

Kyle Crowder Abstract

What accounts for the persistence of residential stratification by race and ethnicity? Reporting on research conducted in collaboration with Maria Krysan, I examine how everyday social processes affect the mobility patterns of different racial groups in ways that have cemented segregation as a self-perpetuating cycle in the twenty-first century. Through original analyses of national-level surveys and in-depth interviews with residents of Chicago, we show that residential stratification is reinforced not only because of racial differences in socioeconomic characteristics, residential preferences, and experiences of discrimination, but also through the biases and blind spots that individuals exhibit in their searches for housing. We examine the ways that social networks, daily experiences, and residential histories – all of which are shaped by segregation – produce differentiated residential search processes that produce racially-stratified residential outcomes. These processes help to explain why residential segregation has declined much more slowly than many social scientists have expected.