

Race, Place, and Law Reading Group
Spring 2022
Date and Time TBA

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Faculty Sponsor: Amy Kapczynski

Course Description: This reading group, adapted from a [reading list](#) prepared by Brian Highsmith, will explore the relationships between race, place, and the law. Our goal is, per Highsmith, to understand the “institutional stakes of geography for distribution...focusing particularly on racial separation and subjugation in the United States” and the commodification of urban space. “Our readings will consider how people’s lives are shaped by where they reside—and why people reside where they do, now and across our history,” with special attention to legal and political institutions that “work to condition the possibilities for economic provision...on the arrangement of people across geographic space.” The main goal of our reading group is to understand the “hidden stakes of geography” for contemporary issues of race, class, social identity, and political economy. We will invite guests—including activists, legal scholars, and policy experts—to join us for particular sessions and enliven our discussions with their experiences, perspectives, and expertise.

Attendance Policy: There will be 13 weekly meetings of 60 minutes each. Students must attend 750 minutes to receive credit.

Syllabus:

Week 1: Introduction to the Study of Race, Place, and the Law

Ruth Wilson Gilmore, “Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California” (2007) — Introduction [25 pages]

Nikole Hannah-Jones, *The Resegregation of Jefferson County* (2017), [link](#) [13 pages]

Laura Pulido, *Flint Michigan, Environmental Racism and Racial Capitalism, Capitalism Nature Socialism* (2016) [16 pages]

Week 2: Housing discrimination, neighborhood segregation, and intergenerational wealth

Richard Rothstein, “The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America” (2017) — Chapter 1 [12 pages]

David Imbroscio, *Race matters (even more than you already think): Racism, housing, and the limits of The Color of Law*, *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and the City* (2020) [24 pages]

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, “Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership” (2019) — Introduction [25 pages]

Max Besbris, *How Real Estate Agents Keep Cities Segregated*, Jacobin (Nov. 9, 2020), <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2020/11/real-estate-agents-brokers-racism-inequality-housing>. [9 pages]

Week 3: White flight, suburbanization, and restrictive zoning

Alan Mallach, “The Divided City: Poverty and Prosperity in Urban America” (2018) — Introduction, Chapter 5: Gentrification and Its Discontents [45 pages]

Alexander Sahn, *Racial Diversity and Exclusionary Zoning: Evidence from the Great Migration*, Working Paper (2020), [link](#) [9 pages]

David Imbroscio, [Biden's Ill-Advised Plan to Eliminate Exclusionary Zoning — Shelterforce](#) [8 pages]

Week 4: Examining race and place in several American cities, pt. 1

Anna Blatto, *A City Divided: A Brief History Of Segregation In Buffalo*, Partnership For The Public Good (2018), [link](#) [26 pages]

Todd M. Michney, “Surrogate Suburbs: Black Upward Mobility and Neighborhood Change in Cleveland, 1900–1980” (2017), Introduction [20 pages]

John Hartigan Jr., “Racial Situations: Class Predicaments of Whiteness in Detroit” (2000), Introduction [25 pages]

Walter Johnson, “The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States” (2020), Introduction [21 pages]

Week 5: Examining race and place in several American cities, pt. 2

Kevin M. Kruse, “White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism” (2015), Chapter 1 [20 pages]

Eliot M Tretter, “Austin Restricted: Progressivism, Zoning, Private Racial Covenants, and the Making of a Segregated City” (2012) [39 pages]

Clyde Woods, *Les Miserables of New Orleans: Trap Economics and the Asset Stripping Blues* (2009) [28 pages]

Week 6: Mobility and opportunity

Douglass Massey and Nancy A. Denton, “American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass” (1998) — Chapter 1, Chapter 8 [39 pages]

Raj Chetty and Nathaniel Hendren, *The Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility: Childhood Exposure Effects*, NBER paper (2017), Introduction [7 pages]

Edward Goetz, Anthony Damiano, and Rashad Williams, '[Opportunity Areas' Shouldn't Just Be Places With A Lot of White People — Shelterforce](#) [7 pages]

Week 7: Local tax structures and public goods

Michael Leachman, Michael Mitchell, Nicholas Johnson and Erica Williams, *Advancing Racial Equity with State Tax Policy*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (2018), [link](#) [24 pages]

Destin Jenkins, "The Bonds of Inequality: Debt and the Making of the American City" (2021), Introduction [22 pages]

Jessica Trounstine, *Segregation and Inequality in Public Goods*, American Journal of Political Science (2015) [34 pages]

Week 8: Perspectives on fiscal federalism

Brian Highsmith, *The Implications of Inequality for Fiscal Federalism (or Why the Federal Government Should Pay for Local Public Schools)*, Buffalo Law Review (2019) [45 pages]

Cory Turner et al. *Why America's Schools Have a Money Problem*, NPR (Apr. 18, 2016), <https://www.npr.org/2016/04/18/474256366/why-americas-schools-have-a-money-problem>. [20 pages]

Erika K. Wilson, *School Segregation, Social Closure, and the Anti-Monopoly Analogy*, LPE Blog (Jul. 13, 2021), <https://lpeproject.org/blog/school-segregation-social-closure-and-the-anti-monopoly-analogy/>. [4 pages]

Philip Rocco, *Ending Federalism as We Know It*, Jacobin (2020) [8 pages]

Week 9: Speculative Capitalism and Real Estate Financialization, pt 1

Sam Stein, Capital City, Introduction [12 pages]

Raquel Rolnik, *Urban Warfare: Housing Under the Empire of Finance*, Introduction [18 pages]

Stabilizing NYC, *The Predatory Equity Story: Tenant Perspectives on Speculative Landlords, Displacement, and Fighting for Justice* (2017) [SNYC-Predatory-Equity-Story.pdf \(chhayacdc.org\)](#) [8 pages]

Elizabeth Iglesias, [Global Markets, Racial Spaces and the Role of Critical Race Theory in the Struggle for Community Control of Investments: An Institutional Class Analysis](#), Introduction, III, and Conclusion [20 pages]

Marnie Brady, *Workers and Renters of the World, Unite!* Jacobin (Sept. 14, 2019), <https://jacobinmag.com/2019/09/rent-control-affordable-housing-teacher-pension-funds-evictions>. [8 pages]

Week 10: Speculative Capitalism and Real Estate Financialization, pt 2

Nemoy Lewis and D. Cowen, *Anti-Blackness and Urban Geopolitical Economy: Reflection on Ferguson and the Suburbanization of the 'Internal Colony' Society + Space* (2016) [10 pages]

Nemoy Lewis, *Anti-Blackness Beyond the State: Real Estate Finance and the Making of Urban Racial Capitalism*, *Environment and Planning* (2020). [10 pages]

Leilani Farha, *Financialization of Housing and the Right to Adequate Housing*, UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Housing (2017) [22 pages]

Sara Safransky, *Rethinking Land in the Postindustrial City*, *Antipode* (2016) [21 pages]

Week 11: Cities in Transnational Context

Sylvia Nam. 2017. Urban Speculation, Economic Openness, and Market Experiments in Phnom Penh. *positions: asia critique* 25(4): 645-667. [22 pages]

Marco Z. Garrido. 2019. *The Patchwork City: Class, Space + Politics in Metro Manila*. University of Chicago Press. Introduction, Conclusion [18 pages]

Achille Mbembe and Sarah Nuttall. 2004. "Writing the World from an African Metropolis." *Public Culture* 16(3): 347-372. [25 pages]

Week 12: Policing, Punishment, and Place

Monica C. Bell, *Anti-Segregation Policing*, *NYU Law Review* (2020) — Introduction and Conclusion, [15 pages]

Ruth Wilson Gilmore and Craig Gilmore, *Restating the Obvious*, in Michael Sorkin, *Indefensible Space: The Architecture of the National Insecurity State* (2008) [16 pages]

J.T. Camp, *Blues Geographies and the security turn: interpreting the housing crisis in Los Angeles* (2012) [27 pages]

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, *Investigation of the Ferguson Police Department* (Mar. 2015) — Parts I-III [15 pages]

Radley Balko, *How Municipalities in St. Louis County, Mo., Profit from Poverty*, *Washington Post* (2014), [link](#) [24 pages]

Optional: Walter Johnson, *Ferguson's Fortune 500 Company*, *The Atlantic* (2015), [link](#) [5 pages]

Week 13: Federalism, Localism, and Sovereignty

Maggie Blackhawk, *Federal Indian Law as Paradigm in Public Law*, 132 *Harv. L. Rev.* 1791 (2019), Introduction and Part I [15 pages]

Angela P. Harris, *From Stonewall to the Suburbs? Toward a Political Economy of Sexuality*, 14 *Wm. & Mary Bill Rts. J.* 1539 (2006), <https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/wmborj/vol14/iss4/9> , Introduction and Part I [29 pages]

Nestor M. Davidson, *The Dilemma of Localism in an Era of Polarization*, 128 Yale L. J. 954 (2019), Part III and conclusion [16 pages] Available at: https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/faculty_scholarship/1002

Conclusory Thoughts

Ruth Wilson Gilmore, *Forgotten Places and the Seeds of Grassroots Planning*, in Charles R. Hale, *Engaging Contradictions: Theory, Politics, and Methods of Activist Scholarship* (2008) [35 pages]