"Unpacking the Housing Crisis: Race, Inequality and Solutions"

Wednesday, February 9th
12:00 - 1:00pm

In light of the community concerns regarding COVID-19, this talk will be given as a webinar. The link will be provided on February 8th to those that have registered by 5:00 pm on Monday, January 7th at uccs.ucdavis.edu.

More than any time since the Great Recession, policymakers at every level are focused on the deepening problem of housing inequity and the many facets of this problem. Unfortunately, the challenges relating to housing are so many, so great, and so varied, that it can be difficult to focus attention on just one aspect of the housing crisis. UC Berkeley’s Stephen Menendian’s keynote will place housing at the center of our nation’s structured racial and economic disparities, and navigate between the connected (but distinct) problems of affordable and fair housing. Then, he will chart the path toward not only solving these crises, but also address our nation’s widening economic inequality and the perennial problem of structural racism. Join us as he shares cutting edge research and policy insights.

Mr. Stephen Menendian is the Assistant Director and Director of Research at the Othering & Belonging Institute, where he supervises many of the Institute’s research initiatives and ongoing projects. In particular, Mr. Menendian spearheaded the “Roots of Structural Racism” study revealing the persistence of racial residential segregation and its consequences, and a similar project focused on the San Francisco Bay Area. He also leads the Inclusiveness Index initiative, an annual assessment of global inclusivity rankings.

Mr. Menendian’s primary areas of expertise are structural racism, civil rights, fair housing, affirmative action and educational equity, but his research focuses on the causes and mechanisms of inter-group inequality, and the design of effective equity policy interventions permitted under prevailing interpretations of law, including California’s anti-affirmative action ballot initiative, Proposition 209.

He is the author of many scholarly publications, book chapters, journal and law review articles and a regular contributor to Berkeley Blog. His most recent large publication, The Roots of Structural Racism, was covered by CNN, Time Magazine, the Atlantic, the Guardian, the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, The Root, Axios, Bloomberg news, the New York Post, the East Bay Times, among other online, television, radio and print media across the country.

Mr. Menendian regularly trains policymakers, educators, non-profits, and other institutions on structural racism, targeted universalism, diversity, inclusion, belonging, and affirmative action practices, policies, and compliance, including creative ways to improve diversity within the bounds of law, and regularly presents on issues of fair housing, affordable housing, racial segregation and land use policies, voting rights, Proposition 209, and diversity in the practice and teaching of law. Mr. Menendian is a licensed attorney.