NIH National Institute on Aging

TESS Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences

CCPAH Carolina Center for Population Aging and Health

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Mapping Preferences Around Race and Guns

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Agenda

1. **Motivation**
2. Design
3. Results

Why care about how race and gun ownership affect neighbor prefs?

- Americans exhibit racial hierarchy in neighbor preferences
  - (Charles 2000; Farley et al. 1978, Lewis et al. 2011; Krysan and Farley 2002)
  - … but results are out of date
  - What are current American preferences?
- Guns affect neighbor preferences (Sola and Pickett 2024)
  - Especially with more than 400 million saturating America
  - … does this which may magnify racial dynamics?
- Communities, not just individuals, are both armed and racialized

Why care about spatial preferences?

- Traditional surveys/vignettes capture preferences in the abstract
- But daily life is spatial: who's next door vs. two blocks away matters
- **Gradation may be crucial**

Brief history of measuring social distance

There is a dynamic aspect of human nature that is indicated by this procedure of measurement of distance relationships. The writer has given

Bogardus (1947: 308)

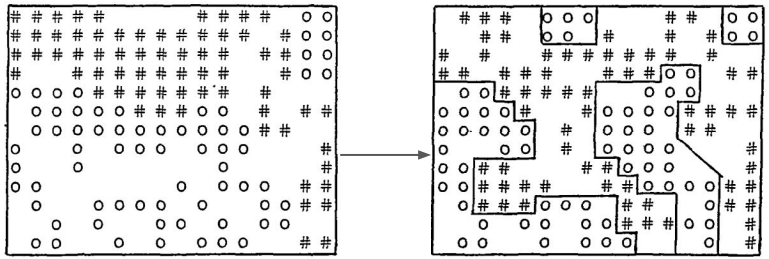
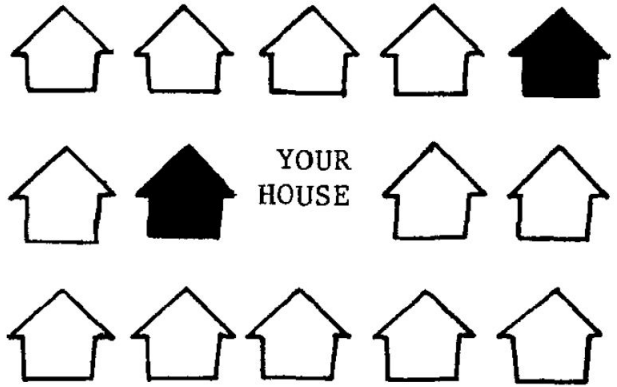


Fig. 8 Fig. 10

Schelling (1971: 157)



Farley et al. (1978: 329)

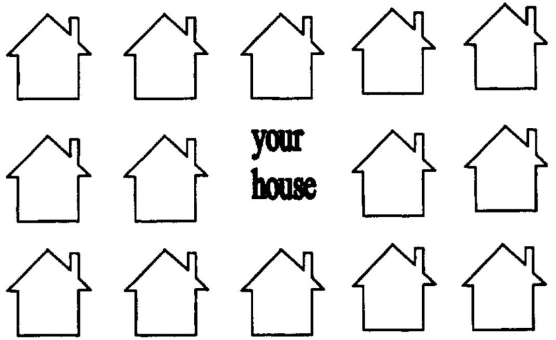


Figure 1 • *Multi-Ethnic Neighborhood Experiment Showcard. Source: 1993–94 Los Angeles Survey of Urban Inequality.*

Charles (2000: 386)

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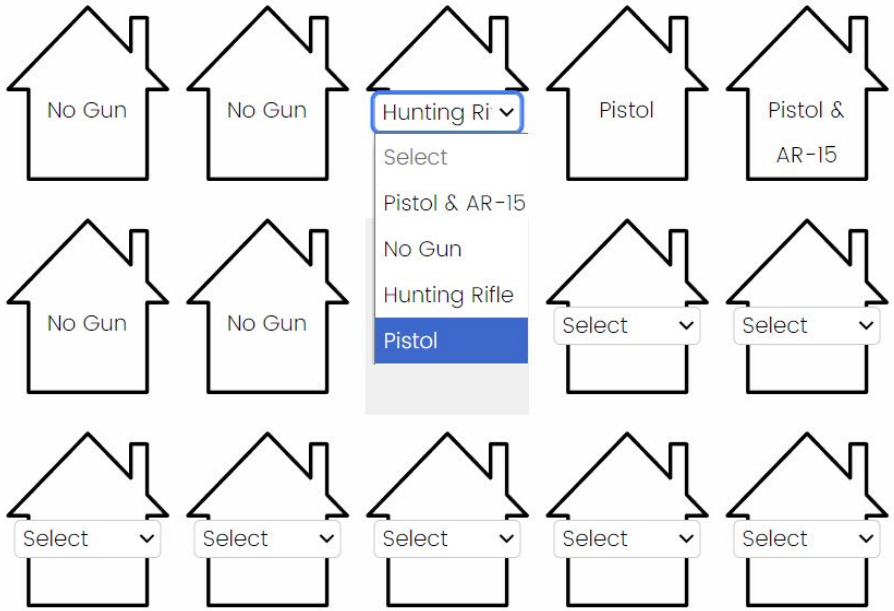
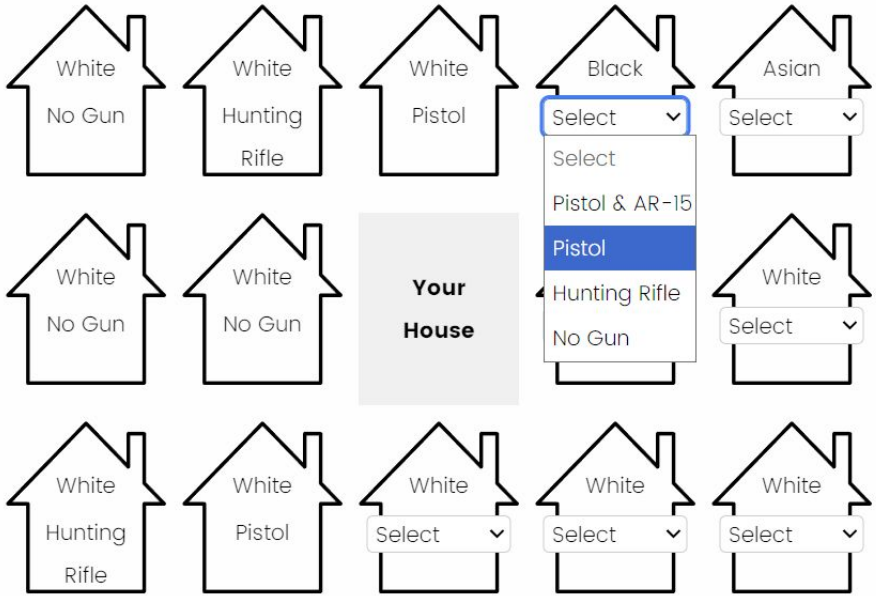
Survey: assign race, guns, and politics to ideal neighborhood

Imagine your IDEAL NEIGHBORHOOD in terms of GUN OWNERSHIP. Using the drop-down options, please select a gun ownership status for every household to create the neighborhood you would feel most comfortable living in:



Survey Experiment: after being given info, assign preferred attributes

Now imagine that YOU LIVE in this NEIGHBORHOOD, with the racial/ethnic composition shown below. From the yard signs and flags hanging in the neighborhood, your neighbors appear to be REPUBLICANS. Please select a GUN OWNERSHIP STATUS for every household to create the neighborhood you would feel most comfortable living in:



Sample: representative NORC Amerispeak panel, funded by TESS

- 2176 completions, high quality responses (>81% of which did not speed or skip)

Survey tasks (randomly ordered):

1. **Assign** gun ownership to 14 houses, **and**
2. **Assign** political party to 14 houses, **and**
3. **Assign** race to 14 houses

The, survey experimental tasks (randomly ordered):

1. Given randomly assigned *racial & political* scenarios, **assign gun ownership**, **and**
2. Given randomly assigned *gun ownership & political* scenarios, **assign race**

Just a couple RQs for today

RQs:

1. Do we observe racial homophily?
2. Do guns affect observed homophily?
3. Do Americans 'quarantine' minorities, and/or gun owners, away from their homes?

Drivers:

1. **Homophily/bias:** suggests respondents should favor same-race neighbors
2. **Threat:** suggests that homophily will moderate the impact of gun ownership
3. **Social distance:** suggests that distance will mediate (dis)preference
    - whether that other is racial *or* gun ownership!

1. Motivation
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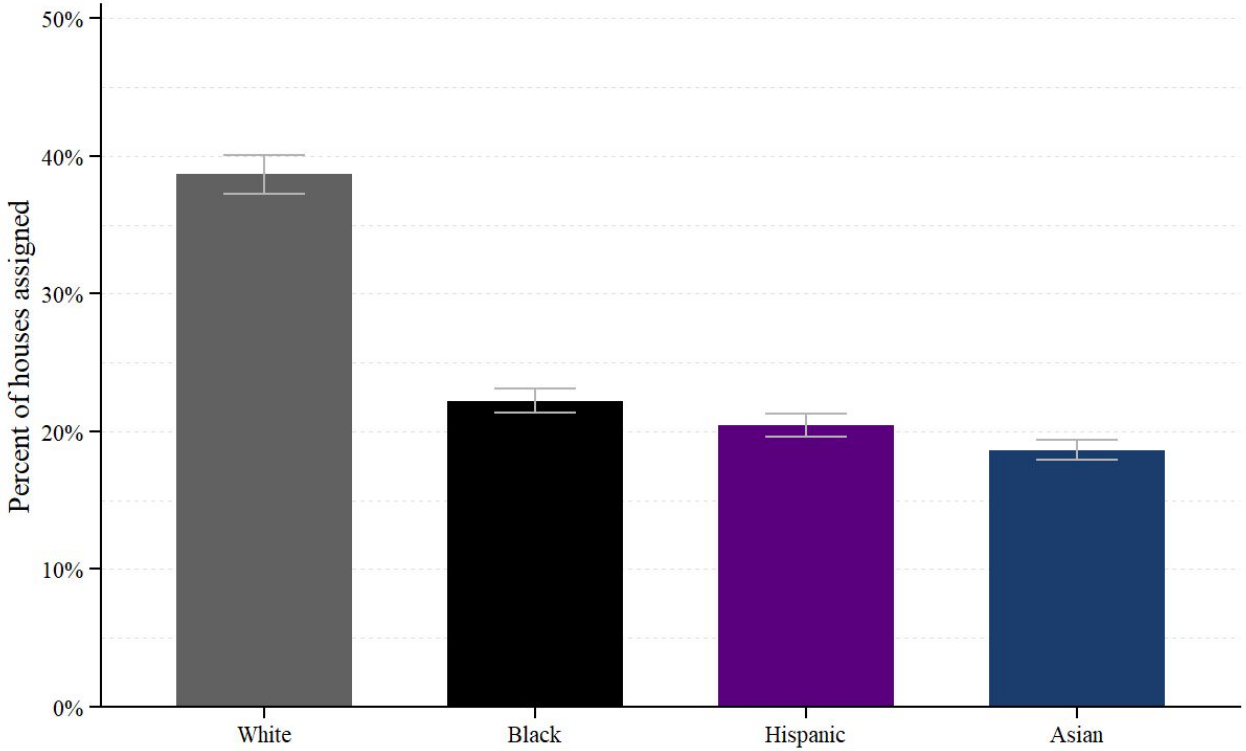
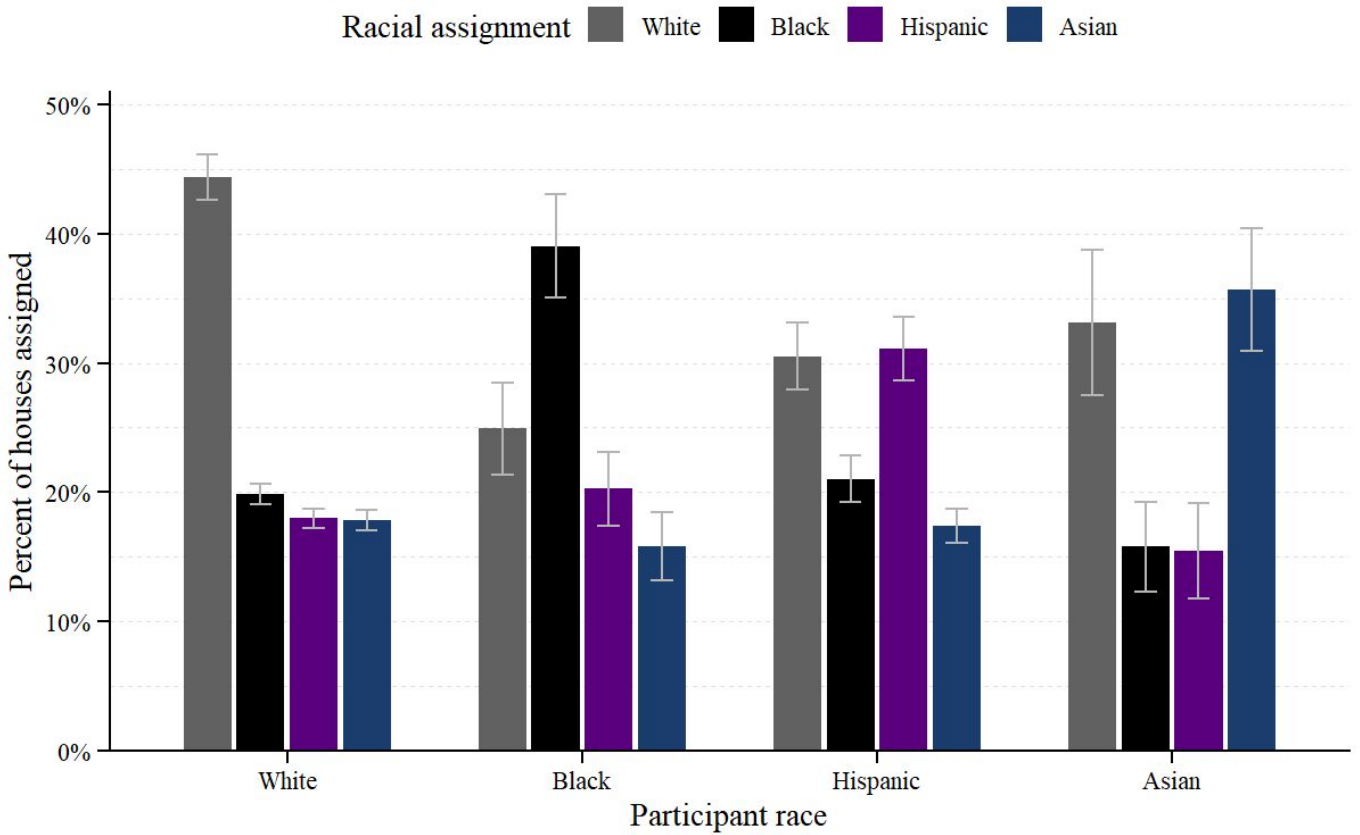
Analytical approach

- One observation per house selection (14 houses per task)
  - Weighted to represent February 2025 Current Population Survey (CPS) margins
    - with ACS (housing tenure) and NHIS (household phone status
- LPMs (participant-clustered) to predict probability of assignment
  - Weighted to represent February 2025 Current Population Survey (CPS) margins
  - **No covariates for racial homophily**
  - **Full set of covariates for quarantine analysis**

Do they prefer multiethnic neighborhoods? **Yes** (N = 2122; weighted)



Yet is there racial homophily and hierarchy? **Yes** (N = 2038; weighted)



Homophilic interactions with gun ownership? **Yes**

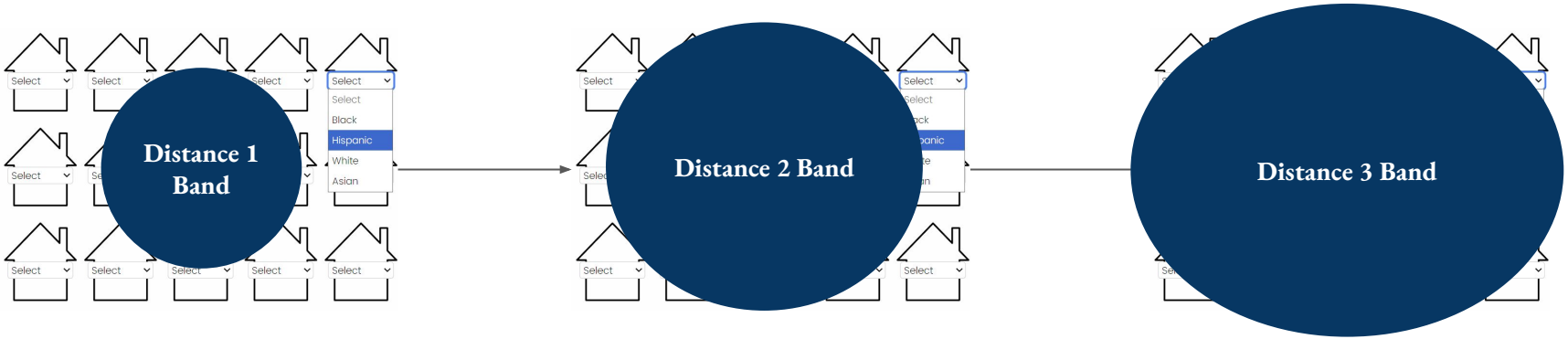
Effect of self-same household race on gun assignment

	Model 1	Model 2
Baseline Pr(any gun | not self-same)	40.5 (1.1)	51.0 (3.3)
Self-same (Δ vs not self-same)	6.7*** (1.5)	7.2*** (1.4)
Participant covariates	✗	✓
Experimental conditions (politics & racial scenario)	✗	✓
Participants (clusters)	2081	2060
House choices	29134	28840

Units are percentage points with CR2 cluster-robust SEs in parentheses. Baseline rows report the model-based average predicted Pr(assigning any gun) when the house race does not match the participant (self-same = 0) within each model's analytic sample. Self-same rows show the model-based change in Pr(assigning any gun) when the house race matches the participant vs when it does not. *, **, *** for $p < .05, .01, .001$.

Analysis of disjoint spatial preferences

- Distance preferences: what respondents place close vs far (neighbors and amenities)
- Clustering / separation: patterns that look like “grouping,” “buffering,” or “cornering”
- Ideal–current mismatch: which features older adults most want to change (and at what distance)



Quarantining and distance-moderated (dis)preference? Yes

Distance as a moderator of racial assignment (simple & adjusted LPMs)

	White (simple)	White (adjusted)	Black (simple)	Black (adjusted)	Hispanic (simple)	Hispanic (adjusted)	Asian (simple)	Asian (adjusted)
Close	40.1 (0.7)	40.2 (0.7)	21.1 (0.5)	21.1 (0.5)	21.0 (0.5)	20.7 (0.5)	17.8 (0.5)	18.0 (0.5)
Δ Middle	-2.7*** (0.6)	-2.7*** (0.7)	1.2* (0.6)	1.3* (0.6)	-0.1 (0.6)	0.1 (0.6)	1.6** (0.5)	1.3* (0.6)
Δ Far (corner)	-2.5** (0.8)	-2.4** (0.8)	2.8*** (0.7)	2.8*** (0.7)	-0.7 (0.7)	-0.6 (0.7)	0.4 (0.6)	0.2 (0.7)
Participant covariates	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Participants (clusters)	2372	2115	2372	2115	2372	2115	2372	2115
House choices	32188	29293	32188	29293	32188	29293	32188	29293

Units are percentage points with CR2 cluster-robust SEs in parentheses. The Close row gives the average predicted probability of assigning each race when all houses are set to distance 1. Middle and Far rows are the change in probability when houses are at Manhattan distance 2 or 3 versus 1.
*, **, *** for $p < .05, .01, .001$.

Distance x Self-Same Racial Homophily (race-specific compendium)

	White		Black		Hispanic		Asian	
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 1	Model 2	Model 1	Model 2	Model 1	Model 2
Close	47.7 (0.9)	47.7 (0.9)	48.5 (2.1)	48.6 (2.1)	36.9 (1.5)	37.0 (1.5)	45.1 (4.0)	45.0 (4.2)
Δ Middle	-5.2*** (0.8)	-5.2*** (0.9)	-10.2*** (1.9)	-10.6*** (1.9)	-5.6** (1.7)	-5.6** (1.7)	-5.0 (4.3)	-4.6 (4.3)
Δ Far (corner)	-4.6*** (1.1)	-4.6*** (1.1)	-5.8* (2.5)	-6.5* (2.5)	-8.5*** (1.9)	-8.8*** (1.9)	-14.4** (5.0)	-14.3** (5.1)
Participant covariates	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Participants (clusters)	1336	1332	239	230	382	378	81	80
House choices	18491	18436	3302	3176	5308	5252	1119	1105

Units are percentage points with CR2 cluster-robust SEs in parentheses. The Close row gives the average predicted probability of assigning each race when all houses are set to distance 1. Middle and Far rows are the change in probability when houses are at Manhattan distance 2 or 3 versus 1. *, **, *** for $p < .05, .01, .001$.

Conclusions

- Americans are multiracial in their preferences
  - … yet still evince racial hierarchy and racialized (dis)preference
- Race, gun ownership, *and distance* **moderate** our willingness to live beside each other
- Working on: political interactions and finer points of the analysis

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Appendix

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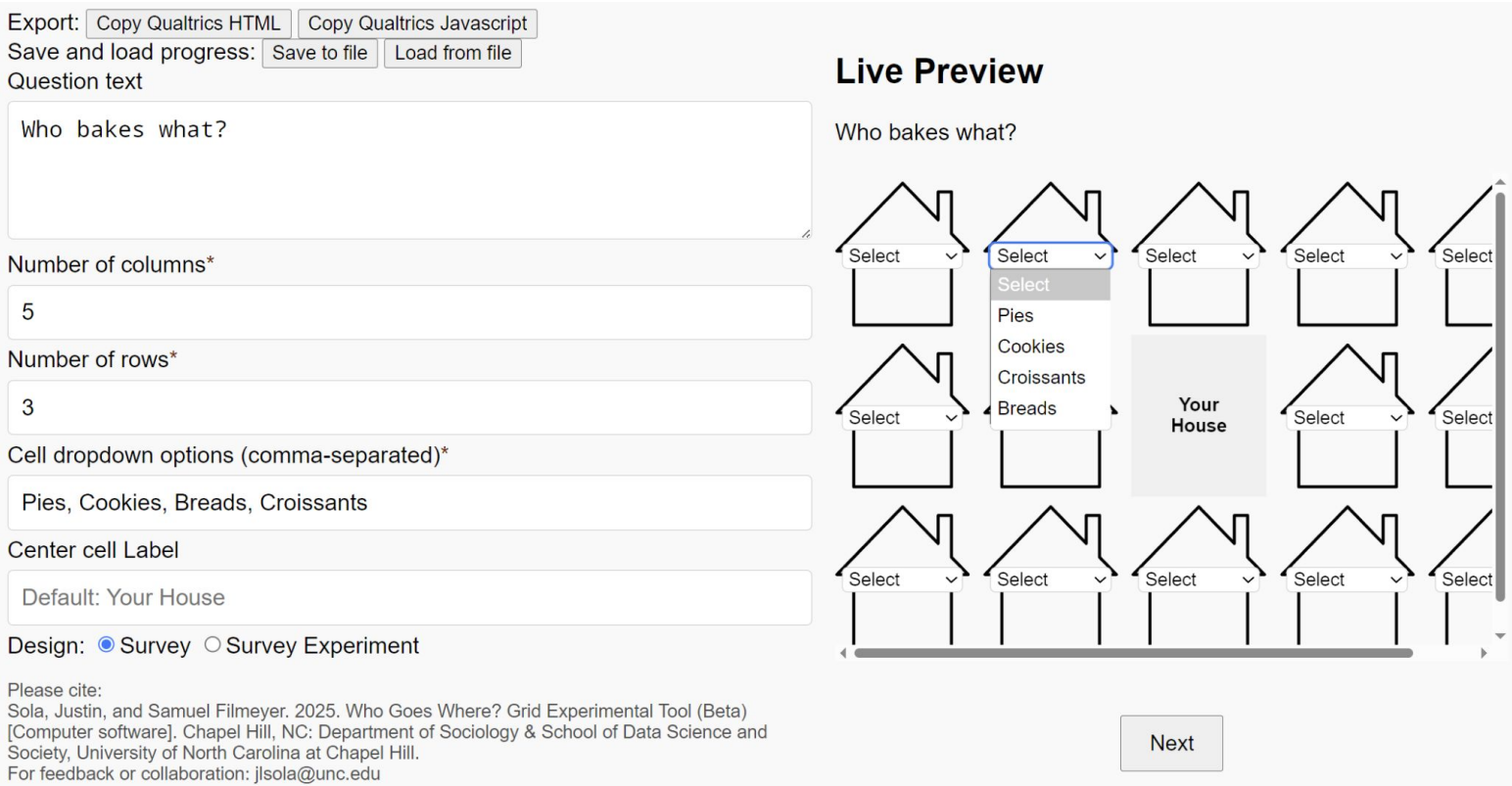
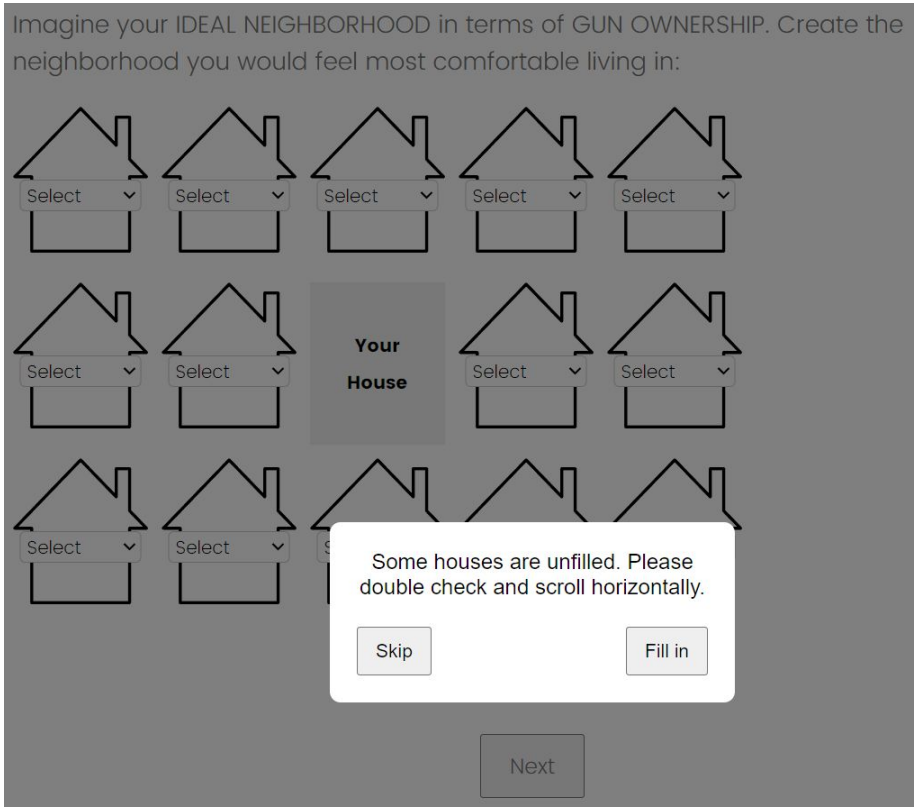


Handling non-response



Racially self-same neighbors and neighborhood desirability

	Model 1	Model 2
Baseline desirability (0 self-same neighbors)	4.89 (0.06)	4.88 (0.06)
Δ per self-same neighbor	0.03*** (0.01)	0.03*** (0.01)
Participant covariates	✗	✓
Experimental political scenario	✗	✓
Participants	2078	2057
Outcome is neighborhood desirability (1–7) with CR2 cluster-robust SEs in parentheses. *, **, *** for p < .05, .01, .001.		

Effect of household gun ownership on self-same racial assignment

	Model 1	Model 2
Baseline Pr(any gun | White label)	48.9 (1.2)	55.9 (3.2)
Black (Δ vs White label)	-2.7 (1.7)	-6.0*** (1.2)
Hispanic (Δ vs White label)	-2.6 (1.7)	-3.7** (1.2)
Asian (Δ vs White label)	-0.3 (1.5)	-1.9 (1.3)
Participant covariates	✗	✓
Experimental conditions (politics & racial scenario)	✗	✓
Participants (clusters)	2410	2155
House choices	33740	30170
Units are percentage points with CR2 cluster-robust SEs in parentheses. Baseline rows report the model-based average predicted Pr(assigning any gun) when the assigned household race is White within each model's analytic sample. *, **, *** for $p < .05, .01, .001$.		

Effect of specific household gun types on self-same racial assignment

	Model 1	Model 2
Baseline self-same (no gun)	38.1 (0.7)	41.2 (2.5)
Hunting Rifle (Δ vs no gun)	7.1*** (1.3)	7.8*** (1.3)
Pistol (Δ vs no gun)	3.6** (1.2)	4.3*** (1.2)
Pistol & AR-15 (Δ vs no gun)	5.7*** (1.3)	6.5*** (1.3)
Participant covariates	✗	✓
Experimental conditions (politics & scenario)	✗	✓
Participants (clusters)	2081	2060
House choices	29134	28840
Units are percentage points with CR2 cluster-robust SEs in parentheses. Baseline rows report the model-based average predicted Pr(self-same race) when houses are assigned 'No Gun' in each model's analytic sample. Gun-type rows report the model-based change in Pr(self-same race) for each gun type relative to 'No Gun'. *, **, *** for $p < .05, .01, .001$.		