

Iris C. Rotberg is a research professor of education policy at the George Washington University. In her article “Crossroads: integration and segregation in suburban school districts” she uses Montgomery county, Maryland as a centerpiece for her studies on diversity and segregation in suburban schools. This article focuses much more on socio-economic factors and policy making along with racial and ethnic diversity in the school district. She uses a lot of really good research on the populations in that counties schools, and introduces the concept of “white flight” as well- where schools begin to integrate more, and parents retaliate by moving their kids out and sending them to suburban and private schools, which in turn make the numbers in diversity of the schools go down.

This avenue of research is interesting because while it has a lot to do with racial diversity, noting the white populations leaving and going to private schools, and seeing how the Latinx and African American populations increase quite a bit in size over the years, it introduces the economic and political side of the argument in diversity and inclusion as well. The fact that affordable housing isn’t readily available for many people in the county influences where they have to go to school. She also points to instances of more affluent districts (or even sub districts, like in Charlotte, NC) where they chose to break away and start their own charter and private schools which would essentially be homogenously white.

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