Urban Studies 200

Assignment #2 – Fieldwork in Point Breeze

On October 2, 2014, we were lead on a field trip to the Point Breeze section of Philadelphia by Professor Mark Stern. This was your introduction to the neighborhood. As professor Stern noted – and as we discussed along the way – Point Breeze is definitely changing. In this assignment though, I want you to answer the question: **Is Point Breeze undergoing gentrification?**

In order to do this assignment I want you to review 2-3 pieces of published, scholarly literature on the topic of gentrification – particularly pieces of literature that you identify (and to which you will properly cite in your assignment) that offer a means of defining gentrification. From this literature, you will create a working definition of gentrification (also known as an “operational definition”). I want you to gather data from PolicyMap that speak to your operational definition. In addition, through another trip to Point Breeze – on your own or, preferably with a fellow student – I would like you to make some observations and conduct two interviews with a local resident or businessperson that will yield information relevant to your operational definition of gentrification.

The assignment write-up itself should include:

(a) a statement of your question;
(b) an articulation of your operational definition;
(c) a summary of the data you gathered from PolicyMap (including 2-3 relevant maps);
(d) a summary of your observations from your fieldwork;
(e) a summary of your interview(s) results;
(f) conclusions;
(g) an appendix that offers a detailed summary of your interview(s) including information that tells us something about who you interviewed (e.g., 30 year old male who has lived in the neighborhood all of his life).

All of this should be contained within 7-10 pages (double spaced, 1” margins). The due date for this assignment, to accommodate a need to return to the field, is October 23, 2014.