

Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation

Lunch Colloquium Series



Where did Redlining Matter?: Regional Heterogeneity and the Uneven Distribution of Advantage

Wenfei Xu

Mansueto Institute Postdoctoral Fellow & Center for
Spatial Data Science Postdoctoral Scholar

Wednesday, February 23
12:30 - 1:20pm CST
Hybrid Event

Register for Zoom link:
<https://bit.ly/WXuMansueto>

In-Person Location:
1155 E. 60th St.

Room 140C
Lunch will be provided

In this talk, Wenfei Xu presents findings from a study on the regional variation in outcomes of federal home mortgage insurance grading to highlight the contingent discriminatory and economic conditions that mediated housing outcomes. Given these contingencies, this study aims to clarify how the influence of a seemingly standardized federal neighborhood valuation principle nevertheless had heterogeneous outcomes across the United States. Her findings suggest that there were relatively higher housing benefits to neighborhoods with higher credit grades in Sunbelt cities, which saw faster urban growth, as well as a clear consistency and persistence of these benefits over time.

Bio: Wenfei Xu recently completed her PhD in urban planning at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University and is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Mansueto Institute and the Center for Spatial Data Science with affiliation at the University of Chicago Department of Sociology. Her research topics include social-spatial stratification, segregation, race and ethnicity, computational methods, and neighborhood change in the United States. Her work ranges from an interest in the historical legacies of structural housing discrimination and its contemporary spatial-temporal manifestations to exploring the uses of big data in characterizing human activity for urban social science research. She holds dual Masters in Urban Planning and Architecture from MIT and a BA in Economics from the University of Chicago.

This convening is open to all invitees who are compliant with UChicago vaccination requirements and, because of ongoing health risks, particularly to the unvaccinated, participants are expected to adopt the risk mitigation measures (masking and social distancing, etc.) appropriate to their vaccination status as advised by public health officials or to their individual vulnerabilities as advised by a medical professional. Public convening may not be safe for all and carries a risk for contracting COVID-19, particularly for those unvaccinated. Participants will not know the vaccination status of others and should follow appropriate risk mitigation measures.