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## **USC Professor Elizabeth Currid-Halkett Named Kluge Chair in Modern Culture by Library of Congress**

*Currid-Halkett serves as James Irvine Chair in Urban and Regional Planning and professor of public policy at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy*

**March 7, 2022** – USC Price School of Public Policy Professor [Elizabeth Currid-Halkett](#) has been appointed as the [Kluge Chair in Modern Culture](#) at the Library of Congress’ John W. Kluge Center. This honor is awarded to a scholar of significant accomplishment in modern arts and media and their impact on societal development.

Through an endowment from John W. Kluge, the Library of Congress established the [Kluge Center](#) in 2000 to bring together the world’s best thinkers to stimulate and energize one another, to distill wisdom from the Library’s rich resources, and to interact with policymakers in Washington. Dr. Currid-Halkett will join prestigious Kluge honorees including former President of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel, Harvard music professor Kay Kaufman Shelemay and USC professor Henry Jenkins.

With this appointment, Currid-Halkett will gain access to the Library of Congress’ comprehensive music, film, television, architecture, literature, multi-media and folklore collections. She will use her time as Chair to work on the manuscript of her new book forthcoming with Basic Books in 2023. The book brings together personal interviews with Americans around the country and vast datasets to better understand how culture and the politics of culture influence the current geographic and class divisions in American society.

Currid-Halkett’s research focuses on the arts, the American consumer economy and the role of cultural capital in geographic and class divides. She is the author of “The Sum of Small Things: A Theory of the Aspirational Class,” which was named one of the best books of the year by *The Economist*. Her other books include “The Warhol Economy: How Fashion, Art and Music Drive New York City,” and “Starstruck: The Business of Celebrity.” Currid-Halkett’s research has been featured in a wide variety of publications including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *The New Yorker* and *NPR*.

Currid-Halkett holds the James Irvine Chair in Urban and Regional Planning and is professor of public policy at USC Price where she teaches courses in economic development, the arts, and urban policy and urban planning. She is a member of the World Economic Forum’s Expert

Network, and has been a member of the WEF Global Future Councils and Industry Strategy Officers. Currid-Halkett received her PhD in urban planning from Columbia University.

**Author Website:** [www.elizabethcurridhalkett.com](http://www.elizabethcurridhalkett.com)

### **About the USC Price School of Public Policy**

The USC Sol Price School of Public Policy's mission is to improve the quality of life for people and their communities, here and abroad. The School achieves this mission through education and research that promotes innovative solutions to the most critical issues facing society. For more than 90 years, the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy has earned the public trust by creating path-breaking research and scholarship.

### **About the Library of Congress**

The Library of Congress, the nation's oldest federal cultural institution and the largest library in the world, holds more than 151.8 million items in various languages, disciplines and formats. The Library serves the U.S. Congress and the nation both on-site in its reading rooms on Capitol Hill and through its award-winning website at [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov).

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