

# Studying Social Inequality with Data Science

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## Reparations: Case study

A Southern California beach is  
returned to Black owners



Source:  
California African  
American Museum  
via NPR



Source: Manhattan Beach Historical Society via Easy Reader News



Source: Own photo



Source: Wikimedia



Source: County of Los Angeles

# Discussion

## React

- ▶ What surprised you?
- ▶ What resonated with you?
- ▶ What questions does this raise for you?

## Discussion

If you can inherit generational wealth, you can inherit generational debt. That's debt that Manhattan Beach owes to the Bruce family. It's debt that California and this nation owes to many more families like the Bruces.

— California State Senator Steve Bradford

Discuss

# Discussion

- ▶ What might Nozick say about this story?
- ▶ What might Rawls have to say about this story?

# Discussion

What role might research play in the debate about reparations?

Land dispossession happens elsewhere, too

Land dispossession happens elsewhere, too

Including at Cornell

Cornell's entanglements with Indigenous dispossession and the profits and benefits it has derived from stolen land fall into four categories, as shown in the legend. This includes lands sold for the benefit of Cornell through the Morrill Act of 1862, as well as lands currently owned or leased by the university. Please note that this map is incomplete, as it does not show the location of Cornell Cooperative Extension offices across NYS, or other parcels of Cornell-owned real estate and mineral rights outside NYS, as the central administration is unwilling to share this information with AIISP.

### Legend

- Land currently owned by Cornell
- ◆ Land currently leased by Cornell
- Land selected by Ezra Cornell through the Morrill Act and sold to form part of Cornell's endowment
- Land selected by external parties through the Morrill Act whose "scrip" Ezra Cornell sold to form part of Cornell's endowment

Note: parcels and real estate polygons are surrounded by a lightened oval of the same color to improve visibility.



AMERICAN INDIAN AND  
**INDIGENOUS**  
STUDIES PROGRAM  
PROJECT

Cornell University and Indigenous Dispossession Project

[blogs.cornell.edu/cornelluniversityindigenousdispossession/](http://blogs.cornell.edu/cornelluniversityindigenousdispossession/)

Supplemental

## Bruce's Beach

In 1912, Mr. George Peck, one of our community's co-founders, made it possible for the beach area below this site to be developed as Bruce's Beach, the only beach resort in Los Angeles County for all people. Charles and Willa Bruce were the African American entrepreneurs who settled here, thus the name Bruce's Beach. This two-block neighborhood was home to several minority families and was condemned through eminent domain proceedings commenced in 1924. Those tragic circumstances reflected the views of a different time.

The land was referred to as City Park and Beach Front Park and later named Bayview Terrace Park through a community contest in 1962.

The park was designated Parque Culiacan on March 16, 1974 at the time of a visit from representatives of our first sister city.