**TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S) – DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES ON THE PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE**

**Paper / Proposal Title:**  
Atomic Space: U.S. Population and Industrial Dispersal in the Early Cold War

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**Presentation Method. I would like to:**  

i. present in person (with/without a written paper)

**Abstract (300 words):**  
In the first years of the Cold War (1945-1950) U.S. researchers and policy makers responded to urban vulnerability apparent in WWII Europe and Asia due to air attacks and atomic weaponry by attempting to protect American population and industry. They saw limitations in civil defense plans and increasing birth rates, advocating instead for population and industrial dispersal. The federal government responded in ways that changed the nature of U.S. metropolitan areas and the rise of the Sun Belt (U.S. South and Southwest). This paper seeks to uncover the extent to which the federal government influenced these changes. This work is grounded in my earlier publication “The Reduction of Urban Vulnerability: Revisiting 1950s American Suburbanization as Civil Defense” (Cold War History) and delves more into case studies related to Chicago and Los Angeles.
• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Dr. Kathleen A. Tobin is currently serving as Chair of the Department of History and Philosophy at Purdue University Northwest in Hammond, Indiana. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and has published books and articles on population policies and birth control history. Her recent articles include “People, Not Property: Population Issues and the Neutron Bomb” (Cold War History) and “Population Density and Housing in Port-au-Prince: Historical Construction of Vulnerability” (Journal of Urban History).