# Sociology 5960: HOMELine Internship



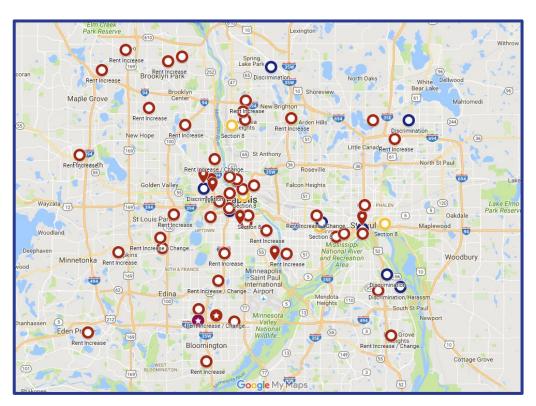
Alyssa Volkmann 7 December 2016

### Internship Site: **HOME Line**

- Statewide tenant advocacy non-profit with the office
  - Powderhorn neighborhood in Minneapolis
- Main services: legal advice/services via renters hotline, tenant advocacy, and policy organizing
- Public policy intern
  - Displacement Mapping project



## Daily Work



- Searching the database
- Contacting clients
  - Phone calls/emails
  - Recording stories
- Mapping displacement from rent increases
  - Researching/ understanding gentrification in the Twin Cities

### A Look At Literature: Mental Health & Low Income Housing

- Low-income housing is frequently an unhealthy environment for tenants across the United States (Fertig and Reingold 2007; Kearns and Smith 1993)
- Racial discrimination contributes to mental and physical health disparities in low-income housing (Kearns and Smith 1993)



#### Diversity and Stratification

Attorneys



Tenant Organizers and other Full-Time Staff



Interns/Volunteers

- Hierarchy surrounding education and status within staff
- Predominantly white staff serving diverse clientele
  - 2-3 Spanish speaking staff
  - 1 Somali staff member
- Diversity coming from interns

#### HOME Line Through a Marxist Lens

- Class inequality creates a need for non-profits like HOME Line
  - Tenants and landlords
  - Working class and non-industrial capitalists
- Alienation as a result of living in a society stratified by income or socioeconomic status
  - Between myself and the work I produced
  - Between myself and the tenants I communicated with
  - Between myself and other staff/interns



Personal, Professional and Future Goals

- Personal goal
  - Independence to support
  - Understanding relationships in the workplace
- Professional goal
  - Writing and communication skills
  - Utilize critical thinking in the workplace
- Future goals
  - Working in the intersection of mental health and housing
  - Eventually going to graduate school abroad



#### References

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