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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GENTRIFIER

By John Joe Schlichtman, Jason Patch,
and Marc Lamont Hill

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The authors “help us shelve what we thought we knew about gentrification, and give us a brutally honest reckoning with the ills, conveniences and virtues – but especially the consequences on the vulnerable – of gentrification.” –Michael Eric Dyson,

Professor of Sociology, Georgetown University and author of
Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America

“This is a brave book. It tackles a set of problems that bedevil academic and policy oriented urban planners but that also confront many young urbanites...” –Peter Marcuse,

Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning, Columbia University,
from the Foreword to **GENTRIFIER**

“In clear, readable, and entertaining prose, (the authors) make gentrification more tangible and relevant.” –John L. Jackson, Jr., Richard Perry University Professor and Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania

WHAT IS A GENTRIFIER?

In GENTRIFIER, Three Experts Examine The Issues And Questions Surrounding Gentrification Through Their Own Experiences, Presenting Fresh Ideas About A Complex And Often Misunderstood Phenomenon

In a fascinating collaboration, three experts have joined forces in the new book, **GENTRIFIER** (University of Toronto Press; May 2017), to address the complicated issues and questions surrounding gentrification. Who benefits? Who gets hurt? And what are the ethical implications of the influx of new people and money into disinvested city neighborhoods?

Incorporating their personal narratives as “gentrifiers” in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Diego, and Providence, authors John Joe Schlichtman, Jason Patch, and Marc

More

Lamont Hill shed new light on this complex and controversial topic, challenging the current understanding of gentrification and people's roles within their own neighborhoods.

Supported by academic literature spanning sociology, geography, planning and policy, and a discussion of the historical events and trends that precede and enable gentrification – **GENTRIFER** shines a light on the forces and orientations that underpin people's choices to move into disinvested urban environments. The authors provide a framework – which they call a “multi-tool” – that enables researchers and others to take apart, rework, and adjust their views on this complex, ever-changing process. Their framework encompasses seven facets of housing choice:

- Monetary – affordability of housing, as well as its potential to serve as a primary asset
- Practical – a neighborhood's geographic centrality, along with the practicality of having extra space
- Aesthetic – the appearance of the neighborhood, the exterior architecture of a house, and/or a particular interior layout
- Amenity – the availability of “thirdplaces” such as restaurants, bars, and coffee shops where people can experience the community, and “public distributive” amenities such as parks and schools.
- Community – the diversity of a neighborhood, and whether it seeks to cultivate a community of newcomers.
- Cultural authenticity – relating to the desire to preserve the perceived culture of a place
- Flexibility – the willingness to accept the inconveniences of a disinvested neighborhood, such infrastructure, cultural unfamiliarity, and/or danger

In addition to the “multi-tool,” the authors also identify “six images or perceived cultural orientations of a gentrifier.” These include the conqueror, connector/colonizer, consumer, competitor, capitalist, and curator. “Not all of these images necessarily reflect actual types of people, but rather they capture ways that gentrifiers are interpreted or understood by themselves and others,” the authors explain. By delineating various types of gentrifiers, Schlichtman, Patch, and Hill offer an innovative lens for viewing the complex issues that surround the rebuilding of challenged neighborhoods.

“Gentrification is *not* an innocuous process, and that is why a more reflective lens is necessary,” they explain. “We hope to see local communities move away from shared, self-defeating caricatures of ‘gentrifiers’ and ‘native’ residents and – in so doing – become more equipped to seek common ground, navigate more ethical personal choices, negotiate sound policy decision, and choose nurturing engagements in civic life.”

With **GENTRIFIER**, Schlichtman, Patch, and Hill not only present fresh ways of understanding a volatile topic, but have created a new starting point for dealing with its multitude of challenges. As Peter Marcuse, Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning at Columbia University, writes in the Foreword, “The book is ‘must’ reading for anyone involved in or affected by changes in the use of space in our urban society – as most of us are.”

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

John Joe Schlichtman is an urban sociologist and associate professor in the Department of Sociology at DePaul University in Chicago. His research and perspectives have been discussed in such media outlets as *Next City*, *CityLab*, and *The Economist*. A board member of the Research Committee 21 for Urban and Regional Development, he is a recipient of a 2012 PSA Praxis Award and was named a Next City Vanguard in 2016.

Jason Patch is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. He studies disasters, street food vendors, gentrification, women in the city, the sociology of fashion, urban communities, and qualitative methodology. His articles have appeared in a wide range of academic journals.

Marc Lamont Hill is an American academic, journalist, activist, and television personality. He is a Professor of African American Studies at Morehouse College in Atlanta and the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Nobody: Casualties of America’s War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond*. He is also a BET News correspondent, a CNN political commentator, and the host of *VH1 Live!*

ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS

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