## Introduction

- On January 6, 2021, insurrectionists stormed the U.S. Capitol in support of the former president’s false assertions of election fraud
- Giving a speech just hours earlier, President Trump stated, “If you don’t fight like hell, you won’t have a country anymore” January 6, 2021
- One rioter paraded the halls of the Capitol building carrying a Confederate flag (Cramer 2021)
- In the event’s aftermath, there were upwards of 900 arrests
- The present study examines sociodemographic profiles of people who were arrested during the January insurrection
- I then compare important social and economic characteristics of participants’ towns of residence with national averages

## Background and Theory

- This study relies on insights from microstructural availability, attitudinal affinity, and reactive mobilization theories
- Microstructural Availability
  - Integration in personal or organizational networks that connects people to others associated with a movement increases their chances of participation (Isaac et al. 2019)
  - Capitol breach likely consisted of individuals who were connected by their support for the reelection of former President Trump
  - It is critical to have a deeper understanding of the demographics which the subgroup of President Trump supporters live in to better conceptualize motivation
- Attitudinal Affinity
  - Strong displeasure and optimism for the possibility of change is a significant predictor in one’s participation in social movements (Isaac et al. 2019; McAdams 1986, 1988; Biggs 2006)
  - Deeply important to understand the demographics that President Trump resonated with, and provided optimism for regressive change
- Reactive Mobilization
  - Results from a threat caused by political, economic or demographic changes (Van Dyke and Soule 2002)
  - Increases in political opportunities or political threats lead to greater changes of mobilization (Tilly 1978)

## Data and Methods

- Data from the U.S. Department of Justice
  - First, I recorded the 900+ arrests made related to the Capitol Breach
  - Recorded the hometowns of each individual arrested
- Data from the United States Census Bureau
  - I then assessed each hometown’s total population, population percentage that is non-white, percentage without healthcare, and median family household income
  - For instances in which the U.S. Census Bureau did not have information about the individual’s town, the individual was not considered in the research (n=719)
- Data from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics
  - Third, I identified the unemployment rates of each town

## Results

- Consistent with expectations, people arrested during the insurrection were from places with:
  - Smaller than average non-white population percentage
  - Median household incomes that were less than the U.S average

## Discussion and Conclusions

- This study identified key characteristics of locations where arrested insurrectionists reside, and compared these characteristics with U.S. averages
- Arrested insurrectionists were from places that were on average, whiter and less socioeconomically advantaged than typical U.S. locales
- Results likely reflect the mobilization of white supremacist ideologies spurred by the former President, and that align with sociodemographic threat
- The Department of Homeland Security lists white supremacist organizations as key domestic terror threats (e.g., over 1,000 active groups in the U.S.)
- Events that took place on January 6 exemplify the potential threat posed by such groups
- Remains important to fully prosecute insurrectionists to set a precedent and to prevent future activity