**The Geography of U.S. Poverty: Selected Comments**

Wendy Shaw

Department of Geography

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Poverty in the United States is a chronic problem, which first came into sharp public focus in the early 1960’s. This paper provides a discussion of the basic geography of U.S. poverty, by exploring the changing spatial distribution of U.S. poverty from 1980 to 2000 using a county level analysis. I then go on to use Illinois as an example to explore how the choice of spatial unit can fundamentally change our geographic perspective of poverty here in the United States.