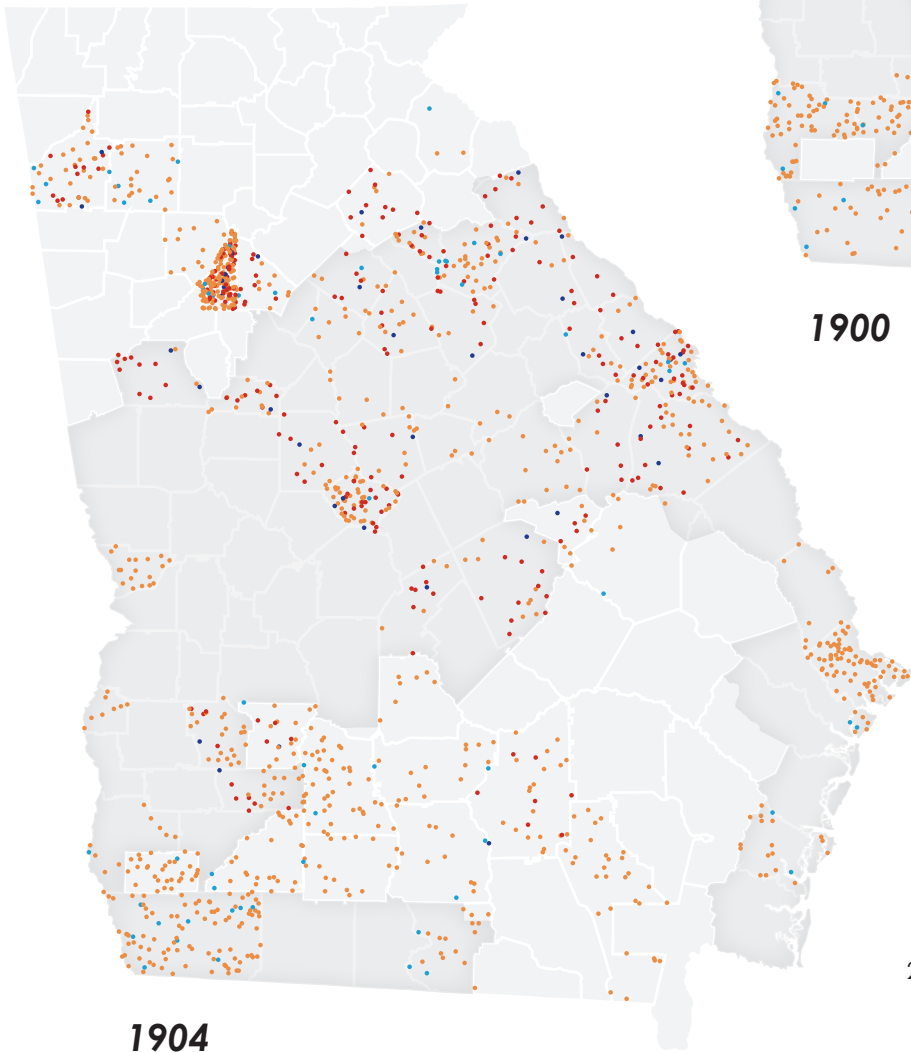
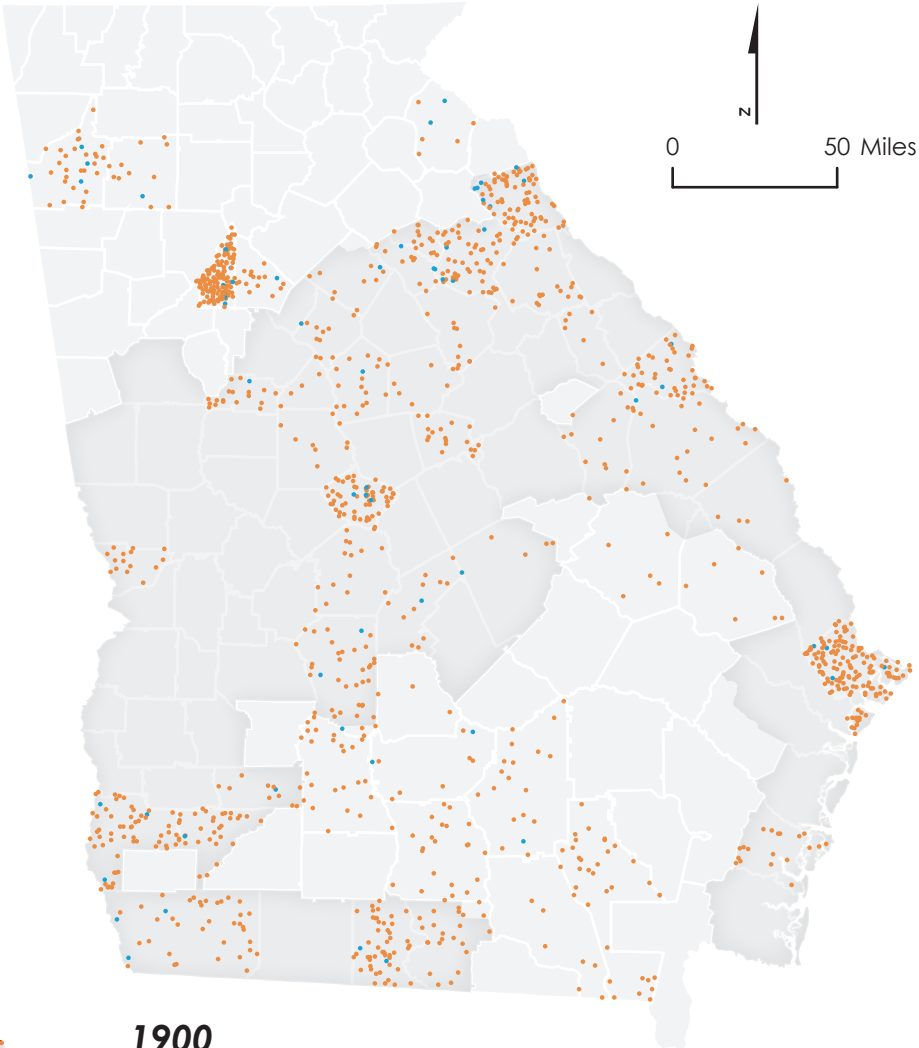


Georgia's Chain Gang Archipelago, 1900-1932

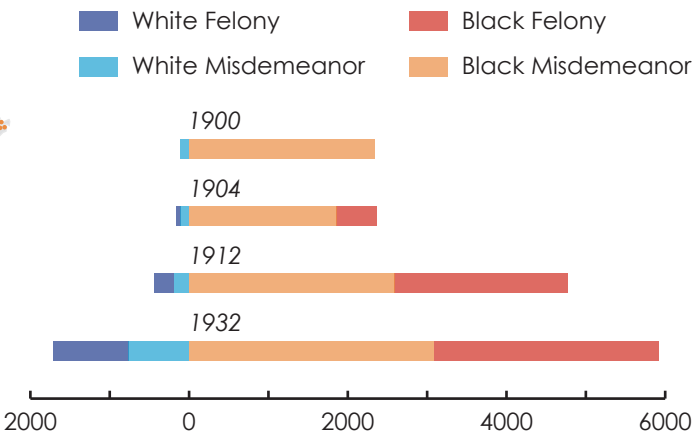
Data Sources: Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, Georgia Prison Commission, Georgia Budget & Policy Institute

1 Dot = 2 People

- Black Felony
- White Felony
- Black Misdemeanor
- White Misdemeanor
- Counties with Enslaved Population >40% in 1860

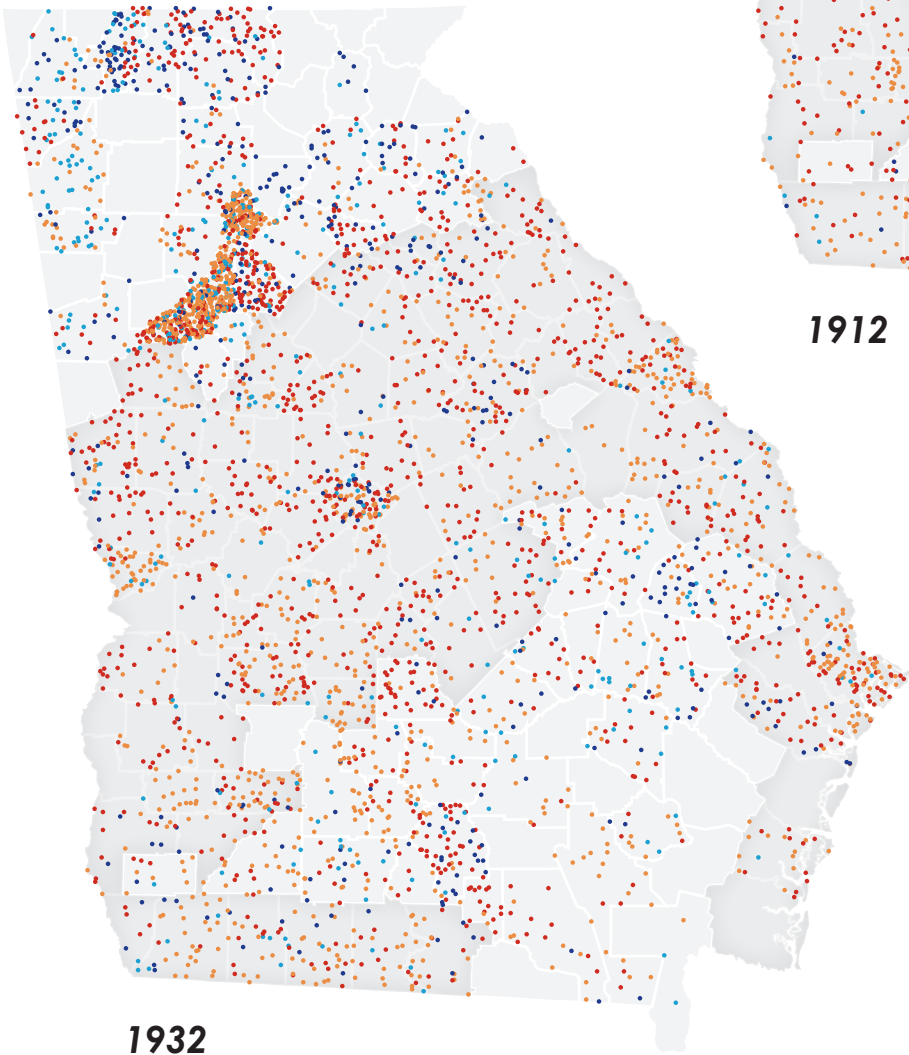
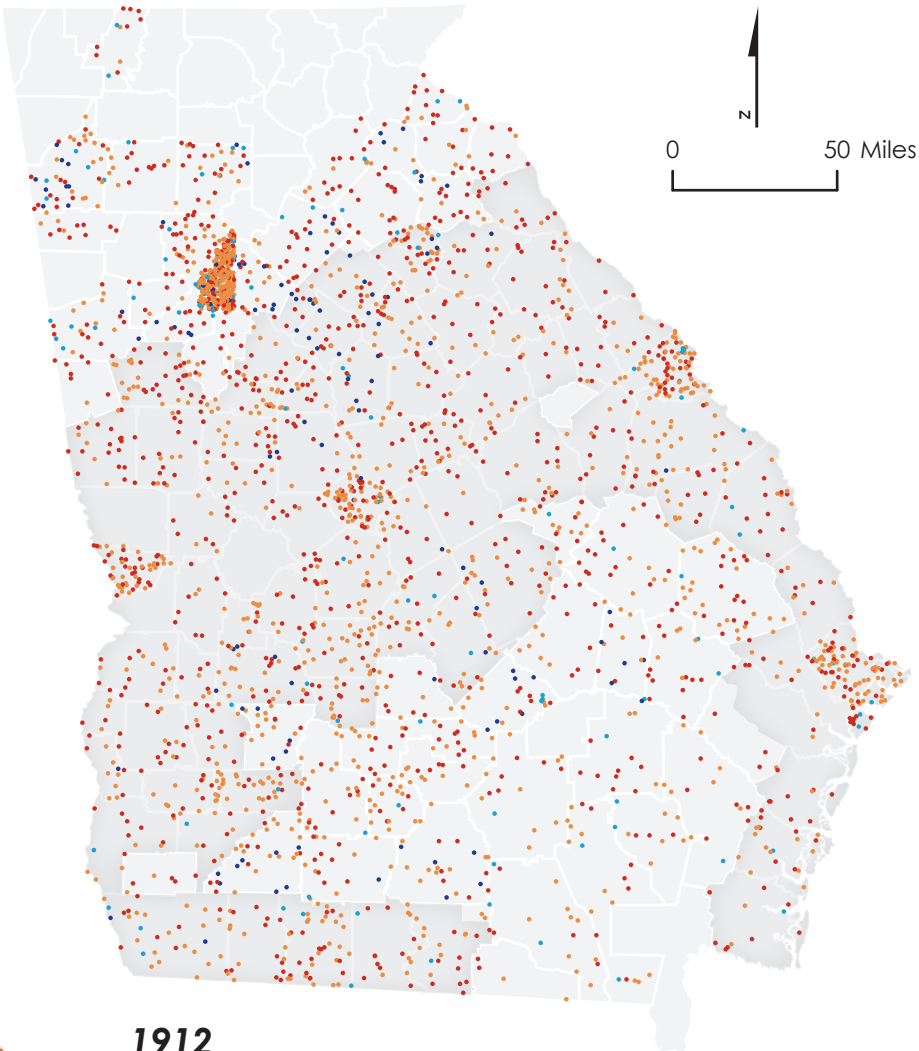


The Number of Convicts Working in Georgia's Chain Gang Camps by Race and Crime Category, 1900-1932

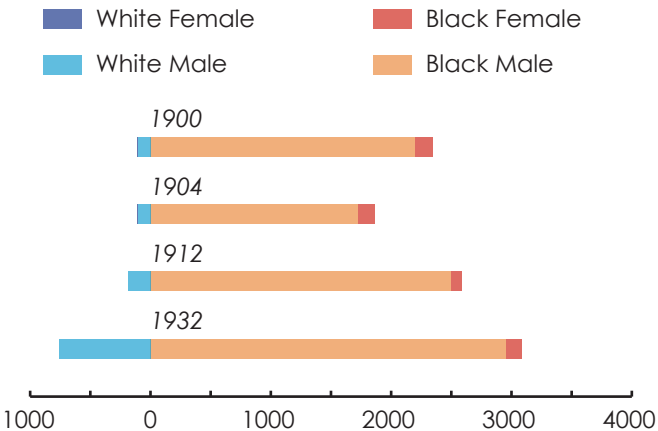


An Evolving Legal Landscape

- 1865** 13th Amendment to U.S. Constitution abolishes slavery “except as punishment for a crime”
- 1866** Georgia’s first vagrancy law, and establishment of first county-based chain gangs
- 1868** Georgia law decentralizes “all able-bodied convicts” to private industries, inaugurating convict lease system
- 1903** Georgia law makes felony convicts available for labor on public road chain gangs
- 1908** Georgia law abolishes convict leasing, moving all felony convicts to join misdemeanants on county and municipal road chain gangs
- 1924** Georgia law authorizes recently established state highway department to use its own chain gangs, further expanding the system



The Number of Misdemeanor Convicts Working in Georgia’s Chain Gang Camps by Race and Gender, 1900-1932



Langston Hughes's 1927 Travels Through the South

Data Sources: Langston Hughes, *1927 Trip South: Memphis, New Orleans, Havana, Mobile, Tuskegee, Zora*, New York, Langston Hughes Papers; Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University; Arnold Rampersad, *The Life of Langston Hughes*, volume 1; Yuval Taylor, *Zora and Langston: A Story of Friendship and Betrayal*; Natural Earth

Langston Hughes traveled by train (and a small freighter to Cuba) until he reached Mobile, Alabama, where Zora Neale Hurston was conducting her first interviews with Cudjo Lewis, a formerly enslaved man whose life she would detail in *Barracoon*. From here, Hurston drove them through the South, meeting many people along the way including one young man who had escaped the chain gang.

