Introduction:
As of 2010, Puerto Ricans comprise the second largest Hispanic group in the United States with a total population of 4.6 million following the Mexican population at 31.8 million. Puerto Ricans are the oldest and one of the largest Hispanic groups to reside and permanently call the United States ‘home’. Historically, Puerto Ricans are highly concentrated in New York City and other Northeastern areas due to labor recruitment in the agriculture and manufacturing industries. Chain migration provided a migratory stream that included friends and family.

Objectives:
- To test theoretical frameworks of spatial assimilation theory and underlying concepts of place stratification and ethnoburb.
- The site of this research is in New York State.
- To contribute to an understanding of gaps in Puerto Rican and ethnic studies literature related to mobility.

Research Questions:
- Does Puerto Rican internal migration fit the Spatial Assimilation Theory?
- Does Puerto Rican internal migration fit the Place Stratification Model?
- Does Puerto Rican internal migration fit the Ethnoburb model?

Methodology: Mixed Method Integrative Approach
Both quantitative and qualitative research methods will be applied to strengthen and enrich the proposed research findings not purely by numbers (secondary data) but also through the subject's interviews and survey questionnaires. Furthermore, it would provide a better understanding and contemporary analysis of geographic spatial patterns (migration/settlement patterns) and sociological assimilation theories of the Puerto Rican population in New York State (study areas).

Data Collection
I. Socio-demographic characteristics of the migrants
II. Socioeconomic Status (SES)
III. Residential location/Settlement Patterns
Quantitative:
- Census-ACS & PUMS
- Immigrant Second Generation in Metropolitan New York
- Survey-based Questionnaire (30 subjects)
- Individual in-depth interviews (6 subjects)
  - Stratified random sampling
Participant Selection: Puerto Rican descents who are 18 years of age and above and previously lived in the NYC region
Analytical Methods & Tools:
- SPSS (Statistical Analysis)
- GIS - conduct spatial analysis & choropleth mapping
- Nvivo - develop descriptions and themes from the data/coding

Results Summary:
Based on the preliminary findings from the quantitative and qualitative data collection, the study shows Puerto Ricans are moving from the New York City region to the selected study area. This closely ties with qualitative data because the subjects migrated from the NYC urban counties. Major reasons for moving included search of better educational opportunities and neighborhood amenities (less crime and drug activities) for themselves and their children.

Preliminary Findings:
- Of all of New York State counties, New York City region’s urban counties accounts for the highest Puerto Rican population decline since 1990. Bronx (-14%), New York (-30%), and Kings (-36%).

Evidence from the Field: Broome County (Southern Tier Region)
During the March 24-25 of 2012 I surveyed 5 subjects and of those 5, I interviewed 2 semi-structured interviews. Female subject, age 24 stated:
“I’m here for my kids. Less crowding both in school and home. I do not worry as much. I know they will get a better education here. Binghamton is not that bad. I feel safe and I do not worry as much.

Male subject, age 54 stated:
“I teach here but my home and heart will forever be in the Bronx. I grew up there as little boy and I came here (Broome County) because I accepted a job as a University Professor. I do not regret relocating here for the sake of my children. If they grew up in the Bronx, I do not think they will make it very far.”

Conceptualization