



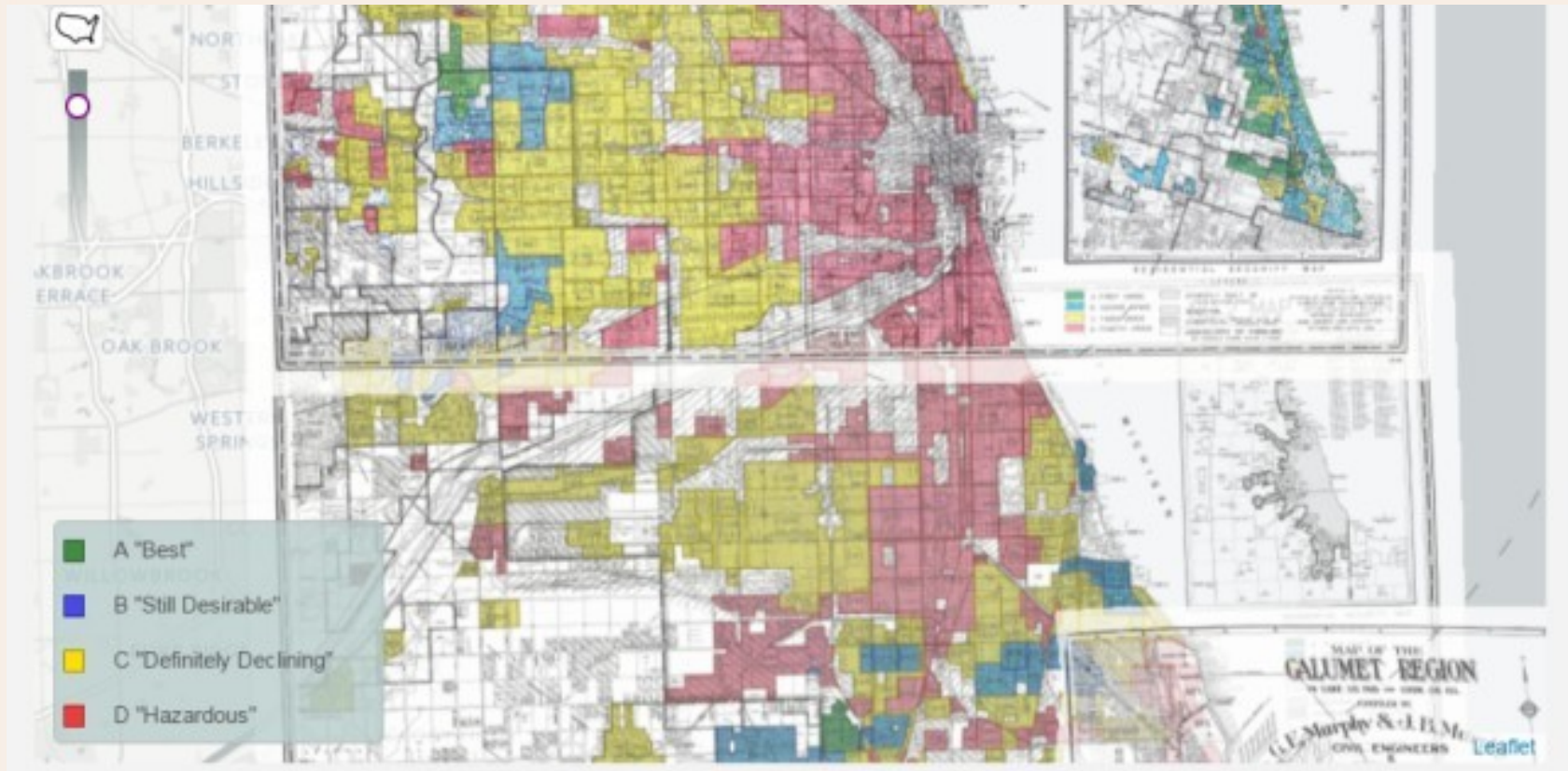
# Building Belonging in a Time of Othering

**DATE:**  
August 28, 2019

**PRESENTER:**  
john a. powell, Director, Haas  
Institute

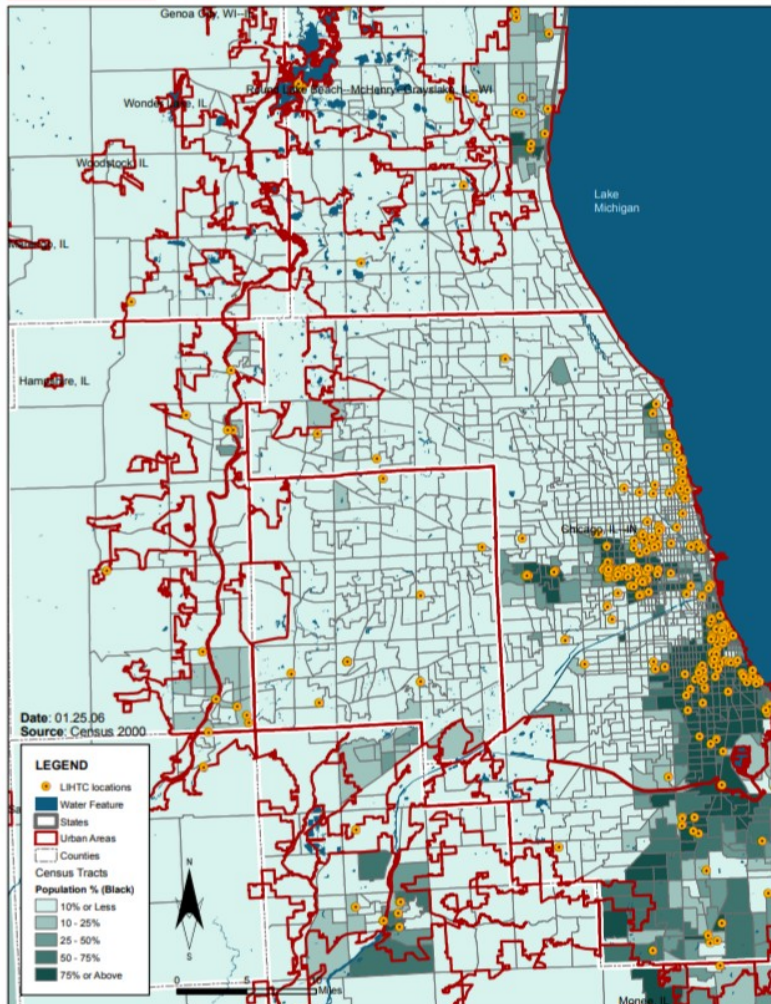
**AUTHORIAL SUPPORT:**  
Haas Institute

# Chicago - A History of Segregation

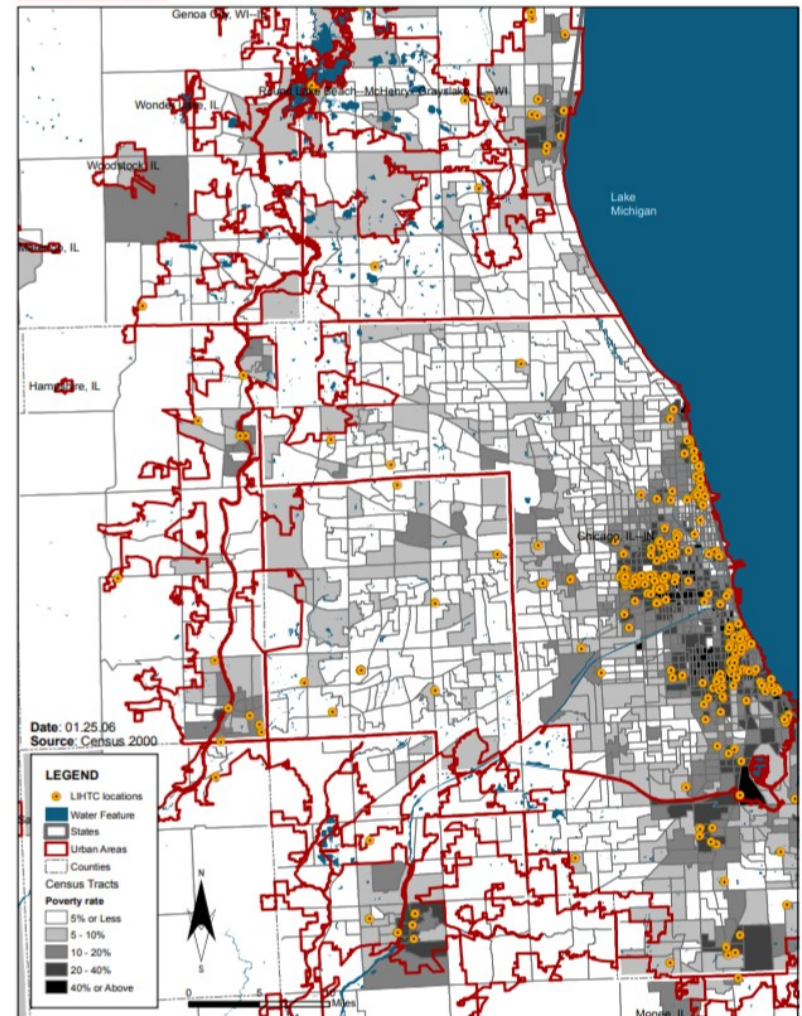


# Chicago and Inequality

**KIRWAN INSTITUTE** ALL LIHTC HOUSING - CHICAGO WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION CONCENTRATION

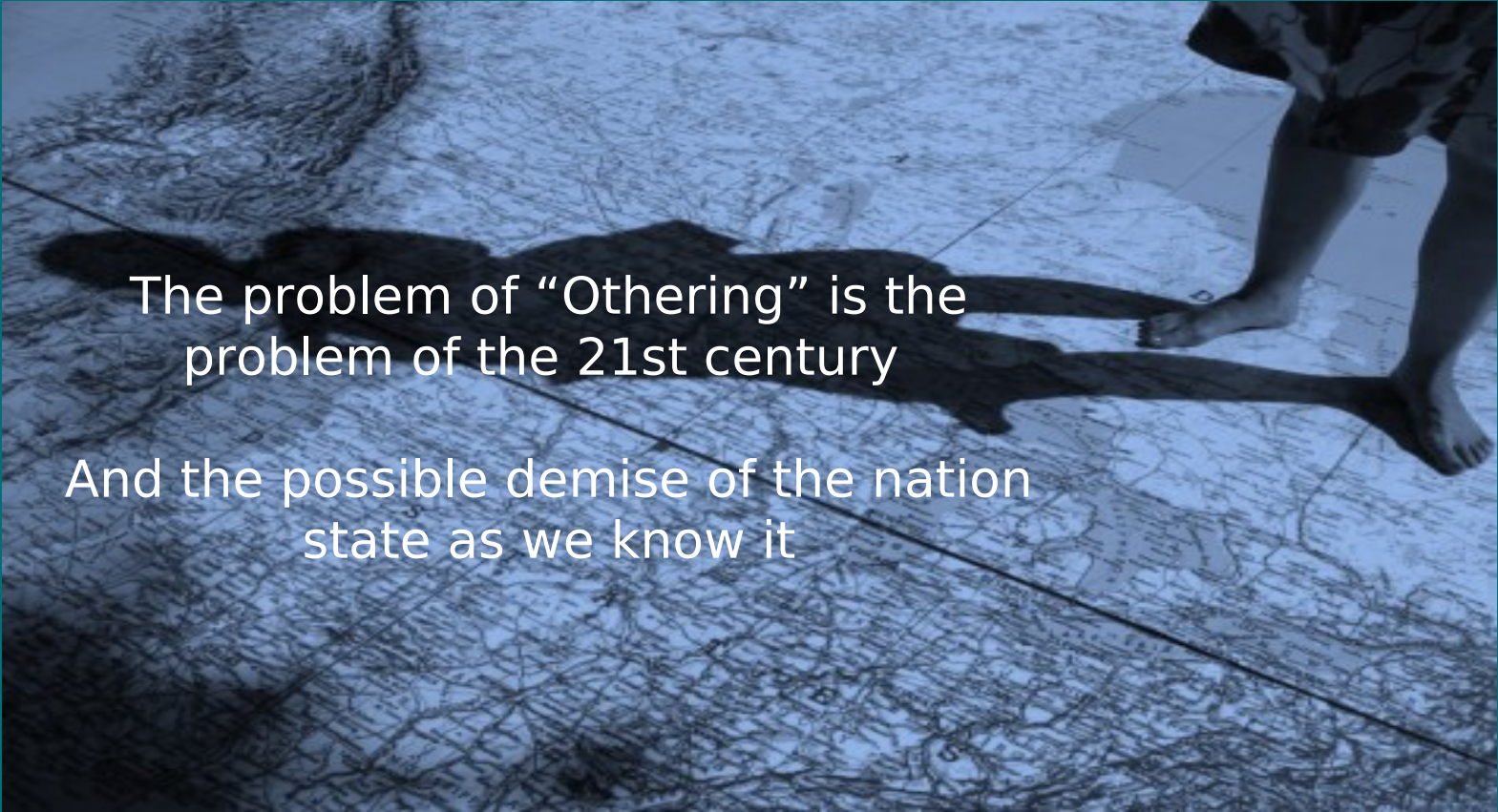


**KIRWAN INSTITUTE** ALL LIHTC HOUSING - CHICAGO WITH OVERALL POVERTY RATE



# Gautreaux vs. Chicago Housing Authority



A photograph showing the lower legs and feet of a person standing on a large, detailed map. The person is wearing patterned shorts and is barefoot. A long, dark shadow is cast across the map, extending from the person's feet towards the left. The map shows intricate details of a city or region, including streets and buildings. The overall image has a blueish tint.

The problem of “Othering” is the  
problem of the 21st century

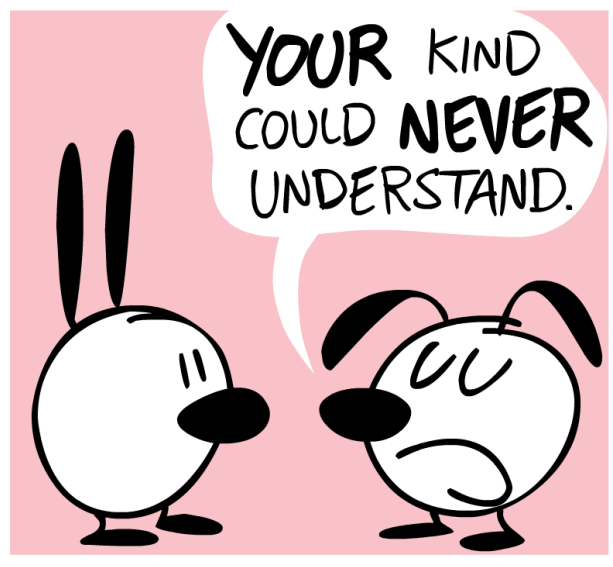
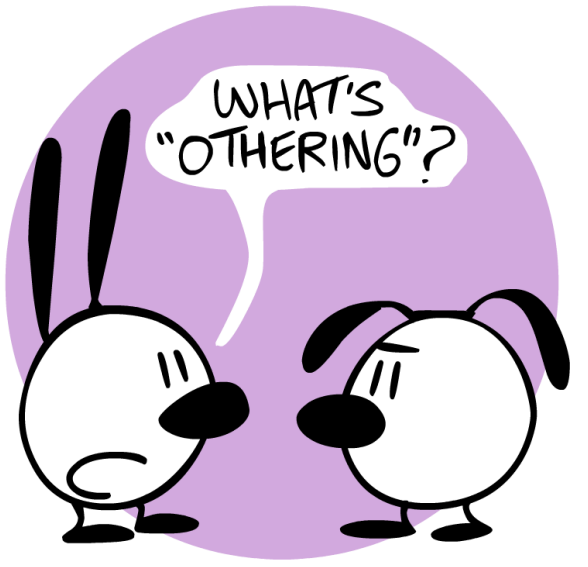
And the possible demise of the nation  
state as we know it

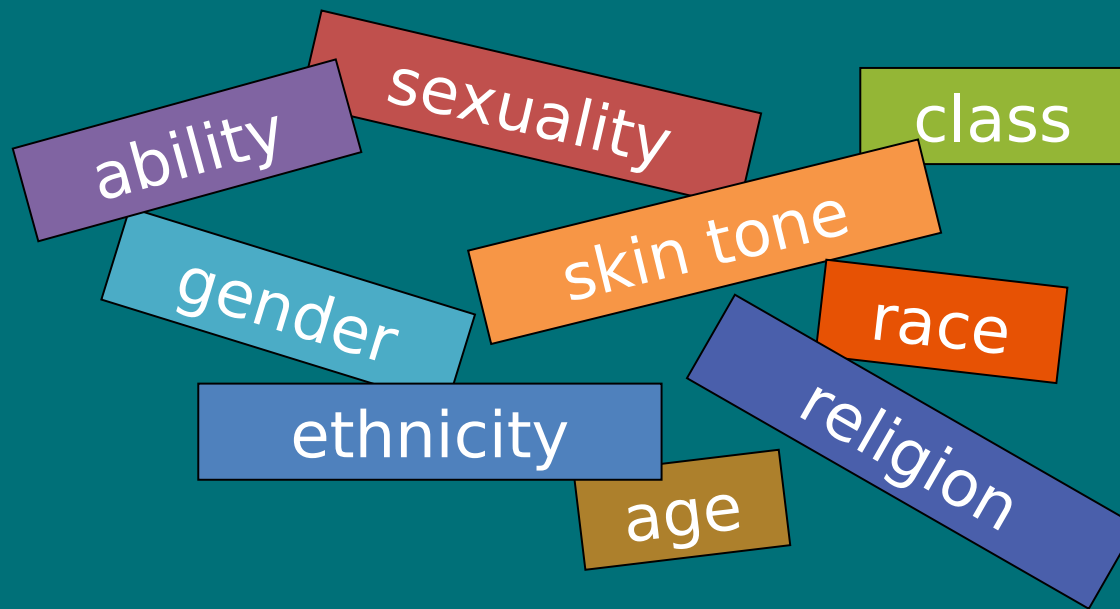


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGcbFj4j\\_gc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGcbFj4j_gc)



mimiandeuince.com





**Othering** is a generalized set of common processes that engender marginality and group-based inequality across any of the full range of human differences



THE RIGHT'S RESPONSE TO OTHERING —

“[Trump] has a good idea: *Keep ‘em out.*”

Muslims & Mexicans in the U.S.

Transgender military ban





A POTENTIAL LEFT RESPONSE TO OTHERING —  
saming

“I don’t see race. I  
am colorblind.”

“All lives matte  
r!”

“You & I are human. We are the  
same.”



The opposite of Othering is *not* saming but belonging.

# Not Belonging Has Consequences

## *A Black Yale Student Was Napping, and a White Student Called the Police*



The Yale campus. A graduate student in the university's African studies program said she was harassed for taking a nap in a common area. Dave Sanders for The New York Times



## *Starbucks C.E.O. Apologizes After Arrests of 2 Black Men*

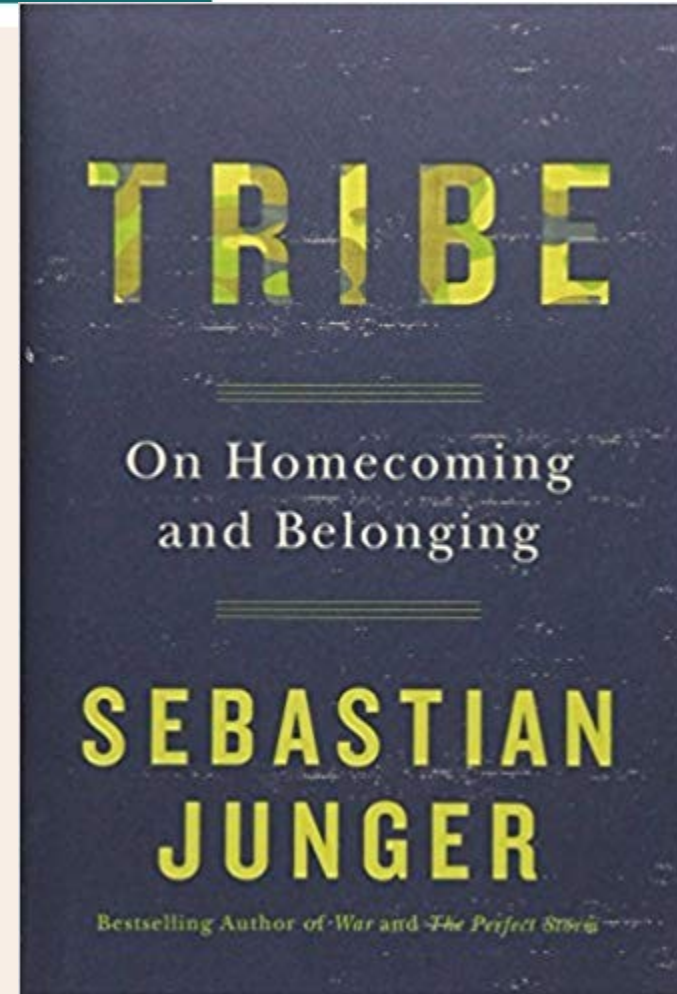


# The Trauma of Othering

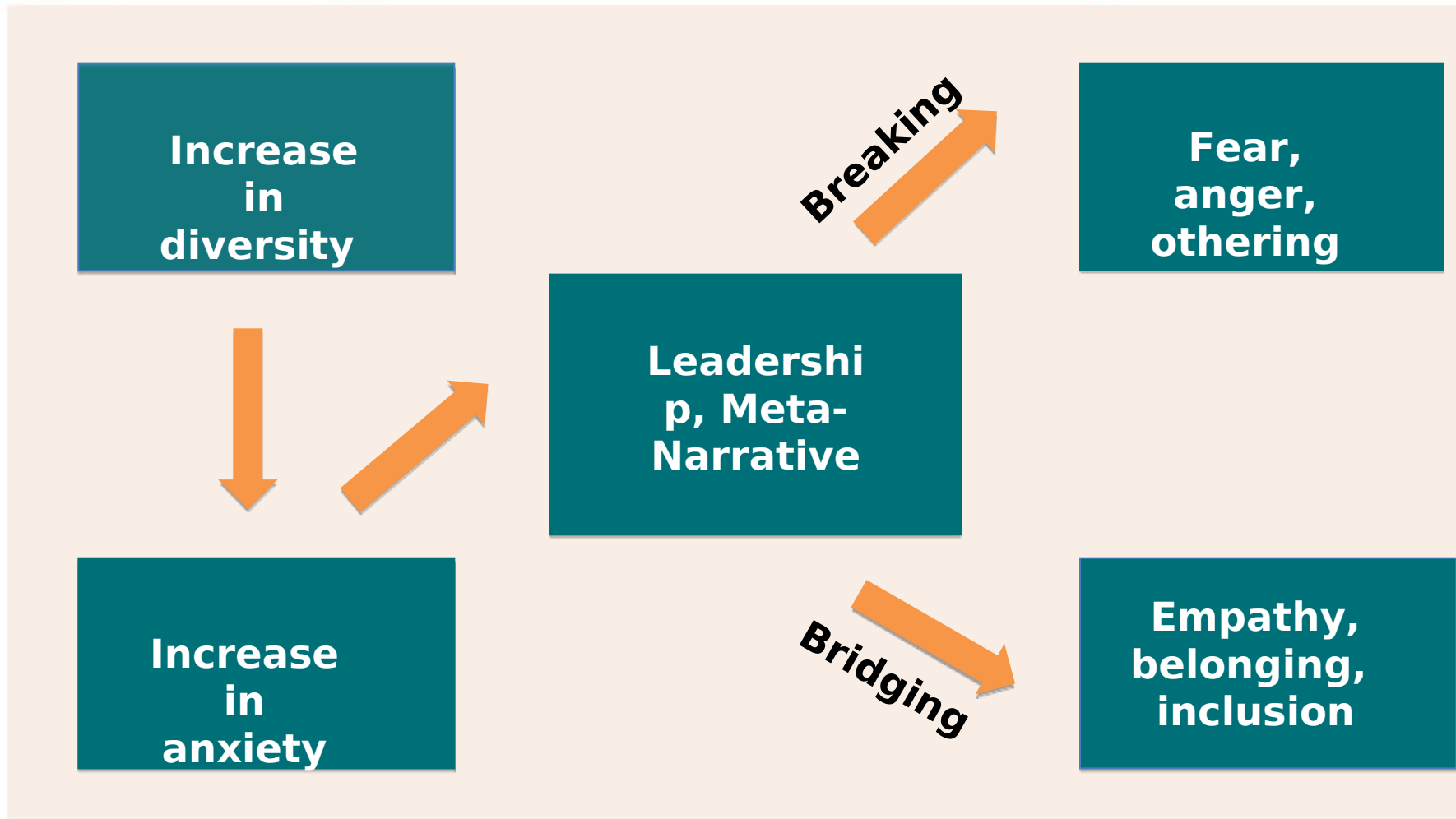
In addition to demographic change, technological change, inequality and migration, another stressor is hyper-individualism.

Both post-traumatic stress disorder – the trauma experienced by veterans – and even post-partum depression – are exacerbated by our hyper-individualistic society, that does not make people feel cared for.

In his book “Tribe,” Sebastian Junger writes “Modern society has gravely disputed the social bonds that have always characterized the human experience.”



As diversity grows, so does anxiety.



# Two Competing Visions

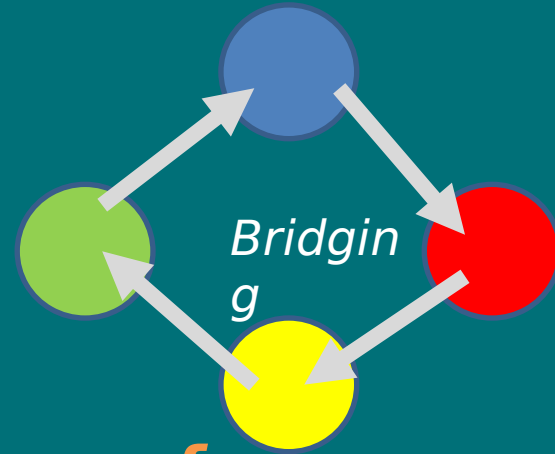
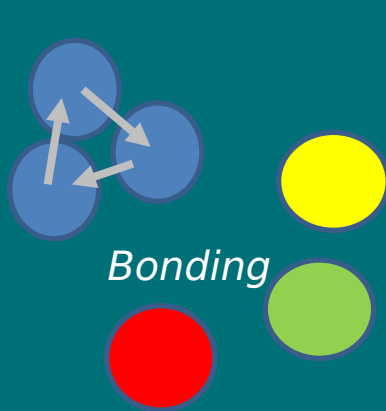
- The first vision is of a smaller, and more hierarchical “We”
  - This is based on fear, control, and purity, and one that dominates and controls the “other” and the earth.
- The second vision is of a more inclusive, and larger “We.”
  - This vision is one where we learn to share the earth and love and care for one another.
- These visions are competing with each other across the globe.



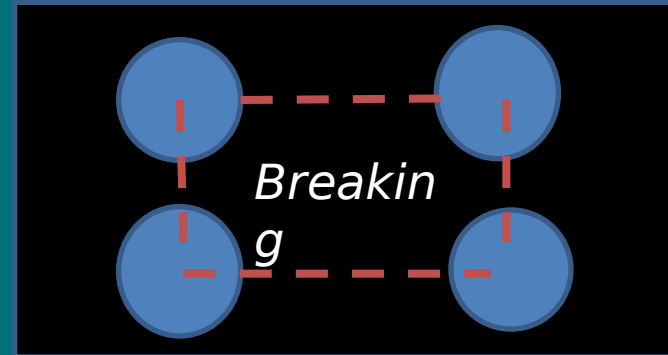
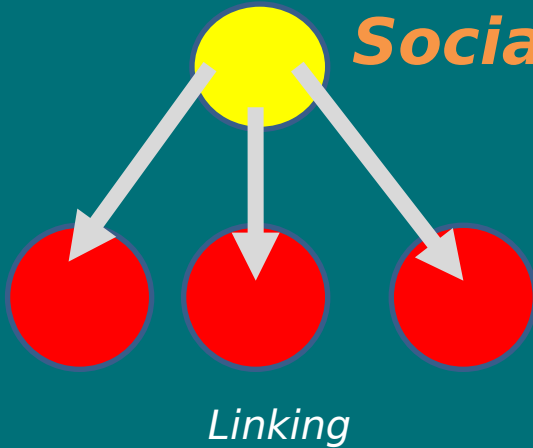
Belonging or being fully human means more than having access. Belonging entails being respected at a basic level that includes the right to both co-create and make demands upon society.

# Belonging





## *Putnam's Theory of Social Capital*



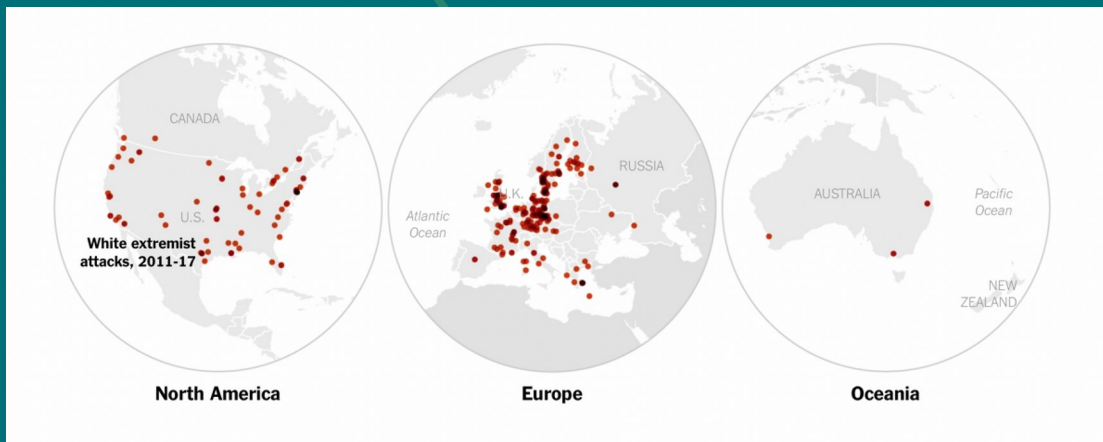
# Examples of breaking social capital:



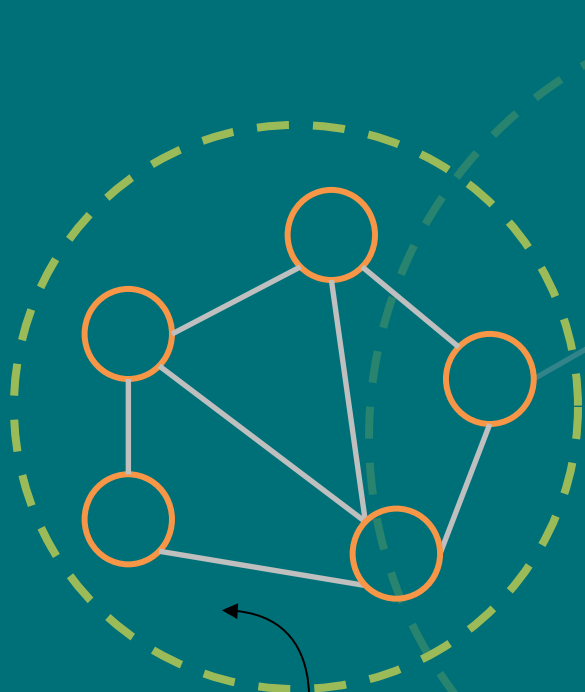
WHITE NATIONALISM

## BREAKING

social ties among an exclusive group who explicitly push away from other groups who are seen as dangerous or a threat.



# Examples of bonding social capital:



FAMILY



NEIGHBORHOOD

## **BONDING**

**NG** Social ties that link people together with others who are primarily like them along some key dimension. These are

# Examples of bridging social capital:



LGBT  
Q



MOSQUE IN NEW  
ZEALAND



WE NEED TO CREATE A CULTURE OF *BELONGING*.



*Sawubona*: Zulu greeting “We see you”

1. An invitation to a deep witnessing and presence
2. This greeting forms an agreement to affirm and investigate the mutual potential and obligation that is present in a given moment

# *The Circle of Human Concern*





**A Beloved Community**  
Dr. King's Legacy is a Call for  
Belonging

# Deep Belonging

**Belonging** connotes something fundamental about how groups are structurally positioned within society as well as how they are perceived and regarded.



Belonging is more than joining a club – it is about co-creating and co-owning structures to belong.



# Belongingness Intervention



Vanessa  
Brewer

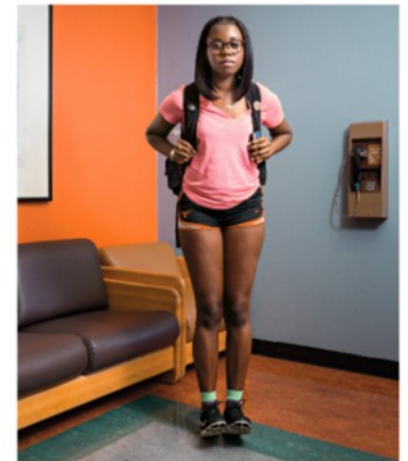
- UT-Austin Intervention - Targeted messages seemed to help individuals overcome doubts about belonging and their academic potential.
- Effects of the Intervention
  - Tripled the percentage of African-American students who earned G.P.A.s in the top quarter of their class, and it cut in half the black-white achievement gap in G.P.A.
  - Significantly decreased the number of health visits by African-American students.

# The importance of belonging: how belonging affects performance.

Many studies show that belonging and group identity impacts performance. **There is a direct correlation between students belonging and doubts about their ability to perform well in academic settings.** This doubt creates an incentive to drop out of school, thus continually perpetuating the cycle of “othering” in the nation’s collegiate system.



## Who Gets to Graduate?



Vanessa Brewer Bill McCullough for The New York Times

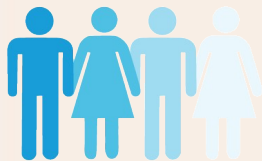
# Narratives of Othering and Belonging



**Breaking:** When a group turns inwards and explicitly pushes away from other groups who are seen as dangerous or a threat



**Bonding:** Connecting to people like you in some important way



**Bridging:** Ties to people who are unlike you in some important way; stories, structure contact

# Breaking and Bridging



There is **hard breaking** and **soft breaking**.  
Hard breaking is building a wall, a travel ban, or outright exclusion.

Some breaking is defensive:

Booker T. Washington's campaign for self-help under the oppression of Jim Crow segregation is an example of this.

Similarly, break away or autonomous movements such as those initiated by the Kurds of northern Iraq is defensive breaking.

# Breaking and Bridging

There are **short bridges** and **long bridges**.

Some bridges require more effort to build and maintain. Others are a short distance.



As bell hooks reminds us, bridges are walked on.

# Bridging On the One Hand, Breaking on the Other



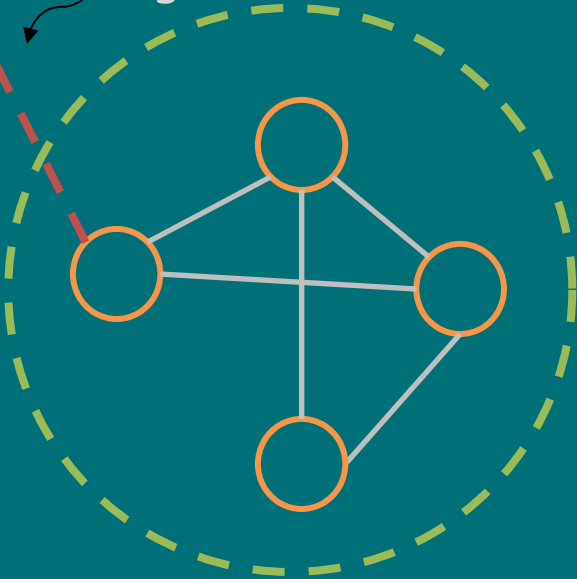
## BREAKI

**NG**ial ties among an exclusive group who explicitly push away from other groups who are seen as dangerous or a threat.



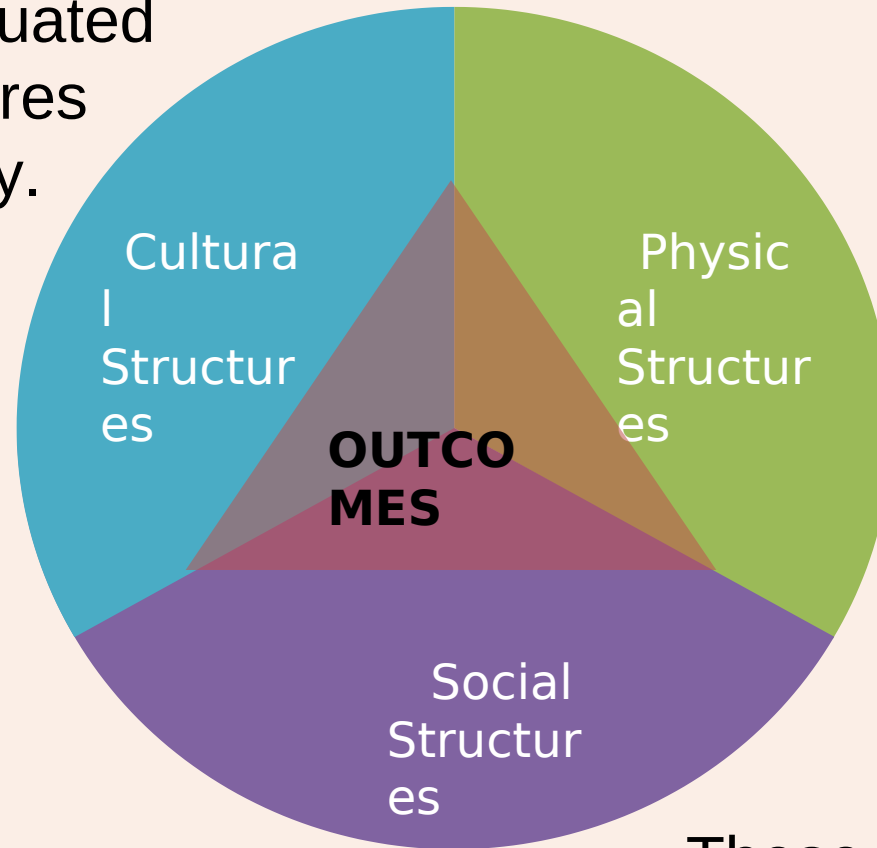
## BRIDGI

**NG**ial ties that link people together with others across a cleavage that typically divides society.



# Othering & belonging within structures

We are all situated within structures but not evenly.



Structures are not neutral.

Power gives us greater positive access to structures and more ability to shape structures.

These structures interact in ways that produce a differential in outcomes.

# Structures limit and enhance opportunity

We can define opportunity through access to:



EDUCATION



ECONOMIC



TRANSPORTATION



FOOD



HOUSING



JUSTICE HEALTHCARE



COMMUNICATIONS

This is an issue of **membership** and **belonging**.



# Concentrated Poverty



- **Poverty is racialized**
- **Only 12.3 percent of white children and 10 percent of white adults live below the poverty line, compared to 37.1 percent of black children and 22.6 percent of black adults**
- **Poverty is not simply lack or lowness of income, it is also a lack of capacities**

# Concentrated Poverty Cont.

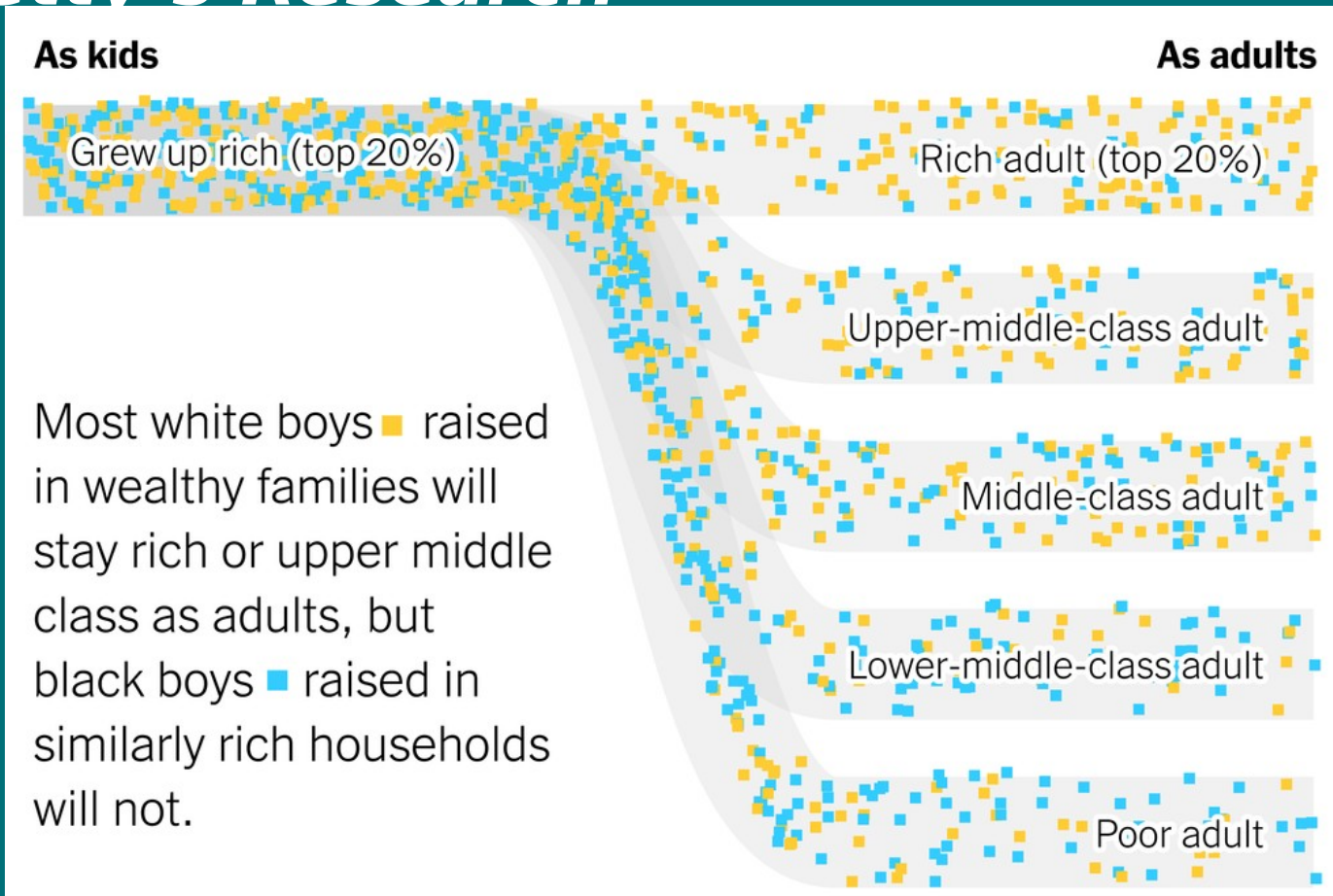


- **Using 2007-2011 census estimates, 3 out of 4 persons living in high-poverty neighborhoods or neighborhoods of concentrated poverty were non-white. Concentration of poverty is highest for blacks; half of all people living in concentrated poverty in the United States are black.**
- **Among white families who experience poverty in the US, two-thirds are poor for only three year or less, and only 2 percent are impoverished for more than 10 years. For example, many people report low or negative income when they enroll in college or become graduate students, or as they open or start businesses. In contrast, 17 percent of African-Americans are poor for ten or more years.**
- **While only 44 percent of poor people will be poor for the next 4 to 10 years, for blacks, that number is 61 percent.**

# Moving to Opportunity – Raj Chetty Revises Findings



# Black Boys and Social Mobility - Raj Chetty's Research



Source - NYTimes

# Black Homebuyers and Predatory Lending



# Structural Marginalization, Allostatic Load, and Telomere Length



# Definitions



**Equality** - Equality is equal treatment, even if outcomes are unequal.

**Equity** - Interventions allow different, but fair treatment.

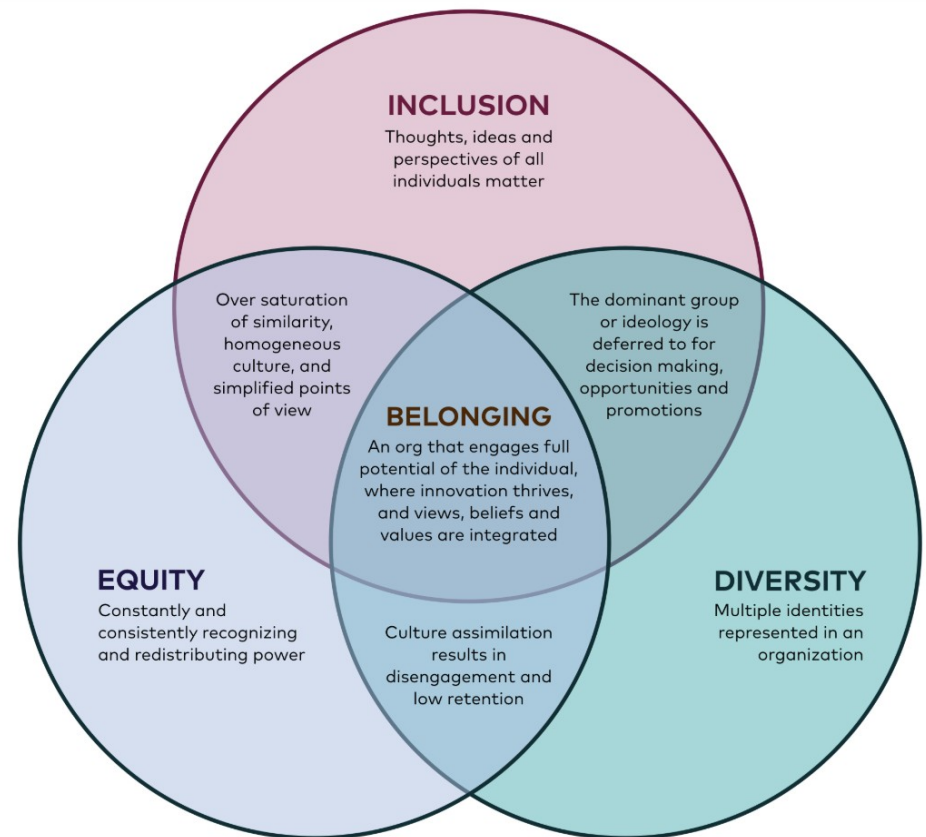
**Inclusion** - Allowing members of excluded groups to participate in institutions or organizations.

**Equitable Inclusion** - Allowing members of excluded groups to participate in a fair and equitable manner in institutions.

**Belonging** - Belonging or being fully human means more than having access. Belonging entails being respected at a basic level that includes the right to both co-create and make demands upon society.

# Belonging v. Equity v. Inclusion

Belongingness interventions communicate not only that someone belongs, but it shapes how they **feel about and regard the thing to which they belong to.**



Each element represents a different piece of the full human experience. Addressing only one or two of these falls short on gaining, what I think is the full human experience—a sense of belonging.



# Universal Policies Fall Short

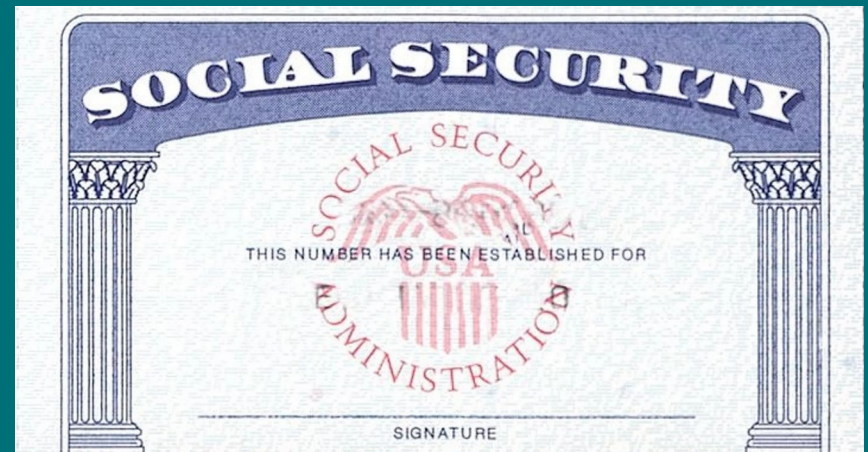
## Universalism is the Bonding of Policymaking



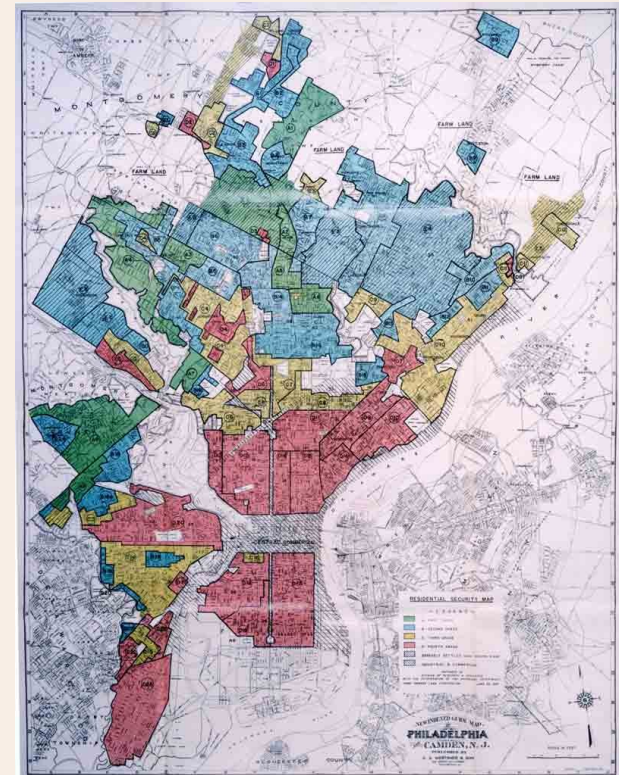
- Universal programs alone are not truly universal.
  - Often based on a non-universal standard.

# Universalism?

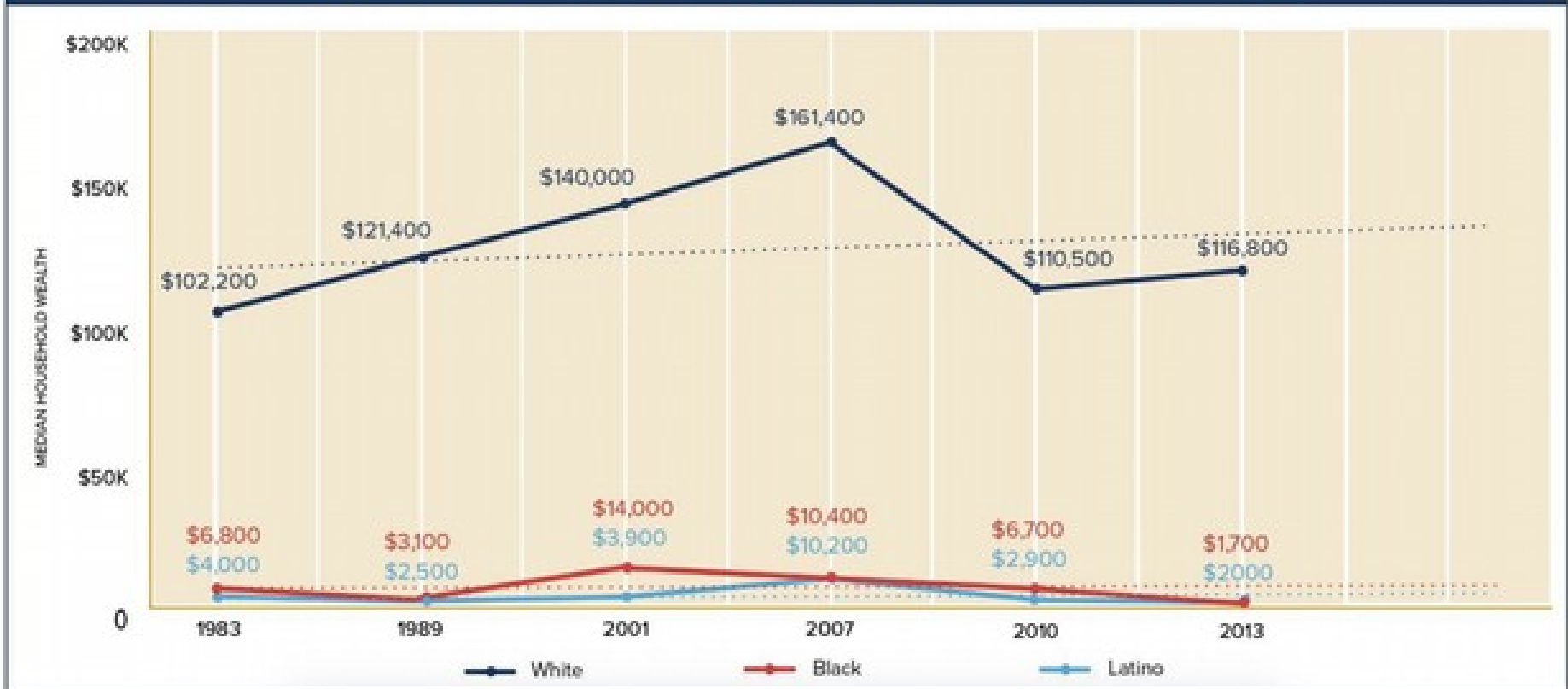
(Or structural exclusion in the making)



# Universalism/Bonding

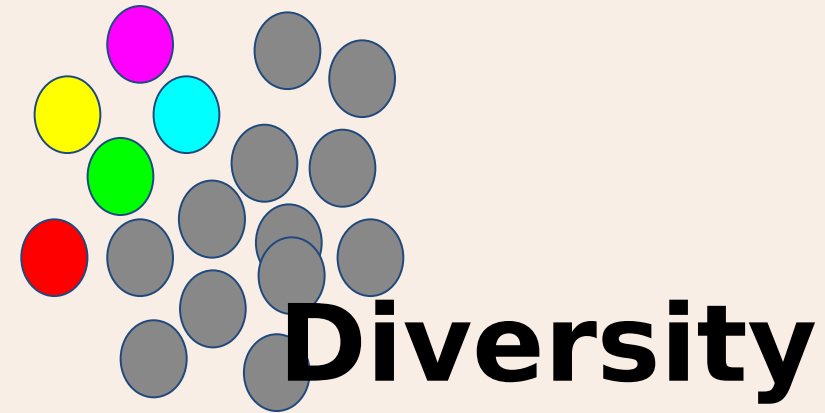


### The Ever-Growing Gap: Black, Latino and White Household Wealth, 1983-2013



Source: Edward N Wolff, Household Wealth Trends in the United States, 1962-2013. Figures are in 2013 dollars and exclude durable goods (from *The Guardian*)

Belonging includes the power to co-cre



# Why Targeted Universalism



# Transformative vs. Transactional Change

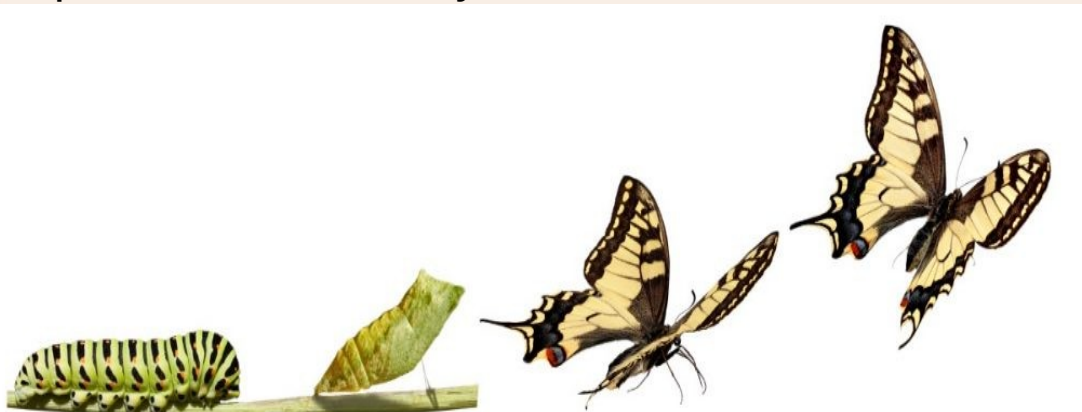
Equity efforts can be directed towards transactional or transformative change. Both are sometimes needed, but we should not confuse the two.

**Transactional Change:** A change *within* existing structures.

**Transformative Change:** A change *to* existing structures

**What might this look like in a clinic setting?**

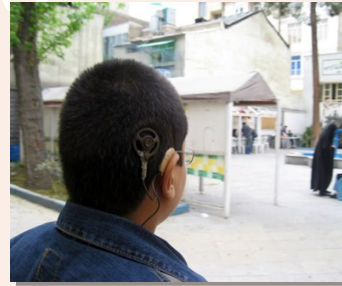
Perhaps given certain structures, to enact transformative change, we must change our strategies: pursue State court claims instead of higher courts that uphold discriminatory structures.



# Why T/U?

## People are differently

Not only are people situated differently with regard to institutions, people are situated differently with regard to infrastructure

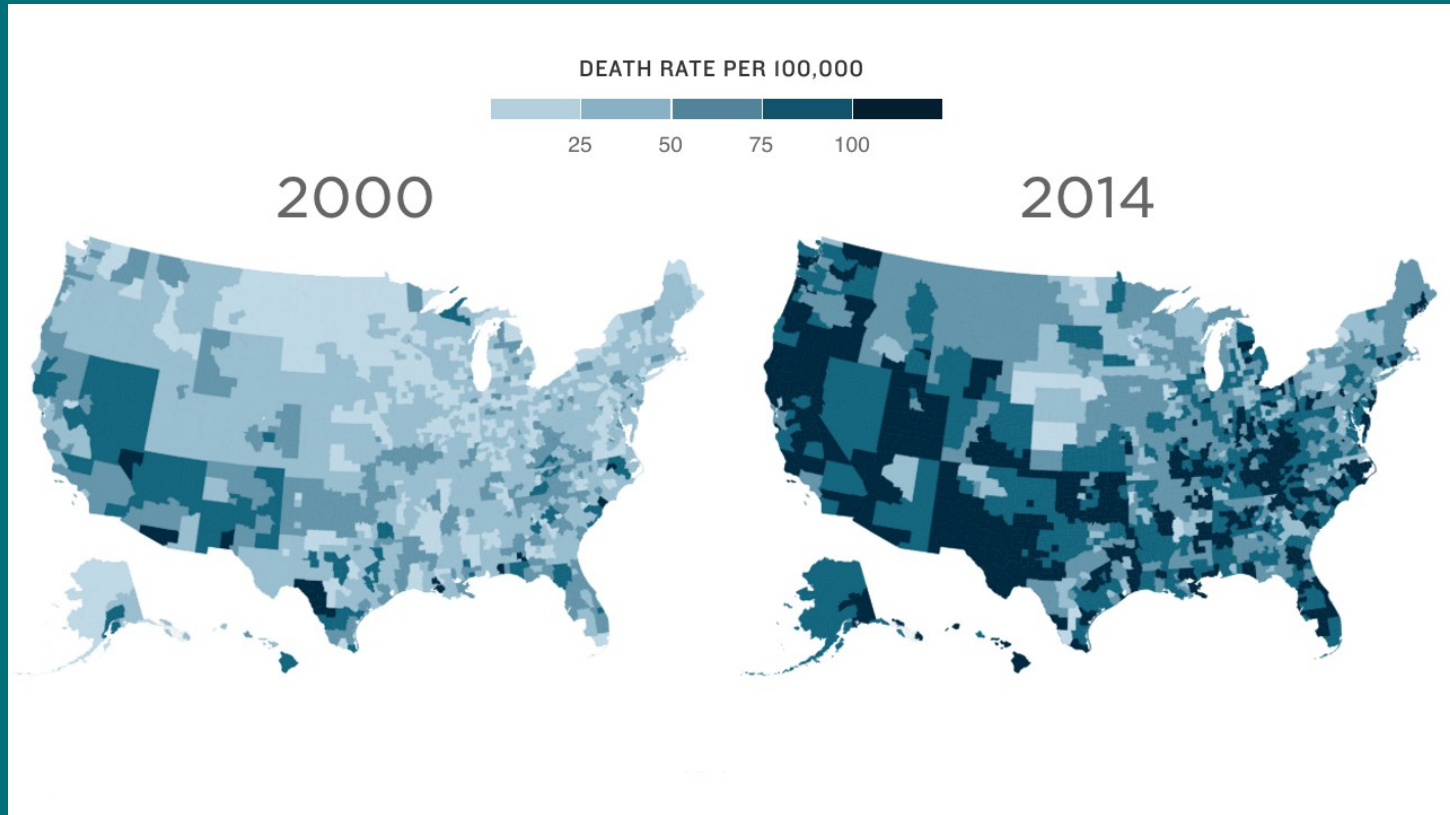


People are impacted by the relationships between institutions and systems...

...but people also impact these relationships and can change the structure of the system.



# *Deaths of Despair*

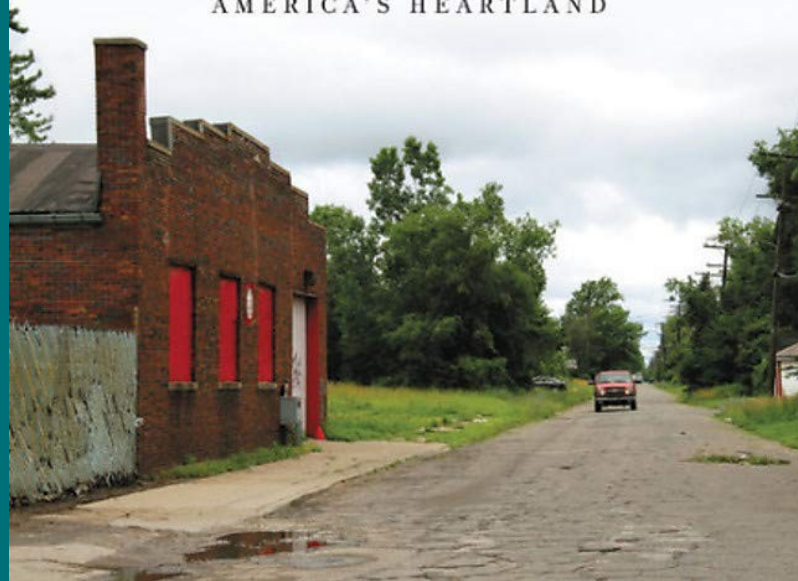


Death Rate of Middle-Aged White People - Source, NPR

JONATHAN M. METZL

DYING OF  
WHITENESS

HOW THE POLITICS OF  
RACIAL RESENTMENT IS KILLING  
AMERICA'S HEARTLAND



# ***The Epidemic of Loneliness***



# Social Isolation and Suicide among Veterans

## VETERAN SUICIDE IS A NATIONAL CRISIS

20 veterans die by suicide every day— we can't wait any longer.



# United Kingdom Minister of Loneliness



## New Minister for Loneliness



**GBOOMER.CO.UK**

Supporting the fight against Loneliness



# Belonging in Barking and Dagenham



Source – Participatory City  
Foundation

# *Belonging without Othering*

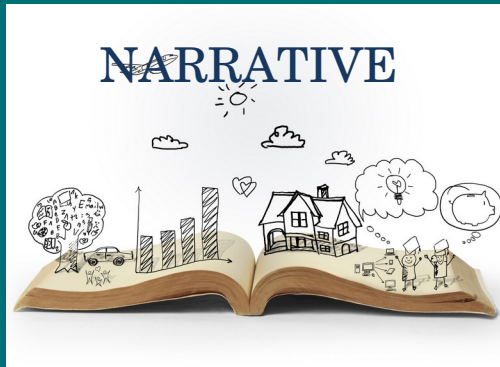








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# RACING TO JUSTICE

*transforming our conceptions of self and other  
to build an inclusive society*

*john a. powell*

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