

Lecture 2

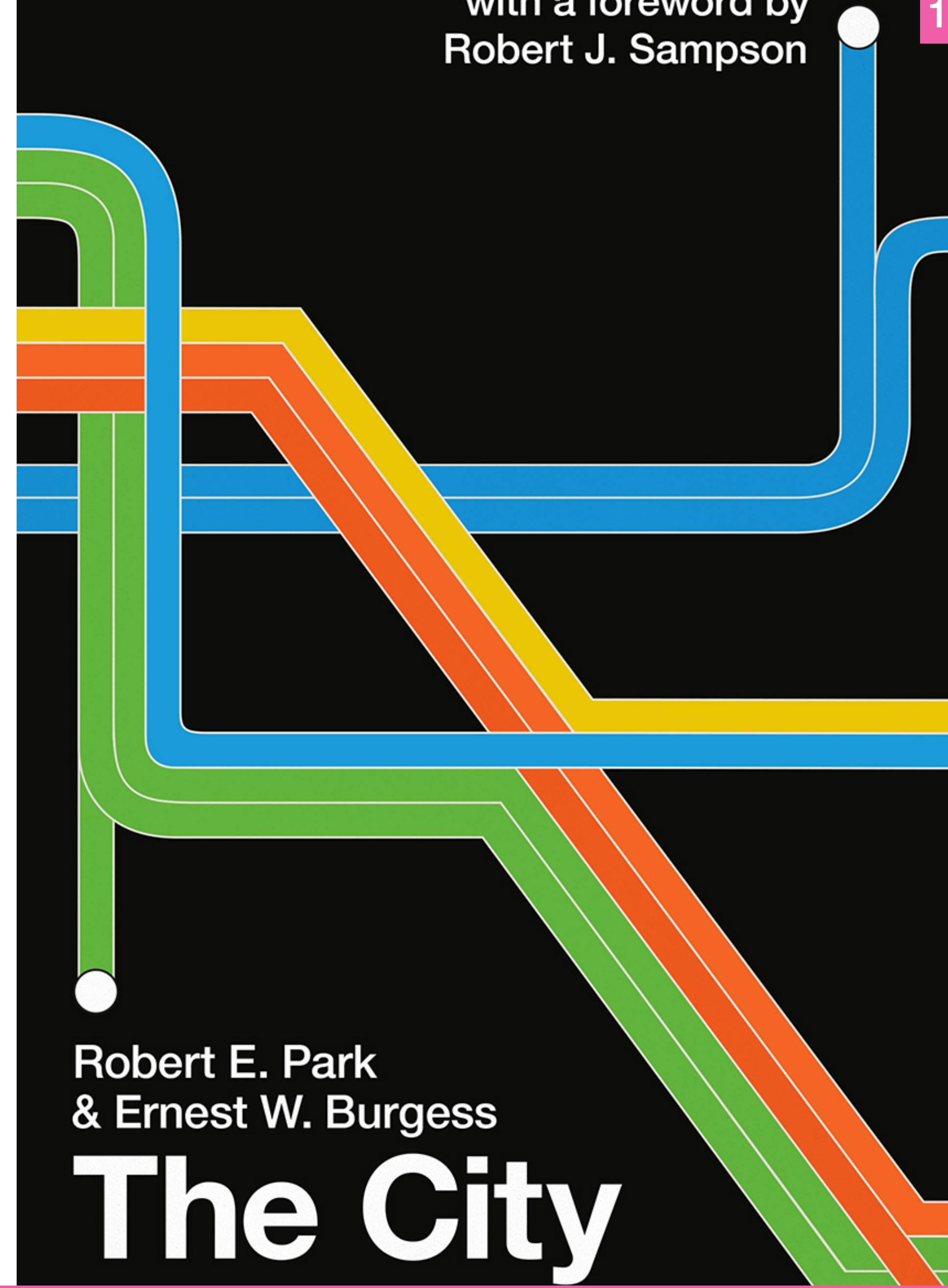
Early Concepts: Chicago School of Sociology and Classical Models of Economic Geography

2.2 “The City” and Urbanism as a Way of Life

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with a foreword by
Robert J. Sampson

1925



Robert E. Park
& Ernest W. Burgess

The City

Suggestions for Investigation of Human Behavior in the Urban Environment

CHAPTER I

THE CITY: SUGGESTIONS FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Robert E Park

Optional Reading

The city [...] is something more than a congeries of individuals and of social conveniences— streets, buildings, electric lights, tramways, and telephones, etc.;

Something more, also, than a mere constellation of institutions and administrative devices—courts, hospitals, schools, police, and civil functionaries of various sorts.

The city is, rather, a state of mind, a body of customs and traditions, and of the organized attitudes and sentiments that inherit in these customs and are transmitted with this tradition.

The city is not, in other words, merely a physical mechanism and an artificial construction. It is involved in the vital processes of the people who compose it;

It is a product of nature, and particularly of human nature.

The City sets a Research Agenda

please count them better

113(?) Questions:

First set of Questions [“some of the first things we want to know about a city”]:

- What are the sources of the city's population?
- What part of its population growth is normal, i.e., due to excess of births over deaths?
- What part is due to migration (a) of native stocks? (b) foreign stocks?
- What are the outstanding “natural” areas, i.e., areas of population segregation?
- How is the distribution of population within the city area affected by (a) economic Interest, i.e., land values? (b) by sentimental interest, race? vocation etc.?

The City: Emphasis on cognition and social behavior

“The Stock Exchanges and the Mob”:

- What is the psychology of crisis? What is the cycle of events involved in the evolution of a crisis, political or economic?
- To what extent may the parliamentary system, including the electoral system, be regarded as an attempt to regularize revolution and to meet and control crises ?
- To what extent are mob violence, strikes, and radical political movements the results of the same general conditions that provoke financial panics, real estate booms, and mass movements in the population generally?
- To what extent are the existing unstable equilibrium and social ferment due to the extent and speed of economic changes as reflected in the stock exchange?
- What are the effects of the extension of communication and of news upon fluctuations In the stock market and economic changes generally ?
- Do the reports in the newspapers, so far as they represent the facts tend to speed up social changes, or to stabilize a movement already in progress?
- What is the effect of propaganda and rumor, in cases where the sources of accurate information are cut off?
- To what extent can the city, which responds more quickly and more decisively to changing events, be regarded as nerve centers of the social organism?

Urbanism as a way of life

**Louis Wirth
University of Chicago School of Sociology
1938**

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY

One of the greatest papers ever about cities !!

VOLUME XLIV

JULY 1938

NUMBER 1

Reading

URBANISM AS A WAY OF LIFE

LOUIS WIRTH

ABSTRACT

The urbanization of the world, which is one of the most impressive facts of modern times, has wrought profound changes in virtually every phase of social life. The recency and rapidity of urbanization in the United States accounts for the acuteness of our urban problems and our lack of awareness of them. Despite the dominance of urbanism in the modern world we still lack a sociological definition of the city which would take adequate account of the fact that while the city is the characteristic locus of urbanism, the urban mode of life is not confined to cities. For sociological purposes a city is a relatively large, dense, and permanent settlement of heterogeneous individuals. Large numbers account for individual variability, the relative absence of intimate personal acquaintanceship, the segmentalization of human relations which are largely anonymous, superficial, and transitory, and associated characteristics. Density involves diversification and specialization, the coincidence of close physical contact and distant social relations, glaring contrasts, a complex pattern of segregation, the predominance of formal social control, and accentuated friction, among other phenomena. Heterogeneity tends to break down rigid social structures and to produce increased mobility, instability, and insecurity, and the affiliation of the individuals with a variety of intersecting and tangential social groups with a high rate of membership turnover. The pecuniary nexus tends to displace personal relations, and institutions tend to cater to mass rather than to individual requirements. The individual thus becomes effective only as he acts through organized groups. The complicated phenomena of urbanism may acquire unity and coherence if the sociological analysis proceeds in the light of such a body of theory. The empirical evidence concerning the ecology, the social organization, and the social psychology of the urban mode of life confirms the fruitfulness of this approach.

The search for a (first) Theory of Urbanism

A **sociological significant definition of a city** seeks to select those elements that mark it as a *distinctive mode of human group life*:

A city may be defined as a **relatively large, dense and permanent settlement of socially heterogeneous individuals.**

information

Continuity: The larger, the more densely populated, and the more heterogeneous a community, the more accentuated the characteristics associated with urbanism will be.

scaling

Theory: essential characteristics of every city versus variations between cities (and people)

Number of **propositions** concerning the relationship between:

- a) numbers of population, b) density of settlement, c) heterogeneity of settlement and group life

Sociology: differentiation and multiplication of roles, diversity

- independence of personal characteristics, protection from expectations of others
- segregation and tolerance, sophistication and cosmopolitanism
- *anomie*



Consequences

Economics: segmentation of social life; division of labor. Organizations: corporations, markets and signals.



Innovation: premium upon eccentricity, novelty, efficient performance, inventiveness

- interactions, rapid tempo, complicated technology

Interdisciplinary

Psychology: no conception of the city as a whole, no place in the total scheme, unpredictability, mobility, change

multiscalar

Political Science: emergence of collective causes, mass movements, political organizations

“evolutionary” dynamics

draws widely: Aristotle, Weber, Simmel, Marx, Smith, Park, Durkheim, Darwin,...

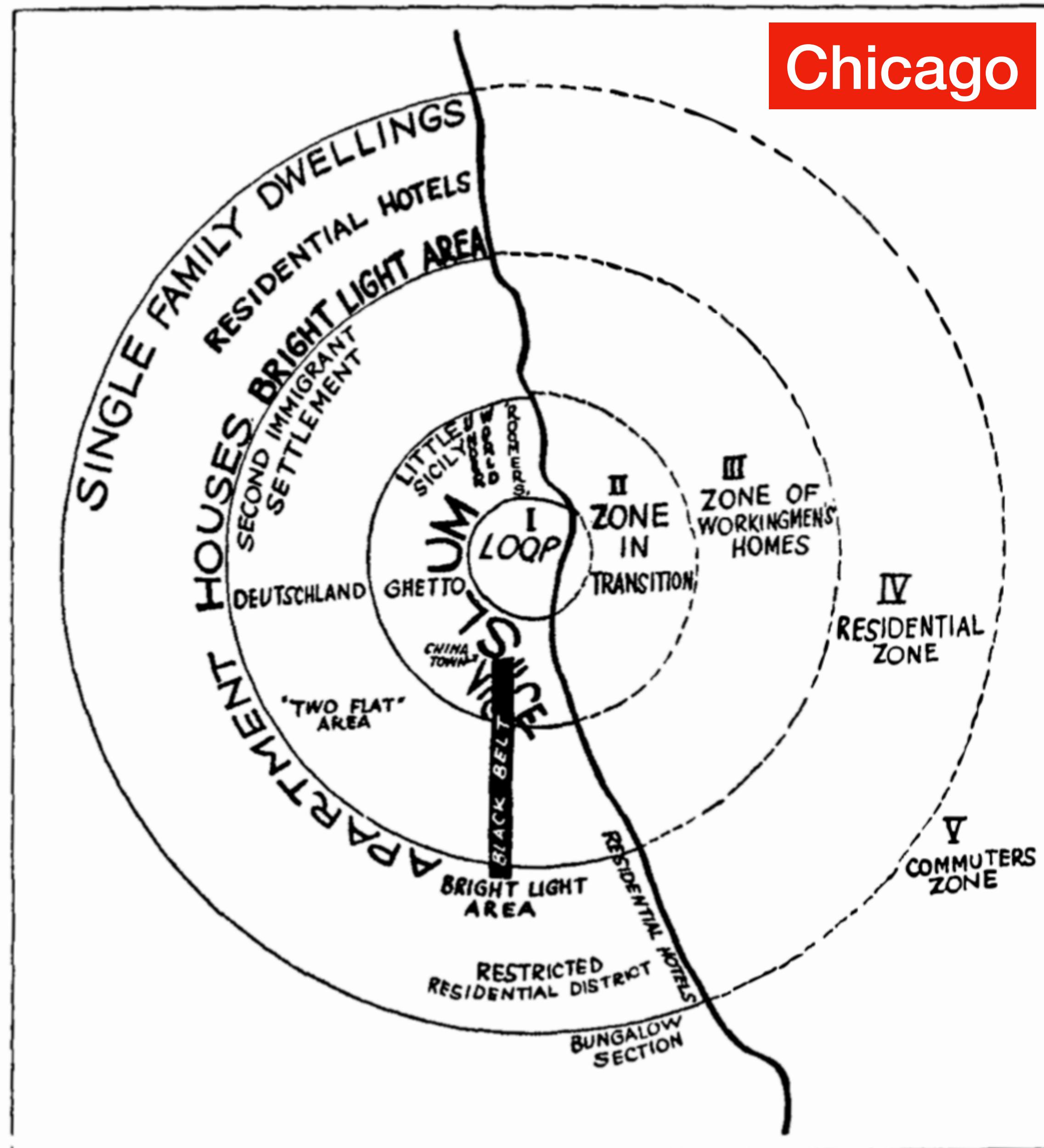


CHART II. Urban Areas

Chicago

This paper will treat first of the expansion of the city, and then of the less-known processes of urban metabolism and mobility which are closely related to expansion.

The metropolitan area may be taken to include territory that is physically contiguous, but it is coming to be defined by that facility of transportation that enables a business man to live in a suburb of Chicago and to work in the loop.

The tendency of each inner zone to extend its area by the invasion of the next outer zone. This aspect of expansion may be called succession

Besides extension and succession, the general process of expansion in urban growth involves the antagonistic and yet complementary processes of concentration and decentralization

This differentiation into natural economic and cultural groupings gives form and character to the city

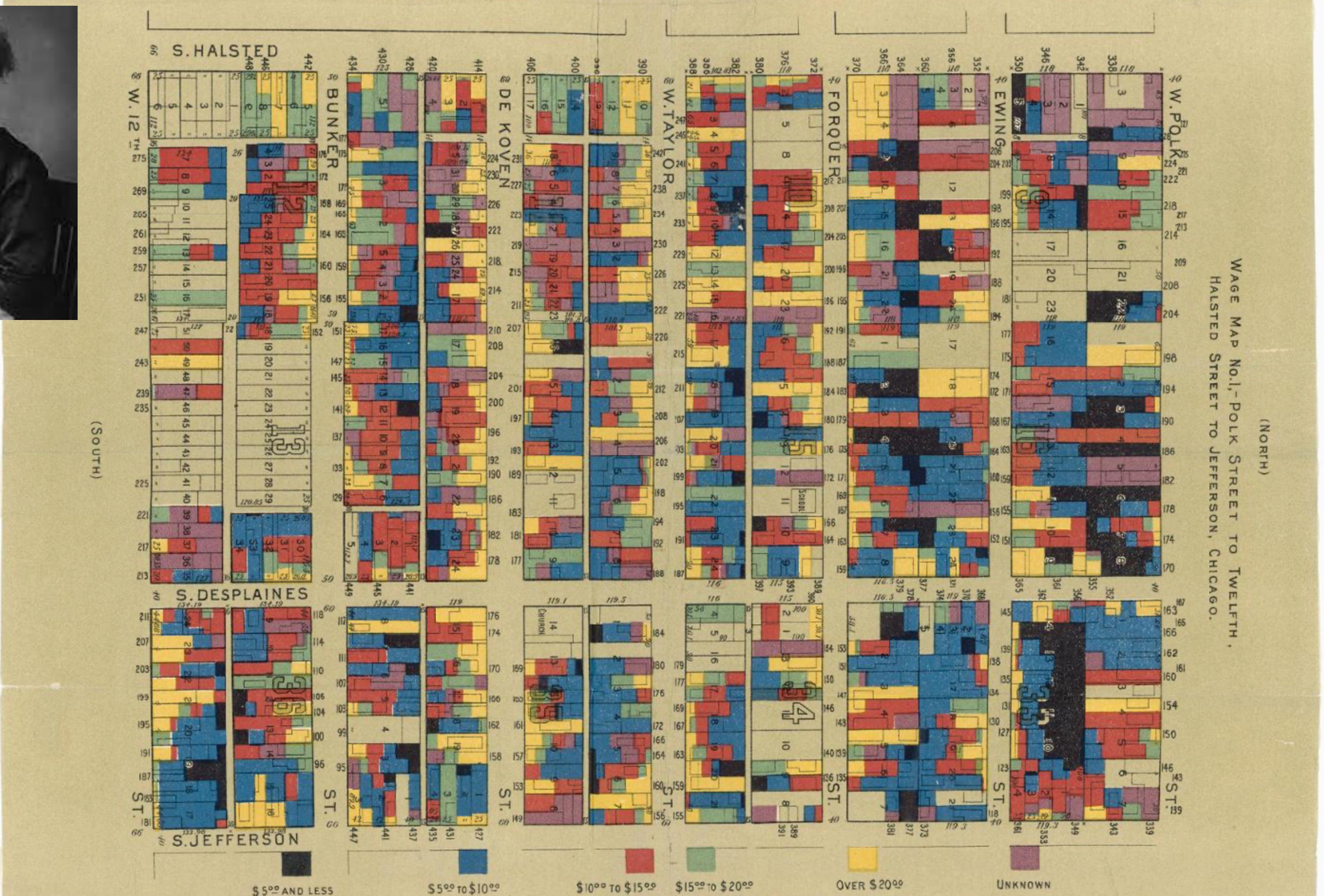
The division of labor in the city likewise illustrates disorganization, reorganization, and increasing differentiation, movement and mobility

Ernest W Burgess 1925

“Big Data”
(of its time)



Jane Addams
Nobel Prize 1931



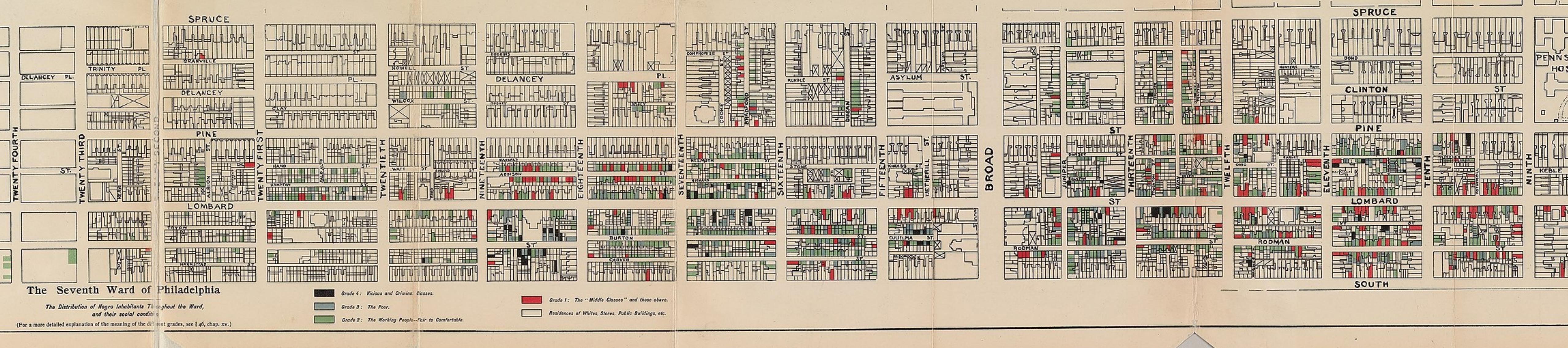
Hull-House Maps and Papers , 1895

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/410008.html>

C. F. Charles Booth's Maps of Poverty in London,

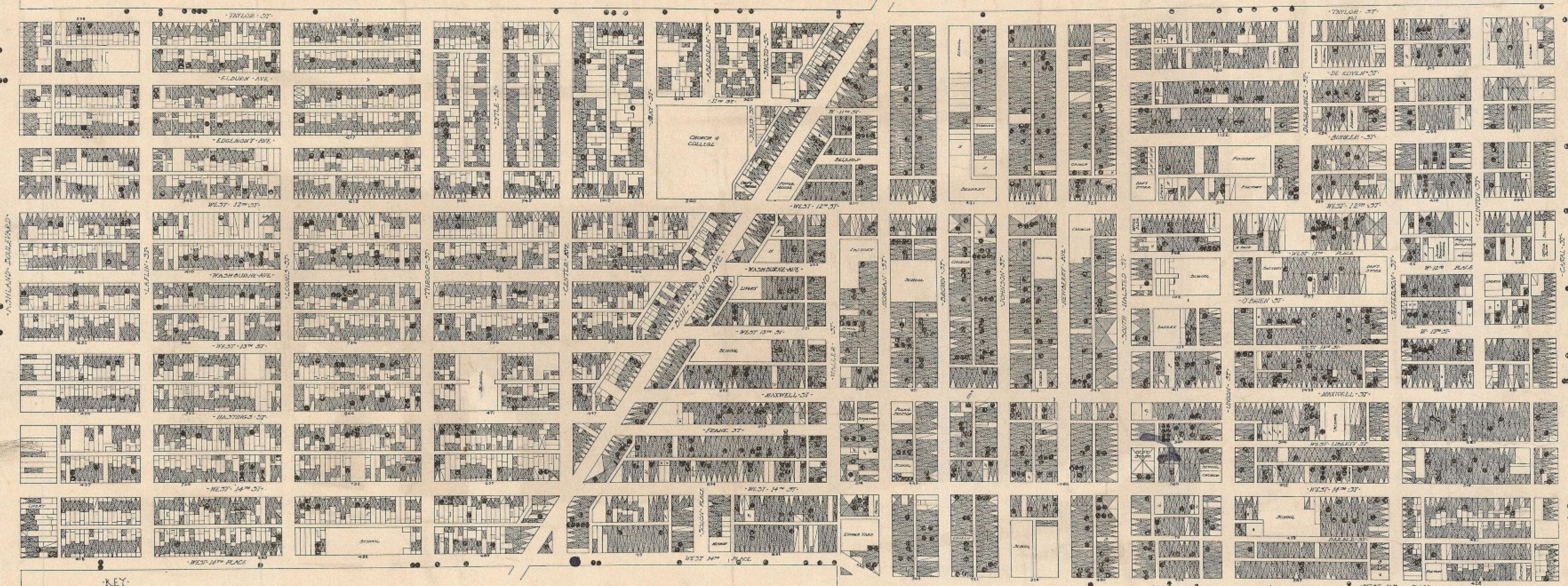


"not one problem, but rather a plexus of social problems,"



W. E. B. DuBois, *The Philadelphia Negro* 1899

·CHART· II·
TUBERCULOSIS IN A CONGESTED DISTRICT IN CHICAGO.
 ·JAN. 1ST. 1906 TO JAN. 1ST. 1908.
 ·INCLUDING THE DISTRICT REPRESENTED IN CHART 1--POPULATION CHIEFLY JEWISH.
 ·BY·
THEODORE B. SACHS M.D.



MORTALITY FROM TUBERCULOSIS

{ JEWS - 65
 A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF JEWISH
 TUBERCULOUS PEOPLE DIE OUTSIDE OF DISTRICT
 NON JEWS - 112 }

AGES
 UNDER 10 - 107
 10 TO 20 - 240
 ABOVE 20 - 905
 CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF TUBERCULOUS ADULTS (ABOVE 18)
 FEMALE
 HOUSE WIVES - 79%
 DEAD - 100%
 CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS LIVING DESIGNATED BY SOLID DOTS
 DEAD BY HALF DOT

MALE
 TAILOR TRADE - 34%
 FACTORY SHOP - 13%
 CIGAR MAKERS - 5%
 CLERKS - 10%

SCALE - 100 FT - 1 INCH

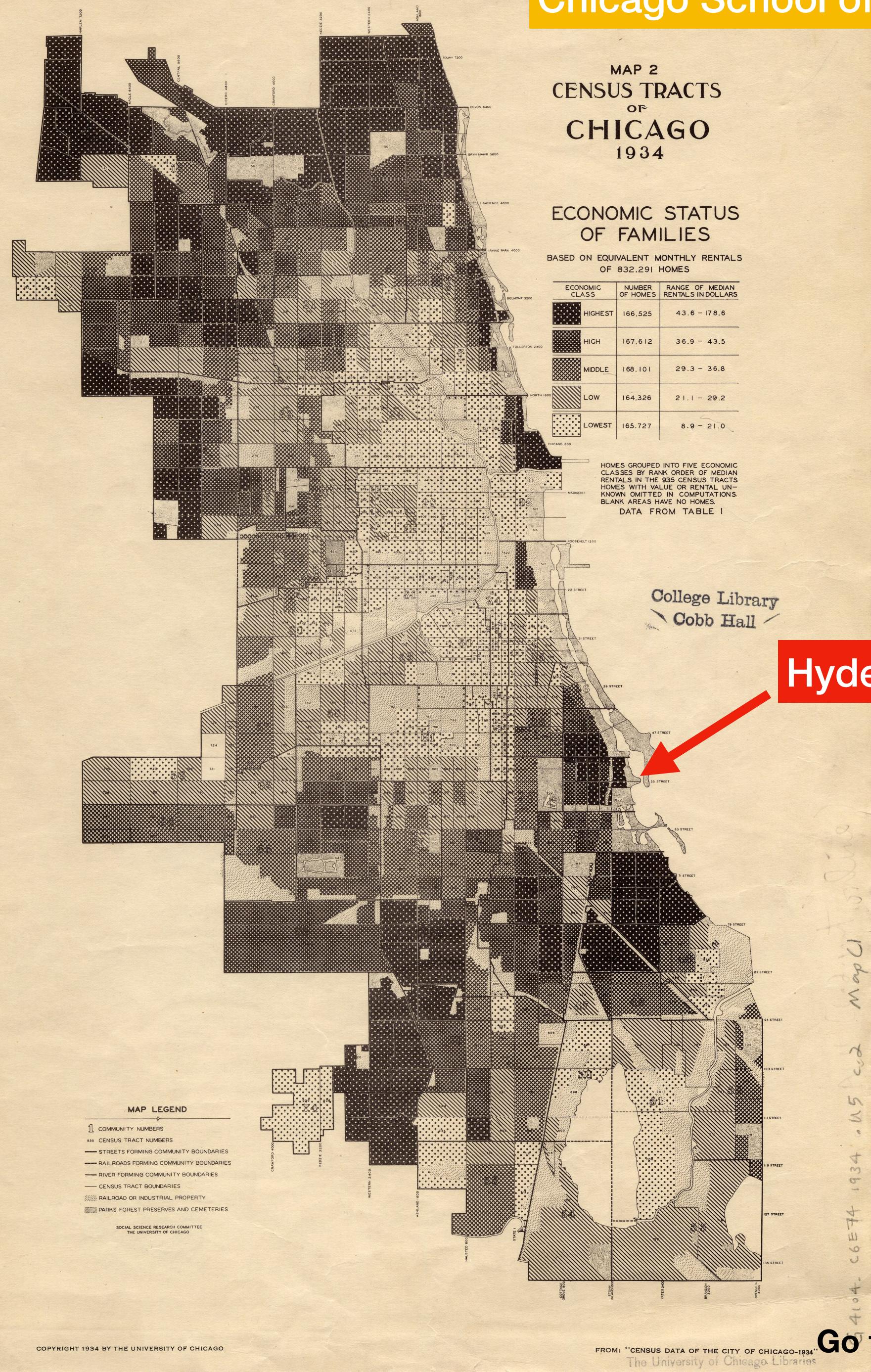
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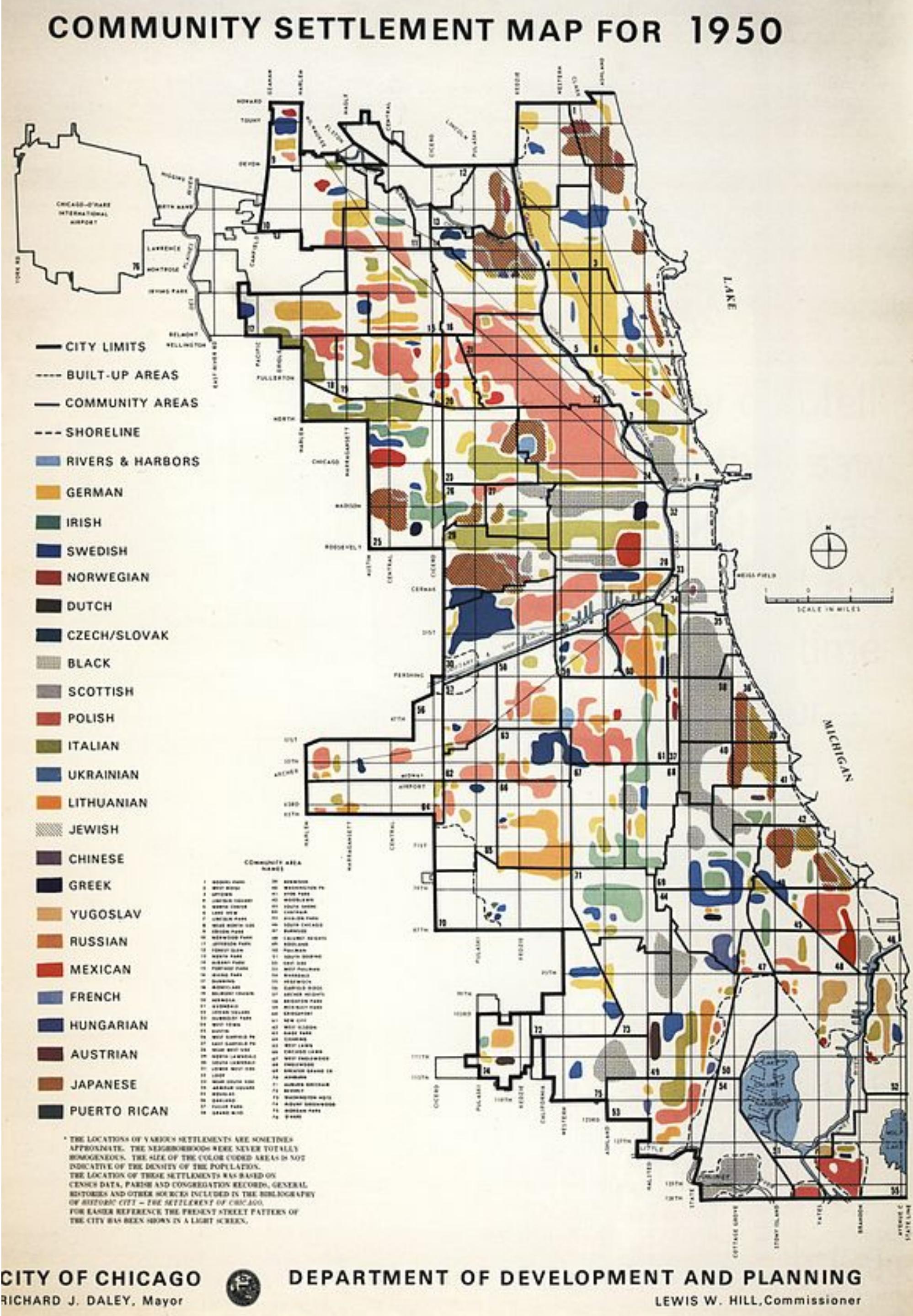
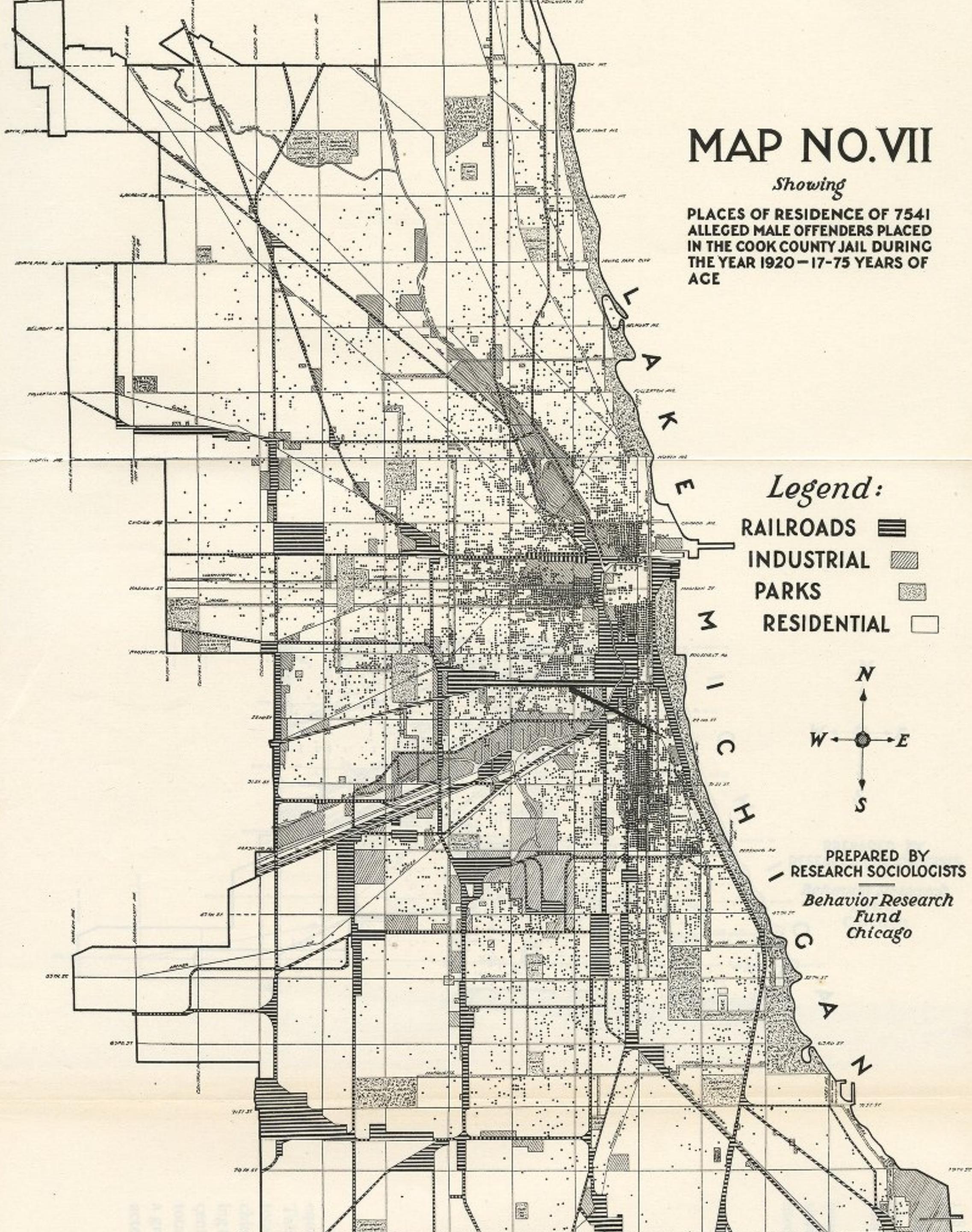
Chicago School of Sociology: Maps of the City

“Olympian Vantage Point”



“Data driven” approach to Cities
in the early 20th century”

Go to UChicago's Library and ask for Cecilia Smith



CHICAGO'S GANGLAND

PREPARED BY
FREDERIC M. THRASHER
1923-26

LEGEND

- ▲ Gangs with Clubrooms
- Gangs without Clubrooms
- Parks, Boulevards, and Cemeteries
- ▨ Industrial Property
- Railroad Property

We will return to these maps for studies of “Neighborhood Effects”

55th street

The first Chicago School of Urban Sociology established many of the questions and methods we still use and need to address

It started the field of “urban science” and has had widespread influence on how cities are conceived and studied

It also showed the limited effect of data on good policy from a human and social perspective