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Complicating 'Revitalization': Understanding How Urban LGBT Communities Impact Metropolitan Neighborhoods

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TOWARD A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF...

COMPLICATING 'REVITALIZATION':
UNDERSTANDING HOW URBAN LGBT
COMMUNITIES IMPACT METROPOLITAN
NEIGHBORHOODS

Reuben Forman

Mentor: Margaret Garb

This research looks at how LGBTQ populations affect gentrification and urban development in city neighborhoods. In particular my project focuses on the greater Washington D.C. neighborhood of U Street Corridor and Shaw, which is situated between 16th Street and Georgia Avenue North West. This historic African-American neighborhood, which hosts many important cultural landmarks, is also the site of a growing visible gay white population. By analyzing the discourses surrounding gay men and their effect on the physical and social environments in the U Street Corridor/Shaw, I explore the impact the introduction of a visible white gay male enclave has on a historically African-American neighborhood. How did the introduction of a visible white population in a historically African-American neighborhood impact the process of urban development and ever changing identity politics in the District of Columbia? I also plan to analyze economic and housing policies that have lead to such rapid redevelopment in the area.