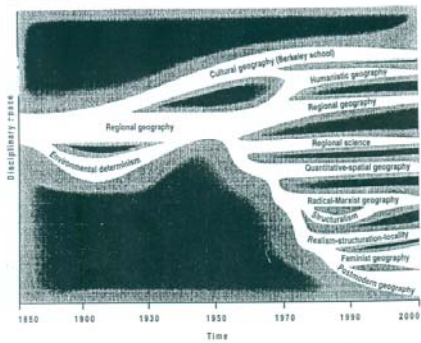


Radicals, Marxists, Feminists, and assorted Post-modernists

“Geography changes as society changes, and the best way to understand the tradition to which geographers belong is to get a handle on the different social and intellectual environments within which geography has been practiced.”

-- David N. Livingstone
The Geographical Tradition, p.347

From Richard Peet,
Modern Geographical Thought (1998)



What was radical about radical geography?

- **The content:** the poor and powerless; the characteristics of places thereof; development and underdevelopment; people of color; women; racism; causes of environmental degradation; colonialism and post-colonialism; the global spread of capitalism; injustice in all its forms; sexism; sexual orientation . . .
- **An approach that encouraged personal involvement and advocacy** (as opposed to neutral observation).
- **Use of Marxist perspectives** (particularly during the Cold War, when mere advocacy of Marxist perspectives suggested lack of patriotism).

Radical Geography arose in the 1970s and 1980s in part as a reaction to perceived shortcomings of the positivist/quantitative approach. Specifically, while positivism was viewed as capable of characterizing many social problems, radicals believed the quantitative approach had little value as regards what they saw as the ultimate goal of human geography; namely, to offer useful alternatives and solutions to social problems. Radical geography is, therefore, mostly characterized by qualitative methodologies.

Factors in the rise of radical geography

- A growing distrust of authority, and especially government (due mainly to the Viet Nam war.)
- Rising awareness of social, economic and political inequalities and injustices that existed throughout the United States (including, in all likelihood, the very place where you lived).
- Awareness that these problems had geographical attributes and thus were amenable to geographical analysis.
- A sense that tackling these issues – and possibly finding solutions to them – was relevant and important, and reflected highly on the discipline of geography.

Critical geography is a branch of human geography that espouses a critical theory approach (an examination and critique) to the study of society. The basic goal is a better understanding of society, leading to formulation of strategies for its improvement. Generally, "critical geography" is a conceptual umbrella that may be applied to any study or theory within the field of geography that is founded on critique.

[This well-known article is an example of positivist research that foreshadowed the radical movement.]

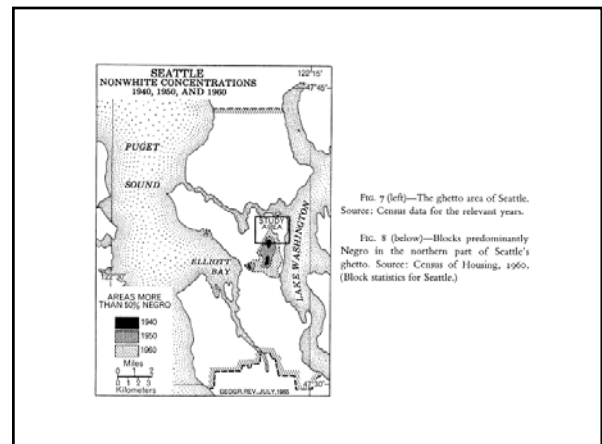
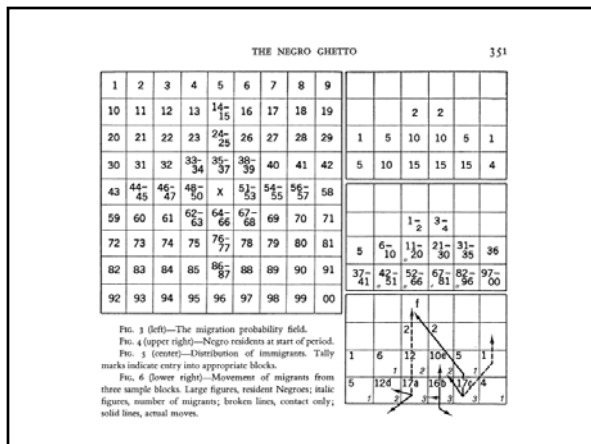
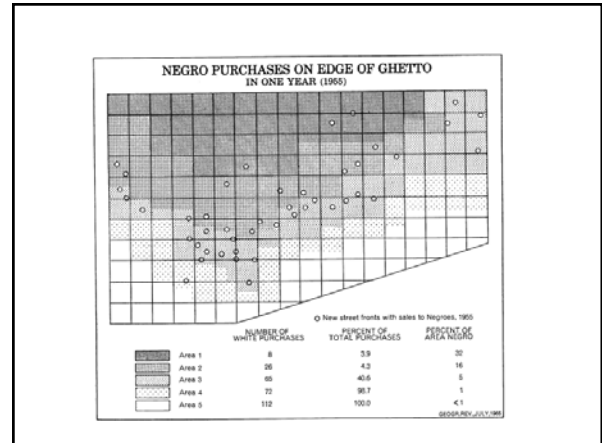
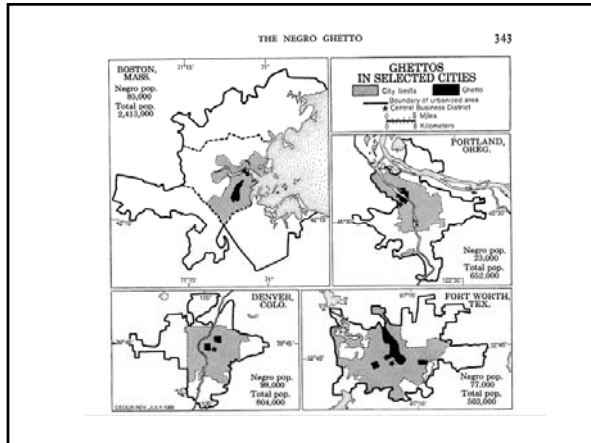
THE NEGRO GHETTO: PROBLEMS AND ALTERNATIVES

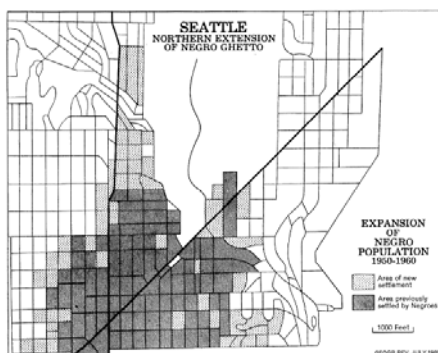
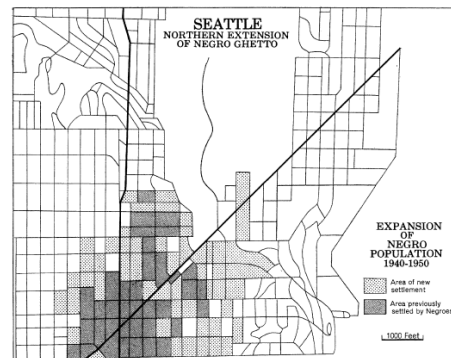
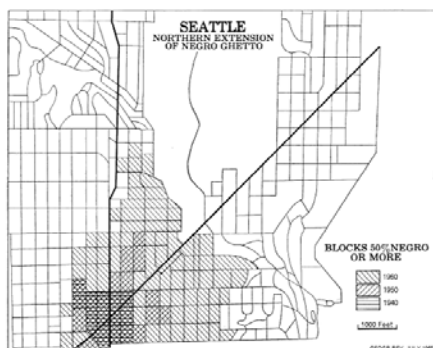
RICHARD L. MORRILL

GHETTOS," as we must realistically term the segregated areas occupied by Negroes and other minority groups, are common features of American urban life. The vast majority of Negroes, Japanese, Puerto Ricans, and Mexican-Americans are forced by a variety of pressures to reside in restricted areas, in which they themselves are dominant. So general is this phenomenon that not one of the hundred largest urban areas can be said to be without ghettos.

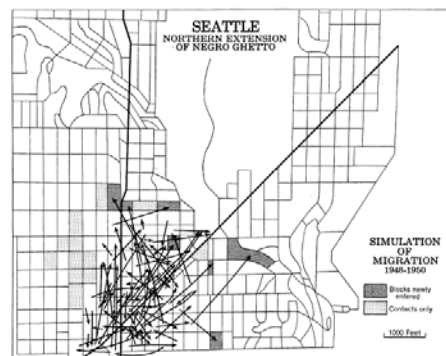
Inferiority in almost every conceivable material respect is the mark of the ghetto. But also, to the minority person, the ghetto implies a rejection, a stamp of inferiority, which stifles ambition and initiative. The very fact of residential segregation reinforces other forms of discrimination by preventing the normal contacts through which prejudice may be gradually overcome. Yet because the home and the neighborhood are so personal and intimate, housing will be the last and most difficult step in the struggle for equal rights.

The purpose here is to trace the origin of the ghetto and the forces that perpetuate it and to evaluate proposals for controlling it. The Negro com-





Figs. 9 and 10. Source: Census of Housing, 1950. (Block statistics for Seattle)



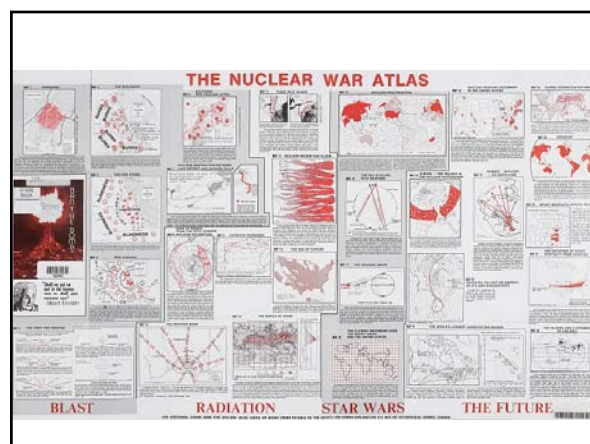
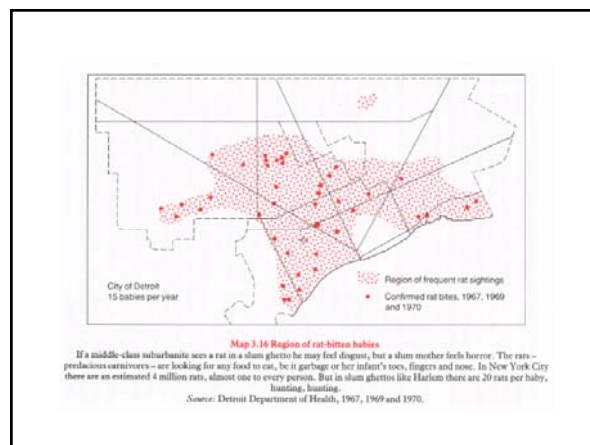
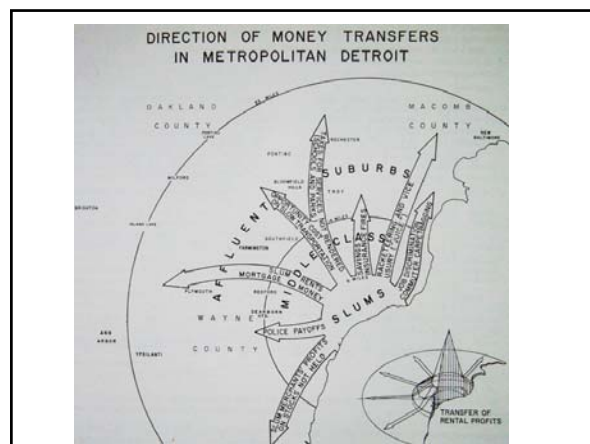
William W. Bunge (1928 -)



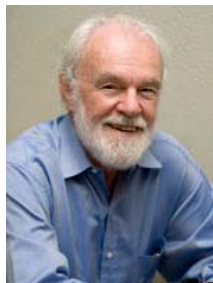
- American-born human geographer who was in the forefront of both the quantitative revolution and radical geography
- Author of *Theoretical Geography*, a landmark in the literature of positivism.
- Became disillusioned and radicalized by U.S. conservative politics, racism and the Vietnam War.
- A founder of the Detroit Geographical Expedition, which sought to address social ills of urban America.
- Now "in exile" in Canada.

The Detroit Geographical Expedition (and later, The Society for Human Exploration)

- Co-founded (with Gwendolyn Warren) in 1968 while a faculty member at Wayne State University (Detroit).
- Founded in part on the belief that geography should turn "inward" and focus on problems facing urban America, as opposed to its more traditional "outward" concern with exploring the foreign and the exotic.
- Sought to directly expose non-inner-city geographers with the plight of urban Americans by working and living there.
- *Fitzgerald* (1971). A book by Bunge on one square mile of inner-city Detroit.
- Also sought to empower local residents by training them in geographic techniques and providing educational opportunities.



David Harvey (1935 -)



- Distinguished human geographer affiliated with the CUNY Graduate Center.
- Originally a proponent of logical positivism and author of *Explanation in Geography* (1969), a landmark in that field.
- Later embraced radical geography, believing geography should not remain “objective” in the face of social injustice and social ills.
- He is probably the most famous (and equally prolific proponent) of Marxist geography.

Social Justice and the City, by David Harvey (1973)

- Arguably Harvey’s most important book, and certainly a principal indicator of his turn to activism.
- Examines urban poverty and its associated ills (such as poor health and poor education) in geographical perspective.
- Argues that geography should not adhere to objective positivist standards, but instead become actively involved in identifying social ills and working toward their elimination.
- Utilizes a Marxist perspective that identifies free-market capitalism as a major reason for inequalities.
- An outgrowth of Harvey’s relocation from Britain to Baltimore.

Marxist geography is a form of critical geography that uses theory and philosophy derived from the writing of Karl Marx (1818-1883). It focuses on the role of capitalism in creating social inequalities and in encouraging people-environment relationships that act to the detriment of both. Like critical geography in general, its principal goal is the improvement of society.

J. Richard Peet



- Professor of Geography at Clark U.
- A founder of *Antipode*.
- With David Harvey and others, a pioneer in Marxist/critical perspectives on diverse aspects of human geography.
- Current research involves the geographies of power, globalization, economic policy, and development theory (among other things).

Antipode, A Radical Journal of Geography, was established in 1969 to publish articles on environmental and spatial topics written from radical viewpoints. Its Website describes the journal as publishing critical scholarship focusing on geographical issues and promoting geographical ways of understanding the world, with the ultimate goal being radical change.

“Antipode” means a direct or exact opposite. In geography it implies the opposite side of the world.

Structuralism

Philosophy: The world consists of innumerable places/settings where you find groups of humans who are differentiated from other groups by a common social context (structure) that molds their behavior.

Epistemology: Knowledge is obtained by identifying these setting-specific social groups (e.g., Colombian coffee farmers; Indonesian factory workers; gay men in Chelsea; Black women in Harlem; Nassau County commuters; long-term residents of gentrifying areas . . .), and the nature and extent of their unifying contexts.

Paradigm: Exploration of group contexts through a variety of means, principally observation and interview.

Postmodernism is an intellectual movement characterized by skepticism of positivist methodologies and grand theorizing in general – seeking in their place openness to a range of forces in social enquiry and political empowerment.

“The Strange Case of the Missing Female Geographer,” by Wilbur Zelinsky (PG, 1973)

- Notes with distress the low number of women in the ranks of professional geographers.
- Sees no immediate signs of change.
- Does it matter? Yes, and not only as regards opportunities for women.
- “The discipline as a whole, and thus the larger society, is being cheated out of major quantities of intellectual achievement and skilled womanpower, so that are all diminished thereby.”
- Though focusing on women, the article stands as a milestone in the drive toward making geography a more inclusive discipline.

“I certainly do not want to see the day when a woman's knowledge of the earth equals that of men.”

-- M. de Vaumoriere, *L'Art de Plaire dans la Conversation* (Paris, 1701), p, 53.

“A lady an explore? A traveler in skirts?
The notion's just a trifle too seraphic.
Let them stay at home and mind the babies,
Or hem our ragged shirts;
But they mustn't, can't and shan't be geographic!”

-- Anonymous, Punch, 1839

Women Presidents of A.A.G.

(founded 1904)

- 1921 – Ellen C. Semple
- 1984 – Risa I. Palm
- 1990 – Susan E. Hanson
- 1995 – Judy M. Olson
- 1997 – Patricia Gober
- 2000 – Susan L. Cutter
- 2001 – Janice J. Monk
- 2004 – Victoria A. Lawson
- 2006 – Kavita K. Pandit
- 2009 – Carol P. Harden
- Current – Audrey L. Kobayashi

Susan Hanson



- Distinguished University Professor Emeritus, Clark University
- A Past-President of the Association of American Geographers
- Prolific scholar
- Helped establish feminist geography within the mainstream of the discipline, particularly in regard to links with urban, economic and transportation geography.

"I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is. I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat."

-- Rebecca West, 1913

["Rebecca West" was the pen name of Cicely Isabel Fairfield (1892-1983). She was a prolific writer and champion of feminism. In 1947, *Time* magazine called her "indisputably the world's number one woman writer." British citizen. CBE, 1949; DBE, 1959.]

Feminist geography is a branch of human geography that focuses on the theories, goals, methods and critiques of feminism, which may be defined as the collective effort to establish and enact equal rights and opportunities for woman. Most geographers view this area of study as part of the larger realms of human(istic) geography, critical geography and/or postmodern geography, as opposed to being a specific sub-discipline. Courses with titles like "Geography and Gender" are becoming fairly widespread.

"Geography and Feminism: Worlds in Collision?"
(*Annals of AAG*, 1992)

- Presidential Address of Susan Hanson
- "The fear of feminism is probably quite similar to the fear of extraterrestrials, both being rooted in a terror of the unknown, in anxiety about change."
- Worlds in collision? No. Indeed, the opposite should apply. That is . . .
- Geography and feminism have at least three significant areas of overlap that should produce mutual enrichment:
 - Everyday experience
 - The importance of context
 - A concern about differences

Sara McLafferty



Professor of Geography,
Univ. of Illinois

formerly Professor and
Chair, Dept. of Geography,
Hunter College

medical, urban, GIS,
quantitative techniques

"Counting for Women,"
by Sara McLafferty (*PG*, 1995)

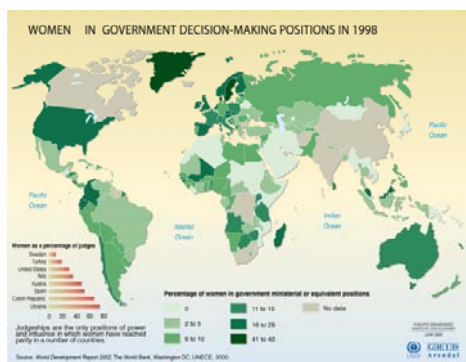
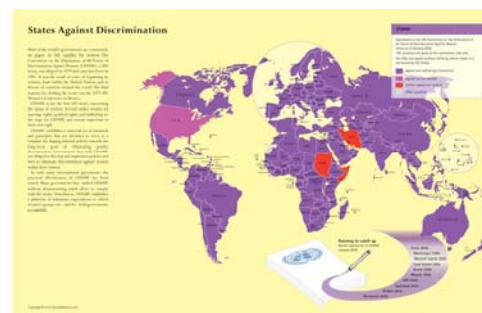
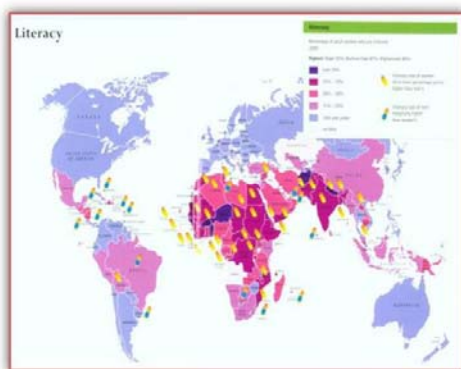
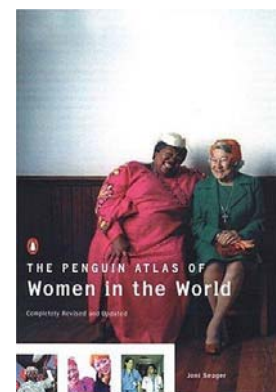
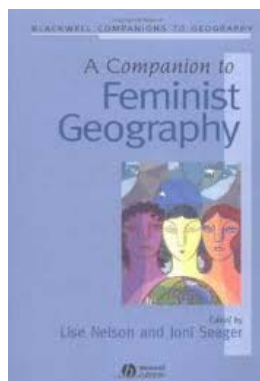
- Notes feminist criticism regarding use of quantitative methods/positivist approaches to the study of feminist geography.
- Asserts that quantitative methods have an important role to play in feminist geographic research.
- "There is no question that some important aspects of women's lives can be measured – money, time and life expectancy, for example."
- Sees qualitative and quantitative approaches as complementary.

Joni Seager



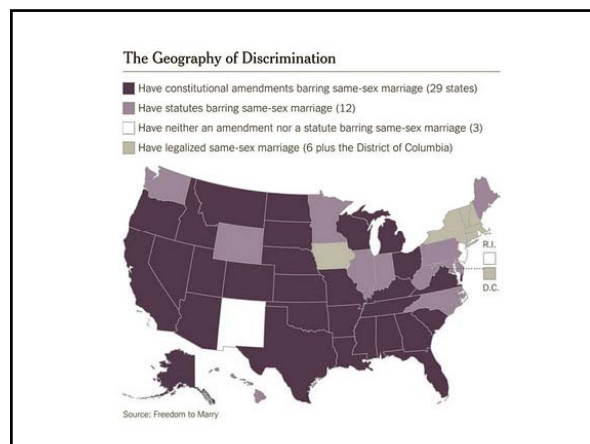
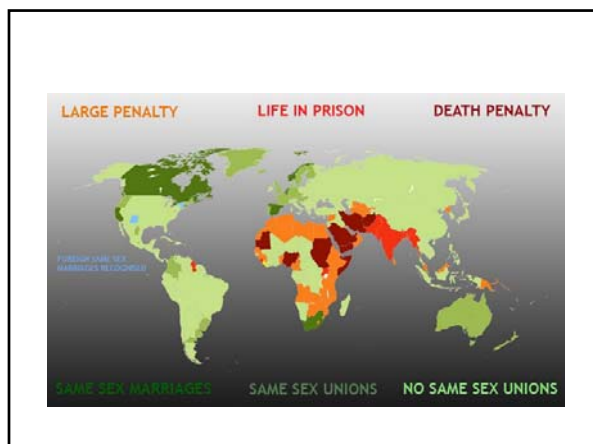
Author of *The Penguin
Atlas of Women in the
World*

Formerly Professor and
Chairperson,
Department of
Geography,
Hunter College



Queer Geography (along with associated terms like Queer Theory, Gay Space and Gay Geography) is a relatively new branch of human geography generally seen as an intellectual outgrowth of critical and feminist geography. It focuses on spatial aspects of the LGBT community and the sexualizing of space.

Suffice to say, use of “queer” in Queer Geography is controversial.



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**-- David N. Livingstone
The Geographical Tradition, p.347**

For Monday, November 28th

Go to . . .

<http://www.antipode-online.net>

**Peruse the journal and pick an article that
interests you. Prepare a 3-4 minute in-class
presentation about the article focusing on its
content, methodology, data, and conclusions.**