
Preface

Urban segregation is a key issue in contemporary urban policy and academic debates. A range of disciplines have engaged with it, including, but not limited to, urban geography, urban studies, urban and regional planning, political science, housing studies, urban sociology, urban design, urban economics and public policy. These specialisms are all covered in this volume's chapters and hopefully help to create a truly multidisciplinary perspective on the issue of urban segregation. During my academic career, I have been involved in several multidisciplinary and international comparative research programmes in the sphere of (spatial) inequality. These experiences most certainly broadened my scope of research beyond my core areas of training within urban geography, urban and regional planning, housing and regional economics. Through my engagement with multidisciplinary approaches, I came to view them as not just enriching but also an essential condition for the study of urban segregation. At the same time, international comparative research revealed the crucial importance of confronting different contexts in understanding urban dynamics. Such physical, economic, social, cultural and institutional contexts not only differ in the way they have developed over time, but also in how they shape contemporary realities. An indisputably crucial element of difference is captured by their associated welfare regime characteristics. By way of Esping-Andersen's seminal book *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (1990) and related insights regarding housing regimes passed on to me by colleagues such as Alan Murie, the effects of welfare regime contexts came to life, for example in their capacity to stimulate or mitigate the impact on cities of globalisation processes.

In short, multidisciplinary and international comparative perspectives are essential for the study of segregation. Two decades ago this insight resulted in the publication *Urban Segregation and the Welfare State* (1998), which I edited together with Wim Ostendorf. However, since that book was published, several important changes have occurred. On the one hand, welfare regimes have been transformed in the face of economic restructuring and new power balances between states. On the other hand, researchers have continuously widened their scope in the face of changing data availability and also advancing knowledge and experience regarding urban segregation. This triggered a growing interest in re-addressing the state-of-the-art of knowledge on urban segregation.

At this opportune moment, Edward Elgar requested that I edit a volume on this subject. I did not need to think long before accepting the invitation. It was the final push for spurring a swell of interest in designing a volume on urban segregation with a broader range of disciplines and colleagues, across more domains of segregation, and in which more dimensions of segregation could be addressed. We further took on the opportunity through including a wide range of cities, countries and continents. Of course, all projects have their limits, but I believe this volume achieves the crucial multidisciplinary focus, global coverage, and wide attention for various domains and dimensions needed.

I am greatly indebted to the team of authors/colleagues who have revealed an expansive and valuable knowledge of the field under study and who were capable of adding new

knowledge to it. Collectively, they did not only engage with a wide variety of urban segregation situations in various domains in cities across the globe, but offered new insights in expanding the theory of urban segregation. Beyond this, they cooperated greatly in the schedules and demands of the publication process. Several colleagues assisted with reviewing contributions, suggesting authors who could be included, reviewing my own texts, providing language editing or delivering other stimulating contributions. In particular, I would like to mention my gratitude to Ali Madanipour, Jacobus van Rooyen, Bill Randolph, Rowland Atkinson and Ray Forrest for their additional support. Unfortunately, during the final proofreading, I received the very sad news that Ray had suddenly passed away. Through his contributions to housing and urban studies, and also to this volume, I will remember him as a great scholar, colleague and friend.

I also appreciated the smooth communication with Edward Elgar throughout, in particular with Katy Crossan, Caroline Cornish and Saffron Watts. I also would like to thank Rowan Arundel and Zoe Goldstein for helping me out with a few final texts requiring language editing. My brother Pieter Musterd has again delivered an important contribution by shooting the self-explanatory cover photo.

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