

**The hyper-gentrification of Fountain Square:
Erasing a working-class community and their network of mechanisms for survival
by new bourgeois residents who do not wish to integrate with existing residents,
but wish to eliminate them using their economic dominance**

Southeast Working-Class Task Force co-founder, Angie Calvert, received her Master's in Applied Society from the University of Indianapolis May 3. Her thesis paper, "Gentrification of an Indianapolis community: The city planning process and resident narratives on change" is relevant to SEND residents and other residents who live in Riverside, Haughville, Stringtown and the Valley.

Angie examines shifting perceptions of community in gentrifying Fountain Square (FS). She explores the roles that media and non-profit agencies play in development of a low-income neighborhood, while adding resident narratives of community change. She reviews the newspaper portrayal of FS over a 20-year span, studying local planning documents, and collecting resident narratives, and provides a comparison between outside and neighborhood agencies from a sociological macro-perspective and a micro-perspective through individually lived experiences.

Analysis of texts contributes documentation of outside and organized inside influences leading to gentrification and the involvement of FS residents as change agents. Semi-structured interviews contributed documentation of life-long residents' lived experiences in their home neighborhood. Angie used her personal connections to find participants interested in sharing their experiences. Interviews took place in informal spaces, like a home and a local bar. The informal setting was intentional to make interviewees comfortable to share their personal experiences and matches the informal character of FS before gentrification. Analysis of interviews included identifying feelings/experiences of community, social ties, third places (places people meet outside of home or work place), and feelings/experiences of loss/gain from changes. Patterns were identified among participants to understand individual and common experiences.

Her paper shows class conflict is continuing to threaten the livelihood of the generations of residents who came to FS, whether in the 1950's or 21st century, seeking an unpretentious and affordable place to live. The settlers of the southern migration created a village that protected families, fostered relationships, and helped working-class survival in an urban space. The adaption of rural Appalachians molded an urban space that allowed the migrants to keep their identity and form a neighborhood based on the character of its people. Over time, a Spanish and hip-hop culture was folded into some pockets of the neighborhood. The mixing of cultures did not threaten the existence of existing or incoming residents because residents were not from a different economic class.

Angie's conclusions are: *Middle-income residents who moved into the neighborhood between 1990-2014 did not cause a pressing class conflict in FS because the incoming residents came to the area wanting to be part of the social fabric. It was not until new homes were built with distinct modern features and more than triple the selling value of existing homes that the class conflict took hold. New bourgeois residents do not wish to integrate with existing proletarian residents. They wish to eliminate them using their economic dominance. Every year that passes allowing gentrification to run rampant in Indianapolis communities, like Fountain Square, erases a community's history and its working-class network mechanisms for survival.*

View Angie's master's degree paper at <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/The-Hyper-gentrification-of-Fountain-Square-Erasing-a-working-class-community-and-their-network-of-mechanisms-for-survival-by-Angie-Calvert.pdf>

See Angie's personal account of her gentrification experiences at <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Gentrification-A-community-and-personal-account-by-Angie-Calvert.pdf>