"This study examines socio-structural constraints of a small urban community as opposed to large cities like Chicago, New York and Philadelphia; it also utilizes an interactional order approach to understand local practices. This study chronicles how a neighborhood, which was once predominately middle class and white, became black and poor. I trace the origins of the neighborhood through an analysis of corroborated in-depth interviews, historical records, and the architectural features of the space. I also discuss how city planners regulated housing and neighborhood design to keep residents segregated. I argue that due to a limited understanding of how local poverty works in this neighborhood, good intentioned policies, such as public housing, neighborhood policing, war on drugs, and welfare reform, have exacerbated the situation of its poor residents."

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