the old neighborhood... what has changed? what hasn’t?

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Neighbourhood Change Research Symposium

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Separate Unequal and Ignored

Racial segregation remains Chicago's most fundamental problem. Why isn't it an issue in the mayor's race?
THE DISTRIBUTION OF CHICAGO’S AFRICAN-AMERICAN POPULATION HAS CHANGED LITTLE IN FOUR DECADES.
Looking at neighborhood change

• History / evolution of theories of neighborhood change
• Examine closely the assumptions about why neighborhoods change and specifically to problematize homogeneity
• Pose questions
Why do Neighborhoods Change?

- invasion
- succession
- filtering
- racial tipping
- revitalization
- life-cycle
- gentrification
Common features

• Neighborhood = fixed space (usually CT)
• Homogeneous communities = equilibrium
• Spatial segregation = natural
• Physical determinism = once change starts, limited ability to stop it
• Change = constant
• Genealogy reveals race and income are constant explanatory variables.
Producing Homogeneous Space
Re-producing Homogenous Space

*In theory...*

- To be healthy or stable, neighborhoods have to be homogeneous (with exception)
- The community within the neighborhood is what is in common not different (e.g., see Marion Iris Young)
- Segregation is natural order, but...some think it can be re-ordered by doing unnatural things (i.e. mixed income communities)
Indicators of a "Healthy" Stable Neighborhood

**SOCIAL**
- Middle to high social status
- Moderate to upper income levels
- Ethnic homogeneity
- High school graduates and above
- Family-oriented or childless adults
- White collar and/or skilled blue collar workers
- Pride in neighborhood and house
- Good neighborhood reputation
- Neighborhood perceived as safe
- Socially cohesive

**PUBLIC SERVICES**
- Services efficient and appropriate
- Some reliance on private services

**PHYSICAL**
- Good property upkeep
- Sound structural condition
- Good location
- Neighborhood well maintained

**ECONOMIC**
- High owner investment
- Good property values
- Insurance available
- High confidence on future value

From theory to practice...
...a certain proportion of blacks move into a neighborhood, whites will move out, often at an accelerated rate, leading the neighborhood to eventually become all black.
Traditional Policy Research

Problem

Stable Racial Integration

Policy / Program

Research

Prevent tipping
Traditional Policy Research (variation)

Problem

Policy / Program

Research

Stable Economic Integration

Restrict choice

Thresholds
“Transformation”

Mixed-income
-1/3 poor
-1/3 moderate
-1/3 middle/upper
An alternative

A thought exercise
Right to the city

- Land for people not for speculation
- Permanent public ownership of land for public use
- Freedom from state/police harassment
- Services and community institutions
- Democracy and participation
- Internationalism
- Reparations
- Environmental justice
- Economic justice
- Indigenous justice
- Immigrant justice
- Rural Justice
- Environmental justice
- Economic justice
- Indigenous justice
- Immigrant justice
- Rural Justice
Solving the **rights** problem

Problem

Policy / Program

Research

Change happens -- some benefit, some don’t
Globalization of Capital
Political / Power Analysis
National Policy…Local Practices

The second edition of the Chicago Neighborhood Map by Christopher Devane lists 223 neighborhoods, including a cluster of six new or renamed ones on the South Side, shown above. On Devane's map, Oakland becomes North Kenwood; a part of the old Oakland and what was called South Side is now Bronzeville. Then there are Washington Park, West Woodlawn, Parkview Gardens and Robert Taylor Homes.
Under the Plan for Transformation 14,000 units of housing are being destroyed. This represents roughly 38% of Lincoln Park’s 37,398 total units of housing.
...a certain proportion of RICH people move into a neighborhood, lower and even middle-income families (usually non-whites) will move out, leading the neighborhood to rapidly improve (and usually become white).
The Plan

WHITES LIVE IN CITIES.
THE CROWNING GLORY OF CIVILIZATION.

MINORITIES MOVE INTO CITIES.
HELLO
GOODBYE

WHITES FLEE CITIES TO SUBURBS.
AH, THIS IS BETTER.

WHITES MOVE INTO SECOND-RING SUBURBS.
CITIES ARE DEAD. THIS IS BETTER STILL.

MINORITIES MOVE INTO FIRST-RING SUBURBS.
THIS IS BETTER.
I GUESS.

WHITES MOVE BACK INTO CITIES.
IT WORKED.

THE VAST WHITE RING CONSPIRACY.

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