A Speaker Series brought to you by the Urban Sociologists of the Department of Sociology, Drexel University

POWER, PLEASURE, & SPACE: Planning the 21st Century City

Winter 2019: Power, Pleasure, & Space

Home Sweet Home: How the Single Family House Became America's Favorite

Monday, March 4, 2019, 12:00 PM– 2:00PM

Location: Mitchell Auditorium, Bossone Enterprise Research Center

Featured Speaker: **Sonia Hirt**, Dean and Hughes Professor in Landscape Architecture and Planning, University of Georgia

The private, detached single-family house has long been a dominant feature in the cities, towns, and suburbs of the United States to a much greater extent than in most other Western nations. To this very day, the private home is considered a constitutive element of the "American Dream." This presentation seeks to uncover some of the mechanisms through which this house acquired commanding presence in the American imagination and, consequently, in American metropolitan space. Specifically, turning to professional discourses from the early 1900s.

This presentation will argue that city-building experts from that time period – architects, housing reformers, sociologists, lawyers and urban planners – collectively envisioned the detached single-family house as having a privileged claim to the American city and converted this vision into a persuasive story. Through their storytelling, the experts helped craft a number of government strategies that defended the dominant position of the single-family dwelling in the American city through the remainder of the twentieth century.

This event is free and open to the public, lunch will be provided.

Sponsored by the Drexel University Sociology Department Faculty Development Fund

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