

## Race and the Political Response to Gentrification

This SMART research project consists of constructing a database of newspaper articles and research reports that document how neighborhood residents, local politicians, business owners, and other stakeholders respond to gentrification in San Francisco and Oakland.



*Zawadi Rucks Ahidiana*  
Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology

Zawadi Rucks Ahidiana studies race and class dynamics in urban America. Her research provides a sociological lens to the study of spatial processes, drawing on her background in geography and housing policy.

Prior to coming to Berkeley, she worked in program evaluation for MDRC and the Community College Research Center.

Through the SMART program, Zawadi is launching her dissertation research on whether the response to gentrification varies by the race and class composition of gentrifying neighborhoods. Over the course of the summer, she and Taheerah will begin compiling a database through which to answer this question.



*Taheerah Mujahid*  
Senior, Sociology

Taheerah Mujahid is interested in expanding opportunities for children in underdeveloped countries and underrepresented communities. Taheerah's research, "One Faith and Many Cultures: A Projection of the Experiences of the African American Islamic Society," uses articles, books and other sources to study African American ethnic pride and identity for African American people. Each culture brings to the Islamic faith its own interpretations of what the faith means.

Since African Americans draw values from varied sources, the question is whether one can reasonably maintain the critical values of one's culture under the canopy of a universal faith. As a SMART Program Mentee, Taheerah aspires to implement a preliminary research project over the course of the summer months.

UC Berkeley's Student Mentoring And Research Team (SMART) is a paid professional development program that engages doctoral students in creating mentored research opportunities conducted with selected undergraduate student mentees during a ten-week period over the summer. Both participants receive compensation and training throughout their participation. SMART broadens the professional development of doctoral students and fosters research skills and paths to advanced studies for undergraduates.

Expenses associated with each team total \$10,000 000 (\$5K graduate stipend/ \$3.5K undergrad stipend/\$1.5K research and conference costs). As a donor-supported program of the Graduate Division, the majority of teams are underwritten through a combination of donor funds paired with matching support courtesy of the Graduate Division.

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