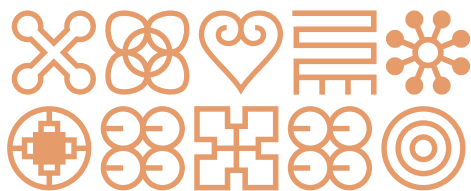


# Black Feminist Sociology and the Politics of Space and Place at the Intersection of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality

"[S]pace and place are **political and personal**, as well as material and poetic, and they also can be conceptualized as the mediator between structure and the individual (e.g. a byproduct of social policy)" (p. 139).

## Introduction

Norwood proposes a spatial project for Black feminist sociology (BFS) which synthesizes intersectional theory with space and place. We need to elucidate nuanced social patterns arranged around space and place for uncovering suppressed knowledge. When analyzing space, BFS must be careful to avoid essentializing identity categories within a space. Life circumstances, culture, and quality of life are often regionally specific and contribute to matrices of power and resources.



## Why take up space and place in BFS analysis?

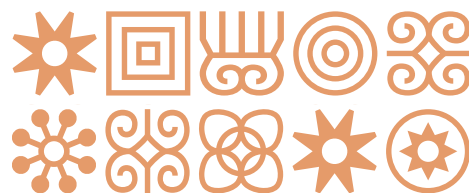
Where people live can give insight into the power structures at work in a place and in surrounding areas. Space restricts accessible resources and shapes who is found in a population. Just as Black feminism works to hold space for the experiences of Black women and femmes, BFS can use analyses of space and place to understand how Black women embody their own spaces in larger and enclaved communities.

## Politics of Containment

Patricia Hill Collins asserts that politics of containment construct spaces that are meant to separate and control groups along racialized, gendered, classed, and sexualized lines. In the U.S., restrictive housing regulations like redlining and gentrification long prevented people of color from using some areas' land for farming and residential purposes.

## Methodologies

Incorporating mindful analyses of space, Norwood advises us to complicate our conceptions of stability and investigate what or who within a population changes and diffuses. Urban ethnographies can contextualize these phenomena as they evolve and offer insights into how wealth and health disparities arise in tandem with other socio-political events. Such insights are best investigated with qualitative approaches looking for themes during data analysis that may have been missed by a more myopic quantitative framework.



We are active participants on "**terrains of transgression and resistance**" (p. 147). Our spatial involvements affect our access to resources and knowledge. Black feminists recognize that social environments are impacted by intersecting oppressive forces.

## Citation: