

# Equity Planning

Transportation Group Conference 2023 (NZ)

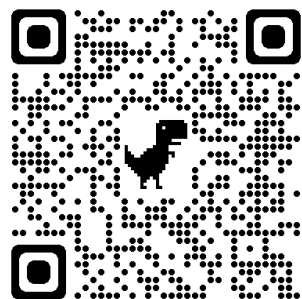
Takeshi Nakamura (he/him) | Transportation + Urban Planner (Auckland + San Francisco)

# What is equity

One of many definitions

*Equity is a tool to **redistribute** power from people who have held the power for long-  
People who get the least will get the most....*

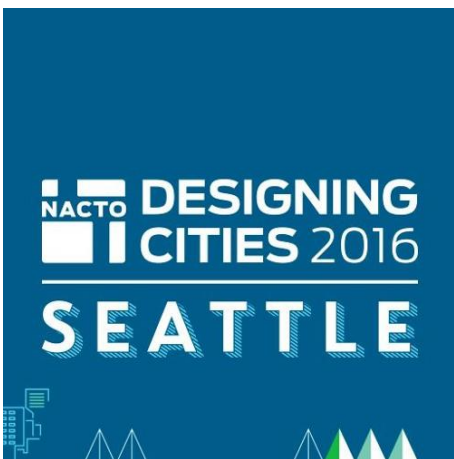
— Tamika L Butler from APA Pod cast Dec2022



NACTO Keynote speech  
Seattle, WA, Sept2016



Tamika L Butler from APA  
Pod cast Dec2022



# What is Equity planning ?

ARUP

- **Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964**

*No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.*



THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



# What is Equity planning ?

- Urban Planning was used to keep non-white people **from buying or occupying land**

4. That no building shall be left with paper exposure or with the exterior incomplete.

5. That the said land or buildings thereon shall never be rented, leased or sold, transferred or conveyed to, nor shall same be occupied exclusively by person or persons other than of the Caucasian Race.

6. The forgoing covenant and restriction shall run with the land and shall bind the grantee herein and the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of said grantee until the first day of January A.D. Nineteen hundred and Forty.

Racial covenants example from Minneapolis(1939)



# What is Equity planning ?

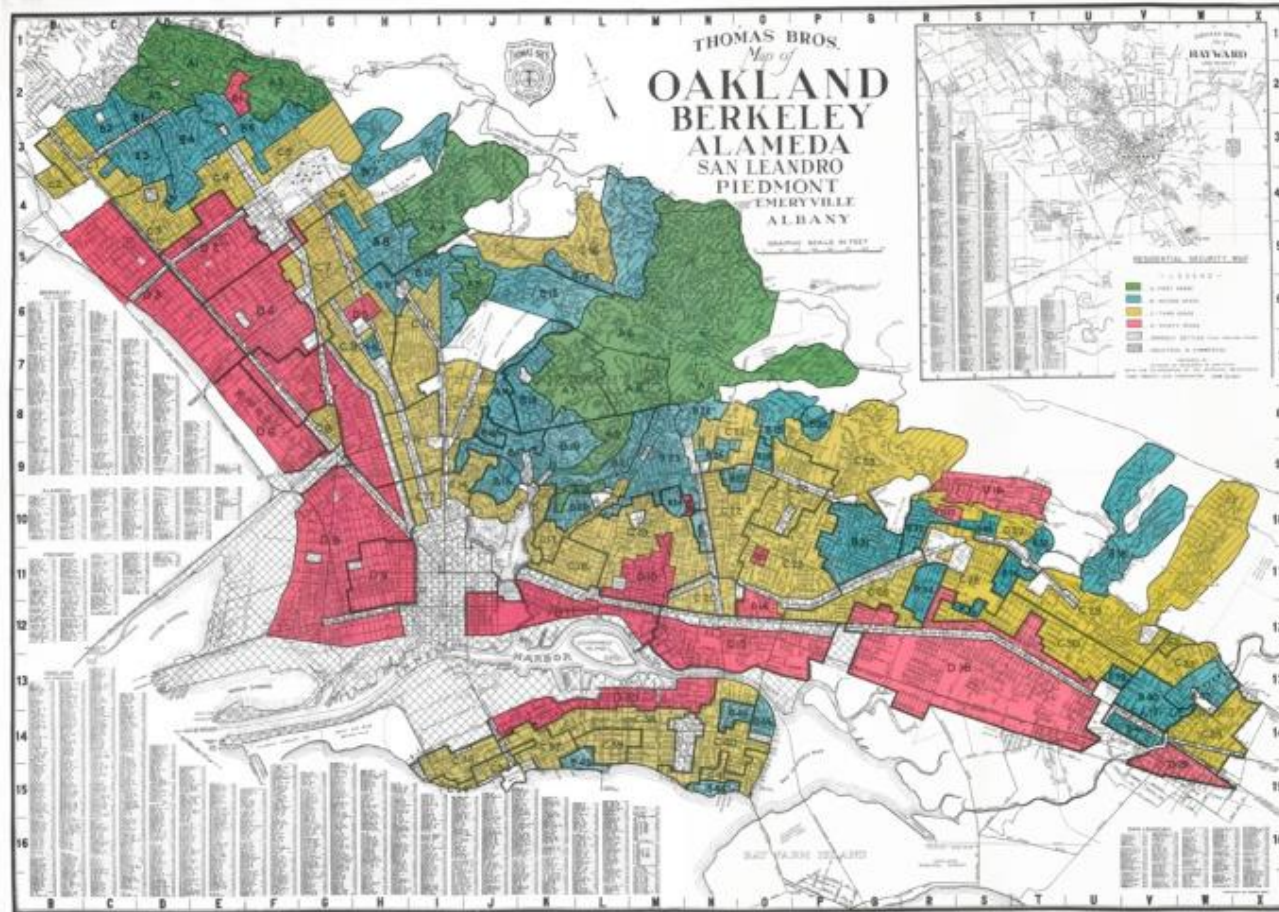
- More focus on Equity Planning since 2020
  - *Black lives matter / Police murder of George Floyd, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Rekia Boyd*
- Shifting away from **colour/gender/ class blinded policies**
- Ultimately, seeking **more investment** for underserved communities
- American Planning Association (2023)  
*Planning for social equity means recognizing planning practices that have had a disparate impact on certain communities and actively working with affected residents to create better communities for all.*

## Urban Planning as a Tool of White Supremacy – the Other Lesson From Minneapolis

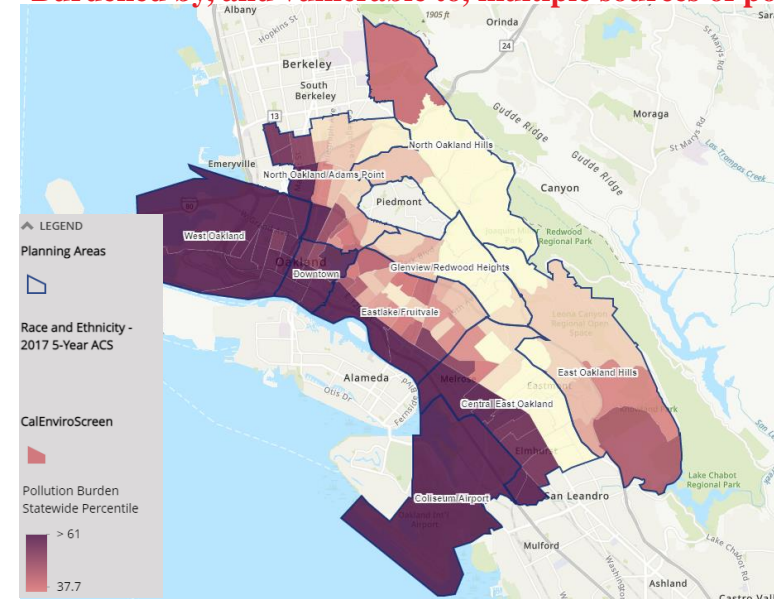
Segregation in Minneapolis, like elsewhere in the U.S., is the result of historic practices aimed at keeping nonwhite people from buying or occupying land.



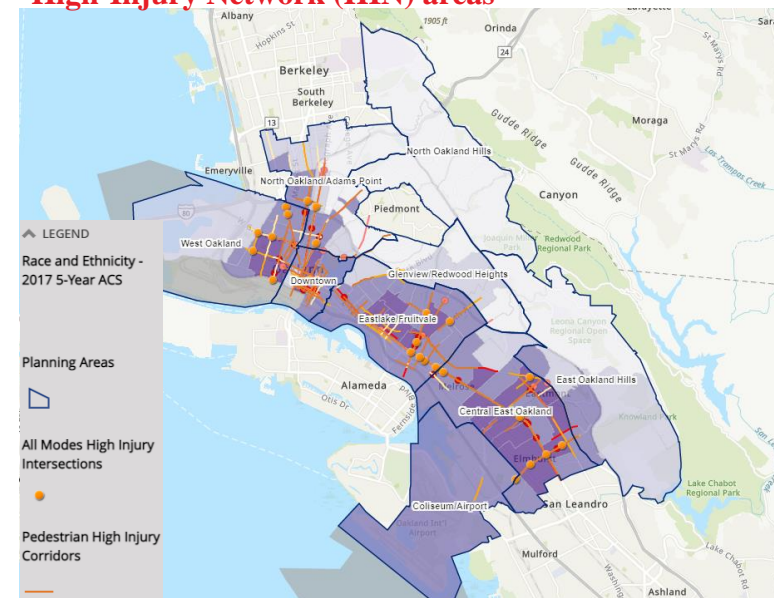
# Power of planning



## Burdened by, and vulnerable to, multiple sources of pollution



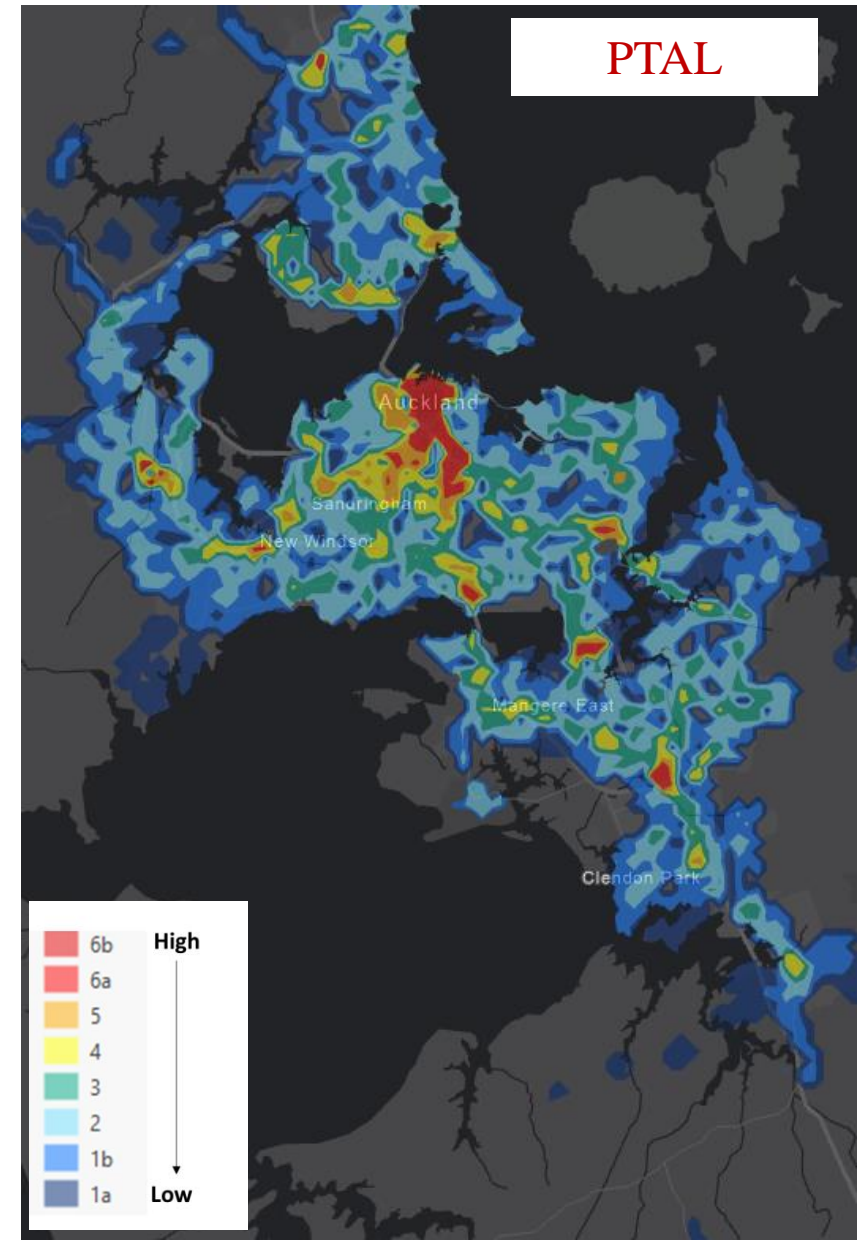
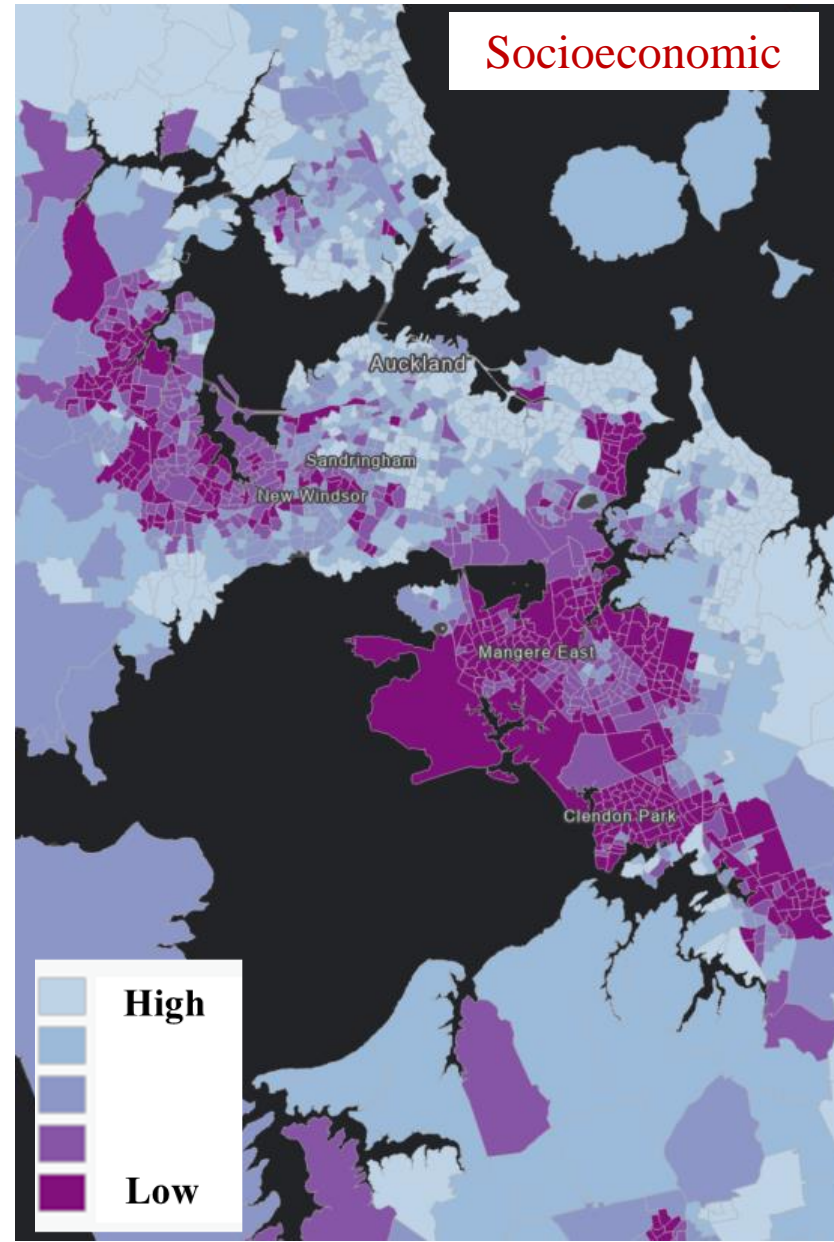
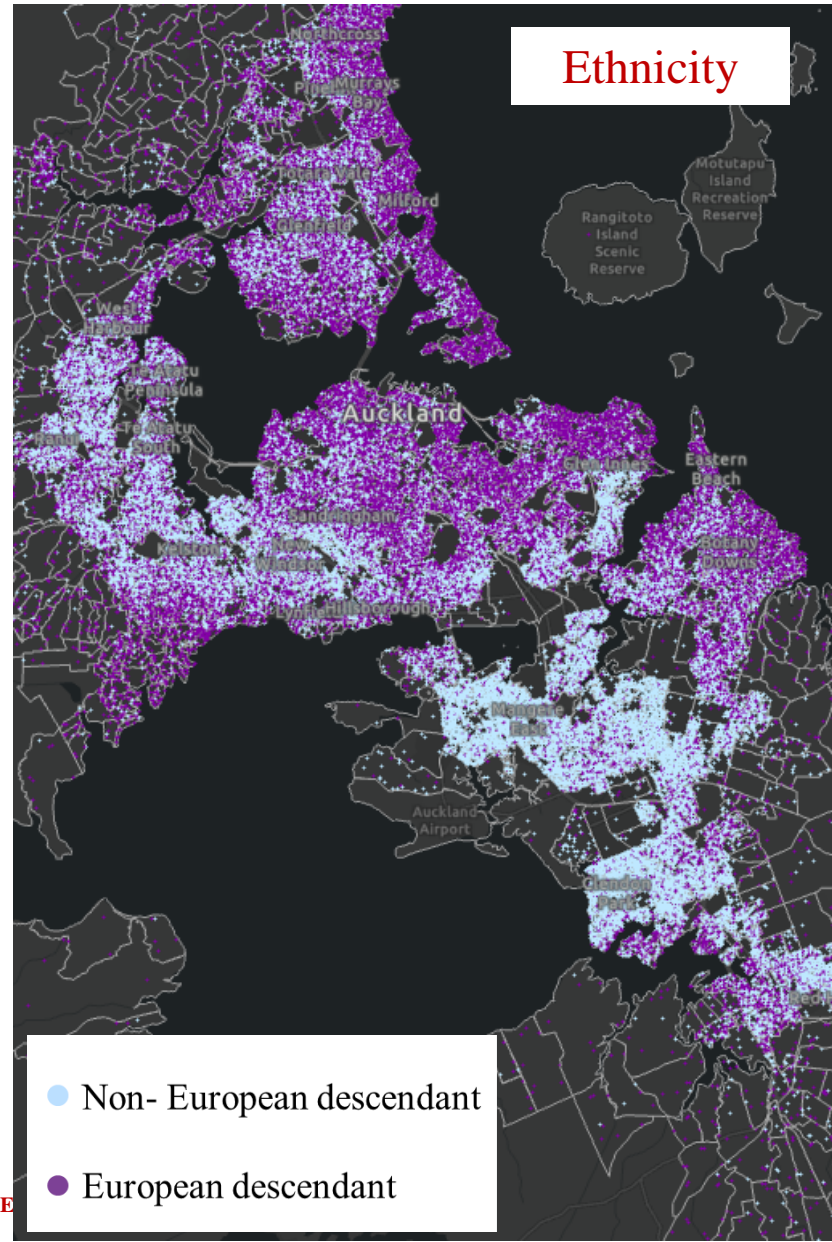
## High-Injury Network (HIN) areas



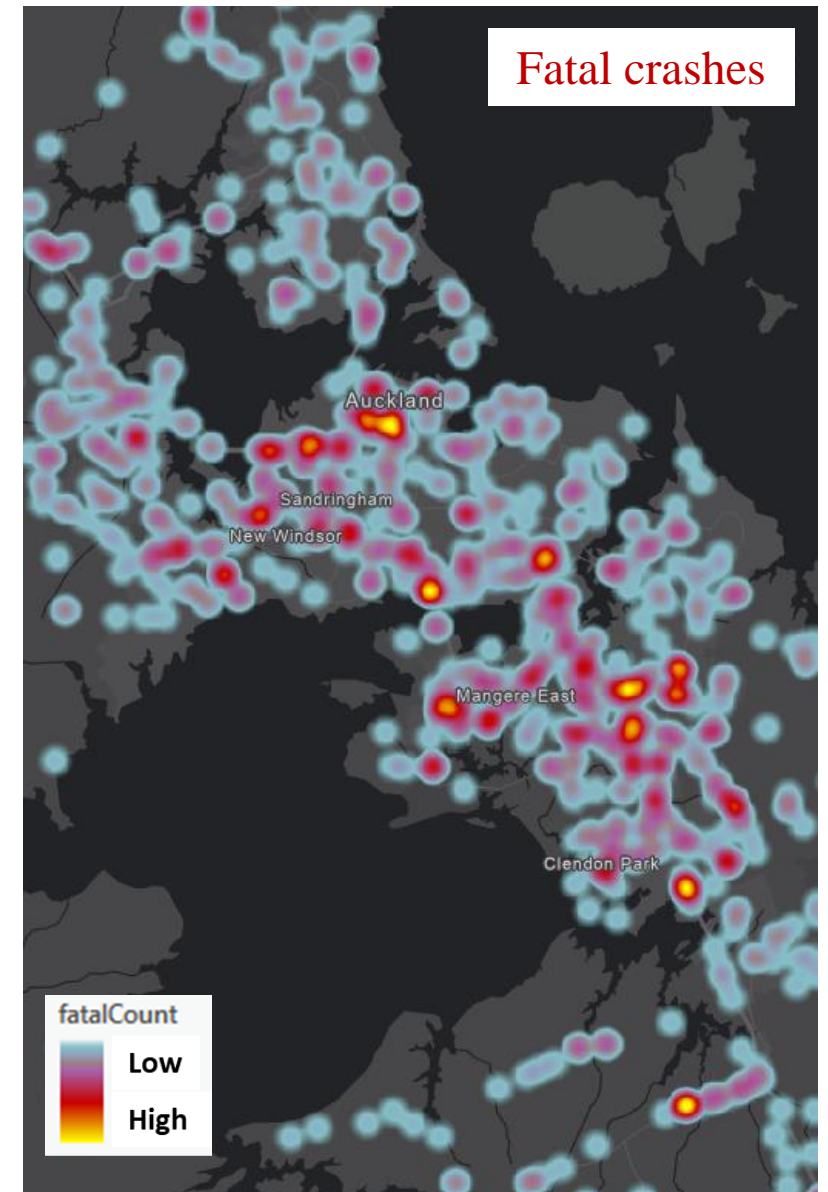
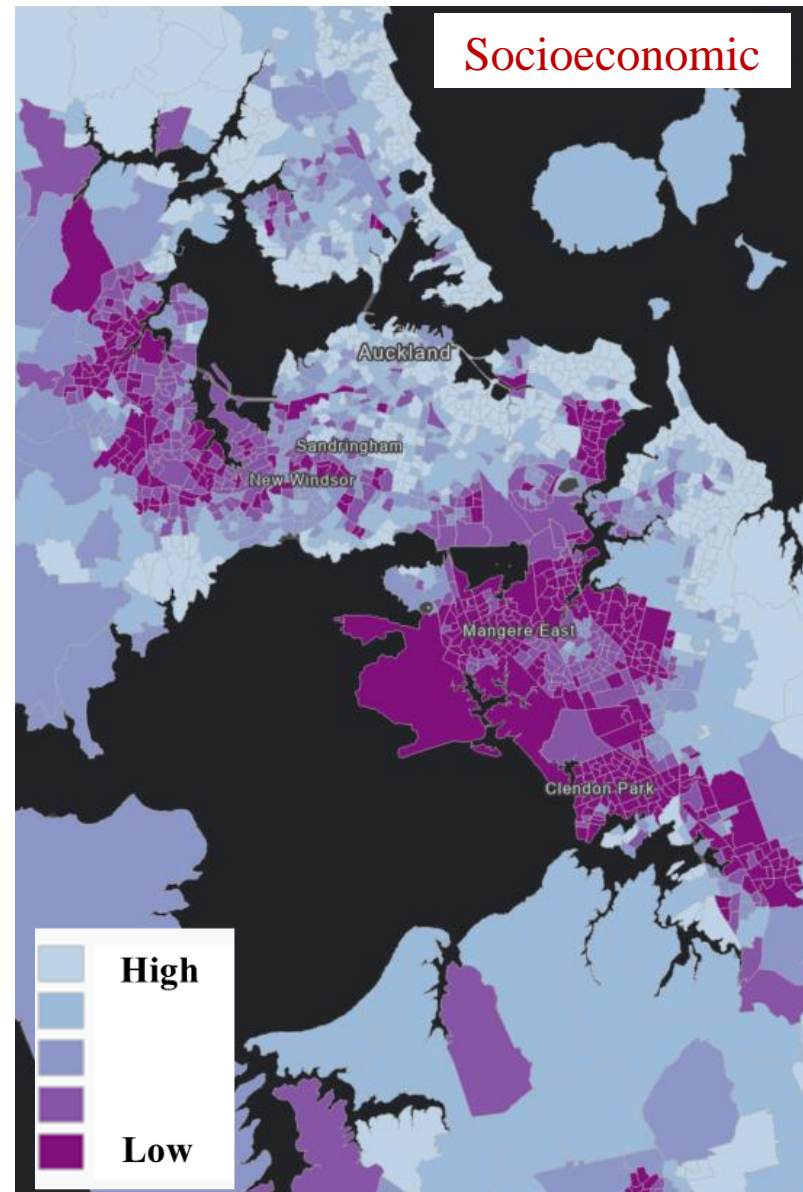
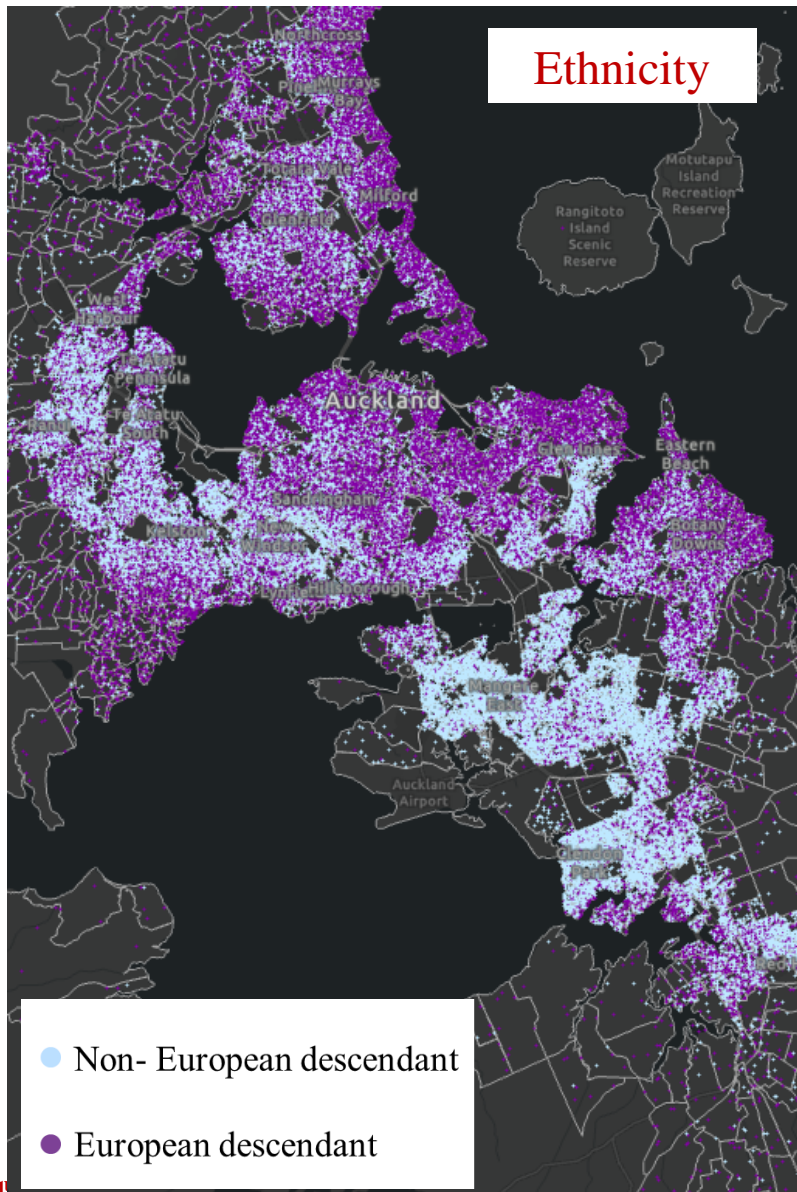
Source: Oakland DOT:  
<https://oakgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=fd47784582294d7b87cfb3ee1b047ea8>

# Power of planning

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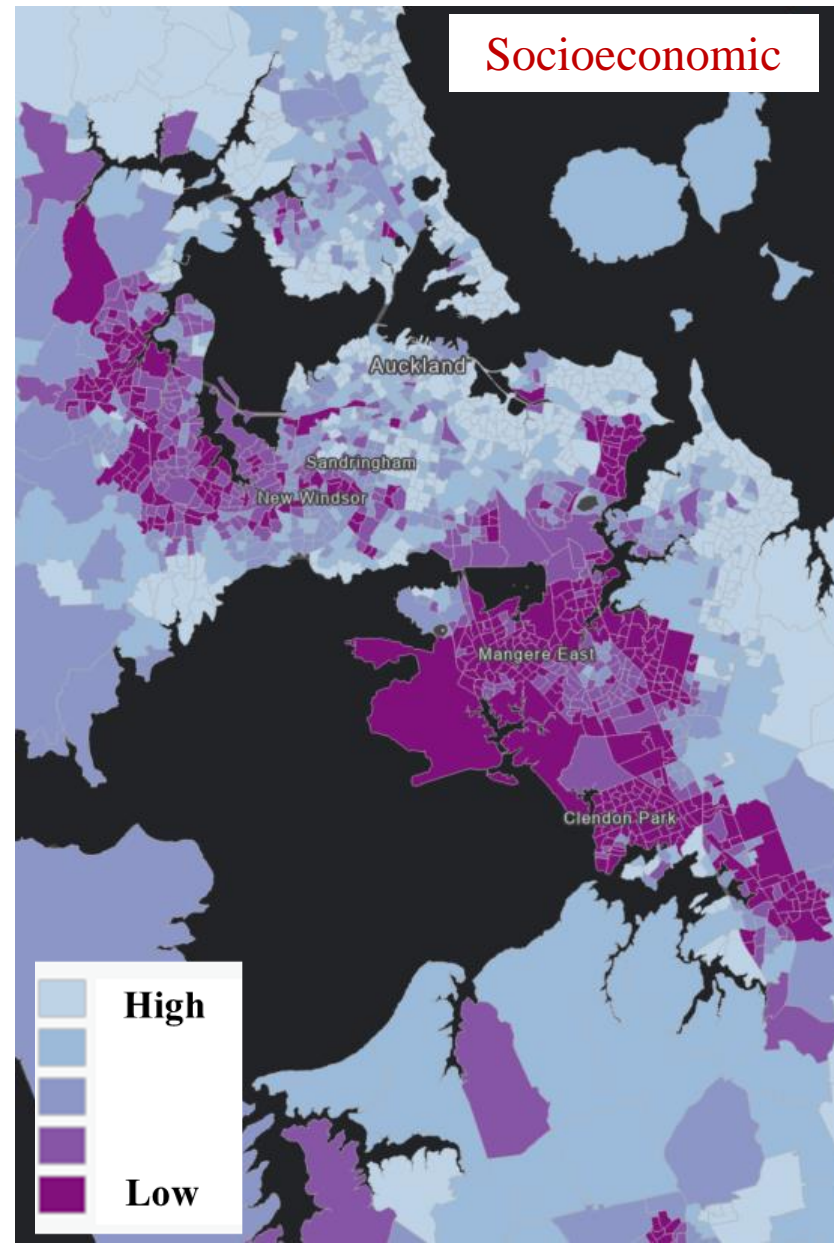
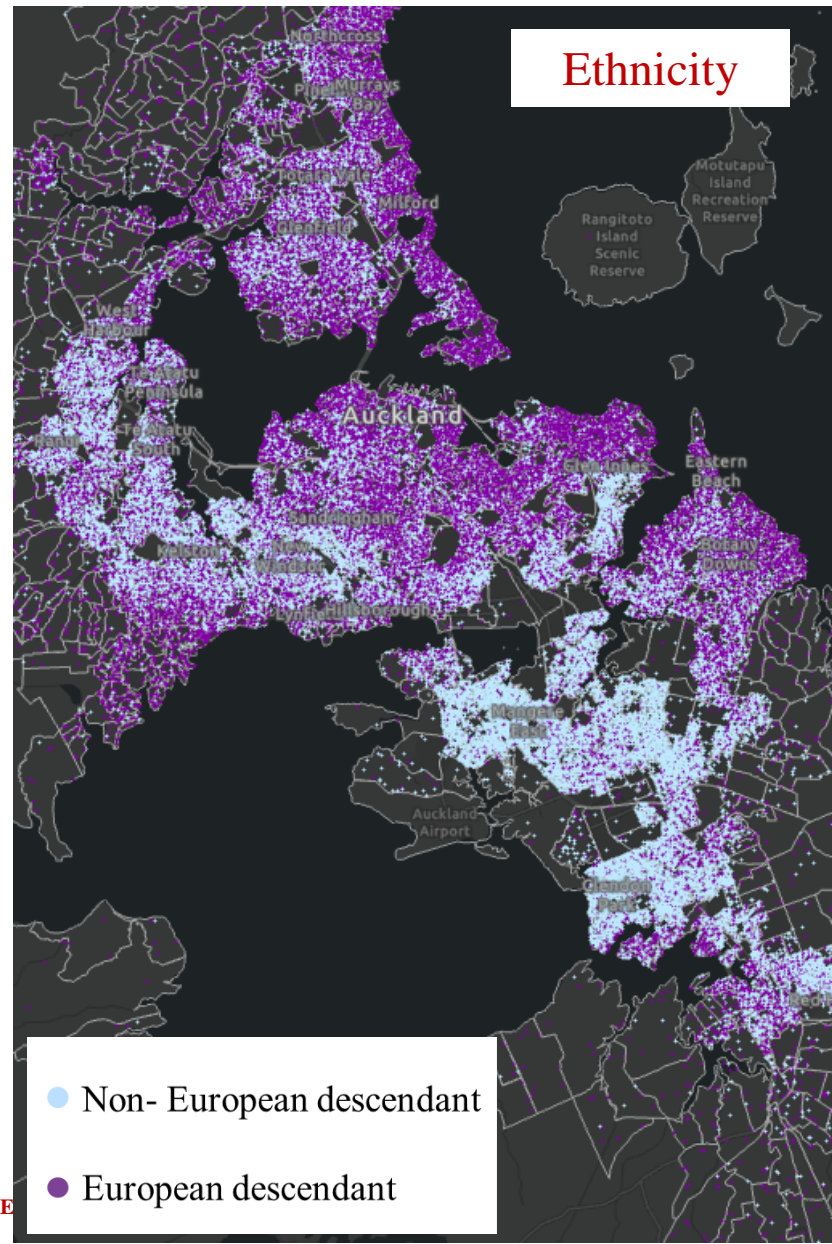
# Power of planning



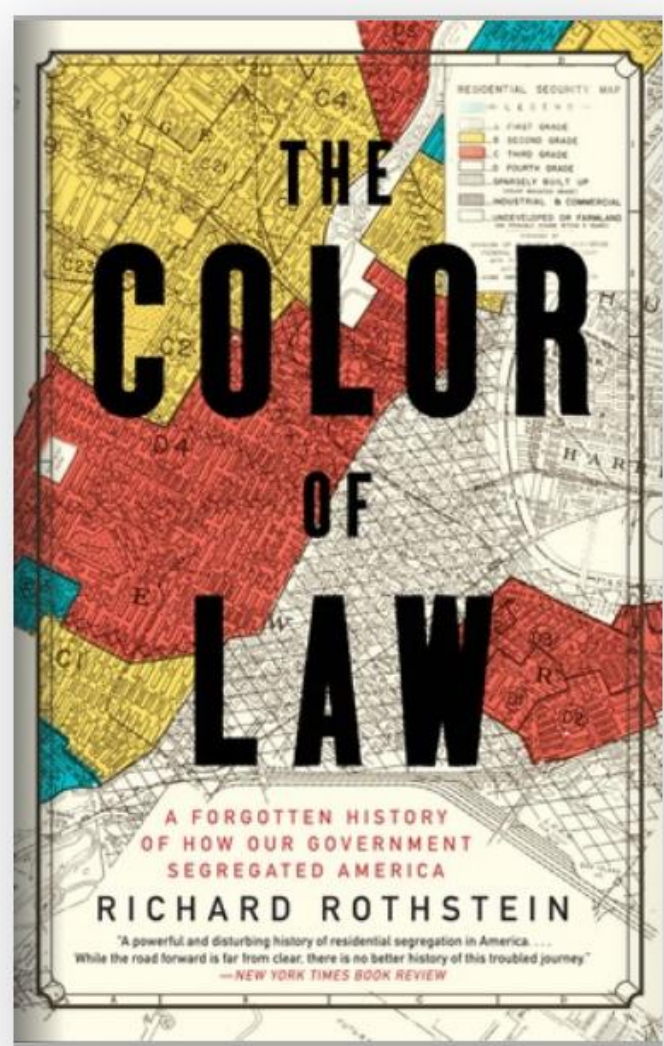


# Power of planning

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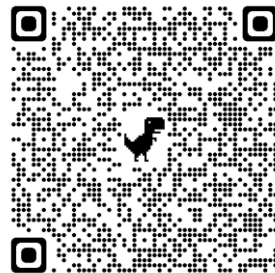


# Systematic discrimination



*The public policies of **yesterday** still shape the racial landscape of **today**...*

*Richard Rothstein*

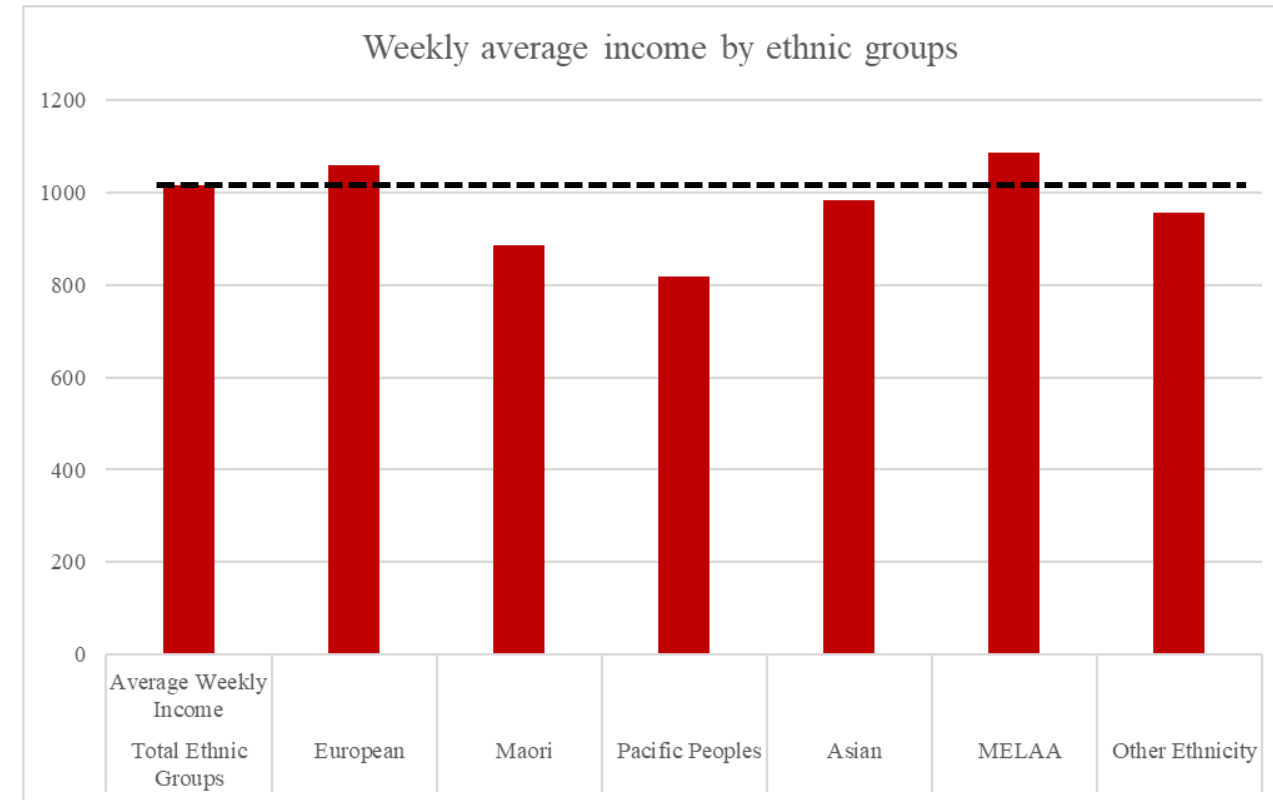


# Systematic discrimination

From 1898 **Māori** could receive the old-age pension, but **it was only two-thirds of the Pākehā rate.**

After 1881 **Chinese** had **to pay a poll tax** to enter New Zealand, and were **not allowed to become naturalised citizens.** From an **old-age pension**, 1898 to 1936 neither Indians nor Chinese could receive

**Pacific Islanders** were encouraged to move to New Zealand as workers from the 1950s – but in the 1970s they **were accused of being overstayers.**



Reference

# Systematic discrimination

- Is the harbour bridge the symbol of **the white supremacy of the past**?
  - Think about why it is solely **dedicated for cars**
  - Think about who could buy cars **in the 50s**
  - Think about the **affluence**
  - Think about **racial diversity** between north shore and the rest
- An infrastructure divided communities by who can cross the bridge...

Systematic discrimination



# Systematic discrimination

- Transport planning
  - We decide how **people move**
  - One size fits all approach



# Systematic discrimination

*If you feel uncountable talking about racial difference, probably because you are privileged...*



Tamika L Butler NACTO Keynote speech  
Seattle, WA, Sept2016



Seattle DOT: Transportation Equity Framework

CHART ON POWER DYNAMICS

← More power → Less power (blind spot)

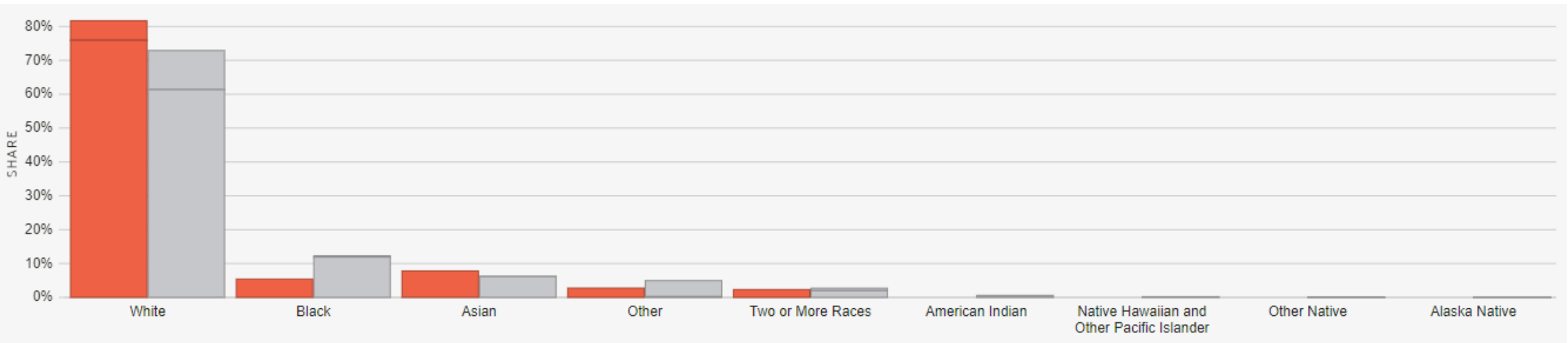
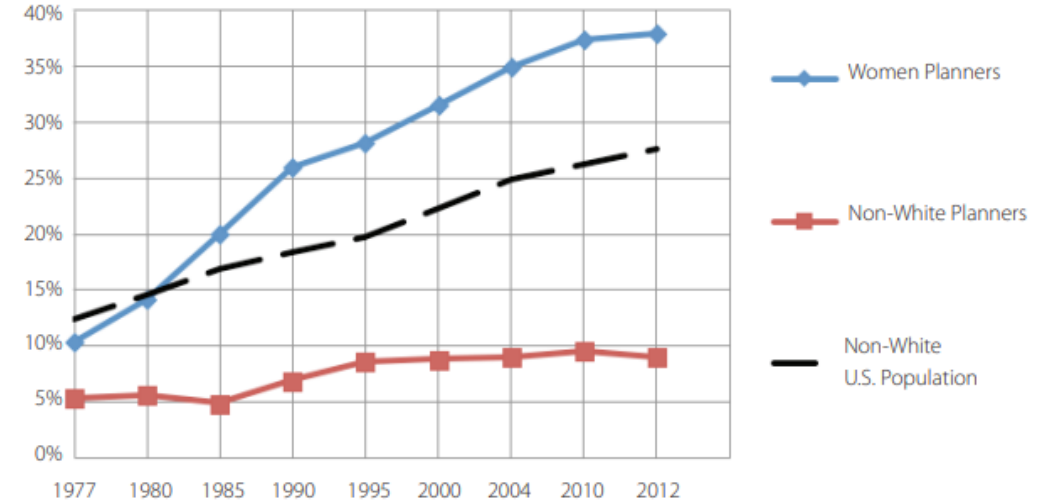
Social Identity Categories	Privileged Social Groups	Border Social Groups	Targeted Social Groups	Biases with Power/"Ism's"
Race	White/Caucasian	Biracial/ Multiracial	Asian, Black, Latinx, Native/ Indigenous	Racism
Sex	Assigned Male at birth	Intersex	Assigned Female at birth	Sexism
Gender	Gender Conforming (Cisgender), Identify as Male or Female	Gender Ambiguous, Gender Queer, Agender	Transgender, Gender Queer, Intersex, Gender Ambiguous, Agender	Transphobia/ Trans Oppression
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual	Bisexual, Queer, Lesbian, Gay, Questioning, Aces (Asexual/Aromantic), Polyamorous	Bisexual, Queer, Lesbian, Gay, Questioning, Aces (Asexual/Aromantic), Polyamorous	Heterosexism, Homophobia
Social Status/ Class	Wealthy, Upper Class	Middle Class	Working Class, Poor, Low-Income	Classism
Ability/Disability	Temporarily Able-Bodied	People living with Temporary Disabilities, and/or "Invisible" Disability	People living with Disabilities (often physically identifiable)	Ableism
Religion	Protestant, Christian	Roman Catholic (historically), Spiritual	Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Atheism	Religious Oppression/ Intolerance
Age/Generational	Adults (Ages 35-55)	Young Adults (Ages 25-35)	Elders (55+) and Adolescents/ Children (25 and under)	Ageism/Adultism

# Planning industry– White space

- In the US

US demography  
 Urban Planner

Figure 1. Women and Non-White APA Planners U.S. Non-White Population



# Planning industry– White space

- In the UK, the Royal Town Planning Institute membership:
  - 93% White / 7% BAME (Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic)
  - 94% UK nationality, 4% EU and 2% the rest of the world.
- UK's demography: 87% white, 13% BAME (2011 census)





# Planning industry– White space

- Waka Kotahi Board member (2022)

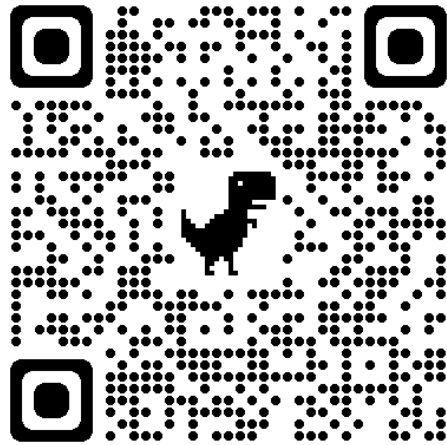


- NZ's demography (2018 census):
  - 70% White (European descendant)
  - 17% Māori
  - 8% Pacific people
  - 15% Asian
  - 2% Middle Eastern / Latin American/ African
  - 1% Other



# Privilege as a blind spot

- King County **repealed helmet law** in 2022 (Seattle, WA)
  - *Due to dissimilatory enforcement against people of colour in particular homeless people*



# Privilege as a blind spot

- In NZ

NZ's demography (2018 census):

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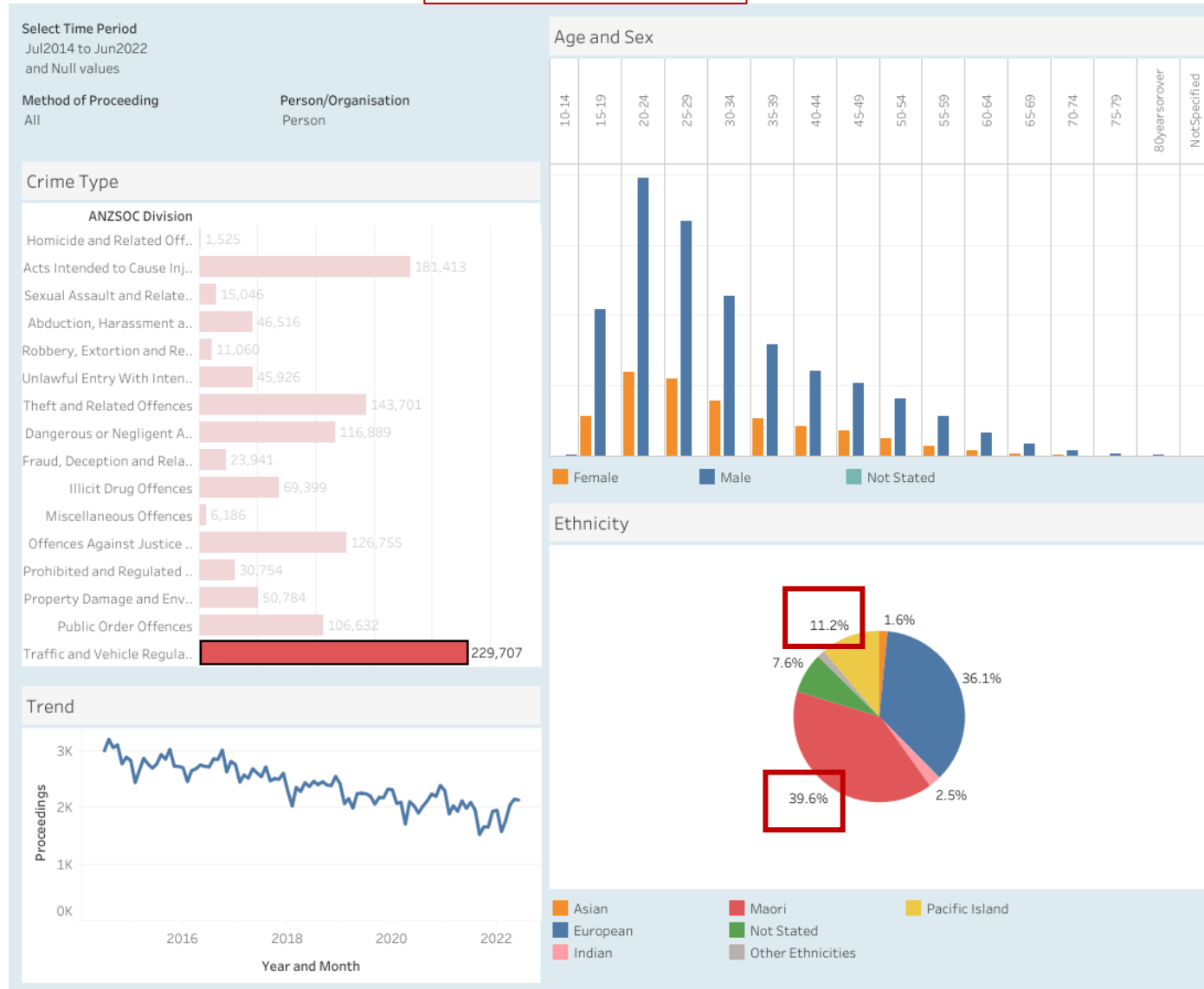
8% Pacific people

15% Asian

2% Middle Eastern / Latin American/  
African

1% Other

**Traffic offence**



# Privilege as a blind spot

## Police launch investigation into 'unconscious bias' against Māori

12:01 pm on 16 March 2021

Share this



## Police release progress report on work on bias - but few concrete findings at this stage

10:15 am on 2 June 2022

Share this



A study published last year by justice advocacy group JustSpeak found that if you're Pākehā, have no criminal record, and encounter police, you are less likely to be charged or sent to court than someone who is Māori. It found police are nearly twice as likely to take legal action against Māori than Pākehā, and seven times more likely to charge a Māori person with a crime, even when that person has no police record.

**Terms like 'systemic' and 'structural' racism not well understood by officers**



# Privilege as a blind spot

- Can we our trust police??
  - Vision Zero in NZ

Vision zero with enforcement will result in more Māori and Pacifica people affected by this policy because of **racial profiling**

We also need to ensure that we deliver effective enforcement targeted towards risk.

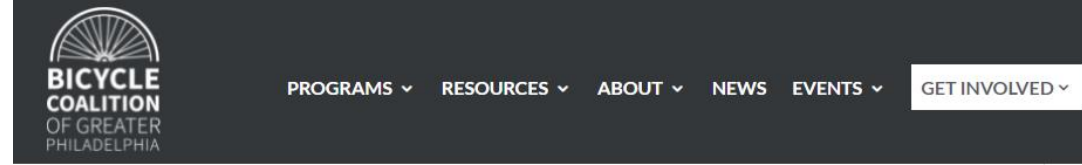
Enforcement and Police presence will continue to be an important part of improving road safety, in particular where additional deterrence for deliberate high risk behaviours is needed. Over the last year, NZ Police has focussed on targeting its road enforcement and prevention activities to risk. In the immediate term, they will focus on the behaviours we know cause the most harm: impaired driving from alcohol, drugs and fatigue, speed, distracted driving (especially from mobile phone use) and not wearing seatbelts or using a child restraint.

# Privilege as a blind spot

- Vision Zero in the US

Too often, advocates for Vision Zero stay focused on enforcement for safety and fail to acknowledge that enforcement is not safe for people of color; in fact, it too often results in death.

Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-09-01/vision-zero-and-black-lives-matter-clash-over-policing-traffic-enforcement>  
<https://medium.com/vision-zero-cities-journal/can-vision-zero-work-in-a-racist-society-43daad4a8561>  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2022-04-11/-vision-zero-at-a-crossroads-as-u-s-traffic-death-rise>



## We Are Dropping Police Enforcement From Vision Zero

by Randy LoBasso | Jun 10, 2020 | News | 1 comment



# What can we do? | Better engagement

- *We thought we were helping you...*
- *We did not get to experiment to build our country...*

1956 High School Exchange Students in USA Debate on Prejudice (2):  
Philippines, Japan, UK, Indonesia | [Play 10:18](#)



- Do we really know what communities need ?

- Are we simply repeating the power logic of colonisation ???

# To end

- I believe in restorative justice



“There is no thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.”

— **Audre Lorde**



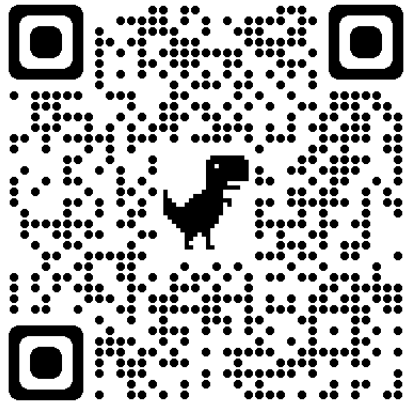
“Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

— **Jane Jacobs**, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*



Thank you

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