

Regional Spotlight Session (Las Vegas). Growth in the Mountain West: Perspectives from Brookings Institution

Sponsor:

Regional Spotlight

Schedule Information:

Scheduled Time: [Mon, Aug 22 - 8:30am - 10:10am](#)

Title Displayed in Event Calendar: [Regional Spotlight Session \(Las Vegas\). Growth in the Mountain West: Perspectives from Brookings Institution](#)

Session Participants:

Session Organizer: [Robert Lang \(Brookings Institution and University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Robert Lang \(Brookings Institution and University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [William H. Frey \(Brookings Institution\)](#)

Panelist: [Audrey Singer \(The Brookings Institution\)](#)

Panelist: [Robert Lang \(Brookings Institution and University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Christina Nicholas \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Abstract:

The Mountain West—Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah— have experienced some of the fastest population growth, demographic shift and urban transformation. Thus, the region has grown nearly three times faster than the United States as a whole over the past two decades, with majority of the growth occurring in six metropolitan areas. And while the region remains primarily white, it has experienced an increase in Hispanic population growth. The panel will use 2010 census data to examine population change, Hispanic population growth, and metropolitan expansion in the Mountain West. The panelists will then discuss the economic, social and political impacts and implications as evident of the 2010 census.

Regional Spotlight Session (Las Vegas). Prostitution and the Sociology of Law: Current Research in Trafficking, Exploitation, and “Sex Work” in Las Vegas

Sponsor:

Regional Spotlight

Schedule Information:

Scheduled Time: [Sun, Aug 21 - 10:30am - 12:10pm](#)

Title Displayed in Event Calendar: [Regional Spotlight Session \(Las Vegas\). Prostitution and the Sociology of Law: Current Research in Trafficking, Exploitation, and “Sex Work” in Las Vegas](#)

Session Participants:

Session Organizer: [Andrew Lawrence Spivak \(University of Nevada Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Andrew Lawrence Spivak \(University of Nevada Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Sharon S. Oselin \(California State University-Los Angeles\)](#)

Panelist: [Ronald Weitzer \(George Washington University\)](#)

Panelist: [Barbara G. Brents \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Crystal A Jackson \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Jennifer L. Bryan \(Yale University\)](#)

Panelist: [Richard F. Curtis \(John Jay College, City University of New York\)](#)

Panelist: [Joyce Outshoorn \(Universiteit Leiden\)](#)

Panelist: [Martin A. Monto \(University of Portland\)](#)

Abstract:

This session examines the legalities and illegalities of prostitution and brings together different perspectives on the emergence of the modern sex industry, the extent to which prostitution engages in victimization and social harm, and the policy challenges implicit in criminalizing or regulating paid sex activity. Notable scholars who study various aspects of prostitution including the legal brothel industry, trafficking and coercion, and underage involvement, will present their findings and explore implications for the way that social and political institutions can address these issues.

Regional Spotlight Session (Las Vegas). Racial Conflict and Harmony in Las Vegas: Historical and Contemporary Struggles**Sponsor:**

Regional Spotlight

Schedule Information:

Scheduled Time: [Mon, Aug 22 - 4:30pm - 6:10pm](#)

Title Displayed in Event Calendar: [Regional Spotlight Session \(Las Vegas\). Racial Conflict and Harmony in Las Vegas: Historical and Contemporary Struggles](#)

Session Participants:

Session Organizer: [Shannon M. Monnat \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Shannon M. Monnat \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Robert Joseph McKee \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Trish Geran \(F-Street Coalition\)](#)

Panelist: [Earnest Bracey \(College of Southern Nevada\)](#)

Panelist: [Jacob Avery \(University of Michigan\)](#)

Abstract:

The panelists in this session will explore the history of racial conflict in Las Vegas, from discrimination against and segregation of black entertainers in the 1940s to the recent F Street closure that effectively blocked a predominantly black community from the business and tourist districts in the city. Panelists will

compare strategies employed for racial harmony and solidarity in Las Vegas and Atlantic City with an emphasis on the role of casinos in desegregation and race relations among the city's poorest and most disadvantaged citizens – the homeless.

Regional Spotlight Session (Las Vegas). Still Learning from Las Vegas: The Paradoxical Culture of an All-American City

Sponsor:

Regional Spotlight

Schedule Information:

Scheduled Time: [Sat, Aug 20 - 10:30am - 12:10pm](#)

Title Displayed in Event Calendar: [Regional Spotlight Session \(Las Vegas\). Still Learning from Las Vegas: The Paradoxical Culture of an All-American City](#)

Session Participants:

Session Organizer: [Michael Ian Borer \(University of Nevada, Las Vegas\)](#)

Session Organizer: [Simon Gottschalk \(University of Nevada- Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Michael Ian Borer \(University of Nevada, Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Simon Gottschalk \(University of Nevada- Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Kirsten Swenson \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Rick Lax \(Las Vegas Weekly\)](#)

Panelist: [Jarret Keene \(City Life\)](#)

Panelist: [David R. Dickens \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Abstract:

Las Vegas is famous, and infamous, for repeatedly reinventing itself by appropriating styles and practices from other places. The continual changes in tourism, architecture, and population, however, do not occur by the fiat of an invisible (neon) hand. Instead, the people who live, work, and play in Las Vegas constitute a dynamic and paradoxical culture that is entrepreneurial and nostalgic, liberal and conservative, honest and illusory. Panelists – comprised of local academics and “culture makers” – will address the often contradictory characteristics of everyday life in Las Vegas and explain why the city remains “an exaggerated example from which to derive lessons for the typical” (Venturi, Brown, and Izenour, *Learning from Las Vegas*, 1977). Discussions will focus on the ways that Las Vegas, glittered warts and all, is emblematic of American cultural ideals, beliefs, and values. Crowd participation is welcomed and encouraged.

Regional Spotlight Session (Las Vegas). Sustainable Las Vegas? Environment, Quality of Life, and Urban Living in the 21st Century

Sponsor:

Regional Spotlight

Schedule Information:

Scheduled Time: [Mon, Aug 22 - 10:30am - 12:10pm](#)

Title Displayed in Event Calendar: [Regional Spotlight Session \(Las Vegas\). Sustainable Las Vegas? Environment, Quality of Life, and Urban Living in the 21st Century](#)

Session Participants:

Session Organizer: [Christie D. Batson \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Christie D. Batson \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Jennifer Keene \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Session Organizer: [Jennifer Keene \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Session Organizer: [Robert Futrell \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Robert Futrell \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Kevin Fox Gotham \(Tulane University\)](#)

Panelist: [Sharon L. Harlan \(Arizona State University\)](#)

Panelist: [Christine L. Himes \(Syracuse University\)](#)

[From Chicago to Las Vegas? The Housing Bubble, Ethnic Communities, Social Class and the Effects of Mortgage Foreclosures](#)

*[Andrew A. Beveridge \(City University of New York-Queens College and Graduate Center\)](#),
[Elena Vesselinov \(Queens College, City University of New York\)](#)

Abstract:

During the last two decades, vast numbers of people migrated to Las Vegas, drawn by an illusion of plenty – plenty of water, jobs, and a high quality of life. Beginning in late 2007, population and economic growth severely declined. Two decades of a surging economy and rapid population growth created massive social, economic, and ecological strains in the Las Vegas Metro region. Social services such as healthcare and education are stressed, inequalities are sharpening, social cohesion is tenuous, and water and energy supplies are overextended. Las Vegas offers a microcosm of sustainability issues facing urban areas across the nation. This panel will use Las Vegas as a springboard for broader reflection on questions of environmental, social, and economic sustainability in the 21st century. Panelists will (a) discuss what urban sustainability means in the 21st century; (b) review social, environmental, and economic dimensions of sustainability; and (c) offer regional comparisons of sustainability problems throughout the U.S.

Regional Spotlight Session (Las Vegas). The Globalization of Gambling: Lessons from Nevada and Beyond**Sponsor:**

Regional Spotlight

Schedule Information:

Scheduled Time: [Sat, Aug 20 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm](#)

Title Displayed in Event Calendar: [Regional Spotlight Session \(Las Vegas\). The Globalization of Gambling: Lessons from Nevada and Beyond](#)

Session Participants:

Session Organizer: [Bo Bernhard \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Bo Bernhard \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Lorne Tepperman \(University of Toronto\)](#)

Panelist: [Gerda Reith \(University of Glasgow-Scotland\)](#)

Panelist: [Jeffrey J. Sallaz \(University of Arizona\)](#)

Panelist: [Garry Smith \(University of Alberta\)](#)

Panelist: [James F. Cosgrave \(Trent University\)](#)

Abstract:

Never before in human history have more of us had more (and more diverse) opportunities to wager money than we do today. The sociological implications of this development are complex, as groups, communities, governments, and cultures each develop unique relationships with the gambling act. In this section, panelists will explore shifts in gambling discourses, implications for new work/leisure distinctions, and the impacts of the globalization of this rapidly growing industry. Presenters will bring these analyses “home” to the sociological laboratory of Las Vegas, which often serves as a symbolic capital of gambling and behavioral excess.

Regional Spotlight Session (Las Vegas). Working the Strip: Unions, Service Work, and Sex in the 21st Century

Sponsor:

Regional Spotlight

Schedule Information:

Scheduled Time: [Tue, Aug 23 - 8:30am - 10:10am](#)

Title Displayed in Event Calendar: [Regional Spotlight Session \(Las Vegas\). Working the Strip: Unions, Service Work, and Sex in the 21st Century](#)

Session Participants:

Session Organizer: [Jennifer Keene \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Session Organizer: [Christie D. Batson \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Session Organizer: [Barbara G. Brents \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Jennifer Keene \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Christie D. Batson \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Presider: [Barbara G. Brents \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Miliann Kang \(University of Massachusetts-Amherst\)](#)

Panelist: [Anastasia H. Prokos \(Iowa State University\)](#)

Panelist: [Rhacel Salazar Parrenas \(University of Southern California\)](#)

Panelist: [Jennifer Keene \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Panelist: [Christie D. Batson \(University of Nevada-Las Vegas\)](#)

Abstract:

Labor and labor organization has changed dramatically in a globalized economy. In recent decades tourism

has become the world's largest employer, migration is changing traditional patterns of employment, and the sex industry is growing and increasingly mainstream. Las Vegas has been severely impacted by the recent recession, with a 15% unemployment rate, the highest foreclosure rates in the country, and a virtual standstill of construction industry that drove growth in the past 20 years. Yet, the Strip is still "working" as one of the largest tourist economies in the world. This panel will use Las Vegas as a foil to examine labor relations and evolving forms of service work in the context of racial, class and gender inequality. In this dynamic tourist economy, local unions have been highly influential, sex work and sexualized labor has remained a major force, and the local labor force composition has been transformed. Panelists will discuss labor force trends in Las Vegas and explore the place of service work, sex work, and labor unions in one of America's favorite desert resort cities.