

I used my Golz grant to research gentrification in Bushwick, a neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. For most of the 20th century, Bushwick maintained an overwhelmingly Latino population, but over the past two decades, the neighborhood has become increasingly younger and whiter. Using Social Explorer, a data aggregator for the Census and American Community Survey, and New York City government databases including ACRIS and BIS, I worked on examining the methods of *how* gentrification took place in the neighborhood.

Except for a section in northwest section of the neighborhood, most gentrification transpired without buildings being razed and rebuilt. This is largely a result of most structures in the neighborhood being at or near their Available Floor Area Ratio (FAR)—meaning landlords were forbidden from tearing the buildings down. Without the permission to demolish buildings, landlords increased rent precipitously, and often turned to intimidation tactics like persistent building maintenance to drive lower-income tenants out.

I collected rent and building data, landlord information, and listened to oral histories—including one from a local playwright who conducts taxi tours about gentrification—in order to ultimately work on a map chronicling the changes in the neighborhood. I am still interested in conducting an oral history component and speaking with more Bushwick residents to enrich my work, so I may expand my current research into an honors project.