

Winter 2017
Sociology 139T: Community-based Research Practicum
Experiencing the Housing Crisis in Santa Cruz
Mon and Wed 5:20 – 6:55pm
Physical Sciences Rm 130
Prof. Steve McKay



The Dept. of Sociology, Community Bridges and the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County are continuing – **No Place Like Home** - a community-based research project on the affordable housing crisis in Santa Cruz, and we invite undergrads to participate. Santa Cruz is now the *least affordable* small city and the city with the highest per capita homelessness in the U.S. How can we make sense of this, both socially and ecologically? Who does it affect most acutely? How is it experienced?

After initial training, students will get out of the classroom and off campus 1-2 times a week, working directly with community partners and applying their research skills in the field. Together we will collect digital surveys, conduct interviews, participate in community events, analyze data, create digital maps and more. Winter quarter will focus on the Live Oak neighborhood of Santa Cruz. We will learn how community members experience the housing crisis, examining such issues as rent burdens, overcrowding, evictions, displacement, discrimination, and how people create a sense of “home” in a housing crisis.

To provide academic context to the affordable housing issue, it is recommended (but not required) that students have taken or are concurrently enrolled in Socy 177e EcoMetropolis – (which explores the roots and major drivers of the local housing crisis, and its impacts for our community and ecosystem).

All students interested in the course must fill out the course survey: <http://tinyurl.com/gpxyw7a> (You must be signed into your UCSC email to have access). SOCY 139T will have 30 seats open for regular enrollment, and some seats will be filled by permission code only. On your enrollment day, if SOCY 139T is open, please enroll and be sure you have submitted the course survey linked above. Once the first 30 seats are filled, you can still fill out the course survey linked above. Professor McKay will review the course survey responses and issue permission codes to students who were not able to enroll regularly, continuing until the course is full. For more information, please email Prof. McKay at smckay@ucsc.edu.