THE GROWING LINK BETWEEN SPACE AND INEQUALITY IN THE US

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FIVE ARGUMENTS

1. Spatial advantage and disadvantage are remarkably persistent
2. Inequality across regions is rising
3. Geographic mobility is falling
4. Policy is designed to reinforce spatial inequality
5. Three approaches to durable urban policy
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Neighborhood advantage and disadvantage are multigenerational

- 48% of Black vs 7% of White in poor neighborhoods over consecutive generations.
- 1% of Black vs 18% of White in affluent neighborhoods over consecutive generations.
Residential mobility reproduces patterns of neighborhood inequality

Sampson, “Moving to Inequality”
Ties to places reproduce neighborhood advantage and disadvantage

Sharkey, *Stuck In Place*
Neighborhood inequality is resilient

Patrick Sharkey, “Temporary Integration, Resilient Inequality.” *Demography.*
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Regional variation in upward mobility

Inequality across regions is rising

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Invisible barricades
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THREE APPROACHES FOR DURABLE URBAN POLICY

1. Provide opportunities for supported, sustainable mobility
   - Baltimore Housing Mobility Program (Darrah and Deluca 2014)
   - Moving to Opportunity (Sanbonmatsu et al. 2011)
   - Mt. Laurel (Massey et al. 2013)
   - Montgomery County (Schwartz 2010)
   - Gautreaux (Rubinowitz and Rosenbaum 2000)
   - Chicago public housing waitlist (Ludwig et al. 2010)
   - Denver public housing (Cutsinger et al. 2011)
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2. Provide durable investments in places left behind

- New Hope Milwaukee (Duncan et al. 2008)
- Jobs-Plus (Riccio 2010)
- Promise Academy (Dobbie and Fryer 2011)
- Empowerment Zones (Busso et al. 2013)
- Native American reservation casinos (Evans and Topoleski 2002; Wolfe et al. 2012)
- Community Change Initiatives (Kubisch et al. 2010)
- Place-conscious interventions like greening abandoned lots; problem-oriented policing; cognitive behavioral therapy and after-school/summer jobs (Heller et al. 2016; Heller 2014; Branas et al. 2016)
THREE APPROACHES FOR DURABLE URBAN POLICY

3. Work to break down invisible barricades that create spatial inequality

- Mandated inclusionary zoning policies
- Regional economic development, housing, and transportation policies
- Shift of existing housing resources away from high-income homeowners toward middle- and low-income renters
- Enforcement of federal requirement for state and local governments to affirmatively further fair housing
- Reform low-income rental assistance to promote sustainable mobility
- Reduce housing discrimination by race/ethnicity and by source of income
- Reduce occupational license requirements
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