THE CHICAGO SCHOOL

SOC 2202: Cities and Society
Fall 2019

PREVIOUSLY . . .

- The City (10,000 years of urbanism)
  - Wirth — Urbanism as a Way of Life
    - city: **size, density, and heterogeneity**
- Three Contemporary Conceptions of Community (Ecological, Socio-Structural, Cultural Symbolic)
- Antecedents
  - Tönnies (*"gemeinschaft" to "gesellschaft"*)
  - *Durkheim*
    - *"mechanical solidarity" to "organic solidarity"*
    - *anomie*
  - *Weber — the city as a settlement with a market*
  - *Simmel — "The Metropolis and Mental Life"*

ZORBAUGH, THE GOLD COAST AND THE SLUM

- Do you think that Zorbaugh displays an optimistic or pessimistic view of Chicago in his time? What evidence can you offer to support your argument?
- How does Zorbaugh define community? What variables does he rely on to determine the "community-ness" of Chicago?

ZORBAUGH, THE GOLD COAST AND THE SLUM

- How does he imagine the shifts in community relations in the neighborhoods he studies?
  - The Gold Coast
  - The Slum
  - Towertown
  - The World of Furnished Rooms
  - Little Hell

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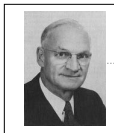
- Sociology Department at University of Chicago
- Goal: to legitimize Sociology as an academic discipline
- Developed a human ecology to understand the relationship between communities, the natural environment, and human behavior.
  - Favored of a biologically based conception of urban life.

ROBERT PARK (1864 - 1944)

"THE CITY: SUGGESTIONS FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT" (1915)

- Shares concerns of Tönnies, Durkheim, Weber and Simmel, yet discouraged the "armchair theorizing" of European tradition.
- The social world had to be investigated through direct observation.
  - "The Great Chicago Laboratory"
- Cities are living organisms, composed of interconnected parts.



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"THE CITY: SUGGESTIONS FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT" (1915)

- Drawing from Darwin ("web of life"), Park emphasized the relationship between various parts of the urban environment.
    - Competition arises from the most desirable land.
        - The biotic level (invasion - competition)
        - The cultural level (succession)
    - Natural Areas of the City

ROBERT PARK (1864 - 1944)

"THE CITY: SUGGESTIONS FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT" (1915)

Natural Areas of the City:

"In the course of time every section and quarter of the city takes on something of the character and qualities of its inhabitants. Each separate part of the city is inevitably stained with the peculiar sentiments of its population. This effect is to convert what was first a mere geographical expression into a neighborhood, that is to say, a locality with sentiments, traditions, and a history of its own" (p. 579).

ROBERT PARK (1864 - 1944)

"THE CITY: SUGGESTIONS FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT" (1915)

"Personal tastes and convenience, vocational and economic interests, infallibly tend to segregate and thus to classify the populations of great cities. In this way, the city acquires an organization which is neither designed nor controlled" (Park 1915: 579).

ROBERT PARK (1864 - 1944)

"THE CITY: SUGGESTIONS FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT" (1915)

- The unique conditions of the city transforms social relations based upon sentiments and similarities into "social worlds" organized around "vocational interests."

  "In the city every social group tends to create its own milieu and, as these conditions become fixed, the mores tend to accommodate themselves to the conditions thus created. In secondary groups and in the city, fashion tends to take the place of custom, and public opinion rather than the mores become the dominant force in social control" (p. 605).

ROBERT PARK (1864 - 1944)

"THE CITY: SUGGESTIONS FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT" (1915)

"The process of segregation establish moral distances which make the city a mosaic of little worlds which touch but do not interpenetrate. This makes it possible for individuals to pass quickly and easily from one moral milieu to another and encourages the fascinating but dangerous experiment of living at the same time in several different contiguous, perhaps, but widely separate worlds" (p. 608).

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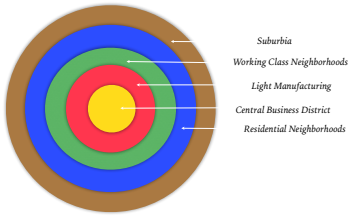
- Anderson (1928), *The Hobo*
- Wirth (1929), *The Ghetto*
- Cressley (1932), *The Taxi-Dance Hall*
- Zorbaugh (1927), *The Gold Coast and the Slum*

ERNEST BURGESS (1886-1966)

"THE GROWTH OF A CITY: AN INTRODUCTION TO A RESEARCH PROJECT" (1925)

- The purposes for land use follows a regular pattern, based not only on the price of land, but also the expense of commuting to the center from different distances.
  - inspired not only by the Human Ecology paradigm, but also neoclassic economic principles.
    - competition within the land market should result in each group getting the best location it can afford.

BURGESS' CONCENTRIC ZONE MODEL



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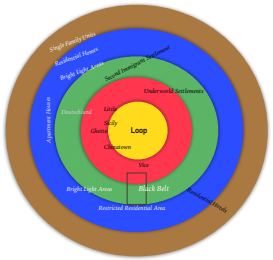

ZORBAUGH, THE GOLD COAST AND THE SLUM

- How do the Gold Coast, The World of Furnished Rooms, and the Slum demonstrate the invasion-competition-succession model of The Chicago School?
- In what way does urbanization (or urbanism) shape the formation of community (or society) in these "natural areas" of the city?