Presentation: Neighbourhood-level diversity in selected west and south European cities – is it linked with global economic change?

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Abstract

In the regional science literature, many authors expect that economic globalisation will be linked with increasing diversity of the overall urban population on the one hand, yet with a deepening of residential segregation between socio-economically stratified neighbourhoods on the other. In Europe, EU expansion accelerates the integration of cities into a continental and word-wide system of urban locations competing for firms, investment, and - last, but by no means least - people. In the view of many researchers and policy-makers European cities therefore face an increase in and acceleration of internal divergence. So far, there is a lack of empirical evidence for the proposed local urban effects of global economic change. In particular, there are only very few studies focusing on the challenge of globalisation by comparing regional and intra-city change in different countries. This paper shows the first results of a comparative analysis of neighbourhood-level diversity in selected west and south European cities, which occupy different positions in the European and global urban hierarchy.

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