

The Geography of Structural Racism: From Operationalization to Measuring Spatial (and Spatio-Temporal) Heterogeneity – How Important is Residential Segregation?

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Structural racism can be defined as laws, policies, or even rules in society that ultimately support unfair advantage to some people while also unfair treatment of others based on race. While structural racism can be captured, objectively, in various ways, residential segregation has been shown to be a prime example of the negative impact this type of institutionalized injustice plays on the population's health – creating or even exacerbating racial, ethnic, and/or even social inequities in health. Therefore, understanding the geography of structural racism, by way of residential segregation, is vital to not only dismantling systems and structures that promote these advantages for some and not all, but also sheds light on how to holistically understand its impact on various health inequities. This research aims to examine the statistical operational forms of various residential segregation measures, in addition to assessing the spatial heterogeneity on a national scale and how this heterogeneity is key to understanding the geographic patterning present. Lastly, the spatio-temporal heterogeneity in residential segregation at the local level will be explored, in efforts to help clarify the changing patterns (if any) in structural racism over the last two decades.

Key Words:

Structural racism; spatial heterogeneity; spatio-temporal heterogeneity; residential segregation; geography

Date: November 16, 2022

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Park 245 or Zoom

<https://brynmawr-edu.zoom.us/j/95807982212?pwd=aXBBMnFZMUUyWDQ1S1d3TGozc0t5Zz09>