Upun its completion in 1995, the Pruitt-Igoe public housing project in St. Louis heralded 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. Politicues, 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 voices 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 Penrose Properties. Penrose 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 Penrose 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 Penrose'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.

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**Additional information:**
urbanstudies.princeton.edu

**Events are free and open to the public.**

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**Series organizers:** Alison Isemberg, Purcell Carson, M. Christine Boyer

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**Film Series/Spring '13**

- 24 Feb. Beyond Symposium of a Great City
- 3 Mar. What's the Story of a City?
- 6 Mar. Taking a City
- 13 Mar. The Naked City
- 20 Mar. Turning a City
- 27 Mar. The Community Myth
- 10 Apr. Re-building a City
- 17 Apr. The Power of a City
- 24 Apr. Downfall of a City
- 31 Apr. Leela
- 1 May. City of Cries.