

---

## ***Introduction: On Gentrification***

Jerome Krase  
(Brooklyn College CUNY)  
[JKrase@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:JKrase@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

Our journal, *Urbanities*, has always been receptive to innovative approaches to urban studies, especially those which increase the value and appreciation of qualitative methods and theory. In this regard, this ‘Special Section’ on Gentrification has an interesting history. It began with the submission to *Urbanities* of a poem about gentrification. At first, my senior co-editor Italo Pardo and I were taken aback but after reviewing Kee Warner’s evocative ‘Back on the Northside by keexote Winter 2018’, we decided to place it firmly within a ‘normal’ social science context by having it preface a selection of equally innovate, short, pieces on the subject. In our second article, Judith N. DeSena criticizes the rapidly growing store of research on gentrification that, unfortunately, continues to ignore the importance of women in the phenomenon. In it she demonstrates the many ways by which the lack of attention to women leaves a large void in understanding both the causes and effects of gentrification. The title of the next contribution by Sarah Siltanen Hosman, more than adequately prepares the reader for its important contents; ‘Allston Christmas: How Local Rituals Reproduce Neighborhood Temporality and Deter Gentrification’. In her photo-enhanced essay, for example, she notes the value of local traditions and practices in neighborhood defense. Our fourth selection, ‘Perceptions of Residential Displacement and Grassroots Resistance to Anchor Driven Encroachment in Buffalo, NY’, is a fine example of ‘normal’ social science research practices. It was crafted by Robert Silverman, Henry Taylor, Li Yin, Camden Miller and Pascal Buggs. One finding from their insightful work was that ‘Residents perceived change brought on by institutional encroachment as relatively unabated and unresponsive to grassroots concerns’. The multimodal ethnographic article which follows by Alberto Rodríguez-Barcón, Estefanía Calo, and Raimundo Otero-Enríquez, ‘Commercial Gentrification in a Medium-Sized City: An Ethnographic Look at the Transformation Process of the Historic Centre of A Coruña (Spain)’, is somewhat of a parallel to Silverman et al, which emphasizes the need to study middle-sized cities and the commonly unstudied potential role of touristic development as an engine of gentrification. Our concluding contribution is a well-constructed, and critical, review of DW Gibson’s *The Edge Becomes the Center: An Oral History of Gentrification in the Twenty-First Century* (2015) by Leonard Nevarez. For Nevarez, the book reminds him of Chicago’s chronicler Stud Terkel’s oral history method, and is ‘Both illuminating and frustrating,’ but ‘... ultimately just one subjective account of gentrification, drawn from an increasingly singular setting, contemporary New York’.