

# Assignment 4 – Presentation Questions

Peter Rauscher

*"I pledge my honor that I have abided by the Stevens Honor System."*

## Questions

- Ryan Musantry (2/23)
  - Do you think that building car-independent infrastructure in more suburban and rural areas should be a priority of government bodies?
  - Do you fear that the adoption of public transit has lead to more dangerous situations for average citygoers than in areas with car-dependent or walking-only infrastructure?
- Sam (the EMT) (2/23)
  - Do you get a lot of calls about people who are too drunk on the weekends because of all of the bars here?
  - Have you had any specific experiences that stand out to you as changing your perspective on the demographic of people in Hoboken?
- Raymond Torres (2/23)
  - You said you were sick of your home meals of rice beans and chicken, now that you've moved to Hoboken, do you find a home cooked meal to be particularly appetizing when you go home?
  - Is there any food you've had in Hoboken that reminds you of home in a good way?
- David Loffe (2/23)
  - What kind of training regimen did you have to do to prepare to run a marathon?
  - What is involved in the Iron Man challenge, and will you have to travel somewhere abroad to complete it?
- Abby Weiss (2/23)
  - What's your favorite kind of food you have access to here that you don't have access to at home?
  - Conversely, what's your favorite food from home that you wish you could have with you in Hoboken?
- Other Sam (2/23)
  - Have you considered that the time saved from reserving a parking spot in a parking garage would be worth the price, given how difficult working around street cleaning schedules are?

- Other than the increased range of movement you experience with having a car, do you think it has helped you avoid some of the pitfalls of public transit, like the danger at night and the lack of reliability?
- Mya Phu (3/2)
  - Do you think that your long commute has negatively affected your grades by eating into your study time?
  - With all of the public spaces like cafes as you mentioned you frequent, do you find it easier to connect with friends on a regular basis when living in the city?
- John Schneiderhan (3/2)
  - As others have mentioned, have you had any dangerous or frightening experiences while on public transportation?
  - Do you believe moving around is easier thanks to public transit here than it is in your hometown, or is it more of a hassle because of the increase in population density?
- Owen Regehr (3/2)
  - Do you find that you enjoy the lifestyle of living in a more densely populated area, having experience with both now?
  - Even though you live near the Hudson River now, did you prefer having access to swimmable water in your hometown? Do you find it easier to overheat in the summer here without that?
- Caden Stott (3/2)
  - Do you have a preference between the tall urban structures in Hoboken and the ranch-style homes in Woodlands, TX?
  - Have you noticed a significant change in political alignment of your peers since moving to Hoboken from Texas?
- Valentina Vasquez (3/2)
  - Besides the statistical likelihood for violent crime, did you ever feel especially in danger in Tremont as a woman?
  - Did you feel like the quality of your public education was better or worse in The Bronx vs in Queens?
- Jordan Wang (3/2)
  - Even though you said you don't like the city (meaning New York), do you think that Hoboken is a good middle ground between urban and suburban?
  - You mentioned how easy it was for you to spend money while about in the city. Do you feel like living in an urban area where you're less connected to nature makes you more likely to seek consumerism as a means for joy?
- Kyle Farias (3/2)

- Do you think that Legoland could bring economic opportunity to your town that could further develop the area, making it less “slow-motion” as your town slogan goes?
- Do you prefer Hoboken to the hum-drum lifestyle of your hometown?

## Absent Work

To make up for my absence, I read about the effects neighborhoods and their characteristics have on fear of crime victimization by its citizens, in the article “Fear of Crime and Neighborhood Change” by Wesley Skogan which was published in the Chicago Journal. [You can find the article by clicking here.](#) Skogan explains how the perception of a neighborhood and the subsequent fear of crime experienced by people living in those neighborhoods is affected by a great number of factors and is difficult to attribute solely to one cause. For example, an individual’s own subconscious biases about the demographic of their neighbors may make them more fearful than another. However, environmental factors like urban decay, lack of infrastructure, and cramped living conditions can also play a role. Short-term factors also greatly affect the level of fear in residents, like social turmoil, protesting/rioting, or even major weather events taking place in the area.

After identifying and categorizing some of the many factors which play a role in fear of crime, Skogan explains multiple different policing strategies, how they operate, and what positive impact they each provide on reducing the levels of fear experienced by neighborhood residents. A particular strategy he details is “community policing”, often exercised as a “neighborhood watch” program organized by the residents themselves, is proven to be very effective at reducing levels of fear and inspiring confidence and feelings of comfort in residents. He explains how areas which have a positive, trustworthy, and cooperative relationship with law enforcement tend to experience less fear overall. Lastly, he acknowledges that local government officials can help reduce fear levels by making an effort to address any underlying causes of crime or disorder – like poverty, high unemployment, or drug epidemics – through policy changes.

Overall, I think that the article offered an in-depth, nuanced, and insightful analysis of the complex relationship between fear of crime and urban/suburban neighborhood characteristics, and highlights important points for policymakers, law enforcement officers, and neighborhood residents to be aware of. Reading this article especially changed my view of certain neighborhoods within New York City and Newark which we live near here in Hoboken, and opened my eyes to some of the causes of social decay and criminal disorder that seems commonplace within those areas. I think the whole class could benefit from a read of this article, and I urge you to suggest it as optional reading to your students, because I do feel it enhanced and built upon my understanding of the course material in a satisfying way.