

When I began working on my thesis project, I knew that I wanted to focus on late 1960s radicalism, and I originally planned to conduct research on the gendered rhetoric of the Vietnam anti-war movement. As I began engaging with the literature on the topic, however, I became less interested in rhetoric specifically and more interested in the radicalism of this period more broadly. As I explored the secondary literature on “the movement,” I began to take issue with what had been written about the 1960s and with what had not been dealt with explicitly. Accordingly, I began to revise my thinking about what topic would make for the best project to serve as an addition to this literature.

My consideration of different directions for my project coincided with my growing interest in urban issues. I spent last summer working at a public middle school in the south Bronx and had the opportunity to experience first-hand the challenges of serving diverse urban populations. My summer in the city piqued my interest in the urban problems and solutions, and I began to consider how I could connect my interest in late 1960s radicalism with my concern with issues of urban equity. When I returned to Athens from New York and started to reconsider my project, I found that few scholars had considered the connection between cities and period radicalism. I decided that my project would be much more successful if I were to focus on the role that urban space played on the radicalism of a specific region. My familiarity with New York City, and the fact that the city was the world center of business and culture after World War II, led me to select Manhattan as my project’s focus. Finding that some scholars had considered Harlem and Columbia University – especially students’ 1968 takeover of the university – in other contexts, I decided to center my research on downtown Manhattan, where large populations of radicals lived in the late 1960s.

My project now had a streamlined focus: I would consider the radicalism centered in downtown Manhattan during the late 1960s and early 1970s and consider the ways in which urban radicals were particularly interested in urban issues. Whereas other scholars have tended to pose the period's radicalism as an undifferentiated national movement, I found myself more concerned with the ways that radicals sought concretely to change the cities – and the city neighborhoods – in which they lived. American cities in general, and New York City in particular, changed dramatically after World War II, and late 1960s radicals saw those changes as indicative of the larger problems of a sick society. But their concern with enacting change directly in their urban communities links them to earlier urban activists who hoped to build cities that served all residents well. The activism of downtown radicals is a piece of a national movement located in a particular historical moment, but it is also a chapter of the urban history of a particular city.

Early in my research, I had searched in GIL for books and journal articles on 1960s activism very broadly, and had found a number of texts dedicated to giving a thorough overview of the national movement (for instance, *Democracy Is in the Streets* and *The Movement and the Sixties*). Once I refocused my project on urban radicalism, I discovered that I would have to consult two types of secondary literature: that on 1960s radicalism and that on postwar urban history. I located, again through GIL, books on twentieth century and post-1945 American urban planning; books on New York City specifically in the twentieth century and after World War II; and books outlining the spatial history of the particular neighborhoods – Greenwich Village and the Lower East Side/East Village – that I was interested in. In reading these secondary sources, I located primary source texts that would be useful for my project, particularly Jane Jacobs' *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, a seminal 1961 anti-planning text that indicted postwar

city building and introduced complaints that many urban radicals echoed in the coming years. Knowing that urban radicals were, undoubtedly, interested in issues of race and class, I also read Thomas J. Sugrue's *The Origins of the Urban Crisis* and Robert O. Self's *American Babylon*, two scholarly works that explore the ways in which postwar urban policies created the "black ghettos" of the late 1960s. In locating primary and secondary source literature, I used GIL, GIL Express, and Interlibrary Loan; I found journal articles online and used the dissertation search database to locate dissertations from UGA and from other universities.

Since I was focusing on a particular urban area, I knew that I would need to travel to New York if possible to look in archives for primary documents. I secured funding from the Honors Program and traveled to Manhattan to do research in archives at Columbia University and New York University. Particularly useful were collections that I found at NYU. Original handbills, flyers, manifestos, and organization reports from the NYU collection were immensely useful in helping me to understand the ways in which student radicals at the university conceptualized their approach to urban issues, and most of my thesis chapter about Greenwich Village activism is based on these documents. For my chapter on the Lower East Side/East Village, I have relied heavily on the Underground Press Collection, which includes copies of the East Village Other, the preeminent alternative newspaper for the area in the period.

My project has been almost entirely student-directed; my advisor has been immensely helpful in reviewing drafts and suggesting avenues for further exploration, but I have selected all resources independently. With the help of research librarians and archivists at UGA and elsewhere, I have had very few difficulties in locating appropriate sources for my work. My research experience has been entirely satisfying, with my only regret being that I do not have more time to devote to exploring the materials I have found.