CRIME AND POLICING

SOC 2202: Cities and Society
Fall 2019

PREVIOUSLY . . .

Asian Americans in the United States

Asians as a model minority; how the model minority myth produces "white flight" within communities.

Lung-Amam, Trespassers

White residents develop strategies for mitigating their feelings of inferiority about Asians within schools — building bigger houses.

Planning processes, development standards, and design guidelines adapted to deal with tensions between Whites-Asians.
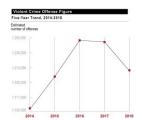
Reflect the tastes of White residents while marginalizing certain tastes and preferences of Asian Americans.

Thus seemingly "neutral" planning policies work to reinforce dominant social and cultural norms about "good" and appropriate design that reinforce the dominant racial and class order within suburbia.

"Community" has been an over-arching theme all semester, and there is definitely not one clear definition for it. How do Steel and his crew represent a paradoxical idea of community, given that they congregate with each other to stay out of trouble, but in an "effort to set themselves apart from the 'typical' Skid Row resident" (Stuart 128-129)? Can a "Purgatory" or "halfway point" truly be a community? What other paradoxical ideas does Chapter 3 present regarding how residents perceive and think about Skid Row once they live there as opposed to before they did?

—ALI M., EXPERT QUESTION

PREVIOUSLY . . .

Immigrant Enclaves vs. Ethnic Communities

immigrant enclaves — immigrant settlement areas arising out of and maintained to meet newcomers' needs for affordable housing, social networks, economic opportunities and a familiar culture.

ethnic communities: ethnic neighborhoods that are selected as living environments by those who have wider options based on their market resources.

ethnoburbs: suburban residential and business area with a notable cluster of a particular minority population.
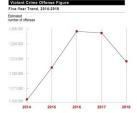
PREVIOUSLY . . .

- Crime:

    - Paradoxes: The United States has the highest murder rate of any country other than Russia, yet crime in the U.S. has been on the decline for much of the 21st Century.

    - Crime is **perceived** as a serious problem within cities, but much of that arises from media reporting and a fear of crime by populations least likely to be victimized (white women, senior citizens).

    - Crime — raw numbers vs. crime rate (per capita)

Violent Crime Offense Figure
Five-Year Trend, 2014-2018
Estimated
number of offenses

1,255,000				
1,234,000				
1,213,000				
1,192,000				
1,171,000				
1,150,000				
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018

PREVIOUSLY . . .

- Crime:

    - Crime and cities do not necessarily go together.

    - No correlation between city size and large crimes.

        - Highest crime rates are found in medium sized cities (200,000 - 500,000).

    - Crime statistics can be misleading

        - Crime rates are on reported crimes.

        - Certain crimes are better reported than others.

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Years	Violent Crime[1]	Violent Crime Rate	Murder And Nonnegligent Manslaughter	Murder And Nonnegligent Manslaughter Rate	Rape (Revised Definition)[2]	Rape (Revised Definition) Rate[2]	Rape (Legacy Definition)[3]	Rape (Legacy Definition) Rate[3]	Robbery	Robbery Rate	Aggravated Assault	Aggravated Assault Rate	Property Crime	Property Crime Rate	Burglary	Burglary Rate	Larceny-Theft	Larceny-Theft Rate	Motor Vehicle Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft Rate
2018/2017	-3.3	-3.9	-6.2	-6.8	2.7	2.1	1.4	0.8	-12.0	-12.6	-0.4	-1.0	-6.3	-6.9	-11.9	-12.5	-5.4	-6.0	-3.1	-3.7
2018/2014	4.7	2.0	14.5	11.6	18.1	15.1	19.2	16.2	-12.6	-14.9	10.4	7.7	-12.3	-14.6	-28.2	-30.0	-10.2	-12.5	9.0	6.3
2018/2009	-9.0	-14.6	5.3	-1.2			13.3	6.4	-31.0	-35.2	-0.6	-6.8	-22.9	-27.7	-44.2	-47.6	-17.7	-22.8	-5.9	-11.7

[1] The violent crime figures include the offenses of murder, rape (legacy definition), robbery, and aggravated assault.
[2] The figures shown in this column for the offense of rape were estimated using the revised UCR definition of rape. See data declaration for further explanation.
[3] The figures shown in this column for the offense of rape were estimated using the legacy UCR definition of rape. See data declaration for further explanation.

THEORIES OF CRIME

The Chicago School

Crime the product of **social disorganization**, arising from the growth of secondary, anonymous ties.

Place matters, depending on:

 the prevalence and interdependence of social networks within a community, both formal and informal.

the span of collective supervision that a community directs toward social problems.

BROKEN WINDOWS THEORY

- introduced by George L. Kelling and James Q. Wilson (1982).
- based on a series of experiments by Phillip Zimbardo (1969).
  - two abandoned cars in Palo Alto (near Stanford U) and South Bronx (then the most dangerous neighborhood in the country).

BROKEN WINDOWS THEORY

THRUST: The best way to prevent crime is to focus on minor quality-of-life-offenses, such as drinking in public, and public vandalism.

Neighborhood disorder and decay, if left unchecked, combined with public drinking and vagrancy, signal to criminals that when no one is watching, crime will take place.

basis of "community based policing"

ROBERT SAMPSON
"BROKEN WINDOWS AND THEORIES OF DISORDER"

"People divide the urban world into manageable bits, with one of the most important differentiating characteristics being signs of disorder. But there is more that meets the eye here. The human tendency to quickly categorize racial and other groups, our ability to easily observe skin color, and our sensitivity to the opinions of others in the form of reputations or identities that stigmatize areas, makes for a potent combination" (Sampson, p. 125).

CRIME AND RACE

Crime and race are linked to people's minds.

Most crime committed is intra-racial.

Robbery is most often interracial.

Blacks are five times more likely to be homicide victims as whites.

African Americans have the highest probability of being an offender.

racial profiling: the practice of using one's race in part to determine whether the individual is likely to engage in a criminal activity.

Slide 1

Trump avoided labeling Las Vegas shooting as 'terrorism'

Authorities say Las Vegas gunman planned 'extensively,' used cameras to monitor police

Las Vegas shooter worked as a mailman; IRS agent
Stephen Paddock spent a decade as gov't employee

Las Vegas gunman Stephen Paddock was a high-stakes gambler who 'kept to himself' before massacre

If Only Stephen Paddock Were a Muslim

EXCLUSIVE: Gun-mad, desperate to befriend cops, creepy to women and he openly abused a gay man - gym co-worker tells of 'odd' Omar Mateen

Gunman Omar Mateen Described as Belligerent, Racist and 'Toxic'
by PETE WILLIAMS, TRACY CONNOR, ERIK ORTIZ and STEPHANIE GOSK

'He was not a stable person': Orlando shooter showed signs of emotional trouble

'Always Agitated. Always Mad': Omar Mateen, According to Those Who Knew Him

Donald Trump says he appreciates 'the congrats for being right on radical Islamic terrorism'

Slide 2
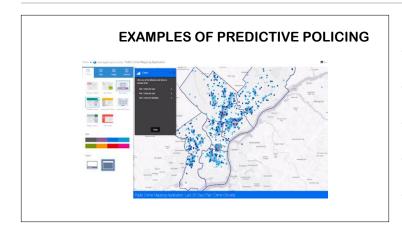
EXPLAINING DECREASING CRIME RATES

- "community based policing" (broken windows)

- shrinkage of teenage population

- stiffer sentencing for violent crimes

- computer-based policing

- predictive policing

EXAMPLES OF PREDICTIVE POLICING

EXAMPLES OF PREDICTIVE POLICING

What does Forrest Stuart mean by "therapeutic policing"?

FORREST STUART
DOWN, OUT, AND UNDER ARREST

therapeutic policing: a paternalistic brand of spatial, behavioral, and moral discipline designed to "cure" those at the bottom of the social hierarchy of the individual pathologies deemed responsible for their abject circumstances.

Is there a political motivation to maintain a culture of poverty not just in Skid Row, but across the United States?

Do we buy Stuart's argument that these far more explicitly repressive policing techniques are in response to a city's motivation to attract outside investment?

—DEVON K., EXPERT QUESTION

Within our economic system, which is undergirded by a general apathy for the less fortunate, is it realistic at all to attempt market based solutions for poverty? Who is really benefitting from what Stuart calls "therapeutic policing"?

—DEVON K., EXPERT QUESTION

"Stuart defines actions taken by the police in Skid Row as "therapeutic policing". How do we better the system so that people are more willing to accept help from, say, non-profit organizations without feeling belittled? Is there a top-down method rather than bottom-up that would be more beneficial; i.e. having government intervention or community based aid?"

—SHANNON G., EXPERT QUESTION

The rehabilitation process seems awfully disingenuous especially when framed within a neoliberal context. How can we expect to reform the impoverished to a point of market participation if the techniques are so explicitly repressive? Is the state really promoting better behavior through intensely paternalist practices?

—DEVON K., EXPERT QUESTION

In order to improve the quality of living for those in Skid Row, is it more effective to work to avoid police interventions? Or instead, to confront the police and try reform police policy as seen with the LACAN.

—CATHERINE A., EXPERT QUESTION

Hyper police control and the Safer Cities Initiative have put more pressure on citizens living in Skid Row to enforce social control in order to avoid negative consequences with the police. The three chapters illustrate the tactics of different groups with exerting their "cop wise" knowledge. Is it the social responsibility of those who are more knowledgable to look out for others?

—CATHERINE A., EXPERT QUESTION