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Annotated Bibliography on the Relation Between Racial Segregation and Bias Crimes

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Grattet, Ryken, *The Urban Ecology of Bias Crime: A Study of Disorganized and Defended Neighborhoods*, Social Problems 56.1 (2009): 132-150.

Abstract: This article examines the neighborhood characteristics that affect bias crime and compares bias crime to other kinds of criminal offending. Two frequently asserted arguments are tested. The first argument is that bias crime is like other criminal offenses in that it is more likely to occur in communities with high levels of social disorganization. The second argument is that bias crime is unique in that it occurs as a defense against neighborhood in-migration of ethnic "others"---the so-called "defended neighborhoods" argument. Findings show that accounting for the spatial distribution of bias crime requires both perspectives. Bias crime, like robbery, assault, and vandalism, is more likely to occur in neighborhoods with concentrated disadvantage and residential turnover, two of the three factors identified in social disorganization research. However, unlike other kinds of crime, holding constant attributes of disorganization, the effect of nonwhite in-migration on bias crime is greater in neighborhoods with a high percentage of white residents than communities with a low percentage of white residents. This confirms the central empirical implication of the defended neighborhoods perspective. Additional analyses show that these effects hold in analyses of specifically anti-black bias crimes and violent bias crimes. The conclusion suggests that research on social problems like bias crime should balance the emphasis on the unique features of the problem with attention to the common generative processes that the problem shares with a wider set of behaviors and outcomes.

Lynch, Ami M., *Hating the Neighbors: The Role of Hate Crime in the Perpetuation of Black Residential Segregation*, International Journal of Conflict and Violence 2.1 (2008): 6-27.

Abstract: Grounded in group conflict theory and the defended neighborhoods thesis, this nationwide empirical study of cities and their residential segregation levels examines the occurrence of hate crime using data for all U.S. cities with populations over 95,000 and Uniform Crime Reporting data for hate crime, in conjunction with 2000 census data. Hate crime is any illegal act motivated by pre-formed bias against, in this case, a person's real or perceived race. This research asks: Do hate crime levels predict white/black segregation levels? How does hate crime predict different measures of white/black segregation? I use the dissimilarity index measure of segregation operationalized as a continuous, binary, and ordinal variable, to explore whether hate crime predicts segregation of blacks from whites. In cities with higher rates of hate crime there was higher dissimilarity between whites and blacks, controlling for other factors.

The segregation level was more likely to be "high" in a city where hate crime occurred.

Blacks are continually multiply disadvantaged and distinctly affected by hate crime and residential segregation. Prior studies of residential segregation have focused almost exclusively on individual choice, residents' lack of finances, or discriminatory actions that prevent racial minorities from moving, to explore the correlates of segregation. Notably absent from these studies are measures reflecting the level of hate crime occurring in cities. This study demonstrates the importance of considering hate crime and neighborhood conflict when contemplating the causes of residential segregation.

Lyons, Christopher J., *Defending Turf: Racial Demographics and Hate Crime Against Blacks and Whites*, Social Forces 87.1 (2008): 357-385.

Abstract: This study explores how racial composition, in-migration and community identity influence the distribution of antiblack and antiwhite hate crimes. Drawing on six years of Chicago Police Department reports, two decades of census data and community survey data from the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods, the paper evaluates hypotheses derived from racial threat, macrostructural opportunity and defended community perspectives. Negative binomial models controlling for spatial dependence reveal different patterns for antiblack and antiwhite hate crimes across Chicago communities. Consistent with a defended communities model, antiblack hate crimes are most common in homogenous white communities with strong community identities undergoing recent black in-migration. In contrast, antiwhite hate crimes are most numerous in communities where blacks and whites comprise near equal proportions, supporting macrostructural opportunity perspectives.

Lyons, Christopher J., *Community (Dis)Organization and Racially Motivated Crime*, The American Journal of Sociology 113.3 (2007): 815-863.

Abstract: This article examines the relationship between community structural conditions and racially motivated crimes against blacks and whites. Drawing on six years of police reports, census data, and survey data of Chicago communities, the study evaluates alternative hypotheses about the social organization of racial hate crime derived from social disorganization, resource competition, and defended communities perspectives. Multivariate analyses controlling for spatial autocorrelation reveal that antiblack hate crimes, in contrast to general forms of crime, are more likely in relatively organized communities with high levels of informal social control. Conversely, antiwhite incidents appear more numerous in traditionally disorganized communities, especially those characterized by residential instability.

Bell, Jeannine, *Hate Thy Neighbor: Violent Racial Exclusion and the Persistence of Segregation*, The Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law (Fall 2007)

Summary: This Article addresses one of the consequences of racial segregation in housing—violence and intimidation directed at minorities who are integrating white neighborhoods. In describing the history and dynamics of this type of anti-integrationist crime, the Article seeks to offer an introduction to the setting of hate crimes in a neighborhood context. The Article provides a critical bridge between hate crime law and housing law, exploring the substantial difficulties when each of these legal remedies is used to combat this type of violence. The Article concludes by offering a series of solutions uniquely crafted to combat the problem of bias-motivated violence in the neighborhood context.

Espiritu, Antonina, *Racial Diversity and Hate Crime Incidents*, The Social Science Journal 41.2 (2004): 197-208

Abstract: What makes the United States a unique country is the diversity of its people. However, when crimes are committed because of our perceived differences or bias against racial group(s) and/or ethnicity, these crimes can damage the social fabric of our society and fragment communities. In an attempt to determine the extent and nature of hate crime, this study examines demographic compositions and pertinent socio-economic factors that could help explain variations of hate crime incidents across states. The regression estimation results suggest dropout rate and the number of Asians, Pacific islanders as a proportion of state's population to be significant predictors of hate crime incidents across state. The role of the general economic condition in explaining variations in hate crime incidents is found to be statistically inconclusive.

Brimicombe, Allen J., Ralphs, Martin P., Sampson, Alice, Tsui, Hoi Yuen, *An Analysis of the Role of Neighborhood Ethnic Composition in the Geographical Distribution of Racially Motivated Incidents*, British Journal of Criminology 41.2 (2001): 293-308.

Abstract: This paper explores the use of statistical and Geographical Information Systems mapping techniques in producing a preliminary assessment of geographical patterns of racially motivated crimes and harassment in a given area. The geographical distribution of allegations of racially motivated incidents reported to the police in the London Borough of Newham is investigated. The results of the analysis suggest that the ethnic composition of an area appears to have a significant effect on the rate of incidents. Correlation and regression analyses are carried out and support the preliminary finding that rates of incidence are significantly higher where there is a large white majority and smaller groups of other ethnicities.

Green, Donald P., Strolovitch, Dara Z., Wong, Janelle S., *Defended Neighborhoods, Integration, and Racially Motivated Crime*, The University of Chicago Press 104.2 (1998): 372-403.

Abstract: This article investigates demographic and macroeconomic correlates of racially motivated antiminority crime in New York City (1987 - 95). Event count models indicate that crimes directed against Asians, Latinos, and blacks are most frequent in predominantly white areas, particularly those that had experienced an in - migration of minorities. No relationship is found between rates of racially motivated crime and macroeconomic conditions, such as the rate of unemployment among non - Hispanic whites; nor does there appear to be an interaction between economic conditions and in - migration of minorities. These findings seem to parallel ethnographic accounts of "defended" white urban neighborhoods. The article concludes by discussing the empirical implications of this theoretical perspective as applied to prejudice - based crime in other contexts.

Related Research

Massey, Douglas S., *Segregation and Violent Crime in Urban America*, University of Pennsylvania Law Review 143.5 (1995): 1203-1232.

Introduction: Although rates of violent crime and crime victimization are going down for most groups in the United States, they are rising for African-Americans. A variety of theories have been put forth to explain this trend, but none have come to terms with black segregation. In this Article, I develop a theory that links high rates of black crime to two features of U.S. urban society: high rates of black poverty and high levels of black segregation. The coincidence of these two conditions yields an ecological niche within which rates of crime, levels of violence, and risks of victimization are high. In adapting to these conditions, people rationally adopt individual and collective strategies that offer some protection, but also fuel the violence and give it a self-perpetuating character. Unless desegregation occurs, this cycle of violence is likely to continue; however, the perpetuation of violence paradoxically makes desegregation less likely by increasing the benefits to whites of black residential isolation. Part I of this Article provides a brief overview of the nature and prevalence of crime in the United States and its relationship to segregation. Part II shows that two conditions known to exist within urban America-high levels of black segregation and high rates of black poverty-interact to create a unique ecological niche for black Americans, within which violent behavior becomes a logical, rational adaptation. Part III reviews recent ethnographic research on racially isolated, crime-ridden areas to show how residents adapt to this structurally produced environment. Part IV attempts to explain why it has been so difficult to implement policies to promote desegregation, pointing out the economic and political benefits that whites derive from residential segregation. Part V concludes with suggestions of alternative scenarios for the future of urban America.

South, Scott T., *Structural Determinants of Intergroup Association: Interracial Marriage and Crime*, The American Journal of Sociology 91.6 (1986): 1409-1430.

Abstract: Using data on interracial marriage and interracial violent crime for a sample of 25 metropolitan communities, this article tests several hypotheses derived from Blau's theory of social structure. Consistent with theoretical predictions, moderate, positive correlations are found between rates of interracial marriage and crime. The article also explores the relationship between the dimensions of social structure identified by Blau- group size, heterogeneity, intergroup inequality ("consolidation"), and segregation-and these two forms of social association. Both interracial marriage and interracial crime are influenced significantly by at least one of these structural conditions. Contrary to initial expectations, however, the effects of social structure vary by the form of association. The rate of interracial marriage is positively affected by the degree of racial income equality, whereas interracial crime rates are more strongly influenced by relative group size and racial residential segregation. The article concludes with a few speculative remarks concerning the differential effects of structural variables on different forms of association.