

Residential Segregation in Five European Countries

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What we will do

- employ an innovative technology for urban residential segregation
- because current comparisons and strategies are lacking because of spatial complexity and measurement issues
- use the increased availability of geocoded individual data
- to construct individualized scalable neighbourhoods
- do international comparisons
- and give tools to fight this substantial threat to social cohesion and the welfare state.

International comparison

- the Netherlands
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Norway
- Sweden

The focus is on socio-demographic segregation

- segregation by educational level
- unemployment segregation
- poverty segregation
- ethnic segregation.

We have four goals

- analysing patterns of segregation
- analysing determinants of segregation
- analysing effects of segregation
- examining policy implications regarding the effectiveness of interventions such as area-based programmes.

Pilot study results

- We examined how the risk of poverty varies within the Stockholm area.
- We show that the May 2013 riots in Stockholm almost entirely took place in these areas of concentrated poverty.
- This suggests that this incident of urban unrest was not a reflection of ethnic conflicts but of a lack of economic resources, and possibly increasing income gaps (Malmberg, Andersson and Östh 2013).

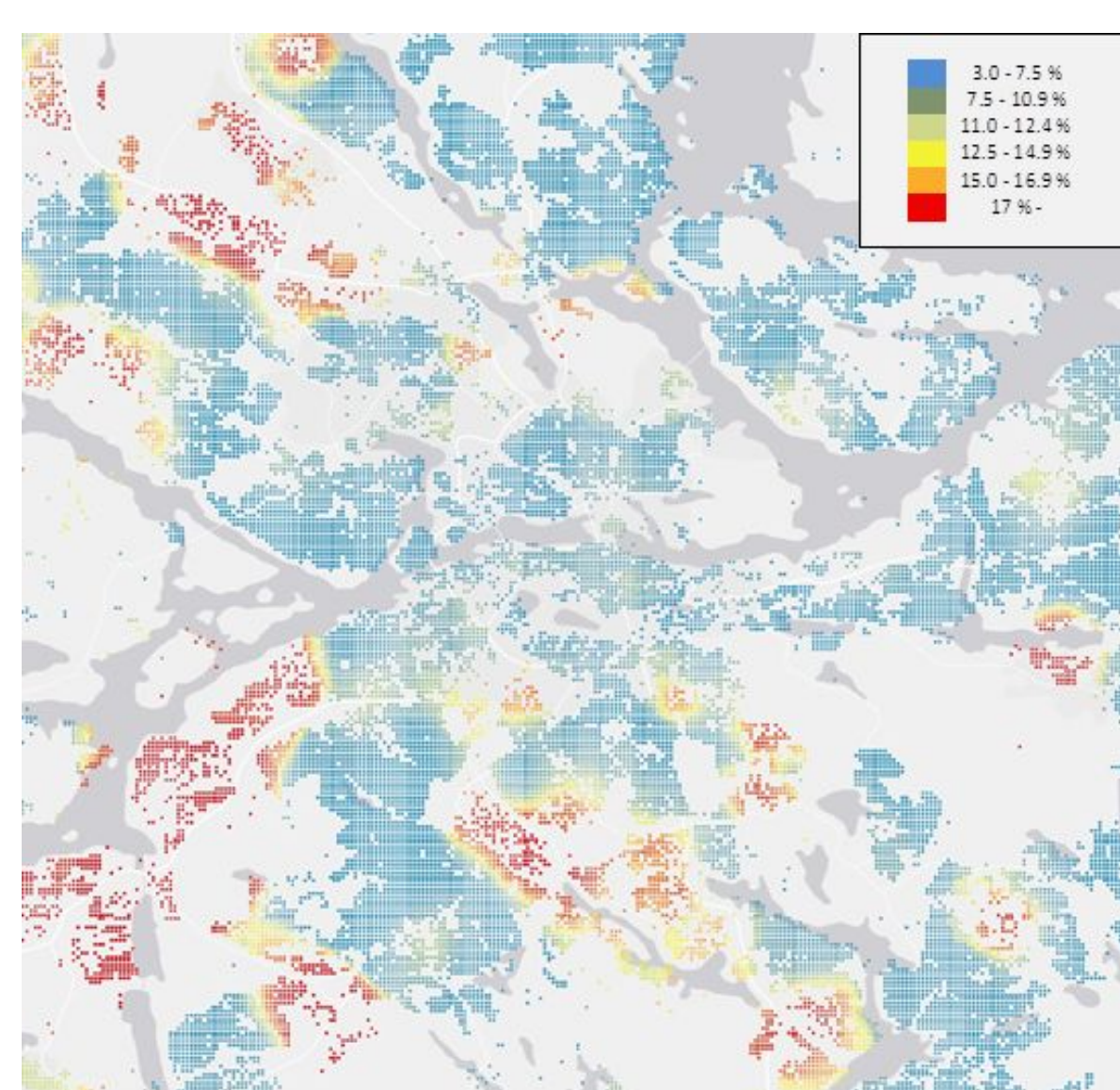


Figure: Share of the population at risk of poverty among the 6,400 nearest neighbours in the Stockholm area, 2010. © John Östh, 2013.

Our approach

Improving existing solutions of

- measures that do not deal with differences in areal subdivisions between countries;
- measures that are poorly linked to existing theories of segregation and segregation effects;

using a new innovative Geographical Information Systems (GIS)-based approach

of segregation measurement that uses the increased availability of geocoded individual data to construct

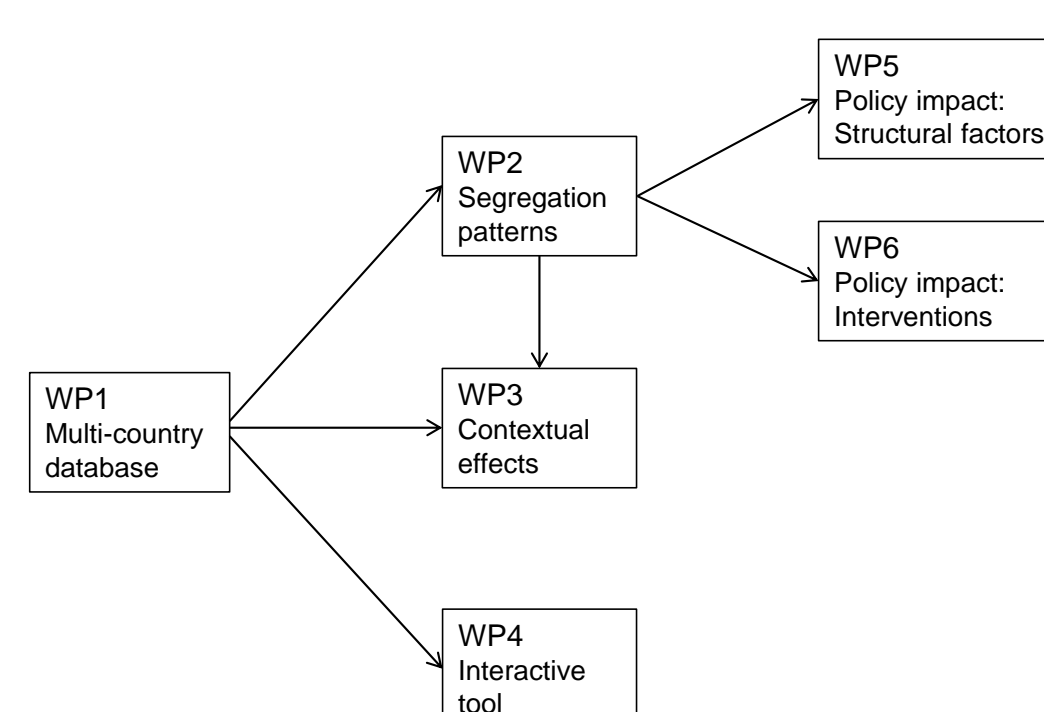
INDIVIDUALIZED SCALABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS.

This means

- That we expand a geographical buffer around the location of each individual until this buffer contains a pre-determined number of nearest neighbours.
- This sample of individuals is then used to compute aggregate statistics such as, for example, the share of individuals with higher education or at risk of poverty or the share of recent immigrants.
- By varying the number of nearest neighbours that are included in the buffer we measure the population compositions of these individualized neighbourhoods at different scale levels.

Work plan

1. Construct a multi-country geographical database that contains aggregate information on the population composition of individualized neighbourhoods constructed around all populated grid points in the participating countries.
2. To use this database to compare levels and patterns of segregation in the urban areas of the participating countries.
3. To analyse how individual level outcomes are influenced by the segregation levels of their neighbourhoods.
4. To construct a website allowing users to access data on urban-level segregation, to design maps based on those data, and to download data
5. To analyse how these segregation patterns are influenced by structural factors such as housing policy, urban planning models, welfare state policies, income inequality, and ethnic diversity.
6. To analyse how segregation patterns measured in this way are influenced by local housing market interventions.



Impacts

Scientific impacts

Mapping of the variation in geographical contexts in the urban areas of the five countries using comparable ethnic and socio-economic indicators will open up new possibilities for addressing questions of central importance for urban analysis and urban policies:

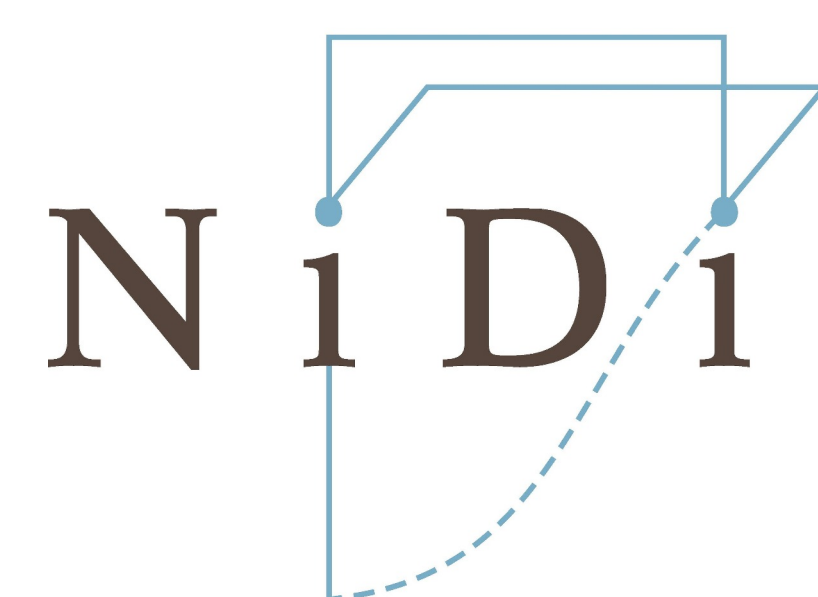
- Describe the variation in segregation patterns within and across urban areas and between countries;
- Analyze factors that contribute to segregation by empirical evaluation of different theories;
- Evaluate interventions to address problems associated with high levels of segregation;
- Comparative studies on contextual effects;

thereby transforming our current understanding of urban life in north-western Europe

Policy impacts

- To provide urban planners, policy-makers and also non-governmental urban actors (architects, building companies, housing providers) with a better understanding of how patterns of residential segregation shape urban processes and how segregation patterns can and should be influenced in order to achieve important societal goals such as lower unemployment, increasing cohesion, and improved life prospects for marginalised urban dwellers.
- To help urban actors to develop more successful strategies for urban change.

Collaborative partners



Funding by



More information on the project

Project page at Stockholm University:

<http://www.humangeo.se/english/research/research-areas/population-geography-migration-and-gis/projects/segregation-measurement-using-individualized-neighbourhoods-1.202395>

Project page at JPI Urban Europe:

<http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/ressegr/>

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