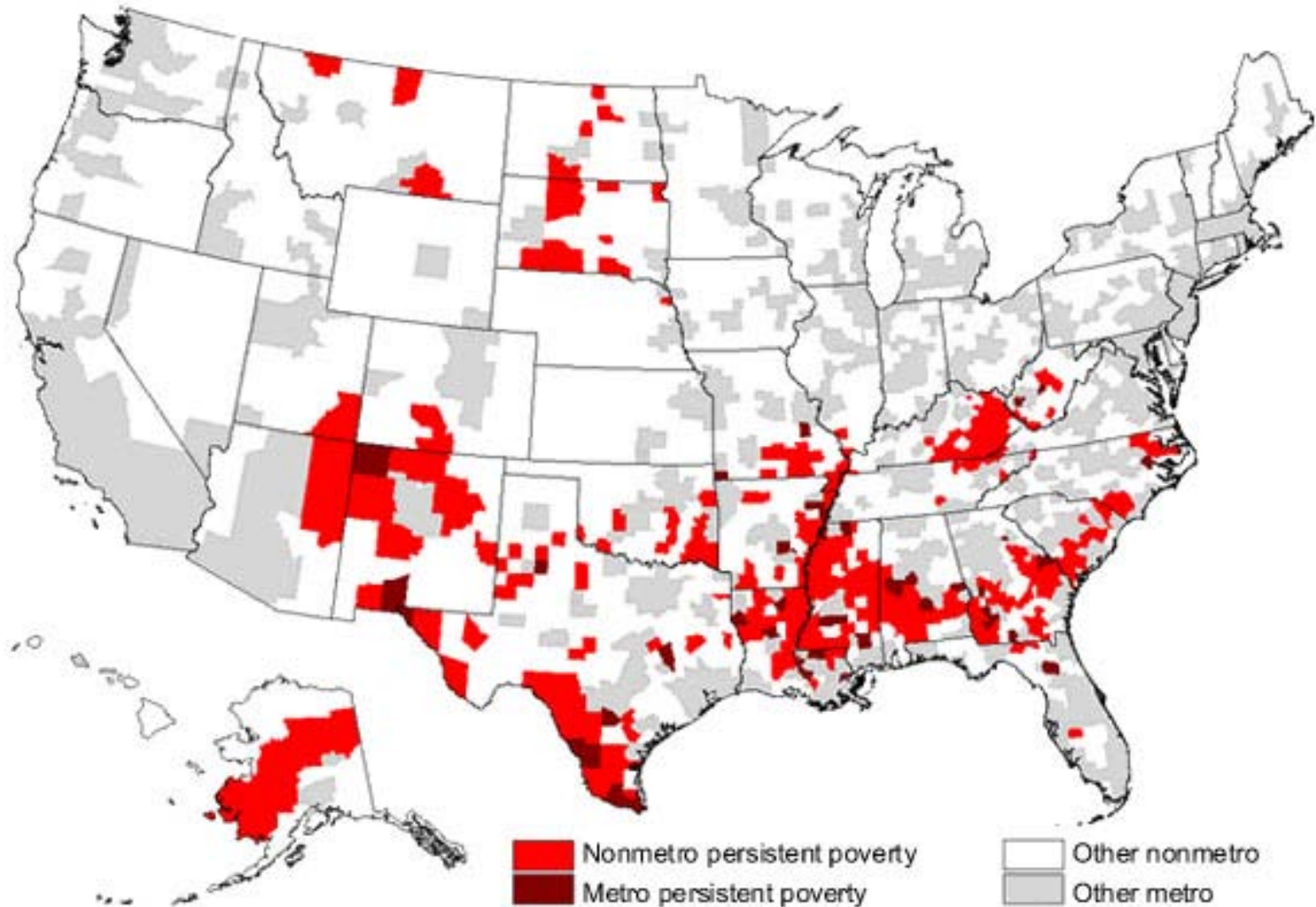


# Migration, Poverty & Place in the Context of the Return Migration to the US South

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Research assistance from Jack DeWaard and financial support from the UW Graduate School and the Center for the Demography of Health and Aging. Presented at the IRP Seminar, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

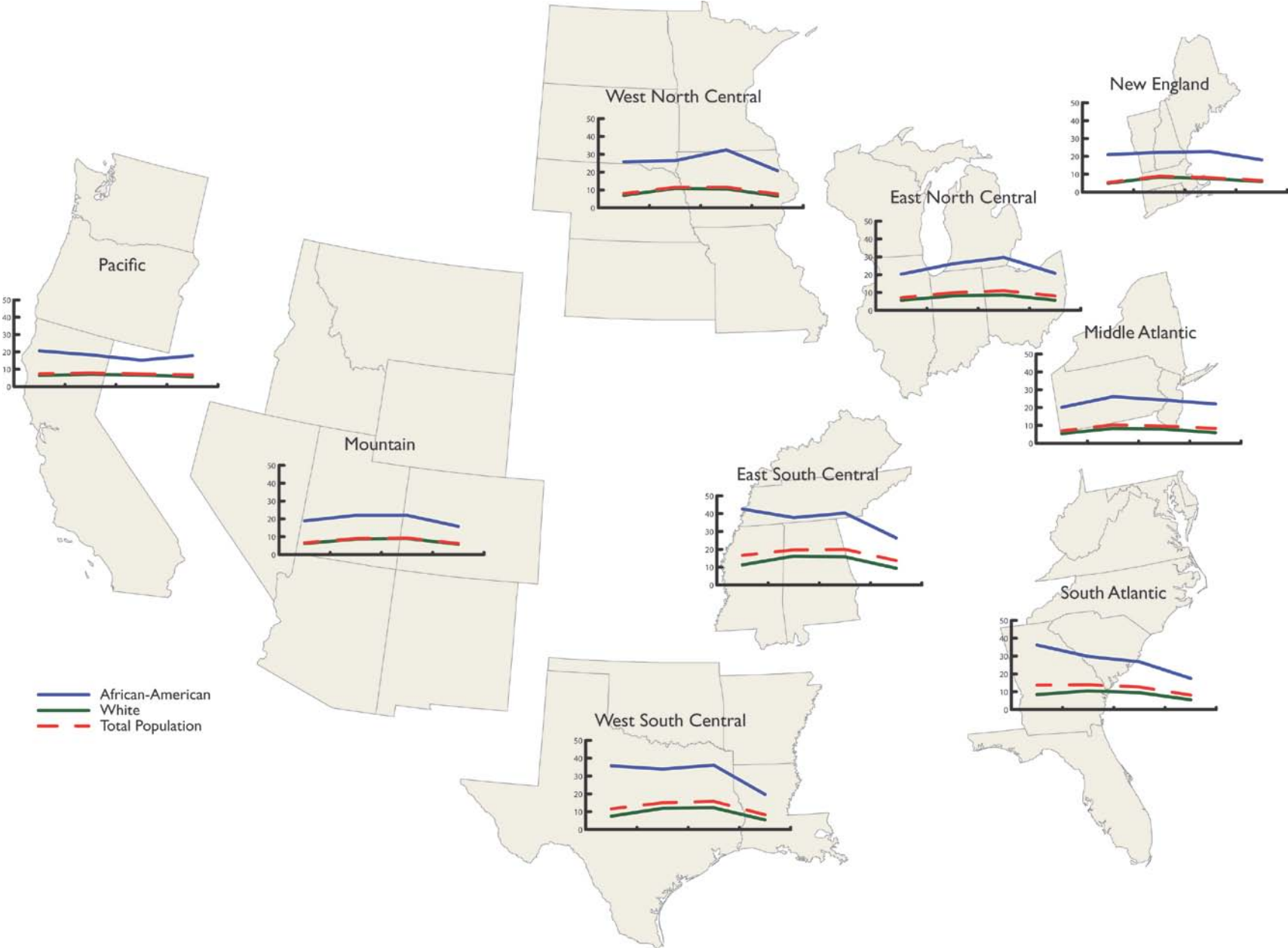
# Distribution of *Persistent* Poverty in the US by Division & Race 1970-2000



Persistent poverty counties--20 percent or more residents were poor as measured by each of the last four censuses, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA.

# Poverty in the US by Division & Race 1970-2000



# Defining the “Return Migration”

## When:

Coincided with the Great Migration (~1910-1970) & increased after 1970

## Who:

African American & white southern-born migrants leaving & later returning to the South

Plus non-southerners migrating to the South

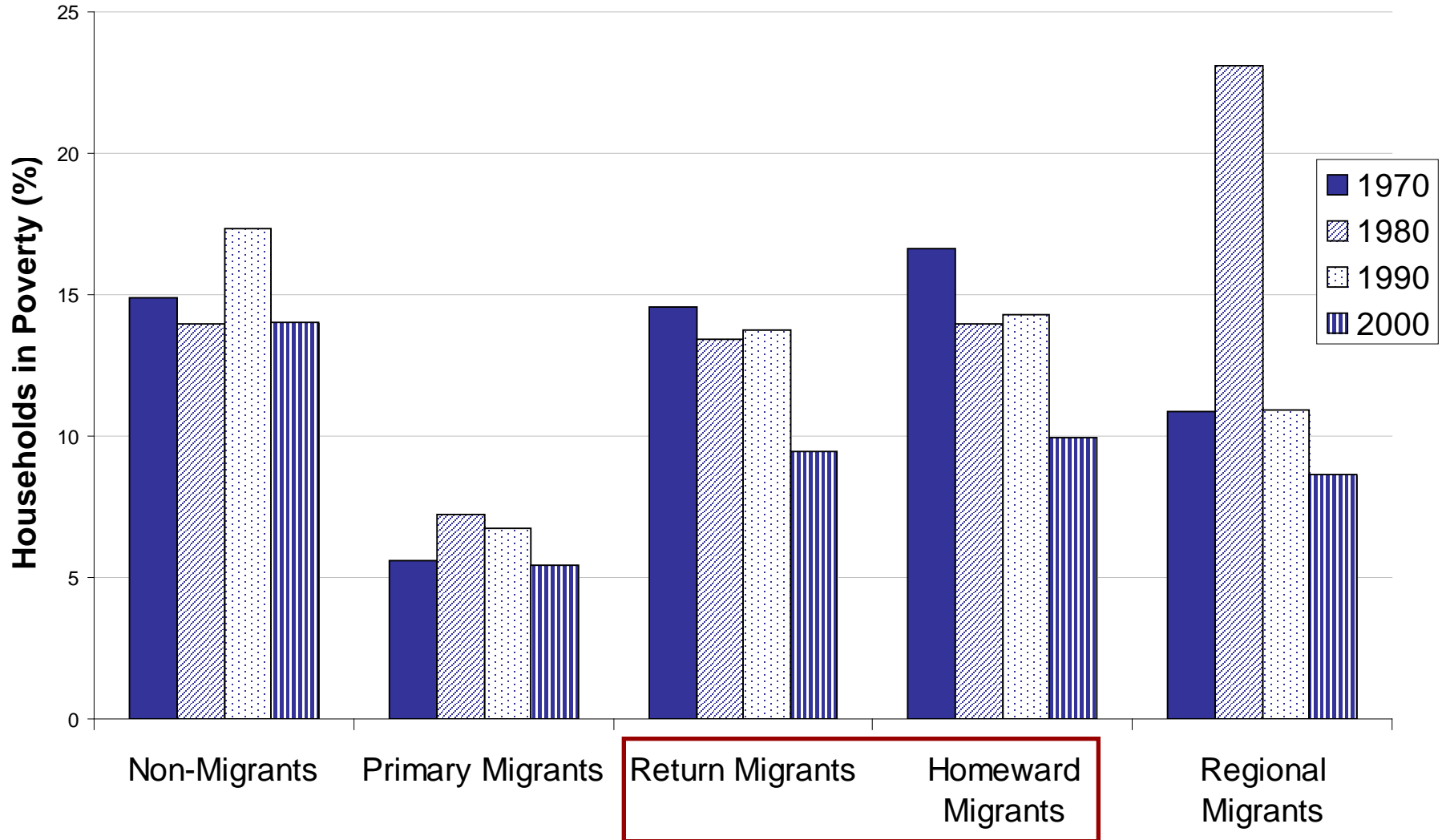
## Why:

Economic: declining northern industry & expanding southern industry (1970+)

Social: kin & cultural ties

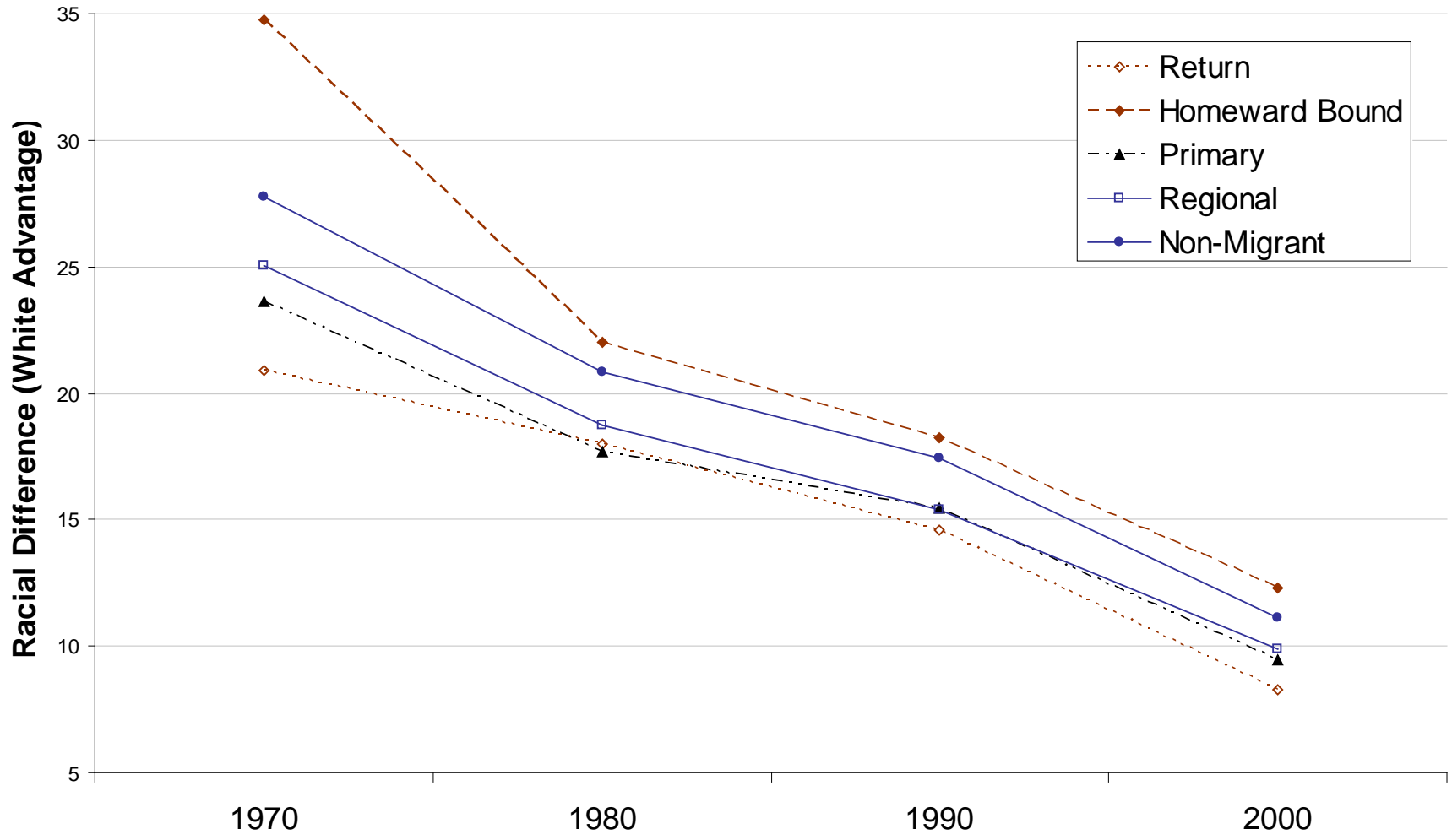
# Distribution of Poverty among Southern Households by Migrant Status

(no controls)



# Estimated Racial Difference in Poverty among Southern Households by Migrant Status

(with controls)



# Guiding Question

Larger Q:

To what extent does migration contribute to changes in racial inequality in the South?

Today:

Focus on place (county) in a single time period (2000)

# Conceptual Model

Elaboration of the spatially-informed *visibility-discrimination hypothesis*

(Blalock 1956; Beggs et al. 1997)

*Conditioned by Gender*



Racial Inequality  
in Poverty

=

Population Concentration (African American)

Institutional Environment

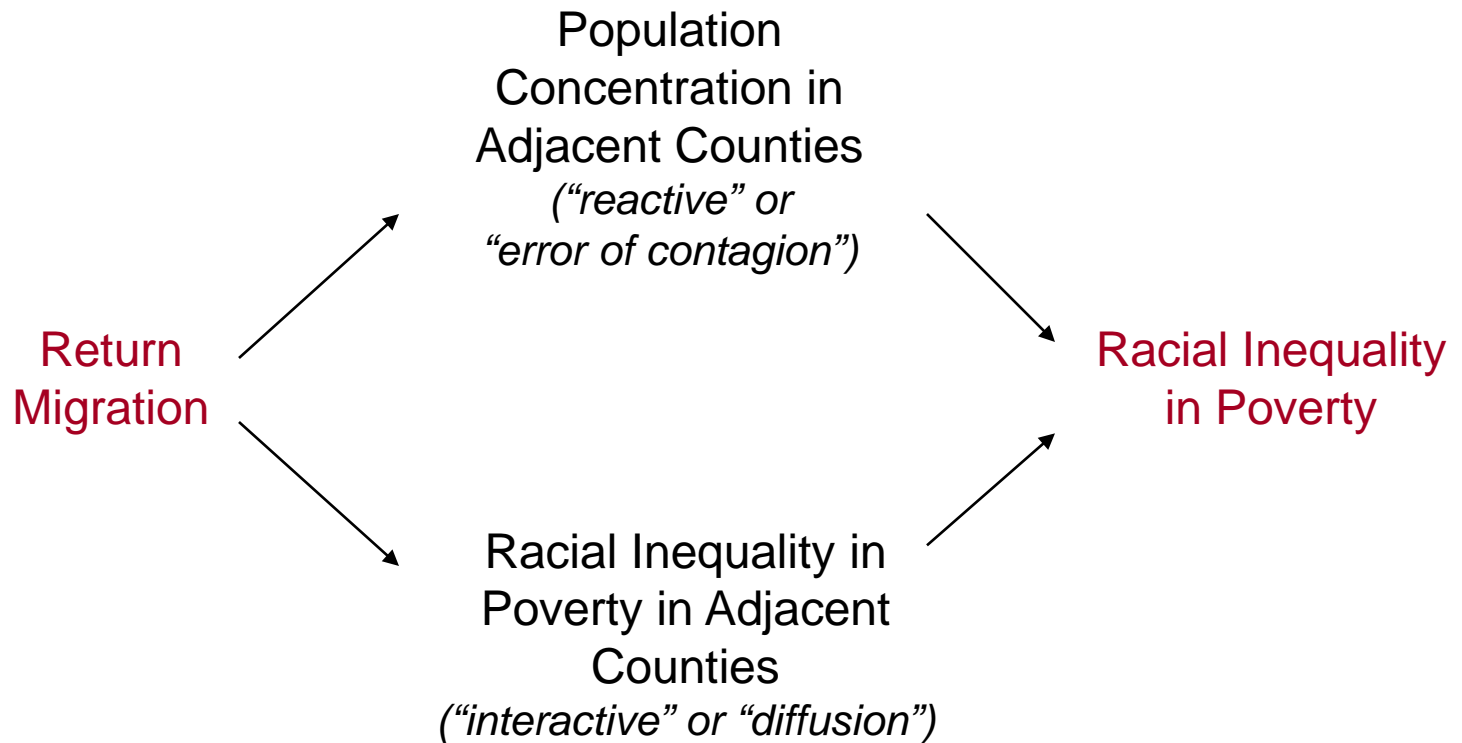
Place Effects

Return Migration

Controls: Demographic Structure; Economic Structure;  
Metropolitan Status; Out-Migration

# Place Effects & Return Migration

*Especially for Female Poverty*



# Statistical Model

*Separately for Female & Male Poverty*

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Racial} \\ \text{Inequality in} \\ \text{Poverty} \end{array} = \begin{array}{l} \text{Spatially} \\ \text{Averaged} \\ \text{Racial} \\ \text{Inequality in} \\ \text{Poverty} \\ \text{("interactive")} \end{array} + \begin{array}{l} \text{Spatially} \\ \text{Averaged} \\ \text{Population} \\ \text{Concentration} \\ \text{("reactive")} \end{array} + \begin{array}{l} \text{Population} \\ \text{Concentration;} \\ \text{Return Migration;} \\ \text{Controls} \end{array}$$

# Methodological Approach

## Data:

Census of Population

County-to-County Migration Flow Data

Black Elected Officials (BEO)

\* 2000 only, for today

## Sample:

Southern Counties (N = 1,388)

## Dependent Variable:

Inequality in Gender-Race-Specific County Poverty Rates

\* Gender-Specific African American Official Poverty Rate divided by White Poverty Rate

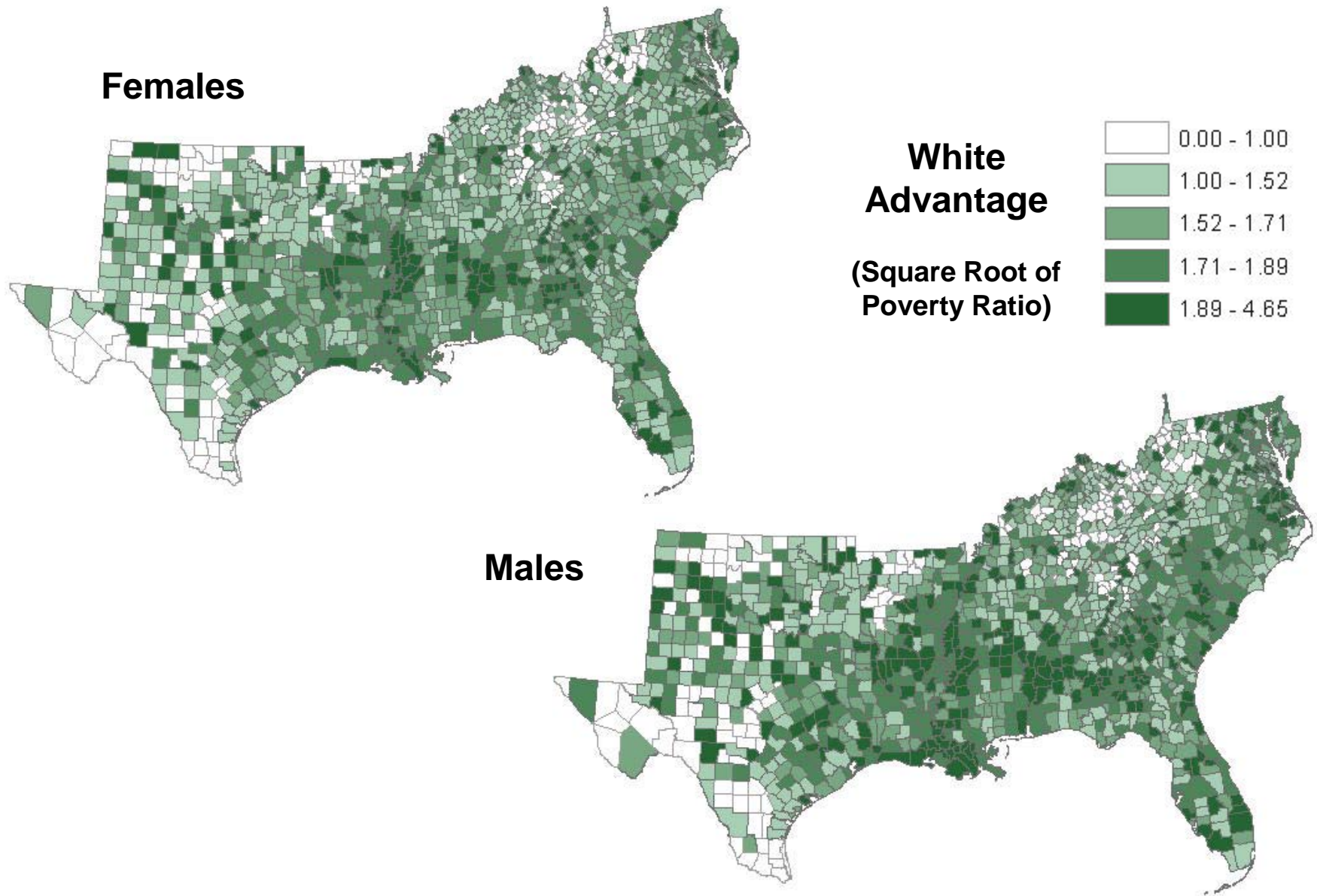
## Modeling:

OLS & Spatial Lag Regression Analysis with Spatially Lagged Population Concentration

# Study Highlights

- Racial inequality & in-migration are unevenly distributed across the South
- Racial differences are found in the association between in-migration & inequality in poverty
- Spatial effects are significant for both female & male inequality in poverty—greater “effect” for male inequality
- Migration is associated with lower racial inequality, although magnitude is weak & it does not attenuate spatial effects

# Distribution of Racial Inequality in Poverty



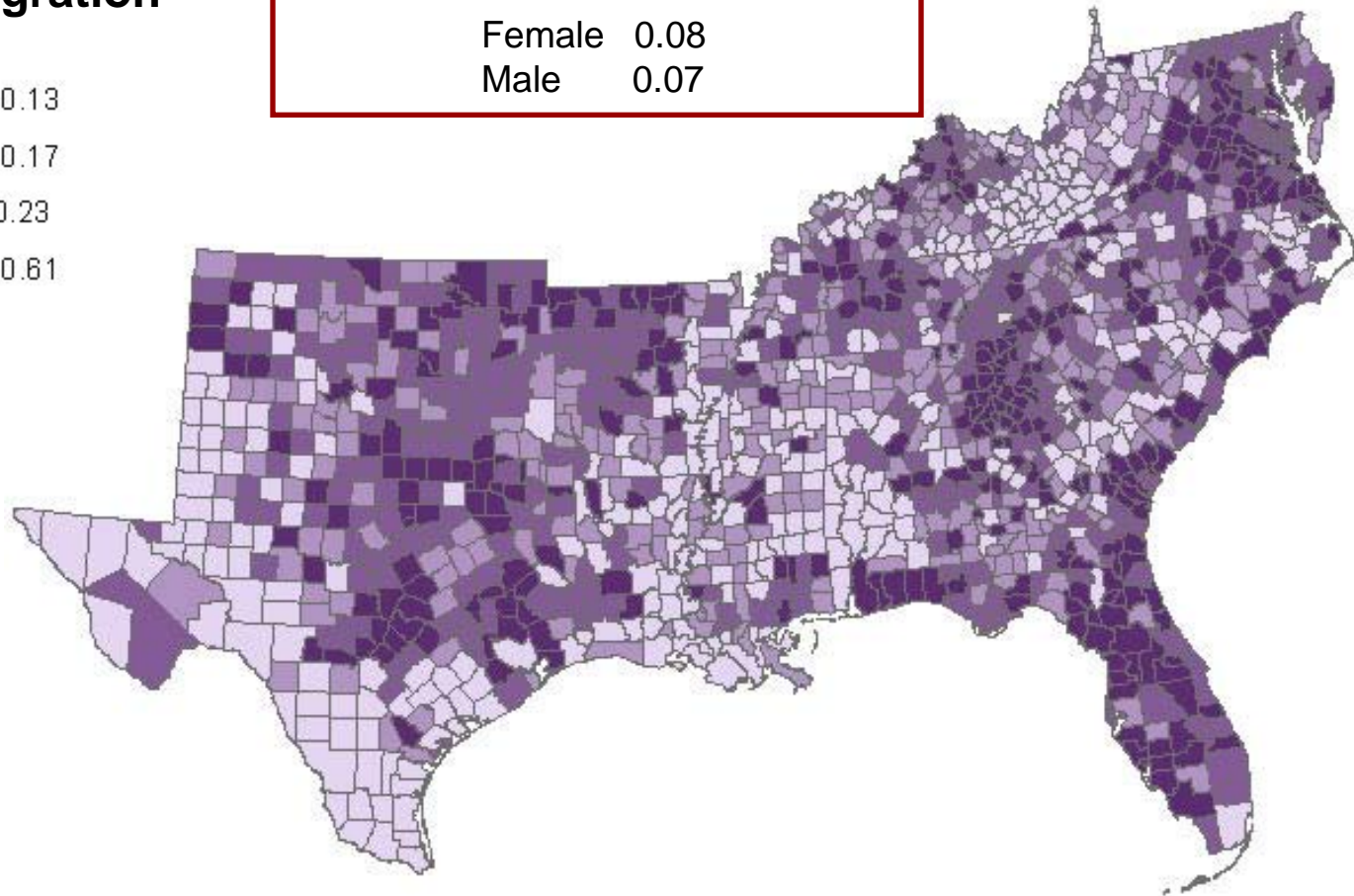
# Distribution of Return Migration

## Total In-Migration



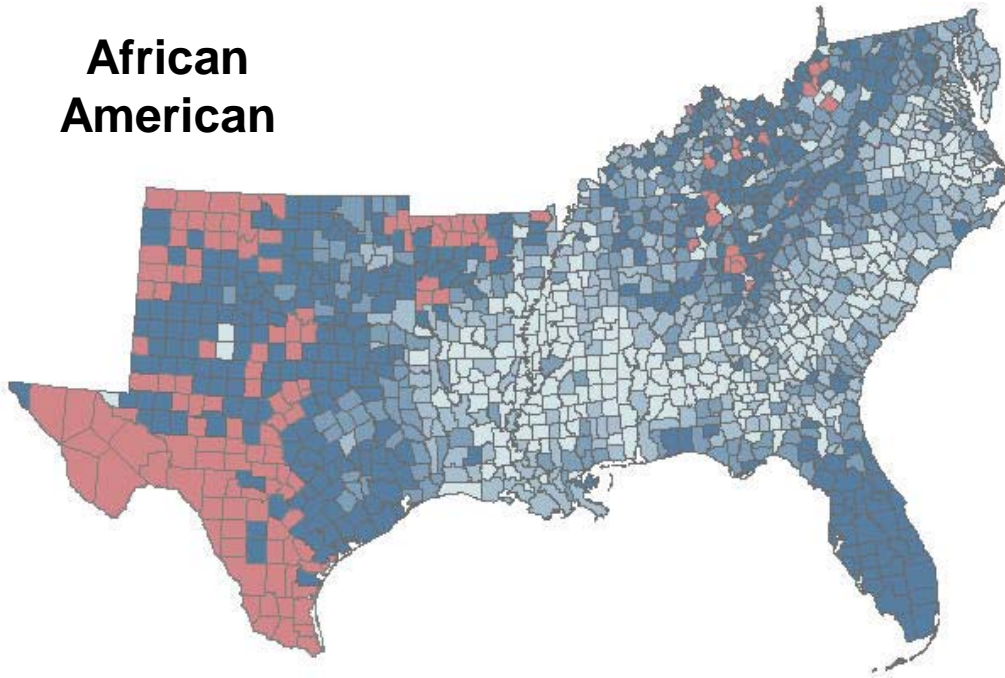
## Correlation with Racial Inequality in Poverty

Female 0.08  
Male 0.07

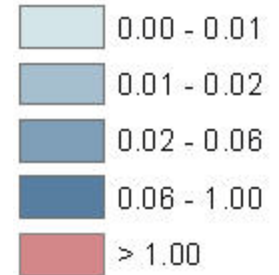


# Distribution of Return Migration

**African American**



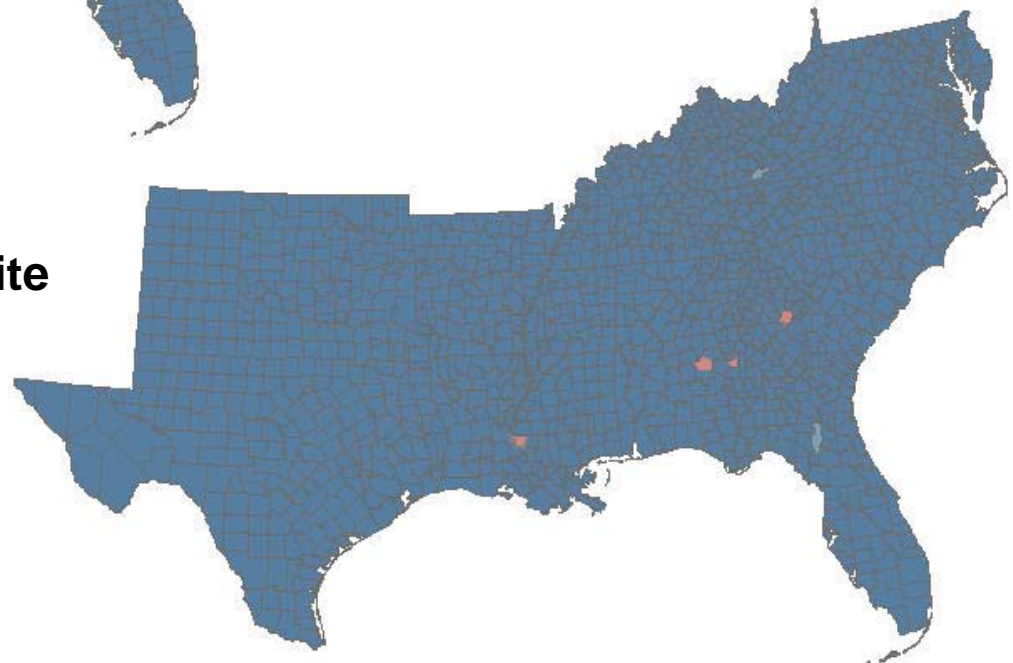
**Race-Specific In-Migration**



**Correlation with Racial Inequality in Poverty**

	<i>AfAm</i>	<i>Wh</i>
<i>Female</i>	-0.22	0.20
<i>Male</i>	-0.19	0.20

**White**



# Estimated Correlates of Racial Inequality in Southern Poverty

(Females)

Unstandardized Beta Coefficients from OLS & Spatial Lag Regression

Population Concentration	.727***	.102	.108
Institutional Environment	.032	.031	.031
Spatially Lagged Population Concentration		.538**	.551***
Spatially Lagged Racial Inequality ( $\rho$ )		.131***	.124**
Return Migration (AfAm)			-.006***
Constant	1.432***	1.132***	1.131***
-2 LL	-854.90	-841.33	-834.61

\*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

All models include controls for demographic & economic structure, metropolitan status, & out-migration

# Estimated Correlates of Racial Inequality in Southern Poverty

(Males)

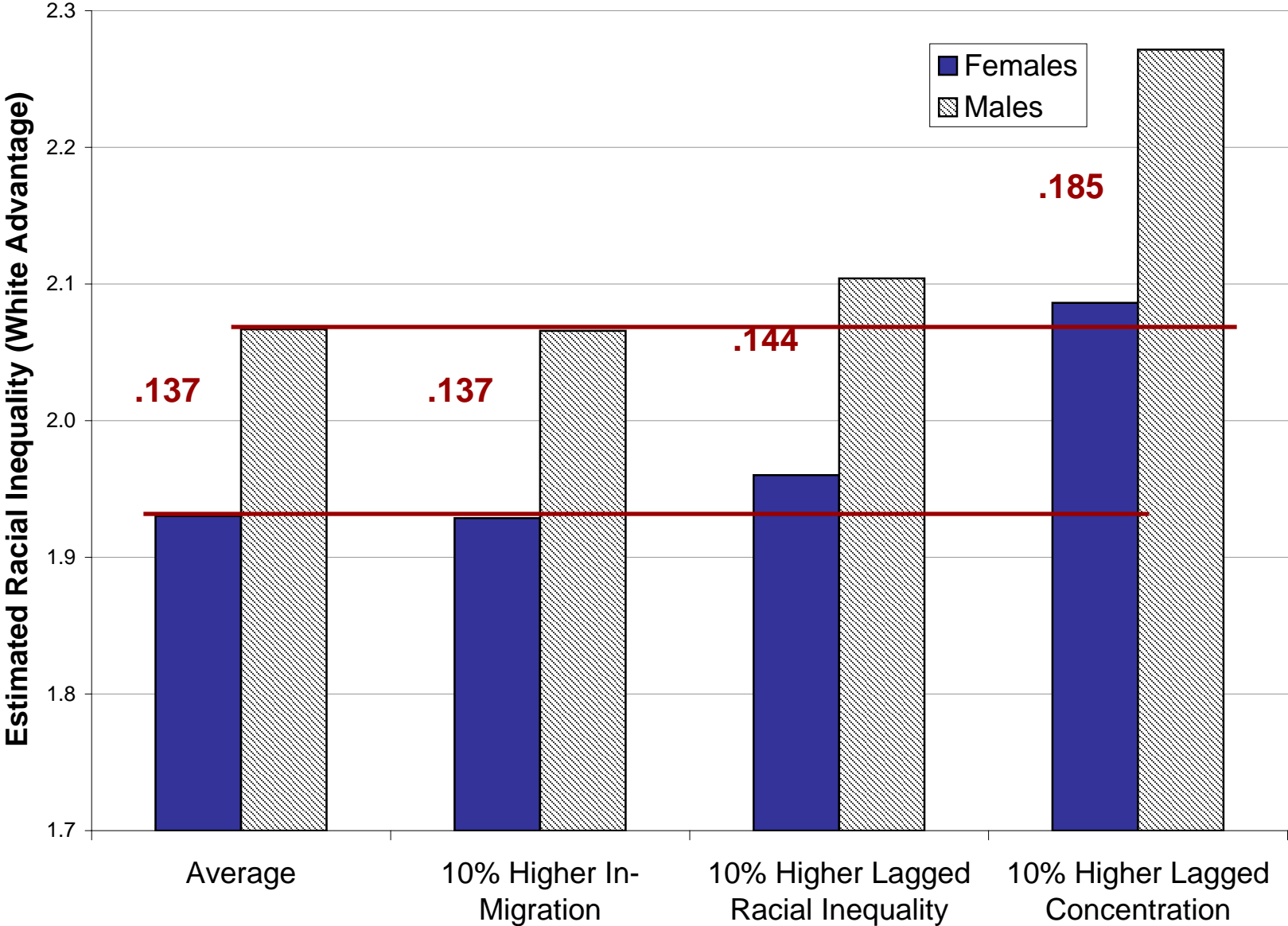
Unstandardized Beta Coefficients from OLS & Spatial Lag Regression

Population Concentration	.928***	.156	.158
Institutional Environment	.037	.036	.036
Spatially Lagged Population Concentration		.689***	.695***
Spatially Lagged Racial Inequality ( $\rho$ )		.130**	.128**
Return Migration (AfAm)			-.004***
Constant	1.764***	1.429***	1.423***
-2 LL	-971.00	-954.57	-951.60

\*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

All models include controls for demographic & economic structure, metropolitan status, & out-migration

# Migration, Place & Racial Inequality in Poverty, with Gender Differences



# Discussion & Next Steps

- African American in-migration is associated with reduction in racial inequality, although weakly
  - Maintain race-specific migration
  - Develop more nuanced migration rates; use restricted data
- Spatial effects are not attenuated by in-migration & have larger association with inequality than in-migration
- Gender differences found, although in opposite direction; greater impacts of “place”/spatial effects for male inequality
- Analyze entire Return Migration period (1970-2000)
  - Address modeling challenges associated with spatial panel data