

Professor Robin Bartram, University of Chicago

“Stacked Decks: Building Inspectors and the Reproduction of Urban Inequality”



Thursday
April 2, 2026
12:30-1:50pm

Wildcat Room
Norris, First Floor
1999 Campus Dr.
Evanston, IL 60208

Description: The talk will overview my first book, *Stacked Decks: Building Inspectors and the Reproduction of Inequality*, as well as detail some new work on housing and the environment in Chicago and New Orleans. *Stacked Decks* reveals surprising patterns in the judgment calls building inspectors make when deciding whom to cite for building code violations. *Stacked Decks* illustrates the uphill battle inspectors face when trying to change a housing system that works against those with the fewest resources.

Robin Bartram is an Associate Professor at the University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice and an Affiliated Scholar with the American Bar Foundation. She has published award-winning articles and a book on building code enforcement, housing conditions, and the environment.

**For Zoom info
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