

# **CRJ 204 1700: Criminal Justice and the Urban Community**

**SPRING 2021**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:45 pm in Zoom**

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# **AGENDA: Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

- **Complete discussion of How a War on Poverty became a War on the Poor**
  - **READ:** Hinton, Elizabeth, LeShae Henderson, and Cindy Reed. "An unjust burden: The disparate treatment of black Americans in the criminal justice system." *Vera Institute of Justice. May (2018).*
- **Understanding disparities: Gender in neighborhoods**
  - **READ:** Miller, J. (2008). Chapter 2: Gender 'n the 'Hood: Neighborhood violence against women and girls. *Getting Played: African American girls, urban inequality, and gendered violence* (pp. 32-66). New York, NY: NYU Press.
- **Looking ahead**

# Looking ahead

<p><b>Class session 9:</b> <b>Tu 3/2</b></p>	<p><b>Understanding disparities: Gender in neighborhoods</b></p> <p><b>READ:</b> Miller, J. (2008). Chapter 2: Gender ‘n the ‘Hood: Neighborhood violence against women and girls. <i>Getting Played: African American girls, urban inequality, and gendered violence</i> (pp. 32-66). New York, NY: NYU Press.</p>
<p><b>Class session 10:</b> <b>Th 3/4</b></p>	<p><b>Understanding disparities: Gender in neighborhoods</b></p> <p><b>Guest:</b> Richie Reseda <a href="https://www.successtoriesprogram.org/ourroots">https://www.successtoriesprogram.org/ourroots</a></p> <p><b>Watch BEFORE class:</b> <a href="https://www.successtoriesprogram.org/thefeministoncellblocky">https://www.successtoriesprogram.org/thefeministoncellblocky</a></p>

# Implicit bias against Black/African Americans

- **Police**
  - Greater use of force, more likely to be pulled over and searched, stopped as pedestrians and arrested
- **Prosecutors**
  - More likely to be prosecuted, held in pretrial detention, charged with higher crimes/harsher sentences for same crime, and plea bargaining more harsh
- **Judges**
  - Pretrial detention, higher bail, harsher sentences, sentenced to death, colorism in sentencing
- **Juries**
  - Mock jurors show more implicit bias

## Key Takeaway

- **Racial disparities in the criminal justice system are no accident, but rather are rooted in a history of oppression and discriminatory decision making that have deliberately targeted black people and helped create an inaccurate picture of crime that deceptively links them with criminality.**

# Don't lose heart!

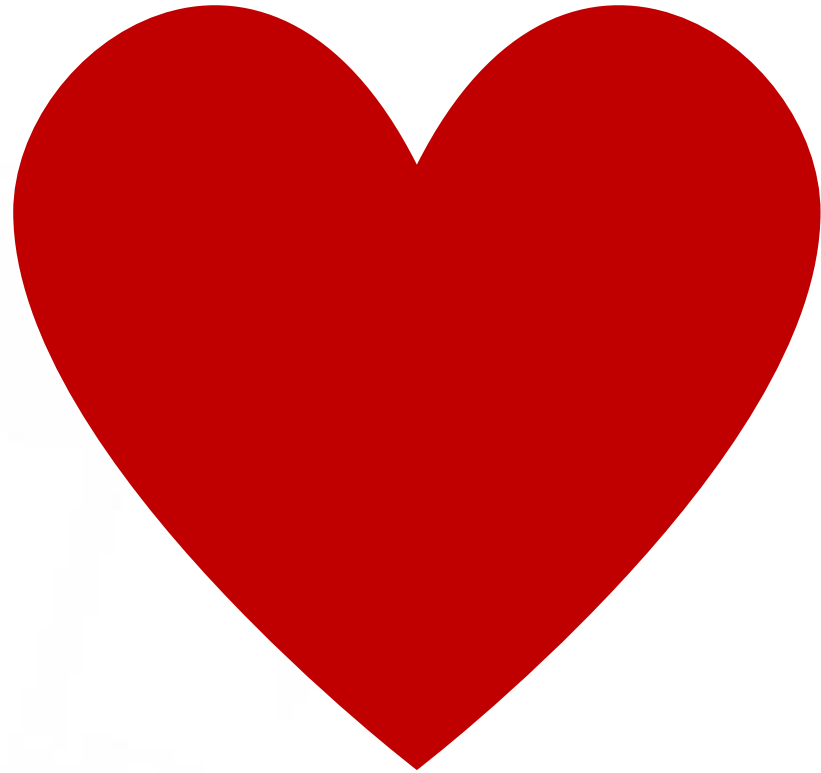
- Protests (and la lucha) continue
- Social change takes time
- There are dozens of organizations working on change
- Get involved with change!

<https://drugpolicy.org/>

<https://famm.org/>

<https://www.changethenypd.org/>

<https://maketheroadny.org/>



**Attendance here:**

**<https://forms.gle/jVYoxyisPsBwEU9KA>**

## Difference, disproportion, or disparity?

- A disparity is not measured directly, but rather as a difference between two groups, often only after other factors that might contribute to that difference have been statistically controlled for.
- Neighborhood disparities are also reflected in the criminal justice system: consider [rankings](#);
- Now we will look at neighborhood disparities by gender



# Definitions that are useful for our conversation (An intro to sociology review)

- **Sex**
- **Gender**
  - **Cis-gender**
  - **Transgender**
- **Sexuality**
- **Sex, gender, and sexuality do not always align**

**Gendered behavior:** ways in which an individual acts in accordance with their identified male or female gender.

# **Sexualization**

**(from the American Psychological Association Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls)**

**Sexualization occurs when**

- 1. a person's value comes only from his or her sexual appeal or behavior, to the exclusion of other characteristics;**
- 2. a person is held to a standard that equates physical attractiveness (narrowly defined) with being sexy;**
- 3. a person is sexually objectified—that is, made into a thing for others' sexual use, rather than seen as a person with the capacity for independent action and decision making; and/or**
- 4. sexuality is inappropriately imposed upon a person**

## Neighborhood Studies of Crime & Inequality: Miller's *Getting Played*

- Miller: There is research looking at crime and inequality; not much about how neighborhood violence is *gendered*
- Urban African American girls' risks for non-fatal violence is nearly equal that of African American boys
  - (Lauritsen, 2003)
- Women's risks for gender violence are higher in **distressed**, racially segregated (mostly urban) neighborhoods
  - (Benson et al., 2003)

# Research Methodology: How Miller did her research

- Qualitative (meaning not numbers, but conversations), in-depth interviews
- 35 young women, 40 young men
- African American youth, residing in “distressed” urban neighborhoods in St. Louis
- Purposive sampling: Chose youth “at risk” or involved in delinquency
- Young people were found through local community agency & alternative public high schools

# “Distressed” neighborhoods or communities

- **No high school diploma:** Percent of the population 25 years and older without a high school diploma or equivalent
- **Housing vacancy rate:** Percent of habitable housing that is unoccupied, excluding properties that are for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use
- **Adults not working:** Percent of the prime-age population (ages 25-64) not currently in work
- **Poverty rate:** Percent of the population living under the poverty line
- **Median income ratio:** A geography’s median income expressed as a percentage of its state’s median income
- **Change in employment:** Percent change in the number of jobs
- **Change in business establishments:** Percent change in the number of business establishments

**Miller: *Getting Played: African American girls, urban inequality, and gendered violence***



## Neighborhood characteristics in the research

	<b>Respondents' Neighborhoods</b>	<b>St. Louis City</b>	<b>St. Louis County</b>
<b>Percent African American</b>	<b>82.6%</b>	<b>51.2%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$24,806</b>	<b>\$32,585</b>	<b>\$61,680</b>
<b>Percent Poverty</b>	<b>33.8%</b>	<b>24.6%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>Percent Unemployment</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
<b>Percent Female-Headed Families with Children</b>	<b>43.1%</b>	<b>28.8%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>

Source: US Census, 2000

# Discussion

- Do you feel that your neighborhood is safer for men or women? How so?
- Miller says that in the neighborhood where she did her research “public community space is male space, especially at night.” Have you seen evidence of this in your neighborhood?
- Youth in the St. Louis neighborhoods in the research say there is a neighborhood norm that requires people to mind their own business. Does that happen in NYC neighborhoods too? What’s at the root of that norm?



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