After Census, What? Building a Foundation for Inclusive Regional Planning

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Wednesday, April 29th
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 Tuesday, April 28th to those that have registered by 5:00 pm on Monday, April 27th at uccs.ucdavis.edu.

Across the country, communities are getting stronger thanks to investments in Census outreach that are building the capacity of nonprofits and governments, to better understand and engage their communities at a granular level, and to work collaboratively across sectors to ensure a complete count. In a fundamental way, public officials, government agencies, and economic stakeholders are seeing communities for what they are—as important assets who bring strength to their regions. Given the progress underway, the question naturally arises as to “what’s next?” One answer is redistricting, which is certainly an important next step in the continuum of civic engagement. We believe, however, that we have a deeper and more ambitious answer: building on the foundation of Census investments to substantially deliver on the promise of inclusive regional planning and inclusive economic development. This talk uses the example of Census outreach in the Inland Empire, to discuss what Census planning has meant for the region, and the lessons it offers for supporting deeply inclusive economic development in under-invested communities and areas more generally.

Karthick Ramakrishnan is professor of public policy and political science at the University of California, Riverside, and founding director of the Center for Social Innovation. He holds a BA in international relations from Brown University and a PhD in politics from Princeton. Ramakrishnan is also a Board Member of The California Endowment, Chair of the California Commission on APIA Affairs, and Director of the Inland Empire Census Complete Count Committee. Ramakrishnan directs the National Asian American Survey and is founder of AAPIData.com, which publishes demographic data and policy research on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. He has published many articles and 6 books, including most recently, Framing Immigrants (Russell Sage, 2016) and The New Immigration Federalism (Cambridge, 2015), and has written dozens of opeds and appeared in over 1,000 news stories. He was recently named to the Frederick Douglass 200 and is currently finishing a book entitled Citizenship Reconfigured (Cambridge, 2020). More information at http://karthick.com.