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, March 9, 2021

1. Complete review of Rios

2. "Dangerous" neighborhoods and White Flight

READ:
Lurie, Stephen. "There's No Such Thing as a Dangerous Neighborhood." Bloomberg CityLab, Bloomberg, 25 Feb. 2019.
"White flight." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 28 Jan. 2021. Web. 1 Feb. 2021.

3. Looking ahead

Looking ahead

| Class session 12:

Th 3/11 | **Neighborhood research assignment 1 & 2 review in class**

Review returned neighborhood assignment 1 and distribute neighborhood assignment 2: Researching Community District needs and community health indicators |

Where were we last? Rios, Preface

Main argument: criminalization is a central, pervasive and ubiquitous phenomenon that impacted the everyday lives of the boys he studied.

Criminalization: "process by which styles and behaviors are rendered deviant and are treated with shame, exclusion, punishment, and incarceration" p. xiv.

Ubiquitous criminalization is the youth control complex.

Youth control complex: "a system in which institutions systematically treat young people's everyday behaviors as criminal activity" p. xiv.

Last time:
Patterns of punishment (Rios, Chapter 1)

He wanted to know how surveillance, punishment, and criminal justice practices affect the lives of marginalized boys.

How do punitive encounters with authority figures shape the meaning that young people create about themselves and their obstacles, opportunities and future aspirations?

To answer these questions, he shadowed 40 Black and Latino boys (ages 14-17) over 3 years; they were already formally labeled as deviant (in the end he has 32 in the study; lost track of 8).

His goal is to show the failures of criminalization; he will advocate empathic solutions. Institutions and adults in a community can impact youth behavior and outcomes.

We have been considering the impact of neighborhoods, and now we consider what happens in neighborhoods, both on the ground and historically.

Broken Windows Theory: Wilson & Kelling

The main Broken Windows argument:

- Even minor "public incivilities" can escalate to predatory crime (from drinking in the street to assault) because "would-be offenders" assume that people in the area are **indifferent.**

- Broken Windows assumes that disorder leads directly to crime (that's the theory).

There's No Such Thing as a Dangerous Neighborhood (Stephen Lurie)

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- As taken up by police in New York City, Los Angeles, and across the country, broken windows policing led to the aggressive use of stops, summons, and misdemeanor arrests in predominantly black and Hispanic neighborhoods.

- More than 30 years later, the evidence demonstrates that the broken windows paradigm does little to nothing to reduce serious crime but does tend to make people *feel* more unsafe, reduce trust in and cooperation with police, and could contribute to, in fact, producing and facilitating more violence.

There's No Such Thing as a Dangerous Neighborhood (Stephen Lurie)

- Serious violence is extremely concentrated in very particular places and, most importantly, among very particular people. Dispelling the notion of "dangerous neighborhoods," extensive research on geographic concentration has consistently found that around half of all crime complaints or incidents of gun violence concentrated at about 5 percent of street segments or blocks in a given city.

- ...massive levels of low-level enforcement does not produce public safety. In fact, such policing can make communities less safe by pushing people away from formal means of resolving disputes and towards private forms of violence. So how can we explain the nature of serious urban violence?

Explaining violence in neighborhoods

- In our forthcoming study of serious violence in over 20 cities, we found that less than 1 percent of a city's population—the share involved in what we call "street groups" (gangs, sets, and crews)—is generally connected to over 50 percent of the city's shootings and homicides.

- We use "group" as a term inclusive of any social network involved in violence, whether they are hierarchical, formal gangs, or loose neighborhood crews. In city after city, the very small number of people involved in these groups consistently perpetrated and were victimized by the most serious violence.

- Final word:

- Stopping violent crime means addressing the risks and needs of those most likely to be involved in it.

National Network for Safe Communities

White flight

- Racial segregation by jurisdiction has historical roots in two population flows: black migration from the rural South and white relocation from central cities to the suburban ring.

- Both flows peaked during World War II and the subsequent decades.

- Between 1940 and 1970, four million black migrants left the South, increasing the black population share in northern and western cities from four percent in 1940 to 16 percent in 1970.

- Over the same period, the median non-southern city lost ten percent of its white population.

White Flight - Wikipedia

In the United States during the 1940s, for the first time, a powerful interaction between segregation laws and race differences in terms of socioeconomic status enabled white families to abandon inner cities in favor of suburban living. The result was severe urban decay that, by the 1960s, resulted in crumbling "ghettos". Prior to national data available in the 1950 US census, a migration pattern of disproportionate numbers of whites moving from cities to suburban communities was easily dismissed as merely anecdotal. Because American urban populations were still substantially growing, a relative decrease in one racial or ethnic component eluded scientific proof to the satisfaction of policy makers.

For attendance and participation credit:

- https://forms.gle/di6szGCF9B4KeBfy9

Looking ahead

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