JIM CROW OF THE NORTH

SCREENING & DISCUSSION
SUMMIT HILL ASSOCIATION
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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

The Story and the Stories We Tell
- What do you think is the film’s primary lesson?
- Does this research/film help explain realities in the Twin Cities that you have noticed or personally experienced?
- What aspects of the film did you find most surprising?
- What roles did the federal government, private industry, and white citizens each play in that story?
- Why do you think the history of racial covenants and redlining in the North is not more widely known?

The Impact
- In what ways were many white Minnesotans the beneficiaries of these segregation policies, both directly and indirectly?
- How might current racial disparities in wealth, education, health, or quality of life be traceable to these policies?
- What might be other parts of our community and everyday lives that have been affected by housing segregation?
- How does housing determine the ability to be safe during a public health emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic? Or a heat wave?

Going Forward
- What should be the political or other implications of this history for the present?
RACIAL DISPARITIES IN MINNESOTA, THE TWIN CITIES

Rate of Homeownership by Race
Source: IPUMS NHGIS

The graph shows the rate of homeownership by race in the Twin Cities and the nation from 1985 to 2020. The data indicates that there are significant disparities, with homeownership rates for White, Twin Cities being consistently higher than for Black, Twin Cities. The rates for Black, Nation are also lower than for White, Nation, but the gap is narrower. The data is sourced from IPUMS NHGIS.
Racial Disparities in Minnesota, The Twin Cities

- Minneapolis Ranks Near The Bottom For Racial Equality
- Racial Equity Metrics, Saint Paul
- Homeownership – Black/White - 25% vs. 75% (St. Paul – 17%/61%)
- Median family income – Black - $38 K; White - $84 K
  - 2nd worst among all 50 states
- Wealth
  - 2016 Black Net Worth - $15,000 vs. White $140,000 - *(Federal Reserve)*
  - 60% of wealth is held in homes
  - Intergenerational
    - Inheritance
    - Down payment assistance – 54% of whites; 12% of Afams
    - Average amount = $18K – whites; $3K - Afams *(Shapiro)*
- How did you acquire the home you live in?
COLORBLINDNESS / MAKING RACE VISIBLE

• Colorblindness (Bonilla Silva 2014): The belief and ideology that race does not matter or explain racial inequalities in contemporary social life.

• Racial covenant maps
  • https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/index.html

• Redlining maps
  • https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=11/44.957/-93.265&city=st.-paul-mn

• Summit Hill – some data points
  • https://www.mncompass.org/profiles/city/st-paul/summit-hill

• Highways/freeways
  • I-94 and the Rondo Community, Prospect Park
    • https://www.tpt.org/interstate-94-a-history-and-its-impact/
  • I-35E and the “RIP I-35E” campaign
    • Powerful citizen groups, including SHA, blocked completion of I-35E, from 1972-1990
RESOURCES AND READINGS

• Mapping Prejudice Project
  • https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/

• Rondo Land Bridge
  • Proposal to build a cap over I-94 between Lexington and Grotto and build housing, arts/cultural institutions, commerce and recreational facilities.
  • Follow Rondo Reconnect - https://reconnectrondo.com/
RESOURCES AND READINGS

Readings

• The Invention of Race – MPR News Podcast (60 min audio) – one of the best histories of how race was created.

• White Fragility. Robin DiAngelo. Great book for white allies wanting to better understand, and how to fight white supremacy.
  • Website: [https://www.robindiangelo.com/media/](https://www.robindiangelo.com/media/)


SEGREGATION IN THE TWIN CITIES

• **Dissimilarity Index**
  