

## **LYDIA WILEDEN**

### **University of Connecticut**

Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy • School of Public Policy  
Hartford Times Building, Fourth Floor • 10 Prospect Street • Hartford, CT  
[lydia.wileden@uconn.edu](mailto:lydia.wileden@uconn.edu)

## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

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- 2024 -Present**    **University of Connecticut, School of Public Policy**, Hartford, CT  
**Assistant Research Professor**, Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy
- 2023 -2024**      **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL  
**Postdoctoral Scholar**, Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation

## **EDUCATION**

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- Ph.D.**            **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI  
**Public Policy and Sociology**, August 2022
- Dissertation:* (Mis)Perceiving the Metropolis: The correlates and consequences of imperfect neighborhood knowledge  
*Committee:* Elizabeth E. Bruch (Co-Chair), Jeffrey D. Morenoff (Co-Chair), Margaret Frye, Elisabeth R. Gerber, Alexandra K. Murphy
- ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award Honorable Mention*
- M.A.**            **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI  
**Sociology**, May 2017
- B.A.**            **Barnard College, Columbia University**, New York, NY  
Majors: Urban Studies, Human Rights, Minor: Psychology, May 2011  
*Magna Cum Laude*

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Urban Sociology; Community-Based Survey Research; Social Policy; Culture; Cognition and Decision Making; Social Psychology; Inequality; Neighborhood Change; Housing; Race/Ethnicity; Quantitative Methods

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

Talen, Emily, and **Lydia Wileden**. (2024). "The Density Puzzle: What Is Known, What Is Disputed, and Where to Go from Here." *Journal of Planning Literature* 08854122241262750. doi: [10.1177/08854122241262750](https://doi.org/10.1177/08854122241262750).

Cross, Fernanda, **Lydia Wileden**, Ayse Buyuktur, Jodyn Platt, Jeffrey Morenoff, Maria Miltzer, Ana Patricia Esqueda, Movva Pranati, Ziyu Zhao, Kashmira Sawant, Felix Valbuena, Sarah Bailey, Barbara Israel, Erica Marsh, Susan J. Woolford. (2023). "MICEAL Black and Latinx Perspectives on COVID-19 Vaccination: A Mixed-methods examination." *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. doi: [10.1007/s40615-023-01815-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-023-01815-y)

**Wileden, Lydia**, Denise Anthony, Celeste Campos-Castillo, and Jeffrey Morenoff. (2023). “Resident Willingness to Participate in Digital Contact Tracing in a COVID-19 Hotspot: Findings From a Detroit Panel Study.” *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance*. doi:[10.2196/39002](https://doi.org/10.2196/39002)

Wagner, Abram L., **Lydia Wileden**, Trina R. Shanks, Susan D. Goold, Jeffrey D. Morenoff, and Sherri N. Sheinfeld Gorin. (2022). "Mediators of Racial Differences in COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance and Uptake: A Cohort Study in Detroit, MI" *Vaccines* 10(1):36. doi: [10.3390/vaccines10010036](https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10010036).

## **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER PEER REVIEW**

Talen, Emily, **Lydia Wileden**, and Crystal Bae. “Normative Neighborhoods: Does Theory Match Perception?” *R&R at Landscape and Urban Planning*

## **ACADEMIC BOOK CHAPTERS**

**Wileden, Lydia** and Emily Talen. (Forthcoming) “Neighborhoods as Social Phenomena: Measuring Three Dimensions of Resident Perceptions.” In *A Research Agenda for Neighborhoods*. Edited by Rachel Meltzer and Vincent Reina. Edward Elger Publishing Ltd.

Ray, Rashawn, Jane Fran Morgan, **Lydia Wileden**, Samantha Elizondo, and Destiny Wiley-Yancy. (2022). “Examining and Addressing COVID-19 Racial Disparities in Detroit.” in [Urban Health: A Practical Application for Clinical Based Learning](#). Edited by Cynthia McNeill, Umeika Stephens, and Tara Walker. Open Textbooks.

- First published as [Governance Studies report](#), *The Brookings Institution*.

## **CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS**

Bae, Crystal J., **Lydia Wileden**, and Emily Talen. (2024) “[Comparisons of Chicago Neighborhood Boundaries from Crowdsourced Resident Drawings \(Short Paper\)](#).” In 16th International Conference on Spatial Information Theory (COSIT 2024). Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics (LIPIcs), Volume 315, pp. 26:1-26:10. <https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.COSIT.2024.26>

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

**Wileden, Lydia**. (2022). “The \$16 Taco: Contested Geographies of Food, Ethnicity, and Gentrification, by Pascale Jossart-Marcelli. 2021.” *Journal of Urban Affairs*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2022.2075677>

## **OP-EDS**

**Wileden, Lydia**. (2021). “[Opinion: Should the City of Detroit mandate vaccines for employees?](#)” *Bridge Detroit*.

Rodems, Richard and **Lydia Wileden**. (2020). “[Opinion: Detroit needs another stimulus check.](#)” *Bridge Detroit*.

**Wileden, Lydia** and Jeffrey Morenoff. (2020). “[Opinion: Detroit survey shows coronavirus crisis threatens to widen inequality.](#)” *Bridge Magazine*.

## **SELECTED RESEARCH BRIEFS**

**Wileden, Lydia** and Alexandra Murphy (2025). “[Transportation Insecurity in the Motor City](#).” White Paper. MCity & Detroit Metro Area Communities Study. University of Michigan.

- Wileden, Lydia.** (2024). "[Examining Shifts in Neighborhood Sentiments Among Residents of SNF Neighborhoods Over Time.](#)" Strategic Neighborhood Fund Evaluation Series. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia.** (2023). "[Employment Dynamics in Detroit and the Impact of Labor Force Rebounders - June 2023.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia.** (2022). "[Employment Dynamics in Detroit - November 2022.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia** and Mara Cecilia Ostfeld. (2022). "[Detroiters' Policy Priorities: What Matters to Detroiters Leading Up to the November 2022 Elections.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study & the Center for Racial Justice, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia** and Erykah Benson. (2022). "[The Economic Well-Being of Detroit Residents Two Years Into the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia.** (2022). "[COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake Over Time Among DMACS Panel Respondents.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia.** (2022). "[The Link Between Parents' and Children's Vaccination in Detroit.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia.** (2022). "[Employment Dynamics in Detroit During the COVID-19 Pandemic - 2022.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia.** (2021). "[Detroiters' Priorities for American Rescue Plan Funds.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia.** (2021). "[Using American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Meet Detroiters' Home Repair Needs.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia** and Caroline Egan. (2021). "[Detroiters' Views on Crime and Policing - Summer 2021.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia** and Caroline Egan. (2021). "[Unemployment Dynamics in Detroit During the COVID-19 Pandemic - 2021.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia.** (2021). "[Detroiters' Support for COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia.** (2021). "[Vaccination and Trust in Information on COVID-19 in Detroit.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia** and Afton Branche-Wilson. (2020). "[Detroit's Strategic Neighborhood Fund: A Baseline Report of Resident Perceptions.](#)" Report. Poverty Solutions & Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia.** (2020). "[Employment Dynamics in Detroit During the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#)" Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.
- Wileden, Lydia** and Richard Rodems. (2020). "[Reach and Impact of Federal Stimulus Checks in Detroit.](#)" Policy Brief. Poverty Solutions & Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.

**Wileden, Lydia.** (2020). [“Behavior Change During COVID-19.”](#) Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.

**Wileden, Lydia.** (2020). [“Blight in Detroit.”](#) Issue Brief. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study, University of Michigan.

**Wileden, Lydia.** (2019). [“Modeling ‘A Sense of Place’: Evaluating the Roles of Knowledge and Reputation in Neighborhood Dynamics via Online Surveys.”](#) Working Paper Series. Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP). Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan

## WORKS IN PREPARATION

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**Wileden, Lydia.** “(Mis)Perceiving the Metropolis: Residents’ Distorted Assessments of Neighborhood Racial Composition.”

- 2022 Katherine Luke Best Student Paper Award, University of Michigan, Sociology

**Wileden, Lydia.** “Perceiving Change Over Time: Linking Residents’ Assessments of Neighborhood Safety and Shifting Crime Conditions in Detroit.”

**Wileden, Lydia.** “Making Sense of ‘A Sense of Place’: Evaluating the Underlying Dimensions of Neighborhood Reputation.”

**Wileden, Lydia.** “Broken Homes: Re-Estimating the Scale of Detroit’s Home Repair Crisis.”

**Wileden, Lydia.** “Differential Pathways of Neighborhood Change and Perceived Neighborhood Reputation.”

**Wileden, Lydia,** Jeffrey Morenoff, and Elisabeth Gerber “Assessing Detroit’s “Blight Flight”: Residential Perceptions and Neighborhood Attachment in Response Demolition Programs.”

**Wileden, Lydia** and Elizabeth Bruch. “Is Bad Stronger Than Good? Residential Mobility in Response to Neighborhood Change.”

## HONORS & AWARDS

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2024	Presidential Management Fellow Finalist
2022	ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award Honorable Mention, University of Michigan
2022	Katherine Luke Best Student Paper Award, University of Michigan
2019	Outstanding GSI Award Nominee, University of Michigan
2018	Phi Kappa Phi, University of Michigan
2011	Phi Beta Kappa, Columbia University Chapter
2011	Departmental Honors in Urban Studies, Barnard College, Columbia University

## FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

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### EXTERNAL

2025-2026	Juvenile Justice Policy Grant, Tow Youth Justice Institute (\$50,000)
2016-2020	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (\$140,000)

### UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

2023	Urban Innovation Grant (with Dr. Emily Talen), Mansueto Institute, University of Chicago (\$40,000)
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## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

2022	Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan (\$11,600)
2021	Poverty Solutions Graduate Student Research Award, University of Michigan (\$11,217)
2021	Sweetland Summer Dissertation Writing Institute, University of Michigan (\$4,000)
2020-2021	Ford Graduate Fellowship, Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan (\$18,600)
2020	Rackham Public Scholarship Grant, University of Michigan (\$8,000)
2020	Population Studies Center Small Grants, University of Michigan (\$3,250)
2017	Alumni Research Award, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan (\$5,000)
2017	Research Scholar, Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy, Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan (\$5,000)
2017	Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan (\$1,500)
2016	Summer Research Fellowship, Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan (\$3,500)
2015	Institute for Social Research Summer Training Award, University of Michigan (\$3,500)
2015	Summer Research Award, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan (\$4,000)
2015-2016	Population Studies Research Traineeship, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan (\$22,920)
2014-2015	Ford Graduate Fellowship, Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan (\$18,600)
2009-2011	Lesley Jane Rosen '71 Memorial Scholarship for Urban Studies, Barnard College, Columbia University

## SELECTED CONFERENCES & TALKS (\* invited)

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### **“Sticky or Mutable: Examining the Dynamics of Perceived Neighborhood Reputation Over Time.”**

International Conference on Urban Affairs, Spring 2025

### **“Black Detroiters' Neighborhood Satisfaction and Priorities for Change.”** (with Kayla Fike)

International Conference on Urban Affairs, Spring 2025

### **“Connecticut’s Neighborhood Revitalization Zones After 30 Years.”**

CT Policy Talks Series, Spring 2025

### **“Contested Names: Contrasting Resident and Real-Estate Actors’ Use of Place Identity in Chicago.”**

(with Ian Kennedy and Crystal Bae)

Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Spring 2025

### **“Measuring the relationship between transportation insecurity, health quality, and health access.”**

(with Alex Murphy)

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Fall 2024

### **“Comparisons of Chicago Neighborhood Boundaries from Crowdsourced Resident Drawings.”** (with Crystal Bae and Emily Talen)

Conference on Spatial Information Theory, Fall 2024

### **“Broken Homes: Re-Estimating the Scale of America’s Home Repair Crisis.”**

International Conference on Urban Affairs, Spring 2024

### **\* “Learning from The Chicago Neighborhood Project: Preliminary Insights from a Crowdsourced Mapping Effort.”**

Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation, University of Chicago, Spring 2024

Chicago Historical Museum, Spring 2024

### **\* “Imagined Futures: The relationship between neighborhood expectations, attachment, and residential preferences.”**

“The New Demography of Migration and Mobility Conference,” Cornell Population Center, Cornell University, Spring 2023

**\* “Making Sense of ‘A Sense of Place’: Examining the Collective and Relational Nature of Neighborhood Knowledge.”**

Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation, University of Chicago, Spring 2023

**“Entrepreneurship and Perceived Economic Uncertainty in Detroit during COVID-19”**

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Meeting, Fall 2022

**“Linking Intent and Behavior: Shifts in COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake Over Time in Detroit”**

American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Meeting, Spring 2022

**“Assessing Detroit’s “Blight Flight”: Neighborhood Attachment and Residential Mobility in Response to Large-Scale Demolition Programs.”**

Urban Affairs Association Annual Meeting, Spring 2022

**“Measuring and Modeling Perceptions of Change in Neighborhood Safety: Evidence from Detroit.”**

Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Spring 2022

**\* “Assessing Local Cultural Capital: Local Amenities and Perceived Neighborhood Reputation.”**

Culture Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of California Santa Barbara, Spring 2022

**\* “(Mis)Perceiving the Metropolis: Imperfect Neighborhood Knowledge and Residents’ Distorted Assessments of Local Racial Composition.”**

Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation, University of Chicago, Spring 2022

**\* Social Science Approaches to the Built Environment and Social Justice Issues in America.”**

Institute for Social Research, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan, Spring 2022

**“Shifts in COVID-19 Vaccine Intent: Evidence from Detroit.”**

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Fall 2021

**“(Mis)Perceiving the Metropolis: Residents’ Distorted Assessments of Neighborhood Composition.”**

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Summer 2021 (Withdrawn due to COVID)

**“Is Bad Stronger than Good? Residential Mobility in Response to Neighborhood Change.”**

Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Spring 2018

**\* “Detroit Metropolitan Area Community Study and Archived Data at ICPSR.”** (with Jeffrey Morenoff and Elisabeth Gerber)

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, Blalock Lecture Series, University of Michigan, Summer 2020

**\* “Motor City at a Standstill: Measuring the Impact of COVID-19 on Detroit.”** (with Jeffrey Morenoff)

Institute for Social Research, ISR Insights Speaker Series, University of Michigan, Spring 2020

**“Differential Pathways of Neighborhood Change and Perceived Neighborhood Reputation.**

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Summer 2020

Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Spring 2019

**“Trajectories of Neighborhood Vacancy and Residential Perceptions.”**

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Meeting, Fall 2018

\* **“Examining the Effects of Gentrification.”**

Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Spring 2018

**“Interrogating the Dynamic Feedback Loop Between Mobility, Neighborhood Change, and Perception.”**

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Meeting, Fall 2017

Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Spring 2017 *PAA Poster Award*

## SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

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**“Chicago Neighborhoods, Mapped By Residents: Here’s Where Locals Think Official Boundaries Should Be.”** *Block Club Chicago*. December 2024.

**“What residents in targeted investment areas think about their neighborhoods.”** *Axios Detroit*. July 2024

**“How you can help redefine Chicago’s Community Boundaries.”** *Chicago Tonight: Black Voices, WTTW*. December 2023

**“New survey: Detroit’s jobless rate is nearly 4x what government reports.”** *Detroit Free Press*. June 2023

**“Detroit home repair hotline gets more than 244K calls.”** *Bridge Detroit*. June 2022

**“Housing costs take bulk of paycheck for thousands of Detroiters, survey shows.”** *Detroit Free Press*. May 2022

**“UM study: Detroit parents less likely to vaccinate themselves, their kids.”** *Detroit News*. March 2022

**“Survey: 1 in 4 unemployed Detroit parents left work in past year: What’s keeping them home.”** *Detroit Free Press*. February 2022

**“More than 90,000 Detroit residents live in inadequate housing, UM report estimates.”** *Detroit News*. October 2021

**“Government distrust driving younger Detroiters’ COVID vaccine hesitancy, University of Michigan survey says.”** *MLive*. July 2021

**“Interest from Detroit residents in getting COVID-19 vaccine ticks up.”** *Detroit News*. March 2021

**“Survey: Pandemic caused job losses for 4 of 10 Detroiters.”** *Associated Press*. May 2020  
Republished in The San Francisco Chronicle, US News, and other outlets

**“In Detroit, grief runs deep as city grapples with COVID-19.”** *Associated Press*. April 2020  
Republished in The New York Times, The Washington Post, NBC News, ABC News, etc.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

2025 PP5383: Principles and Methods of Survey Research II

2025 Guest Lecturer, PP1001: Introduction to Public Policy

2025 Guest Lecturer, PP 5370: Applied Research Design



## UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

2023 Guest Lecturer, SW 41750: Housing, Inequality, and Society

## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

2021 Tutor, SOC 610: Statistical Methods II  
 2019 Graduate Teacher Certificate, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan  
 2019 Graduate Student Instructor, PUBPOL 639: Program Evaluation  
 2018 Graduate Student Instructor, PUBPOL 479: Evaluating Public Policies  
 2017 Grader, SOC 495: Crime and Justice  
 2017 Guest Lecturer, PUBPOL 746: Social Welfare Policy  
 2015 Curriculum Development Assistant, SOC 435: Urban Inequality

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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2025-2026 Masters of Public Policy Committee, UConn School of Public Policy  
 2024-2026 Best Article in the Journal of Urban Affairs Award Committee, Urban Affairs Association  
 2024-2026 CT Policy Talks Organizing Committee, UConn School of Public Policy  
 2024-2025 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Application Reviewer  
 2016-2019 Co-Organizer, [Detroit School Series](#), Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop  
 2018 Preliminary Exam Student Mentor, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan  
 2016-2017 PhD Admissions Committee Member, Ford School of Public Policy  
 2015-2017 Co-Chair, University of Michigan Sociology Graduate Students Association (*elected*)  
 2015-2017 Founding Student Organizer, Urban & Community Workshop, University of Michigan  
 2015-2016 Graduate Student Mentor, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

## OCCASIONAL REVIEWER

*American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Journal of Urban Affairs, Urban Studies, Urban Affairs Review, Sociological Focus, Cities & Health, Journal of Urbanism*

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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American Sociological Association  
 Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management  
 Population Association of America  
 Urban Affairs Association

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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2016-Present Research Associate, [Detroit Metro Area Communities Study](#), University of Michigan  
 2019 Consultant, Census Complete Count Committee, City of Detroit  
 2011 Research Assistant, Center for an Urban Future

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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2013-2014 NeighborWorks America, Stable Communities Initiative, Washington, DC  
 2011-2013 Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Washington, DC  
 2011 Enterprise Community Partners, Washington, DC  
 2011 Center for an Urban Future, New York, NY  
 2010 The White House, Office of Urban Affairs, Washington, DC  
 2009 Office of Congressman John Olver, Washington, DC