

**Status Quo or Integration?: Residential Patterns and Segregation by Race in Post-*Apartheid* South Africa**

Sangeeta Parashar  
Department of Sociology  
Montclair State University, Montclair  
[parashars@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:parashars@mail.montclair.edu)

Submitted to  
Annual Meetings of the Population Association of America, Detroit, April 30-May 2, 2009

## **Status Quo or Integration?: Residential Patterns and Segregation by Race in Post-*Apartheid* South Africa**

### Abstract

High levels of racial residential segregation have been observed across South Africa reflecting socially engineered “regional planning” strategies (distorted urbanization and the creation of “homelands”) that were concomitant with segregationist and *apartheid* policies through the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, empirically little is known about the post-*apartheid* residential patterns and segregation between Black-Africans and Whites as well as other minority groups (Coloureds and Asian-Indians). I compute dissimilarity and isolation indices using data from the 2001 South African Census in order to address the following questions. How segregated are Black Africans from other race/ethnic groups (Coloureds, Asian-Indians, and Whites)? And secondly, what is the role of socioeconomic factors in explaining the residential patterns of Black Africans? These questions are particularly relevant in a society where the marginalized social group constitutes a numerical majority of the population. The paper will conclude with a discussion of policy implications and limitations of the analyses.