

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

**SPRING 2021**

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

**Michelle Ronda, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor and Criminal Justice Program Coordinator**

**Dept. of Social Sciences, Human Services & Criminal Justice**

**BMCC/CUNY**







# **AGENDA: Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

- **Complete discussion of The uses of sidewalks – safety.**
- **Reminder: NEIGHBORHOOD ASSIGNMENT 1**
- **Understanding disparities: Poverty in the city**
  - **READ:** Austensen, M., Been, V., O'Regan, K. M., Rosoff, S., & Yager, J. (2016). *2016 focus: Poverty in New York City*. New York, NY: New York University Furman Center.
- **Looking ahead**

# Looking ahead

<p><b>Class session 6:</b></p> <p><b>Th 2/18</b></p>	<p><b>Understanding disparities: How a War on Poverty became a War on the Poor</b></p> <p><b>READ:</b> Piven, Frances Fox. “Our Endless War on the Poor.” <i>Progressive.org</i>, The Progressive, 30 Mar. 2020, <a href="https://progressive.org/magazine/our-endless-war-on-poor-fox-piven/">progressive.org/magazine/our-endless-war-on-poor-fox-piven/</a>.</p> <p><b>REMINDER: Neighborhood Assignment 1 is due T 2/23</b></p>
--	---

# Neighborhood assignment 1

Borough of Manhattan Community College | City University of New York  
CRJ 204 1700: Criminal Justice and the Urban Community | Spring 2021  
Tu & Th 5:30-6:45 pm | Zoom | Professor Ronda

RESEARCH PROJECT ON NEIGHBORHOODS, CRIME, AND JUSTICE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSIGNMENT # 1: Gathering publicly-available data  
(Maximum = 50 points of the total of 350)

In this first step of your research project, select a neighborhood in **New York City** on which you will focus this semester, and gather publicly-available data about it using the steps I detail below. Choose any NYC neighborhood about which you want to learn more.

**Follow these steps to complete Assignment 1, DUE in Blackboard by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, February 23.**

1. Go to the NYU Furman Center's New York City [Neighborhood Data Profiles website](#).
2. Select the neighborhood you want to focus on for your research project this semester. Use the "Browse Neighborhood" drop-down menu or click on the map to select a neighborhood.
3. When you select a neighborhood, you will be redirected to a page of data that includes demographics, housing market and conditions, land use and development, neighborhood services and conditions, and

**Where were we?**

**How do cities promote or undermine community?**

**Jacobs, J. (1961). *Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Chapter 2: The uses of sidewalks – safety.**

- **Jacobs: How do sidewalks operate in the City?**
- **City planners, politicians (like Robert Moses), developers, and corporations promoted ideas that compromised cities and their neighborhoods**
- **She and others were fighting against suburbanization, which was anti-urban**

THE RESULTS  
AND THE  
OPERATIONAL  
ANALYSIS  
RESULTS



100V



# Suburbanization





# How do cities promote or undermine community?

**Jane Jacobs:**

**Streets and sidewalks are vital; they keep the city safe; if people fear streets, they don't use them, and those streets become less safe**

**Successful city streets:**

- **Clearly mark public versus private space**
- **Have “eyes upon the street”**
- **Have many users**

**We need enough reasons to visit streets to bring people to streets to make them safe; police are necessary but do not keep streets safe; mixed-use is essential.**

# But social policy also shapes neighborhoods, and resources matter:

## DEFINITIONS

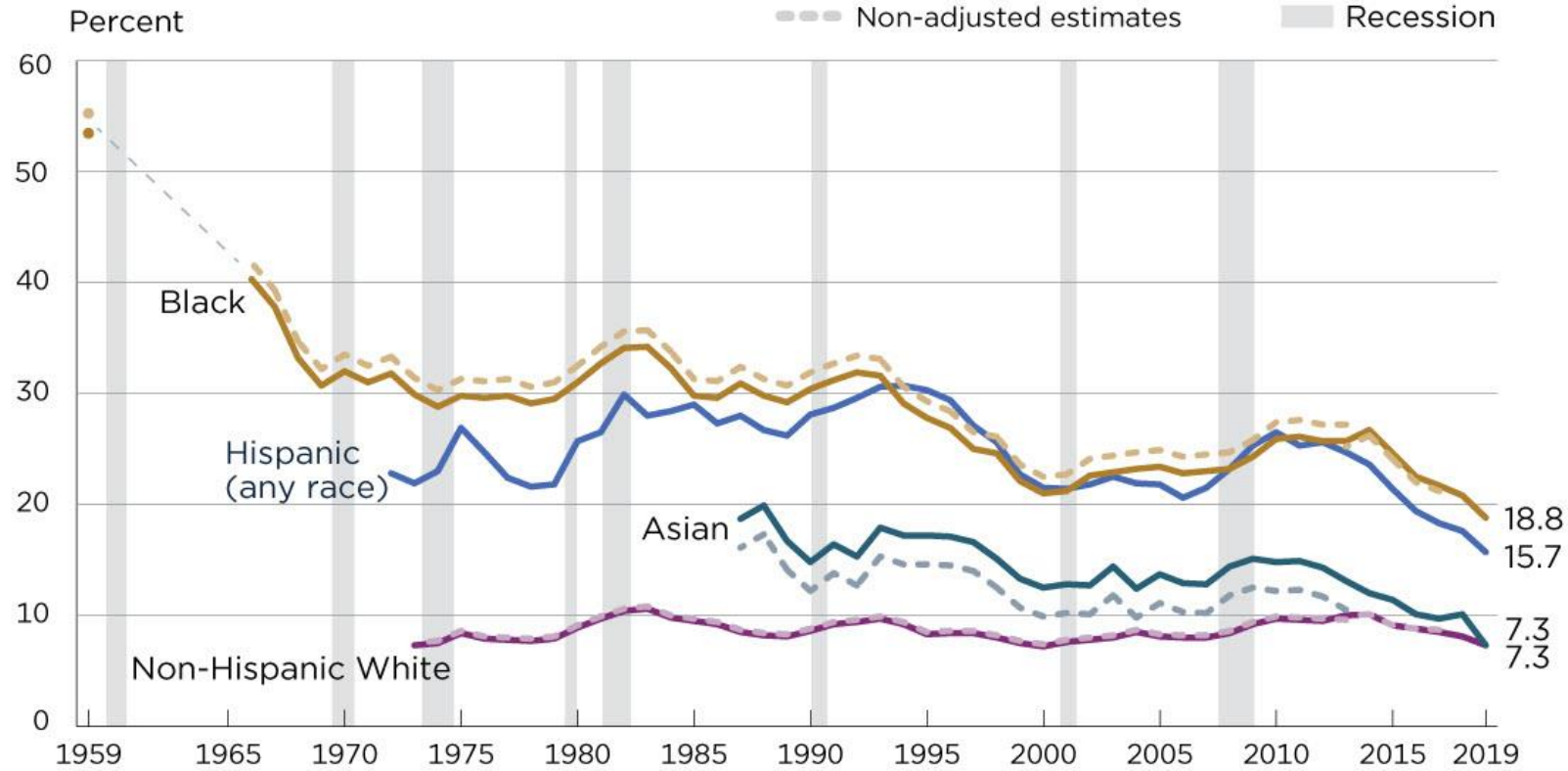
- Absolute poverty: lack of means necessary to meet basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter.
- Relative poverty: considers individual social and economic status compared to the rest of society.
- Poverty threshold or line: The 2017 poverty threshold published by the U.S. Census Bureau says an under-65 individual with no kids falls under the poverty level at \$12,752 in annual income.

## OTHER CONTEXT

US: highest wealth inequality in the world. [Wealth](#) (what you own minus debts; not income) insulates against poverty and permits more class mobility.

There is racial disparity in wealth, just like in poverty.

## Poverty Rate by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2019



Note: The data for 2017 and beyond reflect the implementation of an updated processing system. The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of redesigned income questions. Data for Blacks is not available from 1960 to 1965. Historical estimates for Asians, Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites are adjusted to account for the significant impact of these survey redesigns. The adjusted series accounts for the impact of these recent improvements over the entire data series. This adjustment is not made in our official publications and table packages because it requires the assumption that the impact of the data improvements would have been identical in all years, an assumption that is less likely to be accurate in years further away from these methodology changes.

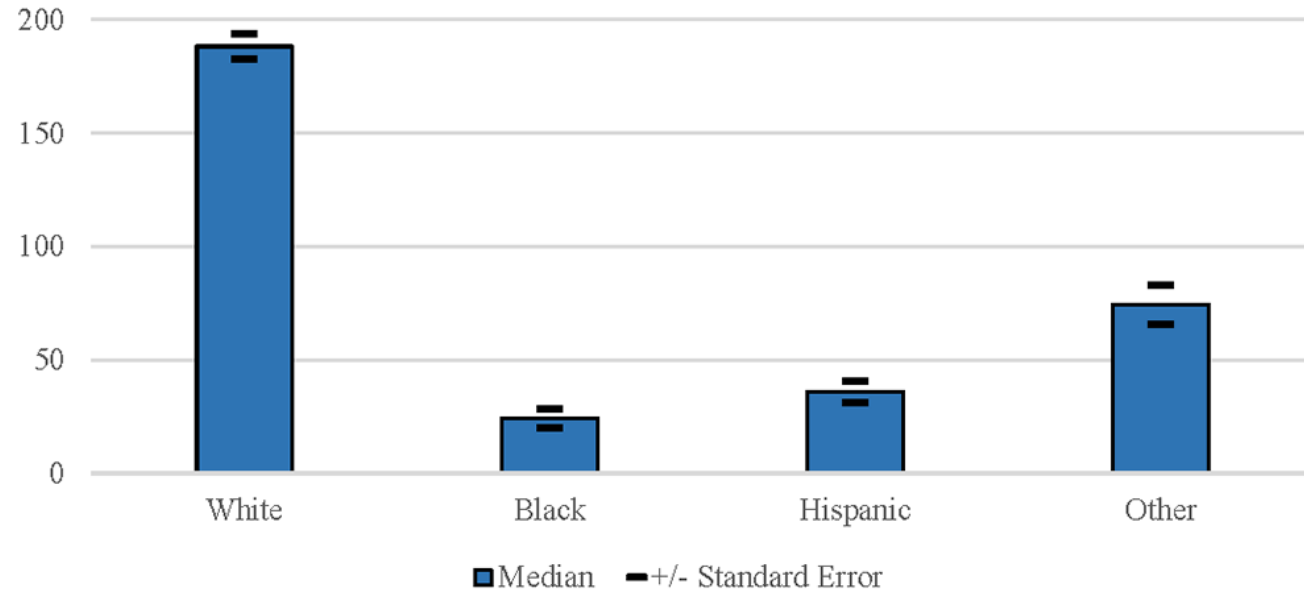
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

Ethnic and racial disparities in poverty rates

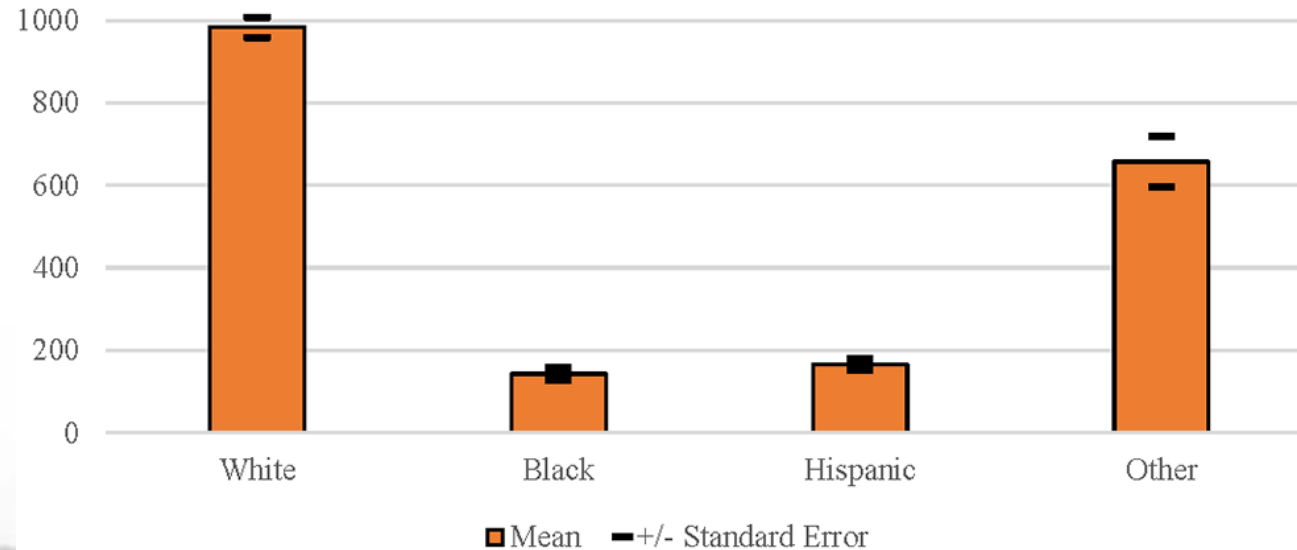


**Racial and ethnic disparities in wealth (wealth = net worth, or assets - debts)**

Median Net Worth



Mean Net Worth



Source: Federal Reserve Board, 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances.

Notes: Figures displays median (top panel) and mean (bottom panel) wealth by race and ethnicity, expressed in thousands of 2019 dollars.

**The official poverty measure may underestimate (or overestimate) people living in poverty.**



# Looking ahead

<p><b>Class session 6:</b></p> <p><b>Th 2/18</b></p>	<p><b>Understanding disparities: How a War on Poverty became a War on the Poor</b></p> <p><b>READ:</b> Piven, Frances Fox. “Our Endless War on the Poor.” <i>Progressive.org</i>, The Progressive, 30 Mar. 2020, <a href="https://progressive.org/magazine/our-endless-war-on-poor-fox-piven/">progressive.org/magazine/our-endless-war-on-poor-fox-piven/</a>.</p> <p><b>REMINDER:</b> <b>Neighborhood Assignment 1 is due T 2/23</b></p>
--	--