

Geography 701 Epitome Paper:  
Coffee Shops and Street Stops; Laniyonu (2018)  
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*Coffee Shops and Street Stops* is the epitome of a geographic paper because it examines an explicitly spatial phenomenon through the theoretical perspective of the field in which it resides. In this paper, Ayobami Laniyonu is interested in the mechanics of gentrification, specifically the *post-industrial policing hypothesis*, which effectively states that municipalities pursue policies of policing that emphasize addressing the fear of crime, and the perception of social disorder or deviance, particularly in ways that are understood to disrupt the enjoyment or consumption of public space. The study of gentrification originates from a sociological perspective, and as such several sociological theories are evaluated. However, advanced geographical methodologies are employed beyond typical policy analysis techniques, specifically regionalization and spatial Dubin modeling. Importantly, the author examines these questions not only *spatially* but *temporally* as well.

In addition to contributions to the sociology sub-literature around explaining police activities, this paper makes explicit contributions to understanding the mechanics of gentrification. In particular, the author finds that gentrification can be understood as a process that occurs over time - the exodus of lower income, typically non-white population in favor of a 'creative class' population: whiter and richer. The author distinguishes neighborhoods that are eligible and ineligible for gentrification, and find specific patterns in the areas where gentrification occurs - specifically that policing increases in adjacent neighborhoods, rather than in the ones that gentrify, indicating a pattern of policing that pushes 'undesirable' populations away from the targeted area. In these areas, white populations skyrocketed (the modeling indicates, in aggregate, as much as 400%)

These modeling techniques are used to evaluate the underlying theoretical perspectives on what is driving post-industrial-policing, which come from sociology. The author tests rational-bureaucratic theory; simply that policing is driven by crime, by means of residential demand, as well as racial threat and economic threat theories; that policing is driven by the presence of lower economic strata and non-white racial/ethnic groups, which are perceived by the 'creative class' and municipalities to be the main perpetrators of crime. The modeling employed controls for direct, indirect, endogenous and exogenous effects, and ultimately finds support for each of the theoretical perspectives, particularly from indirect effects. The author briefly opines on what the findings might suggest about how policing occurs in relation to these effects, including such insights as:

*“...gentrification is associated with lower police stopping intensity in the changing tract and higher stopping intensity in nearby neighborhoods, suggesting that both increases and decreases in crime are possible, but occur in different spatial locations.”*

*“...notions of pleasurable enjoyment of urban space, and what one might call the “aesthetics” of policing for revitalized space. Gentrifying in-movers likely do not prefer to see heavy and frequent policing in their neighborhoods any more than they prefer to see signs of “disorder.”*

This paper is the epitome of a geographic paper because it offers specialized methodology to closely investigate the spatial and temporal variations of a phenomenon which evaluate the theoretical perspectives from the field in which the phenomenon is primarily studied. It does not hijack the inquiry and silo it off inside of geography, rather it augments and helps push forward the perspectives of sociologists.