Legal Estrangement, Policing, and the Problem of Segregation in America

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Legal Estrangement

A social, political, and historical process that produces group separation from legal authorities and ultimately, the state and society.
The Persistence of Segregation
Mechanisms of Pro-Segregation Policing
Can Policing Be Anti-Segregation?
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Mechanisms of Pro-Segregation Policing
Can Policing Be Anti-Segregation?
What is Residential Segregation?

- Uneven geographic distribution of ethnic groups across a coherent geographic area (separation),
- Movement of marginalized ethnic groups into identifiable and stigmatized enclaves (concentration),
- In order to establish and reproduce hegemonic racial hierarchy (subordination),
- In order to control and hoard social and political opportunity for advantaged groups in ways that are collectively harmful (domination).
The Persistence of Segregation

Mechanisms of Pro-Segregation Policing

Can Policing Be Anti-Segregation?
Pro-Segregation Policing

- Mass Criminalization
- Patrolling Borders
- Coordinating with Other Bureaucracies
- Constructing Jurisdiction
- Distributing Racialized Economic Value
- Constructing Neighborhood Reputations
Pro-Segregation Policing

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They had pools and stuff! We didn’t know pools out there.
We didn’t know how nice it was.

So, we was just looking around, just looking, just roaming the streets, just looking at everything.

-Richard
Pro-Segregation Policing

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They said that Mansfield police were like, you know, pretty tough. So knowing that . . . . and when I mean tough, I mean kind of, like, racist.

-Jennifer
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Pro-Segregation Policing

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- Constructing Neighborhood Reputations
- Distributing Racialized Economic Value
The police are amazing. . . When we had issues with the neighbors or there was an accident that we saw outside or there was a line down outside, immediate. Our taxes go to great use. . .

They’re high, but we get what we pay for.

-Ann & Ron
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Anti-Segregation Policies & Practices

- Fair Housing Law
- Reckoning with Tragic Pasts, Presents, and Futures
- Reconceptualizing Police Districts
- Strategic Non-Response