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Hull-House Maps and Papers

Hull-House Maps and Papers (HHMP) was a groundbreaking text published in 1895 by the residents of Hull House, led by Jane Addams and Florence Kelley. They described and measured group patterns associated with immigrants, working conditions, specific laborers, labor unions, social settlements, and the function of art in the community. Women's moral agency was central to their use of social science to improve democracy and the lives of the disenfranchised.

Charles Booth's seventeen-volume study *Life and Labour of the People in London* (1892–1902) served as the model for HHMP. HHMP, in turn, became the model for studies of African American communities. Isabel Eaton, a young Quaker who had published a chapter in HHMP, helped make this connection through her association with W. E. B. Du Bois on *The Philadelphia Negro*

(1899). Other African American scholar-activists, notably Monroe Work and Richard R. Wright Jr., were inspired by this latter book to map life in other African American communities.

Hull House residents continued to map cultural, social, political, and demographic information in their neighborhood for the next forty years. As the neighborhood was increasingly studied (for example, by occupations, family size, housing, milk quality, food use, and epidemiology), the findings were charted and hung on the walls of Hull House for the neighbors to see and discuss.

The mapping of social and demographic characteristics of a population within a geographical area became the core methodology of sociologists at the University of Chicago during the 1920s and 1930s. Acknowledgment that this methodological technique was associated with Hull House residents is singularly lacking in academic sociology. The Hull House residents' empirical studies also helped establish the major topics for academic sociology from the 1890s until the present.

The use of mapping by Hull House residents was radically different from its scholarly use by white male sociologists of the Chicago school. The academics' maps revealed the lives of the people of the neighborhood to an audience of experts and decision makers. The Hull House maps revealed to the people of the neighborhood that their lifestyles had patterns and implications that could be used to make more-informed decisions about community issues and interests. Repeatedly, the Hull House residents and neighbors initiated major social changes as a result of this information; for example, they worked to establish the eight-hour day, the minimum wage, and the elimination of child labor. They also worked in numerous social movements, for labor unions, women's suffrage, and arts and crafts.

Mary Jo Deegan

See also: Hull House; Poverty Research; Settlement Houses

References and Further Reading

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