

Urban and Rural Sociology

Society is made of interactions,
the context matters.

Ferdinand Tönnies

Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft

"community and society"

personal social interactions

belonging to indirect interactions,
impersonal roles, formal values

Middletown studies

Robert Staughton Lynd

Helen Lynd

1929

1935

- getting a living
- making a home
- training the young
- using leisure in various forms of play, art, and so on
- engaging in religious practices
- engaging in community activities

(W. H. R. Rivers *Social Organization*)

The mere fact of being born upon one or the other side of the watershed roughly formed by these two groups is the most significant single cultural factor tending to influence what one does all day long throughout one's life; whom one marries; when one gets up in the morning; whether one belongs to the Holy Roller or Presbyterian church; or drives a Ford or a Buick...

pp. 23–4

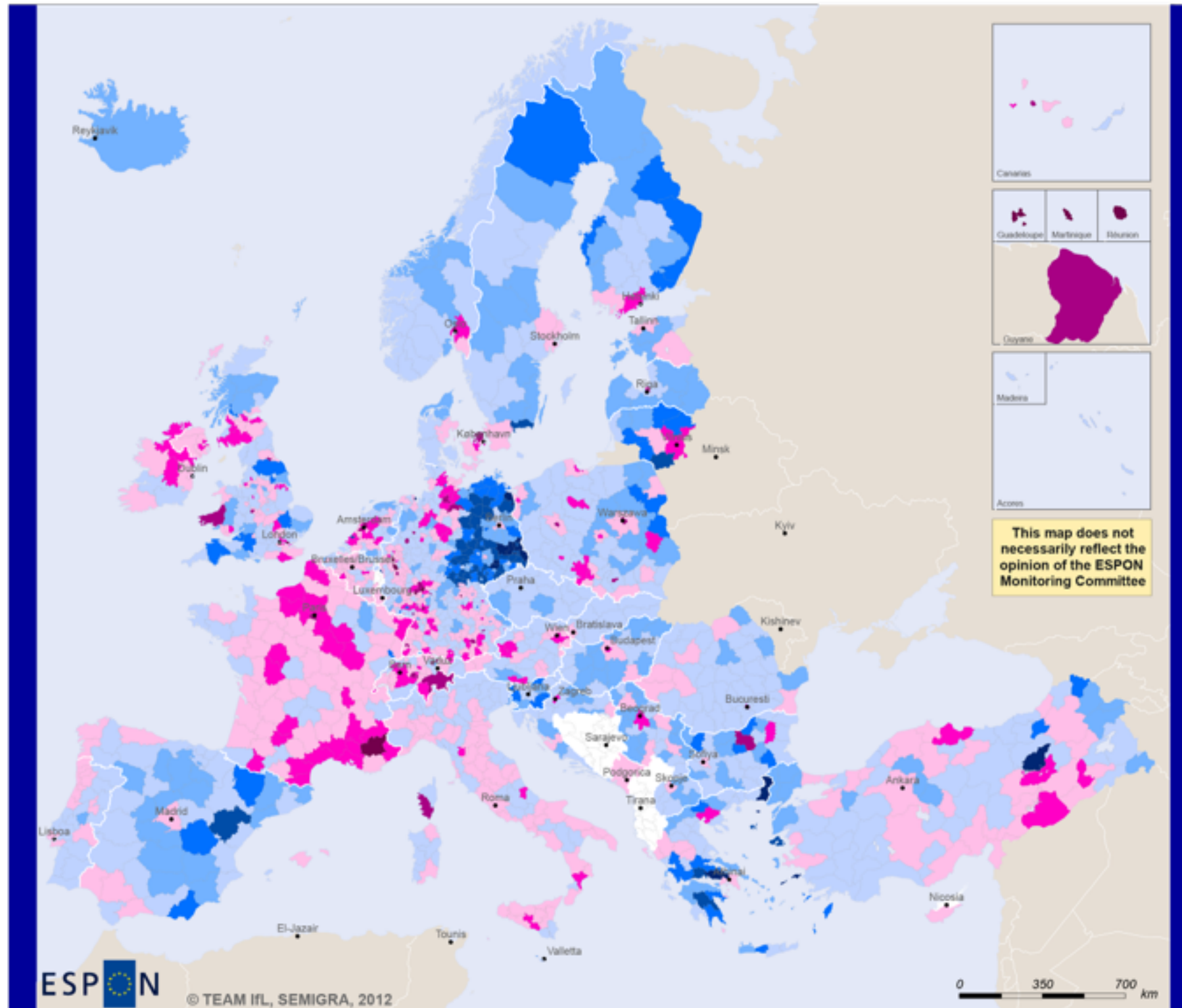
Families tend not to spend as much time together as before. Also, new technology such as supermarkets, refrigeration, and washing machines have contributed to a downswing in traditional skills such as cooking and food preservation.

Urban Sociology



Georg Simmel

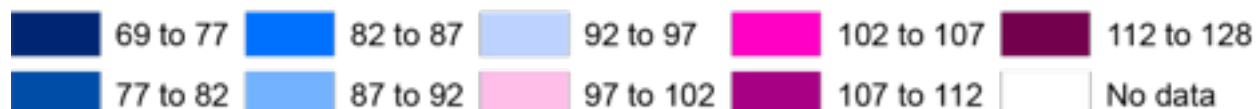
Number of women per 100 men in the age group 25 to 29 in 2008



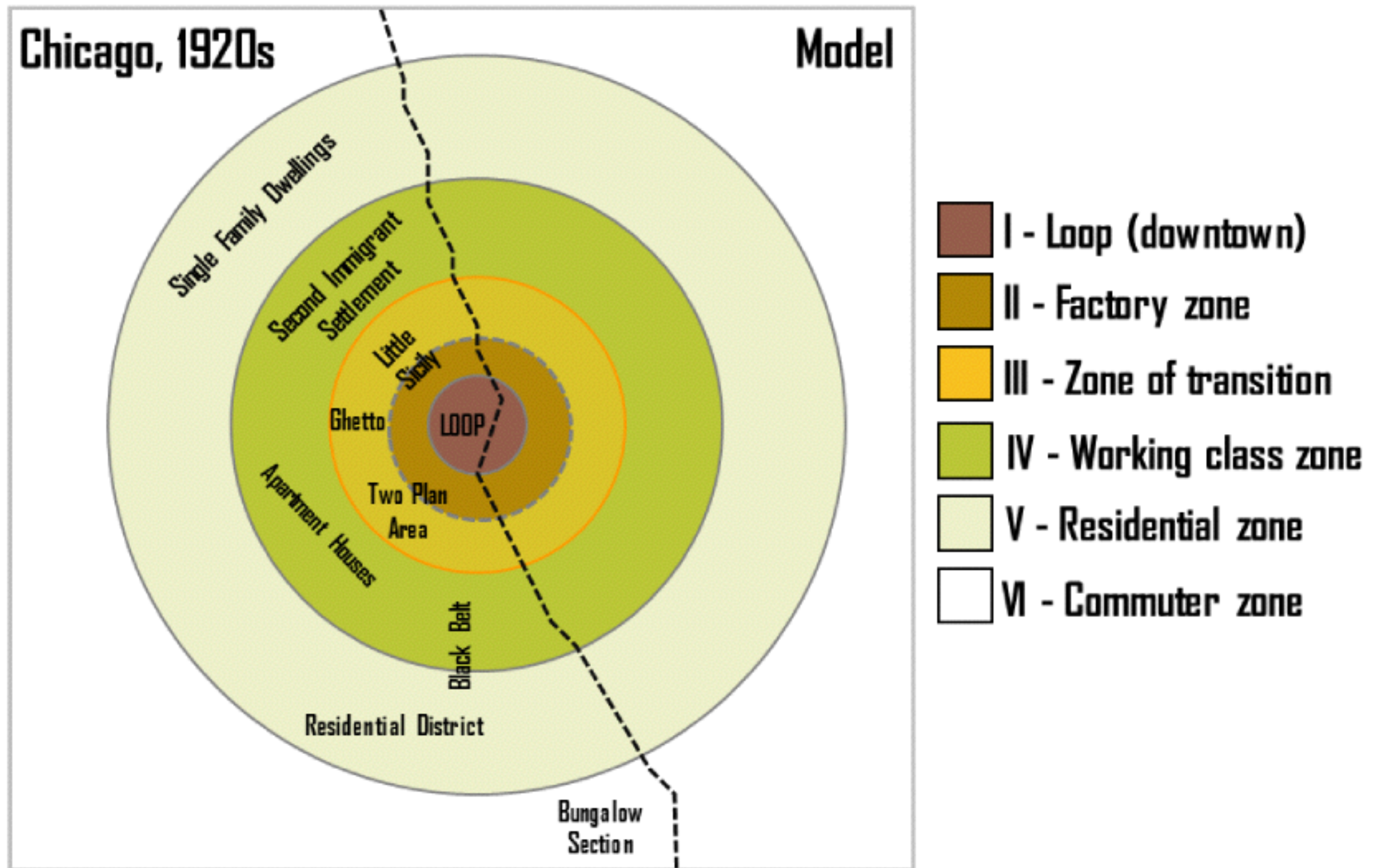
EUROPEAN UNION
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Regional level: NUTS 3
Source: Own calculations, 2011
Origin of data: EUROSTAT and national statistical offices, 2011
© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

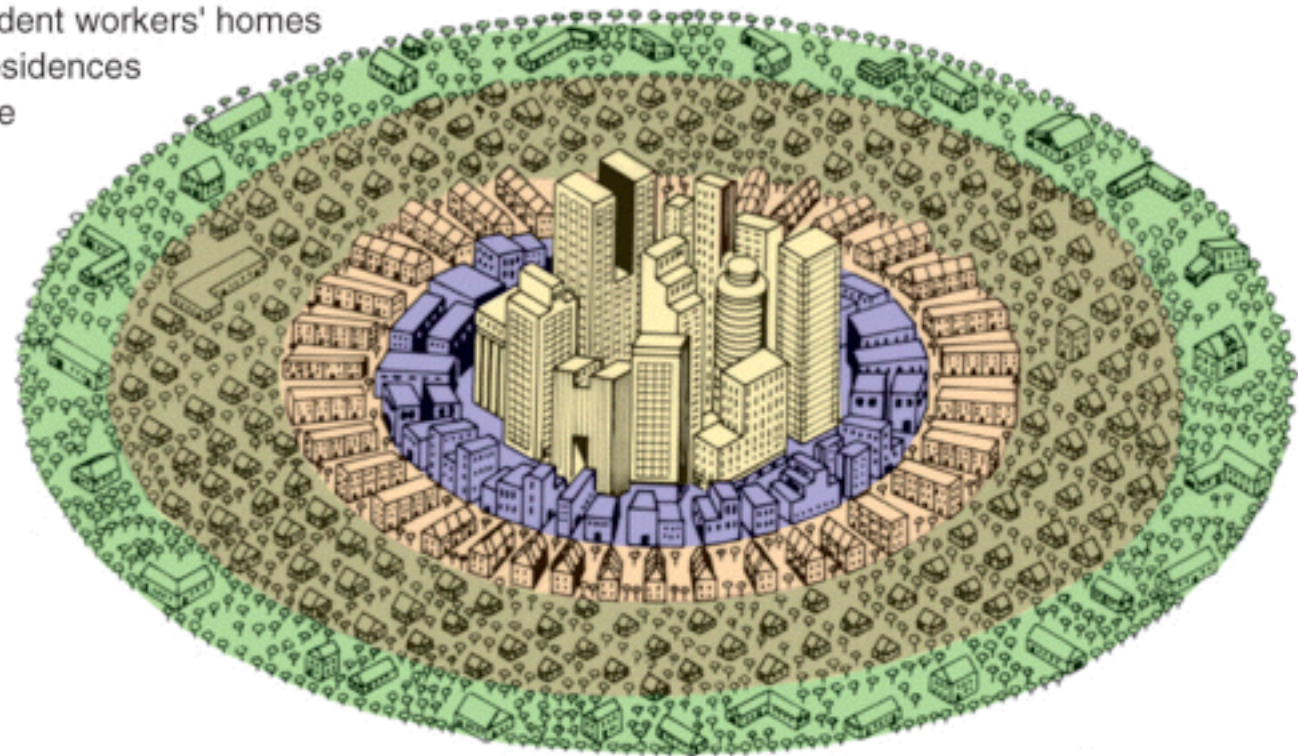
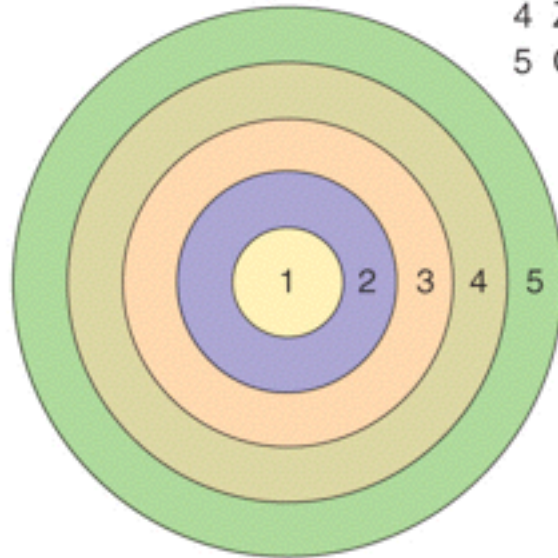
Women per 100 men



Concentric Zone (Burgess)

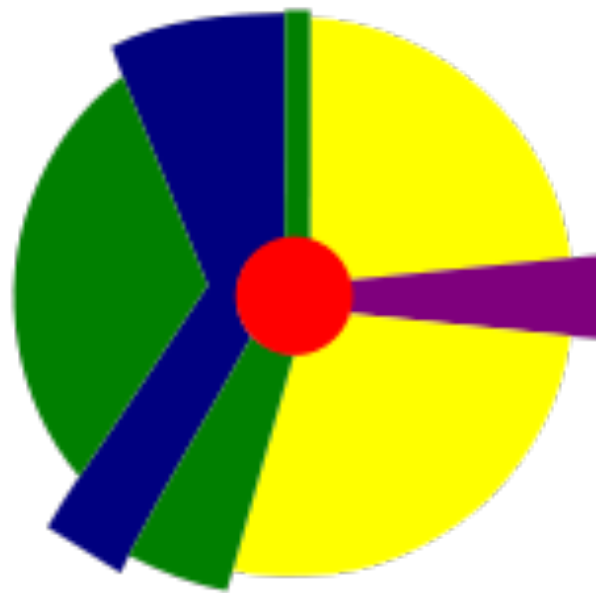







- 1 Central business district
- 2 Zone of transition
- 3 Zone of independent workers' homes
- 4 Zone of better residences
- 5 Commuter's zone



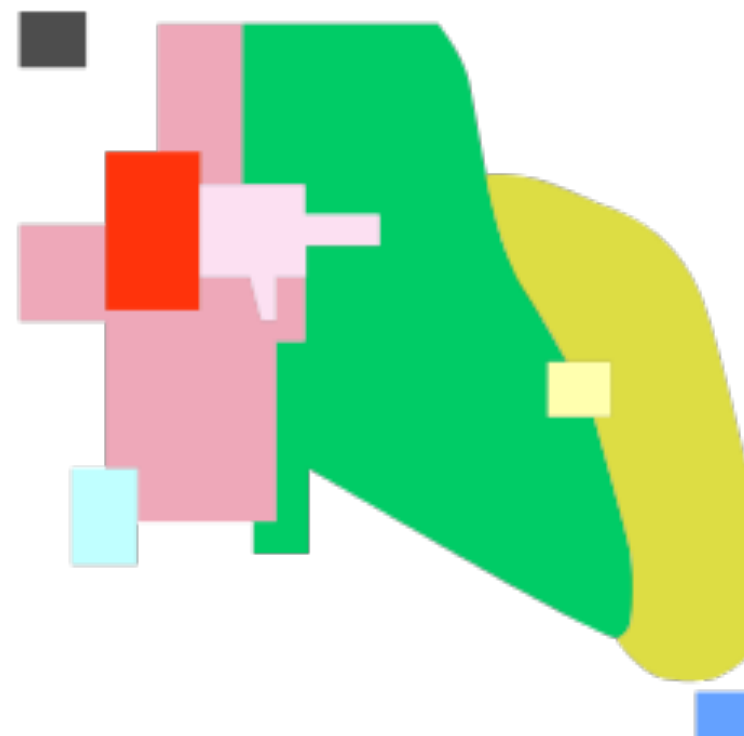
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Hoyt Sector Model Key



-  CBD
-  Factories/Industry
-  Low class residential
-  Middle class residential
-  High class residential

Harris and Ullman's Multiple Nuclei Model



-  Central Business District
-  Wholesale, light manufacturing
-  Outlying business district
-  Low class residential
-  Medium class residential
-  High class residential
-  Residential suburb
-  Heavy manufacturing
-  Industrial suburb

biology / ecology

Symbiosis, invasions, succession,
dominance, gradient growth...

The birthplace of US sociology



The University of Chicago,
founded in 1890

- 1892: Albion Small creates the first sociology department in the US
- 1895: Establishment of the *American Journal of Sociology*

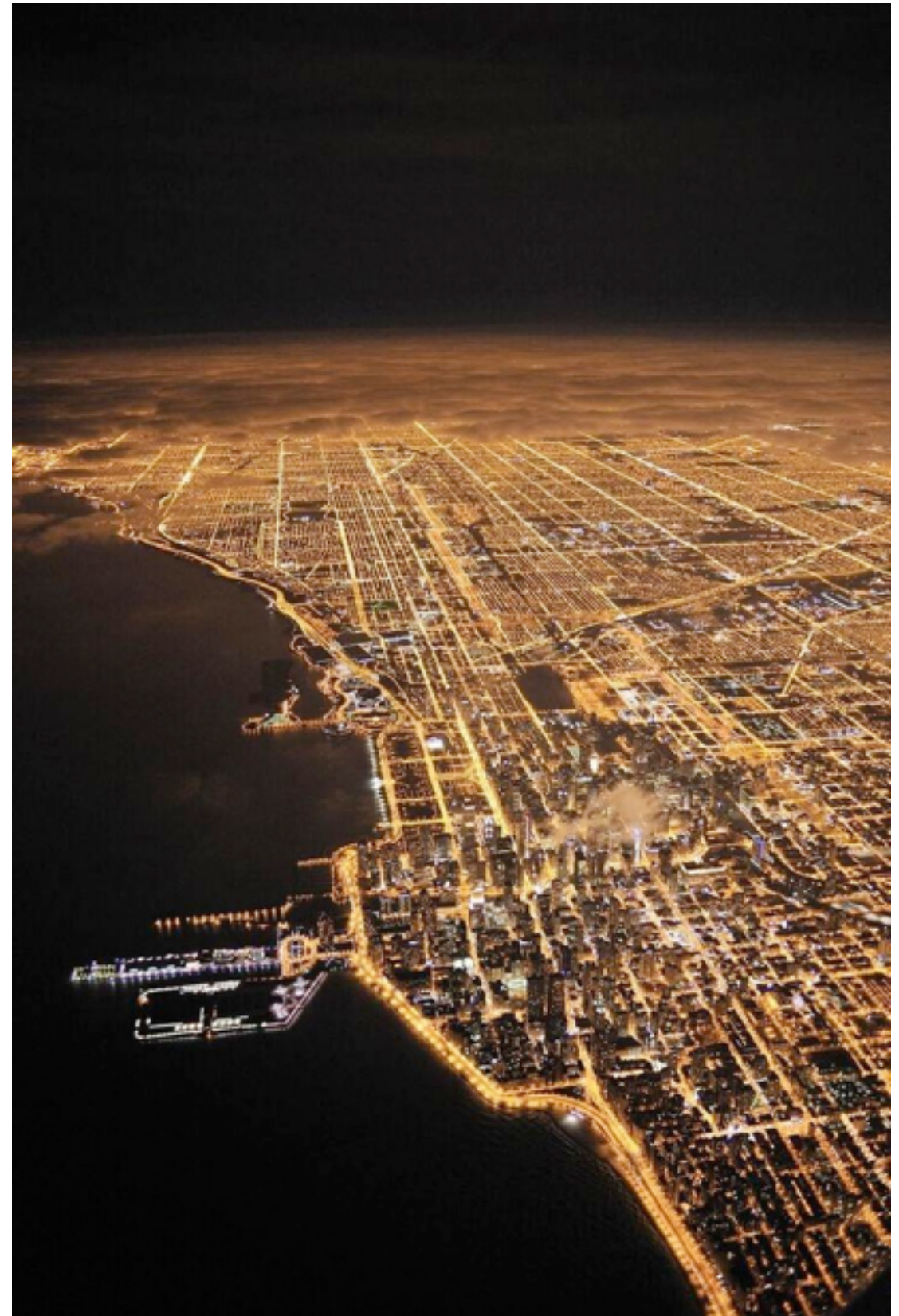


The city as a laboratory for social research

Population growth in Chicago

Year	Population
1840	4,470
1860	112,172
1880	503,185
1900	1,698,575
1920	2,701,705

Source: wikipedia



Why Darwinism?

- In urban areas, groups **compete with each other** for scarce urban resources (e.g. land)
- Ultimately, niches are formed where people respond to competitive pressure in the same way
 - Urban dwellers' mode of life fits with the characteristics of the area they live in
- It's a dynamic model that allows for evolution: new groups arrive and change the terms of competition

« Expansion as a process » (P. 50-53)

- **Extension and succession**

*« The tendency of each inner zone to extend its area by the **invasion of the next outer zone**. This aspect of expansion may be called succession, a process which has been studied in detail in plant ecology » (p. 51)*

- **Concentration and decentralization**

« In all cities there is a natural tendency for local and outside transportation to converge in the central business district »

A constant process of disorganization and reorganization (p. 54)

- The source of disorganization: *“all cities show deviations in composition by age and sex from a standard population such as that of Sweden, unaffected in recent years by any great emigration or immigration”*
- Disorganization allows for reorganization: *« Normally the processes of disorganization and organization may be thought of as in reciprocal relationship to each other, and as co-operating in a moving equilibrium of social order toward an end vaguely or definitely regarded as progressive »*

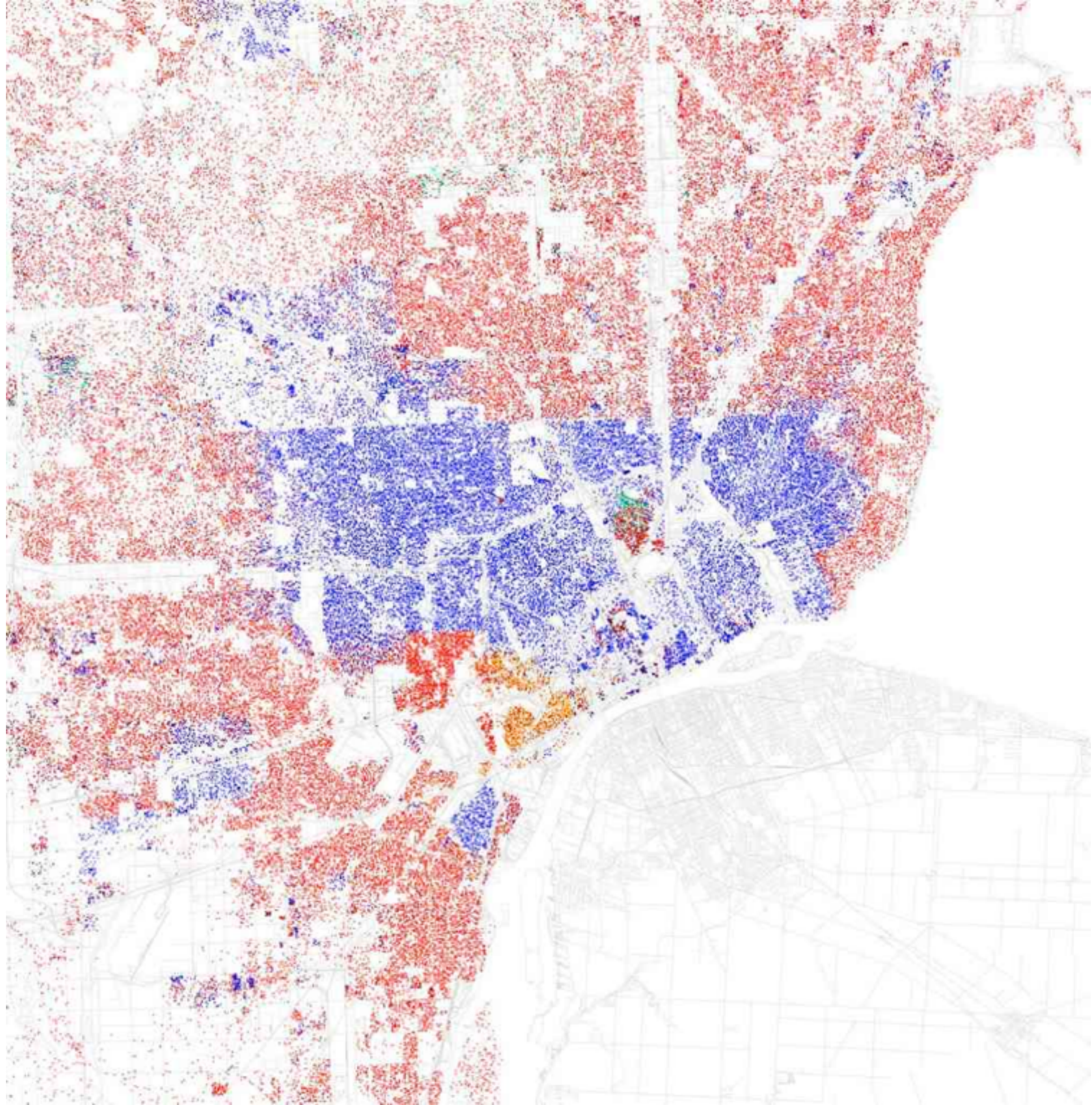
Increasing differentiation: p. 56-7

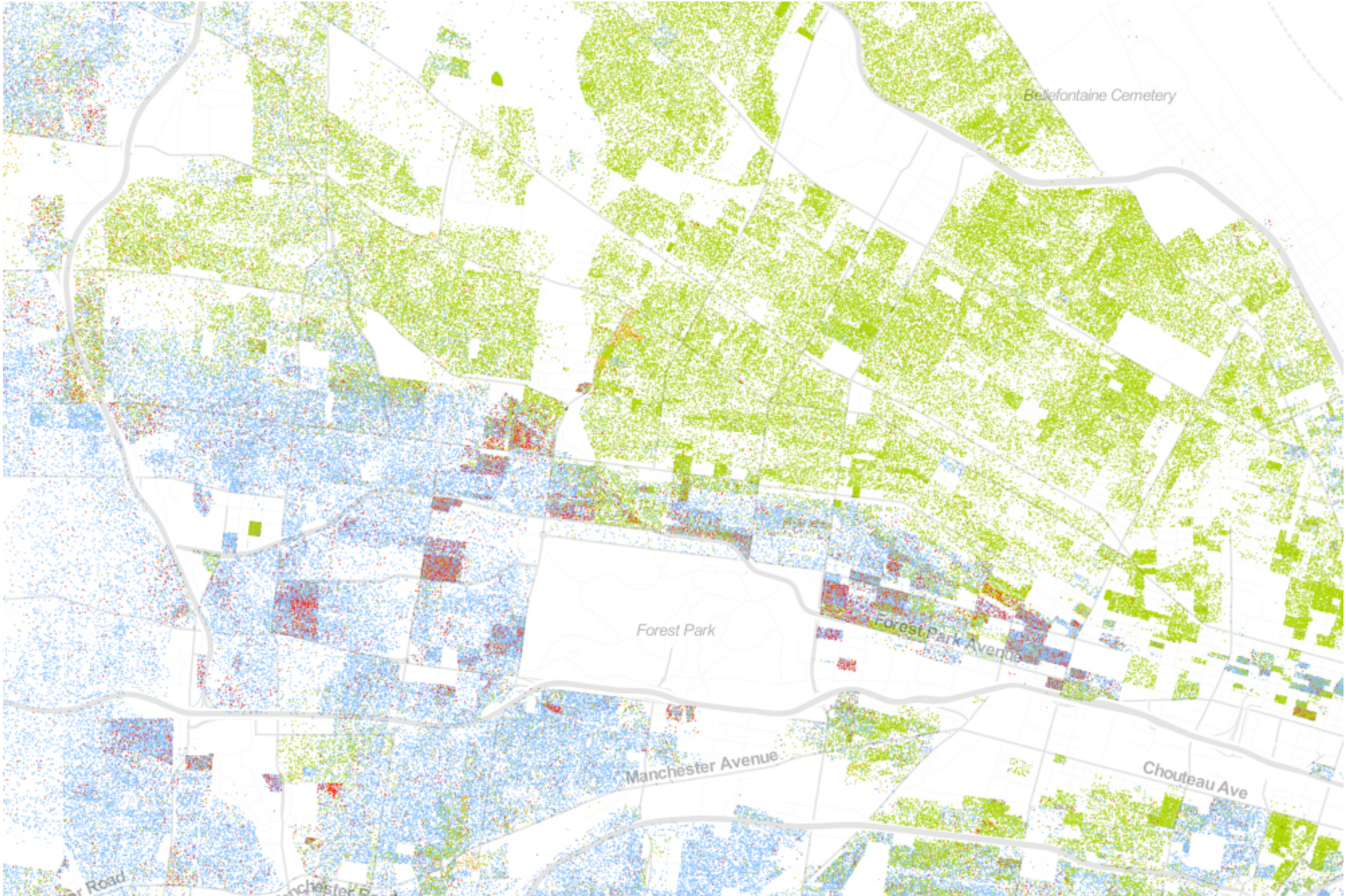
- Your place in society depends on where you live in the city

« Segregation offers the group, and thereby the individuals who compose the group, a place and a role in the total organization of city life » (p.56)

- = The economic division of labor shapes the division in social classes and into cultural and recreational groups

Segregation

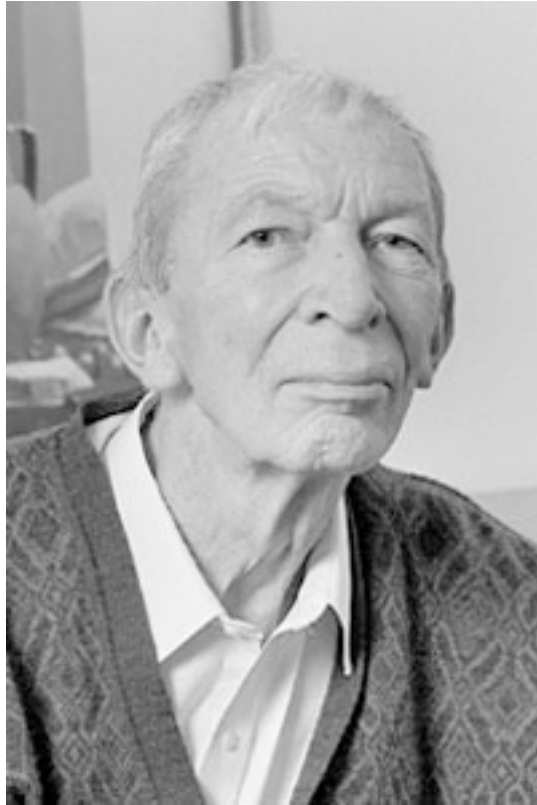




St. Louis, Missouri

Previous accounts of racial inequalities

- **“Culture of poverty”**: Oscar Lewis (1959), *Mexican Case Studies in the Culture of Poverty*
- **Racism**: liberal reaction to the cultural explanation
- **Welfare**: Charles Murray (1984), *Losing ground*.
- **Economic**: William Julius Wilson, *The Declining Significance of Race* (1978) and *The Truly disadvantaged* (1987)



Edward Banfield:
Poor are poor because of their
defective culture.

limited time horizon, impulsive
need for gratification...

*The Declining
Significance of Race*
(1978)

William Julius Wilson
Manufacturing vs.
Service Sector



Charles Murray



“According to some, the creation of the underclass was rooted in the liberal welfare state. Federal antipoverty programs altered the incentives governing the behavior of poor men and women, reducing the desirability of marriage, increasing the benefits of unwed childbearing, lowering the attractiveness of menial labor and ultimately resulted in greater poverty.

Others said that it was not the generosity but the permissiveness of the US welfare system that was at fault.”

The Paradox of Redistribution and Strategies of Equality:



Walter Korpi and Joakim Palme



The debates on how to reduce poverty and inequality have focused on two controversial questions. One is whether social policies should be targeted to low-income groups or universal; another whether benefits should be equal for all or earnings-related.

Traditional arguments in favor of targeting and flat-rate benefits, focusing on the distribution of the money actually transferred, have neglected three policy-relevant considerations: 1. The size of redistributive budgets is not fixed but reflects the structure of welfare state institutions. 2. There tends to be a tradeoff between the degree of low-income targeting and the size of redistributive budgets. 3. Outcomes of market-based distribution are often even more unequal than those of earnings-related social insurance programs. We argue that social insurance institutions are of central importance for redistributive outcomes. Using new data bases, our comparative analyses of the effects of different institutional types of welfare states on poverty and inequality indicate that institutional differences lead to unexpected outcomes and generate the paradox of redistribution: The more we target benefits at the poor and the more concerned we are with creating equality via equal public transfers to all, the less likely we are to reduce poverty and inequality.





Nathan Robinson ♥ Become a fan

PhD student, Harvard University

The Shocking Finding From the DOJ's Ferguson Report That Nobody Has Noticed

Posted: 03/13/2015 2:42 pm EDT | Updated: 03/19/2015 12:59 am EDT

This post was co-authored by Oren Nimni, a civil rights attorney in Boston and member of the National Lawyers Guild's executive board.

In the city of Ferguson, nearly everyone is a wanted criminal.

That may seem like hyperbole, but it is a literal fact. In Ferguson -- a city with a population of 21,000 -- 16,000 people have [outstanding arrest warrants](#), meaning that they are currently actively wanted by the police.

That statistic should be truly shocking. Yet in the wake of the Department of Justice's [withering report](#) on the city's policing practices, it has gone almost entirely unmentioned. News reports and analysis have focused on the racism [discovered in departmental emails](#), and the [gangsterish financial "shakedown" methods](#) deployed against African Americans. In doing so, they have missed the full picture of Ferguson's operation, which reveals a totalizing police regime beyond any of Kafka's ghastliest nightmares.

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- ☐ Tip ☐ Don't tip
- ☐ Never been in this situation

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