

REDEFINING SUBURBAN STUDIES: SEARCHING FOR A NEW PARADIGM

Hofstra University's presented a conference *Redefining Suburban Studies: Searching for a New Paradigm* on March 30 and 31, 2001. The conference focused on the evolution and future of the suburbs, as well as the impact of the suburban lifestyle on culture, social interaction, politics, economics, architecture and even organized religion.

Highlights included welcoming remarks by U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer; a keynote address titled "Motion Pictures and the Suburbs" by Philip C. Dolce from Bergen Community College; and the banquet address, "Rethinking the Crabgrass Frontier," by Columbia University's Kenneth T. Jackson. Other prominent experts in American studies participating include Robert Fishman, Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning from the University of Michigan; Dolores Hayden, Professor of Architecture, Urbanism and American Studies at Yale University; and Michael Ebner, Professor and Chair of History at Lake Forest College.

Topics of discussion included:

- Environmental Politics
- Sanctuaries and Social Halls: Putting Religion into Suburban Studies
- Race in the American Dream
- Transportation's Impact on Suburban Form
- Commercial Pattern and Strategies
- Studying Cultures: Concepts and Methods
- Architecture and Suburban Planning
- Ideology and Lifestyle
- The Impact of Municipal Government
- Ranch-O-Rama: The Ranch House in American Suburbs
- Real Estate Rhetoric and the American Dream
- Beyond the Bedroom: The Single Function Suburb
- Rethinking Suburbia and
- Representations of Suburbia in the Arts