

# Counter-mapping Suburban Los Angeles

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Apply course concepts to the study of suburban environments and processes
- Use spatial ethnography to describe everyday built environments, as well as people's embodied practices.
- Create public-oriented interpretations of these materials through thick-mapping

## CONTEXT

Suburbs have long been sites of racial and ethnic exclusion for Latinx and other aggrieved communities through legal segregation, redlining, and racial violence. But, in recent years, Latinx people are increasingly moving to the 'burbs. How do we make sense of this shift in the face of dominant suburban imaginaries that would mark these movements as odd? In this quarter-long assignment, students will use spatial ethnography and thick-mapping to ask, how are Chicanx, Central American, and other Latinx populations reshaping suburbs?

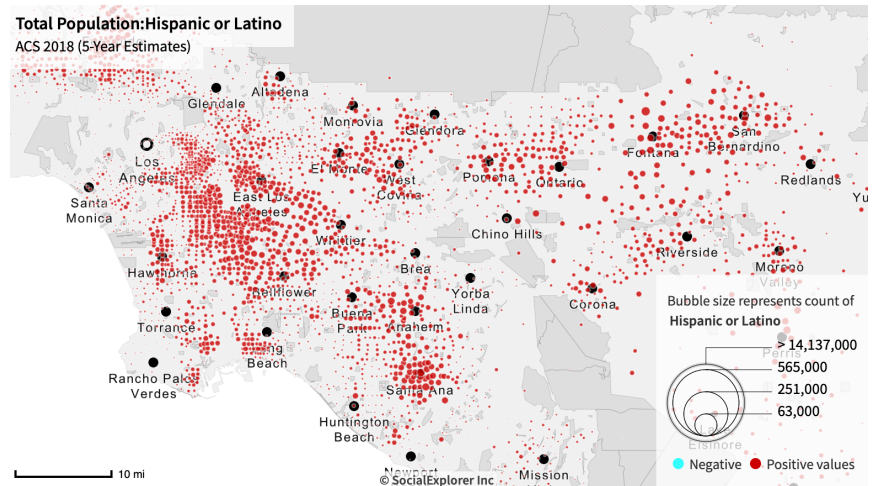


Figure 1 Map of Total Hispanic or Latino Population by Census Tract, 2018, <https://www.socialexplorer.com/691a1dced8/view>

## DESCRIPTION

Working on sites throughout Greater Los Angeles, you will collaborate with your classmates on a public-facing, digital map on the topic of Barrio Suburbanism. As a thick-mapping project, we will include locational pins, descriptive and analytic text, and visually rich resources. The aim of the map is to disrupt static ideas of suburbia that erase the multi-variant place-making strategies of Latinx populations, past and present. Thus, our map will share your investigations into the ways Latinx populations have and are impacting the socio-spatial contours of Greater Los Angeles. As a public-oriented resource, the map will also encourage users to reflect on the significance of these spaces by asking them to share their own place-based experiences in an ongoing web submission process.

## Timeline



