

A portrait of Prof. Waverly Duck, a Black man with a shaved head, smiling. He is wearing a light blue dress shirt and a red tie with a subtle pattern. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a white wall and a doorway.

Prof. Waverly Duck

**“Why do Middle Class Families
Remain in Violent/ Impoverished
Urban Spaces”**

“This study examines socio-structural constraints of a small urban community as opposed to large cities like Chicago, New York and Philadelphia; it also utilizes an interactional order approach to understand local practices. This study chronicles how a neighborhood, which was once predominately middle class and white, became black and poor. I trace the origins of the neighborhood through an analysis of corroborated in-depth interviews, historical records, and the architectural features of the space. I also discuss how city planners regulated housing and neighborhood design to keep residents segregated. I argue that due to a limited understanding of how local poverty works in this neighborhood, good intentioned policies, such as public housing, neighborhood policing, war on drugs, and welfare reform, have exacerbated the situation of its poor residents.”

Waverly Duck is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Pittsburgh. His research interests focus primarily on inequality using ethnographic methods to study the orderliness of recognizable situated practices concerning gender, race, age and class. His ethnography of a small Northeastern city, *Precarious Living: The Orderliness of African-American Poverty*, is under contract with the University of Chicago Press.

Monday, November 7, 2011 11:30 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.

493 College st, Room 208

Workshop in Urban Ethnography