

Cosponsored with the Center for Race & Gender

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022

BERNADETTE ATUAHENE

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***Predatory Cities:
Replenishing the Public Purse Through Racist Policy***
(forthcoming in 2023)

Writing in first person, the author describes how she discovered the problem of illegally inflated property tax assessments in Detroit, how this phenomenon began, and why it persisted. Since the resulting illegally inflated property taxes and property tax foreclosure crisis most severely disadvantage Wayne County's predominately African American cities—Detroit, Inkster, and Highland Park—the author investigates the following riddle: How does a majority Black city run primarily by Black politicians and administrators perpetrate a racialized housing crime? While many want to attribute the rampant illegality to corruption or incompetent politicians and administrators, these are not the primary drivers here. The chief culprit is structural racism, otherwise known as racist policy. That is, the true villain is an invisible structure and not a visible individual, but the dominant culture rejects this, instead demanding an easily digestible good/bad, black/white narrative. *Predatory Cities* pushes beyond these over simplifying strictures to uncover more complicated truths.

PLACE via Zoom | [Register here for the zoom link.](#)
TIME 12:45 – 2:00pm.
INFO <https://www.csls.berkeley.edu>

If you require an accommodation for effective communication (ASL interpreting/CART captioning, alternative media formats, etc.) to fully participate in this event, please contact csls@law.berkeley.edu with as much advance notice as possible and at least 7-10 days in advance of the event.

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