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Maarten van Ham · Tiit Tammaru ·
Rūta Ubarevičienė · Heleen Janssen
Editors

Urban Socio-Economic Segregation and Income Inequality


A Global Perspective

 Springer

Editors

Maarten van Ham 
Faculty of Architecture and the Built
Environment, Department of Urbanism
Delft University of Technology
Delft, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands

School of Geography and Sustainable
Development
University of St Andrews
St Andrews, UK

Rūta Ubarevičienė 
Faculty of Architecture and the Built
Environment, Department of Urbanism
Delft University of Technology
Delft, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands

Institute of Sociology, Department
of Regional and Urban Studies
Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences
Vilnius, Lithuania

Tiit Tammaru 
Department of Geography
University of Tartu
Tartu, Estonia

Faculty of Architecture and the Built
Environment, Department of Urbanism
Delft University of Technology
Delft, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands

Heleen Janssen 
Faculty of Architecture and the Built
Environment, Department of Urbanism
Delft University of Technology
Delft, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands



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Preface

This book attempts to get a true global overview of trends in urban inequality and residential socio-economic segregation in a large number of cities all over the world. It investigates the link between income inequality and socio-economic residential segregation in 24 large urban regions in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. In many ways the book is a sequel to the earlier book “Socio-Economic Segregation in European Capital Cities” which focussed solely on trends in Europe. Although that book was very well received, readers also asked whether trends in Europe were representative for what is happening in the rest of the world. This new book is a direct response to that question and aims to be more globally representative.

The main outcome of this book is the proposal of a Global Segregation Thesis, which combines ideas of rising levels of inequality, rising levels of socio-economic segregation, and important changes in the social geography of cities. At the time of writing this preface, the world is still grappling with the global outbreak of COVID-19. Now the spread of the virus is slowing down in the Global North, the Global South is hit very hard. In response to the spread of the virus, unprecedented measures were taken, having a huge impact on the world economy. It is widely expected that these measures will lead to a deep economic crisis, which will hit those who are the most vulnerable hardest. Some of the chapters in this book mention the COVID-19 crisis, and it is expected that this crisis will speed up the increase in inequality, both globally and locally, leading to an accelerated growth in socio-economic segregation in cities.

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Delft, The Netherlands
Tartu, Estonia
Delft, The Netherlands
Delft, The Netherlands
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Maarten van Ham
Tiit Tammaru
Rūta Ubarevičienė
Heleen Janssen