How Space Affects Perception in St. Louis

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How Space Affects Perception in St. Louis

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Key:
Blue = Caucasian
Green = African American
Red = Asian
1 dot=1 person
(University of Virginia, 2010 Census)

Question

How does space and “raced space” affect self perception?

In this context, we define space as the distance from other people/things that make people feel comfortable.

Areas Observed
• West County/St. Charles/Chesterfield (WSC)
• Florissant/Hazelwood/Ferguson (FHF)
• St. Louis Inner City

Findings
• Present-Day Segregation
• Community vs. Resources
• Amount of resources impact
• The community “likes where they are”
• Education gaps between areas studied

WSC
• More easily accessed and amount of resources

FHF
• Slow decline
• Fewer mental health resources
• Increasing violence

Inner City
• Inner city desert
• Least mental health resources
• Desire to ‘get out’

Conclusion

Raced space, as we defined it, effects self perception in terms of how someone perceives themselves, the people within their space and the people outside their space. It was found in this research that space subconsciously effects how someone sees their space and the people outside their space.

Future work might investigate the specific triggers that a space can subconsciously create for its residents. Potential questions concern identifying any space associated triggers (if any), length of existence, and the ways space has encouraged or influenced the trigger (if any).

Study Improvements

Seek a more diverse group of participants

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