

Princeton University/ Program in Urban Studies

U/S

Tuesday, April 2, 6PM and 7:30PM
Betts Auditorium, School of Architecture

THE PRUITT-IGOE MYTH

2011. USA. directed by Chad Freidrichs. 79 min.
Screening followed by a conversation with Joseph Heathcott & Timothy Henkel
"After Pruitt-Igoe: New Prospects for Affordable Housing"

04/02



Upon its completion in 1955, the Pruitt-Igoe public housing project in St. Louis fulfilled a key promise of postwar prosperity: that America could house even its poorest citizens. Less than twenty years later, the federal Department of Housing demolished the project, a practice that has since spread throughout the country. Politicians, housing experts, and historians have argued over the reasons for this rapid decline ever since. *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth* explores the history of this all-important housing project and of the debates surrounding it, giving special attention to the views of former residents.

Our discussion turns the focus to Trenton. It brings together Joseph Heathcott, Professor of Urban Studies at the New School (and participant in *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth*) and Timothy Henkel, Senior Vice-President at Pennrose Properties. Pennrose is currently developing the site of Trenton's notorious Miller Homes, which were demolished in 2011. Heathcott and Henkel will discuss new approaches to public housing, as well as the re-use of former public housing sites. The conversation will be moderated by Purcell Carson.

Joseph Heathcott is Associate Professor of Urban Studies at The New School. He studies the American metropolis and its diverse cultures, institutions, and environments from a comparative and global perspective. He has worked with many city agencies and nonprofits devoted to historic preservation, affordable housing development, labor, and tenants' rights.

Timothy Henkel is Senior Vice-President at Pennrose Properties. Mr. Henkel is a licensed engineer and expert in all forms of public and private real estate financing. He has executed the full array of Pennrose's diverse portfolio of transactions including affordable housing via low income housing tax credits (LIHTC), historic rehabilitation tax credits (HTC), mixed-income multifamily housing via tax-exempt bonds, and public housing replacement leveraging federal HOPE VI grants.

Purcell Carson is a documentary filmmaker and editor and teaches in the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

/ Additional information:
urbanstudies.princeton.edu

/ Events are free and open to the public.

/ Sponsored by Urban Studies, Princeton University, with generous support from the Community Based Learning Initiative.

/ Series organizers: Alison Isenberg, Purcell Carson, M. Christine Boyer

/ Design: Evangelos Kotsioris.

/ Contact: Alison Isenberg, Department of History, isenber@princeton.edu.

26 Feb Berlin: Symphony of a Great City
5 Mar West Side Story
6 Mar "Seeing the City"

SPRING
RECESS

12 Mar The Naked City
26 Mar Ecumenopolis

2 Apr The Pruitt-Igoe Myth
9 Apr "After Pruitt-Igoe"

16 Apr Decade of Fire
23 Apr Greetings from Asbury Park
30 Apr La Sierra

END OF
CLASSES

7 May The Trenton Project: Critique
20 May The Trenton Project: Final

Film Series/Spring '13