

a scholarly review of

# *stuck in place*

by Patrick Sharkey

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## Did you know...?

- Before WWII, most Americans (except for farmers) lived and worked in cities
- After WWII, white Americans moved to the suburbs; black Americans stayed in the cities
- This divide was mainly due to unfair housing laws that prevented black people from moving to more desirable, suburban neighborhoods

After the Fair Housing Act of 1968 was passed, middle-class blacks moved out of the ghettos and into the suburbs into newly formed, black middle-class neighborhoods.

Following suit, industry moved from the cities to more rural areas, taking jobs with them; civic infrastructures, such as churches and community centers moved, too. Monies for schools and educational programs were re-allocated, since they were largely supported by the taxes paid by the middle-class.

## But...



# The States of Hypersegregated America

Methods of public transportation, on which the poor rely, did not expand to the suburbs!



Without a way to get to work poor, almost exclusively black, city dwellers found themselves left behind with all that was left – crumbling civic infrastructure, poor school systems, and an increase in social problems that accompany poverty – crime, alcoholism, and drug use.

While there are ways to escape poverty, too often moving to the suburbs results in **culture shock** for black children, who find themselves the victims of **racism** and **discrimination** from the surrounding white populace.



This unwelcome treatment sends many black children back to the ghetto as adults – occasionally by choice but most often by force, as a hostile environment results in poor academic performance, which extends itself to the makings of poverty and a [hypersegregated](#) America. Look around your neighborhood. How integrated is it?

# Urban Investment

# Urban Renewal

Rather than force black Americans to abandon their neighborhoods and traditions and melt into white culture, industry must reinvest in black neighborhoods! Here are a few examples of where it is already successfully occurring:



The Clinton Foundation  
Harlem, NY



Lifespan Hospital Group  
South Providence, RI



Chrysler  
Detroit, MI



Coca-Cola  
Atlanta, GA

By bringing a mix of jobs that require skilled and semi-skilled labor *or* a college education to the cities there will be high-paying jobs available for people of *all* skills levels that:

- Do not require a difficult commute to work for those who rely on public transport; would increase the use of public transport *from* the suburbs *to* cities
- Will force governments to reinvest in cities, due to increased economic activity
- May result in less segregated communities, which would result in better inner-city school systems, which can lead to a reduction in crime rates

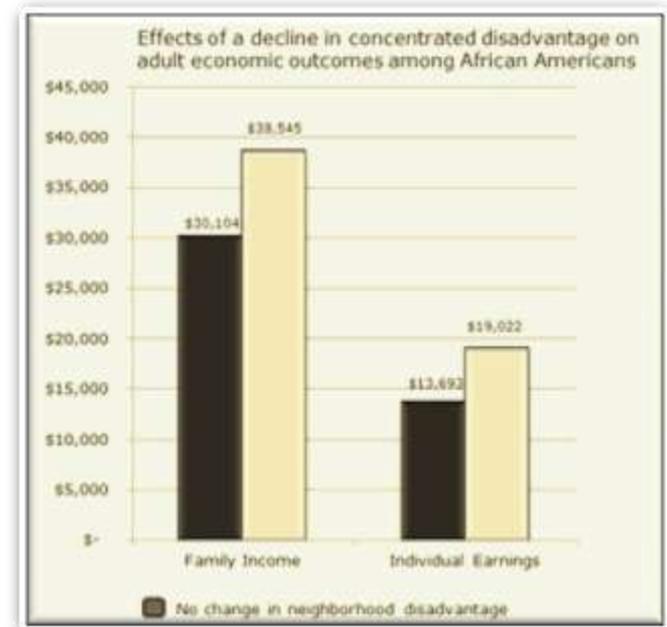
# Unsticking Yourself

- What can you learn from reading *stuck in place*?
- That poverty does not beget poverty; *unfair societal treatment of an "other"* begets poverty
- That if you are not a part of the solution, you may be a part of the problem. Examine your behaviors and ask yourself, "Can I do better?"
- That if we work together as a multicultural society, we can help to eradicate the roots of poverty by creating one, integrated America (see chart, below)
- That efforts to eliminate poverty's roots can result in a boon to American businesses, too!

## Can one person make a difference?

**YES! YOU CAN!**

Why do I recommend you read *stuck in place*? As a graduate of the University of Rhode Island's [Women's Studies program](#) I have spent the last several years researching oppressed societies and reaching out to those who can make a difference. *stuck in place* will educate you on the places and the ways – big and small – that you can make a difference, showing you how you can become the change you wish to see in the world.



Re-created from Sharkey (2013) p. 162

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