



# Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress toward Racial Equality

*Patrick Sharkey*

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## **Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress toward Racial Equality** Patrick Sharkey

In the 1960s, many believed that the civil rights movement's successes would foster a new era of racial equality in America. Four decades later, the degree of racial inequality has barely changed. To understand what went wrong, Patrick Sharkey argues that we have to understand what has happened to African American communities over the last several decades. In *Stuck in Place*, Sharkey describes how political decisions and social policies have led to severe disinvestment from black neighborhoods, persistent segregation, declining economic opportunities, and a growing link between African American communities and the criminal justice system.

As a result, neighborhood inequality that existed in the 1970s has been passed down to the current generation of African Americans. Some of the most persistent forms of racial inequality, such as gaps in income and test scores, can only be explained by considering the neighborhoods in which black and white families have lived over multiple generations. This multigenerational nature of neighborhood inequality also means that a new kind of urban policy is necessary for our nation's cities. Sharkey argues for urban policies that have the potential to create transformative and sustained changes in urban communities and the families that live within them, and he outlines a durable urban policy agenda to move in that direction.

## **Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress toward Racial Equality** **Details**

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## From Reader Review Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress toward Racial Equality for online ebook

### Polly Callahan says

recommended by Ta-Nehisi Coates

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### MarySue says

This book was difficult to digest, but well formatted and the content was interesting.

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### Eric Bottorff says

This a model of what good social science looks like. Although not as theoretically imaginative as Robert Sampson's \*Great American City\*, Sharkey presents a set of theses and carefully and rigorously combs through the empirical data, both qualitative and quantitative, to qualify and evaluate and defend them. Furthermore, his writing is incredibly clear and should be reasonably accessible to those not familiar with the literature on this topic.

Most importantly, this is a major contribution to our understanding of the persistence of racial inequality since the Civil Rights legislation and movements of the 60s. Will definitely be of interest for anyone sympathetic to or working in the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

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### Sharlyn says

Maybe it's because I'm no sociologist, but this book felt incredibly repetitive. The author's thesis is largely and simply that neighborhood disadvantages (his list: economic and racial isolation and segregation, exposure to violence, high unemployment rate, lack of services, etc) are compounded when multiple generations of a family experience the same or similar problems. I think most of us would just think: "Duh." The most insightful parts to me were descriptions of the various federal and local policies that created these urban neighborhoods and the forced recognition that our disinvestment grew from a series of policy choices. There were also some interesting analyses of different mobility programs and a very short description of suggested policies, but it really boils down to making long-term investments in neighborhoods across generations and in many areas instead of simply short-term, piecemeal efforts that are often defunded after a short while.

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### Kristina says

This book is a slog and feels poorly organized. While the subject matter is of great interest to me, the data blocks are dense and too much of the word economy is used to say that the reported fact will matter later in another part of the book. The last chapter is devoted to examples of place based strategies, which makes me

wonder why there couldn't be more of that some where else in the book. I finished it feeling no more informed than when I started.

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