

Special Issue "Urban Inequality"

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Special Issue Editor

Guest Editor

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Special Issue Information

Dear Colleagues,

The city product of the crisis of 1973 is urbanistically extensive and socially unequal. One of the main problems of the recent process of urbanization is the increase of the polarization and the social inequalities in the inner city. About ten years ago, Michael Pacione (2005) characterized the postindustrial city by the coexistence of four main processes. One of them is the increase of the inequalities, the social and spatial segregation, the privatization of the urban space and increase of the defensible spaces. From an urbanistic point of view, the fragmentation of the urban form is a consequence of many of these processes and an increasingly palpable reality of the city of the 21st century.

The analysis of urban inequalities needs new analyzes and interpretations in recent years. The socio-urban consequences of the economic crisis and policies called post-crisis (or austerity) are transforming everyday life in cities around the world, with a special focus on countries of the Southern Europe. There are processes of impoverishment, increased vulnerability and social segregation, which is producing a new space order. The first public responses to the crisis were dominated by the impulse of neoliberal policies, which are aggravating socio-urban inequalities.

In this context, the objective of this Special Issue is to study inequalities in the city at different scales and in all territories, from informal settlements and the “urbanization of poverty” in the countries of the South to the fragmentation of the city, urban segregation or gentrification as global phenomena in the city of the 21st century.

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