher risk that people would take this as wiping away their gun rights, and, what it worse, it would be blamed for tyranny destructions of the Second Amendment. Gun ownership is more than a symbol that people are entitled to protect themselves against the government if needed. Severe prohibition would only put the law-abiding citizen into a more dangerous situation. Thus, in my opinion, the government should spare more effort on black market restrictions, background checks perfection and preventions on the bad and disable

House Location

5046 S Greenwood Ave

Travel Times from UChicago

21 minutes by foot

7 minutes by car

Yalin Zhang
China
Division of The Physical Sciences

Diversity and Segregation in Uptown



Photo by Yalin Zhang

Background:

As the third largest city in the United States, Chicago attracts a lot of people from other cities, states and countries. They study, work, and live in this metropolis, making up the large mixed population. When I arrived in Chicago, I was so excited that I met so many people with friendly different looks and tried various countries' cuisines. Within the first week, I made new friends who are from England, German, Turkey, Argentina, India, Japan, South Korea, and so on. I enjoyed the time in Hyde Park, but I still missed Chinese cuisine. The online travel guide says Uptown is a entertainment district influenced by Asian culture, so I went to Uptown with a

friend to do the class project and find the food I missed desperately. We went to a Chinese restaurant named Sea Food Hot Pot. It's almost the same with the hot pot in my home country and I really enjoyed the fish there. If you are interested in or miss Chinese hot pot, you could try that.

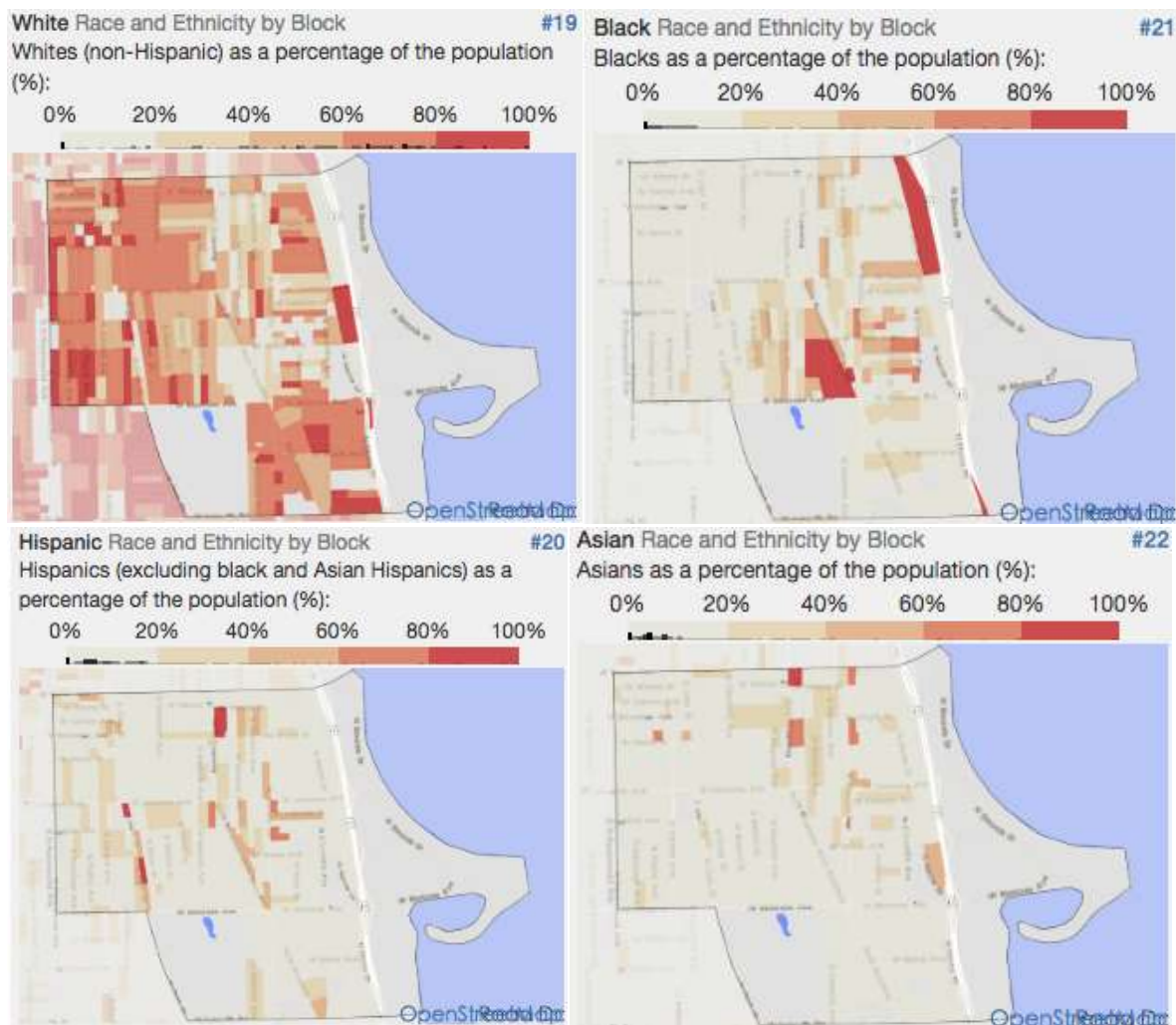
When walking around Uptown, we found many countries' restaurants and talked with strangers with different races and ethnicities. We also noticed that the Asian restaurants and stores were mainly located on a street, Asia on Argyle, and American bars were on other blocks. The manager of the restaurant where we ate told us he seldom went to other blocks to try something new and didn't know any community events. His favorite place in Uptown is a Thai restaurant which is also on that street. That made me a little upset. I feel that sometimes we separate ourselves with other culture and American life. In Hyde Park, international students from the same country usually concentrate in a few certain apartments. In the Uptown Chinese restaurant, the young waiter bashfully stepped back and let us talk to the manager when we asked if we could interview him in English. Diversity is indeed a significant feature of Uptown. The segregation, however, also exists in this neighborhood.

Broader Issue:

According to the data from Statistical Atlas, 53.9% of population in Uptown are white and 20.8% are black. Hispanic and Asian residents respectively make up 11.3% and 10.6% of the population and the remaining 3.5% are other ethnics. All of the interviewees love the diversity of the neighborhood. There are American bars, Chinese restaurants, Vietnamese stores, Pakistani groceries and Japanese wall painting in Uptown. Nevertheless, as you can see from the Statistical Atlas race and ethnicity map, residents from different races concentrate in certain blocks. Why does that happen?

One important reason is the wealth and safety. In some blocks, homeless are hanging out, old tents are set up along the streets, which are the "home" of those people. Maybe in the next block, you can find white residents walking or jogging with their pets. Beautiful, well-designed houses and apartments stand on the quiet street. Interviewees from these streets told they were a little scared of homeless people even they could not explain why. This wealth difference aggravates the segregation.

Another possible reason is a personal factor. Interviewees in Asia on Argyle didn't know any special community event of Uptown even though some of them had been living there for more than 20 years. Some waiters could only speak a little English and reported seldom visiting other blocks. It is the nature that people do not want to go out of their comfort zones. Sometimes they are just segregating themselves. What could you do to avoid this? Be brave to talk!



Race and Ethnicity Map in Uptown

Figure Source: Statistical Atlas <http://statisticalatlas.com/neighborhood/Illinois/Chicago/Uptown/Race-and-Ethnicity#data-map/block-group/white>

Drive or Uber: 33min

Bus: 59 transfer Red line, 1 hour and 8min

Youlun Zhao
China
Social Science Division

Give the Lady What She Wants: Explore Herstory within the Chicago History Museum



Two photos juxtaposed with each other on the wall of the museum.

Photo by author

Background:

The first time I read the requirements of the AEPP final project, I was lost in a myriad of thoughts. Chicago's history is made out of the interwoven memories of various groups, and it is hard to determine which strand I take the most interest in. Thus, I decided to go to the Chicago History Museum where I could know the city's past comprehensively and find out its most captivating part.

At the ticket office, a brochure caught my eyesight with its elegant cover. It was made for an upcoming exhibit titled "Making Mainbocher" in memory of the first American Couturier. Perceiving my interest in the exhibit, a staff kindly told me that the museum has a rich collection of costumes from different times. His word inspired me to discover the history of Chicago women with the garments.

The Secret Lives of Objects, a special exhibit, featured Chicagoan life with vintage everyday objects. There I found a woman's hat -- whimsical in shape, bold in colors, but definitely classic. It was from Bes-Ben, a distinguished "Made in Chicago" headwear brand, established in 1910s

by Benjamin Green-Field and his sister Bess. Bes-Ben was such a popular brand and innovative enterprise in Chicago's commercial history that I saw its name and Mr. Green-Field's everywhere in the museum. But I wondered why there was almost no clue for the life of Bess, the female co-founder.

Then I visited a permanent exhibit entitled Chicago: Crossroads of America. In the gallery, the city's vast history unfolded through a series of past scenes recreated from models and audiovisual content. A replicated window of Marshall Field & Co., an iconic shopping emporium, attracted my attention. Garments displayed in the window were gorgeous but the company's motto "give the lady what she wants" was, at least to me, a little bit ironic.

At that point, I was somehow disappointed in my visit themed by Explore Herstory within this museum. Even though the exhibits themselves were fantastic, I did not find any inspiring story about women in Chicago. Fortunately, I came cross the Women Fighting for Suffrage Chapter at a freedom-themed permanent exhibit. There I read a brief history of the women's struggle for political rights. This time they did not wear the dresses designed, crafted, and purchased by men but created a look by themselves. The colors represented their cause: purple for justice, white for purity, and gold for courage.

Broader Issue:

The assumption beneath the motto "give the lady what she wants" is twofold: women do not obtain things with their own effort, and all the things women want can be bought and given. The motto reminds me of a part in Bruce Norris's play Clybourne Park – Albert declined Bev's kind offer by telling her that they could own everything by themselves. Since the mid-18th Century, economic growth boosted Chicago's retail industry and thus spurred women's desire for consumer goods. Then there came the women's struggle to pursue everything they wanted, from evening gowns to political rights.

Early in 1868, the first women's organization named Chicago Sorosis Club was found to raise the suffrage issue. With the brash determination peculiar to Chicago citizens, the women suffragists fought until 1920 to win full suffrage.

I do not want to reinvent a modern cliché by continuing to applaud the Chicago women's courage. In fact, one thing I liked the best about the exhibit was its introduction to anti-suffrage organizations in Chicago. The anti-suffrage movement was not depicted a stupid backlash against the progressivism; instead, the guide explained the movement in a very neutral voice. In my opinion, true freedom is where everyone can embrace the value he or she chooses as long as it is not morally flawed. Therefore, I appreciated the exhibit designers' attitude very much.

Nowadays, gender discrimination still exists in different parts of the world. Women never stop fighting for equal rights and opportunities in their families and workplaces. However, it is equally important to respect individual choices such as traditional value and never let pursuits for progress overwhelm different voices.



Chicago History Museum

Photo by author

Travel Times

Chicago History Museum

Location: 1601 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60614

Travel Times from UChicago:

CTA: 50 min (55/Red Line) By Bike: 59 min By Car: 23 min

Ticket Price: \$14 per student, \$16 per adult

Yinyuan Zheng
China
MAPSS

Lakefront in Kenwood, a Symbiosis between Modernization and Nature



Lakefront View at 41°48'15.7"N 87°34'52.9"W; Photo by Yinyuan Zheng

Background:

Mankind has long developed both intimacy and awe towards unbounded water, which in turn has inspired our imagination and creativity. As early as the ancient Sumerian mythology, water is described as the origin as well as the end of the world. A primeval goddess Nammu, representing the boundless sea, parthenogenetically gives birth to An, the heaven, and Ki, the earth, and then every other life form in the world. Later the Sumerian Great Flood brings the doomsday to purify human sins and restore the world to its original, perfect state.

Science and modernization may break down the superstition of the origin of the universe, but it could never nullify our immense feeling towards mother nature. This is why people would pay to go traveling and hiking in their spare time. Now imagine you are able to embrace nature after a ten-minute walk with zero cost! Kenwood lakefront offers the most convenient and economic opportunity for a busy urbanite to liberate himself. Growing up in a metropolis, I was

surrounded by tall buildings and enjoyed the efficiency of the latest technological advancement all the time. Ironically, embracing mother nature became quite a luxury. Consequently, I always got a thrill out of traveling and staring at mountains, lakes and seas. For me it is fortunate to live so near to Lake Michigan.

Almost everyday I bring a can of drink, my phone with all the music I like and a book to read to the lake shore, and spend three hours sitting on a piece of limestone and doing my stuff while breathing in sea breezes. How soothing! When standing in front of the shore, you will realize that man is no match for nature. The lake and sky merge at a distance, where you could barely identify a cruise ship and watch it disappear in the horizon. When facing north as in the figure shown above, you will be able to see the Chicago Loop and all the high-rises packed in the headland.

When night falls and the horizon is painted dark, the Loop lights up the sky with a yellowish projection. It is an egotistic symbol of human civilization, but it borders on the horizon so harmoniously that I would rather call the relationship a symbiosis: Lake Michigan tranquilizes the tired souls of urban living, and Chicago citizens reciprocate by building and maintaining the shoreline and keeping it accessible to the public.

Broader Issue:

The current Chicago shoreline was mostly constructed and expanded in the last century between the 1920s and 1940s from a historically natural sandy lowland. The process of urbanization in Chicago started in the early nineteenth century, and in the following hundred years, piers and harbors were gradually added to the natural shore. Debates over the use of shoreline inevitably occurred under two sets of mindset, private and public interests. During Chicago's development, campaigns were often launched to strive for the public access to the shore and beaches.

Government later decided that modernization should be in harmony with the natural habitat, and required that the lakefront needed to become public park space. The major expansion of the shoreline involved constructing bulkheads and revetments outside the original boundary. Additional manmade land was filled with debris, sand and waste materials, and revetments were built to protect the shoreline from erosion. The shoreline was turned into what it is now. The history of shoreline becomes a miniature of Chicago's urbanization development, not only from a modernization perspective, but also in the sense of liberalization.

Racial division of the use of beaches and water was prominent in the early twentieth century. In 1919, an African American kid was attacked and later drowned because he accidentally crossed the invisible segregation line, which triggered a seven-day riot. The racial contention continued

throughout the twentieth century. With that in mind, when you are at the lakefront in Kenwood, amazed by both the high-rises in the Loop and the distant horizon and immersed in your thoughts, you will realize that it is never conflicting to embrace both identities of a social being and a natural habitant of the world.

Travel Details from UChicago

Walk east to the Lakefront Trail and then north up along the trail until you just enter Kenwood. Remember to enjoy the view during the walk!

Mengting Zhou

What it Takes to Make a Melting Pot



a DVD set of *Dragon Ball*

Photo by Mengting Zhou

Background:

I have never been in America before. Before I arrived in Chicago, I could only know America from movies, books and other people. When it comes to such a land full of dreams and passion, the first idea comes to me would be “the melting pot”, which means different cultures can be combined together harmoniously in America and the interaction between them can lead to a brand new American culture.

One of our assignments was to explore Little Italy and University Village. Italians first began coming to Chicago in the 1850's and settled down in this area. This area saw the development of Italian immigrants in the city and has been profoundly influenced by Italian culture. Before I went there, one of my local friends told me that this area had lost its Italian style since more

and more foreigners came here. The fact that she was so sad about the loss of Italian culture made me more curious and excited about my trip to this area.

When I finished my trip, what I saw in person was not the “loss” of Italian culture but the “symbiosis” of Italian, Mexican and Latin culture. Granted that, to some extent, there may be some “compromise” during the process of the conversion from a 100% Italian immigrant neighborhood to a multicultural area, the influence of Italian culture is still dominant and it thrives with other culture. A faint aroma of pizza and cheese will be around you when you eat hamburgers in Black Ace’s; Traditional panini can encounter you in a sushi bar; You can talk about DiMaggio’s achievements with someone who speaks English with Spanish accents; When you bargain on a DVD set of *Dragon Ball*, a famous Japanese manga, do not forget your Lemonade from Mario’s, or it will melt soon. Italian culture has already been this area itself.

Maybe the reason why people think Italian culture fades in Little Italy is that Italian culture has already been infused to every perspective of this area so that the way it exists and affects becomes less superficial and more profound. Under such long-lasting influence of Italian culture, many cultures melt together in a harmonious way and enrich the food, architecture and life style in this area and that is what it takes to make Little Italy a melting pot.

Broader Issues:

In Little Italy, there is no gap between locals and strangers. Nobody will pay too much attention to where you are from. Beijing is also a city with many people from other cities with different cultural background. However, what we can see in Beijing is more segregation and locals do not welcome strangers. Many companies do not hire people from other provinces and many local people are unwilling to marry people without registered permanent residence in Beijing. Maybe it will take more time and government policies to make Beijing a more inviting city to more cultures.

Travel times from UChicago

CTA: 45min

CAR: 20min

Yichen Zhou
China
Division of the Social Sciences

Nurturing the Communities



Oak Park Public Library Lobby, 834 Lake St, Oak Park, IL 60301

Photo by author

Background:

Since Oak Park is famous for Frank Lloyd Wright's Studio and Ernest Hemingway's birthplace, I was curious about the cultural atmosphere in this neighborhood, which might show the foundation and legacy of their achievements. Then I found Oak Park Public Library, next to Sconville Park and a few of churches. To be exact, it was the Main Library, which was established more than a century ago. The two other branches built in 1930s were located in the same neighborhood.

This library looked fascinating in all aspects: its award-winning architecture, user-friendly equipments, helpful staff, great collections and patrons of different age and ethnic groups. People immersed themselves in reading in the Sunday afternoon. We tried to talk to a few of them for their feelings about Oak Park. It turned out that our respondents, an African-American teenage boy and a middle-aged women, were not residents there. They came to Oak Park for books.

The library assistants shared their working experiences with us. They were excited about working in this brilliant public library: being excited about having conversation with diverse groups of readers, proud of their pioneering collections on transgender resources, documents on Hemingway and works created by people in their community, as well as dedicated to programs like “the bookbike” that connected the library and the community more closely.

The public library does not stand alone in Oak Park. Much more could be explored in the museums and parks, Oak Park Art League, awesome bookstores, as well as educated people with full passion for life, which have collectively nurtured the education-centered community in Oak Park, and spread light to other neighborhoods.

Broader Issue:

Oak Park Public Library is a manifestation of how the communities in Oak Park dedicate their resources to preserve and create their valuable culture, since the approval of taxing to fund a public library by local voters in 1902. The library has not only taken its responsibility of collections and exhibitions, but also seen it self as a leader of the community affairs. Through its broad cooperation with local government agencies and community organizations, and its active actions on engagement, learning and stewardship, Oak Park Public Library is practicing its “turning outward” strategy, which puts community aspiration first.

“Turning outward” is actually promoted by American Library Association under the initiative of “Libraries Transforming Communities”. However, not all public libraries are as prosperous as Oak Park Public Library. Sufficient financial, environmental and intellectual resources are required to support the successful operation of the library. To own a quality library might be a privilege of Oak Park residents compared with those who live in impoverished neighborhoods. However, since this library embraces diversity and open its doors for those come from other neighborhoods, it also provides great opportunities for bridging the gap in cultural resources between Oak Park, an education-centered suburb area, and the surrounding communities.

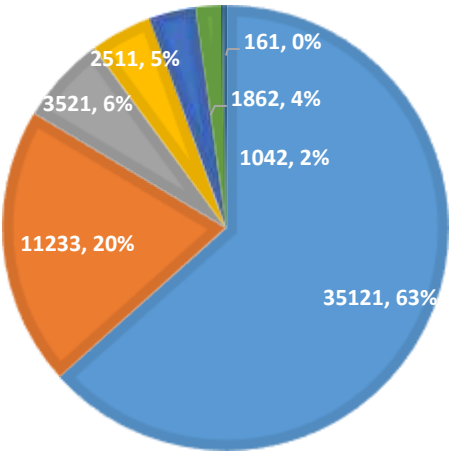
Even without a brilliant building and abundant collections which Oak Park Library have, its actions in motivating and mobilizing residents to build a better community are still adoptable in other communities. The keys are shared vision, sense of autonomy, mutual respect, and consistent actions. Without these, Oak Park would not have preserved its historical architectures and its peaceful, invigorating atmosphere. These may still sound an unrealistic dream for the deprived neighborhoods, but at least it provides with a durable model.



The Book Table, an independent bookstore opened in 2003
1045 Lake St, Oak Park, IL 60301
Photo by author

**POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS FOR OAK PARK
VILLAGE, IL IN 2016 AND 2015**

- White
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian
- Two or More Races
- Some Other Race
- Three or more races



Data Source : suburbanstats.org/population/illinois/how-many-people-live-in-oak-park-village

Travel Times (From Uchicago to Downtown Oak Park)

- By CTA: 6 minutes by #55 (Garfield & King Drive) bus and 48 minutes by Green Line (Harlem/Lake)
- By Car: 47 minutes
- By Bike: 106 minutes

Minjia Zhu
China
Harris School of Public Policy

“You are Beautiful”



“#Chicago #chinatown #memorialday #spring #youarebeautiful” photo by @riksview on Instagram

Background:

Many smiles came from seeing “you are beautiful” stickers all over Chicago, including my smile when this magic signage first caught my attention on Wentworth Avenue in Chinatown. Then, I encountered several other “you are beautiful” signs on my way home. Now, these three simple words did arouse my curiosity on who launched this campaign and why he/she did so.

A quick Google search gave me the answer: it is a public art project initiated by Matthew Hoffman, a Chicago-based designer and artist. He has been working on the “You are beautiful” project for the last 10 years. His original idea behind the project was to create a simple positive message, just saying you are perfect as you are, and everything is okay. Hoffman began his “You Are Beautiful” guerrilla art campaign in Chicago by making and putting up stickers around the city in 2002. The message began to spread throughout social media around the world: This small tiny sticker, shared over 3 million times, creates smiles on every continent of the world—even the Great Wall in China!

Now, 100 stickers in 2002 in Chicago have evolved into mural paintings, street signs, and exhibitions involving thousands of artists. I highly recommend that you hunt for “You are Beautiful” elements in the city. Use them as a clues to lead your exploration in the city of Chicago.

Broader Issue:

The “You are Beautiful” project remind me of Dove’s “Real Beauty Sketches: You’re more beautiful than you think” campaign film, which has over 8.6 million views on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=litXW91UauE>). An FBI-trained forensic artist draws two sketches for each women: one is by the way she describes herself, the other is based on a stranger’s description of her. The results are surprising. Women look much more beautiful in the eye of others. This campaign shares a similar the idea as the “You are beautiful” project, i.e. we should spend more time appreciating our attributes instead of focusing on our little imperfections. Hoffman’s three words are more than a little sticker. It is a way to brighten someone’s day, a way to say Hi to a stranger, and a way to reduce tension

Travel Times:

You can find locations for some of destinations in “You are Beautiful” official website at <https://you-are-beautiful.com/pages/public-art>, and public art map at Matthew Hoffman’s persnal website at <https://you-are-beautiful.com/pages/public-art>.

Chen Zou
China
Physical Science Division

Overdose



Background:

People in my home country, China, value food so much that it is even a topic in our daily greetings. Thus, the “overdose” of food is the first thing I would like to talk about. In the circumstance of food, overdose refers to the strong additional taste added to the food. I enjoy cookies and desserts a lot. When I went on my first grocery shopping trip at Wholefoods Market, therefore, I could not wait to try the eye-attracting donuts and cookies, which became my first experience of overdose. The donut was dosed with excessive sugar to form a thick glaze which made it super sweet so that I could not get the original flavor of the bread. The strong taste of ginger was added to the cookies as well, which, as far as I am considered, is very strange.

Then comes the overdose of air conditioning. Almost all the libraries in the university I have visited all possess a powerful air conditioning system which keeps the library so cold that I cannot stay for a long time with short sleeve and capri pants. It is good to have the air conditioners to maintain a comfortable environment for studying. But when it becomes overdosed and delivers the environment with temperature one could not stand with normal summer clothes, it is not helpful at all. All the Asian students I know share the similar complaint

with me, while the American students seem to behave normally under this situation with their short pants and short sleeves. This leads to my assumption that the overdosed air conditioner system is normal in Chicago or even in the US.

Broader Issue:

The “overdose” phenomenon results from, as far as I am considered, the cultural differences between US and China. Chinese believe in the doctrine of the mean, and do things in moderation. Chinese cook food with moderate flavor, though there are various kinds of flavors that originate from different regions of China. Because of the doctrine of the mean, the air conditioners in China typically aim to provide the moderate and mild environment rather than a noticeably cold one. However, Americans do not actually follow the way of moderation. One can see from the terms like “can do” or “get it done” which are usually used to describe the American characteristics that Americans deal with things decisively. This decisiveness sometimes results in the overdose in the view of moderate Chinese.

While in other circumstances, the decisiveness culture here actually brings many benefits. For example, in terms of traffic regulations, Americans, as far as I am considered, put the safety as the top priority. Thus, every vehicle is decisively required to stop at the crossroads to evaluate the situations and yield to pedestrians if applicable. This see and avoid based regulation actually develops a culture of friendliness or politeness on the road between the participants of traffic, which is rarely seen in China. Chinese do value safety. But without enough decisiveness, efficiency is under pursuit with the premise that moderate safety is considered. This is why traffic lights are installed in almost every crossroad in China and why drivers try to save every second as long as they do not violate the regulations. Under these circumstances, it always becomes the responsibilities of pedestrians to avoid the hurtling cars, which creates a horrible atmosphere on the road and breeds accidents.

