

SPRING 2017 METRANS RESEARCH SEMINAR

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

12:00 PM to 1:30 PM

USC – Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall (RGL) 100

RSVP to Nicole Guo at

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The Decline in Inter- and Intra-Urban Mobility and Its Impact on Passenger Travel

Presented by **Gary Painter**

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Abstract

People in the United States are among the most mobile in the world—annual internal migration rates were close to 20 percent from 1947-1983. However, this rate has steadily fallen, reaching a low of 13 percent in recent years. Curiously, that decline has manifested itself across all demographic subgroups of the US population, including divisions by age and citizenship status. Regardless of the debate surrounding the most recent changes, understanding the determinants, magnitudes, and characteristics of the decline in inter- and intra-urban mobility is important for urban transportation planning and policy. This research explores factors that could help explain the decline, empirically analyzes effects of the decline on metropolitan travel, and discusses broad implications for future transportation planning and decision-making. If geographical stability of populations is primarily driven by factors unrelated to their references/affinities for particular urban built and transportation environments, planners can more confidently attempt at influencing travel behaviors and patterns using integrated land use-transportation-pricing tools. The stability also simplifies demand analyses/assessments and facilitates targeted investment decisions that potentially carry fewer risks than in the past.

Gary Dean Painter, Ph.D., is a Professor in the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. He also serves as the Director of Social Policy in the Sol Price Center for Social Innovation. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1996. Professor Painter's research interests focus on social innovation, housing, urban economics, and education policy; he is among the world's foremost experts on how changing demographics impact U.S. housing markets. Recent work has focused on how immigrants are integrating into housing markets across the U.S. and the role of the economic cycle on household formation. He has served as a consultant for the National Association of Realtors, Pacific Economics Group, Andrew Davidson Co., Fannie Mae, Grant Thornton LLP, Burr Consulting, and the Research Institute for Housing America.



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