

Professor Rahim Kurwa, University of Illinois, at Chicago

“Indefensible Spaces: Policing and the Struggle for Housing”



Description: Indefensible Spaces examines the policing of housing through the story of Black community building in the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles County's northernmost outpost. Tracing its evolution from a segregated postwar suburb to a destination for those priced, policed, and evicted out of Los Angeles, Rahim Kurwa tells the story of how the Antelope Valley resisted Black migration through the policing of subsidized housing—and how Black tenants and organizers fought back. This book sheds light on how the nation's policing and housing crises intersect, offering powerful lessons for achieving housing justice across the country.

Rahim Kurwa is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice and Faculty Affiliate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). His work is broadly focused on the policing of housing. His book, *Indefensible Spaces: Policing and the Struggle for Housing*, traces the past century of Black history in Los Angeles' northernmost outpost, known as the Antelope Valley, showing how pre-1968 methods of racial segregation have been replaced today by policing. His next project focuses on evictions from Chicago Housing Authority programs.

Thursday
October 30, 2025
12:30-1:50pm

Parkes 222
1870 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208

**For Zoom info
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