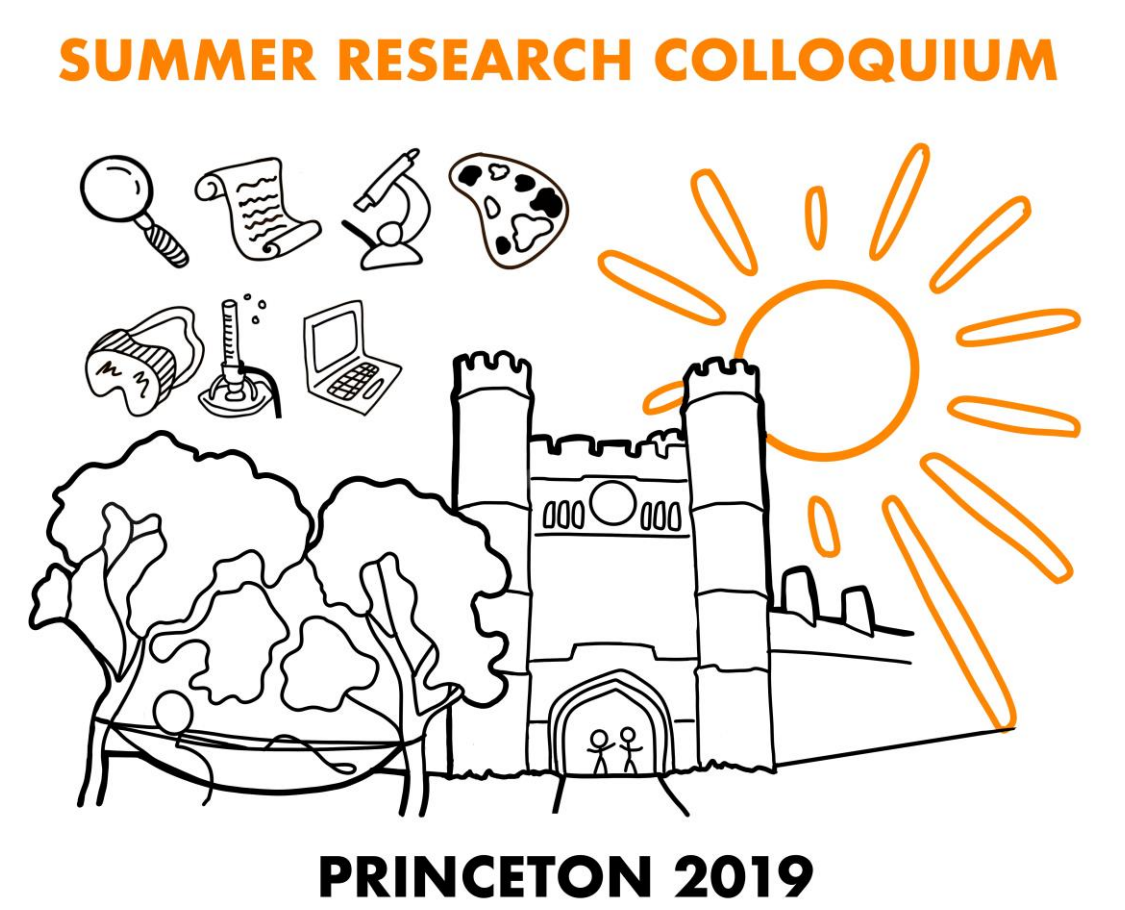


Who Owns America?

MaryAnn Placheril, Eviction Lab, maryannp@princeton.edu



Background

For the past few decades and especially following the Great Recession, corporations and large landowners have been buying up American cities.

However, if you were to try to find data on who owns property and ownership history in cities, that data is scattered and not standardized.

This project aims at eventually exploring the effects of large and corporate landowners but must first begin by gathering data.

Research Questions

What effects do large landowners have on important sociological outcomes such as housing stability, school performance, and more?

Methods

The initial data we needed was tax assessment data, land deed records, and business filing data. We called and emailed hundreds of counties in ~40 metropolitan areas to locate and receive these types of data as far back in time as possible. This data is collected differently by county, so after data gathering, we must process and standardize the data.



The six metropolitan areas we will proceed with.

Progress

We began with ~40 metropolitan areas. Based on the availability of data, we chose six metro areas to move on to processing and analysis. These six cities were chosen because they represent different regions and types of American cities.

They are as follows.

- Boston
- Charlotte
- Houston
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- St. Louis

Discussion

This project will have two main outputs.

The first is published data on ownership in these cities, illuminating the largest landowners and allowing tenants to organize by showing them what other properties their landlord owns. This data may also be used by other researchers for analysis.

Our team will certainly use this data for analysis and will begin writing papers and analyses combining the ownership data with data on eviction, gentrification, neighborhood turnover etc. in order to

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References

Image exported from Google Maps.