

PO 397: Crisis Mapping, New Media & Politics
Tools for the Analysis of Crisis Map Data: Learning from the Experts
John Carroll University
Questions for Classroom Discussion
March 31, 2011

Questions pertain to the reading: "Vicarious violence: Spatial Effects on Southern Lynchings, 1890-1919." Tolnay, Stewart E., Glenn Deane, and E.M. Beck. 1996. *American Journal of Sociology* 102(3):788-815.

- What are lynchings? Why did they take place when and where they did? How prevalent was this activity and when did the majority of lynchings take place in American history?

- What is the specific *question or hypothesis proposed* by the authors, that they put to the test?

- What are the set of possible answers to this specific question? (Hint: there are 3).

- Brainstorm analytic/associational or theoretical questions could you ask of your data in a similar vein for your final project, if any? (If you aren't doing a final project, what kind of question could you ask of the Haiti-Ushahidi earthquake data, for example?)

- Back to the lynching article. After framing the question, the authors now set out to statistically test their hypothesis using the lynching data they collected. What do they find?

- Explain how spatial effects work in this case, based on their findings. In other words, how do lynchings affect neighboring areas? Does this discovery surprise you? Why or why not?

- A white-perpetrated lynching of an African American occurs in a specific neighborhood. The authors infer from their data that such an act has affected the whites in the surrounding communities in a specific way. How are the white communities affected? How does their behavior change? Why?

- Why do you think the article is named *Vicarious Violence*?

- How might African Americans be impacted by this recent lynching in their neighborhood? How might it change the behavior of African Americans in this area & neighboring areas?

- Though the authors cannot be certain, they attribute the spatial negative correlation to the impact of lynchings on white behavior, not black. Do you agree with their best guess? Why or why not?

- What are the limits of their methods or approach? Can we be certain that this paper really explains why lynching took place when & where it did?