

Camille Zubrinsky **Charles** (Ph.D., Sociology, UCLA, 1996) is Associate Professor of Sociology and Associate Director of the Center for Africana Studies.

Scientific Accomplishment. Charles recently published a book, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* (Russell Sage) which is a synthesis of her multi-method research into residential segregation and the social psychology of race and racism. It is a study of Los Angeles, a highly segregated city with racial and ethnic groups clustered in homogeneous neighborhoods. These residential groupings have profound effects on the economic well-being and quality of life of residents, dictating which jobs they can access, which social networks they can tap in to, and which schools they attend. Charles explores how modern racial attitudes shape and are shaped by the places in which people live. Using in-depth survey data and information from focus groups with members of L.A.'s largest racial and ethnic groups, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* considers why Los Angeles remains a segregated city. In a racially and ethnically diverse city, segregated neighborhoods can foster distrust, reinforce stereotypes, and agitate inter-group tensions. Charles' work zeroes in on segregated neighborhoods to provide a compelling examination of the way contemporary racial attitudes shape, and are shaped by, the places where we live. She finds that people of all backgrounds prefer both racial integration and a critical mass of same-race neighbors. When asked to reveal their preferred level of racial integration, people of all races show a clear and consistent order of preference, with whites considered the most highly desired neighbors and blacks the least desirable. This is even true among recent immigrants who have little experience with American race relations. Charles finds that these preferences, which are driven primarily by racial prejudice and minority-group fears of white hostility, taken together with financial considerations, strongly affect people's decisions about where they live. Charles does offer some reasons for optimism: Over time and with increased exposure to other racial and ethnic groups, people show an increased willingness to live with neighbors of other races. Charles' work receives a great deal of public attention. *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* was featured on the 15 December 2006 National Public Radio program "Radio Times." Her work on ethnic group residency preferences was discussed in the 7 January 2007 *Los Angeles Times*. A story in the 6 March 2007 edition of *The Washington Post* regarding the growth of black populations on US college campuses via the recruitment of students from overseas was based on a study authored by Charles in the *Am J of Educ*.

Present and Future. Charles is 1st author on a volume forthcoming in 2008 from Princeton University Press, *Taming the River*, which is a follow-up to a previous volume on the demography of the college experience, with special reference to race and ethnicity, based on a longitudinal survey undertaken with D. Massey. Students were generally satisfied with their academic progress, but somewhat less happy with their social lives and even less satisfied with their overall collegiate experience. Across the various dimensions of satisfaction, black and white students fell at opposite ends of the continuum: whites were always the most satisfied and blacks always the least satisfied. Four additional ms. in progress (sole or 1st author): (1) a comprehensive examination of black students' collegiate experience, paying special attention to differences in socioeconomic status, national origin/nativity status (multigenerational native, immigrant, child of immigrants), and racial heritage (mono vs. multi racial) and the impact of this diversity on racial identity, satisfaction, achievement and Attainment; (2) an investigation of the diverse origins of black students and the overrepresentation of immigrants/children of immigrants at the most elite institutions—after accounting for differences in origin, background, and preparation for college, children of black immigrants, are more than twice as likely as multigenerational native black students to attend the most selective institutions; (3) contrary to the bulk of research that problematizes minority college students, this paper examines the characteristics of high-achieving black and Latino/a college students at selective institutions; and (4) taking a multidimensional approach to racial identity, this paper details similarities and differences in the centrality of race for black students as well as their ideological approach to blackness—particularly relevant here is the increasing heterogeneity of the black population; a main focus of her research. She is planning a study (with **D Culhane** and **Zuberi**) tracing the history of the neighborhoods under study by WEB DuBois from 1900-present to better understand the role that social ecology has played in the social, economic, and demographic change in Philadelphia.

PSC and Research. Charles has been the Co-Investigator on two grants, from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and from The Atlantic Philanthropies (D. Massey, PI on both) to support the research featured in *Taming the River* and its predecessor, *The Source of the River*. Space for research assistants associated with these grants was provided by the PSC. She is a frequent user of the PSC Administrative and CITID cores.