**Class Reflections for UP 494**

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Session Name: *Modes of Neighborhood Analysis*

Reflection Prompts:

* *What types of questions do you have about the structure and function of neighborhoods?*
* *What forms of analysis do you see as being useful to your own work?*
* *What types of analytic approaches do you see as being useful to your own work?*

Write-Up:

Neighborhoods are heterogeneous spatial entities whose boundaries within the city can often be blurred owing to interactions with different hierarchies of urban spaces. The structure of neighborhoods is difficult to aggregate within a few composite functions – it is through multiple questions about how the form of the neighborhood interacts with its function that we can understand its spatial manifestation. Owing to the background research I have done in terms of housing vulnerability of rental units during the Covid-19 pandemic, some of the broad questions regarding the structure and function of neighborhoods include –

1. Why do some neighborhoods have a particular preponderance of rent-based households, whereas others are predominantly owner-based?
2. What causes rent-burdened neighborhoods and are they spatially distinct? If they are, where are they located and why?
3. What makes a neighborhood particularly vulnerable to rent-based evictions and what does not?
4. How does the spatial pattern within a neighborhood affect the demand and supply of affordable housing ?
5. How is it modified(or can be modified) due to Covid-19?

Within the scope of the work described above, analysis can be both interpretive and spatio-statistical. Broader institutional frameworks and housing policies which locate or dislocate households in particular neighborhoods can be looked upon. For example, when analysing different neighborhoods at the city level, efforts can be made towards understanding the backdrop of redlining that disadvantages certain neighborhoods over the others. These frameworks of analysis require some analysis of policy and developmental history to begin with. Once the theoretical frameworks are analyzed (non-spatial data) and investigative questions polished to yield specifics, then data (spatial, aspatial and attribute) can be analyzed and visualized to yield measurements, bring valuable insights and identify problem areas within the project boundaries.

In this case, demographic analysis is particularly useful to the work discussed. For example, understanding how neighborhoods grew (natural growth, migration) can yield useful information about the economic forces shaping housing viability and affordability within the region. Demographic statistics can indicate gender, racial/ethnic, sexual orientation, disability compositions which represent populations struck hardest by the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, in a research conducted by the Eviction Lab at Princeton, single-female headed rent-burdened households are far more likely to be evicted vis-à-vis other households because of the general non—confrontational nature of women when faced with an eviction crisis. Therefore, links between the existing literature and present statistics need to be established and visualized to yield useful analytical perspectives on neighborhoods and their struggles during the pandemic.