

AEPP & AWPP 2018

Finding Chicago: Global Perspectives

English Language Institute



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Following the Workers' Voice Resonating Through Chicago's Haymarket



Photo retrieved from <http://www.illinoislaborhistory.org/the-haymarket-affair/>

Photo by Jyoti Srivastava, Retrieved from

<http://www.publicartinchicago.com/chicago-landmark-monuments-and-sites-2/li-sculp-hm-009c-2/>

Background

“September 3rd: Labor Day, No Class”

I was surprised by AEPP's notice since I thought Labor Day should be May 1st. I googled it and found out some interesting facts! First, I was correct that Labor Day in most of countries is May 1st, which is why it is often called “Mayday” and also as “International Workers' Day”. However for some reasons, the US celebrate Labor Day on 3rd of September^[1]. Second, more interestingly, I found out that Chicago was deeply associated with the reason why International Lab or Day is on the 1st of May, the origin of Mayday.

In 1884, labor unions organized a nationwide labor movement calling for an eight-hour workday and it started from Chicago. On May 1, over 80,000 workers held a big rally along the Michigan Avenue of Chicago. On May 3, a conflict between the Chicago police and picketing workers inflicted injuries on some workers and some even died. This provoked a large number of workers to gather in the Haymarket of Chicago and protest against the police's attack, which was later named as ‘Haymarket affair’ or ‘Haymarket Tragedy’ (since many workers were killed in this demonstration). The Haymarket affair widely became recognized as a monumental labor

movement which greatly influenced the establishment of a legal standard eight-hour workday. The date for the International Labor Day was chosen to be the May 1 to commemorate the Haymarket labor movement in Chicago (Adelman, n.d.).

The monumental labor history of Chicago was enough to capture my interest to further explore the impacts of the Haymarket affairs in Chicago today. Today, an eight-hour work day is a legal standard. However the socio-economic contexts of society have changed and workers' needs also have changed over the years.

Broader Issue

The context of work hour issue of Chicago is changing. What matters for workers now is how the work hours are arranged and work schedule quality, rather than the amount of work hours.

A number of studies on the relationship between work hours and workers' productivity convincingly addressed that a fixed work schedule of 9am to 6pm is not an efficient way of boosting workers' productivity. Because every individual has different rhythms of life, some people might prefer sleep late and start work after 9am while others are morning people. Imposing a rigid work schedule can decrease workers' best condition to perform the utmost productivity. Flexible work schedule is now considered a critical attribute of highly satisfied job (Greenfield, 2016). With flexible work schedules, workers can better manage their work-life balance and improve their well-being.

The work schedule arrangement matters not only for full-time, office workers but more for workers in service and retail sectors where jobs are mostly hourly based, low-paid and in precarious conditions. For these workers, overly flexible and thus fluctuant arrangements of work schedule imposed by employers can result in unstable work hours which is closely associated with income insecurity and poverty risk. Moreover, the unpredictable work scheduling can also prevent them from planning non-work activities such as scheduling appointments with doctors, making visits to children's school events or arranging stable child care services, which are highly related to individual and family's well-being (Lambert, Fugiel, and Henly 2014).

To handle the precarious work scheduling problem, the city council of Chicago recently took measures to make work scheduling more predictable and stable by proposing so-called 'Chicago Fair Workweek Ordinance'. The ordinance requires employers to give two weeks advance notice if the work schedule needs to change and if they fail to give in advanced notice, they have to pay penalty fees. Furthermore, it also affords workers the rights to refuse shifting work schedule once the notice is given less than 11 hours before the shift begins. Employers are also mandated to offer additional hours of work before hiring extra workers for the job (Yastrow,

2018). While the proposal of ordinance is still pending, there are already many companies that implemented advance notice practice in work scheduling in Chicago (Arena and Pawar, 2018).

In conclusion, the emphasizing point of workers' demands on the work hour issue has changed in Chicago. While workers asked for the standardized eight-hour work day back in the 1880s, today the quality of work hours and the way of arranging work hours are more critical to workers' well-being. Concerning the negative effects of precarious work scheduling on low-skilled and low-paid workers, the city council of Chicago took actions to intervene by proposing 'Chicago Fair Workweek Ordinance'. The ordinance to make work scheduling more predictable and stable is considered "the latest innovation in the workers' rights movement" (Dienstag, 2018). However, there are still far more ways to go to improve workers' rights. There was no time in any part of history that labor issues did not exist. But the lesson that can be learned from the Haymarket affair is to encounter the issues and make a united voices to fix it and it is what makes the step forward to the progress of workers' rights. The recent ongoing strike by hotel workers is demanding to adjust health insurance and employment insecurity problem (Elejalde-Ruiz, 2018). Its number is growing each day and all the hotel workers – housekeepers, doormen, cooks and more – are joining the strike to make a united, collective voice. Yes, the spirit of Haymarket Affair is definitely still being inherited in this city, Chicago.

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<http://www.lanermuchin.com/newsroom-fastlaner-192>

[1] Several reasons can possibly explain why the US did not designate May 1 as Labor Day. One of them is that since May 1 was closely related to Haymarket Affair and also that the socialist and anarchist movements were associated with this labor movement, the US government felt uncomfortable to make May 1 to the Labor Day (Wikipedia)

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The Two Top Universities in Chicago: Noble Elite vs. Sexy Nerd?



*The downtown campus of Northwestern & the Main Quad at UChicago.
Photo by author.*

Background

Harvard vs. MIT, USC vs. UCLA, Oxford vs. Cambridge, Tsinghua vs. Peking... It's quite interesting to find it so common that a region or nation usually has two distinguished universities, sharing similar rankings and reputations – no more, no less. And when we talk about the academic in Chicago, we will also naturally focus on two specific universities: University of Chicago on the South side, and the Northwestern University on the North side.

“UChicago, or Northwestern, that is the question.” I was once also stuck in this knotty problem when I received offers from both of these two universities earlier this spring, with my mind like a pendulum keeping swinging from one to the other. I was enchanted by UChicago's extreme brilliance but meanwhile a bit antipathetic to its boring nerdiness; chances to study, work and

live like an American elite in Northwestern really attracted me, but I just couldn't ignore its negative image of party school no matter whether it was a stereotype. After rolling around over and over again, I made my decision to accept University of Chicago, but the echo of debates remained in my mind until today. There are just so many huge differences between these two top schools in any aspect, and I would like to classify them into two genres: noble elite for Northwestern, and sexy nerd for UChicago. Too different to become rivals, quite a good deal, isn't it?

Broader Issue

At First Glance

Northwestern University, seen from its brand tools: the exquisite badge and the purple color code which represents mysteriousness and nobility, is a school full of aristocratic flavor. Its richness is obviously shown by the light-colored, basically contemporary-styled architectures all over the campus, the modern glass walls of buildings in the large costly downtown campus, and the enormous endowment more than 10 billion every year (nearly 40% more than UChicago).

University of Chicago, on the other hand, with its dark-fire-red color code, seems much more academically aggressive and dedicated, just like other top universities that also use dark red or pure red as their official colors such as Stanford and Harvard. Buildings in UChicago are basically in classic gothic style, modelling after Oxford University to seem more brilliant when the campus was constructed.

Professional and Playful vs. Academic and Academic

Northwestern University has much more of a pre-professional environment, with finance, investment banking and consulting always as the top popular words in Evanston.

Northwestern's most distinguished professional education is in journalism and communication. Its Medill School is undoubtedly among the top 3 journalism schools in United States, but what makes it much more outstanding than the other two— Columbia University and UC Berkeley — is its marketing communication, a perfect combination of communication and business. The certificate program by Kellogg School of Management is also popular among college students. Even in the School of Arts and Sciences which focuses on basic subjects, many undergraduate students choose to undertake a major or minor in math/CS/economics and work in finance industry after graduation.

Apart from studies, students in Northwestern are commonly keen on the so-called traditional collegiate fun: feeling the collective sense of identity in the university-wide enthusiasm in Northwestern's Wild Cat football team, gaining the tightest friendships in fraternities, finding relaxations in the big parties. To this kind of extent, the whole temperament of Northwestern

can perfectly represent the American top elite universities – no excessive quirkiness but high diversity instead; pragmatism across the campus, eagerness to transform knowledges into practices; and the tight school spirit originated from parties and varsity sports

Which is better: Northwestern University or University of Chicago?

Answer 1 of 9 · View All

Kale Hyder, B.S. Neuroscience & Spanish, Johns Hopkins University (2022) — Over the past few years, I have conducted extensive research into both UChicago and Northwestern as well as visited UChicago numerous times and Northwestern once. Both are ... [\(more\)](#)

Are University of Chicago students secretly jealous of Northwestern students?

Answer 1 of 10 · View All

Hasnat Ahmad, B.A. Economics, University of Chicago (2022) — I think that I'm definitely one of the most qualified people to answer this question, as I will be attending UChicago as a freshman in the fall and my older brother will be... [\(more\)](#)

How do I tell my parents that I'm turning down the University of Chicago for Northwestern?

Answer 1 of 12 · View All

Jane Volberding, studied at University of Chicago (1979) — I went to the University of Chicago because I wanted a smaller class size and greater ability to meet with professors. I also found the subjects I was interested in were pr... [\(more\)](#)

*A screenshot of questions about Northwestern and UChicago on Quora
(<https://www.quora.com/search?q=northwestern+university+university+of+chicago>).*

Travel Times from UChicago:

Downtown campus: 44 min by CTA 55st bus and Red Line, 24 min by car.

Evanston campus: 90 min by Orange Line, Green Line and then UP-N train, 46 min by car.

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Yinzhan Fang
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The Establishment of Chicago Chinatown: A History That Has Long Been Neglected



Chinatown at Night, photo credit to Daniel Schwen

Background

Chinatown is one of the most frequently-visited destinations of Chinese students in the United States, where we not only look for delicious food or Chinese grocery, but the feeling of home. Having heard of its excellent reputation, I went to Chinatown with my friends right after settling down in Chicago. Despite its name, Chinatown is quite different from today's rapidly developed P.R.C. Old style signs and buildings, residents with Cantonese accent, traditional food and flavor...all these things give me a glimpse of "China" decades ago. The history seems to stop here, or, in other words, it continues in an isolated form, as if planting a seed in a different ground and it blooms in a novel way.

I ordered a cup of milk tea in a popular Taiwanese beverage store and then went to a restaurant named "CHI CAFE", where I had a fried seafood rice noodles with nearly the same taste of those in my hometown. However, food was not what initially drove me there, Chinese service was.

Many people simply regarded Chinatown as a tourist attraction, thinking it was a place where they could experience Chinese culture and lifestyle. But in fact, Chinatown has more functions than that. It offers Chinese services in various fields: you could always find a waiter, a barber, a bank staff and a language teacher who speak Chinese and could help you out when you encountering any difficulties of your daily issues. For similar reason, I went to T-Mobile in Chinatown and was friendly served by a Chinese American who set up a mobile account for me.

But several questions kept lingering in my mind: some of the Chinese immigrants here could not even speak Chinese, why did they still choose to stay and work here rather than move out? Is there any historical reason that made Chinese people gather and build their own neighborhood or is it simply because Chinese were not willing to be assimilated into American community? After some research, I found that there was a miserable history behind the peaceful life of today's Chinese Americans, which was not well-known to the public.

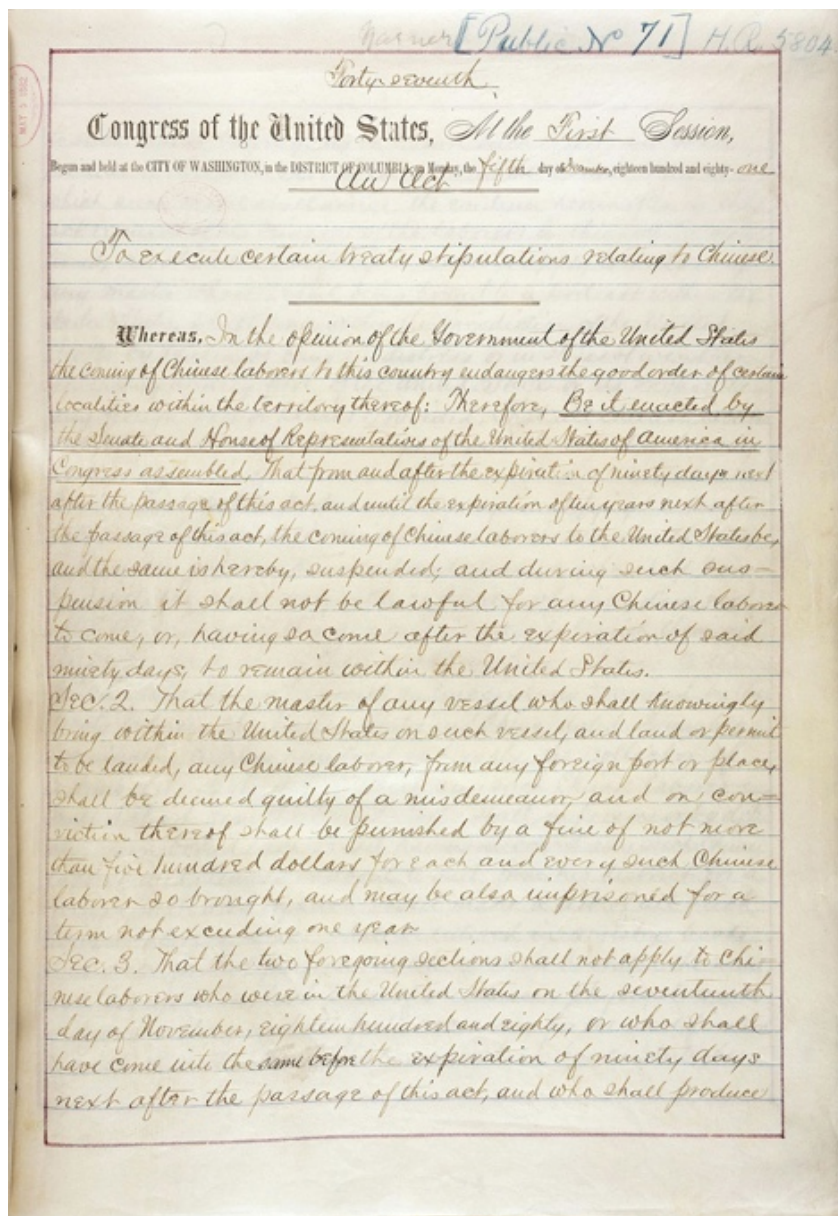
Broader Issue

I learned from a documentary that in the 19th century, there was a group of Chinese laborers coming over to work on the construction of transcontinental railroad in the U.S., and once the railroad was completed in 1869, some of the workers moved on to find a job, and Chicago became one of their destinations. However, those hardworking, diligent and cheap laborers, became huge threat to local workers. Locals were afraid that with the arrival of Chinese, their wage level would drop and they might even lose their own jobs, though which should mostly be attributed to economic decline in the whole country. As discrimination against Chinese increased, the anti-Chinese feelings finally erupted into violence, and Chinese were attacked by enraged white people: their houses were burnt and their compatriots were killed. The Chinese Exclusion Act was signed by President Chester A. Arthur in 1882, prohibiting all immigration of Chinese laborers. As a result, Chinese were forced to stay in Chinatown. They were not willing to go out, for local people did not want to work with them; and they could not go out, for they would be easily attacked without the protection of law.

To a certain extent, Chinese laborers in Chicago were not excluded from these riots and uproars. The presence of the Chinese living here brought hostile and suspicious feelings to local Americans, and then half of the population were forced to move due to rent prices raised by local landlords. Construction of the expressways in 1950s drove away half of the Chinese population again, and construction for the new State Detention Center in 1970s led to another relocation of Chinese. Finally, they settled down in today's Chinatown area, where they bought houses and started businesses. So far, Chicago Chinatown has been offering numerous job opportunities for Chinese living here and all kinds of services to Chinese who first come over to help them adapt to their new surroundings.

After learning that history, I was shocked by the unfair treatment that Chinese ever underwent,

but I also admired their courage, persistence and unity to survive against adversity. I was asked by my friend of how I felt about Chinatown. Before I found myself hard to answer the question. If it were in China, I would definitely not spend a minute there: I could always find a place more attractive. However, now I am standing on the ground of Chicago, thousands of miles away from my hometown, as pieces of history flash through my mind, the answer just reveals itself: Chinatown is not just a tourist attraction, it is the symbol of Chinese identity and virtue



The first page of Chinese Exclusion Act, <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=47#>



Chinatown Street, photo credit to Local Hero

Travel Time

From the University of Chicago to Chinatown (33 min): Take bus 55 (Midway Orange Line) at 55th Street & Ellis Station to Garfield Red Line Station, then walk to Wentworth & Garfield Station, take bus 24 (Wacker/Clark) to Wentworth & 23rd Street Station, and then walk 3 minutes to Chinatown.

Wendi Gao
China
Division of Physical Sciences

Grocery Cash Back – A Convenient “ATM” Around You

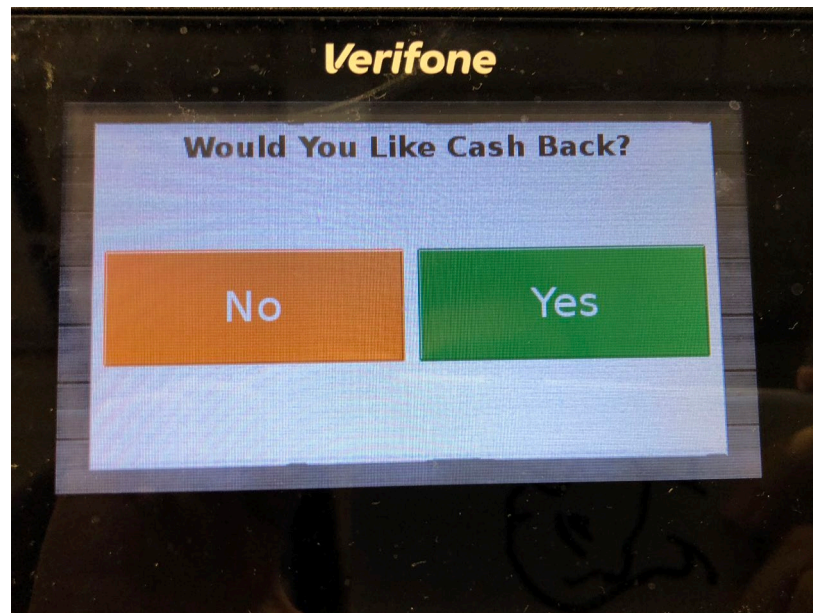


Photo by Author

Background

Grocery cash back is brand new for Chinese who come to US for the first time. It is a service offered to grocery customers in which they can get a certain amount of cash via adding it to the total purchase price. For instance, you pay \$10 via your debit card in the grocery store if you buy something for \$5 and choose to get cash back for \$5. This service saved me in my first week in the US. At that time, I had to insert exactly \$10 into an old vending machine to get my laundry card. However, the nearest ATM is 850 meters away and the service fee for getting cash from ATM using my “Bank of China” debit card is quite high. Therefore, I just went to Whole Foods near my apartment, bought a bag of cherries, and perfectly got \$10 in cash without a service fee.

Broader Issue

In China, there is no similar service at the grocery store. Nowadays, almost all the people use their phone to pay bills and transfer money. And even the beggars put their QR code of their Alipay account in front of them (Alipay is the most popular mobile payment platform in China). However, my personal experience shows that grocery cash back is convenient for people in the US. As a student major in Finance, I became interested in the reasons why this service exists in the US.

As far as I am concerned, there are three necessary parts of the Cash Back service: demand from customers, supply from grocery, and the cooperation between grocery and the banks. Firstly, unlike China, there are certain cash-only circumstances in the US, such as old vending machines, small shops where card is not supported (e.g. the cafe in UChicago Swift Hall), etc.. However, the sparse distribution of ATMs and the high service fee of cross-bank ATM withdrawal make it difficult for people to get cash. Therefore, the customers' demand of a quick, convenient way to get cash rises.

Besides, cash back service helps the grocery store to put money in banks indirectly. It is effective to reduce the amount of cash that the grocery store holds and will cut the operating costs of the grocery store. The service only allows customers to get a small amount of cash (less than \$50), which will not cause the shortage of cash at the store. Meanwhile, the cash back service will also attract customers who want to make a cash back transaction. Thus, these stores are willing to provide cash back service.

Lastly, the convenience to obtain cash will improve the bank's service and attract potential customers. There is no doubt that people will choose a bank with people-oriented service. Compared with the cost of ATM installation and maintenance, the cost of their cooperation with different grocery stores is much lower. It is natural, therefore, that many banks cooperate with stores and contribute to this win-win service.

After taking all conditions above into consideration, it is not hard to find that the existence of cash back service is reasonable in the US. This service is convenient for customers, increases the sales of groceries, and lowers the costs of banks.

Stephanie Gunawan
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Harris School of Public Policy: Public Policy

Gentrification: Balancing of Cultural Character Existence, Crime Reduction, and Investment Escalation



Picture 1



Picture 2

Source: (Picture 1 – Left and Center)

<https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20170630/pilsen/casa-aztlan-mural-replaced-painted-over-ray-patlan-andrew-ahitow-city-pads/>

(Picture 2 - Right) This picture was taken by the author, August 19th, 2018 in front of Casa Aztlan in Pilsen. Casa Aztlan repainted on December 2017 after painted grey on early June 2017 by the city developer. It 'wins' from being "grey"

"Residents don't just walk out of their neighborhoods. There is push back and on-the-ground resistance." Diane Wong

Background

When I did my neighborhood project in Pilsen, the issue about gentrification was so very strong sticking out in every search I did. It seems more clearly when Eric and I decide to visit the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen. Gentrification even has its own space to echo in one special exhibition room of the museum.

The gentrification issue was not only a regional issue in Pilsen but widespread in national within The States, moreover international issue. Maybe the question is, "Then why should we care?" As a candidate in Master of Public Policy, I believe that policy needed to be made as much favor as public interest rather than one party nor particular subject. Is the gentrification the most prominent way to re-organize and manage urban area? If yes, could the cultural character resides in the area while gentrifying happened?

My heart cries when I read about the gentrification grey in Pilsen, especially when it dealt with Casa Aztlan, the oldest community serving Hispanic people (Mexican, Latino, and African American) for more than 40-year (Picture 1). Casa Aztlan with murals painted in the building was painted grey by the developer who takes over the building due to repayment capability issue of the Casa to the banking institution. A local government which has the budget constraint/fiscal issue have nothing to do to save this place. The developer who builds apartment in the community area, shocked by the protest against them, and they unfinished the grey-painted. After artists' movement, speaks after speaks, including the exhibition name "Peeling off the Grey", the developer promise to this community area to repaint the murals of the building by re-inviting Ray Patlan, the former murals painter of the Casa Aztlan (Picture 2).

My biggest concern was not about the terminology of gentrification itself, but (1) the displacement of earlier people in the community area. (2) Are (local) government take any responsibilities to them? (3) Is gentrification bring any positivity to its community area?, and (4) Will the cultural character remain after gentrification?

Broader Issue

Diane Wong wrote about the process of mural painting and how it can be a form of everyday political action for marginalized communities. "Residents often resist in ways that they can—hosting community forums, developing support groups, and in other ways that may not be outwardly observable, but still matter."

The government must be put much effort to tackle the rampant of crime, gangs, drugs, and homelessness. One of the solutions might be gentrifying the area. The term gentrification itself was firstly invented in London, England, but the practice was obviously widespread around the world. Gentrification was not only happened in Pilsen, Wicker Park, Uptown, or other

neighborhoods in Chicago, but other states, like New York City, and other countries in the world, like the UK and my home country, Indonesia. It happened in the Elephant and Castle neighborhood in South London, the Fort Greene neighborhood in Brooklyn-New York, the Boyle Heights in Los Angeles, not to mention Mission District in San Francisco along with the Dot-Com boom by the tech companies who are setting up shop there in the 1990s.

Gentrification or the process to rearrange the community area by inviting investment has changed the face of the area. The landlords in the community area then argue about raising the leasing price to the current residents. For example, the price high to \$800 in the Boyle Heights-Los Angeles, or the landlords keep hiking the real estate prices no matter what the number or the percentage is. Earlier residents who can't afford the increment of the price then decide to move. Other things such as eviction, public action, sale or reoccupation, or the changing state of the neighborhood just another way of gentrification.

From the research paper written by Richard Florida, gentrification has a positive correlation and negative correlation to some of these criteria(s) (Picture 3). The portrait of gentrifying city emerges as a large, dense, affluent, high human capital, a metro that well served by transit. Conversely, it less likely happened in smaller, sprawling metros, blue-collar economic structures, and people who commute to work by car.

The Fed study suggests that there are two reasons why transit is connected to gentrification. On the demand side, transit allows more privileged groups—especially in dense, congested cities and metros—to trade arduous car commutes for transit. On the supply side, investment in transit—especially substantial investment in new or refurbished transit lines—signals a large-scale commitment to neighborhood upgrading, which attracts more affluent new residents and also drives up property values.

Despite all the negative issue about it, to the opponent's side, gentrification is little more than a natural process of neighborhood transformation and change. According to a study by MIT researchers, gentrification reduces crime rates and increases public safety in city neighborhoods. Other research includes measures of violent crime and public school quality to gauge the effects on neighborhood quality of life. Poverty rates might be declined slightly in gentrifying neighborhoods, but how about it also increase slightly in non-gentrifying ones? Since people just moving around this neighborhood. Then we should do something.

Comparing with Indonesia, for decades, Jakarta – the capital city of Indonesia has wanted to revitalize the old town, the center of old Batavia, an area that bustled with life and trade under the colonial Dutch administration. The city then woos private investors, and it did success! The Jakarta Old Town Revitalization Corporation (JOTRC), a consortium of nine companies among them property giants, who each gave its corporate social responsibility – renovate more than a dozen buildings in cooperation with the owners (mostly state-owned companies). Buildings have been renovated, and there are another plans to make over this area better. The upscale

tenants are being encouraged to open up shops and security has been beefed up. The mutual agreement was, once the JOTRC finished renovating a building, it would get a 20-year lease from the owner and rent the space to a retail tenant – clothing chains or restaurants – at a lower rate than Jakarta’s upscale shopping malls. This is how business works!

Moreover, when former Jakarta Governor, Basuki Tjahja Purnama (Ahok), want to revitalize the riverbank, he built the modest flats to relocate the people who previously stayed in the area. He had allocated and used the local government budget (local fiscal) to prioritize the flood and traffic issue in Jakarta. If then this example called Gentrification, he made it successfully great! There must be any relation to the Indonesia Act No. 1 of 2011 concerning Housing and Settlement Areas Article 5 paragraph (1): "The state is responsible for the administration of housing and residential areas whose development is carried out by the government."

How about Act in the States? Could there any possibilities using local fiscal under any Law like the local government did in Indonesia? Aside from the Indonesian idea that mentioned above, the idea to prevent displacement in the future in the US (which also published in the media) was policymakers can reinvest some money from increased property taxes into rental vouchers that help those at risk of displacement. Tax on the value of land would also capture the value of improvements in the local community. This idea was to support the economists, Henry George, "land-value levies should replace all other taxes, leaving labor and capital to flourish freely, thus ending unemployment, poverty, inflation, and inequality." (Progress and Poverty, 1879).

From Prof. Florida’s perspective, one of the distinguished fellows at the New York University’s Schack Institute of Real Estate, "The real task of urban policy is to improve the housing options, economic opportunities, and neighborhood conditions of those being pushed further behind in its wake. This means developing people-oriented policies", and I could not agree more.

Positive Correlation	Level	Negative Correlation	Level
Capita income levels	.61	The share of blue-collar workers in an area	-.48
Wage levels	.62	the share of commuters who drive alone to work	-.55
Higher levels of college graduates	.51		
Concentration of artists, musicians, designers and other cultural creative	.55		
Population size	.59		
More likely in metros (the use of public transportation to get to work)	.61		
Concentration of high-tech industry in a metro	.58		
The monthly costs of housing at the metro level	.53		

Source: <https://www.citylab.com/equity/2013/11/why-some-places-gentrify-more-others/7588/>

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Law School

Do Chicagoans Do Nothing in Bedrooms at Night?



<Visual 1> No ceiling light in an ordinary Chicago apartment

Background

According to the City of Chicago, over 60% of Chicagoans live in rental housing.¹ Like ordinary Chicagoans, I am living in rental housing in South Loop. However, when I just moved into my apartment, the first thing that came to my mind was: “No ceiling light? How can I read a book in the bedroom at night? Do Chicagoans not do anything except sleeping at night?” In South Korea, there is no apartment which has no ceiling light in its bedroom. Only after having a conversation with my Chicagoan friend, I realized it is common in Chicago that rental houses have no ceiling lights in their bedrooms!

If that is the case, what is the main reason of no ceiling light in bedrooms of rental housing in Chicago?

¹ City of Chicago, “Rents Right”,
(https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/rents_right.html)

Broader Issue

Some people think that the major reason of no ceiling lights in bedrooms of rental housing is various personal preferences to their home décor. To be specific, because people have their own “home décor (including home lighting décor)” preferences, if there are no ceiling lights in bedrooms, renters can decorate their rooms with lamps that reflects their preferences, and it will attract potential renters to those apartments or houses. Moreover, landlords don’t have to replace outdated ceiling lights with “up to date” ones.²

In my opinion, however, the main reason of no ceiling lights in bedrooms of rental housing is costs. In other words, there is no economic incentive for landlords to install ceiling lights in bedrooms. Because they have to change outdated ceiling lights to “up to date” ones to attract potential renters, the above argument is also related to landlords’ costs. No ceiling lights in bedrooms saves landlords’ costs in the following ways.

First of all, landlords can save “continued maintenance costs” by not installing ceiling lights in bedrooms.³ Municipal Code of Chicago 5-12-070 stipulates that “The landlord shall maintain the premises in compliance with all applicable provisions of the municipal code and shall promptly make any and all repairs necessary to fulfill this obligation” and 5-12-110 states that “In addition to any remedies provided under federal law, a tenant shall have the remedies specified in this section under the circumstances herein set forth. For purposes of this section, material noncompliance with Section 5-12-070 shall include, but is not limited to, any of the following circumstances: ... Failure to maintain plumbing facilities, piping, **fixtures**, appurtenances and appliances in good operating condition and repair; ...” (emphasis added)⁴ This may be the reason why the National Apartment Association (NAA) lease form (2018, Chicago) 31-2 stipulates “We (owner) will act with customary diligence to maintain fixtures, furniture, hot water, heating and A/C equipment.”⁵

Pursuant to Black’s Law Dictionary (as cited in Morris, 2010) a fixture is defined as “personal property that is attached to land or a building and that is regarded as an irremovable part of the real property, such as a fireplace built into a home.”⁶ By definition, installed ceiling lights are housing fixtures. Specifically, ceiling lights in bedrooms are personal property that is

² David Bothof, “Why are apartments in California built without ceiling lights?”, Quora, (<https://www.quora.com/Why-are-apartments-in-California-built-without-ceiling-lights>)

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ 「Municipal Code of Chicago」 Chapter 5-12, ([http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Illinois/chicago_il/title5housingandeconomicdevelopment/c hapter5-12residentiallandlordsandtenant?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:chicago_il](http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Illinois/chicago_il/title5housingandeconomicdevelopment/c hapter5-12residentiallandlordsandtenant?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:chicago_il))

⁵ 「Municipal Code of Chicago」 Chapter 5-12-010 states that “This chapter applies to, regulates and determines rights, obligations and remedies under every rental agreement for a dwelling unit located within the City of Chicago, regardless of where the agreement is made, subject only to the limitations contained in Section 5-12-020.”

⁶ Sharon L. Morris, “Fixtures – What Kind of Property Are They”, Probate & Property, 2010, p.61. (https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publishing/probate_property_magazine/rppt_publicatio ns_magazine_2010_so_pp_SeptOct10_Morris.authcheckdam.pdf)

attached to housing, and because once installed, they cannot be removed without causing substantial damages to the premises, they are regarded as irremovable parts of housing.

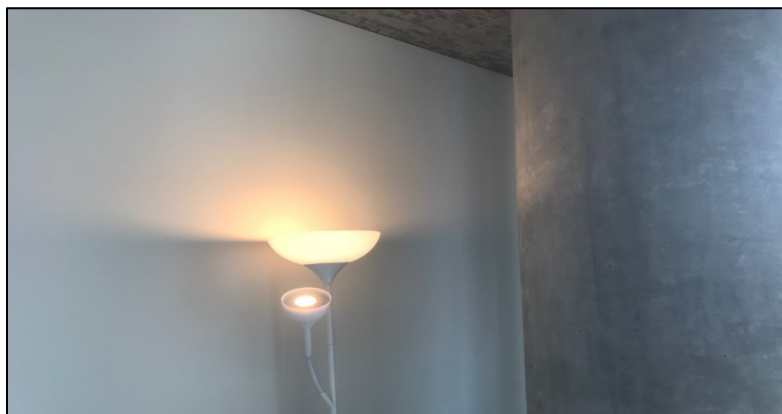
Therefore, according to Municipal Code of Chicago 5-12-070, maintaining ceiling lights in bedrooms in good operating condition is the landlord's responsibility. In short, due to the maintenance costs, there is no economic incentive for landlords to install ceiling lights in bedrooms unless installing them is mandated by laws or regulations. It seems there is no law or regulation requiring landlords to install ceiling lights in bedrooms. This is the reason why landlords usually do not install ceiling lights in bedrooms.

In addition, landlords can save costs of installing ceiling lights. No ceiling light in bedrooms means no cost of installing them. Furthermore, according to Bothof, installing "some switched outlets" is much cheaper than installing "a hanging light fixture."⁷

Conclusion

To sum up, because of maintenance and installation costs, installing ceiling lights in bedrooms is economically disadvantageous to landlords, so ceiling lights tend not to be installed in rental housing. I believe that this trend will continue unless economic incentives are provided to landlords or laws mandate installing ceiling lights in bedrooms.

Due to the above reason, Chicagoan renters are very familiar with buying bedroom lamps. It means that Chicagoans can do something in their bedrooms without ceiling lights! Like other Chicagoan renters, I also bought a bedroom lamp. Therefore, I can read a book in my bedroom at night.

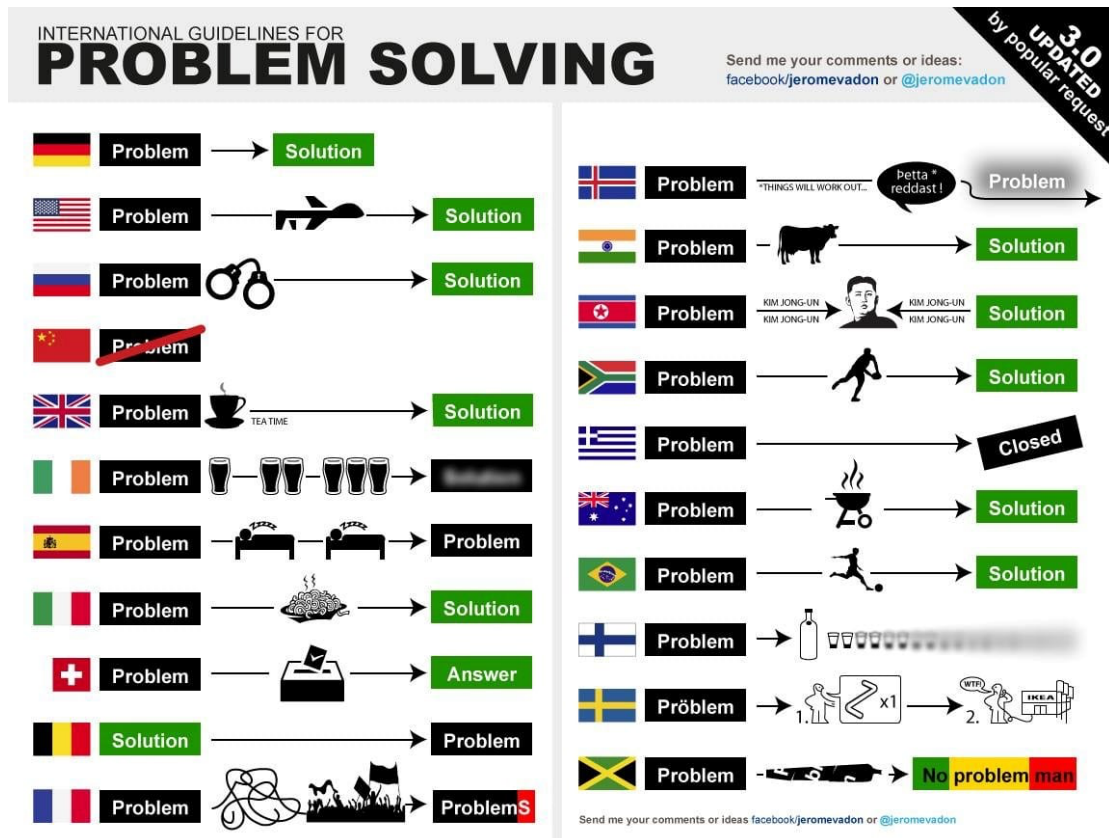


<Visual 2> A Bedroom Lamp

⁷ David Bothof, *op.cit.*

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Discovering My Implicit Biases



To start with, I am paranoid. And I am going to be completely frank about it. On the third day after my arrival in Chicago, I planned to visit the USPS post office on 55th street to ask for my missing package, but not after I found many black people on the street. Some of them were walking; some of them were leaning at the traffic lights or outside the stores. It was sunny and warm. I felt naked and vulnerable immediately after getting off the bus. I jumped into the nearest decent store to find some shelter, as if checking the map outside would attract something bad. The map indicated that in order to get to the post office, I had to pass by the black man leaning at the traffic lights. So, I ran across the road and jumped on the bus that took me back to campus.

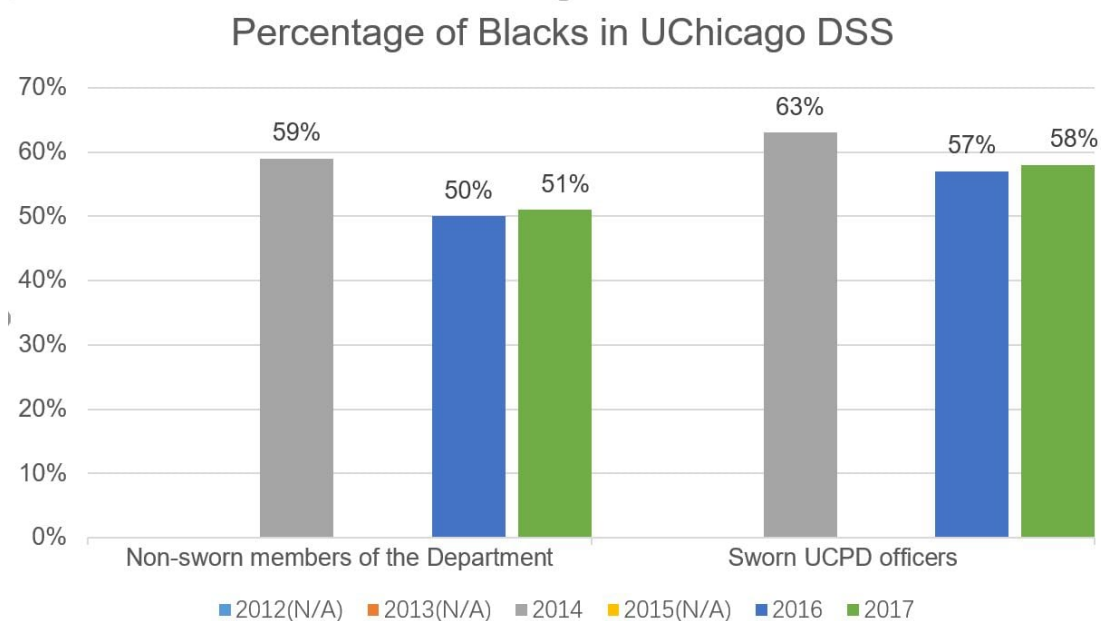
Another story: on the campus tour, while we were walking along the Midway Plaisance, the guide explained that this area is a bit depressing because of an unsuccessful attempt to build a canal. I think people may now have more reasons to feel that way (after 12:05 a.m., August 23

when shots were fired and a driver was killed on the westbound Midway Plaisance at South Woodlawn Avenue). Almost instantly, I pictured a gangster with braids holding the steering wheel while flying past me. Swift though he was, I was captured by his chilly teeth in the dark, which happened to belong to a black man.

Yet another story: I once got lost on campus and looked to someone for help. One black man was the only person I could see on the street, somehow walking strangely in a uniform with a “Police” on it. I gazed at the word for a while to make sure I had read it correctly. Later, I was confused, or to be more precise, slightly alert, to recognize that most security officers patrolling on campus are black.

“But what’s your point?” said my friend, “One-third of Chicagoans are black.”

I have been thinking about what my point was.



The answer to my question seems simple. Based on the 2016 statistics, 29.3% of the population in the city of Chicago are black (Chicago, Illinois, 2016). The percentage is even larger in Hyde Park (32.4%) and its surrounding neighborhoods such as Kenwood (71.1%), Woodlawn (85.1%) and Grand Boulevard (91.1%) (Overview of Chicago, Illinois (City), 2016). Given the demographic characteristic in the local labor market, one would consider the black proportion working in the Department of Safety & Security (51% in 2017) and the University of Chicago Police Department (58% in 2017) to be reasonable (2017 Annual Report, 2017, p. 12). Another possible explanation for the high makeup of black people would be the intent to protect civil rights and the justice system. Police violence, especially beating, tasing and killing black people without the suspicion of a weapon or violent crime, has been fueling riots and protests,

which has prompted political leaders, from Martin Luther King, Marion Barry to former president Barack Obama to carry out reforms by increasing the number of African-American officers (USA Today, 2017). Compared with a mere 17% of blacks hired by the Chicago Police Department in 2017 (Stark & Little, 2018), the figure for UCPD seems to be more satisfying, even though more blacks on the police force does not necessarily indicate less brutality, given their dual roles and the code of silence due to hostility and threat from white supervisors and colleagues (USA Today, 2017).

However, above all, why would I ever ask this question of why most security officers on campus are black? Am I surprised if the majority of police officers in one country are its people? If the answer is no, as it should be, the only possible reason for asking the question would be I did not assume black people to be American people in the first place. An even more disappointing and embarrassing conclusion is that I might relate blacks to danger. “Their (most working and middle-class white Americans) fears about crime in urban neighborhoods are somehow prejudiced” (2008), said Obama in his speech on race. This also applies to me. While it is meaningless to deny the fact that the majority of gangsters contributing to the bloody gun violence are black people, a radical fear of victimization only simplifies, stereotypes and amplifies the negative to the point that it distorts the reality about the whole black population.

This implicit and unconscious bias, different from the explicit bias which is racism, can impact on individuals who at the conscious level reject prejudice (Hunter-Gault, 2018). Furthermore, it is not an issue about a particular race. It is the mechanism of how human brain works. We even have stereotypes of food! In fact, it is the inclination to categorize, label and predict things, based on various experiences and information, that facilitates the perception of the world and the mitigation of risks: it would be inconceivable if people have to cut themselves in order to establish an understanding of the sharpness of a knife.

However, implicit biases might misinterpret the truth, and produce discriminatory behavior. It is the portrayal of black gangsters in films, the depictions of crimes in the mass media, and the intimate storytelling by friends of friends of friends that construct the pieces of a stereotype and halt people from trusting and caring. To overcome this in a police-force context, police departments such as NYPD have introduced unconscious bias training programs with the purpose of creating awareness for implicit bias among motivated and well-intentioned policemen, hoping to implement bias-free behavior (Hunter-Gault, 2018).

In the end, it is not an abstract concept of “African-Americans” that we are facing. It is that 6 ft 3 in tall, 350-pound and 43-year-old Eric Garner, the father of six children and the grandpa of three grandchildren, that we are facing (Sullivan, 2014). It is that Trayvon Martin, Jordan Davis and Kimani Gray who had families, friends and hobbies, who we met and talked to around the corner in the neighborhood. “Black” is less than a feeble description. Though biases cannot be completely broken, one should never stop there. In a careful and thoughtful way, a step further

would switch on the lights of a unique universe, where gender, age, ethnicity and occupation seem trivial and come to fade in significance, manifesting the essence of an individual, struggling and thriving as ordinary.

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Food Rescue: Saving Food, Saving Lives



Photo by author

Background

On the other day when I was having brunch at Pret A Manger, a café on campus, I surprisingly found some lines on the napkin, saying “Every night we give our fresh food to the hungry rather than selling it the next day. It’s the right thing to do.”. These lines quite surprised me. Back in China, I have never seen any café or restaurant making such promise, especially the donating food part. Is there a tradition of donating food in the United States? In what way do the individuals and the organizations take part in? To figure out the answers, I talked to the staff working in Pret A Manger and searched in the internet.

Broader Issue

How Does It Work in Pret A Manger?

To begin with, I checked on the Pret's website. There is a whole page titled with "Doing the Right Things", telling their strategies of producing fresh organic foods and helping alleviate hunger and homelessness in the US. According to Pret's website, they donated over 800,000 meals to those in need in 2017.[1]

They are doing these in supports with several partner organizations, including City Harvest, Thrive DC, and Rescuing Leftover Cuisine, which help them collect the surplus food and redistribute it to the in-need people.

Besides, Pret also responds to the asking-food requests from individuals. A cashier working in the Pret said, sometimes there are people walking in at the end of the day and asking whether there is any food to spare. In that case, they also will give away the food.

However, they do not give away all kinds of food. Sandwiches and salads are the most common ones to give to the food rescue organizations, because usually these foods do not easily get perished. On the other hand, they never donate foods like yoghurt, soups, and hot wraps, because these kinds of food will go bad in at most 2 hours once left the shop, which makes it impossible to deliver the foods to the people in need in such a limited time.

Food Rescue Projects in the United States

According to Wikipedia, food rescue, is referred to "the practice of gleaning edible food that would otherwise go to waste from places such as restaurants, grocery stores, produce markets, or dining facilities and distributing it to local emergency food programs".

The United States has long been aware of its food-waste problem. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has pointed out that food waste in the United States is estimated at between 30-40 percent of the food supply. [2] Yet at the same time, many people are in the food-insecure conditions. Food rescue programs are aiming to deal with this problem.

To encourage companies and organizations to donate their surplus food, there is a legislation act in United States, named "The Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act", which offered the donor protections from criminal and civil liability. It was signed by President Clinton, on October 1, 1996. This law is regarded as standardizing donor liability exposure, by protecting donors from liability even if the product donated in good faith later cause harm to the recipient.[3]

Up to now, there are several organizations working on the different parts. Food Rescue volunteer to collect unused food from restaurants and grocers to supply local food banks. Food Donation Connection provides useful information on food safety. [4] And with the collaborative effort of the companies, they are on the way to solve the food-waste problem.

How Is It in China?

However, as I tried to find out how things work in China, I could not find an ongoing organization working on perennial food donation. And the most disappointing fact is: although there are several branches of Pret A Manger in China, none of them are doing the “right thing”. When I checked on the website of Pret A Manger in Chinese version, the session named “Waste Not, Want Not” just disappeared.

I was quite shocked with the fact that the donating-food culture is unacclimated in China, since Chinese culture has long been recognized as “collective” and “reciprocal”. Here are some reasons attributed to the absence of food rescue project in China:

First, food labelling terms. China is using a totally different food labelling terms from the U.S. I found that “best-before date” and “sell-by date” are two of the most frequently used food labelling terms in America, which can be chose by food producers. While in China, “used-by date”, or in another words, “expiration date” is the only food labelling term permitted and required by the government. This term can be quite tricky, because it suggests that the food cannot be eaten once passed that date (which is apparently not true). Neither selling nor donating it can be legal or acceptable.

Second, the lack of supportive legislation in China. There is no law or act in China similar to “the Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act”, so Chinese companies and organizations may not even have thought about donating food, or otherwise may be afraid of being sued if there is any unpleasant outcome.

The last but not the least, cultural difference. There is a proverb in Chinese culture, saying “A gentleman never eats free food for no reason”. People may think accepting free food is a shame and donating food shows their disrespect, which makes food rescuing in China becoming a more difficult task.

Saving Food, Saving Lives

In general, I believe donating food to people in need is not only a way to maximize the use of our resource, but an action of social redistribution as well. A sandwich can mean a lot to a person in need. Eventually these small actions can make a big difference. It is totally understandable that every country has its own historical and cultural conditions, but the essential part is that we try to use our own effort to make up for greater good.

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Chicago: Spider Heaven



Picture by author

Background

When I started living in Chicago, what surprised me most was the spiders. Spiders can be found everywhere. Whenever I get close to the windows of my apartment, I see spiderwebs hanging outside the windows. Also, while I walk from my apartment to the University, I always have to carefully look forward because sometimes a thin spiderweb hanging from a tree suddenly appears right in front of my face. These spiderwebs are made by tiny spiders, such as Orb Weaver Spiders, which are natural pest controllers, and we should not get rid of them. However, most people hate spiders, and being touched by spiderwebs is terribly annoying. Why are there so many spiders in Chicago? Do I have to deal with these spiders for the whole year?

Broader Issue

Chicago's Flying Spiders

One of the reasons why spiders can be seen everywhere in Chicago is the unique behavior of spiders that is called “ballooning” or “kiting”. Spiders release silk threads into the air, and when the wind catches the threads, the spiders, still connected to the threads, fly into the air. This behavior enables spiders to fly more than “two-and-a-half miles up in the air, and 1,000 miles out to sea” (Young, 2018).

In Chicago, taking advantage of the strong wind from Lake Michigan, spiders can fly up to 95 stories (CBS News, 2015). These “flying spiders” are observed especially in the summer season, and this is why we can see spiders outside the windows even in the upper floors of an apartment or a hotel.

In Winter: Antifreeze Proteins (AFPs)

Chicago is famous for its freezing winter. Can we expect the spiders not to survive the winter? - No. The spiders make it through the winter, using their Antifreeze Proteins (AFPs). Spiders are cold blooded species, and their body temperature will be the same as the temperature of their surroundings. In that case, when the temperature outside is below 0 degree Celsius, we would expect the spiders' blood to freeze. However, AFPs inhibit ice growth in spiders' organisms and enable spiders to live in the freezing weather (Blake, 2018). Furthermore, according to Duman, Bennett, Sformo et al. (2004), AFPs enable insects to survive under extreme temperatures, such as -40 to -70 degrees Celsius. Therefore, we should expect spiders to make it through the winter in Chicago.

Conclusion

Spiders are well adapted to the weather of Chicago. We can avoid seeing spiders inside by keeping our houses clean, but as for the outside, spiders are everywhere for the whole year. No matter how irritating spiders are, they help us by killing other pests, so we have no choice but to get along with them. Unfortunately, for those of us who hate spiders, when we come across them, the best way to deal with them is not to be upset, remember that spiders don't do any harm to us, turn around, run away, and pretend that you did not see anything.

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Chicago as Disneyland



Photo by Ashok Selvam

Background

If you ask Chicagoans : “ Is there a Disneyland/Disney World in Chicago?” The answer will be an obvious “No”. What then come into their mind are the Disneyland in California and Walt Disney World in Florida. However, there still seems to be some Disney elements here. A visitor on TripAdvisor calls the Navy Pier as “the Chicago version of Disneyland”, where “adults, teens, children” can have fun (TaylorB). Another review regards the Rainforest Cafe on N. Clark Street as “ Disneyland in Chicago”, which is “well designed to entertain the clients” (Luizcarioca) .

But aside from such literary paralleling, there did exist significant attachment between Chicago and Disneyland. If we dig into the history of them, we’ll find out that Chicago is not only the hometown of Walt Disney and Disneyland but also epitome of a “Disneyzated” (Bryman 1) society. Its history, present and future are modeled by this prototype.

Before we get to the “Disneyization” or “Disneyized”, it’s important to know some historical facts that link Chicago and Disney together. On December 5, 1901, Walt Disney was born at 1249 Tripp in Chicago (visit <http://www.thewaltdisneybirthplace.org/> to see a restoration project of this house). Five years later, his family moved to a farm in Marceline, and then left for Kansas City (Barrier 10). In 1917, Walt backed to Chicago and rented a flat at 1523 Ogden Avenue on the Near West Side, and enrolled in the McKinley High School. More importantly, it is in Chicago that Walt received his “only formal art training”. He “took three nights a week” at “the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts” (Barrier 21), which nowadays known as the Art Institute of Chicago, to develop his interest in drawing. Around 1923 (Barrier 39), Walt Disney headed for California in search of his animation dream. Therefore, although Chicago is not famous for Disneyland, it is Disney’s Homeland.

Broader Issues

Chicago is not only the birthplace of Disney, but also the cradle of Disneyland. As the host of the Columbian Exposition in 1893, the Century of Progress Exposition in 1933 and the Railroad Fair of 1948, Chicago, according to many scholars (qtd. in Bryman 22), has witnessed the continuities between those world fairs and Disney theme parks.

The continuities have several levels: first, both world fairs and Disneyland provide exotic attractions from all over the world; second, both of them create illusions including the models of real landmark and the shows re-enacting historical events; more importantly, both of them set up an environment which could combine all of these attractions and illusions together, and integrate them into a fixed site (Bryman 23).

Why are the scholars so concerned about the origin of Disneyland? It is never just an amusement park, it is the forerunner of modern/postmodern society. This is why some theorists and sociologists are so engaged with it. Baudrillard (12) uses “Disneyland” to exemplify his concept “hyperreal” and “America”: “The objective profile of the United States, then, may be traced throughout Disneyland.....All its values are exalted here, in miniature and comic-strip form. Embalmed and pactfied.” Alan Bryman regards “Disneyland” as a model of contemporary consumption which have been diffused to every corner of our society: restaurants, shops, hotels and zoos (24). “Disneyization”, according to Bryman (1), is “the process by which the principles of the Disney theme parks are coming to dominate more and more sectors of American society as well as the rest of world.” In a word, they regards Disneyland as a metaphor, to delineate a society which is beyond existing knowledge corpus.

When it comes to nowadays Chicago, is Disneyland really out of reach? Actually not, and we can see the mark of it everywhere. It is embed in the Apple store where the utopian concept of technology is conveyed through displaying and having fun; it modeled the magnificent Macy store on State street where you can have a cup of coffee and enjoy the fun of changing

costumes without actually purchasing one; it of course exists in the Navy Pier and Rainforest Cafe when the consumers review them as “Disneylands in Chicago”. Following their comments, we can also declare that in Chicago there are millions of small version “Disneyland” where all kinds of entertainment and consumption are concentrated just in one specific environment and under a typical brand name.

For Chicago, Disneyland is not something past, it is still highly relevant for the present and future, especially in terms of the risk and dark side indicated by this metaphor. After all, it’s easier to recognize that the spectacle and joy Disneyland brings about are just illusions. Just as two readers (Shacter and Grove, “Letter: Is this Chicago? Or Disneyland?”) wrote to Chicago Tribute this year:

“Look how big the airport is getting! And yet another condo/retail tower going up! And another suddenly cool Chicago neighborhood under development attracting well-heeled businesses, young up-and-comers and senior well-to-doers! And look, you can walk along the river and dine there too! Cool.

Yet the city and state continue to lose population. So what’s going on here?

You got money, you can stay and play. You can have a great view and dine in the kinds of wannabe starred restaurants where a meal is easily half a day’s pay of the anonymous someones — the someones who do your dishes and park your car, the people who got squeezed out like soft calk from their now unaffordable apartments and need a loan to get decent seats for a family outing to Wrigley.

Call it: Disneyland, Chicago. Yeah!”



Chicago: World’s Columbian Exposition, 1893: Ferris wheel. Chicago (Ill.).

Photo from ArtStor Slide Gallery

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Chemistry

Indians in Chicago: ‘What started it all?’

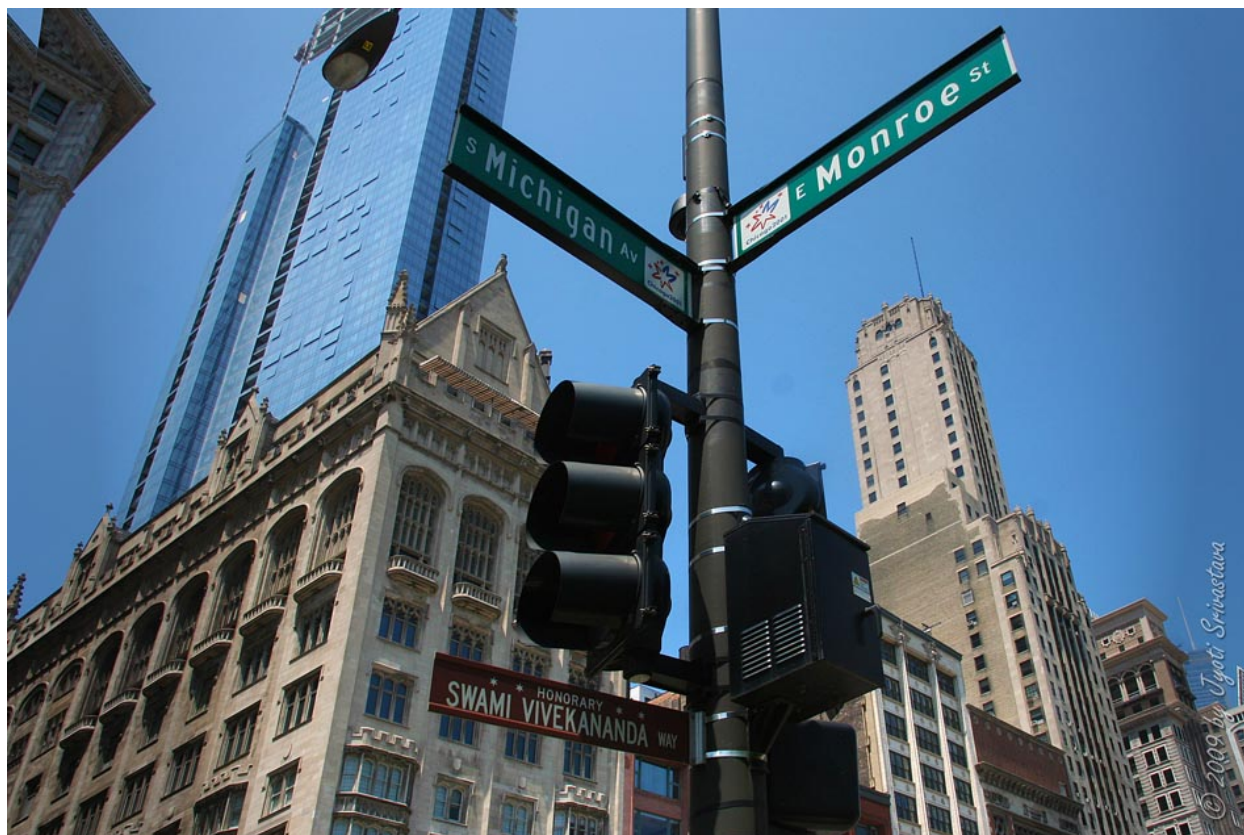


Photo by: Jyoti Srivastava ^[2]

Background

An escape from the world of science, this is what Chicago downtown visits are to me. What amazes me the most is the fact that on my every visit to downtown, I encounter a minimum of three Indian families. As of 2006, there are about 114,000 Indian-origin people in the Chicago metropolitan area, and it constitutes more than 2% of the city's population [1]. This might explain the frequency of encounters, yet the question prevails what was the trigger or the starting point for such massive immigration.

On one of my visits to downtown, I ended up deciding that I would visit the art institute. Now, what awaited me over there was something other than the exhibits that I had imagined. It was rather an honorary plaque Swami Vivekananda way! An average Indian would be amazed or rather dumbstruck by this road sign. Now it is just a question of why? 1) It is simply because of the name featured in it, and 2) because of the existence of a Vivekananda road back in India as well which brings in a sense of connection.

I myself, like any other average Indian student who hated the idea of learning history, never went ahead of the textbooks and on seeing this sign ended up being curious. Curiosity-driven searches culminated in me coming across one of the greatest lectures to have ever been delivered on Chicago's soil, The 1893 Lecture at the Parliament of the World's Religions delivered by Swami Vivekananda. [3]

Now who is Swami Vivekananda? Swami Vivekananda was the Indian monk who introduced the principles of Yoga and Vedanta to the western world, and the key player in raising Hinduism's status to a major world religion. Again the Question arises, 1) what is so special about this lecture that led to dedicating a road to him? 2) What made him stand out so much from the other delegates who delivered their lectures? So, let me just take you through his speech, its past and current implications, and you can analyze for yourself.

Broader Issue

The speech began with a very humble greeting, "Brothers and sisters of America." [3] Though humble it is rather rich in meaning. An Indian delegate addressing an American crowd as his brothers and sisters reflects a thought process where he projects the world as big family where everyone deserves to be cared and respected for as siblings. Though, projecting a quixotic idea this is exactly what every humanitarian movement or organization is trying to achieve even today. The speech embodied the true meaning of Hinduism which to the colonial eyes at that time was a set of practices which needed to be eradicated. Yet, through his speech he brought to daylight the inherent connection or similarities in ideas amongst all religions present then and to an extent even today.

He quoted the underlying principle which is written down in Vedic texts, "As the different streams having their sources in different places all mingle their water in the sea, so, O Lord, the different paths which men take through different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to Thee." [3] This statement is indirectly throwing stones at those people who segregate mankind on the basis of religion, those who inflict communal riots in the society and, finally, those who are so very blinded by their religion. Yet, it could also be argued that on a broader perspective, it was a statement that emphasized on the importance of tolerance and universal acceptance.

Finally, he ends his speech by expressing his furious retaliation against Sectarianism, bigotry, and its horrible descendant, fanaticism. [3] He fervently hopes that “The bell that tolled this morning in honor of this convention may be the death-knell of all fanaticism, of all persecutions with the sword or with the pen, and of all uncharitable feelings between persons wending their way to the same goal.” [3] September 11, 2018, marks the 125th anniversary of this famous speech. It is indeed an ideal time to reflect on our practices now and to analyze how far along are we in eradicating the three enemies that have filled the earth with violence.

In addition to the global implications of the speech as has been discussed before, it has also paved the way for people from India to come to the United States. It is believed that his speech helped in Indian immigration by enlightening the United States especially at those times when South Asian immigration was restricted by Emergency Quota Act. [4] Yet the first major influx of Indians was seen after the sanction of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, which permitted graduate students and professionals to enter the United States. [5] By the end of the twentieth century Chicago was the city with the third largest population of Indians in the United States. Now I can confidently claim that I do have an explanation for the frequent encounters and for the question, ‘What started it all?’.

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Drill Music in Chicago



Source: <https://theoutline.com/post/3359/chief-keef-influence-essay>

Background

For a foreigner, it is hard to ignore the loud, unique music from American muscle cars or low-riders on the street. These drivers always roll down the window, put their arms on the door, and the heavy beats come out of the window like a monster's roar. Although I am not a big fan of Hip-Hop, I am still curious about the characteristics of Chicago Hip-Hop music. Like Trap music from Atlanta, Chicago also has its own sub-genre of Hip-Hop called Drill music. Born in the 2010s in Woodlawn on the south side of Chicago, Drill music has become the new trend of Chicago Hip-Hop scenes. The most prominent feature of Drill music is its dark, violent, and realistic lyrics, which reflect the harsh reality in the most impoverished neighborhoods in Chicago (Drill Music Wiki, n.d.). Why is Drill music so different from the mainstream? Why is it dark?

Broader Issues

Hip-Hop music has long been associated with urban issues, but that is an archaic mode in today's Hip-Hop mainstream. The main content today heavily focusses on material comforts, showing off, and physical pleasures. This made Drill salient when it became popular in 2012

(Caramania, 2012). The lyrics are full of darkness, gang violence and death threat, which reflects the violent crime problem in southside Chicago which has long been higher than the country average. For example, in 2016, the violent crime rate in Chicago was 1105.4 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016 (FBI, 2016a) whereas the national violent crime rate was 386.3 per 100,000 inhabitants (FBI, 2016b). According to a study by the University of Chicago Crime Lab, “Most homicides involved guns, occurred in public places, and stemmed from what police believe was some sort of altercation.” (University of Chicago Crime Lab, 2016, P.3). Increasingly, most violent crimes happened in a certain few neighborhoods on the south and west sides of Chicago where Drill music was born. The report also concluded that the problem in Chicago, “is not a widespread change in anti-social or criminal behavior in general, but rather a narrower one of gun crimes committed in public places, frequently by young people in our city’s most distressed neighborhoods.” (University of Chicago Crime Lab, 2016, P.26).

Consequently, young Drill rappers use their creative way to protest against violence, and their music, objectively shows audiences the harsh life on the streets and the reason behind it. People not from Chicago do not have many opportunities to know what is happening in these communities, but Drill music, like a window, offers a possibility towards the reality. Additionally, it also represents the revolt against Chicago’s infamous history of segregation which might be the very root of all issues of south side Chicago (Herrera, 2014). The public housing projects in the 1960s systematically relegated African Americans to impoverished areas, and those communities has long been neglected. Before Drill music appeared, residents of Southside Chicago only had rare opportunities to tell the public about their life experiences. On the other hand, it seems nobody really cares about their gloomy life. However, now they have their spokesmen. With the rise of Drill music, more and more real stories can be heard and spread. Most importantly, the media focus on Chicago’s new Hip-Hop scene might be an excellent chance to let the public make some changes or make up for their mistakes. Contrary to the rhythmic beats, the struggle of people in those communities depicted in the lyrics might be a vital tool to understand the social issue of Chicago.

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A Dangerous Line? A Warm Harbor?



*Two Thresholds social workers promised to help the homeless find shelter soon while riding the Red Line.
(Photo/Abel Uribe)*

Background

Having lived in a relatively safe country for about twenty years, I have no idea about what “danger” really means to the residents in Chicago. My first ten days here was quite safe under the “protective umbrella” of Hyde Park, since I did not travel to any other neighborhoods alone. However, as I was planning the route to Uptown, a neighborhood over 13 miles away from Hyde Park, my teammate strongly opposed us taking the red line.

“Why don’t we just choose the most direct and convenient route?” I asked. She told us how others warned her not to take that horrible line. Even though I still cannot figure out the danger

hidden in taking a certain CTA line, we finally chose to transfer to red line around the Millennium Park instead of Washington Park, which could be more northerly and secure.

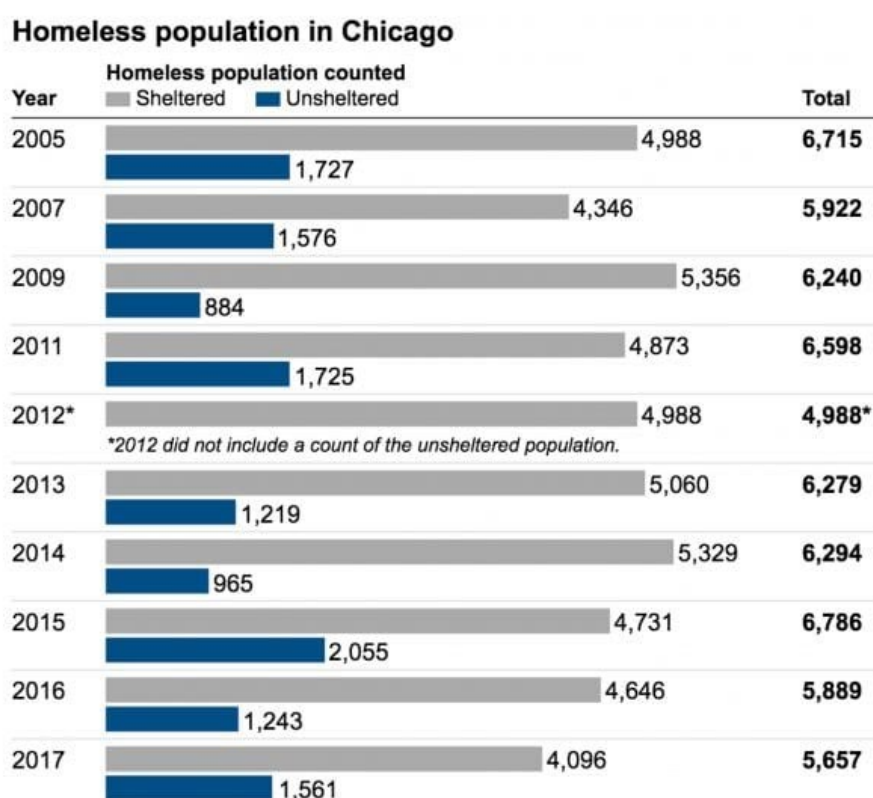
We were supposed to wait for our train at the tunnel platform of Grant/State station. Whereas once walking downstairs into the transit corridor, I was astonished by the “abandoned factory” in front of my eyes – it was bleak and dark with flaked paint and chipped tiles, exuding a weird atmosphere even in the morning. Suddenly, I noticed a ragged old man staggering forward, mumbling to himself while trying to distribute some paper scraps to the passengers. As he moved closer to us, I was so astounded that I hastened to hide behind my friends and avoided facing him directly. I did feel a kind of danger, and to be exact, a danger from unknown – I did not know who he was or what he would do to the riders next. While the terror still beat tumultuously in my heart, my friend asked why we could met homeless people here. I suddenly realized that the insecurity I felt for the first time in Chicago was not caused by a drunk, a thief or a gunslinger, but just a homeless man with mental illness. It did not happen in a narrow alley as imagined, but an open area offering public transportation. I wondered what kind of dilemma brought him here.



A Tunnel of Red Line (Photo/ Jaclyn Rivas)

Broader Issue

Homeless people in Chicago are not monolithic. They cover a wide range of people, including the displaced, the unemployed, the mentally ill, criminals and even young college grads who failed to find a job. Department of Family and Support Services' 2017 report reveals a total of 5657 homeless population in Chicago (lower than the amount revealed by Chicago Coalition for the Homeless), and 27.59% of them are unsheltered. Compared with the year 2016, although total homeless population decreased by 3.94%, the unsheltered population increased by 25.58%. As a result, the unsheltered rate actually increased, indicating a high probability for the homeless to stay at places not meant for living.



(Source: 2017 Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey Report, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services)

To deal with such problems, Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) Homeless Division played a role in ending homelessness by funding shelter programs and engaging unsheltered ones into housing or shelter services. But many homeless services mainly geared toward the homeless without mental disabilities. Besides, some shelters' restrictions on where the homeless can go and when they must come back, the possible treatments like

discrimination and assault as well as the fear of crowds also decreased certain homeless people's willingness to be sheltered.

To avoid harassment on the streets or in shelters, some (about 18.8%) homeless turn to stay in CTA stations or on rail cars. But is CTA really a warmer harbor? Riders can get annoyed when they see the homeless sprawling out sleeping on a stretch of seats. Some are sick of the bad smell of the homeless, and worry about the sanitary condition of the train. To reduce the inconveniences and other effects caused by homeless people on other passengers' experience, CTA have arranged more agents to drive away those riding trains in a continuous loop. So some homeless riders were just kicked off at the final stop, while others got off one stop before the end and re-board over and over again, gaining 50 minutes' rest at a time instead of a whole night's peaceful sleep.

As long as the three train seats remain cold, what the homeless call "home" cannot be warm. When the train stops at the final destination, where can they shelter from the fierce winter winds?

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Finding Identities on T-shirts



Identity t-shirts of Chicago, photo by author

Background

It was a busy weekend in the Loop. The Chicago Bears and the Chicago Cubs were both matching on August 25, Saturday. And the next day there was the annual Chicago Triathlon. “Cubs, Cubs, Cubs, Bears, Chicago Triathlon, Bears, Cubs, Bears....” It was the perfect time for me to enjoy counting the different logos and mottos on people’s t-shirts, an activity I called “a quick read of people in identity t-shirts”. An identity t-shirt shows one’s self-identity in texts, graphs, or logos. By reading some of the popular identity t-shirts, we can tell where people place themselves and what they value in Chicago.

Broader Issue

First, Chicago is a big sports city. Not only do Chicagoans have strong attachment towards the sports teams, but also, they feel proud to “show off” in t-shirts printed with the team logos. The t-shirts serve as a classifier for one to identify “friends” and “rivals” in a sports match, as well as a relationship bond among families and neighborhoods that share the same identity in sports. The most popular baseball t-shirts are, of course, the White Sox and the Cubs, between which people must take sides. Another football team — the Chicago Bears also has a bear and a “C” as its logos, which is similar to the Cubs. As shown below, the cute bear on the blue shirt stands for the Cubs, while the fierce bear head and the orange “C” both stand for the Bears!



Identity t-shirts of the Cubs and the Bears, pictures from NFL Online Shopping, <https://www.nflshop.com>

Another expression of Chicagoans’ self-identities is the local event t-shirt. Some t-shirts are given out to the public for free as advertisement, and some are priced as a way of financial support for the event. The likelihood of participants wearing the event t-shirts is a direct indicator of their attitudes towards to the event. Those favored event t-shirts are the fastest event forecasts and reporters in the vibrant community. For example, the Chicago Triathlon t-shirts were so popular during the Triathlon weekend that even someone as a “newbie” in the Loop area could not miss the event.



Identity t-shirts of the Chicago Triathlon, pictures from the Prep Sportswear, <https://www.prepsportswear.com>

Chicagoans become cautious when choosing their identities related to institutions or organizations. They tend to choose what they are frequently exposed to in daily life, instead of some place they only visit once in a while. For instance, when it comes to the Art Institute of Chicago, although it offers people a wide range of t-shirts printed with famous paintings, few locals tend to buy them. That being said, company t-shirts are rarely seen on the street in Chicago as well. A big reason is that wearing the company t-shirt implies one should represent the company's image. It is likely for people to feel constrained and stressed in that way. After all, t-shirts are made for ease and comfort.

Besides, it is interesting to notice that students wearing the maroon UChicago t-shirts on campus attract more attention and have longer eye contact with passersby, although some of their faces do indicate it is a place "where fun comes to die" ...

The "I love BJ" t-shirt has been the hottest identity t-shirt among all residents and visitors in China since the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. It is a symbol of patriotism for Chinese and a souvenir for foreign travelers. In comparison, the "I love Chicago" t-shirt seems less attractive. People pick their own favorite pieces of Chicago: music, city flags, lake views... and even the Capone figure from the 1920's. Once put together, those pieces complete the Chicago puzzle, but still, the city is a puzzle...

The identity t-shirts show people's social ties in a most plain and passionate way. The elements of life that people fall with are diverse and specific. "I love Chicago" can absolutely no longer satisfy people's need for "showing off" their identities. However, people are displaying only parts of their identities on t-shirts. The first impressions based on those t-shirts can be transitory and superficial. It is sad for someone to be understood only by these simplified tags. Finding identities on t-shirts is just the first step to collect pieces of the Chicago puzzle.

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How to Live in Hyde Park as an Outsider



The tree at Blackstone Bicycle Works, 61st street. Photo by the author on Aug. 22, 2018.

Background

Imagine you are living in Hyde Park of Chicago, the community inarguably designated for the University of Chicago. However, you are neither a student/staff affiliated to the university, nor working in a university-owned canteen or store. In fact, neither are any of your family members or relatives. Even the girlfriend of your cousin has nothing to do with the university. But you live in the place. How do you feel?

Broader Issue

How do you feel if you work in an AT&T store, dealing with the international students who have to spend much longer time to explain about their requirements? They may be smart in their academic fields, but indeed clumsy and frugal in daily life. You smile to them; you waive the activation fee and assure them it will show on their first bill as they insist; then they ask: "Can I get a discount for the tax, as I am a student?"

Or you are a clerk in Hyde Park Produce. After comparing the price in Whole Foods, the new students flood to the grocery store, with loads of paper money and coins as their credit cards haven't been approved yet. After you complete all the barcoding, they suddenly realize their limited budget: "Sir, can I return this, this and this?"

Or you are just over 18 years old and working in the Blackstone Bicycle Works located in the 61st street just outside the main campus of the University of Chicago. Before this job, born in the south, you sold drugs, went into jail, then got released as you were too young. Like many young adults, you have various possibilities for the future but none of them will direct you to the university just one block away.

Those "yous" live in Hyde Park, quietly and invisibly. When a community has a main function serving a selected group, how do those at the edge feel, about their identity, about the place they have lived for life but never have belonged to?

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Coexistence with Wildlife: Joint Effort of Institutions, NGOs, and Governments



A squirrel on campus (photo by author)

Background

Attracted by the hopping squirrels, I always halt in the middle of paths, silently watching the frisky creatures scampering up and down. I have long dreamed of being close to nature and now the chance comes. Though having stayed in Chicago for three weeks, I still feel excited

when I come across the little animals. I tried several times to get closer to them. When the squirrels noticed me approaching, most of them ran away immediately, scurrying hastily. However, some squirrels stayed put and curiously stared at me with their mouths chewing. They were so cute that I wanted to take my phone out and take pictures of them. However, it was always too late. Most of the time, when I opened my camera, the squirrels had already scurried away. Maybe next time I should bring some professional equipment with me to observe them more easily.

Fascinated by the squirrels, I had a discussion with my instructor Paul, and he told me an interesting story he heard from a campus tour guide about the squirrels at the University of Chicago. In fact, the squirrels on campus are different from the ones outside. They are not an indigenous species but “British guests” imported from Oxford to create a retro atmosphere in accordance with the Gothic style of architecture here.

Apart from the squirrels, there are other kinds of wild animals living in both urban and suburban areas of Chicago, including but not limited to raccoons, possums, skunks, and even coyotes! Seldom getting out of my apartment after sunset, I don’t have enough opportunities to see them since most of them are nocturnal. Though the mammals are not easily found, various birds can be seen frequently during daytime, especially sparrows. The birds, together with the squirrels and the unseen nocturnal mammals, share resources and space with Chicago citizens harmoniously. I appreciate the relationship between humans and nature in Chicago and am looking forward to exploring more about the wildlife here.

Broader Issue

Thanks to the joint effort of institutions, NGOs, and governments, people in Chicago can well understand, effectively help, and peacefully coexist with wild animals.

Institutions and Squirrels

In Chicago, there are two main species of squirrels: fox squirrels and gray squirrels. To figure out the distribution of the two species and the reasons behind it, the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Chicago Academy of Sciences’ Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum started “Project Squirrel” to analyze data collected by citizen scientists. As a result, they found that the skittish gray squirrels tend to live in safer areas while the bold fox squirrels tend to thrive in more dangerous areas with cats and dogs wandering around. People in less developed areas tend to feed big dogs for safety reasons and more cats live freely on the streets there. Therefore, more fox squirrels can be found in these kinds of areas. As indicated by Joel Brown, an ecologist from UIC, the type of squirrel in a certain area could somehow reflect its

socioeconomic status. “Project Squirrel” certainly helps people to understand the habits and personalities of the animals that appear in their daily lives.

NGOs and Migrating Birds

With its beautiful skyline, Chicago attracts a large number of tourists every year. However, the flashing lights from the buildings also draw migrating birds from their original routes. Many of the migratory birds collide with buildings and die or suffer from injuries. In the US, fifty million to one billion birds die annually by collisions with buildings. To help migratory birds, an NGO named “Chicago Bird Collision Monitors” was established. Volunteers in the NGO go to the streets every morning before people and bird predators wake up. They look for injured birds on the streets and bring them back to the NGO’s rehabilitation center for treatment. After the birds fully recover, the volunteers will let them fly back to nature. Additionally, other NGOs started a “Lights Out Chicago” program, suggesting buildings to turn off decorative lights after eleven p.m. from March to June, in order to protect the birds from being mistakenly drawn to the city and hurt by skyscrapers.

Apart from the NGOs, architects are also trying to address the issue of bird safety. They design buildings that are friendly to migrating birds. To improve the survival rate of migrating birds passing through Chicago, convention centers, such as Northerly Island, were also built to provide temporary safe shelters.

Government and Coyotes

It sounds scary to live in areas with unfettered coyotes. However, this over anxiety could probably be reduced by a fact shown by the government that no one has been attacked by a coyote in the metropolitan area of Chicago up to now. To better sustain the harmonious relationship between coyotes and human beings, Chicago Animal Care and Control has distributed a “Coyote Management & Coexistence Plan” for Chicago citizens. It not only introduces the habits of coyotes but gives suggestions on methods to protect humans from coyote attack. For example, residents can keep pets indoors and dump unwanted pet food immediately to avoid attracting coyotes to backyards.

Though maintaining a satisfying relationship between people and coyotes in Chicago comes with many difficulties, the government never gives up but is dedicated to improving such interaction. If you want more details about coyotes, you may find useful information here: https://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/cacc/PDFFiles/CACC_Coyote_Management_FINAL.pdf



A female coyote studied by researchers (photo retrieved from <https://interactive.wttw.com/urbannature/coyote-comeback#!/>)

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Why are Chicago Street Lamps on During the Day?



Street lights in Chicago (Photo by author)

Background

When I came to Chicago, the first thing stirring my curiosity was that lines of street lamps are on in the daytime. I noticed this phenomenon both downtown and in Hyde Park. However, generally in China, street lights automatically turn on only when it gets dark outside. Aren't street lamps in Chicago equipped with an automatic light control system? Why is Chicago wasting so much energy every day?

Broader Issue

The main reason is related to the Chicago Smart Lighting Program, “one of the largest street lighting modernization programs in the country” (Mayor’s Press Office, 2017). This outdoor lighting investment aims to improve the environment and security by using better quality new lights. Mayor Emanuel spoke highly of this initiative, saying that it is beneficial for Chicago’s economy, environment, neighborhoods, and budget (Mayor’s Press Office, 2018).

In fall 2017, Chicago started replacing current traditional street lights with more energy-efficient LED lights across the city. Because of the relationship between light and crime rates, the replacement process started in high crime areas. Figure 1 shows the installation progress (Chicago Smart Lighting Program, 2018), and Figure 2 illustrates crime activities around Chicago in the past year (Trulia, 2018). Darker shades on both figures indicate earlier installation and more crime respectively. It can be seen that the locations where public safety problems are of greater concern will receive new lighting earlier.

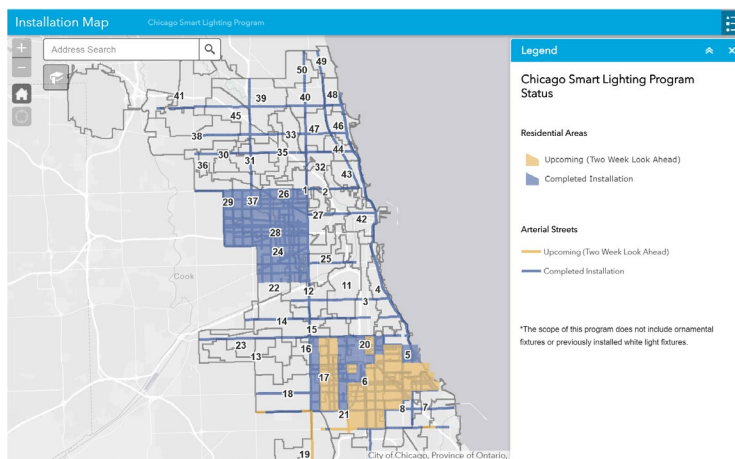


Figure 1

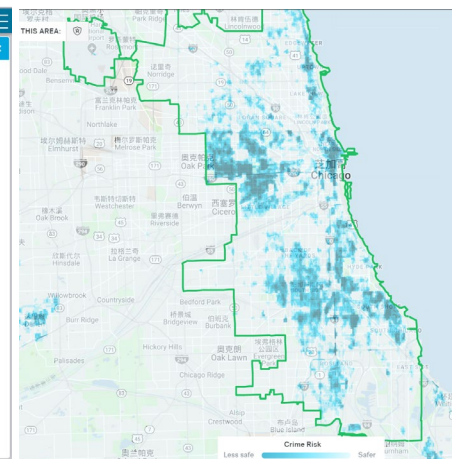


Figure 2

Figure 1. Chicago Smart Lighting Program’s installation map

(Source: <http://chicagosmartlighting-chicago.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/installation-map>)

Figure 2. Crime map in Chicago

(Source: https://www.trulia.com/real_estate/Chicago-Illinois/crime/)

The Chicago Smart Lighting Program saves energy, reduces light pollution, and cuts crime rates. The new LED lights remarkably reduce energy consumption by using half of the electricity of traditional orange-hued lights. In addition, light pollution can be greatly alleviated because the new lights are more focused with less distributed shine into nearby objects. Most importantly,

longer working hours can effectively reduce crime rates (Eng, 2018).

According to University of Chicago Crime Lab New York (2017), the Chicago four-year light replacement program has contributed to a significant crime rate decrease. The urban crime lab conducted groups of experiments to investigate the impact of street lighting on crime. The study found that increased lighting intensity led to a 7 percent overall reduction in crimes and a 39 percent reduction specifically at night. Therefore, it is clear that more light results in less crime.

Furthermore, based on analysis of data from the City of Chicago Data Portal provided by CDOT (City of Chicago, 2018), I found that the crime rate in Chicago is positively correlated with the duration of street light outages. In line with Seeskin, Auerbach, Gee, and Panella (2014), Poisson Generalized Linear Models (Poisson GLMs) were used to estimate crime rates by a function of light outages. Figure 3 shows the regression result of one type of crime (theft) with one type of outage (street lights all out) in some neighborhood. The upward blue line illustrates that crime rates are positively associated with the outage duration ($r = 0.73$, $p < 0.05$)

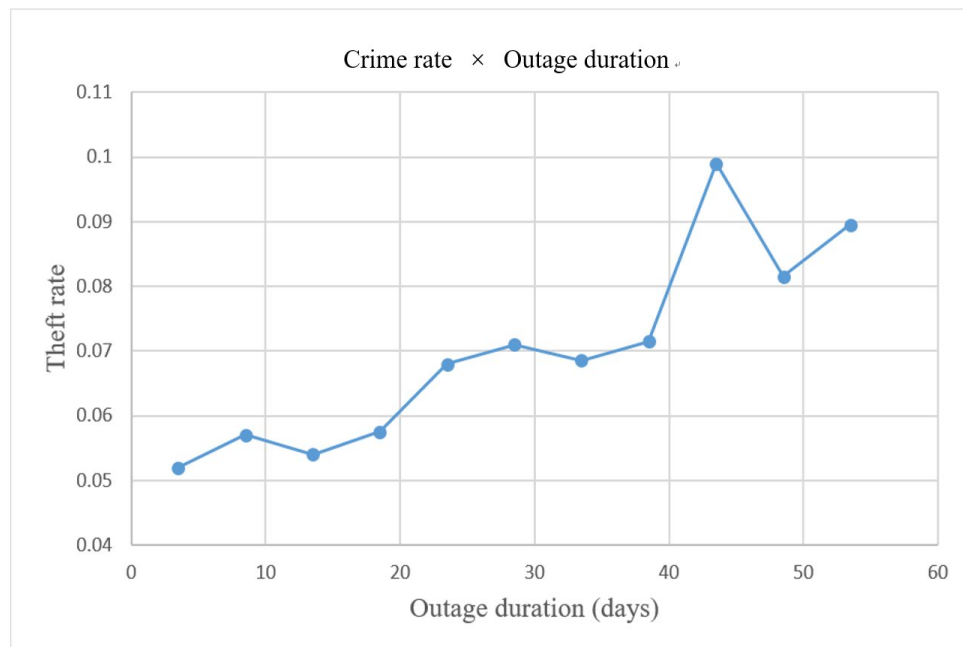


Figure 3. Regression result of theft rate and outage duration

In conclusion, a large number of studies have proved the positive relationship between outdoor lighting and crime rates. I strongly believe that it is valuable to invest in advanced lighting technologies for energy saving, light pollution alleviation, and crime reduction. Shining street lights during the day is not at all a waste of energy, instead, this investment is Chicago's warmest solicitude to its people, including me.

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Jazz Showcase



*Photo taken by Jinghan Zhu on December 16, 2017,
near Dearborn Station at 806 S Plymouth Ct, Chicago, IL 60605.*

Background

Jazz Showcase is the most historical jazz club in Chicago, Illinois, founded in 1947, by NEA Jazz Master Joe Segal, who still owns and operates the venue. A lot of the greatest names in jazz have played in the Jazz Showcase. Today, the Jazz Showcase continues to be a thriving Jazz club in Chicago and continues to bring in the top international & Chicago homegrown musicians.

My Chicago story started from March 2017, during the last Spring Break I had at Emerson College. I was on a post-breakup trip alone, hoping to escape from Boston's blizzard and the blizzard sweeping inside my heart. However, the cold and blustery weather in Chicago didn't seem to help much with my physical status or mental healing.

Weirdly enough, although the Windy City was not "love at first sight" to me, the city revealed its charisma over time. Under the cover of emotionless steel and cement, the charm of Chicago exceeds beyond the eye-catching, stunning skyscrapers; and it is deeply embedded in the vibrant, passionate art life, in which jazz plays a predominant role.

My second glimpse at Chicago proved to be a turning point, where the Jazz Showcase played as a game changer. In December 2017, I went to Evanston for the interview at Northwestern University. Accompanied by my besties as well as with progression of graduate school application, this time Chicago seemed much lovelier than the first encounter. On December 16, our little jazz quad of 4 went to the Jazz Showcase, where David Sanchez quartet was on the show. David Sanchez is a Grammy-winning jazz tenor saxophonist from Puerto Rico. For jazz idiots like us, we were expecting no more than just a swingin' night out with friends and a glimpse at Chicago nightlife.

On Saturday night at Jazz Showcase, you would expect a full house with a mixed audience, from newcomers like us to music lovers, to jazz connoisseurs, to columnists who cover the show, to name just a few. Lights dimmed out, chats and murmurs fell and rose, four couch potatoes found themselves deeply fell into the cozy trap made of the all-leather sofa and brushed all over by the smooth, fluid flow of music. All of a sudden, jazz turned itself from an abstract concept, a musical term, into something concrete and touchable. It was no longer something I knew, like the 12-bar AAB format or bebop or hard bop or bossa nova; it became something I can feel and relate to, a fluid emotion that triggers the poetic imagination. Plus, the experience of listening to a jazz live concert was so different from listening to a jazz album on iTunes. The vibrations and mood or the atmosphere added to the flavor of over-all jazz experience. Or, maybe it could be just because of alcohol.



Photo taken by Jinghan Zhu

The cocktail I ordered. No binge drinking. Just a little tipsy is the perfect status for a jazz night.



David Sanchez Quartet playing on stage.

(Photo taken by Jinghan Zhu)



Photo taken by Jinghan Zhu

Distracted audiences were socializing and drinking, while listening to David's quartet playing, occasionally looking over towards the musicians or clapping at the end of a song. On the wall were pictures of renowned jazz artists who had performed there and posters about jazz performance from old time.

From a newcomer and an amateur's point of view, the city and jazz shine more brilliantly in each other's company. Both are the hybrid of diverse cultures; both are undergoing constant changes; both have gone through ups and downs and are reborn and revitalized. After the jazz showcase night, the image of Chicagoans swingin' with the wind lingers on my head.

Broader Issue

Chicago can't claim to be the birthplace of jazz, but it's undeniably a city where the genre is thriving and evolving. The geolocation of jazz is constantly under changes. It started in New Orleans, known as Dixieland by then. During the period known as the Great Migration (1915-1970), African-Americans migrated into major metropolitan areas in the North and Midwest such as Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, and New York City. Six million African-Americans moved from southern states to urban areas in the North and West. Over the course of the migration years, the number of African-American Chicago residents grew to 1 million individuals – an increase from 2% of the city's population to 23% in Chicago. As the African-American diaspora continued to move out of the South, jazz moved along with the musicians who joined the Great Migration. Jazz in Chicago underwent many changes at the hands of generations of creative musical artists.

By the time when the founder of Jazz Showcase Joe Segal moved to Chicago in the late 1940's, bebop had emerged, led by Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and others. Youngsters in Segal's college had a club that used to listen to records; they were interested in the new music coming out and were crazy about Dizzy, Bird, and Thelonious Monk. Charlie Parker was playing at the Beehive on the 55th Street as a guest soloist when Joe was a columnist for the student newspaper, The Torch. Joe wrote a nice complimentary piece and Charlie read it and agreed to come to play. When Charlie Parker, who has a reputation for not showing up at many places, came to play, it seemed that all of a sudden, everywhere including the library and the study halls was empty. The kids were thrilled to see Charlie coming. The scene on which Charlie played with the students was indescribable. Anyone who had heard Charlie Parker or Dizzy Gillespie in person would know jazz wasn't just blowing through a horn as loud as they can or playing as many notes as they can.

Back then, Joe didn't really think of owning or running a nightclub but it happened somehow. He considered himself to be an instigator, an enabler instead of a musician. But jazz was hardly

a profitable business. Sometimes he had to borrow a few bucks from the musicians to go home. Other than getting loads of bills, the Jazz Showcase was forced to move to many locations over the years to keep the music on stage. From the former North Park Hotel on Armitage, to the Lion's Head Pub, the Gate of Horn and the Blackstone Hotel. Segal was once forced to halt a 1968 hotel concert by jazz pianist Bill Evans during the infamous Chicago Democratic Convention when delegates suddenly showed up.

In spite of the constant relocation of the club, the Jazz Showcase managed to keep the jazz going. At the current Plymouth location, audience can almost feel the history. "On the Sunday matinees, that we have people come in and say, you know my dad or grandad took me to the matinees you had on Rush Street in the 70's and now I'm bringing my kids. That's the idea of it," Joe said in an interview with WGH TV. Now the Jazz Showcase keeps attracting nationally and internationally renowned artists, like the Grammy winner David Sanchez, and almost becomes a historical site itself, too.

The relocation of jazz and the Jazz Showcase is a parallel metaphor. Jazz relocates itself from south to north, from east to west, just as the relocation of the Jazz Showcase. Jazz, like any other kinds of arts, is seeking new soils to settle, to survive, and to thrive. Sometimes it meets warm sun, sometimes it meets chilling winter. But no matter how the condition is, the love for jazz and idea of preservation would inspire other Joe Segal to enable and revitalize jazz.

Travel Time from UChicago & some tips

The Jazz Showcase is located near Dearborn Station at 806 S Plymouth Ct, Chicago, IL 60605. Having changed location numerous times since its founding, the club relocated again in 2008 to its current South Plymouth Court location.

How to get there? If you would like to go there from UChicago, it is very convenient to take an Uber, which only takes about 16 minutes. Uber is more cost-efficient if you are going with a group. Sometimes the split fee is much lower than that of public transportation. That being said, if you prefer taking public transportation, buses or CTA come in handy, too.

Multiple public transport options are provided below:

① Take Bus 55 (55th Street & Ellis to Museum of Science & Industry), then transfer to Bus 10 (Water Tower to Balbo & State), and finally walk 0.2 miles to the club. The trip takes approximately 39 minutes.

② Take Bus 55 (55th Street & Ellis to Garfield Green Line Station), then take Green Line (Garfield to Roosevelt), and finally walk 0.4 miles to Jazz Showcase. The trip takes approximately 42 minutes.

③ Take Bus 55 (55th Street & Ellis to Garfield Red Line Station), then take Red Line (Garfield to Harrison), and finally walk 0.2 miles to Jazz Showcase. The trip takes approximately 37 minutes.

Remember: the open hour for the Jazz Showcase is Mon. – Sat. 8pm and 10pm / Sun. 4pm, 8pm, and 10pm. From Monday to Wednesday, it offers students/musicians discount. Therefore, don't forget to bring your Uchicago student ID!

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