Space, Place, and Community

16:920:572:01
Davison Sociology Seminar Room  Thursday 1:30-3:50

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Office hours: Thursdays 4-5pm
and by appointment

"... a place-sensitive sociology is not so much a body of empirical findings as it is a way to do sociology in a different key. That key is visual ... "  T. Gieryn, 2000

Space, place, and community are classic concepts in the social sciences, but the reasons for interest, the degree of interest, and the questions asked vary through time. Theoretical approaches rise -- can all-but-disappear -- and are rediscovered. The current interest in all three concepts crosscuts many disciplines, and the readings reflect this. Several themes stand out in recent research: the power of place, the nature of neighborhoods and the particular power of these small places, the creation of place by people rather than administrative units, developing and measuring emergent characteristics for various levels of place, and the importance of relational thinking. These themes come out in research on such place-related topics as housing, employment, crime, revitalization, gentrification.

The course begins a few ideas about space, place, and community that are not from sociology, and then turns to major theoretical approaches used in sociology. Following this, the course covers topics in which space, place, and/or community is central. It concludes by returning to the basic concepts.

Course Goals. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the foundational and dominant themes considered in the sociological study of space, place, communities, and cities;
- Understand the relationships among space, place, and community;
- Critically examine the ways in which cities have been theorized, designed, planned, and studied;
- Recognize the range of methodologies utilized to analyzed space and place, and be able to discriminate when each is useful; and
- Distinguish the disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to studying cities.

Readings are diverse and come from a variety of disciplines. You will read much of Robert Sampson’s new book, Great American City. Other readings are on Sakai or a website. Electronic sources mean reading assignments can be flexible, and we are likely to make changes, even additions.

Class Sessions. Class sessions are largely discussion. Come (of course), and come prepared. At times, one or both of us will give a short lecture. Some of these lectures provide background not covered in readings.
**Assignments.** The course requires (a) a final project due at the end and (b) assignments leading up to this project, including a preliminary proposal, an update, and a short presentation to the class in November. It also requires the discussion questions and discussion contributions described below. We will give you additional information about each assignment.

**Project.** Your project will be a proposal for research. You can do this in somewhat different ways, e.g. you can emphasize a literature review or you can emphasize the proposed research and its methodology. In any case, you will try out data collection, and report on this in the proposal. [The proposed research itself can, of course, use already-collected data, and we can help you locate such data]. If you already have an idea for another kind of project, discuss this with one or both of us right away. A proposal for is due September 20.

**Discussion Questions.** You will post two discussion questions for eight of the eleven weeks of the course. None are due the week you present projects. You can choose two additional weeks to skip, and you do not have to inform us when you choose to do so. Base your discussion questions on at least three of the week’s readings (and, of course, earlier readings), and propose discussion questions that reflect engagement and careful thought about the readings. Please post your questions on the Sakai “Discussion” tab (under the relevant week’s topic), by midnight of the Wednesday PRIOR to class.

**Discussion Contribution.** You will act as a special contributor one week of the semester. That week you will introduce a piece of your own choosing to discuss alongside the assigned readings. You may choose an article (academic, journalistic, or current events), a book, book, or a creative literary, art work, object, or a film that illuminates or complements the week’s readings. Be ready to make a brief presentation that includes sufficient background on the piece and its relationship to the readings so that others can engage with it. You can choose to bring a selection of the piece or an illustration to share, or show a brief clip, e.g. a youtube video. We can suggest readings or pieces, so please feel free to consult with us. Let us know that you are doing this by the previous Wednesday, so we schedule time for you.

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**Topics and Reading List**

**WEEK 1: Sept. 6.** Introduction: Space, Place, and Community & Course Organization

**NOTE:** We will jump right into the course this week, so please come ready with the following:

**BRING** an image of a place you know well or remember, and have (strong) feelings about (love, hate, enjoy, want to forget). Bring something you can be display to others and pass around.

**LOOK** at one of the cities in the website below:  [The introduction is hard to read; it is in Resources also.]


**READ** All are on Sakai, in Resources.


Any two [or more] of these:


And one of these:

Stewart, Kathleen, 1996, Prologue* and “The Space of Culture,” pp. 3-40 in A Space on the side of the road: Cultural poetics in an "other" America

PART I. Intellectual History and Social History of Place

The Chicago River, its waters stained by industry, flows back upon itself, branching to divide the city into the South Side, the North Side, and “the great West Side.” In the river’s southward bend lies the Loop, its skyline looming towards Lake Michigan. The Loop is the heart of Chicago, the knot in the steel arteries of elevated structure which pump in a creaseless stream the three millions of population of the city into and out of its central business district. The canyon-like streets of the loop rumble with the traffic of commerce. On its side-walks throng people of every nation, pushing unseeingly past one another, into and out of office buildings, shops, theaters, hotels, and ultimately back to the north, south, and west “sides: from which they come. For miles over what once was prairie now sprawls in endless blocks the city. Zorbaugh, The Gold Coast, 1929, p.1

WEEK 2: Sept. 13. Urban Sociology and the Chicago School


Community Studies


Human Ecology


***one of the following, selected the week before:


Growth Machine and Political Economy of Place


***one of the following, selected the week before:


WEEK 3. Sept. 20. Other Approaches to Space/Place [INITIAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE]

Production of Space


Lefebvre, Henri, 1974 (Tr. 1984), pp. 68-99 in The Production of Space


Urban Planning

Hall, Peter, 1988, pp. 2-12, 34-46, 57-61 in Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century


Studying Space Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Basic Civics

Recognizing nature in the city, where our language itself has taught us to believe nature no longer exists, challenges our ability to see the world clearly – but to miss the city’s relation to nature and the country is in fact to miss much of what the city is.

WEEK 4: Sept. 27. One Place: New Brunswick [FIELD TRIP]

New Brunswick: Background
New Brunswick and Its Industries, 1874, pp. 24-29 and newspaper articles on Sakai

“Health Care City”, http://www.thehealthcarecity.net/ [keep scrolling; there are images at the end]
Braunstein, Amy, 2010, “A battle for wards in New Jersey’s Hub City,” Shelterforce (Summer): 44-46

***one of the following, selected Sept. 20:
Cleaveland, C. & L. Pierson, 2009, “Police, convenience stores and ‘the bosses’: Migrant tactics to find work,” Ethnography, 10(4), 515-533 OR

Approaches and Views: Learning about a place
Jackson, J.B., 1980, pp. 1-18, 113-126 in The Necessity for Ruins and other Topics

PART II. Power of Place

WEEK 5 October 4 Post WW II: Suburbanization and Selective Decline

Policies
Hirsch, Arnold, 2000, ”Containment’ on the Home Front: Race and federal housing policy from the New Deal to the Cold War,” J of Urban History 26 (Jan.): 158-189


Where the useless stretch of trees lay
an orange sphere like a golf ball
announces the Shopping Mall, open
for Thursday night evening shopping.
There, tonight, droves of teenagers hung
one another, alert on a memorized
payment.

Joyce Carol Oates, “Dreaming America”

Suburbanization
Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association, 2002, “Patterns of Suburban Growth” (October) [four pages]

Friedman, Judith J. 1994, pp. 95-115 in “Suburban Variation within Highly Urbanized Regions: The Case of New Jersey,” in Research in Community Sociology, V. 4, JAI Press

Decline
Hall, Peter, 1988," The City of Permanent Underclass,"pp.363-400 in Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century,


WEEK 6. October 11. Post WWII: Metropolitan Areas and Spatial Inequalities

Spatial Inequalities expand

Sampson, Robert, 2012, “Placed,” pp. 3-30 in Great American City

Experiencing Spatial Inequality: Caught in the Center
***one of the following, selected Oct. 4:

Newman, Katherine, “No Shame in (This) Game,” pp. 86-121 in No Shame in My Game

Optional – an International Reading
WEEK 7. October 18. Selective Revival

Variation in and among Cities Today
Saulny, Susan, 2010, “Razing the City to Save the City [Detroit],” New York Times (June 21)

Gentrification and Revitalization
Pattillo, Mary, 2007, pp. map, 5-12, 81-103, and 123-131 in Black on the Block: Race and Class in the City [in Chicago’s Bronzeville]

Foreclosure

Optional
Jackson, J.B., 1980, pp. 89-102 in The Necessity for Ruins and other Topics
Film: The Necessity for Ruins [Havana]

PART III. Place-making, Community, and Attachment

“Not everything is spatially linked, but most things are.” R. Sampson, 2011, Great American City, p. 259.

WEEK 8. October 25. Community

Sampson, Robert J., 2011, “Legacies of Inequality,” pp. 97-120 in Great American City
Fullilove, Mindy, 2004, “Introduction,” pp. 3-7, “Imagining Neon,” pp. 11-17 only, and “... What will hold?” [on Newark], pp.134-164 in Rootshock : How Tearing up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, and What We Can Do About It
Rojas, James, 2003, “The Enacted Environment: Examining the Streets and Yards of East Los Angeles” reread
MTO Program

WEEK 9: November 1. Neighborhoods & Emergent Characteristics  [2ND PROGRESS REPORT DUE]
Social Control and Collective Efficacy
Jacobs, Jane, 1961, Chapter 1, pp. 3-25, and Chapter 3, pp. 55-73, in The Death and Life of Great American Cities
Warner, Barbara, 2007, “Directly intervene or call the authorities: a study of forms of neighborhood social control within a social disorganization framework,” Criminology 45 (Feb.): 99-129

WEEK 10: November 8. A cultural view of the impact of neighborhoods on individuals
The Changing Culture of Poverty
Responses to above by Peter Dreier, Deirdre Oakley, Mario Small, and S. Steinberger, 2011 posts on comurb_r21

Another Cultural Approach

WEEK 11: November 15. Other approaches to the impact of neighborhoods on individuals and Discussion of Projects
***Read two of the following, selected Nov. 8:
Downey, Liam, 2006, “Environmental Racial Inequality in Detroit,” Social Forces 86 (Dec.): 771-796


**WEEK 12: November 20 Public/Private Spaces** (NOTE MONDAY IS THURSDAY)

Outside in the midmorning sun, Louis sat down by a willow tree on the part of the grassy expanse that made the Crossroads Office Park a park. The lawn was one of those familiar suburban places where the concrete of the enclosing curbs hasn’t lost its white film of lime yet, and the agreeably nose-curdling smell of junipers lands heavy, and there’s no litter, not even cigarette filters (or maybe one single piece of artful litter, in the Japanese style), and no one, but no one, ever picnics. Louis didn’t understand these spaces. Why astroturf and plastic trees weren’t used instead.

Jonathan Franzen, 1992, *Strong Motion*


Herbert, Steve and Katherine Beckett, 2010, “This is home for us: questioning banishment from the ground up,” *Social and Cultural Geography* 11(May): 1470-1197


**Part IV. Projects and Implications**

**WEEK 13. November 29 IN-CLASS PROJECT PRESENTATIONS** [These may begin Nov. 20]

**WEEK 14. December The City in the 21st Century**

Fainstein, Susan, 2010, 1-10, 17-20, bottom of 35-37 in *The Just City*

Abbott, Andrew, 1997  reread


Books and a few more articles to consider:

**Power of Place, Justice**
Lin, Ann and David Harris, eds., 2010, *The Colors of Poverty: why racial and ethnic disparities persist*
Smith, Michael Peter and Michael McQuarrie, eds., 2012, *Remaking Urban Citizenship Organizations, Institutions and the Right to the City.*
Haywood, Clarissa Rile and Todd Swanstron, eds., 2011, *Justice and the American Metropolis*
Brenner, Neil, Peter Marcuse, and Margit Mayer, eds., 2012, *Cities for People, Not for Profit: Critical urban theory and the right to the city*
McQuarrie, Michael and Michael Peter Smith, eds., 2012, *Remaking Urban Citizenship: Organizations, Institutions, and the Right to the City*
Sharkley, Patrick, 2013, *Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress toward Racial Equality*

**General Urban Sociology**
Botero, Giovanni, 1588 [translated 2012, Geoffrey Symcox], *On the Causes of the Greatness and Magnificence of Cities*
Krase, Jerome, 2012, *Seeing Cities Change: Local Culture and Class*
Van Blerk, Lorraine, 2012, *Children, Youth and the City*

**Housing, segregation, race — in Chicago**
Satter, Beryl, 2009, *Family Properties*
Boyd, Michelle, 2008, *Jim Crow Nostalgia*
Pattello, 2006, *Black on the Block*
Seligman, Amanda, 2005, *Block by Block*
Baldwin, Davarian L., 2007, *Chicago’s New Negroes*
Wilkerson, 2010, *The Warmth of Other Suns* [the great migration]

**Housing, segregation, race elsewhere**
Gotham, Kevin Fox, 2007, *Authentic New Orleans: Tourism, Culture and Race in the Big Easy*
Wasserman, Adam and Jeffrey Clair, 2009, *At Home on the Street: people, poverty and a hidden culture of Homelessness*
Gotham, Kevin Fox, Race, 2002, *Real Estate and Uneven Development: Kansas City Experience, 1900-2000*
Maly, Michael, 2005, *Beyond Segregation*
Maurruse, David, 2006, *Listening to Harlem, Gentrification, community, and Business*
Nightingale, Carl, 2012, *The End of the Segregated Century*
Mueller, Elizabeth and Rosie Tighe, 2012, *The Affordable Housing Reader*
Maloutas, Thomas and K. Fujita, eds., 2012, *Segregation in Comparative Perspective: Understanding contextual diversity*
Bourgois, Philippe and Jeff Schonberg, 2009, *Righteous Dopefield*

**Foreclosures**
Immergluck, Dan, 2011, *Foreclosed: High-risk lending, deregulation, and the undermining of American’s mortgage market*
Aalbers, Manuel, 2011, *Place, Exclusion and Mortgage Markets*
Aalbers, Manuel, ed., 2012, *Subprime Cities: the political economy of mortgage market*

**Immigrants**
Deaux, Kay, 2006, *To Be an Immigrant* [West Indians in NYC], Russell Sage Foundation
Itzigsohn, Jose, 2009, *Encountering American Fault lines: race, class, and the Dominican experience in Providence*
Jimenez, Tomas, 2010, *Replenished Ethnicity: Mexican Americans, Immigration, and Identity*

**Inner Cities and Inner Suburbs**
Harding, David J., 2010, *Living the Drama: community conflict and culture among inner-city boys*
Grant, Gerald, 2009, *Hope and Despair in the American City* [urban decline; schools in Syracuse and Raleigh]
Sugrue, Thomas J., 2000, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*
Hamer, Jennifer, 2011, *Abandoned in the Heartland* [East St. Louis]
Vargas, Jao H. Costa, 2006, Catching *Hell in the City of Angels: Life and meanings of blackness in South Central Los Angeles*
Williams, Rhonda, 2004, *The Politics of Public Housing*
Wilson, William Julius, 2010, *More than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City*
Gold, Steven, 2011, *The Store in the Hood: A century of ethnic business and conflict*
Hanlon, Bernadette, 2010, *Once the American Dream: Inner-Ring Suburbs of the Metropolitan United States*

**Gentrification**
Bridge, Butler, and Lees, 2011, *Mixed Communities: gentrification by stealth*
Zukin, Sharon, 2010, *Naked City: The death and life of authentic urban places* [NYC]

**Other Revitalization**
Delaney, Kevin and Rick Eckstein, 2003, *Public Dollars and Private Stadiums: the battle over building sports stadiums*

**Economic Decline**
Mah, Alice, 2012, *Industrial Ruination, Community, and Place*
Suburbs
Hayden, D. 2003, Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth
Baxendell, Roselyn and Elizabeth Ewan, 2000, Picture Windows [much on policy; focus on Long Island]
Salamon, 2005, Newcomers to Old Towns: Suburbanization of the Heartland [in Illinois]
Vinico, Thomas J., 2008, Transforming Race and Class in Suburbia: Decline in Metropolitan Baltimore
Garreau, Joel, 1991, Edge Cities
Corcoran, Mary, Jane Gray and Michek Peillon, 2010, Suburban Affiliations: Social Relations in the Greater Dublin Area
Lacy, Karyn R., 2007, Blue Chip Black: Race, class, and status in the new black middle class [around Washington, D.C.]

Public Space
Low, Setha and Neil Smith, eds., 2006, The Politics of Public Space

Health
Corburn, Jason, 2009, Toward the Healthy City: people, places, and the politics of urban planning, MIT Press
Fitzpatrick, Kevin and Mark LaGory, 2011, Unhealthy Cities: Poverty, race and place in America
Sze, Julie, 2007, Noxious New York: the racial politics of urban health and environmental justice

Small Towns
Duncan, Cynthia, 1999, Worlds Apart: Why poverty persists in rural America

Theory and History
Davies, Jonathan and Imbroscio, David, eds., 2010, Critical Urban Studies
Stanck, Lukacz, 2011, Henri Lefebvre on Space, Architecture, Urban Research and the Production of Theory
Hornstein, Jeffrey, 2005, A Nation of Realtors: A cultural history of the 20th century American middle class
Warner, Sam Bass and Andrew H. Whitemore, 2012, American Urban Form: A Representative History
Cook, Ann, Marilyn Gittell and Herb Mack, eds., 1973, City Life: 1785-1900 [excerpts written at the time]
Bell, Daniel A. and Avner de-Shalit, 2011, The Spirit of Cities: Why the identity of a city matters in a global age
Resina, Joan Ramon and Dieter Ingenschay, 2003, After Images of the City

Environment
Melose, Martink, 2008, The Sanitary City: Environmental Services in Urban America from colonial times to the present

Networks within and among cities [and see Community as Network below]
Neal, Zachary, 2012, The Connected City
And a few [of the many] articles we dropped:


Chamlee-Wright, Emily and Virgil Storr, “There’s no place like New Orleans: sense of place and community recovery in the 9th ward after hurricane Katrina,” *J. of Urban Affairs* 31 (Dec.): 615-634

Deener, Andrew, 2007, “Commerce is the structure and symbol of neighborhood life: the meaning of community in Venice California,” *City and Community* 6 (Dec.): 291-314

Drew, Emily, 2012, “Listening through White Ears: Cross-racial dialogues as a strategy to address the racial effects of gentrification,” *Journal of Urban Affairs* 34 (Feb.): 99-115


And a topic we dropped

**Community as Network and as a Source of Social Capital [Fischer especially is a response to Wirth]**

Fischer, Claude, 1982, *To Dwell Among Friends: Personal Networks in Town and City*


Mesch, Gustavo and Yael Levanon, 2003, “Community Networking and Locally-Based Social Ties in Two Suburban Localities,” *City&Community* 2 (Dec.): 335-351