Urban Sociology Lab # 6

This lab will give you more practice finding & handling data, & finding background resources & appropriate materials for a bibliography

*Let me remind (again) that you have to practice using Excel. If you don’t practice what you know/are learning, you’ll forget, and then it will take much more time to do these exercises. You don’t have to spend hours practicing, just 10-15 min. at a time.*

Today, we’re going to reprise the add-on I put in the email re. last week. A few of you turned it in but I got a note that some of you were confused. So today’s lab will be a practice run. A couple of you will walk us through the process. Those of you who haven’t done the assignment yet, pay attention and ask whatever questions you have.

Most of you have now put together basic pop. info about your own communities for the past 3-4 decades. Those tables often raise more questions than they illuminate. For this week we want you to dig deeper. (For those of you who haven’t been working on communities of particular interest, this week’s lab will give you an opportunity to practice pulling together that demographic change data for your particular community)

For today’s lab, we want you to look at the housing stock for your cities. Build a table add columns and show the decade by decade- 1970-2K growth/decline rates for the total housing stock, owner - occupied housing units and rental units. Do this both for the particular city/town/village and also the surrounding or adjacent county. We also want you to think about (& if you have time, look for) reasons for these developments, and include a paragraph explaining them. For those who’ve got this easily under control, look for some commentary/newspaper analysis, etc. which discusses what’s happening to the area’s housing markets. You can call & ask your parents, local realtors, politicians, et al. why this is happening. (They may/may not be correct but it will give you possible reasons (hypotheses) for these developments which you can then examine critically, and use the data to test.

If this part is a puzzle to you, consult Ms. Ryan, Mr. Bern, Olson, et al. Most of you have noted that your cities experienced (pop.) stagnation or decline over the past half-century, but you didn’t say how fast/slowly this occurred. It would be useful to see decade by decade how rapid their growth (or decline) was. Likewise some cities/communities gained much larger numbers/proportions of non-whites than others; others lost whites, (a few appear to have lost non-white pop.). These are all interesting data and they raise questions as to 'why' this occurred/is occurring. For Wed. take your previous work and show since 1960- 2K decade by decade, the total pop. growth/decline, and the growth/decline of the key demographic fractions, (W/B/H/A)
Bibliography building exercise – due Mon. 3/8

For help with your bibliography-building project, consult the ASA Student guide. It will help you turn in a **properly formatted bibliography** next week. Go to & download the student guide from the Abel Scribe website [http://www.docstyles.com/asaguide.htm.](http://www.docstyles.com/asaguide.htm) Remember it’s free.

Second, begin identifying & collecting analyses, commentary, reportage about your cities and what has happened to them. For Wed., we are asking you to collect two types of references/cits./bibliog. entries, [i.e., (3) journalistic, & (3) scholarly/academic] in five different areas. We want you to identify articles, newspaper, scholarly, academic and govt. studies, etc., re. developments in your target community over the past decade. So give us a few bibliog. entries each for the past decade. The 5 areas are: 1) the local/area economy, or econ. shifts; 2) jobs & occupation changes; 3) education issues; 4) developments re. crime; 5) an area/topic of your own choosing. Again, four (3X3 each) for the past decade. Ms. Ryan the Sociology Librarian will be in next Wed. to talk about efficient ways to find appropriate resources.