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NYC Goes Right: Socioeconomic Drivers for Urban January 6th Participants

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Recommended Citation

Zheng, Rui, "NYC Goes Right: Socioeconomic Drivers for Urban January 6th Participants" (2023).
Research Days Posters 2023. 108.

https://orb.binghamton.edu/research_days_posters_2023/108

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NYC Goes Right: Socioeconomic Drivers for Urban January 6th Participants

Do local socioeconomic factors have an influence on the radicalization of far-right ideologies in urban areas of the U.S.?

By Rui Zheng

Background

- **Over 25%** of NY insurrectionists were from NYC
- Contrasts with commonly-held perception of U.S. far-right — poor, white, rural
- In the past, most urban participants of far right political violence resided in poorer areas — **will the data collected from NYC insurrectionists stay consistent with past urban far right?**

Why is this Shift Important?

- **Insufficient amount of research** on urban far-right participants
- Part of a larger issue — address **urban factors** as well
- **Anger, alienation, and disenfranchisement** within an individual or group contribute to radicalization — **did changes during the Trump years** serve as contributing factors?

Legal Framework

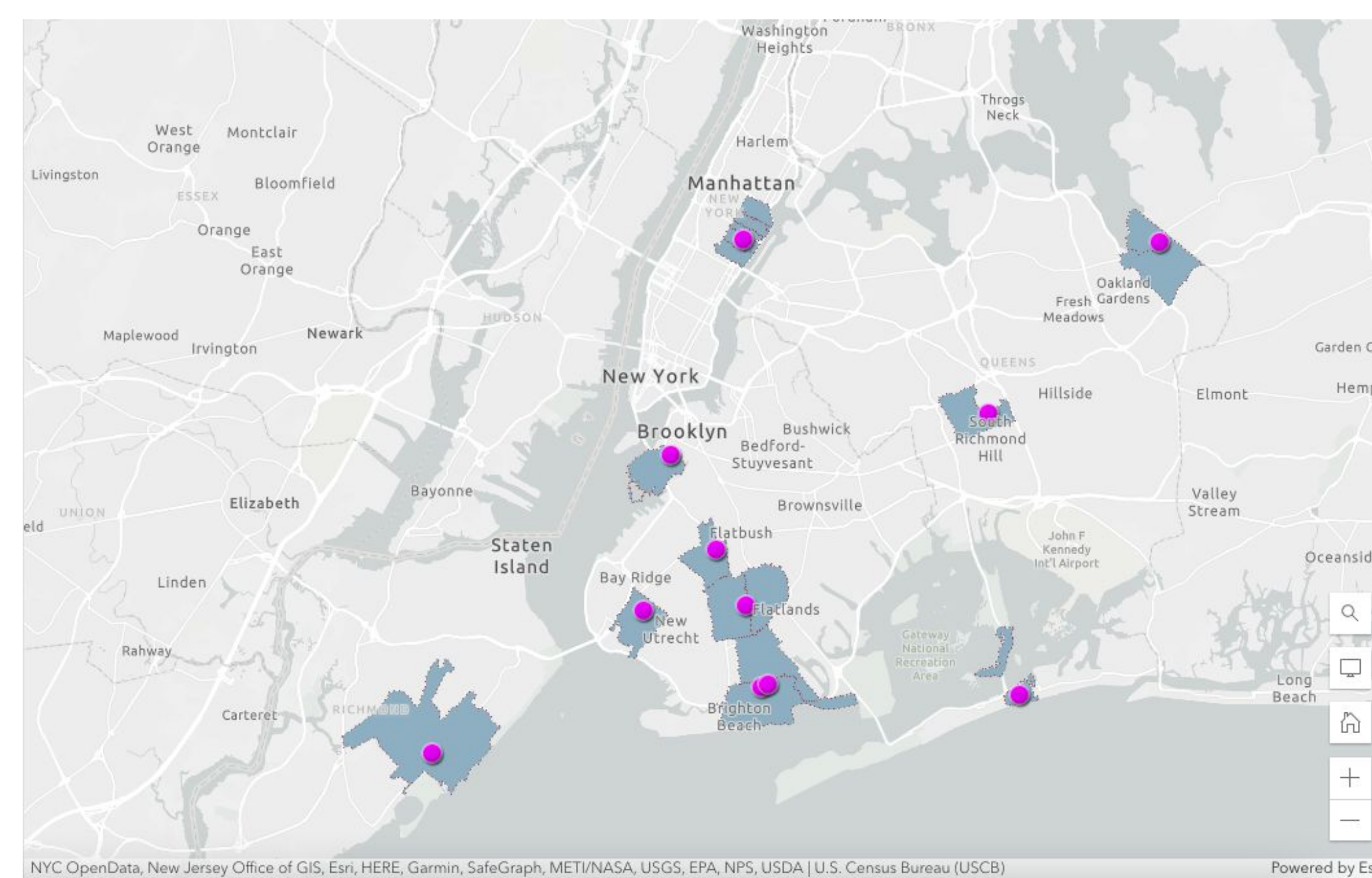
United Nations — International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

- **Article 25:** all citizens of a country have the right to vote and to fair, democratic elections

Rhetoric of a **“stolen” election** — **delegitimization of 2020 election** by Trump and his supporters
 NYC insurrectionists **violated civil and political human rights**

Methodology

- 1) **Department of Justice Arrest Sheets** — NYC insurrectionists
- 2) **Internet Data Collection** — various sources, including local news sites and conandaily.com database, to find neighborhoods and zip codes
- 3) **United States Census Bureau Tables** — data collected and compared 2016-2020
 - S1701 - Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months
 - S2301 - Employment Status
 - DP05 - ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates



Limitations

- **Small sample size** — only 11 out of 17 had neighborhood data
- **Census data is collected in April** — COVID hadn't peaked yet in April 2020

Changes in Poverty Status

- **81.82%** insurrectionists came from areas with **poverty levels >10%**
- **36.36%** neighborhoods experienced **increases in poverty 2019-2020**
- All neighborhoods except one experienced **overall decrease** in poverty over the Trump years

Changes in Employment Status

- Unemployment rates of surveyed neighborhoods ranged **3-7%**
- **45.45%** neighborhoods experienced **increases in unemployment 2019-2020**
- All neighborhoods except one also experienced **overall decrease** in unemployment over the Trump years

Changes in Demographics

- **81.82%** insurrectionists came from **white-dominated** neighborhoods (>50% white)
- **81.82%** neighborhoods experienced **decrease in white population 2016-2020**
- **27.27%** neighborhoods experienced **>5% decrease** in white population over the Trump years

Future Study

- Analysis of **voter patterns and participation** in insurrectionists' neighborhoods
- Changes in **political affiliations** over Trump years

Works Cited & More

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