

## Moving Toward Integration

Brown University sociologist John Logan has pored over the melting pot in microcosm for 40 years. Last year he sifted through U.S. census data from 1980 to 2010 and identified 20 traditionally multiethnic metropolitan centers, including Los Angeles, Newark, and Houston. He discovered in the stats that communities with a high level of integration of four key groups are on the rise.

These “global neighborhoods” start out as predominantly white communities that Hispanics and Asians move into, followed by blacks. What surprised Logan was that this specific pattern of integration showed much greater stability than expected. More than 60 percent of the global neighborhoods remained mixed after 30 years, he notes. These areas, based on census tracts, are on average nearly half white and about a quarter Hispanic, with the rest evenly split between blacks and Asians.

On the flip side, minority-only tracts have proved increasingly entrenched, and white flight into the suburbs continues. Altogether, the push-pull of integration and segregation makes for an uneasy balance. —*Johnna Rizzo*

*In greater Los Angeles, “global neighborhoods” of whites, blacks, Hispanics, and Asians are expanding.*

