Neighbourhood Trends in Divided Cities:
Income Inequality, Social Polarization & Spatial Segregation

A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Last revision: August 2009

The focus of this bibliography is on the way in which Western cities (i.e., generally the OECD countries) are internally divided (or partitioned) on the basis of socio-economic and ethno-cultural status.

The focus is:

- not gentrification, but the socio-economic and spatial impacts of the gentrification process;
- not globalization or global cities, but the impact of these macro level contexts, outcomes, and trends on neighbourhoods;
- not discrimination and segregation, but changes in the nature, extent and impact of these on cities and neighbourhoods, including segregation, ghettoization and ethno-cultural enclaves; and
- not urban poverty, but the changing location of wealthy and poor neighbourhoods, and the changing nature and extent of inequality and polarization within and among neighbourhoods in a city.

This bibliography is partially annotated with the original summaries (abstracts) as provided by the author or publisher.
Selected quotes about “divided cities”

The age of extremes. “Thus a new age of extremes is upon us. In the social ecology now being created around the globe, affluent people increasingly will live and interact with other affluent people, while the poor increasingly will live and interact with other poor people. The social worlds of the rich and the poor will diverge, creating the potential for radical differences in thought, action, values, tastes, and feelings, and for the construction of a new political geography that divorces the interests of the rich from the welfare of the poor. For the first time in human history, the advantages and disadvantages of one's class position in society will be compounded and reinforced by a systematic process of geographic concentration.”


An increase in inequality in increasingly divided cities. “Is there a new spatial order in cities’ is the question around which this book has been centered. Our answer is: ‘No’. But there is change, important and visible change, with very significant impacts on the lives of our cities' people. Those changes may be summarized as an increase in the strength of divisions in the city and the inequality among them. Their specific spatial manifestations include:

• strengthened structural spatial divisions among the quarters of the city, with increased inequality and sharper lines of division among them;
• wealthy quarters, housing those directly benefiting from increased globalization, and the quarters of the professionals, managers, and technicians that serve them, growing in size and in the defensiveness of the walls erected against others;
• quarters of those excluded from the globalizing economy, with their residents more and more isolated and walled in;
• increasing walling among the quarters, from defensive citadels to gated upper and middle income communities to confined and barricaded poor neighborhoods;
• increased totalization of life within each quarter, combining residential, work, commercial, and recreational uses separately for the occupants of each;
• the increase in prevalence and depth of specific new spatial formations within these structural divisions;
• more prominent and more extensive citadels at the top, disproportionately serving a global elite;
• edge cities, an extension and expansion of the suburbanization of residence and work for the middle class and some of the professional -managerial class;
• continuing formation of immigrant enclaves of lower-paid workers both within and outside the global economy, with a continuing and often increasing emphasis on ethnic solidarity within them;
• a more integrated and much larger regionalization of economic activity, with new outer centers of activity increasing in importance;
• ghettoization of the excluded, developed in the United States, but a visible tendency in many other countries;
• a set of "soft" locations particularly vulnerable to change, which may also serve as markers of the direction and intensity of influence of globalization trends.

There is, then, no standard pattern, no "The Globalized City," no single new spatial order within cities all over the world. The patterns produced by the processes summarized as "globalization" are quite varied, and some are described in detail in the book. But there is a set of common trends that, taken together, form a pattern, standing in some orderly relationship to each other. Looking back at the alternate theories of the consequences of globalization, interdependent polarization vs. exclusion, in effect both are correct: the rich get richer (and form citadels and exclusionary enclaves) and the poor get poorer; most are needed (often forming immigrant enclaves), but some poor are left out (and confined to excluded ghettos).”


What determines the present and future of divided cities? “From this paper it has become clear that a number of issues and developments mentioned in older theories of urban change are crucial when we want to explain the emergence, existence and developments of divided cities. It is impossible to look at divided cities without paying attention to individual preferences and individual constraints and opportunities. Of course, these opportunities are shaped by many developments that are far beyond the reach of the individual (including globalisation and other macro-level developments). But in essence the individual, or household, still has to be seen as an important decision maker with respect to housing market behaviour and the place where one resides. Residents of a city “... are not simply puppets dancing to the tune of socioeconomic and political logics...” (Beauregard & Haila, 1997, p. 328). Various institutional arrangements, including the role of individuals within institutions, add to the complexity of the explanation of divided cities. Most local and national states have changed their goals and their way of working, but they do still exist and are still important in determining the future of cities. How divisions emerge and develop is at least partly determined by a number of contingencies. If we do not recognise these contingencies, which can work out very differently for each place, it is
impossible to explain differences between cities. The specific morphology of cities, their histories, their geographical characteristics, the extent of inequality in a society are just a few of these contingencies that determine the present and future of divided cities.

Globalisation is without any doubt an important development in the present era and it pervades every continent, every city, neighbourhood or even individual. But it would be wrong to put too much weight on this development and lose sight of the important urban actors, such as individuals, households and institutions (including governments). One of the most important urban questions is how to get the best out of the interaction between macro-developments on the one hand and local opportunities on the other hand. To achieve this, concrete mechanisms by which these national and international forces produce specific spatial changes within cities should be found (Marcuse, 1997). Because these mechanisms are in most cases still unclear and because they differ between contexts, this might be seen as an important task in the future—a joint effort by urban geographers, urban sociologists, urban economists, urban planners and maybe many others.”


The release of 2000 U.S. Census and 2001 Canadian Census data sparked significant interest in immigrant dispersal outside major urban centers. This article analyzes how the meaning of immigration settlement patterns is socially constructed by using a comparative textual analysis of newspaper coverage of census findings as well as government documents and think tank studies. The authors argue that in Canada, immigration settlement is interpreted as a national policy problem necessitating federal state intervention, whereas presentations in U.S. print media construct immigration settlement as the outcome of choices made by individual immigrants and, thus, as local policy problems. In each case, construction of immigrant dispersal draws on national mythologies and omits alternative interpretations of the geography of immigrant settlement.


Article Introduction quoted:

In Europe, most governments have found it necessary to subsidize and regulate the processes of urban renewal and housing rehabilitation. However, the grounds for public intervention – and in particular for establishing supply subsidies to maintain and improve the housing stock – have not been clearly formulated. Few analysts have tried to explain why the housing market has not been able to produce a well-maintained and modern housing stock.

If the housing market were functioning according to the assumptions of general economic theory, housing problems – its poor quality and inadequate amount – could only occur through lack of demand. That, in turn, is mainly because income levels are too low. Theoretically, demand subsidies would then be called for, while supply subsidies and market interventions would be ineffective.

Throughout Western Europe, government intervention has generally been significant in the rental housing market, taking the form of rent control, for instance. Many economists consider this intervention as the main reason for a badly functioning market. If fact, they cite it as an indirect cause of the decline in maintenance and housing improvement.

The strong tradition of public intervention in the housing market may also explain why fundamental research on the economics of the housing market has been sparse in Europe. Investigators find it difficult to distinguish the effects of market forces from the effects of public regulation. Accordingly, very little research has been done on the economic aspects of deterioration or failing attempts to rehabilitate the housing stock in Europe.

In the United States, the market is much less regulated. Therefore, it is possible to observe processes of decay and renewal that are not affected by rent control or other kinds of public intervention common in Europe. Fundamental research on the housing market has been extensive in the U.S. Much of that research has been focused on processes of decay and renewal that are not affected by rent control or other kinds of public intervention common in Europe. Fundamental research on the housing market has been extensive in the U.S. Much of that research has been focused on processes of decay and renewal in the cities. Thus, the American experience allows us to discuss the possibility that general market failure would promote slums and decay. On that basis, we could determine whether such failure could form grounds for special urban renewal policies.

The purpose of this article is twofold. First, we review what Europe can learn from American research on the causes of urban decay. Then, from that perspective, we discuss the grounds for public involvement in urban renewal and, especially, urban housing rehabilitation. We posit that there are general economic and social forces operating on the housing market that lead to failing maintenance and decay, primarily in private rented housing. This claim is based on a survey of American research on processes of decay and renewal in the unregulated housing market.” 65-66

Research literature on area-based initiatives in deprived urban areas in Europe shows that there is no general agreement on the purpose of such revitalisation programmes. Evaluations of the programmes come to very different conclusions on the effects of the efforts, but the majority are negative in the sense that they find that conditions have not improved in the supported areas. An important reason for this is our uncertain understanding of the nature of deprived areas. In Denmark, an extensive effort in 500 deprived social housing estates during 1995-98 had as one of its main purposes the combatting of processes leading to increased deprivation. These estates had increasingly lost competitiveness in the housing market, due to the perception that they had become 'excluded places'. The main instruments have been rent decreases, physical improvements and support for organisational and social changes. An extensive research evaluation of the programme has shown that this strategy has stopped the negative trends in the estates, but also that further and longer-term efforts will be needed to create new and positive development.


In the research literature deprived urban neighbourhoods are understood largely as spatially concentrated pockets of poverty and their emergence is explained as a result of increasing social inequality in the cities. There is evidence, however, to indicate that the relationship between the general social and economic development of cities and the emergence of deprived neighbourhoods is not so simple. This article refers to studies that show how self-perpetuating processes of social and physical decay occur in these areas and have a strong and separate importance for deprivation and segregation. The character of such processes is illustrated with empirical evidence based on a Danish study of 500 deprived social housing estates. It is argued that a new understanding of deprived neighbourhoods is required and that it is appropriate to regard them as "excluded places" that become increasingly isolated from the rest of the city.


It is argued in this paper that Swedish policies are undergoing changes in relation to 'geographical thinking'. Traditionally, urban issues have played a less significant role in the national policy domain than have regional issues. The shift towards a greater emphasis on urban issues is based mainly on arguments for equality, indeed on the same basic arguments that have been pushed for decades by advocates of the regional policy domain. The concept of distance, however, is changing from notions of physical distance in regional policy to social distance in the field of urban policy. Three years ago, the Swedish Social Democratic Government set up several committees and commissions. Their purpose was to analyse thoroughly issues concerning housing, immigration, immigrant policies, and social exclusion in the metropolitan areas. These commissions comprised Members of Parliament and experts from universities and central and local public authorities. Most of these commissions have now finalised the work and made their policy recommendations. One of the commissions-the Commission on Metropolitan Areas-called its latest report, published in September 1997, *Divided Cities*. The commission's main conclusion was that the three major metropolitan areas in Sweden are clearly segregated according to ethnic and socio-economic criteria, but that economic and social segregation-not ethnic-is the basic underlying nature of the division of population groups. Some of the data analysed by the commission are presented here, but some further empirical findings have been added that place their analyses into a different perspective. As we are now witnessing a partial retreat from general welfare policies with more emphasis being placed on selective policies, one of the selective programmes is presented-an area-based policy-that aims to counteract ethnic residential segregation and social exclusion processes. Finally, issues of city planning in the production and reproduction of segregation processes in contemporary Sweden are discussed.


Like many other Western European governments, the Swedish government has launched an area-based urban policy in order to solve the problems of the distressed neighbourhoods in the largest cities. However, in the current policy it is not clear whether the primary aim is to address the problems of individuals, or if the aim is to change the market position of the distressed areas. The intervention might be successful in terms of assisting residents in finding jobs and better education, but that might not improve the general position of the areas targeted, since people who make a socio-economic career very often move out of the areas, to be replaced by poorer and less well-established residents. By drawing upon a comprehensive and unique set of data the paper analyses the issues of residential mobility and selective migration, with special focus on distressed neighbourhoods in the Stockholm region. The results clearly indicate that the migration flows of these neighbourhoods are indeed selective. The people who move in are more likely to be unemployed and dependent on social benefits and have on average lower incomes than those who move out and those
who remain in the neighbourhoods. This simultaneous outflow of relatively well-off residents and inflow of weaker and more marginalised groups has the effect of reproducing the distressed character of the neighbourhoods.


There is substantial interest among policy makers in both Western Europe and North America in reducing concentrations of disadvantaged households through initiatives to enhance the 'social mix' of neighbourhoods. However, there is little consideration or understanding with regard to which mix of household characteristics matters most in influencing the socio-economic outcomes for individual residents. This paper explores the degree to which a wide variety of 1995 neighbourhood conditions in Sweden are statistically related to earnings for all adult metropolitan and non-metropolitan men and women during the 1996-99 period, controlling for a wide variety of personal characteristics. The paper finds that the extremes of the neighbourhood income distribution, operationalized by the percentages of adult males with earnings in the lowest 30th and the highest 30th percentiles, hold greater explanatory power than domains of household mix related to education, ethnicity or housing tenure. Separating the effects of having substantial shares of low and high income neighbours, it is found that it is the presence of the former that means most for the incomes of metropolitan and non-metropolitan men and women, with the largest effects for metropolitan men.


Does gentrification help or harm residential neighbourhoods and what are the implications of this evidence for current urban policies? This paper reports on a systematic review of the English-language research literature on gentrification which attempted to identify the range of costs and benefits associated with the process. It is concluded from this that existing evidence on gentrification shows it to have been largely harmful, predominantly through household displacement and community conflict. The paper then turns to the question of whether current UK urban policy developments are likely to engender gentrification. It is argued that, on the one hand, the language of gentrification processes have been used widely in regeneration policy documents to suggest positive forces for local housing and neighbourhood change. Meanwhile, policy instruments designed to deliver an urban renaissance suggest responses to the problem of gentrification in particular regional contexts and the promotion of gentrification itself in other localities. The paper concludes that the aims of an inclusive renaissance agenda appear to have been discarded in favour of policies which pursue revitalization through gentrification and displacement.


This paper focuses on the question of whether it is worse to be poor in a poor area or in an area which is more socially mixed; in short, does living in a deprived area compound the disadvantage experienced by its residents, and do area effects contribute to social exclusion? The idea of social areas having direct or mediated effects on the lives of their residents continues to interest and challenge academic and policy debates on the effect of concentrated poverty and on the creation of more mixed and, thereby, more sustainable neighbourhood forms. However, area effects remain contentious and British research evidence is scant. Following a review of the theoretical and empirical understandings of the relationship between households and neighbourhoods, the paper presents survey data from a comparative study of deprived and socially mixed neighbourhoods in Glasgow and Edinburgh. These data provide evidence that supports the area effects thesis, in particular in relation to area reputation and employment. The paper concludes that, with certain caveats, living in areas of geographically concentrated poverty creates additional problems for residents.


This review surveys the recent evidence and debate surrounding social and spatial polarization within cities. To begin with, a brief account is provided of the significance of global restructuring and the contraction of the welfare state for widening inequalities in capitalist societies, and how this is being reflected, in turn, in modifications to the character and incidence of poverty in cities. In this section, to pick up on the concluding remarks in the preceding review (Badcock, 1996), attention is drawn to how emphatically important structural effects remain to an understanding of spatial polarization in cities and the profound changes that are taking place in people's lives at the community level. The next section selectively documents some of the key contributions to research on urban poverty and polarization in the USA including the theories relating to the 'new urban poverty', the formation of a ghetto-bound 'underclass' and the
emergence of a new spatial order based upon a ‘global city’ paradigm. In the third section the comparative evidence for growing spatial polarization in cities is examined. This includes some consideration of the portability and relevance of constructs developed under American conditions for cities in other, mostly western, societies. Lastly, a case is made suggesting why this research on spatial polarization is quite vital from a public policy perspective, and why human geographers should be in the thick of it.


First paragraph of chapter quoted:
“During the last 25 years or so Australian cities have been exposed to forces of economic and political restructuring that are beginning to make for noticeable differences in the established spatial order. In the Australian case, above all else, it is a shifting geography of income and wealth in the cities that contains the seeds of the “new spatial order.” This is not to argue for a dramatic divergence from, let alone a complete replacement of the existing Fordist urban structure; but, rather, to acknowledge the gradual ascendance of post-Fordist processes and the creation of recognizable new forms of space imbricated within the urban fabric inherited from a Fordist past. The spatial hints at things to come during this time of transition for Australian cities add up to a growing centralization of wealth combined with the selective dispersion of poverty to structurally vulnerable suburbs. It is the formation of a “cone of wealth,” then, at the heart of cities like Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, and now Brisbane and Perth as well, that most distinguishes urban restructuring in Australia from the experience of most other cities discussed in this volume.” 211


This paper analyses the spatial residential patterns of recent immigrant groups to Canada and compares them with other selected European groups to understand the differences, their causes and consequences. Using census data from the 2001 Canadian Census for the metropolitan areas and census tracts, various measures of concentration and segregation are examined. Preliminary analysis of the data show that substantial differences exist among the ethnic groups in their residential patterns. The differences seem to be along not only social class lines but also along social distance and ethnic cohesion dimensions. There does not seem to be much change in the last decade. The paper further explores whether the extent of residential segregation decreases in later generations. The persistence of ethnic enclaves over time has important policy implications. On the positive side, they are important in preserving aspects of the ethnic culture such as language, customs, religious beliefs, lifestyle, etc. They emphasize the cultural diversity of Canada. On the negative side, they may promote discrimination and prejudice and the development of ghettoes.


The idea of neighbourhood effects implies that the demographic context of poor neighbourhoods instils ‘dysfunctional’ norms, values and behaviours into youths, triggering a cycle of social pathology. It is argued that neighbourhood effects are part of a wider discourse of inner-city marginality that stereotypes inner-city neighbourhoods. Reflecting upon arguments made in the existing literature, the ideological underpinnings of the idea of neighbourhood effects are revealed. Essentialist conceptions of neighbourhood culture among employers, educators and institutional staff contribute to the neighbourhood effects phenomenon. It is also suggested that researchers and policy-makers must recognise wider forces of cultural differentiation and exclusion.


Although the influx of visible minority immigrants has created an atmosphere of diversity and multiculturalism in Canada’s three major gateway cities, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, immigration has also produced metropolitan landscapes of fragmentation and ethnic separation. The objective of this study is to compare the residential patterns of visible minority populations in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, using a rigorous and consistent method that examines the temporal and spatial nature of segregation and its links to local housing characteristics. The paper reviews the literature on models of urban separation, and ethnic and visible minority segregation in Canadian cities, and develops four propositions regarding expected residential patterns and concentrations of visible minorities. It tests these propositions using an analysis of 1986, 1991 and 1996 Census data, in which residential patterns in the three cities are examined and related to the distribution of different types of housing. Our findings confirm previous research results of fragmentation and dispersal, but we uncover decisive differences between cities.

It has been argued that the global city-social polarisation thesis put forward by scholars looking at North American cities cannot be easily transferred to global cities in other parts of the world. Recent research has illustrated that whilst there may be some change in levels of social polarisation in global cities outside the US, the form, structure and causes of social polarisation are different. This paper extends the debate by looking at Sydney, Australia. It is argued that whilst changes in occupational structure and income polarisation are partially explained by economic restructuring associated with globalisation, global processes alone cannot fully explain these changes. The paper points to the significance of the inclusion of factors such as the unemployed, the gendered structure of occupations and migration.


New national and international economic and social forces have reshaped national geographies in general and the characteristics of cities in particular, resulting in a range of diverse social and spatial outcomes. These outcomes, which include greater differentiation across, within and between cities has become a feature of the economic and social forces associated with post-Fordist social structures. Taking localities across Australia's metropolitan regions, this paper develops a typology of advantage and disadvantage using a model-based approach with clustering of data represented by a parameterised Gaussian mixture model and confidence intervals of the means providing a measure of differences between the clusters. The analysis finds seven clusters of localities that represent different aspects of the socio-spatial structure of the metropolitan regions studied.


The authors discern the community structure of the postindustrial city, with reference to Australia. They focus empirically on three major types of Australian urban center: urban regions, metropolitan areas that are not part of urban regions, and other major cities. These three account for almost three-quarters of the Australian population. The authors draw on a conceptualization formulated by Marcuse and van Kempen to guide the analysis, with a combination of cluster analysis and discriminant analysis being applied to aggregate (essentially census) data to identify the communities. Nine major Australian urban communities are identified—four are affluent, four are disadvantaged, and one is a working-class community. The communities found, however, differed greatly from those cited in the Marcuse and van Kempen schema.


Drawing on the shrinkage of manufacturing districts, the transformation of waterfronts, the rise of edge cities, and the delocalization and deepening commodification of real property, this article reflects on the "newness" of the contemporary city. It argues for the simultaneous existence of historical continuities and discontinuities and the presence of novel spatial arrangements that originated in enduring trends. The contemporary city is never complete and thus never totally different from its predecessors. Observers of Western societies generally agree that profound economic, political, social, and cultural forces have transformed these societies during the latter decades of the 20th century. Some (Jameson, 1991) have characterized this historical shift as a movement from modernism to postmodernism; others (Piore & Sabel, 1984) have preferred to emphasize the economic and use Fordism and post-Fordism as labels. Regardless, and despite differences of opinion as to what has actually changed and what this means, the current historical period can hardly be equated with the 1950s and the decades that preceded them.


“...In this chapter, we explore how this enduring history and the ever-present continuities of the city stem from the simultaneity of past and current influences. Drawing mainly on examples from cities in industrialized countries such as..."
the United States and those of Western Europe, and with references also to Asia, we discuss the possible connections between the spatial order of the contemporary city and the socio-economic and political forces that operate there. We begin with two phenomena that are often cited as indicative of the change of spatial form associated with the postmodern or post-Fordist city: hollowed out manufacturing zones (mainly in older US cities) and consumption-oriented waterfronts (found both in the US and Western Europe). We then turn to edge cities, the multiple nuclei that have come to characterize metropolitan regions, particularly US ones, in the late 20th century. Edge cities, we argue, are not wholly new. Rather, they are the product of forces that have been operating on the city since the last century. Finally, we consider changes in real estate dynamics – the delocalization and deepening commodification of real property – and the implications that these new phenomena have for urban form.”


Blakely, E., & Snyder, M. (1995). Fortress America: Gated and walled communities in the United States. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Across the nation, Americans are “forting up”—retreating from their neighbors by locking themselves behind security-controlled walls, gates and barriers. This book studies the development and social impact of this phenomenon by exploring various gated communities and the reasons for their popularity. The authors examine the social, political and governance dilemmas posed when millions of Americans opt out of the local governance system by privatizing their environment.

Boal, F.W., (Ed.) (2000). Ethnicity and Housing: Accommodating Differences. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate. Summary: Scholars from Europe, North America, Israel, and Africa explore challenges and solutions to providing adequate and appropriate housing in secure environments for the increasingly diverse ethnic groups in cities. Most of the 27 studies are arranged in geographical sections. They include discussions of the consequences of segregation, the South African experience of dealing with differences, the access to housing and exclusion of Haitian immigrants to French Guyana, changing federal housing policy in the US to open opportunities, the Jewish-Arab struggle for the environs of Jerusalem, housing preferences and strategies of Pakistanis in Glasgow, residential segregation in the Belfast context of ethnic conflict, the housing co-operative Ludwid- Frank in Mannheim, and the meaning of home for African-Caribbean- British people.

Bolt, G., Burgers, J. & van Kempen, R. (1998). On the social significance of spatial location: Spatial segregation and social inclusion. Netherlands Journal of Housing and the Built Environment, 13 (1), 83-95. This article gives an overview of the positive and negative aspects of spatial concentration and segregation. We argue that much of the literature is biased; it emphasizes the drawbacks of spatial concentration and segregation of low-income groups in general and immigrants in particular. The opportunities offered by concentration and segregation, which almost always depend on the presence of local solidarity networks, are given less attention. These opportunities are mainly treated in the literature on ethnic entrepreneurs. Much of the literature on the effects of spatial concentration and segregation is based on research in the United States. Thus, we have to be very careful when we apply the results to West European countries. The overview concludes with some suggestions for further research.

Bourne, L. S. (1993). Close together and worlds apart: An analysis of changes in the ecology of income in Canadian cities. Urban Studies, 30 (8), 1293 – 1317. The volatile social status of older neighbourhoods has been a concern of both scholars and politicians for some time. Three competing hypotheses, representing different interpretations of past trends and contrasting scenarios for the future, have dominated recent research: the impoverishment (decline), élite (gentrified) and persistence (stability) models. This paper examines these three models with respect to changing income distributions between and within Canadian metropolitan areas and their inner cities from 1950 to 1985. All three hypotheses are found to be wanting. It is shown that the direction of change in inner cities differs markedly among the metropolitan areas, and that while inner-city-suburban contrasts continue to grow in most cities, in a few places these contrasts are overwhelmed by internal diversity and by new clusters of suburban poverty and inner-city wealth. The emerging ecology of income and social status is much more complex and variable than any single hypothesis or research paradigm can encompass.

The article investigates whether processes similar to ‘White flight’ and ‘White avoidance’, known from American research on residential segregation, have played a role in the increased concentration of immigrants that has affected many residential areas in Swedish cities during the 1990s. By means of a comprehensive and unique dataset, processes of neighbourhood transition and mobility are described and analysed for a selection of residential areas that have experienced increased immigrant concentration during the 1990s. The results show that ‘Swedish avoidance’, i.e. low in-migration rates among Swedes, rather than ‘Swedish flight’, i.e. high out-migration rates, has been the main driving-force behind the production and reproduction of immigrant concentration areas.


During the last three decades, the household has become the focus of a wide range of sociodemographic processes, including the destabilization of traditional patterns of marriage, cohabitation and divorce; the growing fluidity of ties of kin and friendship; and increasingly complex transitions through the life course. However, these dynamics - which are often summarized under the common heading of the ‘second demographic transition’ - have been marginalized in the mainstream geographical literature. In this paper, we draw attention to the extensive, albeit fragmented, body of sociological, economic, feminist and geographical insights into the changing social geometry of the household. Recent developments in these domains have affirmed the pivotal role of the household in shaping the geographies of gender, home and everyday life. We underline the importance of households as agents of urban transformation, arguing in favour of the further incorporation of household demography into the interpretation of contemporary urban problems and trends.


During the last three decades, the countries of the developed world have been engulfed by the ‘second demographic transition’, which involves new family relations, less and later marriage, declining fertility rates, population ageing, postponement of child-bearing and smaller households, among other trends. It is being increasingly argued that such population dynamics are having a powerful transformative effect on the inner city, by diversifying and redensifying its social landscapes, and creating a ‘splintered’ urban form. Based on the findings of a recent EU Framework 5 research project, this paper investigates the demographic contingencies of this process also known as reurbanisation-in four European cities: Leipzig (Germany), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Bologna (Italy) and Leon (Spain). Analyses of census and municipal registry data, as well as on-site questionnaire surveys and interviews, have revealed that the reviewed cities are being populated with, and fragmented by, multiple migration trends and new household structures connected to the second demographic transition.


Cities in the US have become home to an increasing concentration of poor households, disproportionately composed of racial and ethnic minorities. In the US, poor and minority populations are overrepresented in public housing, mostly located in central cities. Racial and ethnic minorities in American public housing are, for the most part, composed of native-born households whereas in Europe they are more likely to be foreign-born. After a description of this concentration of poor and minority populations in public housing, we examine the effect of public housing on neighbourhood poverty rates in central cities. We construct a longitudinal database (1950-90) for four large cities-Boston, Cleveland, Detroit and Philadelphia—and examine the relationship between the location of public housing and changes in neighbourhood poverty rates. We find that in each city, one or more of the variables relating to the existence of public housing is significantly related to increases in neighbourhood poverty rates in succeeding decades.


We draw upon data from the Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study to examine the effect of neighborhood socioeconomic composition on two key economic outcomes, and in doing so to test the validity of the index of
concentration at the extremes (ICE) as a measure of neighborhood circumstances. Methodologically, we find that the index succinctly captures economic variation within neighborhoods in a way that avoids problems of collinearity that have characterized prior studies. Neighborhoods can be characterized as falling on a continuum ranging from concentrated disadvantage to concentrated advantage; the ICE measure does a good job capturing this variation and differentiating the neighborhood circumstances experienced by different groups. Substantively, we show that neighborhood economic circumstances are related to new mothers' welfare use and employment, above and beyond their individual socioeconomic characteristics.

Choguill, C. L. (2008). Developing sustainable neighbourhoods. *Habitat International*, 32 (1), 41 - 48. Sustainability has become an increasingly important element to be considered in the planning of urban areas. Although it is central in the consideration of cities, for some reason it has received less attention in the development of neighbourhoods. Yet cities cannot be considered sustainable if their component parts, such as neighbourhoods, do not meet sustainability criteria. Surprisingly, it is perfectly feasible to include sustainability elements in neighbourhood consideration. If one follows the development of neighbourhood theory from Howard and Perry through to more recent contributions, it can be seen that the ideas of sustainability, although not by that name, are central to these various contributions. neighbourhood sustainability criteria mirror those used in sustainability analysis for higher level cities and towns, including consideration of the economic, the social, the technical and the environmental. Unfortunately, the application of these theoretical concepts to the neighbourhoods of modern Arab cities, such as Riyadh, leads to disappointing results. In the case of Riyadh, this appears to be due to a number of factors: the rapid urbanization, the relative scarcity of public shared facilities such as schools and green areas, and the adaptations that have been made to the original plan devised for the city. Interestingly, it is in the newer, planned neighbourhoods on the periphery of the city that these sustainability criteria might be most closely met. This suggests that success in neighbourhood sustainability may well be as dependent upon marketing as on urban planning.

Clark, W., Deurloo, A. V., Marinus, C., & Dieleman, F. M. (2006). Residential mobility and neighbourhood outcomes. *Housing Studies*, 21 (3), 323 - 342. When households move they obviously weigh both the quality of the house and the quality of the neighbourhood in their decision process. But, to the extent that housing quality and neighbourhood quality are inter-twined it is difficult to disentangle the extent to which households are more focused on one or another of these two components of the choice process. This paper uses both cross-tabulations of the neighbourhood choices, and logit models of the actual choices, to examine the relative roles of neighbourhoods and houses in the choice process. The research is focused on the question of the extent to which households trade up in house quality, or neighbourhood quality or both, as outcomes of residential mobility. The research measures neighbourhood quality in both socio-economic and environmental dimensions. The study shows that many households not only move up in housing quality, but quite consistently also make gains in neighbourhood quality, often independently of gains in housing quality. Not surprisingly, the largest gains in neighbourhood quality are related to households who make the city/suburban transition in their housing moves. The research adds another dimension to the growing and extensive literature on neighbourhoods and their role in residential choice.

Clark, W.A.V., & Dieleman, F.M. (1996). *Households and housing; Choice and outcomes in the housing market*. New Brunswick NJ: Center for Urban Policy Research. Summary: Examines the question of matching in two contrasting housing markets--the United States and the Netherlands. The authors' contention throughout is that the process of housing choice in the Western world shows striking regularities across very dissimilar national contexts, and that the differences in market behavior are in the details and at the margins. The matching of households and houses is strongly correlated with the same microlevel individual circumstances and macrolevel economic fluctuations in different countries.

Clark and Dieleman succeed in their attempt to explain contemporary demand for different types of housing in the US and the Netherlands. Using life course and event history analysis, and augmenting these microperspectives with a sensitivity to macroeconomic trends, public policy, and spatial variations, the authors present a rich quantitative investigation of the distribution of individual households across the housing market. Their research is informed by a conceptual model that stresses the critical role of household income and age as mediated by marital status, household size, and the value of the household's previous dwelling. The change in tenure status, the move either from renting to owning or vice versa, is offered as the defining event in a housing career and used to illuminate the similarities and differences between household behavior in the two countries. Applying sophisticated statistical techniques, the authors conclude that similar forces operate on housing consumption and mobility in both the US and the Netherlands. No other book presents such a clear understanding of the factors that influence housing choices, supports that
understanding with solid evidence, and teaches readers how to perform their own investigations. Upper-division undergraduate through professional.


In Britain, concepts of 'social mix' and the 'balanced community' provide an example of how policy discourses have adapted to changing conceptions of the role of the state in public provision, forms of social division and inequality, and housing market transformations. The recent development of a policy agenda by the Labour government in Britain devised to promote more socially balanced neighbourhoods is not new, and its lineage may be traced back to the origins of housing and urban policy. However, the manner in which this objective has been framed and the intervention it has provoked have varied considerably over time. One is struck more by the episodic and discontinuous nature of the application of mix and balance in British policy than any sense of a coherent set of strategies pursued through changing times. This paper contrasts the place of social mix and balance in the discourses of the immediate post-war period in Britain with the renewed emphasis on such ideas in the policies of the New Labour government elected in 1997. In the first period, the claims of social mix were infused with the language of national reconstruction and the post-war settlement and the development of universal state provision. More recently, interest in social balance has arisen partly as a response to increased management difficulties and the process of 'residualisation' in social housing and partly in response to new concepts of the underclass, social exclusion and social capital. The promotion of social mix and balance in contemporary policy has been shaped by notions of the underclass, social exclusion and the development of social capital in poorer communities. Policy intervention is overtly premised on the assumption that more mixed communities will promote more positive social interaction for residents, despite the lack of evidence for this claim. In practice, much of the discourse has now taken on a stronger sense of discipline and control in order to manage social housing estates. The meaning of social balance remains confused, however, and the achievement of this objective through policy intervention is likely to remain fraught with problems.


The purpose of this research is to explore the changing geographical distribution of high-poverty neighbourhoods both between and within American metropolitan areas between 1990 and 2000. Of particular concern is the relative shift in the number of high-poverty neighbourhoods between central-city, inner-ring and outer-ring suburbs. A classification scheme is developed for identifying these three types of area. The results indicate that there has been an increase in the number of high-poverty neighbourhoods in the urban cores of economically stagnant old industrial cities of the Northeast and an increase in the number of high-poverty inner-ring neighbourhoods in Los Angeles, metropolitan areas in California's Central Valley and a few selected rapidly growing Sunbelt metropolitan areas. The analysis indicates that an increase in the number of urban core high-poverty neighbourhoods is linked to the general health of a metropolitan area's economy and that an increase in the number of inner-ring high-poverty neighbourhoods is linked to rapid population growth.


Neighborhood influences on children and youth are the subjects of increasing numbers of studies, but there is concern that these investigations may be biased, because they typically rely on census-based units as proxies for neighborhoods. This pilot study tested several methods of defining neighborhood units based on maps drawn by residents, and compared the results with census definitions of neighborhoods. When residents' maps were used to create neighborhood boundary definitions, the resulting units covered different space and produced different social indicator values than did census-defined units. Residents' agreement about their neighborhoods' boundaries differed among the neighborhoods studied. This pilot study suggests that discrepancies between researcher and resident-defined neighborhoods are a possible source of bias in studies of neighborhood effects.


To comprehend and overcome the NIMBY (not-in-my-backyard) syndrome, planners should understand the nature of typical opposition arguments, the factors that determine community attitudes, and the range of alternative community relations strategies available to them. Community opposition tends to be cyclical in nature, with periods of intense and frequent disputes, followed by extended calms. Each incident of locational conflict seems to follow a 3-stage cycle: 1. youth - news of the proposal breaks, lighting the fuse of conflict, 2. maturity - battle lines are solidified as the 2 sides assemble ranks of supporters, and 3. old age - the period of conflict resolution is often long, drawn-out and inconclusive. There is one universal factor in all NIMBY conflicts - geographical proximity. Many land-use decisions inevitably involve some sort of litigation. Generally, however, the courts should be avoided if at all possible. Lawsuits are expensive, time consuming, and almost always counter-productive to the goal of community integration.


Ecological analysis is a promising approach to the study of urban social stratification, for differences in the residential distribution of occupation groups are found to parallel the differences among them in socio-economic status and recruitment. The occupation groups at the extremes of the socio-economic scale are the most segregated. Residential concentration in low-rent areas and residential centralization are inversely related to socio-economic status. Inconsistencies in the ranking of occupation groups according to residential patterns occur at points where there is evidence of status equilibrium.

http://www.mi.vt.edu/data/files/hpd%208(4)/hpdp%208(4)_ellen.pdf  
This article synthesizes findings from a wide range of empirical research into how neighborhoods affect families and children. It lays out a conceptual framework for understanding how neighborhoods may affect people at different life stages. It then identifies methodological challenges, summarizes past research findings, and suggests priorities for future work. Despite a growing body of evidence that neighborhood conditions play a role in shaping individual outcomes, serious methodological challenges remain that suggest some caution in interpreting this evidence. Moreover, no consensus emerges about which neighborhood characteristics affect which outcomes, or about what types of families may be most influenced by neighborhood conditions. Finally, existing studies provide little empirical evidence about the causal mechanisms through which neighborhood environment influences individual outcomes. To be useful to policy makers, future empirical research should tackle the critical question of how and for whom neighborhood matters.

Book summary: As the centerpiece of policymakers' efforts to "deconcentrate" poverty in urban America, the Moving to Opportunity (MTO) project gave roughly 4,600 volunteer families the chance to move out of public housing projects in deeply impoverished neighborhoods in five cities-Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York. Researchers wanted to find out to what extent moving out of a poor neighborhood into a better-off area would improve the lives of public housing families. *Choosing a Better Life?* is the first distillation of years of research on the MTO project, the largest rigorously designed social experiment to investigate the consequences of moving low-income public housing residents to low-poverty neighborhoods. In this book, leading social scientists and policy experts examine the legislative and political foundations of the project, analyze the effects of MTO on lives of the families involved, and explore lessons learned from this important piece of U.S. social policy.

Publishers summary: *Divided Cities* is the comparative analysis of New York and London which many have been waiting for. Wider in scope and richer in detail than any previous study, this work provides the best introduction available to these pre-eminent world cities. Seemling at times to mirror each other across the Atlantic, New York and London stand at the apex of their respective national hierarchies, as economic and cultural capitals, and occupy similarly commanding positions within the world.
economy. From decline in the 1970s to renewal in the 1980s, both cities once again face decline in the 1990s, exhibiting ever-widening social divisions. While struck by the many socio-political similarities on New York and London in their responses to global economic restructuring, the authors also delineate the quite distinctive political structures and social divisions constituted by class, race, and gender, of each city. At the heart of the book lies the question: In what sense, if any, was there an urban revival in the last decade - and for whom? In answering this question Divided Cities traces the influence of international economic forces, and national and local policies upon the fortunes of New York and London.

In this article we build on prior studies that have used audit methods to document continued discrimination against African Americans in U.S. housing markets. Whereas prior work focused primarily on measuring racial disparities in housing access, here we seek to determine which personal, ecological, and agent factors raise or lower discrimination. Our data come from phone-based audit studies of rental housing offered in the Philadelphia metropolitan market in the spring of 1999, the fall of 2000, and the spring of 2002. Male and female auditors called listings to inquire about the availability of units using white middle-class English, black-accented English, and Black English Vernacular. Results show that whites are more likely to be favored over black auditors of the same gender when the black auditor speaks Black English Vernacular compared with black-accented English. Access was also lower in suburbs than the central city, and it decreased as distance from a predominantly black neighborhood fell. Blacks experienced much lower access to units marketed by private landlords rather than professional agents. Blacks are more likely to gain access to areas that already have high concentrations of blacks or in areas that are not in danger of black encroachment (i.e., further away from black concentrations). These mechanisms serve to reinforce and replicate segregation.

Objective. We examined the relation between neighborhood violence and father antisocial behavior with a national sample of fathers from low-income families with 3-year-old children Design. Children were classified into 4 groups based on their exposure to father antisocial behavior and neighborhood violence. Results. Children who experience high levels of each performed more poorly on indicators of emotion regulation. Children in risk groups were exposed to higher levels of family conflict, father depression, and poorer internal, and external physical environments than children who were in the low-risk group. Children with fathers who were not antisocial were 3 times more likely to be spanked when the father resided in a high-risk neighborhood. Conclusions. Fathers should be included in early prevention programs targeting families with very young children, and such programs simultaneously challenged to broaden into community networks

This article takes a first step to compare the residential segregation of blacks and Asians from whites in American and Canadian cities. The analysis is based on census data from 404 American and 41 Canadian cities. African Americans in the United States experience a higher level of residential segregation than Asians in U.S. cities. On the other hand, blacks in Canada experience the same low level of segregation as Asians. To explain the different experiences of blacks in the United States and Canada, a multivariate model is proposed and tested. The results reveal several patterns. First, African Americans are consistently obstructed much more than Asian Americans by their proportion in the city. In contrast blacks in Canada are not. Second, the residential segregation patterns of African Americans are affected strongly by the labor market and structural changes of the economy in the city. However, the structural change of the economy in the city has a very weak effect on the level of residential segregation of Asian Americans, black Canadians, and Asian Canadians.

This paper examines the neighborhood qualities of major ethnic groups in Canada. Using data drawn from the 1991 census 2B file and special tabulations requested from the Statistics Canada, we found that the British, northern Europeans, and western Europeans live in neighborhoods with desirable social qualities without paying higher costs,
even after controlling for socioeconomic status, immigration period, and generations. On the other hand, we also found that southern Europeans, Asians, and Blacks live in neighborhoods with less desirable social qualities, despite paying expensive housing costs. In particular, most neighborhood qualities of Blacks are consistently seen as least desirable.

Neighborhood qualities vary among major racial and ethnic groups in Canada. Compared to other groups, the British, northern Europeans, and western Europeans are living in neighborhoods with better social environments without paying the cost of living in neighborhoods with expensive housing. Southern Europeans, Asians, and Blacks clearly are living in neighborhoods with less desirable social environments, even when living in areas with expensive housing. In particular, the neighborhood qualities of Blacks are consistently seen as the least desirable. However, there are not the extreme spatially disadvantaged conditions for Blacks in Canada that there are in the United States. This may reflect the sociohistorical differences between Blacks in the two countries. Most Blacks in Canada immigrated after 1970, whereas Blacks in the United States have suffered from poverty, segregation, and the deliberate construction of ghettos for many years earlier.

The results further show that although neighborhood qualities of each group improve when educational levels rise and when they have been in Canada longer, the differences among groups do not decrease. In addition, the data show a consistent pattern that, although the British and other older immigrant groups do not pay a higher cost for housing, they continue to live in neighborhoods with better social environments. This pattern remains the same even when we consider the population that is Canadian-born. The regression results suggest that the consistent difference in neighborhood qualities among groups may relate to the process that minorities, especially Blacks, are less able to translate their socioeconomic resources into better neighborhood qualities.

This study clearly shows the undeniable fact that there are persistent patterns of differences in neighborhood qualities in Canada. This stable hierarchy of neighborhood qualities may in turn strongly affect the opportunities of different groups and their future achievements. The aspirations and expectations of children living in neighborhoods with higher percentages of unemployed residents and families on welfare will definitely be affected.

The findings of this study also point out that race and ethnicity play an important part in organizing Canadian society. Although groups in general improve their neighborhood qualities with socioeconomic achievements, the patterns of differences in neighborhood qualities remain. Race and ethnicity strongly affect the social well-being of groups in Canadian society through the unequal distribution of residential locations.

The study has suggested several directions for future research. First, there should be further study of the reasons why southern Europeans, in comparison to other European groups, live in less desirable neighborhoods. The census data employed in the current research may not be able to disentangle factors affecting the neighborhood qualities of southern Europeans. Future research could determine how much their neighborhood qualities reflect the result of involuntary or voluntary segregation. In addition, future research should employ multilevel analysis to study how segregation levels of various racial/ethnic groups at the city level relate to their socioeconomic achievements, which in turn affect their residential patterns.


The 1991 Canadian census was used to examine the extent of spatial separation of the poor in Canadian cities. Although there were no extensive areas of blight, decay, or housing abandonment, we found high spatial separation of poor visible minorities in the selected cities. The index of dissimilarity indicates high segregation of poor blacks and moderate separation of poor Asians from the nonpoor population. We tested the effects of three major structural factors—racial and ethnic segregation, income segregation, and urban redevelopment—and found that racial and ethnic residential patterns are related strongly to the spatial separation of poor persons. The relationship between income segregation and spatial separation of the poor is not significant, however. We also found that the relationship between urban redevelopment and spatial separation of the poor pertains only to blacks. These findings suggest that blacks are vulnerable in the process of urban redevelopment. This study indicates clearly that pockets of poverty for visible minorities exist in Canada side by side with upscale residential areas in cities with vibrant economies. "The age of extremes" (Massey 1996) may have arrived in Canadian cities.

In current theoretical and policy debates concerning social cohesion, the neighbourhood has re-emerged as an important setting for many of the processes which supposedly shape social identity and life-chances. It is in this context of a renewal of interest in local social relations and particularly the deployment of notions of social capital that this paper offers a critical review of a wide-ranging literature. The paper explores initially and briefly the idea that societies face a new crisis of social cohesion and outlines the key dimensions of societal cohesion. The core of the paper is then devoted to an examination of where the contemporary residential neighbourhood fits into these wider debates, particularly in relation to the interaction between social cohesion and social capital. In this context, some of the key debates around the concept of social capital are outlined. In moving beyond abstraction, the paper also shows how social capital can be broken down into relevant domains for policy action at the neighbourhood level and how concepts such as social cohesion and social capital can be operationalised for research purposes.

Ethnic segregation in urban areas brought about by international migration may lead to disintegration of an urban society. Since segregation includes educational, residential and spatial segregations, various ethnic and social classes may produce a ghetto-like community where they would converge. In turn, urban areas would be divided into several communities and such division may adversely affect the urban society as a whole.

This article examines the extent to which gentrification in U.S. neighborhoods is associated with displacement by comparing mobility and displacement in gentrifying neighborhoods with mobility and displacement in similar neighborhoods that did not undergo gentrification. The results suggest that displacement and higher mobility play minor if any roles as forces of change in gentrifying neighborhoods. Demographic change in gentrifying neighborhoods appears to be a consequence of lower rates of intra neighborhood mobility and the relative affluence of in-movers.

Freeman (architecture/planning, Columbia Univ.) examines the impact of gentrification on two predominantly black inner-city neighborhoods in New York City. This qualitative study, based on in-depth interviews, participant observation, and content analysis of newspapers and other media, focuses on the significant role played by blacks in the gentrification process, and the experiences and reactions of indigenous residents. The author provides a brief history and traces recent changes in Harlem and Clinton Hill. These two case studies describe indigenous residents' positive and negative attitudes, the perceived costs and benefits of gentrification, and the clashes emerging from different norms held by gentrifiers and long-term residents. The causal relationship between gentrification and displacement of poor residents was not evident. Despite persistence of inequities for ghetto residents, gentrification does change the relationship between black inner-city neighborhoods and the larger society. However, social networks within these neighborhoods rarely transcend class and racial lines. Freeman argues that sustained community organizing and mobilizing is necessary to dampen the feelings of alienation that many residents express toward the gentrification process. He also discusses the planning, policy, and theoretical implications of this research. A welcome addition to the literature on gentrification in US cities. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above. Upper-division Undergraduates; Graduate Students; Researchers/Faculty; Professionals/Practitioners. Reviewed by D. A. Chekki.

Gentrification has been viewed by some as a solution to many of the problems facing older central cities. At the same time, many are wary of the potential for gentrification to displace disadvantaged residents. To date, however, surprisingly little reliable evidence has been produced about the magnitude of this problem that could guide planners, policymakers, or community-based organizations. The study described in this article attempts to fill this void by examining residential mobility among disadvantaged households in New York City during the 1990s. We found that rather than rapid displacement, gentrification was associated with slower residential turnover among these households.
In New York City, during the 1990s at least, normal succession appears to be responsible for changes in gentrifying neighborhoods. The article concludes with a discussion of the implications of these findings for planning.


This study uses longitudinal tax data to explore several undocumented aspects regarding the duration of residential spells in low-income neighbourhoods. Although the length of new spells is generally substantial (at least compared to low-income spells), there is quite a lot of variation in this regard. Low-income neighbourhood spells exhibit negative duration dependence, implying that people are less likely to exit low-income neighbourhoods the longer they have resided in them. Spell length varies substantially by age and city of residence, and to a lesser extent, by family income and family type. Specifically, older individuals remain in low-income neighbourhoods for longer periods of time than younger individuals, as do residents of Toronto and Vancouver (in relation to Montreal). Individuals in low-income families have longer spell lengths than those in higher income families, and among these low-income families, lone-parents and couples with children generally spend more time in low-income neighbourhoods than childless couples and unattached individuals.


Introduction quoted:

“As an interlocking system of production and markets, the global economy is a discovery of the 1970s (Barnet and Müller 1974). At the time there was a good deal of controversy over the so-called ‘new international division of labour’ (Fröbel et al. 1980) and a centuries-old ‘world system’ (Wallerstein 1974). Research paradigms were being born.

The significance of these theoretical developments for the study of urbanization was not recognized until the early 1980s (Cohen 1981; Friedmann and Wolff 1982). Ten years have passed since then, and this chapter is an attempt to survey what we have learned and to assess where we stand in the study of world cities. I begin with a discussion of some conceptual issues: what is the ‘theoretical object’ of world cities research? How shall we define the elusive notion of world city? Then I launch into an extended review of the literature, including theoretical developments in the 1980s and empirical studies in the 1990s. The third section takes a closer look at the notion of a structured hierarchy of world cities and argues the need to remain ever alert to economic and political changes that may lead to the rise and fall of world cities that are linked to each other in ‘antagonistic co-operation’. Next, I turn to consider that remnant – a majority of the world’s population – that for all practical purposes is excluded from the capitalist ‘space of accumulation’ and consequently also from world city analysis. I argue that our understanding of the urban dynamic remains incomplete unless we consider both the internal and external proletariats of world cities. A brief coda concludes my discussion.”


Editorial. Comments on the effects of the neighborhood on social opportunities. Assumption by contemporary European and American urban policy of the negative effects of poor households on opportunities to improve the poor’s social conditions; Correlation between concentration levels and level of spatial segregation; Concern on the possibility of poor communities aggravating the chances for their economic recovery.

The paper advances the conceptualisation of neighbourhood by specifying it as a bundle of spatially based attributes associated with clusters of residences, sometimes in conjunction with other land uses. There follows a discussion of how this 'composite commodity' definition relates to the planning challenge of spatially bounding neighbourhood. The paper then probes the myriad idiosyncrasies associated with the concept of neighbourhood: cross-attribute variation in durability and ability to be priced, relativistic evaluations of attributes and consumption impacts on attributes. It discusses how, within this new paradigmatic context, neighbourhoods are produced by the same actors that consume them: households, property owners, business people and local government. Finally, consideration is given to various aspects of the origins and nature of neighbourhood change and it is argued that neighbourhood dynamics are rife with social inefficiencies.


Many western European housing policies have tried to increase the residual mix of advantaged and disadvantaged groups. Unfortunately, policymakers have given little consideration to how these groups will interact as neighbours. There are numerous theoretically grounded mechanisms by which the social mix of a neighbourhood may influence socio-economic outcomes of its residents. These mechanisms differ on the basis of which group is generating the social externality in the neighbourhood, whether this externality is positive or negative, whether it affects all residents equally, and whether the marginal externality generated by adding one more member of a particular group is constant, proportional, or is characterized by a threshold effect. This paper demonstrates that a social mix housing policy can be justified only under a circumscribed set of the preceding parameters. Indeed, depending on the mechanism assumed, social efficiency implies that neighbourhoods should be either: equally mixed, have the disadvantaged group dispersed as widely as possible, or rigidly segregated; for other mechanisms, mix becomes irrelevant. Thus, for formulating and justifying a mixed housing policy on either efficiency or equity grounds it is crucial to understand exactly what sort of neighbourhood effect(s) is operating in neighbourhoods.


The paper presents an analytical framework for elucidating the equity and social efficiency criteria that might be used to justify a housing policy aiming for a substantial mix of neighborhood residents by income, ethnicity and/or immigrant status. This framework permits the classification of multivariate statistical studies comprising the Western European evidence base and shows the importance of distinguishing intra- and extra-neighborhood processes when evaluating evidence related to the efficiency criterion. Evaluation of the evidence base in light of this framework reveals that it sufficiently supports a mixing policy aimed at avoiding concentrations of disadvantaged individuals if, and only if, policy makers emphasize equity grounds (i.e. improving the well-being of the disadvantaged absolutely).

The evidence base does not support a mixing policy on efficiency grounds, regardless of whether intra-neighborhood social interactions or extra-neighborhood stigmatization/resource restrictions are presumed to be the primary causal mechanism for neighborhood effects.


Problem: Although planners aim to provide for income diversity in the communities they serve, too little is known about how income distributions in metropolitan neighborhoods are changing. Purpose: We investigate whether neighborhood income diversity has increased since 1970 by examining neighborhoods in the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas. Methods: We analyze neighborhoods in the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas from 1970 to 2000 using a combination of nominal (H) and ordinal (E) entropy indices. We focus on neighborhoods we call bipolar, (where E/H > 1), in which very low- and very high-income groups predominate. We investigate these with tract-level statistics and by using a counterfactual. Results and conclusions: We find a dramatic increase in the number and incidence of these bipolars since 1970. Compared to other neighborhoods, we find that, on average, bipolars have significantly greater shares of very high-income families, racial diversity, shares of middle-aged persons, and shares of renters. We use a counterfactual to reveal that much of the growth in bipolars over the last three decades has been fuelled by income distributions at the metropolitan scale becoming more bimodal, with fewer middle-income families. Gentrification appears to explain only a minor share of growth in bipolars. Takeaway for practice: Metropolitan census tracts with pronounced bimodal income distributions have become more common since 1970. This appears to reflect...
changing metropolitan income distributions more than spatial rearrangement, although planning policies may be responsible in some instances. Whether residence in bipolar neighborhoods will benefit very low-income households by reducing stereotyping and expanding social opportunities is unclear, but such places should be monitored.


This study investigates how neighbourhoods respond when they are upset by transient, exogenous shock(s). Do they quickly revert to their original, stable state, gradually return to this stable state, permanently settle into another stable state, diverge progressively from any steady state, or evince no discernable pattern of response? A self-regulating adjustment process promoting stability appears the norm, based on econometric investigations of multiple, annually measured indicators from census tracts in five US cities. Stability quickly re-established at the original state characterises most of the indicators analysed: rates of tax delinquency, low-weight births, teenage births and home sales volumes. Violent and property crime rates also evince endogenous stability at the original state, but take considerably longer than the other indicators to return to it when the exogenous shock is sizeable. Moreover, this crime adjustment process is considerably slower in neighbourhoods with higher poverty rates.


This article explores immigrants’ socioeconomic success consequential to their choice of neighborhood. We describe and analyze seven aspects of socioeconomic success during the 1980s for 14 immigrant groups in five metropolitan areas. Exposure indices measuring aspects of the census tracts in which these groups lived in 1980 are calculated and analyzed. Multiple regression explores the degree to which 1980s neighbourhood context explains socioeconomic advances of pre-1980 immigrants during the 1980s, controlling for group starting position in 1980 and metropolitan area of residence.

Findings support the notion that a neighbourhood of poorly educated, welfare-assisted, nonworking residents retards educational, professional, and employment prospects of immigrants. We also find evidence that a higher incidence of residential exposure to other members of one’s immigrant group leads to higher rates of poverty and, perhaps, lower gains in employment during the subsequent decade. These findings should be interpreted cautiously, however, because of data limitations, specification shortcoming, and ambiguities in interpreting causation.


BACKGROUND: Over the past 10 years, there has been a surge of interest in studying small-area characteristics as determinants of population and individual health. Accumulating evidence indicates the existence of variations in the health status of populations living in areas that differ in affluence and shows that selected small-area characteristics are associated with the occurrence of selected health behaviours. These variations cannot be attributed solely to differential characteristics of populations living within small areas. One vexing problem that confronts researchers is that of conceptualizing and operationalizing neighbourhoods through delineation of small territorial units in health research.

GOALS AND METHODS: The aims of this paper are to selectively overview conceptual definitions of neighbourhoods and to illustrate the challenges of operationalizing neighbourhoods in urban areas by describing our attempts to map out small territorial units on the Island of Montreal and in the City of Calgary. CONCLUSION: We outline guiding principles for the construction of a methodology for establishing small-area contours in urban areas and formulate recommendations for future research.


Does the neighbourhood have an impact on people's life chances, and if so, is this impact positive or negative? This question is increasingly becoming an object of investigation, with research focusing more and more on populations which could be referred to as socially fragile: children and adolescents, racial minorities and recent immigrants, and the economically disadvantaged. It seems that researchers are having problems identifying exactly which neighbourhood attributes have an impact on the populations studied and how this impact is produced. Nor can quantitative research determine what pertains to family characteristics and what points to the local environment as a variable. These interrogations have serious implications, insofar as researchers are called upon to advise policy makers concerning
potential intervention on either specific social groups (determined by family characteristics, for example single parenthood), or urban territories, in terms of localised populations.

Goering, J., Kamely, A. & Richardson, T. (1997). Recent research on racial segregation and poverty concentration in public housing in the United States. Urban Affairs Review, 32 (5), 723-745. Newly available data reveal that despite a recent decline in public sector housing segregation, the majority of black American public housing residents live in poor, racially isolated neighborhoods and white tenants typically live in less isolated neighborhoods. These patterns are influenced by overall residential segregation and public housing authority characteristics.


"Economic and political forces no longer combat poverty—they generate poverty!" exclaim William Goldsmith and Edward Blakely in their report on the plight of America's urban poor. Focusing on the reality of separation—social segmentation, economic inequality, and geographic isolation—the authors examine the presence and persistence of urban poverty, the transformation of national industry into a global economy, and the dilemmas of local reform. Goldsmith and Blakely document the appalling conditions of poor and minority people in central cities, examining those conditions in relation to inequalities in the national distributions of income and wealth. They analyze the connections between the structure and movement of the new global economy and the problems of the poorest Americans. They demonstrate how globalized markets and production arrangements have worsened the opportunities facing most American cities and workers. Noting that neither economic growth nor public subsidy has solved the problems of the poor, Goldsmith and Blakely propose that the very separation that exacerbates poverty be used to motive restructure.

The authors maintain that when those in power locally respond to the pressure exerted by those suffering from inequality and isolation, community-level institutions will be restructured. These multi-local coalitions of small businesses and neighborhood organizations need to press for reallocation of federal resources in favor of domestic needs and redirection of the national economic favor of workers and common citizens.

Grant, J., Green, K., & Maxwell, K. (2004). The planning and policy implications of gated communities. Canadian Journal of Urban Research, 13 (1), 70 – 88. An on-going investigation of gated developments in Canada has documented over 300 gated enclaves, ranging in size from a few homes to over 1000 units. While gating is not as common in Canada as in the US, enclosing new suburbs is a popular marketing device for developers in some regions. Seniors prove especially interested in purchasing homes in gated projects. This paper describes the results of an inventory of gated projects and considers some policy implications for municipal planning. The popularity of gating may reveal concerns about the ability of governments to provide amenities and values that residents expect. At the same time, it raises significant questions about how planners can maintain an integrated and connected urban realm.

Grant, J., & Mittelsteadt, L. (2004). Types of Gated Communities. Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design, 31, 913 – 930. In the last decade the planning literature has reflected growing interest in the topic of gated communities. To date, this relatively new field of research has generated limited theoretical development. Although recent literature has begun to elucidate the social and economic contexts that make gated enclaves a global phenomenon, few works offer an overview of the physical features of gated communities. The key source articulating a framework for understanding gated communities is Blakeley and Snyder’s, Fortress America. Although Blakely and Snyder provide detailed findings on the form of gated projects in the US context, they say little about gating elsewhere. This paper draws on a range of literature on gated enclaves to examine and augment the typology created by Blakely and Snyder. Building theory to explain the form and character of gated communities requires the consideration of a range of historical experiences and international differences in practice. Although classification alone does not constitute theory, it provides an important foundation for those seeking to generate premises and principles for further theoretical development. It also offers useful tools for case studies of practice.

The theoretical framework that explains the growth of concentrated urban poverty in America, should also predict the nature and extent of concentrated urban poverty in Canada. Thus I expect concentrated urban poverty in Canada to be extensive and to be distributed along specific spatial and racial lines. (1) In particular, older manufacturing cities of the Quebec - Windsor axis should be hardest hit. (2) Within this group, cities that have very limited occupational diversification outside of manufacturing should suffer from the most extensive concentrated urban poverty. (3) Provincial poverty rates should also affect this distribution. With poverty rates much higher than those in Ontario, the Atlantic provinces, the Prairie provinces and Quebec should be more prone to concentrated urban poverty. (4) Cities with a high proportion of ethnic minorities should have higher proportions of concentrated urban poverty, and concentrated urban poverty within cities should be associated with the proportion of minorities in a given tract. (5) Cities like Winnipeg with a strong regional or metropolitan government should have less intrametropolitan fiscal or legal variance and therefore less severe poverty concentrations. (6) Finally, in terms of the intrametropolitan spatial distribution, I expect that concentrated urban poverty will be located within inner cities near industrial centres where immigrants originally settled, and away from suburban neighborhoods where the more affluent have established residence.

The most striking feature of the spatial distribution of concentrated urban poverty in Canada is its regional character. In particular, the province of Quebec, which has roughly one quarter of Canada's total population, was responsible for over half of all Canadians living in concentrated urban poverty. While this is expected given a heavy reliance on manufacturing in Quebec cities and given the high provincial poverty rate, it is still surprising to find numbers this dramatic. The Atlantic provinces, as anticipated, were also overrepresented, but as a percentage of the total concentrated urban poverty population, they were almost insignificant. Ontario, again as predicted, was strongly underrepresented. The Western provinces had a concentrated urban poverty population equivalent to their share of the total national population. The close association of aggregate poverty rates with concentrated urban poverty suggests that [Douglas Massey] and [Nancy A. Denton] (1993) have identified a key variable in the development of concentrated urban poverty. Table 5 also shows that concentrated urban poverty, as expected, is not strongly correlated with city size. The concentrated urban poverty population was only slightly overrepresented in cities with over 1 million residents.

Above all else this study has shown that concentrated urban poverty is a serious and extensive problem in Canada. In contrast to other recent empirical studies which have demonstrated that income for Canada's CMAs is on the rise or that Canada's inner cities are attracting more and more high income families (Stats Can, 1993; [Ram] et al., 1989), this study has highlighted the fact that a large, concentrated population is being left behind. While cities and even inner cities may be improving on many social indicators, clearly many neighborhoods in Canada's cities are still suffering. Across the country in 1986 there were 689,175 people living in census tracts with poverty rates exceeding 40 percent. Just less than half of this population, 313,560, was both poor and living in concentrated urban poverty. This means that, as a proportion of the national population, Canada has more poor persons in concentrated urban poverty than does the United States, an extremely shocking finding. What is even more alarming about concentrated urban poverty in Canada is that tracts that have been designated as concentrated urban poverty neighborhoods are deficient in almost all senses. Concentrated urban poverty in Canada means not only extreme rates of poverty, but also welfare dependency, educational deficiencies, labor force non-participation, and other social dislocations that may lead to a cycle of permanent poverty. Even for those residents who are not poor, the risks stemming from this list of negative influences increase the chances of being caught in a cycle of poverty. If significant efforts are not implemented and if all the various facets of concentrated urban poverty are not alleviated, this concentrated urban population may face not only a debilitating present but also a difficult and unpromising future.


The recent surge of poverty in the industrial nations seems to be accompanied by increasing concentration of the poor in urban space. As a problem distinct from poverty, the spatial concentration of poverty, reflected in the rising number of poor neighbourhoods, has some serious social consequences of its own ranging from concentrating problems such as crime, school drop-out, and teen-pregnancy in few neighbourhoods, and the development of a sub-culture distinct from mainstream culture. Despite its seriousness, however, neighbourhood poverty has not received much attention in Canada. Addressing this gap in the literature, the present article examines the magnitude of the problem in Canada and its changes between 1986 and 1996. The findings of the study clearly indicate that the urban areas in Quebec and the Prairie, Montreal and Winnipeg in particular, are most severely hit by the rise of neighbourhood poverty. Other cities in these areas, along with Toronto, Kingston, Halifax, and St. John's have begun to experience an alarming rise only between 1991 and 1996. Smaller cities in Ontario, along with Victoria in B.C., are the only ones that have witnessed a decline in their neighbourhood poverty rates. The regional variations in the magnitude of the neighbourhood poverty in
Canada may indicate, among others, that the economic recessions of the mid-80s and early-90s have affected certain areas more severely than others.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, a new dimension of poverty attracted the attention of researchers in the United States. This new dimension involved neighbourhood poverty, also referred to in the literature as urban concentrated poverty and spatial concentration of poverty. The first attempt to study this dimension of poverty analytically was made by Wilson (1987), furthered by Massey and [Mitchell L. Eggers] (1990), Massey and [Nancy Denton] (1993), and Jargowsky and Jo Bane (1991), among others. The main thrust of these studies was that, during the 1980s and 1990s, poor individuals and families tended increasingly to be concentrated in a few neighbourhoods in each city. This phenomenon, the studies argued, had profound social and cultural consequences for those living in such neighbourhoods as well as for the larger society.

One of the variables reported for census tracts is their poverty rates, i.e., the percentage of their population who live in poverty. This indicator is used in the literature to identify the high poverty neighbourhoods, which are associated with anti-social behaviours such as crime, school drop-out, teen pregnancy, out-of-wedlock births, and welfare-dependency (Crane, 1991; [Meyer], 1991). The high poverty neighbourhoods are also referred to as poverty zones, neighbourhoods of urban concentrated poverty, underclass tracts, areas of spatial concentration of poverty, and finally, ghetto neighbourhoods (Wilson, 1987; 1996; Jargowsky and Jo Bane, 1991).


This paper examines the debate over social polarisation in global cities. It focuses on the claims made by Sassen that the processes of economic change in such cities are leading to a growing polarisation of the occupational and income structures whereby there is absolute growth at both the top and bottom ends of the distribution and a decline in the middle of the distribution. It is argued that while these claims may hold true for New York and Los Angeles, possibly because of their very high levels of immigration and the creation of large numbers of low skilled and low paid jobs, her attempt to extend the thesis to all global cities is problematic. In other cities professionalisation appears to be dominant. Evidence on occupational change in Randstad Holland is presented to support this argument.


Paragraphs from introduction quoted:

“In the 1980s, .., two new research themes emerged, the first revolving around the existence of an ‗underclass‘ and its structural and behavioural causes, and the second focusing on what is known as social polarization and the related issue of urban ‗duality‘ and dual cities. These questions have been linked to issues of race, ethnicity and segregation (Castells, 1980; Sassen, 1984, 1986) though they are by not means synonymous. In this chapter I intend to trace the development of these concerns and issues paying particular attention to recent debates concerning polarization, duality and the underclass. The structure of the chapter is broadly historical, though the discussion of earlier work is extremely attenuated, not least because this material is already well know and well documented. My principal focus is on the work done in the past 10-15 years“ 162


The last few years have seen a major debate on the scale, extent, and causes of social polarisation in global cities and in Western societies in general. But the debate has often been characterised more by theoretical assertion than by empirical analysis. In particular, the concept of social polarisation has often been confused with inequality. The authors use General Household Survey data and New Earnings Survey data from 1979 to 1995 to examine the existence and extent of polarisation in London. It is argued that the evidence for polarisation is relatively weak, and that to the extent that polarisation exists it is asymmetric, with much greater growth in the size of groups at the top of the earnings distribution than at the bottom. But it is also argued that both London and Great Britain as a whole have seen a marked increase in earnings inequality over the last twenty-five years. Although most groups have improved earnings in real terms, the increase has been much greater at the top end of the earnings scale. As a result, the interquartile and
interdecile earnings ratios have risen sharply. It is concluded that London has seen an increase in earnings inequality rather than growth of social polarisation.


This book provides an invaluable overview of key social issues set in the context of housing. Touching on concerns ranging from minority ethnic housing needs to the housing implications of domestic violence, this broad-ranging study shows how difference is regulated in housing. It deploys a distinctive theoretical perspective which is applicable to other aspects of the welfare state, and bridges the agency/structure divide.

Issues of 'difference' are on the agenda right across the social sciences, and are encountered daily by practitioners in policy fields. A central question is how the welfare state and its institutions respond to impairment, ethnicity and gender. This book provides an invaluable overview of key issues set in the context of housing. Touching on concerns ranging from minority ethnic housing needs to the housing implications of domestic violence, this broad-ranging study shows how difference is regulated in housing. It deploys a distinctive theoretical perspective which is applicable to other aspects of the welfare state, and bridges the agency/structure divide. *Housing, social policy and difference: brings disability, ethnicity and gender into the centre of an analysis of housing policies and practices offers a new approach to housing, informed by recent theoretical debates about agency, structure and diversity; develops the ideas of 'difference within difference' and 'social regulation'; looks beyond the concerns of postmodernism to create an original account of difference and structure within the welfare state. The book will be an important text for students and researchers in housing, social policy, planning, urban studies, sociology, disability studies, gender studies and ethnic relations. It will also interest practitioners committed to greater equalities of opportunities and a fairer society.

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This study examines the expansion of visible minority neighbourhoods in Canada’s three largest metropolitan areas. Minority neighbourhoods, defined as census tracts with over 30% of their population from a single visible minority group, increased in number from 6 to 254 between 1981 and 2001. Most of these neighbourhoods were formed through a partial replacement of non-visible minority residents by visible minority group members. However, there was no evidence that the partial replacement would lead to an exclusive occupancy of some neighbourhoods by one visible minority group. The emergence of minority neighbourhoods was associated more with a large increase in minority groups’ share of the city population from immigration than with an increase in their tendency to concentrate in particular neighbourhoods. Visible minority immigrants arriving in the 1980s and 1990s were more residentially concentrated than earlier arrivals, and their level of concentration remained stable with time living in Canada. Overall, large visible minority groups were not as concentrated as were Blacks in large U.S. cities or as some non-visible minority groups were in the earlier decades in Canada.


This study demonstrates that conventional expectations concerning patterns of residential spatial assimilation by racial minority immigrants are likely to be altered under conditions of persistent high levels of immigration. While cross-sectional studies conclude that the traditional assimilation model fits the experience of racial minority immigrants to Canada, a different picture emerges from longitudinal changes at the group level. Using a pseudo-cohort approach, it is shown that, for some racial minority immigrants, the level of residential dissimilarity from Whites in Canada’s gateway cities has risen with time. Moreover, residential proximity to Whites is becoming less salient as a marker of spatial assimilation. Differences among racial minority groups in residential distribution and exposure to own-group
neighbours only reflect variations in the degree of own-group preference and capacity to build affluent ethnic communities.


Using Census data from 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996, this study examined the association between living in a visible minority enclave and immigrants’ labour market outcomes in Canada’s three largest cities. The results showed that the number of such enclaves, defined as census tracts with at least 30% of the population from a single minority group (Chinese, South Asian or Black) increased from 6 in 1981 to 142 in 1996, mostly in Toronto and Vancouver. The association between exposure to own-group neighbours and employment was at times negative, but generally not significant. Exposure to own-group neighbours and working in a segregated occupation was positively, but also often not significantly, associated. Little association existed between exposure and employment earnings. However, there were some important group differences. The associations between exposure to own-group neighbours and labour market outcomes were usually very weak among Chinese immigrants, but often negative and strong among Black immigrants.


While there is now considerable evidence that the neighbourhood income levels (poverty/affluence) exert an independent effect on health, there is little evidence that neighbourhood income inequality is consequential, net of individual-level socio-economic resources. We show that the usual explanation for the absence of an independent effect of neighbourhood inequality—the assumption of economic homogeneity at the neighbourhood level—cannot account for this result. The authors use hierarchical models that combine individual micro-data from Statistics Canada's 1996/97 National Population Health Survey (NPHS) with neighbourhood and city-level socio-economic characteristics from the 1996 Census of Canada to estimate the effects of neighbourhood affluence and income inequality on self-reported health status. The findings indicate that the negative “ecological” correlation between average neighbourhood health and neighbourhood income inequality is the result not only of compositional differences among individuals but also of contextual neighbourhood effects associated with low and high inequality neighbourhoods.


The City of Toronto is becoming increasingly divided by income and socio-economic status. No longer a city of neighbourhoods, modern-day Toronto is a city of disparities. In fact, Toronto is now so polarized it could be described as three geographically distinct cities made up of 20 percent affluent neighbourhoods, 36 percent poor neighbourhoods, and 43 percent middle-income earner neighbourhoods - and that 43 percent is in decline. The CUCS study analyzed income and other data from the 1971 and 2001 censuses, and grouped the city’s neighbourhoods based on whether average income in each one had increased, decreased, or stayed the same over that 30-year period. It found that the city’s neighbourhoods have become polarized by income and other ethno-cultural characteristics and that wealth and poverty are concentrated in three distinct areas.


A collection of essays examining and comparing housing segregation in major population centers in the US and Western Europe. It reviews the historical development of housing segregation in these countries and describes current conditions, analyzing successes and failures of government policies and desegregation programs in the US, UK, the Netherlands, Sweden, France, and West Germany. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

This useful collection examines the extent of residential or housing segregation in six Western European countries (The Netherlands, Britain, Sweden, West Germany, France, and Switzerland) and compares it with that in the US. A number of differences between the European and American situations (e.g., the importance of former colonials and guest...
workers among the European minorities) and approaches of scholars from the two areas (e.g., their emphasis on "old" minorities—African Americans and Latinos—in the US but more recently arrived minorities in Europe) make comparisons difficult. Nonetheless, contributors draw a number of conclusions, the most definitive of which is that housing segregation in Western European cities is almost nowhere as great for minorities as it is for blacks in American cities. Perhaps the most useful chapters are those discussing policies and programs relating to housing segregation. Here, too, there are a number of rather striking differences between European and American approaches (e.g., a much heavier reliance on the enactment and enforcement of laws against segregation in the US than in Europe). The collection provides much detailed but nontechnical information. It will be of interest to urban sociologists, urban planners, urban geographers, policymakers and, of course, those concerned with urban housing issues. Tables, graphs, maps; chapter bibliographies. Upper-division undergraduates and above.

Canada's urban landscape has been changing rapidly over the past few decades. Over 80% of the population now lives in urban centres of at least 10 000 people, urban centres which consist of an ever-shifting network of spatial, cultural, and social neighbourhoods. As the complexity and diversity of the contemporary Canadian city continues to grow, the appropriate level of social and political analysis is shrinking. Especially in Canada's CMA's, it is becoming increasingly important to acknowledge not just the city itself, but its component parts. Thus, the neighbourhood is emerging as a salient concept in analysis of the urban form as policy makers, urban planners, and the private sector attempt to uncover the variables that contribute to healthy and vibrant cities and communities. The objective of this research note is to conduct a preliminary review of research on neighbourhoods. The focus of the review is to identify the main thematic areas of research on neighbourhoods in Canada, as well as to examine how the concept of neighbourhood is defined in the literature.

In this book, noted authorities, including William J. Wilson, attempt to separate the truth about poverty, social dislocation, and changes in American family life from the myths that have become part of contemporary folklore. The issues of the urban underclass have been the focus of an increasing amount of research, commentary, and debate. Jencks and Peterson are well known for their expertise in the areas of poverty and social policy analysis. This edited volume reflects their comprehensive understanding of the issues involved in the study of the urban underclass and adds significantly to this discussion. The editors have assembled 20 papers that address the most salient issues in the discussion of the urban underclass: economic conditions; causes and consequences; and policy responses. Although each paper demonstrates a high level of scholarship and some present large amounts of empirical data, they are written so that the informed general reader will find them understandable. Indeed, for those seeking a comprehensive introduction to the topic, this collection could well serve that purpose. Specialists in the area will also find this volume useful since it pulls together a wide range of materials that illuminate the several issues involved in the debates about the urban underclass. For any collection on social policy, poverty, and urban social problems.

The residential segregation of ethnic groups in urban areas remains an issue of importance for policy-making in multicultural societies, such as England's, with levels of segregation frequently linked to questions of social exclusion and equal treatment. But how segregated are ethnic groups in England? Most studies answer this question using single indices which address one aspect only of a multidimensional concept. In this paper, an alternative approach is used which identifies residential area types according to the degree of ethnic mixing; we evaluate their relative importance in 18 English cities in the light of Boal and Peach's arguments regarding the processes and patterns involved in segregation. We find little evidence of significant segregation of Black ethnic groups, but more with regard to Asian groups—especially outside London.

Book description:
Spatial Practices makes a timely and significant contribution to the growing literature on social/spatial theory. In it the notion of spatial practice takes on a rich and layered meaning for some of America's leading scholars as they critically link the theoretical practices of the space of their disciplines to the practical social space of everyday political and
During the 1990s, a new surge of poverty struck the western industrial nations, including Canada. Slower economic growth both at national and international levels, globalization and the erosion of the welfare state contributed to this poverty surge. Moreover, there is a widespread perception that this poverty has become increasingly concentrated in certain neighbourhoods, known as “ghetto,” “inner city,” “poverty zone,” etc., and that such neighbourhoods have become mostly the habitats of minority groups – racial minorities in some societies, immigrant groups in others. This path-breaking book examines the relationship between poverty and ethnicity in Canada. The authors provide a comprehensive picture of Canadian cities with regard to the concentration of poverty and, in particular, examine whether there is an ethnic dimension associated with it. They find a disturbing trend towards rising poverty levels during the 1990s, with poverty tending to be concentrated in certain neighbourhoods. Also, certain ethnic groups, especially visible minorities and those consisting mostly of recent immigrants, seem to be doubly disadvantaged, suffering not only from a general poverty due to economic factors but also factors related to their immigration status, such as limited knowledge of the official languages and the mismatch of their skills and the demands of the labour market. The authors compare the Canadian experience with that of the US and European countries, examine various explanations, and make suggestions for policy-makers as to how to combat these disturbing trends.


This paper examines the policy of promoting 'mixed communities' in the UK context. It describes the various policy instruments available for the pursuance of this goal and sets out the assumed benefits and underlying mechanisms intended to deliver beneficial outcomes, especially for disadvantaged areas. It goes on to analyse the effects of housing tenures and of housing tenure mix upon the incidence of serious problems and of the desire for local service improvements within neighbourhoods in England, using the Survey of English Housing. The findings indicate that the level of social renting is a more important influence upon neighbourhood conditions than the degree of tenure mixing.
Furthermore, the findings provide more support for tenure dispersal policies than for tenure dilution strategies such as promoting a modest degree of owner occupation on social housing estates.


Current neighbourhood renewal and urban policies in the UK seek to improve neighbourhood conditions in poor areas and achieve greater residential stability. Using one of the few longitudinal housing datasets available in the UK, this paper analyses the influence of residential perceptions on house moving behaviour in poor and other areas. It is found that residential dissatisfaction is notably higher among residents of poor areas, and they respond to poor neighbourhood conditions in the same way as the general population. Dissatisfaction with the home itself, and unhappiness with disorder in the immediate surroundings both significantly increased the odds that someone would move home. Perceived neighbourhood decline was also found to increase the odds that someone wished to move home but to reduce the likelihood that they would actually do so. Residential mobility was found to be a particular problem for owner occupiers in declining neighbourhoods and for residents in deprived parts of inner London.


The dominating influence of a relatively small number of cities has characterized the shift to a more global economy during the 1970s and 1980s. Eighteen original essays accordingly examine the nature, demands and relationships of world cities such as New York, Tokyo and London.


“Evidence of the globalization of the world economy is everywhere, from supermarket shelves to clothes tags. Similarly, the dominance of a relatively small number of cities within world affairs is continually scrolled through new[sc]asts, business reports, and popular media. At face value, there is nothing very special in this: it is widely accepted as part of the conventional wisdom about the state of the world today. Closer scrutiny, however, reveals both the globalization of the economy and its associated patterns of urbanization to involve much more than meets the eye in the supermarket or on the television news. Both rest on a complex web of interdependent and quite stealthy processes that are, collectively, of fundamental importance to the political economy of contemporary societies. In this book, the nature of world cities and their relationships with one another and with the world economy are examined within various conceptual frameworks and analysed at several spatial scales. This chapter introduces the major themes of the book, setting them within the context of different perspectives on globalization and on world cities.


This study examined the association of census level, observational, and parent-reported neighborhood characteristics on the verbal and behavioral competencies of a national sample of Canadian preschoolers (N = 3,350). Children's verbal ability scores were positively associated with residing in neighborhoods with affluent residents and negatively associated with residing in neighborhoods with poor residents and in neighborhoods with low cohesion, even after controlling for family socioeconomic factors. Behavior problem scores were higher when children lived in neighborhoods that had fewer affluent residents, high unemployment rates, and neighborhoods with low cohesion, after controlling for family socioeconomic factors. These findings are discussed in light of neighborhood studies of children in the United States in the mid-1990s.


Many studies show that larger metropolitan areas are more segregated than smaller ones. To some extent, this tendency is part of the conventional wisdom. However, the reason for this tendency is not apparent. This paper suggests that the correlation between segregation and metropolitan scale is spurious. Segregation measures based on census data will tend to rank larger cities higher because larger cities have more neighbourhoods that are big enough to ‘fill up’ entire census tracts, while smaller cities with equally homogeneous, but smaller, neighbourhoods have to pair neighbourhoods to fill up a census tract. This bias will be reduced at smaller levels of spatial aggregation. This prediction is tested by comparing segregation measures computed at several levels of spatial aggregation and with American Housing Survey data. The results suggest that spatial aggregation effects are important: the correlation between city size and measured segregation appears to be at least partly spurious.


Gated communities – enclaves of homes surrounded by walls, often with security guards – are becoming increasingly popular in America. This article introduces and analyzes findings of a Fannie Mae Foundation-sponsored panel on gated communities held at the 1997 Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning annual conference. A key finding is that many people choose to reside in gated communities because they believe that such places reduce risk, ranging from the mundane (e.g., unwanted social exchanges) to the high stakes (e.g., declining home values. In many ways, gated communities deliver what they promise, by providing an effective defense against daily intrusions. However, some of their benefits entail a high social cost. A sense of community within gated communities comes at the expense of a larger identity with the region outside. Gated communities manifest and reinforce an inward-focused community culture, where the tension between the individual and society tilt toward self-interest.


Book summary:
The gentrification of urban areas has accelerated across the globe to become a central force in urban development, and it is a topic that has attracted a great deal of interest in both the academy and the popular press. Gentrification is the first comprehensive text written on the subject. International in scope, interdisciplinary in approach, and featuring a wealth of case studies, the book demonstrates how gentrification has grown from a small-scale urban process, pioneered by a liberal new middle class, to become a mass-produced "gentrification blueprint" around the world.


With the co-existence of social polarisation and unprecedented immigration during recent years in major Canadian cities, this paper examines relationships between urban deprivation and the immigrant population in 1991, compared with 1971, the end of the era of the 'old' migration. Census tracts in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver that experienced multiple deprivation are identified. Only two tracts in all three cities displayed the full set of indicators in 1991, and none in 1971. Indicators neither overlap, nor are as spatially contained, nor are as stable over time as has been true for cities in the US. Like northern Europe, there is evidence of a suburbanisation of deprivation, linked in particular to the diffusion of state-subsidised housing, especially in Toronto. In addition, and also like Europe, there are positive relationships with immigrant populations. But these relations are modest, and affect primarily recent arrivals and non-English-speaking groups. The implications of immigration are complex, because immigrants themselves are highly heterogeneous. Moreover, a longitudinal model of socio-spatial mobility rather than socio-spatial entrapment remained the dominant immigrant experience in Canadian cities.


Immigration cities have counterbalanced deindustrialization and urban decline by acting as gateways of labor, capital, commodity, and cultural exchange in the new global economy. Ethnic places are emblematic transnational spaces that both constitute and convey broader processes of economic and cultural globalization. Ethnic entrepreneurs, community activists, and artists have revalorized spaces in the zone-in-transition, places from which they were historically restricted, evicted, or displaced. These rejuvenated ethnic places serve as "polyglot honeypots" for urban managers
pursuing growth machine strategies in the post-industrial symbolic economy. Contradictions and conflicts are presented by globalization as much as opportunities.


Analysis of the residential patterns of the largest immigrant groups in New York and Los Angeles shows that most ethnic neighborhoods can be interpreted as immigrant enclaves. In some cases, however, living in ethnic neighborhoods is unrelated to economic constraints, indicating a positive preference for such areas.


At a time when cities appear to be fragmenting mosaics of ethnic enclaves, it is reassuring to know there are still stable multicultural neighborhoods. Beyond Segregation offers a tour of some of America's best known multiethnic neighborhoods: Uptown in Chicago, Jackson Heights (Queens), and San Antonio-Fruitvale in Oakland. Readers will learn the history of the neighborhoods and develop an understanding of the people that reside in them, the reasons they stay, and the work it takes to maintain each neighborhood as an affordable, integrated place to live.

This case study of three communities--uptown Chicago, Jackson Heights in New York, and San Antonio-Fruitvale in Oakland--is based on interviews with over 75 community leaders, 1996-99. Maly (Roosevelt Univ.) selected neighborhoods as the "place to understand the local processes involved in the maintenance or demise of stable racial integration." His analysis contradicts research and commonly held perceptions that integration efforts have been failures. In these communities, there was no white flight, panic selling, or racial violence. Maly attributes this success to the broad diversity of the population, the development of advocacy groups and social service agencies, and the availability of mass transit and affordable housing, which attracted and retained residents. Local minority service organizations were established, and immigrant entrepreneurs rejuvenated the old urban commercial areas. A key symbolic element in the process is the maintenance or creation of the image of "community betterment." Maly argues that the new racial, ethnic, and immigrant diversity and integration becomes a part of the global, more positive redefinition of the neighborhood, but cautions that demographic change is not enough. Interpersonal contacts, networks, community organizations, and other forms of social capital are necessary to create the sense of community.

**Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above. Upper-division Undergraduates; Graduate Students; Researchers/Faculty; Professionals/Practitioners. Reviewed by J. A. Fiola.


Talk of a 'dual city' is popular of late. The metaphor appears in various forms. Most frequently, it is used as a description of the increasing polarization of society between rich and poor, haves and have nots. The concept is a muddy one. To the extent that it can be given precise meaning, it is either wrong or badly incomplete, and its use, though often well-intentioned, does more political harm than good. The dual city melds the interests of all but the poorest together and thus obscuring the real relationships of power and profit in the city. The large majority, at least in the developed economies, are neither very rich nor very poor. Their feelings about their place in the city are determined, not only by where they live, but also by where they work and in what social relationships - i.e., their class position. The relationship between residence and work, consumption and production, is a very close and complex one. I suggest very tentatively a 'quartered city' formulation at the end of this paper; whether it is adequate or not, the dual city formulation hardly helps to advance the debate. The focus is on the complexity and ambiguity of the dividing lines, but on dividing lines that are, nevertheless, theoretically based and limited in number, rather than the results of an indeterminate pluralistic cataloguing.


The relationship between work and housing is much more than a relationship between labour markets and housing markets. The nature of the work process - not just how much is paid or where jobs are located - influences the type of
housing that is demanded and the type of housing that is supplied. The paper provides a few examples, and then uses two cases, gentrification and homelessness, to illustrate the contention that the linkage between labour and housing is a fundamental internal one, in which the content of labour and the form of housing are directly related, and are prior to the external relations of the markets for each. The paper ends with the suggestion that these linkages vary by class, and suggests as prominent on a future research agenda an examination of the internal relationship between class, work processes, and the nature of housing provision. The examples used come from the United States, primarily New York City, but the processes clearly appear in all industrialised private market economies, and many aspects are relevant to Third World and socialist economies also. Reprinted: Marcuse, P. (1991). Housing markets and labour markets in the quartered city. In J. Allen and C. Hamnett, ed. Housing and labour markets: Building the connections, (pp.118-135). London: Unwin Hymen.

Certain underlying divisions have long been common to cities in capitalist economies, while others have become significantly different since about 1970. Changing patterns include the nature and extent of homelessness, the growth in the size of certain quarters and the shrinking of others, the dynamic nature of the quarters and the role of government in quartering the city. The purpose of this paper is to try to isolate that which is really new - post 1979, generally - about the structure and functioning of our cities, and then to suggest some implications of the patterns that are continuing ones and the ones found to be new.

Book Summary:
This sparkling collection takes a positive rather than a celebratory approach to the contemporary city. Its intention is to think up new strategies of inclusion which can be used to combat the strategies of inclusion deployed in existing sociospatial orders. A particular feature of the collection is its attempt to take in postcolonial situations in cities outside of the standard western examples.--Nigel Thrift, University of Bristol

During his time as an AHURI international visiting research fellow in late 1994, Professor Peter Marcuse from the Graduate School of Planning at Columbia University in New York, undertook this comparative study of the phenomenon of globalisation in Australia and the United States. Globalisation is a condition in which the components of industry, economic activity, technology and the ownership of the means of production are increasingly becoming centrally controlled. Across his extensive research and experiences in American cities, Marcuse has developed a set of indicators which describe the pattern of new urban poverty. In applying this set of indicators to the Australian context, Marcuse has drawn some similarities which imply convergence with situations in the United States; however, he also emphasises that there are substantial differences between Australia's political, social and economic cultures and those of the United States, sufficient to encourage the responsible agencies to act on resisting convergence.


Marcuse defines classic ghetto as the result of the involuntary spatial segregation of a group that stands in a subordinate political and social relationship to its surrounding society, the enclave as a voluntarily developed spatial concentration of a group for purposes of promoting the welfare of its members and the citadel as created by a dominant group to protect or enhance its superior position.

First chapter paragraph quoted:
“Do walls in the city provide security – or do they create fear? Walls of course provide an elemental security, literally: security against the elements, against wind, rain, cold. As soon as it goes beyond that simple statement, the matter becomes more complicated. Do walls provide security against attack, a protection of privacy? That depends. And it depends not so much on the composition of the walls themselves, as on their social role. Armory walls in New York City are thick and strong, but when an armory is used as a homeless shelter, its walls intimidate and confine, rather than defend. Are the police lawless, and do they break in without a warrant? Does the landlord have the unlimited right to enter to inspect in the lease? Then walls are no protection of privacy. And privacy is in any event very culture-determined; what appears intolerable overcrowding to some is normal sociability to others, and among some peoples merely turning their backs to others provides the sense of privacy for which others require a room of their own.” 101

Marcuse describes three key developments: the transformation of the earlier racial ghettos into excluded ghettos, the qualitatively new phase of the totalizing suburb and the parallel transformation of luxury and upper-class residences into separate areas. Three key developments are described: (a) the transformation of the earlier racial ghettos into excluded ghettos, class/racial ghettos of the excluded and abandoned, resulting from a combination of hyperpauperization and racism; (b) a qualitatively new phase of the totalizing suburb, in which "edge cities" are created combining residential, business, social, and cultural areas that are removed from older central cities and overlaid on earlier patterns of suburbanization, representing a dramatic and expanded form of the exclusionary enclave; and (c) the parallel transformation of luxury and upper-class residences (and increasingly, businesses and social and cultural facilities-thus similarly totalizing) into separate areas, appropriately called fortified citadels, each again separated from the other parts of the city by social, economic, and often physical barriers. The three developments are intimately connected with each other and mutually reinforcing.

Ghettoization is increasingly of concern in countries around the world. The manifestation that causes the concern is known primarily from the United States. But it is not a simple phenomenon there, and has gone through many changes over the past several centuries. The article describes the ghetto of several historical periods: in the aftermath of slavery, during a period of acceptance between the two World Wars, in pursuit of integration after World War II, and as today's quite different outcast ghetto, a ghetto of exclusion, in a period during which for the first time it is perceived as a permanent component of urban society. Whether the negative results of these developments can be overcome remains a contested question.

Marcuse questions the term "globalization" itself, pointing to the ideological baggage associated with the most common conceptions of the word. These issues are not merely issues of terminology. No clear consensus has yet emerged among the various groups attempting to confront the ills produced by really existing globalization. Demands consistent with one view are not necessarily inconsistent with other views; both commonalities of goals and differences among them, and both strategy and tactics, need further thought and clarification. Fuzziness of language may facilitate coalition formation in the short run, but more solid and longterm alliances are based on full mutual understanding. Being careful about the difference between technological globalization and the globalization of power, keeping the concept of alternative globalization on the table, dispensing with the myth of the powerless state and avoiding the fallacy of the homogenous state, and watching the traps of the Orwellian language of globalization, may all help in coming to a common agreement as to both long-term goals and next steps.

Book description: The nature and effects of globalization are coming under critical scrutiny across all continents. This book focuses on one aspect, the globalization of cities. It examines the claim that the state is powerless to influence events, and that history, geography, and culture have become irrelevant in the worldwide trend towards a uniform urban model; a model which features increased segregation, decline of the central city, and social polarization. The international team of contributors is well placed to put these claims in perspective. Drawing on their experiences of cities as diverse as New York and Warsaw, Istanbul and Sao Paulo, they demonstrate that states and cities have adopted
widely varying approaches to the advent of globalization; and that its impact has been constrained by each city's history, physical layout, location, environment, role in the international economy, and demographic composition. The diversity of urban development and political response revealed is enormous, and provides ample practical examples of what might be done to bring about improvements for the increasing number of people who live in cities.

First paragraph of chapter quoted:
“The clearest division of urban space in the United States today are at the extremes: the segregation of the poorest, overwhelmingly black in ghettos, and the self-isolation of the rich, in citadels. Both have changed significantly over time, with the state playing a major role in the form and content of each division. This chapter traces the history of the ghetto in the United States, highlighting its changing character and the influence state policies have had in shaping it.” 109

First paragraph of article quoted:
“Nine proposals, by teams of internationally renowned architects, were unveiled by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation this week. They made the front pages of every New York newspaper, and have been subject to extensive comment since. Both praise for imaginative ideas and criticism for over-blown gigantism have been heaped on the designs, but some major points are missing from much of the discussion. First the context is presented, then an evaluation, with specifics, then some conclusions.” 113


Book Description: This exciting collection of original essays provides students and professionals with an international and comparative examination of changes in global cities, revealing a growing pattern of social and spatial division or polarization.


Globalization, the shape of cities, the future of cities, the increasing gap between rich and poor inhabitants, and ethnic and racial segregation, are the key themes of this book. Taking examples from cities from Sao Paulo to Istanbul, from New York to Edinburgh, and adding their own ideas, the authors examine what might be done to improve things for all those who live in cities.


The area of Notting Hill in west London has been subject to much media coverage in recent years, which, along with substantial gentrification, has given rise to an image of the area as the epitome of fashionable London. This study investigates the views of those marginal to gentrification and mediated representation on their feelings about the local area, its image and their changing neighbourhoods. Many participants in the research resented some of the more recent changes in Notting Hill and the area's representation in the media. However, in contrast to expectations, most of the more working-class respondents involved in the research did not articulate much emotional attachment to the area. They were more concerned with what might be termed the material aspects of life in Notting Hill: convenience, facilities, safety and so on. In contrast, the more middle-class respondents frequently spoke of their regret of the changes to the area, such as the loss of independent shops, and the reduction in diversity. Paradoxically, the loss of working-class landscapes seems a relatively middle-class worry. The symbolically important landscapes described by working-class respondents were related to more material, immediate issues, in which gentrification was only a relatively minor concern.


Urbanization, rising income inequality, and increasing class segregation have produced a geographic concentration of affluence and poverty throughout the world, creating a radical change in the geographic basis of human society. As the density of poverty rises in the environment of the world's poor, so will their exposure to crime, disease, violence, and family disruption. Meanwhile the spatial concentration of affluence will enhance the benefits and privileges of the rich. In the twenty-first century the advantages and disadvantages of one's class position will be compounded and reinforced through ecological mechanisms made possible by the geographic concentration of affluence and poverty, creating a deeply divided and increasingly violent social world. Not only have the rich and the poor been pulling apart economically through a transformation of the income distribution; since 1970 they have also been separating spatially through a resurgence of class segregation. Given a high and rising level of urbanization, growing income inequality, and rising class segregation, an increase in the geographic concentration of affluence and poverty is all but inevitable. Many mechanisms compound class advantages and disadvantages in the new ecology of inequality, but perhaps the most significant occurs through schools. Just as poverty is concentrated spatially, anything correlated with poverty is also concentrated. Thus a new age of extremes is upon us. Our obsessive interest in the generation and reproduction of class is rarely focused on the affluent. The concentration of affluence and poverty means that the social lives of the rich and the poor increasingly will transpire in different venues; we must study both in order to fully comprehend the newly emerged system of stratification. How does the future look to me? Bleak, because I know that it is in the elite's narrow self-interest to perpetuate the status quo. Addressing serious issues such as increasing income inequality, growing class segregation, racial prejudice, and the geographic concentration of poverty will inevitably require sacrifice, and the immediate course of least resistance for affluent people will always be to raise the walls of social, economic, and geographic segregation higher in order to protect themselves from the rising tide of social pathology and violence. This scenario is by no means inevitable, and I sincerely hope it will not come to pass. Yet we are headed in this direction unless self-conscious actions are taken to change course. Until we begin to face up to the reality of rising inequality and its geographic expression, no solution will be possible.


This book links persistent poverty among blacks in the United States to the unparalleled degree of deliberate segregation they experience in American cities. American Apartheid shows how the black ghetto was created by whites during the first half of the twentieth century in order to isolate growing urban black populations. It goes on to show that, despite the Fair Housing Act of 1968, segregation is perpetuated today through an interlocking set of individual actions, institutional practices, and governmental policies. In some urban areas the degree of black segregation is so intense and occurs in so many dimensions simultaneously that it amounts to "hypersegregation." The authors demonstrate that this systematic segregation of African Americans leads inexorably to the creation of underclass communities during periods of economic downturn. Under conditions of extreme segregation, any increase in the overall rate of black poverty yields a marked increase in the geographic concentration of indigence and the deterioration of social and economic conditions in black communities. As ghetto residents adapt to this increasingly harsh environment under a climate of racial isolation, they evolve attitudes, behaviours, and practices that further marginalize their neighbourhoods and undermine their chances of success in mainstream American society.
In this article, we argue that segregation interacts with a variety of structural transformations in society to determine the spatial concentration of poverty. Based on this argument, we then specify a statistical model overcoming methodological problems that have hampered earlier work. Estimates based on US data confirm that racial/ethnic segregation interacts with structural shifts in society to concentrate poverty. By 1990, a powerful interaction between residential segregation and income inequality had emerged to spatially isolate the poor, an interaction the effects of which were buttressed by weaker interactions between segregation, rising class segregation, and stagnating mean incomes. Our analysis reveals how underlying shifts in socio-economic structure can have very different effects on the concentration of poverty experienced by different groups, depending on the degree of racial/ethnic segregation they experience.


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Argues that racial discrimination in housing markets need not involve personal contact between agents and renters. Research indicates that Americans can infer race from speech patterns alone, thus offering rental agents an opportunity to discriminate over the phone. To test this hypothesis, an audit study was designed to compare male and female speakers of White middle-class English, Black accented English and Black English Vernacular. The study was conducted in Spring 1999 in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Significant racial discrimination was found that was often exacerbated by class and gender. Poor black women, in particular, experienced the greatest discrimination.


Neighbourhood has become a key spatial scale in the UK government's policies for urban regeneration and social inclusion, resuscitating the long-standing debate over the efficacy of area-based policies. The paper argues that the latter need to be sensitive to the interaction between macro-structural and local, reinforcing processes and that 'people-based' policies need to be complemented by 'people and place' ones. The complexities of 'neighbourhood' definition are explored, using the distinction between 'neighbourhood' and 'place-based community' to support an argument for seeing neighbourhoods as an appropriate spatial scale for understanding the operation of 'everyday life-worlds'. Drawing on research based on a specific regeneration initiative, the 'Pathways to Integration' priority of the Objective 1 Structural Funds Programme for Merseyside (1994-99), the paper goes on to explore the political and operational issues surrounding the spatial targeting of policy and some of the partnership issues surrounding 'neighbourhood' and 'community'. It argues that area-based policies and spatial targeting are inherently political as well as technical exercises that need to be sensitive to the social-spatial construction of neighbourhoods and that the operational definition of policy areas should be part of an evolutionary process of community engagement.


This paper summarises William G. Grigsby's contribution to our understanding of neighbourhood change. We discuss seven contributions among Grigsby's most-lasting. First, he staked out the boundaries of the still-nascent field very early in his career. Secondly, he situated the subject within the broader framework of metropolitan housing market dynamics. Thirdly, he developed a theoretical framework for investigating the subject that featured the analysis of housing sub-markets, the market process of neighbourhood succession, and residential segregation. Fourthly, he identified the economic, social, institutional and demographic forces that create neighbourhood change. Fifthly, he linked neighbourhood decline and deterioration to the spatial concentration of poverty. Sixthly, he underscored the significance of this understanding for formulating public policies to deal with deteriorated neighbourhoods. And seventhly, he provided a remarkably complete and robust framework for analysing neighbourhood change. This last-mentioned contribution is the culmination of his lifetime work and will prove perhaps to be his most significant. It provides a road map to future research on neighbourhood dynamics that others may wish to follow. It is very important to note that Grigsby's contributions are so foundational to the modern field of housing economics and housing policy that many of the first-generation analysts like John Kain, John Quigley, William Wheaton, Richard Muth and Anthony Downs do not bother to cite his works. Grigsby's contributions have become ingrained in the core of housing policy.
The paper concludes by noting that Grigsby did not let the state of technology or the availability of data limit his vision. As a result, his ideas about neighbourhood change remain fresh and will remain important for years to come.

Explores the complicated new patterns of inequality that emerge when class, race, ethnicity, and gender intersect with the city. York positions an organized core of largely white male professionals and managers against a fragmented and diffuse periphery that ranges from Chinese women garment workers to native-born black male civil service professionals to white women clerical workers.

These essays argue that New York City can be viewed as central to an understanding of the ongoing postindustrial transformation of American urban society. New York today exhibits both great wealth and grinding poverty. Much of this volume focuses on the accompanying inequalities, highlighting such issues as class, race, ethnicity, and gender. The first seven essays treat the key aspects of New York's changing economy, followed by an examination of the social and political forces that have produced the highly polarized city of the 1990s. Two final chapters compare New York's restructuring to that of Los Angeles and London. The authors constitute an impressive assemblage of seasoned scholars, representing a wide array of pertinent disciplines. Their product is a pioneering volume in the social sciences and urban studies, matched only by a similar collection, London: A New Metropolitan Geography, ed. by K. Hoggart and D.R. Green (1991). Although the volume has a woeful lack of illustrations, it is crammed with tabular information, notes, and a 20-page bibliography that is a major research tool on its own. All levels.


In recent years, neighbourhoods have become the key spatial scale for policy intervention. Yet as policy makers focus at this localised level, they need a clear understanding of the nature and causes of social exclusion. The purpose of this paper is to draw on the preliminary findings of a European Commission project named NEHOM (Neighbourhood Housing Models) that examined the characteristics of twenty-six socially excluded neighbourhoods across Europe. An in-depth examination of this different array of neighbourhoods confirms much of the theorising about the nature of social exclusion and the way that economic, social and cultural processes of exclusion reinforce one another. Distinguishable groupings of neighbourhoods are emerging from the research and the differences between them appear to be attributed to the nature and functioning of the housing tenure, cultural identity of the residence and the overall level of turnover and hence commitment to the neighbourhood. The paper concludes by suggesting that policy initiatives attempting to rebuild social capital and promote social cohesion will only be effective if they have a full appreciation of the interplay of these complex dynamics.

The classic study of the city -- its origins, its transformations, and its prospects. Winner of the National Book Award.


Concern has been expressed in Toronto since the 1970s about the 'ghettoisation' of black tenants in Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority (MTHA) public housing. Very little specific evidence exists, however, about the incidence of blacks in MTHA housing. The objectives of the present study are to provide a more detailed perspective on the incidence of blacks in MTHA housing compared to the rest of Toronto and the segregation of blacks within the MTHA system. The results indicate that the proportion of black tenants in MTHA housing increased from 4.2 per cent in 1971 to 27.4 per cent in 1986, a much greater increase than for blacks in the rest of Toronto. Explanations include the recent black Caribbean immigration to Toronto, income constraints, family composition and supply, cost and discriminatory constraints in Toronto's rental housing market. The evidence also suggests that there is some concentration of blacks within MTHA housing, especially in suburban high rise developments. The most likely explanation is a form of 'constrained choice'.


This paper evaluates and compares the housing careers of two recent immigrant groups, the Poles and Somalis, in Toronto's rental market. Both groups first arrived in Toronto in the late 1980s but under different circumstances and with different outcomes in the housing market. The study is situated in a general conceptual framework focusing on factors affecting the housing careers of households. The analysis is based on a questionnaire survey of 60 respondents from each group who arrived in Canada between 1987 and 1994. Information was collected about the search for three residences: the first permanent residence, the one immediately before the current one and the current residence. The analysis considers the individual and household characteristics that differentiate the Polish and Somali respondents, the characteristics of Toronto's rental market that potentially act as barriers in the search for housing, the housing search process and the outcomes of the search. The latter includes the nature of the dwelling and its surroundings as well as satisfaction with the dwelling and neighbourhood. The results confirm that the Poles have been more successful than the Somalis in establishing a progressive housing career. The reasons relate to differences in individual and household characteristics and the nature of the local housing market. Specific variables include socio-economic status, household size, community resources, the housing situation before coming to Canada, Toronto's tight rental market and perceived discriminatory barriers in that market. The paper concludes with a brief evaluation of the housing career concept as used in this study.


Immigration policy and the origins of immigrants coming to Sweden have changed dramatically during the post-World War Two period. During the same period, changes in housing policy have affected the type of accommodation available to immigrants and refugees. It is within the context of these and other changes that we develop a model of the driving forces behind spatial segregation and housing segmentation in Sweden and document and evaluate shifts in the spatial segregation and housing segmentation of immigrants in the Stockholm region between 1960 and 1995.


Recent discussions of the social rented sector in the UK have placed considerable emphasis on the restructuring and declining size of the tenure, privatisation, a shift from object to subject subsidies, residualisation and the increased significance of the poverty trap for tenants. Against this background, and in the light of the view that major public sector investment is unlikely in the future, the policy debate has shifted further towards concern with transfer of stock out of the public sector. This paper reviews key changes in the role of social rented sector housing and the background to these debates. It argues that it is important to relate the development of council housing to the wider structure of the welfare state; its position within the public sector; the changing structure of the private sector in housing; and the
changing economic, social and demographic context. These aspects are of key importance to debates about residualisation and the future of the sector.


First chapter paragraph quoted:
“The debate about changing cities in recent years has given considerable attention to global pressures for change and to the different regimes of regulation which mediate these pressures and determine the pace and extent of changes. In the advanced capitalist economies attention has also focused on how rising unemployment, labour market change, welfare restructuring and increasing social inequality have affected the population of cities. Discussion of divided and polarised cities has been informed by empirical study but most of this has been carried out at a whole-city level and issues of segregation and spatial change have often been inferred from such data.

This chapter contributes to this debate in three ways. First, it seeks to add to perspectives on the welfare state and the framework used to distinguish between different welfare state regimes in considering how the outcomes of the processes of globalisation will differ between particular countries and cities. Second, it seeks to reflect on the relative neglect of spatial patterns within cities and of segregation in a debate dominated by city-level observations. Third, it introduces material relating to aspects of the housing market in Scotland’s capital city, Edinburgh.” 110

Contemporary debates about social polarisation and divided cities emphasise common influences on social and economic change in cities. The development of a global economy and of global influences on both market systems and on public policy regimes encourages an expectation that there is a convergence in processes and policies affecting cities and a convergence in outcomes-in terms of increasingly similar patterns of polarisation and division. This paper considers data from Britain and the Netherlands relating to changes in the housing sector and to social segregation and indicates that emerging patterns are very different. Socio-tenurial polarisation and social segregation are not as marked in the Netherlands as in Britain and are not changing as fast. The discussion arising from these data suggests that concern with globalisation and common influences on change should be balanced with a recognition of the importance of other factors in determining the pattern and pace of change in cities. Within this it is important to recognise not just differences in housing finance and policy but the degree of social and income inequality and the wider functioning of the welfare state.

The increased research and policy interest in social exclusion has included a focus on the concentration of disadvantage within cities. The role of neighbourhoods in the dynamics of social exclusion is consequently receiving greater attention. This paper reports the results of a major European research programme designed to explore the neighbourhood dimension of social exclusion. The results raise important issues related to the differential opportunities associated with neighbourhoods and the conceptualisation of neighbourhood effects as well as issues for policy. Understanding the role of neighbourhood in social exclusion involves attention to different levels of analysis and different fault lines and to the resources that are produced within neighbourhoods.


Currently, many major Western cities aim to be attractive to new and economically successful high-tech industries, financial and business services, cultural industries and consumer services industries. Most of these new activities are dependent upon well-skilled creative workers, which will be followed by those who will work in personal services. It is said that a large share of the well-skilled and creative workers requires impulse-rich and attractive urban environments. The idea has arisen that highly segregated, socially and culturally less integrated cities, do not match the newly required city profiles. On the contrary, these cities would exacerbate urban poverty and deter skilled people from settling there. Consequently, some believe that today's cities should also be socially and culturally cohesive. This hypothesis parallels
policies against segregation and policy interventions in favour of more mixed and balanced local communities. The latter type of policy is also driven by the idea that more mixed neighbourhoods will enhance individual social opportunities and thus, on aggregate, strengthen the urban economy. This paper elaborates on these ideas and hypotheses and focuses on the rise of new economic activities and the locations they aim for, their potential relation with the social (and ethnic) segregation of the population and the related impact upon the attraction of creative workers and the possible impact on the social mobility of the population. Empirical data from Europe are used to support the arguments.


Abstract quoted from publication:

“URBEX is an acronym of the international research project ‘The Spatial Dimensions of Urban Social Exclusion and Integration: A European Comparison’. The URBEX programme was carried out in the period 199 – 2001. The aim was to answer the following questions: How do different categories of socially excluded people cope with their situation, and how do they try to participate in or integrate themselves into the urban society in various neighbourhoods, in different urban, regional and state contexts? What relevant modes of economic integration are available to them? How do they use the available opportunity structures: What are the strategies and trajectories of each of the targeted individuals or households, an dhow do these relate to the available neighbourhood, city and state resources: And particularly: how do different neighbourhoods impact upon the opportunities and perspectives of individuals and households? Are neighbourhood impacts conditioned by the state contexts, by the wider metropolitan structures and by the specific neighbourhood site and characteristics?

These questions were addressed in an international comparative research programme which focused on persons ‘at risk’ in two neighbourhoods – a centrally located mixed-tenure neighbourhood and a peripherally located homogeneous public rental estate – in eleven European cities (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Brussels, Antwerp, London, Birmingham, Berlin, Hamburg, Milan, Naples and Paris). Data on the types of welfare state, the economic structure of the cities and their metropolitan area, and the social networks of people were obtained from various sources, including written documents and statistical data. The main sources of information were primary interview data obtained from over 600 members of the three target groups (i.e. the long-term unemployed, unemployed immigrants and unemployed single mothers) and from several hundred key actors in the field.

The following are some of the most important findings: Strategies Often the strategies employed by respondents were not optimal with regard to the specific opportunity structures that were available (the actual resources available at state, city and neighbourhood levels). Almost all respondents relied on some form of redistribution as a strategy to obtain resources, even though the actual benefits gained from redistribution differed substantially between cities. Social networks are declining in size and intensity, which implies reduced potential as a mode of integration. Increasingly, governments are encouraging increased reliance on market exchange, but opportunities on the market do not always coincide with strategies. There is a negative relation between duration of unemployment and labour market integration strategies. Former guest workers have reduced market orientations compared to others. Single mothers put raising their children before other strategies. Long-term unemployed males are at greater risk of becoming isolated socially; their social networks are weakest.

Neighbourhood impact: Neighbourhood types (central or peripheral) are valued differently; however, there is no clear sign that certain neighbourhood types offer better opportunities for integration than others do. The position and significance of the neighbourhood in the integration process is unstable. The context sensitivity of poverty implies that cities, states and neighbourhoods can learn from other situations but should be circumspect when it comes to copying policies and/or accepting best-practice policies. There are big differences within Europe as well as between Europe and other rich areas of the world. Differentiated and multi-scale context-sensitive types of intervention produce better results.

General findings: The research results highlight a variety of processes which require an appreciation of complex and dynamic processes. These processes are associated not only with welfare systems, the local economy, location and housing, but also with the stage and process of demographic change and particularities of patterns of migration and residence. We cannot easily ascertain from one of the key variables what the nature of the processes and dynamics in the neighbourhood are. It would be inappropriate to assume that all peripheral estates or all inner-city estates or all areas with a culturally diverse population and so on have similar processes and dynamics. Per city and per neighbourhood differentiated policies are required in order to get to grips with social exclusion issues in small-scale areas. The assessment of the role of local, regional, state and European policy measures aimed at combating exclusion and increasing employment indicates that a best-practice type of policy orientation may be relevant, but only if the cases to be affected by policies are rather similar in terms of embeddedness in welfare state types, type of city and type of neighbourhood. In practice, relevant differences between neighbourhoods, which are often due to different histories
of the neighbourhoods and cities, prevent the applicability of the best-practice policies. What may be labelled as a neighbourhood solution in one context may create neighbourhood problems in another. The major sources of the differences between the cases we investigated are in the fields of education, policy interventions at various levels over the past decades, economic structure at the metropolitan level and opportunities to cope with recent changes in the world economy, types and levels of welfare state interventions, and local and regional histories.” 9-10


Segregation, social polarisation and social exclusion are central concepts in today’s urban debates, dominating discussions on urban transformation and urban realities. *Urban Segregation and the Welfare State* examines both developing and existing ethnic and socio-economic segregation patterns, social polarisation and the occurrence of social exclusion in major cities in the western world. Leading contributions from across North America and Europe provide in-depth analysis of particular cities, ranging from Johannesburg, Chicago and Toronto to Amsterdam, Stockholm and Belfast. The authors highlight the social problems in and of cities, indicating differences between nation-states in terms of economic restructuring, migration, welfare state regimes and ‘ethnic history’.

Discussing fundamental questions relating to causes, effects and possible future interventions in areas of exclusion and segregation, this book offers a uniquely international perspective on the central debates concerning the social composition of the city, the role of the welfare state and potential policy interventions by the state or local government for transforming the city in the future.


Paragraph quoted from chapter introduction:

“In this chapter we will briefly introduce the major issues dealt with in this book, starting with the central concepts set out in the next section. In that section we will refer to the dimensions which are said to be key issues in the theoretical debates about the forces underlying urban social processes. We also discuss the issue of the ‘myth or reality’ of social polarisation and exclusion. We will touch upon that in another section. In the final section we will briefly introduce each of the case studies which form the body of this book in chapters 2–13.

In chapter 14, the final chapter of this book, some conclusions are drawn by Herman van der Wusten, who chaired the conference which gave birth to this book, and Sako Musterd, the initiator of the conference.” 2


This volume presents an international comparison of segregation patterns of immigrants and policy reactions at local and state level. The objective is to give an insight into the European experience with ethnic segregation in metropolitan areas. European cities have generally become multi-ethnic metropolises, consisting of a mix of ethnic categories. However, a homogeneous European picture does not exist. Patterns of ethnic segregation and policy reactions differ from city to city. The following metropolises are compared: Amsterdam, Brussels, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, London, Manchester, Paris, Stockholm and Toronto (Canada). Audience: This invaluable book will be of interest to researchers and students in geographical, ethnic and policy studies as well as to civil servants and policy makers working in large metropolises and national governments.


What impact do neighbourhoods have on social mobility? For years, this question has received widespread international attention in scholarly debates and within society at large. This paper seeks to contribute to this discussion by presenting the results of an investigation into the relationship between household social mobility and the composition of the residential environment. The analyses are based on an extensive empirical longitudinal study.
conducted in the Netherlands. The most remarkable conclusion is that, in the Dutch context, the environment has only a modest influence on the social mobility of households with a weak economic position. It was found that the chance of a household living purely on welfare benefits at the beginning of the study period to escape the ‘welfare trap’ was barely dependent on the number of similarly challenged households in the immediate vicinity. Interestingly, the environment proved to have a more powerful effect on the social mobility of households with a stronger economic position. The probability that households with at least one paid job at the beginning of the research would still have a job at the end clearly decreases as the share of benefit-dependent households in the neighbourhood rises. A possible explanation for this is that for the first category (weak starting position) the negative effect of their own welfare situation is far more determinative for their future prospects than the composition of their environment. Because these negative individualistic conditions are absent for the second category (stronger starting position), environmental factors may play a relatively larger role. Another interpretation is that area-based policies are not just targeting the areas with bigger problems more intensively, but especially the long-term unemployed in these areas, and not so much the short-term unemployed (those who had a job at the start of the research period and lost the job afterwards).

Musterd, S., Priemus, H., & Van Kempen, R. (1999). Towards undivided cities: The potential of economic revitalisation and housing redifferentiation. Housing Studies, 14 (5), 573 - 584. The ‘undivided city’ has become a major policy aim of today’s local urban politicians. Therefore, adequate insight in the relevant dimensions affecting the urban social divide seems to be required, if only to be able to formulate proper policy strategies. However, whereas the literature reveals that various factors are responsible for the rise of divided cities, with perhaps global economic restructuring processes and welfare state differences as the most central elements to the understanding of divisions in cities, local politicians tend to focus on local (area-based) policies. These relevant dimensions, their relative position and the potential of local-based urban policies are the subjects of this special issue. Special attention will be given to the local economic revitalisation and local housing redifferentiation strategies. A simultaneous consideration of relevant dimensions at local, national and global level seems to be required to attain a better understanding of (un)divided cities. Selection: “A preliminary definition of the divided city might be: "a city in which spatial segregation is manifest in such a way that at least some of the residing population categories involved, and possibly a broader range of people, consider this a problem". Such a definition tells us that the divided city is related to other concepts that are frequently applied, not least in the contributions in this special issue. The definition is still rather vague with regard to the ’categories’ and ’problems’ which are considered. This is one reason why those issues should also be explored here.”

Myles, J. (1988). The expanding middle: Canadian evidence on the deskilling debate. Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology, 25, 335 - 364. After briefly reviewing arguments that have emerged from the deskilling debate regarding trends in SC structure, an analysis of changes in the skill distribution of jobs in the Canadian economy between 1961 & 1981 is presented, based on data drawn from the decennial censuses, revealing the distribution of 486 occupations ranked by skill level, & self-reports of skill requirements obtained from a subsample of 2,039 workers who completed the Canadian Class Structure Survey in 1982/83. Analysis indicates that the actual trends & patterns in the skill distribution of jobs are more complex than either the “deskilling” or “upgrading” theses suggest. The skill content of the LF accelerated during this period as a result of the expansion of the “new Me” professional, technical, & managerial occupations, though there is no evidence that this occurred at the expense of (by deskilling) the Wc. Wc patterns are more ambiguous. Future changes in the skill distribution are likely to occur in the service sector, simply because that is where most jobs are now located. The Canadian service economy is marked by a distinctly bifurcated skill distribution, & it is argued that, like in the US, this is a contingent rather than a necessary feature of a postindustrial economy, a result of political as well as market forces.

Myles, J. & Hou, F. (2003). Neighbourhood attainment and residential segregation among Toronto’s visible minorities. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series 11F0019MIE No. 206. The social complexion of Toronto’s urban landscape has been irreversibly altered since the 1960s as new waves of migrants form Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Central and South America have replaced traditional white European migrant flows. We examine the very different residential settlement patterns of Toronto’s three largest racial minorities – Blacks, Chinese and South Asians. Unlike previous studies based on aggregate level data and “ecological” correlations, we assess the capacity of conventional spatial assimilation theory to account for these differences with “locational attainment” models estimated with micro-data from the 1996 Census of Canada. We conclude that the residential settlement patterns of South Asians and, strikingly, Blacks fit the expectations of the conventional spatial assimilation model rather well. Initial settlement is in disadvantaged immigrant enclaves from which longer-term, more
successful migrants subsequently exit as they purchase homes in more affluent neighbourhoods. Although Toronto’s “black neighbourhoods” are decidedly poorer than other minority neighbourhoods most Blacks do not live in these neighbourhoods. In contrast, Chinese immigrants move quickly to purchase homes in somewhat more affluent and enduring ethnic communities. We show that rather than being historically novel, however, the Chinese are replicating the settlement pattern of earlier Southern European, especially Italian, immigrants and for much the same reasons – relative advantage in the housing market and low levels of language assimilation.


Parts of the first two paragraphs of report quoted:

“This current study of the impact of gentrification [on] different groups of Chicagoans is undertaken at the request of the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations. In particular, the experiences of different racial, ethnic, and economic groups are examined.

In addition to documenting demographic patterns in the city, the study measures perceptions of community leaders regarding the impact of the gentrification process. Business leaders, community-based organization executive directors, social service agency staff, religious leaders, and others who are familiar with daily life in Chicago’s communities are among the most perceptive of social and economic changes in their communities. They are also aware of how residents perceive, interpret, and react to the changes around themselves. While perceptions may not always perfectly parallel realities, they do represent one interpretation of community change. Clearly, different members of the community can interpret the same event through different lenses and reach differently to that event. Because these interpretations are the basis for human behavior, they have a real impact on day-to-day life in Chicago’s neighborhoods. Differing perspectives can produce competing interpretations of community change. The can also result in clashing priorities of what community “improvement” and positive community change should be. In the course of examining perceptions of gentrification and displacement we have documented these different interpretations and clashing definitions of community futures in Chicago.” 1-2


Segregation is a central concept in both academic and policy debates on urban issues. It has been argued that the process of globalisation results in increased social polarisation and subsequently sharper spatial segregation. Indeed, many politicians express a fear of rising segregation, envisioning the emergence of ‘ghettos’ or as it is called in the Netherlands ‘income neighbourhoods’. In order to prevent concentrations of poverty from forming, a new area-based policy was formulated which aimed to restructure the urban housing market at the neighbourhood level and mix low-quality with high-quality houses. Such a concern with social mix has become common in a number of developed countries. In this regard the analysis has a wide relevance. This paper explores these ideas both by discussing the theoretical framework underpinning the policy, and by examining empirical support for it. Since the policy of housing-quality mixing is still in the first phase of implementation, relevant longitudinal data is not yet available. As a consequence our evaluation addresses present poverty concentrations and housing stock (mix) characteristics in the city of Amsterdam. By comparing neighbourhoods that already have a 'mixed' housing stock to homogeneous neighbourhoods, it has been possible to see whether mixing really does correspond to significantly lower poverty rates. It turns out that the empirical facts are quite different from the expected results: mixing does not in fact reduce poverty. It is concluded that the policy lacks an empirical basis. Housing-mix policy requires substantial budgets, while the goal of reducing poverty cannot be reached. As an alternative, we suggest that poverty is a personal characteristic and that it is therefore preferable to approach poverty directly instead of hoping for the results of a dubious ‘neighbourhood effect’.

Research into European minority ethnic groups has produced a large body of knowledge on the segregation and concentration patterns of these groups and their housing conditions. Most of these studies have shown that housing conditions and housing market options in many European countries differ for native-born households and minority ethnic groups. Also that minority ethnic groups generally live concentrated in a few urban areas, in most cases in those areas that do not have the best quality of housing and environment. In only a few studies is the internal heterogeneity of minority ethnic groups stressed, and only occasionally have the dynamic aspects of concentration patterns and housing conditions been researched. In introducing this special issue on diverse and dynamic aspects of housing and segregation, we focus firstly on what we have learned from previous studies of segregation in the European context and on the questions that have yet to be answered. We then discuss the information provided by studies on the housing conditions and housing careers of minority ethnic groups, again in the European context. Here we also try to identify some major open questions. In the third part, we focus on an explanation of patterns and possible dynamics in this area.


While William Julius Wilson and I both write about 'ghettos', the places and people we study are not the same. Wilson's 'ghettos' are places of concentrated poverty with high rates of joblessness. My definition includes such places and adds working- and middle-class black neighbourhoods as well. I argue that my usage of the term as the entirety of the spatially segregated and contiguous black community is more historically faithful and analytically powerful. Also, it is the configuration that Wilson employs when analysing ghettos of the past, but from which he departs when examining present-day ghettos. This shift obscures important facets of life in the ghetto of both historical periods: namely that 1) the World War II-era ghetto featured internal spatial stratification that divided poor from wealthier blacks, and 2) there remains socio-economic heterogeneity within contemporary segregated black communities as well as patterns of blocked mobility that perpetuate their ghetto status.


This paper takes a population health planning and policy view of the issues in place and health raised by the research articles in this collection. The planning and policy issues are reducing health inequities and strengthening neighbourhoods. Regardless of the state of the art of place and health research, targeted social investments are being made to support neighbourhood infrastructure and community mobilization for place-based poverty reduction and community well-being in places across Canada. "Vibrant Communities", "Action for Neighbourhood Change" and other priority community initiatives provide an opportunity for intensive neighbourhood-based action research and future dialogue that will further advance theory and action on place and health.


The British 1991 Census included a question on ethnic identity for the first time. This allows us to measure the extent of ethnic segregation in British cities on a much more reliable basis than has hitherto been available. It also allows us to compare British levels of segregation with those experienced by African Americans in the United States. British levels of segregation are much lower than those found in the USA and, for the Black Caribbean population, they are falling. South Asian levels of segregation are higher than for the Caribbean population but show considerable internal variation. Bangladeshis, the most recently arrived of the groups, show the highest levels of encapsulation, followed by the Pakistanis, while Indian rates are relatively modest. Indirect standardization indicates that the contribution of economic factors to the observed levels of segregation is not substantial.


Much of the literature on segregation is underlain by an implicit model which argues that groups start highly segregated in inner city locations and disperse over time. Parallel and related to this spatial pattern is the social process of assimilation. Groups start highly segregated and unassimilated and become dispersed and assimilated over time. The paper argues that there is a critical distinction between the black American ghetto and other forms of segregation. The ghetto is not part of a continuum of spatial distributions which begins in the inner city and ends in the suburbs three generations later; it is an end in itself. The black ghetto is different in kind from other forms of segregation. Nearly all
of its members are black and nearly all the black population in American cities is in such locations. African American segregation has been almost continuously high during the twentieth century and has not diminished with socio-economic improvement. Ethnic enclaves of the Irish, Poles or other ethnicities in the USA never achieved such homogeneous concentrations. Thus representing European concentrations as having evolved from a past distribution, which was akin to the present black ghetto, falsifies the European past and mistakes the current dilute levels of European concentration as representing the black future. On the other hand, the equation of spatial segregation with levels of social assimilation, is largely supported. The process of assimilation, like the sequence of spatial segregation, is neither inevitable nor unidirectional.


First chapter paragraph quoted:
“Introduction: The Social Context of Segregation: Segregation is a word soaked in the history of racial discrimination and colonialism. The word conjures up images of African townships, black ghettos, and native reservations contrasted with colonialist estates, white suburbs, and exclusivist neighbourhoods. These places represent not only residential separation by race, color, religion, and/or class, but also a fragmentation of the social order through domination and subjugation sustained by compulsion and ideology. But what if residential separation were not accompanied by enforced social inequality? Would this condition make segregation more tolerable or acceptable? The two questions are critical with regard to the phenomenon of residential segregation found in North American cities in general, and Canada in particular. This chapter examines the social implications of such ethnic concentrations in residential neighborhoods through a critical analysis of their development in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and proceeds from the distinction that Peach (chapter 2) draws between the ghetto and the ethnic enclave.”


In recent years Richmond, British Columbia, a quintessential middle class suburb of Vancouver, has seen its Chinese immigrant population grow significantly; a change that has not gone unchallenged by a largely ‘white’ European incumbent population. This long-established suburban neighbourhood provides an opportunity to examine contested place imagery and a discourse of racism that is shaping spatial relations in ways that depart from earlier discussions of inner-city Chinatowns. The paper has three principal objectives. The first is to develop a conceptual framework for interpreting the actual and imagined geographies of ethnic change and the tensions it can generate within local space. The second is to evaluate the social and physical changes brought about within Richmond by a relatively recent arrival of Chinese immigrants. Questions of scale are explored both at the community and neighbourhood levels, and we seek to determine whether the patterns of Chinese residential settlement represent a break from the past. Finally, we seek to employ the conceptual framework to evaluate local responses to ethnic change in Richmond given the spatial context within which ethnic change is being experienced.


The past 50 years have brought massive changes in the patterns of economic activity around the world. Not only has global trade increased, but, precisely because of this, many scholars suggest that local (and regional) networks of production and exchange have become more prevalent and important. The nature of local economic development has, as a result, changed quite substantially. And yet theoretical approaches to it largely have not. Fifty years after Douglass North introduced economic base theory - asserting that economies grow only through increased exports - it remains the familiar refrain, if not the basis, of local economic development theory. We think it is about time to reassess the merits of base theory as an approach to, and explanation of, local economic development. Accordingly, in this article, we review briefly North's argument for base theory and the debate it stirred up early on. Then we present two evaluations of its current relevance. The first is theoretical: we consider whether changes in the patterns of economic activity in the global north, including the emergence of local/regional networks of production and exchange and the growth of
consumer services, have made it possible to achieve economic growth without increasing exports. The second is empirical: using the minimum requirements method, we examine whether the economies of Canada's cities have become more locally oriented and, if so, whether they have grown. Both evaluations indicate that economic development is indeed possible through increased local activity (although exports remain important). We conclude that it is time to consider more nuanced models of local economic development that accommodate the multiple ways in which development can be achieved.


This paper assesses and synthesizes the cumulative results of a new "neighborhood-effects" literature that examines social processes related to problem behaviors and health-related outcomes. Our review identified over 40 relevant studies published in peer-reviewed journals from the mid-1990s to 2001, the take-off point for an increasing level of interest in neighborhood effects. Moving beyond traditional characteristics such as concentrated poverty, we evaluate the salience of social-interactional and institutional mechanisms hypothesized to account for neighborhood-level variations in a variety of phenomena (e.g., delinquency, violence, depression, high-risk behavior), especially among adolescents. We highlight neighborhood ties, social control, mutual trust, institutional resources, disorder, and routine activity patterns. We also discuss a set of thorny methodological problems that plague the study of neighborhood effects, with special attention to selection bias. We conclude with promising strategies and directions for future research, including experimental designs, taking spatial and temporal dynamics seriously, systematic observational approaches, and benchmark data on neighborhood social processes.


Transformations in the composition and locational patterns of the economy have assumed specific forms in cities and in the urban hierarchy. The new service-dominated urbanization, particularly evident in major cities, has distinct consequences for a range of social conditions. Here we focus especially on the characteristics of today's leading industries, the producer services, disproportionately concentrated in major cities; the impact of restructuring on the earnings distribution generally and in major cities in particular; and the impact of urban restructuring on minorities, a population increasingly concentrated in large cities.

The central concept around which Sassen (U. of Chicago) structures this book is the idea of the "global city." Offering Tokyo, New York, Sao Paulo, and Hong Kong as examples, his argument concerns the way cities have become transnational "spaces" in which processes of globalization have caused cities to come to have more in common with one another than with regional centers in their own nation-states. For the new edition, he has updated the work in accordance with recent data and added discussion of international migration to and from global cities, while retaining the topics of global city economic functions, inequalities within cities, and the implications of the global city for understanding center-periphery geographies.


This classic work chronicles how New York, London, and Tokyo became command centers for the global economy and in the process underwent a series of massive and parallel changes. What distinguishes Sassen's theoretical framework is the emphasis on the formation of cross-border dynamics through which these cities and the growing number of other global cities begin to form strategic transnational networks. All the core data in this new edition have been updated, while the preface and epilogue discuss the relevant trends in globalization since the book originally came out in 1991.

From the early 1960s through the mid-1980s, New York, Paris, and London changed profoundly in physical appearance, social makeup, and politics. Here is a lively and informative account of the transformation of the three cities.

This study discusses my attempt to improve educational experiences of fifth-grade students living in public housing. The context of a social justice-oriented classroom is revealed through reconstruction of my thought processes while teaching and learning with students. The narrative portrayal that emerges demonstrates the impact our theorizing together had on our growth, outlook, and learning in an effort to make substantive change in the community. Although this curriculum was not explicitly grounded in a service-learning framework, the processes, activities, and results of the classroom typify the potential and possibilities of a justice- and service-oriented elementary classroom. Reflections of classroom occurrences and struggles I engaged in privately and with students are conveyed through vignettes of the change-focused, integrated curriculum based on students' priority concerns—particularly the attempt to replace their dilapidated school. The role of theorizing with students and curriculum realizing democratic principles in a poor neighborhood is depicted.

A world-wide mosaic of large city-regions seems to be over-riding (though is not effacing entirely) an earlier core-periphery system of spatial organization. The economic dynamics of these city-regions are analysed with particular emphasis on the ways in which they tend to generate increasing-returns effects and competitive advantages for local producers. The managerial tasks that these city-regions face raise many new issues about local economic development policy and institution building in the interests of social order. These issues lead on to further questions about democracy and citizenship in the global mosaic of city-regions as well as in the new world system as a whole.

While an array of research has established that immigrants to Canada are over-represented in the country’s poorest and most multiply-deprived urban neighbourhoods, there remains limited understanding of the complex and evolving geography of this relationship. The extent to which immigrant status correlates with residence in census tracts characterized by concentrated poverty and extreme levels of traditional deprivation markers varies across time, space and the immigrant population itself. Focusing on Canada’s three largest cities, Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, this paper charts the changing spatial and statistical relationship between immigrant settlement and various indicators of neighbourhood based deprivation over the s1991 to 2001 decade. The paper highlights the evolving and increasingly divergent cases of these cities, emphasizes the need to pay closer attention to the contextual, temporal and spatial contingency of the relationship between concentrated urban disadvantage and concentrated immigrant settlement, and considers the continued appropriateness of assessing the immigrant experience with traditional rather than immigrant specific markers of deprivation and poverty.

Why have so many central and inner cities in Europe, North America and Australia been so radically revamped in the last three decades, converting urban decay into new chic? Will the process continue in the twenty-first century or has it ended? What does this mean for the people who live there? Can they do anything about it? This book challenges conventional wisdom, which holds gentrification to be the simple outcome of new middle-class tastes and a demand for urban living. It reveals gentrification as part of a much larger shift in the political economy and culture of the late twentieth century. Documenting in gritty detail the conflicts that gentrification brings to the new urban 'frontiers', the author explores the interconnections of urban policy, patterns of investment, eviction, and homelessness. The failure of liberal urban policy and the end of the 1980s financial boom have made the end-of-the-century city a darker and more dangerous place. Public policy and the private market are conspiring against minorities, working people, the poor, and the homeless as never before. In the emerging revanchist city, gentrification has become part of this policy of revenge.


In this article contemporary city change in Stockholm is first described against a background of theories on global cities. Stockholm cannot be seen as a global city, but displays many typical signs of the ongoing development in global cities. In the article this is shown by examining the situation in Stockholm regarding the economic structure, especially the expanding IT-sector, social and economic polarization, local politics and the efforts to improve the infrastructure. In the change of the city social movements have been very active. Since the 1960s three different kinds of movements have existed, which are described and analysed against a background of theories on social movements. The first of these, the so-called neighbourhood movement, emerged at the end of the 1960s and had all the typical signs of the so-called 'new' social movements of that time. In the 1990s a new environmental movement acted mainly against proposed big traffic-routes. This movement reflected in its structure some important features of today's society: fragmentation, individualization and globalization. At the end of the 1990s a third movement emerged as a reaction against the new competitive urban politics and the ongoing change of the city. Finally, the modifying impact that movements and local factors in Stockholm have had on globalization is discussed, as well as the difficulty in estimating the impact of movements on local politics.


Tabb critiques the strong version of globalization that has disempowered much of the left.


This is an empirical paper that uses an interlocking network model to evaluate the importance of leading world cities within contemporary globalisation. Cities are treated as locales through which four globalisations-economic, cultural, political and social-are produced and reproduced. Sixteen sets of data describing agents of global network formation, such as global service firms, NGOs and UN agencies, are analysed to measure cities' overall network locations and subnet articulator roles. Analyses are synthesised in a taxonomy of leading world cities that identifies five classes of 'global city' and types of other world cities.


Factorial ecology studies have long identified socio-economic status or income to be one of the most important dimensions of variation or residential segregation in the social ecology of the city. Recent studies have argued that residential segregation is a multidimensional construct, to be conceptualised as: i) geographical unevenness; ii) the probability of exposure of minorities to the majority; iii) the degree of spatial concentration or relative density of minority groups; iv) the degree of inner city centralisation of a minority; and v) the degree of clustering or spatial contiguity amongst minority neighbourhoods. Within the context of the urban system important insights can be gained into the dynamics of social and spatial polarisation by understanding the dimensions of segregation. This study investigates the dimensionality of income residential segregation in the Canadian metropolitan system, and finds that the structure is three-dimensional, representing: Unevenness and Isolation; Concentration and Clustering; and Centralised Density. This means that claims for a five-dimensional structure of segregation may not be universally valid, but may differ for different types of social segregation. The paper identifies how a multiple dimensional approach to income segregation provides insights into the system-wide spatial patterns of segregation for income minorities. It also shows that if a single index of segregation is required, without concern for pattern effects, little is to be gained by this more complex analysis over the traditional use of the Index of Dissimilarity.
www.unitedwaytoronto.com/whoWeHelp/reports/pdf/PovertybyPostalCodeFinal.pdf
The number of poor Toronto neighbourhoods is rising at a rapid rate. In the past two decades, Toronto has changed dramatically and not all for the good. The income gap is widening and neighbourhood poverty has intensified. As the numbers of high poverty neighbourhoods increase – especially in the inner suburbs – everyone’s quality of life suffers. United Way explores the changing geography of neighbourhood poverty in Poverty by Postal Code, its newest report. Poverty by Postal Code encourages public debate and action - the first steps in preserving Toronto as one of the best places in the world to live.

In April 2003, the Toronto City Summit Alliance released its report, Enough Talk, which called upon the Prime Minister and Premier to implement a new fiscal deal for municipalities, and to immediately address the need for new physical infrastructure in the Toronto area. It also pressed government to address the urgent need for more affordable housing, improved access to post-secondary education, quicker economic integration of newcomers, and new social infrastructure in the City's poorest neighbourhoods.
The Strong Neighbourhood Task Force was formed in April 2004 to take up the challenge of Enough Talk. A joint initiative of United Way of Greater Toronto and the City of Toronto, and with the support of the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario, the goal of the Strong Neighbourhood Task Force was to build an action plan for revitalizing Toronto neighbourhoods.
The Task Force was comprised of civic leaders from the private, labour, voluntary, and public sectors in the City of Toronto. Together, they recognized the importance of strong neighbourhoods to Toronto's standing as a world-class city, and together, they were committed to mobilizing the attention and the resources that are necessary for Toronto to regain its reputation as a city of great neighbourhoods.
Toronto has an incredible opportunity to learn from the experience of other countries, and take action to enhance its reputation as a "city of neighbourhoods." We must seize this opportunity, and ensure our struggling neighbourhoods do not slip into decline. Toronto can be a city of inclusive, welcoming, cohesive and participatory neighbourhoods, a city where no one is disadvantaged because of where they live. The Task Force was confident that the will to act on this vision exists at all levels, and that a formal commitment to strengthen Toronto's neighbourhoods can be won. To this end, they made ten recommendations within the report.

This article provides a comparative analysis of neighbourhood renewal processes in Brussels and Montreal based on a typology of such processes wherein gentrification is precisely delimited. In this way, it seeks to break with the extensive use of a chaotic conception of gentrification referring to the classic stage model when dealing with the geographical diversity of neighbourhood renewal, within or between cities. In both Brussels and Montreal, the gentrification concept only adequately describes the upward movement of very restricted parts of the inner city, while neighbourhood renewal in general more typically comprises marginal gentrification, upgrading and incumbent upgrading. Evidence drawn from the case studies suggests that each of these processes is relevant on its own-i.e. linked to a particular set of causal factors-rather than composing basically transitional states within a step-by-step progression towards a common gentrified fate. Empirical results achieved in Brussels and Montreal suggest that a typology such as the one implemented in this article could be used further in wider research aimed at building a geography of neighbourhood renewal throughout Western cities.


Despite its appeal and apparent clarity the dual city idea hides a rather vague and confused image of the post-industrial city and its socio-spatial patterning. This paper focuses on the meaning of the dual city as a spatial model and its relation to the modern poverty idea. First, the presuppositions of the dual city concept are discussed, underlining the ambiguous relations between the concepts of economic restructuring, social polarisation and social stratification and the socio-spatial divide the dual city suggests. Evidence from the Netherlands is used to sustain the argument. Secondly, the concept of life chances is introduced to clarify the role of the spatial concentration of poverty in shaping the urban poverty problem. Following the discerned three dimensions of the life chances concept as a lead, it is argued that the spatial concentration of poverty is both an outcome and a part of the restricted life chances of the urban poor.


LIVING in certain neighborhoods may exacerbate the poverty problem by affecting the life chances of people negatively. The important question is by which mechanisms the disadvantaged positions of the inhabitants of an area are reinforced. A reduced access to the job market, social isolation, stigmatization, and limited access to social citizenship rights can be seen as the most important mechanisms. What it means to be poor and live in a "poverty pocket" is explained by Dahrendorf’s conceptualization of the idea of life chances, which can be unfolded in a provision, an entitlements, and a ligatures component. Although still much research is needed, it is concluded that living in poverty pockets affect life chances. This has not only to do with the quality of goods and services offered but maybe even more so with the difficult access poor people in poverty pockets have to provisions. In this article, I will focus on the role of place in shaping social inequality. The central question is whether and how the spatial concentration of poverty in certain areas or neighborhoods exacerbates the poverty problem by affecting the life chances of people negatively.


Last paragraph from Introduction quoted:
“Has the retreating welfare state affected the spatial configuration of different types of households in Dutch cities? This chapter investigates how patterns have changed and offers some explanations for these changes. We want to find out if there is a tendency towards more partitioned cities in the Netherlands and, if so, why. The changing role of the state is central, but other factors – such as changing economic, demographic, and socio-cultural variables – should also be taken into account.” 89


Paragraph from introduction quoted:
“The aim of this chapter is to give a brief overview on the development of the academic explanations of spatial concentration and spatial segregation. It will be shown that there has always been a clear tendency of looking at the phenomenon of spatial segregation one-sidedly, with attention for only some explanatory factors, while explicitly or implicitly omitting other variables. This also specifically holds for the role of the state. Only recently have more or less integrated explanations become popular.” 36


In this paper the focus is on the explanation of divided cities. We will make clear that many elements of older theories are still very relevant when divisions within cities have to be explained. This is obviously still the case in a world which is described by a large number of geographers and urban sociologists as increasingly globalising. A main argument could be that in the last three decades or so the process of globalisation has become enormously influential in
explaining changes within cities, but in this paper we want to modify this notion. Our argument will be that attention for globalisation is useful, but that we should never exaggerate the influence of this process in a city as a whole and in parts of that city. In other words: we want to challenge the importance of globalisation when explaining divided cities or urban change in general. This paper is partly based on two books edited by Peter Marcuse and Ronald van Kempen. The first one (Globalizing Cities: A New Spatial Order?) was published by Blackwell in 2000 (Marcuse & van Kempen, 2000a), the second one (Of States and Cities: The Partitioning of Urban Space) was published by Oxford University Press in 2002 (Marcuse & van Kempen, 2002).


The forces that produce the internal shape of cities may be divided into three categories: (a) those derived from a supracity level (global, national, regional); (b) those internal to the city but structural to general city form, responding with a common logic both to external and internal changing pressures; and (c) those particular to specific cities. In this article, we attempt to deal with the first two of these three categories, with a brief comment on the third at the very end.


As an introduction to this special issue on ethnic segregation in cities, we offer the readers an overview of the explanatory factors of ethnic segregation and spatial concentration in modern welfare states. After a discussion of the disadvantages and advantages of segregation and concentration, which can be seen as the impetus behind the widespread interest in this topic, we will briefly review some 'traditional' theories. That review will be followed by a closer look at behavioural theories and explanations in which constraints are central. The next section will elaborate on restructuring processes, giving special attention to economic change and its effects on cities, groups and spatial arrangements. We will conclude this introduction with a few remarks on the future of ethnic segregation and concentration and outline some possible directions for future research in this field.


In various countries we observe governments aiming to produce mixed income areas to reduce or prevent spatial segregation. This almost always implies a redifferentiation, or restructuring of the housing stock of low-income areas. This strategy has its advantages and disadvantages. Redifferentiation and restructuring are based on the idea that solutions to the problems of spatial segregation and concentration can be found in the housing stock. This is also the case in the Netherlands. Since 1997, the Dutch Government has advocated a housing policy promoting a restructuring of urban neighbourhoods by building more expensive dwellings in traditionally low-income areas in order to influence the income mix in these neighbourhoods, thereby implying that this is a positive and feasible development. This paper will focus on the goals of the undivided cities formulated by the Dutch Government and the arguments concerning the relation between segregation and restructuring of the urban housing stock. The paper will also examine the income mix and income segregation in Dutch urban areas itself. Is there any reason to aim at a larger spatial differentiation of income?


Produced in the run-up to the last General Election, *Britain Divided* chronicles the processes of social exclusion, looking at tax and social security changes and the growth of poverty and inequality. Different dimensions of exclusion are examined, including how it is compounded by gender and race, and how poor people have fared worst in education, housing, health and unemployment. Regional inequalities, privatisation, food policy and other issues are assessed. A bleak picture is presented, but *Britain Divided* also offers a way forward for improving social security, arguing that we can afford a decent welfare state.

Numerous authors have asserted that globalisation and occupational changes associated with post-Fordist economic restructuring have led to a growth in intraurban social disparity and even polarisation. This hypothesis is most consistently articulated in the literature on global cities. However, the social effects of post-Fordist economic restructuring and the interplay between occupational changes and social and spatial factors within urban areas are not well understood. This paper seeks to provide an initial investigation into processes of socioeconomic change which may be presently occurring within cities, and to model how such processes may be articulated within urban space. To gauge the impact of occupational restructuring on the social structure of the city, and to test the assertion that economic changes are related to increased polarisation, shifts in occupation, immigration and income variables in the urban region of Toronto, Canada, are examined. The patterns of social and spatial change occurring between 1971 and 1991 are plotted and the possible tendencies towards increasing polarisation are analysed and discussed.

This article examines the degree to which the relative growth of suburban electoral districts in Canada’s largest urban regions (Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver) has lead to a loss of potential political influence within government on behalf of Canadian inner cities and/or to more support for right-wing political parties. The study finds that although inner cities and suburbs have increasingly diverged in their voting behavior in both federal and provincial elections, the growth of suburban electoral districts has not directly translated into a loss of representation and influence for inner cities. Instead, representation and influence within government are highly dependent upon the party that is in power. At the federal level, the dominance of the Liberal Party has meant that inner cities have tended to wield greater, and the suburbs less, influence, whereas at the level of Ontario provincial politics, the suburbs have indeed been underrepresented and found to wield greater influence within government to the detriment of the inner cities.

Recent literature suggests a growing relationship between the clustering of certain visible minority groups in urban neighbourhoods and the spatial concentration of poverty in Canadian cities, raising the spectre of ghettoization. This paper examines whether urban ghettos along the U.S. model are forming in Canadian cities, using census data for 1991 and 2001 and borrowing a neighbourhood classification system specifically designed for comparing neighbourhoods in other countries to the U.S. situation. Ecological analysis is then performed in order to compare the importance of minority concentration, neighbourhood classification housing stock attributes in improving our understanding of the spatial patterning of low-income populations in Canadian cities in 2001. The findings suggest that ghettoization along U.S. lines is not a factor in Canadian cities and that a high degree of racial concentration is not necessarily associated with greater neighbourhood poverty. On the other hand, the concentration of apartment housing, of visible minorities in general, and of a high level of racial diversity in particular, do help in accounting for the neighbourhood patterning of low income. We suggest that these findings result as much from growing income inequality within as between each visible minority group. This increases the odds of poor visible minorities of each group ending up in the lowest-cost, least-desirable neighbourhoods from which they cannot afford to escape (including social housing in the inner suburbs).
By contrast, wealthier members of minority groups are more mobile and able to self-select into higher-status ‘ethnic communities’. This research thus reinforces pleas for a more nuanced interpretation of segregation, ghettoization and neighbourhood dynamics.


This paper considers the order that emerges in cities as individuals exchange and pool rights over resources in pursuit of individual and mutual gain. In his 1937 article *The nature of the firm*, Ronald Coase explained the existence and size of firms in terms of transaction costs. Neighbourhoods are important units of consumption and production and can, like firms, be explained by transaction costs. A theory of the neighbourhood is developed based on transaction costs, property rights and related ideas from the new institutional economics. A neighbourhood is defined as a nexus of contracts and four rules that govern neighbourhood evolution are specified. Normative aspects of the theory are illustrated by examining the organisational order in neighbourhoods, in particular, the pattern of residual claimants in the contracts that underpin neighbourhood dynamics.


This paper looks at the competing theses of polarising convergence and policy-related divergence in the study of socioeconomic segregation. Using data from Oslo, Norway, it is shown that the level of segregation has remained fairly stable, or has even declined, in spite of increasing income inequality. This spatial stabilisation is causally related to a more flexible design in city planning and policy. It is, however, not a development in accordance with the welfare state approach proposed by Chris Hamnett and some other scholars. Rather, we observe a 'perverse' effect where social democracy has been helped by opposition policies. In consequence, the paper suggests the use of models of action and the identification of 'closed' and 'open' processes of change.


"The Truly Disadvantaged" should spur critical thinking in many quarters about the causes and possible remedies for inner city poverty. As policy makers grapple with the problems of an enlarged underclass they--as well as community leaders and all concerned Americans of all races--would be advised to examine Mr. Wilson's incisive analysis."--Robert Greenstein, "New York Times Book Review" "Must reading' for civil-rights leaders, leaders of advocacy organizations for the poor, and for elected officials in our major urban centers."--Bernard C. Watson, "Journal of Negro Education" "Required reading for anyone, presidential candidate or private citizen, who really wants to address the growing plight of the black urban underclass."--David J. Garrow, "Washington Post Book World" Selected by the editors of the "New York Times Book Review" as one of the sixteen best books of 1987.Winner of the 1988 C. Wright Mills Award of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

This eminent sociologist has written a complex and provocative analysis of black inner-city poverty. Eschewing both liberal and conservative orthodoxies, Wilson argues that the substantial increase in urban poverty over the past few decades has not been caused by either contemporary racism or an internalized "culture of poverty" value system. Rather it has been the result of major shifts in the economic system, as jobs have left the urban manufacturing sector for a decentralized service sector. Because race-specific policies like affirmative action have tended to benefit the black middle class, only holistic policies available to all Americans who need them can reverse this cycle of poverty. Massive job training programs and more child care would provide a start. Highly recommended for major public and college libraries.
