"Blockbusting" in the 21st Century?: Minority Move-ins and Neighborhood Home Value Appreciation

March 28, 2025

1 Project 1

1.1 Introduction

Housing discrimination has, in one way or another, existed in the United States since independence. After reconstruction, several tactics became commonplace, including racial deed covenants, and redlining. Across the nation, there was evidence of "white flight", or the movement of whites out of neighborhoods with minorities due to fears over home value depreciation or other factors. Real-estate agents commonly attempted to abuse these fears with a tactic known as "blockbusting" in which they would spread fear over minority-move-ins leading to a fire sale of homes in a neighborhood (Rothstein, 2017).

Much has been researched about the modern-day effects of these past tactics, whether in deed covenants leading to improved relative neighborhood quality (Sood, Ehrman-Solberg, 2024), or redlining leading to localized areas of higher poverty (Appel, Nickerson, 2016), or simply lower quality of opportunity in majority-black neighborhoods (Chetty, et al, 2014). There is also evidence of modern-day tactics still occurring in the housing market, whether in lending markets (Quillian, Lee, Honoré, 2020), or in real estates continuing to practice "racial steering", the process of, whether knowing it or not, primarily showing people of minority groups neighborhoods that are also primarily of that minority group (Glenn, 2018).

This paper seeks to contribute literature surrounding economic effects of racism by analyzing the modern accuracy of the perceived link that 50's era blockbusting relied on – do minority move-ins suppress home-value appreciation?

There is a long theoretical literature on discrimination, intiially starting with a model for taste-based discrimination by Gary Becker in 1957. There now many other models for discrimination, including most famously Ken Arrow's 1973 'statistical discriminination', but Becker's remains the most commonly used. There are also many theoretical frameworks for home sale matching, (Badarinza, Balasubramaniam, Ramadorai, 2024), and discriminiation in labor market matching (Combes et al, 2016), but there have been few attempts to discrimination theory in the housing market. The sole notable attempt was in (Combs, et al, 2015), which built a theoretical framework for racism in home sales and lease arrangements, and then empirically tested the lease framework. This has been extended to look at a case in Moscow, where much of the racial discirmination is overt (Avetian, 2022)

This paper contributes to this literature by applying this theoretical framework to home sales, and, in particular, analyzing the long-term effects on home values. I use loan data from Fannie Mae (FNMA) & Freddie Mac (FHLMC) to provide data on neighborhood move-ins, American

Community Survey data to normalize, and Zillow ZHVI data to show the change in home prices. My study has the following methodology:

First, I select zip codes with move-ins during the 2009-2010 period (Initial Period) that are majority white (we are uninterested in the effect on majority-minority neighborhoods), and in metropolitan statistical areas (necessary for appreciation normalization). I take the "minority move-in share", or the ratio of loans for new purchases made in that zip code to minorities, and then look at those same zip codes over the 2012-2013 period (Treatment Period) and analyze what "treatment" was applied (the difference in minority move-in share from the previous period), which is our main explanatory variable. Next, we analyze the association between the change in minority move-in-share and the future appreciation in home prices, relative to their MSA average, for the next 6 years (ending in 2019). This should inform us what the effect of a sudden increase in minority move-ins is on home value appreciation.

I find that the effect of an increase in minority move-in share on home-value appreciation is unclear, relative to the metropolitan statistical area. While the mean home value appreciation does decrease in the treatment group relative to the control, there is an incredibly high degree of variation in the data.

For regressions, I find that predictive quality is not meaningfully improved when controlling for previous neighborhood demographics, neighborhood income, or neighborhood political affiliation, and that there is not sufficient information to conclude there is a correlation between change in minority move-ins and home-value appreciation.

1.2 Data Loading

1.2.1 Loading Loan Data

```
[1]: import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
import seaborn as sns
```

```
[2]: def read_columns_from_txt(filename):
    data = {}
    with open(filename, "r") as f:
        for line in f:
            key, value = line.split("=", 1)
                data[key.strip()] = eval(value.strip())
        return data

columns_data = read_columns_from_txt("data/columns.txt")
    cols = columns_data["cols"]
    cols_pre2018 = columns_data["cols_pre2018"]
    dropcols = columns_data["dropcols"]
    dropcols_pre2018 = columns_data["dropcols_pre2018"]
    cols_2013 = columns_data["cols_2013"]
```

```
[3]: def load_loans(years):
        loans_list = []
        for year in years:
            if year >= 2018: # The data format changes in 2018
                files = [f"data/sf/fhlmc_sf{year}c_loans.txt", f"data/sf/
     →fnma_sf{year}c_loans.txt"]
                loans_year = pd.concat(
                    [pd.read_csv(file, sep=r"\s+", header=None, names=cols).

→drop(columns=dropcols) for file in files],
                    ignore_index=True
            else:
                files = [f"data/sf/fhlmc_sf{year}c_loans.txt", f"data/sf/
     loans_year = pd.concat(
                    [pd.read_csv(file, sep=r"\s+", header=None, names=cols_2013).
     →drop(columns=dropcols_pre2018) for file in files],
                    ignore_index=True
            loans_year["year"] = year
            loans_list.append(loans_year)
            print(f"Processed {year}", end=" ")
        return pd.concat(loans_list, ignore_index=True)
```

```
[4]: loans = load_loans([2009, 2010, 2012, 2013]) # Please forgive the print _{\square} _{\square} statement! The full data can take upwards of 20 mins to load.
```

Processed 2009 Processed 2010 Processed 2012 Processed 2013

I picked 2009 and 2010 as my initial years because they were some of the earliest I had. I picked 2012 and 2013 to give a year of distance but to maintain a large buffer before COVID affected home values.

1.2.2 Cleaning Loan Data

```
[5]: loans = loans[loans['purpose'] == 1] # Filter to loans for new purchases
```

```
coborrower_ethnicities = loans[[col for col in loans.columns if col.
⇒startswith("coborrower_ethnicity")]]
# Check if any race or ethnicity belongs to minority groups
borrower_minority = borrower_races.isin(races_set).any(axis=1) |__
→borrower_ethnicities.isin(ethnicities_set).any(axis=1)
coborrower_minority = coborrower_races.isin(races_set).any(axis=1) |__
⇒coborrower_ethnicities.isin(ethnicities_set).any(axis=1)
# Assign counting columns for quantity of move-ins of each type
loans["early_mmi"] = np.where((loans["year"] < 2011) & (borrower_minority &_
np.where((loans["year"] < 2011) &__
→(borrower_minority | coborrower_minority), 1, 0))
loans["late_mmi"] = np.where((loans["year"] > 2011) & (borrower_minority &
np.where((loans["year"] > 2011) \&
→(borrower_minority | coborrower_minority), 1, 0))
loans["early_move_ins"] = np.where(loans["year"] < 2011, 1, 0)</pre>
loans["late_move_ins"] = np.where(loans["year"] > 2011, 1, 0)
```

Finally, we add a column with the full census tract code for future merging

1.2.3 Merging

To truly understand the rate of minority move-ins, we must control for neighborhood demographics. The **2020 US Census Data** provides this information (total population, white population, black population)

```
'U7J005': 'asian',
'U7J006': 'pacific_islander',
'U7J007': 'other_race',
'U7J008': 'two_or_more'}, inplace=True)
```

Next, we load in the Zillow data for information about home prices

```
[9]: zhvi = pd.read_csv('data/zhvi/Zip_zhvi_uc_sfrcondo_tier_0.33_0.67_sm_sa_month_

→(1).csv')
```

The Zillow data is based on zip-code, but all our other data is based on census tract. As a result, we use a Crosswalk File from HUD.

```
[10]: crosswalk = pd.read_excel('data/census/ZIP_TRACT_122024.xlsx')
```

Next, we merge the loan data into our crosswalk. We aggregate on each census tract.

Now that we have loan data, we merge with our **Census data**, and then filter for areas that are majority white.

```
[12]: loans_census = loans_crosswalk.merge(tract_data, left_on='ZIP', right_on='zip', whow='left')

threshold_white = 0.0  # We only look at areas that are majority white
loans_census_filter = loans_census[(loans_census['white'] / white'] / whomes_census['total_pop'] > threshold_white)]
```

Now we merge **Zillow data**, and find the change in home values of an area from 2010 to 2019 (End of early move-in data until COVID)

```
[14]: loans_zhvi['fips_code'] = (
    loans_zhvi['state_fips'].fillna('').astype(str).str.split('.').str[0].str.
    →zfill(2) +
    loans_zhvi['county_fips'].fillna('').astype(str).str.split('.').str[0].str.
    →zfill(3)
)
```

Next, we control for metropolitan area.

```
[15]: for year in range(2011, 2020):
    loans_zhvi[f'msa_avg_value_ratio_{year}'] = loans_zhvi.

→groupby('msa_code')[f'value_ratio_{year}'].transform('mean')
    loans_zhvi[f'value_diff_{year}'] = loans_zhvi[f'value_ratio_{year}'] -

→loans_zhvi[f'msa_avg_value_ratio_{year}']
```

Now we add income data

Now, we add **election results**

```
[17]: election_data = pd.read_csv('data\election-context-2018.csv')
  election_data['fips'] = election_data['fips'].astype(str).str.zfill(5)
  type(loans_zhvi['fips_code'][2])
```

[17]: str

```
data_table = loans_zhvi.groupby('zip').agg({
    'total_pop': 'sum',
    'msa_code': 'min',
    'fips_code': 'max',
    'early_mmi': 'sum',
    'late_mmi': 'sum',
    'early_move_ins': 'sum',
    'late_move_ins': 'sum',
    'white': 'sum',
    'white': 'sum',
    'other_race': 'sum',
    'two_or_more': 'sum',
```

```
'avg_value_2010': 'mean',
    'avg_value_2011': 'mean',
    'value_ratio_2011': 'mean',
    'avg_value_2012': 'mean',
    'value_ratio_2012': 'mean',
    'avg_value_2013': 'mean',
    'value_ratio_2013': 'mean',
    'avg_value_2014': 'mean',
    'value_ratio_2014': 'mean',
    'avg_value_2015': 'mean',
    'value_ratio_2015': 'mean',
    'avg_value_2016': 'mean',
    'value_ratio_2016': 'mean',
    'avg_value_2017': 'mean',
    'value_ratio_2017': 'mean',
    'avg_value_2018': 'mean',
    'value_ratio_2018': 'mean',
    'avg_value_2019': 'mean',
    'value_ratio_2019': 'mean',
    'msa_avg_value_ratio_2011': 'mean',
    'value_diff_2011': 'mean',
    'msa_avg_value_ratio_2012': 'mean',
    'value_diff_2012': 'mean',
    'msa_avg_value_ratio_2013': 'mean',
    'value_diff_2013': 'mean',
    'msa_avg_value_ratio_2014': 'mean',
    'value_diff_2014': 'mean',
    'msa_avg_value_ratio_2015': 'mean',
    'value_diff_2015': 'mean',
    'msa_avg_value_ratio_2016': 'mean',
    'value_diff_2016': 'mean',
    'msa_avg_value_ratio_2017': 'mean',
    'value_diff_2017': 'mean',
    'msa_avg_value_ratio_2018': 'mean',
    'value_diff_2018': 'mean',
    'msa_avg_value_ratio_2019': 'mean',
    'value_diff_2019': 'mean',
}).reset_index()
data_table = data_table.join(income_data, on='zip')
data_table = data_table.merge(election_data, left_on='fips_code',__
→right_on='fips', how='left')
data_table['pct_rep'] = data_table['romney12'] / data_table['total_population']__
→# Percent of county zip code is in that voted romney
data_table['early_mmi_ratio'] = data_table['early_mmi'] /__

data_table['early_move_ins']

data_table['late_mmi_ratio'] = data_table['late_mmi'] /__

data_table['late_move_ins']
```

```
data_table['early_late_ratio'] = data_table['late_mmi_ratio'] -

→data_table['early_mmi_ratio'] # Positive: MMI higher in late period
```

1.3 Summary Statistics

In our filtered_data table, we have information about our explanatory variables (demographics), our independent variables (initial property value), and our outcome variable (final property value)

```
[19]: from IPython.display import display, HTML
      prop_values_summary = data_table[['early_mmi','late_mmi','early_move_ins',__
       →'late_move_ins']].describe().round(2)
      prop_values_summary.columns = ['Minority Move-Ins (Initial Period)','Minority_
       {\scriptstyle \hookrightarrow} \texttt{Move-Ins} \ \ (\texttt{Treatment Period}) \, ', \ '\texttt{Total Move-Ins} \ \ (\texttt{Initial Period}) \, ', \ '\texttt{Total} \, {\scriptstyle \sqcup}
       →Move-Ins (Treatment Period)']
      prop_values_summary.index = ['Count', 'Mean', 'Standard Deviation', 'Minimum', |
       _{\hookrightarrow}'25th Percentile', 'Median', '75th Percentile', 'Maximum']
      prop_values_summary.loc['Range'] = prop_values_summary.loc['Maximum'] -__
       →prop_values_summary.loc['Minimum']
      prop_values_summary.loc['Count'] = prop_values_summary.loc['Count'].astype(int)
      # Styling
      styled_prop_vals = prop_values_summary.style.set_caption("Table 1: Move-In and_

→Minority Move-In by Zip Code")
      # Apply table styles
      styled_prop_vals = styled_prop_vals.set_table_attributes('style="width: 50%;_
       →margin: auto;"')
      # Apply formatting
      prop_values_summary['Minority Move-Ins (Initial Period)'] = __
       →prop_values_summary['Minority Move-Ins (Initial Period)'].astype(int)
      prop_values_summary['Minority Move-Ins (Treatment Period)'] = 
       →prop_values_summary['Minority Move-Ins (Treatment Period)'].astype(int)
      prop_values_summary['Total Move-Ins (Initial Period)'] =___
       →prop_values_summary['Total Move-Ins (Initial Period)'].astype(int)
      prop_values_summary['Total Move-Ins (Treatment Period)'] = []
       →prop_values_summary['Total Move-Ins (Treatment Period)'].astype(int)
       # Caption formatting
      styled_prop_vals = styled_prop_vals.set_table_styles([{
           'selector': 'caption',
           'props': [
               ('caption-side', 'top'),
               ('font-size', '20px'),
               ('font-style', 'italic'),
               ('text-align', 'center'),
```

```
('color', '#222')
]
}])

latex_code = prop_values_summary.to_latex(
    caption="Table 2: Summary Statistics of Home Value Changes by Year",
    label="tab:summary_stats",
    float_format="%.10f",
    bold_rows=True
)
print(latex_code)
```

Table 1: Summary Statistics for Minority Move-ins

	MMI (I)	MMI (T)	MI (I)	MI (T)
Count	33503	33503	33503	33503
Mean	0	5	12	62
Standard Deviation	3	15	37	148
Minimum	0	0	0	0
25th Percentile	0	0	0	0
Median	0	0	0	0
75th Percentile	0	2	2	46
Maximum	91	423	641	1961
Range	91	423	641	1961

Where $\overline{MMI} = \overline{Minority Move-Ins}$, $\overline{MI} = \overline{Move-Ins}$, $\overline{(I)}$ is the initial period, and $\overline{(T)}$ is the treatment period

This table shows one of the difficulties of the project, many majority-white zip codes inside of metropolitan areas either do not have many or have no minority-move ins (or any move-ins). As you can see, in the initial period, the 75th percentile zip code had zero move-ins. For all following tables and graphs, we are only looking at zip codes that had move-ins during both periods. This could lead to bias, but it aligns with the research question, so it should not meaningfully change our conclusion.

```
# Rename columns for better readability
summary_df = summary_df.rename(columns=renamed_cols)
# Rename index for better readability
summary_df.index.names = ['Statistic']
# Adjust rounding for better readability
# Ensure 'Count' is integer
summary_df.loc['count'] = summary_df.loc['count'].astype(int)
summary_df = summary_df.T
# Styling
# Ensure 'count' is integer
summary_df['count'] = summary_df['count'].astype(int)
# Display the table
latex_code = summary_df.to_latex(
    caption="Table 2: Summary Statistics of Home Value Changes by Year",
    label="tab:summary_stats",
    float_format="%.10f",
    bold rows=True
print(latex_code)
```

Table 2: Summary Statistics of Average Home Value Change (%) by Year

Year	count	mean	std	\min	25%	50%	75%	max
2011	11376	0.002	0.037	-0.296	-0.015	0.004	0.021	0.275
$\boldsymbol{2012}$	11376	0.002	0.059	-0.413	-0.026	0.004	0.033	0.374
2013	11376	-0.000	0.078	-0.497	-0.038	0.000	0.039	0.630
$\boldsymbol{2014}$	11376	-0.000	0.096	-0.618	-0.048	-0.002	0.044	0.824
$\boldsymbol{2015}$	11376	-0.000	0.119	-0.658	-0.060	-0.005	0.051	1.129
2016	11376	-0.001	0.144	-0.740	-0.073	-0.009	0.055	1.475
2017	11376	-0.001	0.172	-0.833	-0.087	-0.012	0.061	1.777
2018	11376	-0.001	0.209	-0.929	-0.102	-0.017	0.070	2.320
2019	11376	0.000	0.231	-1.006	-0.113	-0.020	0.078	2.733

It should not be surprising that the median and mean are nearly zero for all years. Recall that we are normalizing home-value change to the metropolitan area's home-value change. It should also be unsurprising that the ranges increase over time. The difference between a neighborhood and metro area will be more obvious over time. This table has significantly fewer observations than the table above, due to the unpredictable availability of the Zillow data. The move-in data is not significantly different between the zip codes with Zillow data and the zip codes without, so we will drop the zip codes without Zillow data.

```
[21]: # Create summary statistics for income-related columns income_summary = data_table[['med_hh_inc', 'per_cap_inc', 'gini_index']]. 
→describe()
```

```
# Rename columns for better readability
income_summary.columns = ['Median Household Income', 'Per Capita Income', 'Gini_
→Index'
# Format numbers to be more readable
income_summary['Median Household Income'] = income_summary['Median Household⊔
→Income'].round(2)
income_summary['Per Capita Income'] = income_summary['Per Capita Income'].
\rightarrowround(2)
income_summary['Gini Index'] = income_summary['Gini Index'].round(4)
# Display the table with styling
styled_table = income_summary.style.set_caption("Table 3: Income Statistics by_
→Zip Code")
# Apply table styles
styled_table = styled_table.set_table_attributes('style="width: 50%; margin:
→auto;"')
# Display the table
display(styled_table)
```

Table 3: Summary Statistics for Income

	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Gini Index		
Count	30562	32208	32208		
Mean	73170	39472	0.414700		
Standard Deviation	31347	18844	0.081300		
Minimum	2499	421	0.001000		
25th Percentile	53500	28762	0.376500		
Median	67028	35573	0.418200		
75th Percentile	85316	44910	0.460100		
Maximum	250001	419459	1.000000		

Income is widely ranging, as is Gini Index. Most outliers are in small zip codes that are not relevant to our analysis. It is not surprising that the average values for median household income and per capita income are slightly lower than nationwide average. Both variables are skewed heavily right, affecting the nationwide statistics.

```
[22]: # Update the variable names based on your data demographic_summary = data_table[['total_pop', 'white', 'pct_rep']].describe(). →round(2)

# Create summary statistics for demographic-related columns
```

```
demographic_summary.columns = ['Total Population', 'White Population', 'Pctu
→Republican'
demographic_summary.index = ['Count', 'Mean', 'Standard Deviation', 'Minimum', __
→ '25th Percentile', 'Median', '75th Percentile', 'Maximum']
demographic_summary.loc['Range'] = demographic_summary.loc['Maximum'] -__
demographic_summary.loc['Count'] = demographic_summary.loc['Count'].astype(int)
# Styling
styled_demographics = demographic_summary.style.set_caption("Table 4:__
→Demographic Statistics by Zip Code")
# Apply table styles
styled_demographics = styled_demographics.set_table_attributes('style="width:u
→70%; margin: auto;"')
# Apply formatting
demographic_summary['Total Population'] = demographic_summary['Total_
→Population'].astype(int)
demographic_summary['White Population'] = demographic_summary['White_
→Population'].astype(int)
demographic_summary['Pct Republican'] = demographic_summary['Pct Republican'].
→astype(int)
# Caption formatting
styled_demographics = styled_demographics.set_table_styles([{
    'selector': 'caption',
    'props': [
        ('caption-side', 'top'),
        ('font-size', '20px'),
        ('font-style', 'italic'),
        ('text-align', 'center'),
        ('color', '#222')
   ]
}])
display(styled_demographics)
```

<pandas.io.formats.style.Styler at 0x22b000f1f30>

Table 4: Summary Statistics for Demographics and Political affiliation

	% White	% Republican
Count	32208	13016
Mean	0.765480	0.204297
Standard Deviation	0.226515	0.069101
Minimum	0.000762	0.018569
25th Percentile	0.669562	0.156796
Median	0.859255	0.206333
75th Percentile	0.931172	0.250789
Maximum	1.000000	0.423777
Range	0.999238	0.405208

The median zip code is quite white (this is because zip codes are distributed for geographic ease of the USPS, so there are many rural zip codes).

1.4 Plots & Figures

1.4.1 Histogram of X and Y

```
[23]: fig, axs = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(20, 12))
      sns.set_style("whitegrid")
      sns.histplot(data_table['value_diff_2019'], bins=30, kde=True, ax=axs[0])
      axs[0].set_xlabel('Home Value Appreciation Difference from MSA (2019)', __
       →fontsize=16)
      axs[0].set_ylabel('Frequency', fontsize=16)
      axs[0].set_title('Histogram of Home Value Appreciation Difference (2019)', ...
       →fontsize=18)
      axs[0].set_xlim(-1, 1)
      axs[0].grid(True, linestyle="--", alpha=0.6)
      sns.histplot(data_table['early_late_ratio'], bins=30, kde=True, ax=axs[1])
      axs[1].set_xlabel('Difference in Minority Move-In Share', fontsize=16)
      axs[1].set_ylabel('Frequency', fontsize=16)
      axs[1].set_xlim(-1, 1)
      axs[1].set_title('Histogram of Difference in Minority Move-In Share', __
      →fontsize=18)
      axs[1].grid(True, linestyle="--", alpha=0.6)
      fig.suptitle('Figure 1: Distribution of Home Value Appreciation Difference from ∪
       →MSA and Difference in Minority Move-In Share', fontsize=20)
      plt.tight_layout()
      plt.subplots_adjust(top=0.93)
      plt.show()
```

```
project_files/project_47_0.png
```

The long x-axis on both of these plots is not a mistake. As shown in the summary tables above, the data has an incredibly large range. This plot shows how incredibly wide the range is in home value appreciation and minority move-in share (and how incredibly concentrated the difference in minority move-in share is around zero). This figure shows how large the distribution is. In the next few plots we will attempt to answer my research question and see to what extent the distribution on the left can be explained by the distribution on the right.

1.4.2 Time Series of Y With Discrete X

```
[24]: plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))
     # Categorize early_late_ratio into high and low
     data_table['early_late_category'] = pd.cut(data_table['early_late_ratio'],__
      ⇒bins=[-float('inf'), 0.00, float('inf')], labels=['lower', 'higher'])
     # Melt the dataframe for easier plotting
     melted_data = data_table.melt(id_vars=['early_late_category'], value_vars=[col_u

→for col in data_table.columns if col.startswith('value_diff_')],

      →var_name='year', value_name='value_diff')
      # Extract numeric year
     melted_data['year'] = melted_data['year'].str.extract('(\d+)').astype(int)
      # Compute average value difference per category and year
     →observed=False)['value_diff'].mean().reset_index()
     # Define colors
     colors = {"lower": "#1f77b4", "higher": "#ff7f0e"} # Blue for low, Orange for
     linestyles = {"lower": "solid", "higher": "dashed"} # Solid & dashed lines
     # Plot each category with distinct styling
     for category, data in avg_value_change.groupby('early_late_category', __
      →observed=False):
         plt.plot(data['year'], data['value_diff'], label=f'{category.capitalize()}__
      →Minority Move-In Share', color=colors[category],
      →linestyle=linestyles[category], marker='o')
      # Add shaded area for high minority move-in period
     plt.axvspan(2012, 2013, color='gray', alpha=0.2, label='High Minority Move-in_
      →Period')
```

```
project_files/project_50_1.png
```

This figure shows the difference in outcome between the treatment group (higher minority move-in share) and control group (lower / same minority move-in share). It seems to indicate that the treatment group already has lower values before the treatment period. During the treatment period, the values fall even more. After the treatment period, values stay similarly low, and then start to increase again after 2016. In contrast, the control group has increasing values for roughly the entire period. This seems to indicate that neighborhoods with a higher minority move-in share have depressed home value appreciation relative to groups without.

1.4.3 Scatterplot of Main X and Y

```
[25]: # Filter data
filtered_data = data_table[data_table['total_pop'].abs() > 100]

# Define color palette
colors = sns.color_palette("husl", 4) # Distinct colors for better visibility

# Create subplots
fig, axs = plt.subplots(2, 2, figsize=(15, 10), sharex=True, sharey=True)

years = [2016, 2017, 2018, 2019]
for i, year in enumerate(years):
    ax = axs[i // 2, i % 2]
```

```
# Scatter plot with improved aesthetics
   ax.scatter(
       filtered_data['early_late_ratio'],
       filtered_data[f'value_diff_{year}'],
       alpha=0.6, color=colors[i], edgecolor='black'
   ax.set_xscale('symlog')
    # Titles and labels
   ax.set_title(f'Difference in Minority Move-In Share vs Change in Home Value,
 ax.set_xlabel('Difference in Minority Move-In Share (log scale)', ___
 →fontsize=12)
   ax.set_ylabel(f'Home Value Appreciation Relative to MSA ({year})', __
 →fontsize=12)
   ax.xaxis.set_major_formatter(plt.FuncFormatter(lambda x, _: f'{x:.2f}'))
    # Grid styling
   ax.grid(True, linestyle="--", alpha=0.5)
# Improve layout
fig.suptitle('Figure 3: Home Value Appreciation and Change in Minority Move-In_{\sqcup}
→Share by Year', fontsize=16, fontweight='bold')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

```
project_files/project_53_0.png
```

This figure shows something very important not shown in Figure 2, which is how wide the variation is. I chose a log scale to show more detail (as you can see, there are a few far outliers, with most of the data clustered near zero). From these scatterplots, it is very hard to conclude that there is any association between an increase in minority move-in share and the home appreciation relative to the MSA. The variation noticably increasees with time.

1.4.4 Box Plot With Discrete X

```
melted_data = data_table.melt(id_vars=['early_late_category'], value_vars=[col_u
→for col in data_table.columns if col.startswith('value_diff_')],
→var_name='year', value_name='value_diff')
# Extract numeric year
melted_data['year'] = melted_data['year'].str.extract('(\d+)').astype(int)
# Compute average value difference per category and year
avg_value_change = melted_data.groupby(['early_late_category', 'year'],_
→observed=False)['value_diff'].mean().reset_index()
sns.set_style("whitegrid")
# Create figure
plt.figure(figsize=(14, 10))
sns.boxplot(x='year', y='value_diff', hue='early_late_category',_
⇒data=melted_data, palette={"Lower Minority Move-In Share": "#1f77b4", "Higher
→Minority Move-In Share": "#ff7f0e"})
# Add labels and title
plt.xlabel('Year', fontsize=14)
plt.ylabel('Home Value Appreciation, Difference from MSA', fontsize=14)
plt.title('Figure 4: Home Value Differences by Year and Treatment Group', u

→fontsize=16, fontweight='bold')
plt.legend(title='Legend', fontsize=12)
# Rotate x-axis labels for better readability
plt.xticks(rotation=45)
plt.grid(True, linestyle="--", alpha=0.5)
# Show plot
plt.show()
```

project_files/project_56_1.png

This figure shows the extent of the increase in variation across the time period, and that there is a slight decrease in the median for the higher minority move-in share group. Again, there is an increidbly high degree of variation in home values relative to the metropolitan area, much of which cannot be explained by the change in minority move-in share. This answers my research question with "yes, a high minority share does reduce the average, but the variation is high enough that we can't conclude anything".

2 Project 2

2.1 The Message

My message is that I am unable to draw conclusions from the data about the effect of minority move-ins on home-value appreciation. It is summed up best with the following scatterplot, which demonstrates the lack of clear relationship

```
[27]: # Filter data
      filtered_data = data_table[data_table['total_pop'].abs() > 100]
      # Define color palette
      colors = sns.color_palette("husl", 4) # Distinct colors for better visibility
      # Create subplot for 2019 only
      fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 6))
      # Scatter plot with improved aesthetics for 2019
      ax.scatter(
          filtered_data['early_late_ratio'],
          filtered_data['value_diff_2019'],
          alpha=0.6, color=colors[0], edgecolor='black'
      ax.set_xscale('symlog')
      # Titles and labels
      ax.set_title('Difference in Minority Move-In Share vs Change in Home Value_
      ⇒(2019)', fontsize=14, fontweight='bold')
      ax.set_xlabel('Difference in Minority Move-In Share (log scale)', fontsize=12)
      ax.set_ylabel('Home Value Appreciation Relative to MSA (2019)', fontsize=12)
      ax.xaxis.set_major_formatter(plt.FuncFormatter(lambda x, _: f'{x:.2f}'))
      # Grid styling
      ax.grid(True, linestyle="--", alpha=0.5)
      # Improve layout
      plt.tight_layout()
      plt.show()
```

```
project_files/project_61_0.png
```

2.2 Maps

```
[28]: import geopandas as gpd
[29]: zips = gpd.read_file('shapefiles/zips/US_zcta_2010.shp')
      data_table['zip'] = data_table['zip'].astype(int)
      zips['GEOID10'] = zips['GEOID10'].astype(int)
      zips = zips.merge(data_table, left_on='GEOID10', right_on='zip')
[30]: fig, (gax1, gax2) = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(22, 10), constrained_layout=True)
      cmap1 = "magma_r"
      plot1 = zips.plot(
          ax=gax1, edgecolor='black', linewidth=0.2, cmap=cmap1, legend=True,
          column='early_late_ratio',
          legend_kwds={'label': 'Change in Minority Move-In Share'}
      gax1.set_title('Change in Minority Move-In Share', fontsize=16,__

→fontweight='bold', pad=15)
      gax1.axis('off')
      gax1.set_aspect('equal') # Force equal aspect ratio
      cmap2 = "cividis"
      plot2 = zips.plot(
          ax=gax2, edgecolor='black', linewidth=0.2, cmap=cmap2, legend=True,
          column='value_diff_2019',
          legend_kwds={'label': 'Home Value Appreciation Difference (2019)'}
      gax2.set_title('Home Value Appreciation Difference (2019)', fontsize=16, __
      →fontweight='bold', pad=15)
      gax2.axis('off')
      gax2.set_aspect('equal') # Force equal aspect ratio
      fig.suptitle("Minority Move-Ins & Home Value Changes (Nationwide)",
                   fontsize=20, fontweight='bold', y=1.05)
      # Adjust plot spacing
      fig.subplots_adjust(wspace=0.3)
      plt.show()
```

```
project_files/project_65_1.png
```

As you can see, this map alone is not very useful, as we are mostly looking at fine effects on a neighborhood level, meaning nationwide data is too broad. In the map below, we zoom in to only look at the Boston MSA.

```
[31]: fig, (gax1, gax2) = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(22, 10), constrained_layout=True)
      cmap1 = "magma_r"
      plot1 = zips.query("msa_code == 14460.0").plot(
          ax=gax1, edgecolor='black', linewidth=0.2, cmap=cmap1, legend=True,
          column='early_late_ratio',
          legend_kwds={'label': 'Change in Minority Move-In Share'}
      gax1.set_title('Change in Minority Move-In Share', fontsize=16,__

→fontweight='bold', pad=15)
      gax1.axis('off')
      gax1.set_aspect('equal') # Force equal aspect ratio
      cmap2 = "cividis"
      plot2 = zips.query("msa_code == 14460.0").plot(
          ax=gax2, edgecolor='black', linewidth=0.2, cmap=cmap2, legend=True,
          column='value_diff_2019',
          legend_kwds={'label': 'Home Value Appreciation Difference (2019)'}
      gax2.set_title('Home Value Appreciation Difference (2019)', fontsize=16, ...
       →fontweight='bold', pad=15)
      gax2.axis('off')
      gax2.set_aspect('equal') # Force equal aspect ratio
      fig.suptitle("Minority Move-Ins & Home Value Changes (Boston Metro)",
                   fontsize=20, fontweight='bold', y=1.05)
      # Adjust plot spacing
      fig.subplots_adjust(wspace=0.3)
      plt.show()
```

```
project_files/project_67_1.png
```

These maps demonstrate no clear spatial relationship between the change in minority move-in share and home value appreciation. They also show the gaps in minority-move in data in downtowns

(very few single family homes to purchase), and the gaps in home value and minority move-in data throughout the rest of the sample. Overall, these maps don't support any conclusion, positive or negative, to my research question.

```
[33]: # Normalize function
     def normalize(series):
         return (series - series.min()) / (series.max() - series.min())
     msa\_code = 14460.0
     df = zips.query("msa_code == @msa_code").copy()
     # Normalize variables
     df['norm_movein'] = normalize(df['early_late_ratio'])
     df['norm_value'] = normalize(df['value_diff_2019'])
     # Create colormap
     cmap = plt.get_cmap("viridis")
     colors = cmap(df['norm_movein'] * 0.5 + df['norm_value'] * 0.5)
     fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 10))
     df.plot(ax=ax, color=colors, edgecolor='black', linewidth=0.2)
     # Title and layout
     ax.set_title("Minority Move-Ins & Home Value Changes (Boston Metro)",
                  fontsize=16, fontweight='bold', pad=15)
     ax.axis('off')
     # Legend
     from matplotlib.patches import Patch
     legend_elements = [
         Patch(facecolor=cmap(0.2), edgecolor='black', label="Low Move-In, Low_
      →Appreciation"),
         Patch(facecolor=cmap(0.4), edgecolor='black', label="Low Move-In, High_
      →Appreciation"),
         →Appreciation"),
         Patch(facecolor=cmap(0.8), edgecolor='black', label="High Move-In, High⊔
      →Appreciation"),
     ax.legend(handles=legend_elements, title="Bivariate Color Scale", loc="upper_
      plt.show()
```

```
project_files/project_71_0.png
```

This bivariate chloropleth reinforces the fact that there is little clear correlation between the change in minority move-in share and home-value appreciation. While many zip codes (ZCTAs) are colored a shade of teal (consistent with an inverse relationship), there are many colored green or dark blue, which would be consistent with a direct relationship.

2.3 Regressions

For Residual Std. Error and F Statistics, view Appendix B on the last page.

```
[34]: import statsmodels.api as sm
from statsmodels.iolib.summary2 import summary_col
from stargazer.stargazer import Stargazer
from IPython.core.display import HTML
```

2.3.1 Baseline models

```
[35]: reg_data = data_table.dropna(subset=['early_late_ratio', 'value_diff_2019',__
      reg_data['white_x_early_late_ratio'] = reg_data['white'] *__
      →reg_data['early_late_ratio']
     reg_data['intercept'] = 1
     XO = reg_data[['intercept', 'early_late_ratio']] # Barebones regression
     X1 = reg_data[['intercept', 'early_late_ratio', 'msa_avg_value_ratio_2019']] #__
      \rightarrow Baseline regression
     X2 = reg_data[['intercept', 'early_late_ratio', 'msa_avg_value_ratio_2019',
      →'total_pop', 'white']] # Previous racial demos
     X3 = reg_data[['intercept', 'early_late_ratio', 'msa_avg_value_ratio_2019',_
      X3 = reg_data[['intercept', 'early_late_ratio', 'msa_avg_value_ratio_2019', |
      ⇔'white_x_early_late_ratio']]
     y = reg_data['value_ratio_2017']
     model0 = sm.OLS(y, X0).fit()
     model1 = sm.OLS(y, X1).fit()
     model2 = sm.OLS(y, X2).fit()
     model3 = sm.OLS(y, X3).fit()
```

```
[36]: stargazer = Stargazer([model0, model1, model2, model3])
stargazer.custom_columns(["Change in Average Home Value (%) (2010-2017)"],[4])
HTML(stargazer.render_html())
```

[36]:

	Dep	endent var	riable: value	_ ratio_ 2017
	Change i	n Average	Home Value	e (%) (2010-2017)
	(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)
early late ratio	0.096***	0.046**	0.034*	0.051**
	(0.035)	(0.020)	(0.019)	(0.025)
intercept	1.336***	0.133***	0.170***	0.133***
-	(0.003)	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)
msa avg value ratio 2019	,	0.806***	0.773***	0.806***
<u> </u>		(0.007)	(0.006)	(0.007)
total pop		, ,	0.000***	,
1 1			(0.000)	
white			-0.000***	
			(0.000)	
white×early late ratio			` ′	-0.000
				(0.000)
Observations	7732	7732	7732	7732
R^2	0.001	0.664	0.688	0.664
Adjusted R^2	0.001	0.664	0.687	0.664
Note:		-	*p<0.1; **p	o<0.05; ***p<0.01

Model (0) shows a barebones regression with no controls – it indicates that there is a slight positive relationship between the change in minority move-ins and home value appreciation, but it's practically useless as it has very low explanatory power. Model (1) shows a baseline model controlling only for MSA appreciation – it indicates an even more slight positive relationship, but has much higher explanatory power. Model (2) indicates a similarly low positive relationship, and shows that there is little-to-no confounding occurring due to population size or whiteness of the area. Model (3) analyzes the interaction between zip-code whiteness and the change from the increase in minority move-in share and finds that there is no clear interaction.

2.3.2 Neighborhood income characteristics

```
[41]: reg_data = data_table.dropna(subset=['early_late_ratio', 'value_diff_2019', \upsilon 'msa_avg_value_ratio_2019', 'per_cap_inc', 'gini_index'])
reg_data['gini_x_early_late'] = reg_data['gini_index'] *\upsilon \upsilon reg_data['early_late_ratio']
reg_data['intercept'] = 1
X4 = reg_data[['intercept', 'early_late_ratio', 'per_cap_inc', \upsilon \upsilon 'msa_avg_value_ratio_2019']]
X5 = reg_data[['intercept', 'early_late_ratio', 'gini_index', \upsilon \upsilon 'msa_avg_value_ratio_2019']]
```

```
[38]: stargazer = Stargazer([model4, model5, model6])
stargazer.custom_columns(["Home Value Change (%) (2010-2017)"],[3])
HTML(stargazer.render_html())
# print(stargazer.render_latex()) #if you use Latex (Overleaf.com)
```

[38]:

	Dependent	t variable: va	lue ratio 2017
	Home Val	ue Change (%	%) (2010-2017)
	(4)	(5)	(6)
MMI-share increase (treatment)	0.042**	0.045**	-0.005
	(0.020)	(0.020)	(0.173)
Gini index		0.041	0.039
		(0.038)	(0.038)
Gini×MMI-share change			0.113
			(0.384)
intercept	0.195***	0.116***	0.117***
	(0.011)	(0.018)	(0.019)
MSA avg appreciation	0.815***	0.806***	0.806***
	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.007)
Income (per capita)	-0.000***		
	(0.000)		
Observations	7730	7730	7730
R^2	0.674	0.664	0.664
Adjusted R^2	0.674	0.664	0.664
Note:	*	p<0.1; **p<0	0.05; ***p<0.01

2.3.3 Political affiliation

(4) attempts to control for income, but it does not seem that income has an economicially significant effect. (5) and (6) use the fact that those in neighborhoods with a lower gini index would likely have preferences leading to a higher tolerance of neighborhood diversity. The literature would suggest this would lead to a smaller change in home values after a change in MMI share, but the interaction term in (6) does not reach significance.

```
[39]: reg_data = data_table.dropna(subset=['early_late_ratio', 'value_diff_2019', 

\[ \to 'msa_avg_value_ratio_2019', 'pct_rep'])
\[ reg_data['rep_x_early_late'] = reg_data['pct_rep'] * reg_data['early_late_ratio'] \]
```

```
[40]: stargazer = Stargazer([model7, model8])
stargazer.custom_columns(["Home Value Change (%) (2010-2017)"],[2])
HTML(stargazer.render_html())
# print(stargazer.render_latex()) #if you use Latex (Overleaf.com)
```

[40]:

	$_Depende$	nt variable: value ratio 2017
	Home Value Change (%) (2010-2017	
	(7)	(8)
MMI-share increase	0.036*	-0.023
	(0.020)	(0.053)
intercept	0.236***	0.237^{***}
-	(0.013)	(0.013)
MSA average appreciation	0.787***	0.787***
J 11	(0.007)	(0.007)
Percent republican	-0.388***	-0.391***
-	(0.030)	(0.031)
Republican× Change in MMI share	, ,	$0.389^{'}$
		(0.326)
Observations	7719	7719
R^2	0.670	0.670
Adjusted R^2	0.670	0.670
Note:		*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

(7) indicates that republican geographies experienced decreased home-value appreciation over the time period, which means that controlling for republicanness is likely valuable. (8) attempts to introduce an interaction term between republicanness and change in move-ins (the economic rationale being republican geographies may have different preferences), but the term does not produce significance.

2.3.4 Preferred specification

When evaluating regressions, I am looking for significant terms. An ideal regression would have clear conclusions with significant terms and a (reasonably) high R^2 .

Many regression specifications above introduce control variables that end up having low significance, and many (surprisingly, at times) appear to have no clear impact on the outcome variable. As a

result, the regression that I find tells the best story is the baseline regression with political affiliation (7):

```
Home value appreciation = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (Increase in minority move-in share)
+ \beta_2 (Home value appreciation of MSA)
+ \beta_3 (Percent republican)
```

This model indicates that there is a very small positive, slightly significant effect from an increased minority move-in share on home-value appreciation. This is a surprising result, but given that it is small, it seems to indicate there is little-to-no effect of change in minority move-in share on home-value appreciation.

2.4 Conclusion

In this paper, I analyze the link between an increase in the share of minority move-ins and home values on a neighborhood level. I construct a table of zip codes that includes, from federal loan underwriting data, the share of minority move-ins in the initial period, and the share of minority move-ins in the treatment period. The table also includes Zillow data showing the change in home values. I normalize this change in home values to the MSA the zip code is in, and the initial home values.

My findings indicate that there is slight, if any association between my an increase in minority move-ins and home values, at least on a zip-code level. Regressions indicate that there is a slight, if any, increase in home-values due to an increase in minority move-ins. I am unable, with this level of data and analysis, to conclude the extent to which an increase in minority move-ins can explain any future change in home values (while controlling for MSA and political affiliation). There is little-to-no increased clarity when controlling for regional political affiliation, neighborhood income, or neighborhood income inequality.

2.5 References

Appel, I., & Nickerson, J. (2016). Pockets of Poverty: The Long-Term Effects of Redlining. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/Delivery.cfm?abstractid=2852856

Arrow, K. (1971). The Theory of Discrimination. https://dataspace.princeton.edu/handle/88435/dsp014t64gn18f

Avetian, V. (2022). Consider the Slavs: Overt Discrimination and Racial Disparities in Rental Housing. https://www.tse-fr.eu/sites/default/files/TSE/documents/conf/2022/echoppe/avetian.pdf

Badarinza, C., Balasubramaniam, V., & Ramadorai, T. (2024). In Search of the Matching Function in the Housing Market (SSRN Scholarly Paper No. 4594519). https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4594519

Becker, G. S. (1971). The Economics of Discrimination. University of Chicago Press.

Combes, P.-P., Decreuse, B., Laouénan, M., & Trannoy, A. (2016). Customer Discrimination and Employment Outcomes: Theory and Evidence From the French Labor Market. *Journal of Labor Economics*, 34(1), 107–160. https://doi.org/10.1086/682332

Korver-Glenn, E. (2018). Compounding inequalities: How racial stereotypes and discrimination accumulate across the stages of housing exchange. American Sociological Review, 83(4), 627–656. https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122418781774 Manson, S., Schroeder, J., Van Riper, D., Knowles, K., Kugler, T., Roberts, F., & Ruggles, S. (2024). National historical geographic information system: Version 19. 0 [Dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS. https://doi.org/10.18128/D050.V19.0

Quillian, L., Lee, J. J., & Honoré, B. (2020). Racial discrimination in the u. S. Housing and mortgage lending markets: A quantitative review of trends, 1976–2016. Race and Social Problems, 12(1), 13–28. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12552-019-09276-x

Rothstein, R. (2017). The Color of law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America (First edition). Liveright Publishing Corporation, a division of W. W. Norton & Company.

Sood, A., Erhman-Solberg, K. (2024). The Long Shadow of Housing Discrimination: Evidence from Racial Covenants https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uLSaQxWiSHKMuckF2gFpATywQD2J7No5/

A Feedback Incorporation

- Improved data description in intro (no longer hyperlinked, full names written)
- Added further explanation for choices of variables
- Removed some redundant code explanation
- Added summary statistics for more variables
- Cleaned & imporved tables
- Improved readability and labeling of all plots
- Added more justification for graph scale
- Improved language use throughout project
- I didn't modify my analysis of Figure 4 because I don't think it's fair to say the graph supports my hypothesis. The point of that graph is to show how large the variation in home value appreciation is, especially compared to the small change from minority move-ins.

B More regression output

Output from regressions

	-	
Model	Residual Std. Error	F Statistic
0	$0.302 \; (df=7730)$	$7.625^{***} (df=1; 7730)$
1	$0.175 \; (df = 7729)$	$7624.770^{***} (df=2; 7729)$
2	$0.169~(\mathrm{df}{=}7727)$	$4251.759^{***} (df=4; 7727)$
3	$0.175~(\mathrm{df}{=}7728)$	$5082.677^{***} (df=3; 7728)$
4	$0.172 \; (df = 7726)$	$5327.427^{***} (df=3; 7726)$
5	$0.175~(\mathrm{df}{=}7726)$	$5082.877^{***} (df=3; 7726)$
6	$0.175~(\mathrm{df}{=}7725)$	3811.728*** (df=4; 7725)
7	$0.173 \; (df = 7715)$	$5230.789^{***} (df=3; 7715)$
8	0.173 (df=7714)	3923.663^{***} (df=4; 7714)