The City: Space and Urban Structure

* Made up of distinctive zones
* Which result from processes of congregation (pull together) and segregation (push apart)
* Driven by variety of social, economic and historic forces
* Ex: the zone in transition (about to be demolished)
* Centra Business District (CBD) is the downtown area, usually made up of skyscrapers
* Other zones become areas of major urban renewal, or rejuvenation
* Gentrification: how inner zones get rejuvenated
  + Ex: old houses get repainted, as an affordable alternative to rebuilding
* There are three models: explain patterns on a typical city zone
  + Park and Burgess (ecological) model
  + Hoyt model
  + Multiple nuclei model
* Park and Burgess model (Chicago): Accessibility, Big-Rent, Urban structure:
  + Expensive retail stores pay more to be downtown than in residential areas on the edge
  + Bid rent curves
  + High-volume retailing, factories, warehousing, residential (utility from center to outside)
  + Hoyt: thought it was all too simple
* Hoy Model:
  + Corridors and Sectors model
  + Pay more attention to routes (Access to the city)
  + Pattern: people will pay more to be on a transport route, even if they are further from the city center
* Multiple Nuclei Model of Urban Land Use (Harris and Ullman model):
  + Not shaped like a circle, but city is divided in chunks
* Criticism of the three models:
  + Not all cities across the world are the same
    - History and economic backgrounds are different across the world
    - Cities not run-on capitalist economy would have a different market in land
    - Vienna: changed structure often
  + Even in US and Canadian cities are different
    - Until the publication of Goldberg and Mercer’s The Myth of the North American City (1986), little attention was paid to these differences. Canadian cities are:
      * More compact size
      * Higher density population
      * Fewer inner-city zones of poverty
      * Have greater levels of public transit
      * Greater levels of public investment
      * More dispersed immigrant population
      * More powerful and less fragmented governments
  + Only look at economic space (gendered space? ethnic neighborhoods?)
    - City can be gendered (New England vernacular house)
    - Big house, little house, back house, Barn (gendered)
    - Female occupied mostly the kitchen and the front of the house
    - Back of the house and Barn were considered male space
    - City can be explained the same way, in terms of old stereotypes:
      * Downtown: male space (economic reproduction, work, public life)
      * Suburbs: female space (social reproduction, domesticity, private life)
      * Gay Village
    - COVID: work from home, study at home, take urban facilities at home, taking public life into private space
    - Ethnic and immigrant space:
      * Little Italy
      * Chinatown
      * Parades and street festivals provide opportunities for many groups to celebrate important events (temporary or permanent use)
* How do these models think of homelessness? Are they visible or invisible?
  + Do homeless only exist in public space?
  + Hostile urban environments
  + Street lighting
  + No public toilets
  + COVID limitations
  + No cash to donate
* Senses in the City: An Alternate Approach to Urbanism
  + Use full range of senses, not just sight
  + Town planners, Ottawa 1949
  + Senses in the city:
    - Elite senses: sight, sound (so-called most privileged senses in society)
      * Sight: art gallery, the design of the city
      * Sound: the symphony orchestra
    - Ordinary senses: smell, touch, ability to sense temperature, taste (working folks)
    - Add time: curfew, division by time, night and day, silence?
    - Ability to sense heat or cold:
      * Montreal: temperature in winter, refusal to let it impact our lives
      * Urban heat island:
        + effect resulting from the absorption and radiation of thermal energy by buildings and roads
        + together with the heat generated by urban living
        + causes average city to be warmer than countryside
    - Ability to sense motion: wind?
      * Blood Street (Toronto, Ontario): high winds
      * How buildings are placed and how tall are they affect winds within area
    - Ability to hear noise:
      * Noise: engages our sense of sound, elite sense
      * We can map them in decibels
      * Noise as pollution: high sound intensities closer to downtown area
    - Ability to smell:
      * Ozone concentration in Vancouver
      * Cities can be mapped by smell; some areas smell different than others
    - Ability to taste:
      * Paris: mapped by taste (restaurants)
      * Alexandre Balthasar Laurent Grimrod de la Reyniere (Paris : 1803-1812)
        + Most famous eater in First-Empire France
      * Guidebooks contain restaurants and food sellers, as well as regional iconic foods