

*Economic Studies Lecture*

***Driving Detroit:  
Spatial Racism & Equal Opportunity***

**Professor George Galster**

**Clarence Hilberry Professor of Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit;  
Carnegie Centenary Distinguished Visiting Professor, Scotland (Univ. Glasgow)**

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

**3:00-4:30 PM**

**Dalhousie 3G02 (LT1)**

*Driving Detroit* tries to uncover WHY Detroit is the way it is. It argues that Greater Detroit can be understood as a dual dialectic, one between capital and labour, the other between blacks and whites, manifested on a featureless plain dominated by an oligopolistic industry producing a durable consumer good. The lecture sets the context for these dialectics by describing the region's geo-political environment and evolving economic and population patterns. It then traces the historical struggles between employers and unions, blacks and whites. It shows how the geography, local government structure, and sociological forces created a housing development system that has led to the abandonment of the city core. It then draws upon psychological principles (summarized as the "quest for respect") to argue that it has been the populace's reactions to the stresses produced by the region's automotive economic base and housing development system that have led to the individual and collective adaptations that characterize the place. Unfortunately, though understandable, these adaptations have proven collectively irrational, positioning the region in an uncompetitive, unsustainable position.

**George Galster** earned his Ph.D. in Economics from M.I.T., with undergraduate degrees from Wittenberg University and Case Western Reserve University. He has published over 100 scholarly articles, primarily on the topics of metropolitan housing markets, racial discrimination and segregation, neighbourhood dynamics, residential reinvestment, community lending and insurance patterns, and urban poverty. His authored and edited books include: Homeowners and Neighborhood Reinvestment (1987); The Maze of Urban Housing Markets (1991); The Metropolis in Black and White (1992); Reality and Research: Social Science and American Urban Policy since 1960 (1996); Why NOT in My Back Yard?: The Neighborhood Impacts of Assisted Housing (2003); Life in Poverty Neighborhoods: European and American Perspectives (2005); and Quantifying Neighborhood Effects (2008). He is one of the preeminent researchers in the area of urban studies, housing economics and spatial planning and his work continues to have immense impact on research, policy and industry circles across the world.

Dr. Galster has held University positions at Harvard, California - Berkeley, North Carolina - Chapel Hill, and Amsterdam, among others. He served as Director of Housing Research at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC, and since 1996 holds the Clarence Hilberry Chair of Urban Affairs at Wayne State University, Detroit, USA. He is currently visiting Glasgow University as a Carnegie Centenary Distinguished Visiting Professor for Scotland, and in this capacity is making a number of visits to other Scottish Institutions.

***ALL WELCOME!***

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