



- Celebrating 20 Years -

ENGAGING THE URBAN AREA THROUGH APPLIED RESEARCH

# INTERFACE

Spring 2010

## In This Issue:

PPRC turns 20 and reflects upon where we've been; the Photography Project turns 5 and you're invited to the party; a new photo book; PPRC launches *Metropolitan Mirror: Facts and Trends Reflecting the St. Louis Region*; and the next Research Methodology Seminar explores D&I

- [PPRC Celebrates 20 Years of Research and Service](#)
- [Metropolitan Mirror: Facts and Trends Reflecting the St. Louis Region](#)
- [The Photography Project Turns Five \(learn about the party, the book, the history\)](#)
- [Research Methodology Workshop Explores D&I](#)



## PPRC Celebrates 20 Years of Applied Research and Community Service

It may be said that the one constant is change, but the Public Policy Research Center has been both constant and changing over the last 20 years. The 2009-2010 academic year marks the 20-year anniversary of UMSL's PPRC, and over that time PPRC has seen both significant transformation and a vision-driven persistence of the original mission.

"Since the beginning, PPRC has understood its role as an applied policy research resource for the civic and public communities of metropolitan St. Louis," said PPRC Director Mark Tranel. "We have always worked to engage the community through applied research. Over 20 years, the importance of this emphasis has never changed."

The seeds of what is now PPRC were laid in 1965, when the University Of Missouri Board of Curators established the Center for Metropolitan Studies to provide "teaching, research, and service to the metropolitan community of St. Louis." The Center for Metropolitan Studies also featured the earliest incarnation of the PPRC Photography Project. Over the years, through a series of additions, changes and mergers, the framework for PPRC continued to grow, and in 1989, through a consolidation of existing research centers, the **University Of Missouri-St. Louis Public Policy Research Centers** was established. Lance Leloup, then- chairman of the UMSL's Department of Political Science, was named as the founding director.

The Public Policy Research Center produces and disseminates methodologically rigorous and unbiased applied analysis and evaluation of public policies and programs and theoretical research on public policy issues. Over its 20-year history, PPRC has established itself as the preeminent applied policy research resource for both the St. Louis Metropolitan region and the State of Missouri. PPRC holds a deep commitment to both engagement and service, and responds to the needs and expectations of its constituencies. "PPRC specializes in multi-disciplinary research, using a variety of qualitative and quantitative methodologies," explained Tranel, "and our expertise is applied in service to faculty who initiate community-based projects, and also directly to the community." PPRC has conducted research for organizations that include Gateway Greening, Inc, Father's Support Center, The United Way and ARCHS, and Cochran Garden Hope VI. For a description of some of our research projects, visit our Applied Research [page](#).

To commemorate the anniversary and to highlight our research and teaching mission, over the next year PPRC will feature a series of forums, colloquiums and community discussions. Visit our website to learn more about our [history](#), to read about PPRC's [founders](#), and to find out about some of the upcoming [events](#).

[» Back to top](#)

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### The PPRC Photography Project Turns 5!

[The History](#) / [The Reception](#) / [The Book](#) /

The PPRC Photography Project is 5, and we're celebrating with a full-color photography book, a special anniversary exhibition at the Missouri History Museum, and an April 6 reception in honor of the program's participants.



The 2009-2010 academic year marks the 5-year anniversary of PPRC's Photography Project (and the 20-year anniversary for PPRC), but PPRC's history with photography reaches back to 1978. At that time, working under the auspices of the Center for Metropolitan Studies, renowned curator Jean Tucker launched a series of special photographic exhibitions. CMS became part of the Public Policy Research Centers in 1989 and the Centers continued hosting the exhibitions.

In 2004, artist Mel Watkin joined the Center and launched the PPRC Photography Project. Reflecting PPRC's greater mission of engaging the community through applied research and service, the PPRC Photography Project uses community photography to give a voice to the people who live and work in St. Louis neighborhoods. These are also the people who are affected by the policies and programs that are shaped by PPRC's research and service. "The Project concentrates its efforts on local groups," explained Watkin. "We teach participants to photograph their own lives from their own perspectives, giving them the tools to document the work they're doing to improve the quality of life in St. Louis."



The Photography Project's reach has been extensive. "Over the course of the first five years, the PPRC Photography Project has served 23 community groups and more than 200 individuals," said Watkin. The Project has also collaborated with 70 community partners and held 50 community exhibitions viewed by approximately 16,000 visitors annually in locations throughout the St. Louis metro area.

[» Back to top](#)

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**Please join the PPRC Photography Project on April 6 for a reception, exhibition and book signing**

To kick off the anniversary celebration, a special photographic exhibition went on view at the Missouri History Museum on January 30. *St. Louis Point of View* is a special exhibition featuring the images taken by Photography Project participants over the course of the first five years.

A special reception will be held on April 6 in honor of the PPRC Photography Project's participants, community groups, partners and donors. The reception will feature talks by Photography Project director Mel Watkin and the project instructors, and you'll have the opportunity to meet many of the community group participants. You'll also be able to purchase and collect autographs for the Project's full-color anniversary photo book.

This event is free but you **must** RSVP. The details:

**St. Louis Point of View: Photographs from the Public Policy Research Center Photography Project**

January 30 – August 22, 2010

**Where:** Missouri History Museum in Forest Park at Lindell & DeBaliviere

**Info.** (314) 746-4599 • **Website:** <http://pprc.umsl.edu>, <http://www.mohistory.org/home/>

**Missouri History Museum Hours:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday thru Sunday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays.

**Special Reception: April 6, 2010 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

The reception will be held in the Bank of America Atrium Foyer, lower level – outside the auditorium. Space is limited and an RSVP is required

- RSVP by **March 24** by calling 314-516-5273 •

[» Back to top](#)

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## Order the PPRC Photography Project Five-Year Anniversary Book

[\*The PPRC Photography Project's First Five Years: 2004-2009\*](#) (Public Policy Research Center, 2009) features a collection of images from the Photography Project's work since it was launched in 2004. The retrospective catalog is a celebration of community photography and of the ability of individuals and grass-roots organizations to shape their neighborhoods. Featuring images from groups that include Gateway Greening, Inc, Parent-Infant Partnership Program, Prison Performing Arts, and Lewis Place Historic Preservation, the book presents these community groups as viewed from [the perspective of their participants](#).



The book contains more than 60 full color photos, as well as essays by Photographer and Curator Olivia Lahs-Gonzalez, PPRC Photography Project Director Mel Watkin, and the youth and adults that participated in the different projects. View inside the book [here](#).

**Paperback:** 117 pages

**Publisher:** The Public Policy Research Center (2009)

**ISBN:** 978-09825893-0-4

**Price:** \$18.95

**To order:** please fill out and print this [form](#) and mail it with your check for \$18.95 to **Public Policy Research Center, UMSL, One University Blvd. 362 SSB, St. Louis, MO 63121**. If you prefer to pay by credit card, the book may be purchased through [Left Bank Books](#) and the [Missouri Historical Society](#) bookstore.

[» Back to top](#)

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## “Metropolitan Mirror” Analyzes St. Louis Area Data and Trends



[Metropolitan Mirror: Facts and Trends Reflecting the Metropolitan Region](#) is a new, monthly series brought to you by PPRC researchers. Launched in December 2009, the series offers an in-depth exploration of issues that directly affect the St. Louis region. “The Metropolitan Mirror series is for the St. Louis Metropolitan Area,” said PPRC Director Mark Tranel. “We will examine issues and geographies of current topical interest, and we will also create an archive of trends and data. Our aim is to delve into a broad range of issues affecting the region, and we

will be limited only by the available data.” The data analysis will be presented through graphs, maps, images and reports.

PPRC launched Metropolitan Mirror with a [graph](#) showing a monthly count of foreclosures in St. Louis County and St. Louis City from January of 2000 through June of 2009. The data posted for January and February further explore the impact of the foreclosure crisis on the St. Louis region. The first installments were compiled by Will Winter, PPRC GIS Research Analyst. “I hope to show the sort of local data that PPRC acquires and uses on a regular basis,” said Winter, “particularly local spatial data. But I hope to take it a step further. I also want each analysis to show the data in a new light--perhaps in a way that has not been requested by PPRC's clients--and in that way use the data to highlight current public policy debates.”

The February 2010 installment features a cluster map showing the location of foreclosures in St. Louis County and St. Louis City in 2003. March features a full-length report titled *The Location of Affordable Housing in St. Louis*. Visit the [Metropolitan Mirror](#) page to view each data analysis.

[» Back to top](#)

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### **March 22 Research Methodology Seminar: The Dissemination and Implementation Research Core**

The [Public Policy Research Center](#), the [School of Social Work](#) Center for Family Research and Policy, and the [Center for Teaching and Learning](#) announce the next in a series of applied research methodology workshops:

#### **The Dissemination and Implementation Research Core, Monday, March 22**

Dissemination and Implementation (D & I) Research Core provides methodological expertise to advance translational research that moves efficacious health practices from clinical knowledge into applied, real-world use. Join us on Monday, March 22, when Enola Proctor, Frank J. Bruno Professor of Social Work Research at Washington University, presents her research.

The workshop will be held on UMSL's South Campus in the Chapel of Bellerive, from 12:00 noon - 1:15 p.m (view campus map [here](#)). Light refreshments will be served -- please feel free to bring a lunch. For more information call the Public Policy Research Center at 516.5273, or [email us](#).

This seminar is free!

[» Back to top](#)

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