

CALL FOR ARTICLES

RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences

Issue and Conference on "Spatial Foundations of Inequality"

Edited by

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and

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Rising inequality in the United States challenges a fundamental premise of our society: equal opportunity. Whereas inequality is commonly studied at the level of individuals or families, a growing research literature argues that rising inequality cannot be understood without considering space and geography as fundamental dimensions of the American stratification system. This special issue will present cutting edge scholarship on the spatial foundations of American inequality, and the relationship between spatial inequality and social, economic, and political inequality.

Although we lay out a set of possible topics and research questions below, we are flexible about the choice of topic, the unit of analysis, and the empirical approach. Our main criteria for selection will be the connection between clear theory and empirical approach, the rigor of the empirical analysis (regardless of method), and the quality of the writing and interpretation. We welcome analyses focusing on processes that operate at any spatial scale, including blockfaces, neighborhoods, school attendance zones, political districts, cities, and so forth. We are open to analyses covering multiple timeframes, including childhood, over the life course, or intergenerational analyses. Outcomes may include income, employment, wealth, education, behavior, health, academic achievement, political participation, representation or preferred policies, or others that are important for understanding American inequality.

The editors welcome abstracts related to topics such as (but not restricted to):

Sorting of populations across cities, neighborhoods, schools.

How can we better understand what leads people into different types of communities or cities?

How do residential decisions interact to form aggregate spatial patterns?

How are residential decisions linked with school decisions or employment opportunities, and with what consequences?

Trends in the concentration of affluence, poverty, or in the concentration of other social phenomena (violence, political influence or attitudes, health outcomes, etc.).

Where is residential segregation by income and wealth rising, where is it falling, and why? What about residential segregation by race and ethnicity, or by political attitudes? How has the decline of violence changed America's cities and suburbs?

Systems of migration and immigration.

How have patterns of internal migration changed for different racial and ethnic groups, or for different segments of the class structure?

How do the residential sorting patterns of immigrants affect trends in segregation?

The importance of institutions operating at different spatial scales, such as schools, daycare centers, or the police.

Does the police precinct in which a child lives affect her development?

How does the concentration or absence of quality daycare centers affect parents and their children?

To what degree are neighborhood disadvantage and school disadvantage linked in different American cities?

The consequences of exposures in individuals' residential environments, such as lead, excessive noise, violence, pollution.

How does environmental inequality affect academic achievement?

What is the causal effect of excessive noise on children's sleep patterns or other developmental outcomes?

At what life course stage (childhood ages 0-4; 5-11; adolescence; young adulthood; elderly) are exposures to disadvantaged neighborhood environments most consequential for various dimensions of well-being?

Interventions implemented at different spatial scales.

What are the effects of community-level interventions on outcomes such as crime, collective efficacy, academic achievement?

What are the barriers to implementing interventions at different spatial scales?

Employment opportunities or networks and the functioning of labor markets across space.

How are employment networks clustered in space?

Has the degree of spatial mismatch changed over time or across cities in the US?

Geographical variation in the capacity to express political views effectively, be represented in the political arena, and attain desired policy outcomes.

To what degree, and why, are neighborhoods/communities/states/regions becoming more politically homogenous?

What are the political impacts of different types of political geography, such as at-large versus district-level voting in cities, or more and less gerrymandered legislative districts?

Is there a spatial component to the fact that well-off Americans have more and better representation in legislative outcomes than poor Americans?

What are the political and policy consequences of concentrations of non-citizen immigrants, felons and their families, the poorly educated or unemployed, and other groups with high levels of formal or informal disfranchisement?

Trends in the geography of crime, incarceration, or returning offenders.

What are variations in the geographic incidence of the decline in crime and to what extent have sending communities benefited disproportionately from such?

Are there tipping points where so many in a neighborhood are going to prison that it begins to destabilize the community and the inmates' families left behind, and becomes a factor that increases crime further?

How have communities been affected by disparate spatial patterns of parolees?

Developing new indices for measuring inequality and/or opportunity across space.

What are new ways to measure spatially the degree of educational/economic opportunity, beyond simple measures of inequality at the community level?

Anticipated Timeline

Prospective contributors should submit a CV and an abstract of their study (no more than two pages in length) along with up to two pages of supporting material (e.g., tables, figures, etc.) no later than 5 PM EST on August 22, 2014, to:

<https://rsfjournal.onlineapplicationportal.com>

All submissions must be original work that has not been previously published in part or in full. Only abstracts submitted to <https://rsfjournal.onlineapplicationportal.com> will be considered. Each paper will receive a \$1,000 honorarium when the issue is published. The journal issue is

being edited by George Galster (Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Wayne State University) and Patrick Sharkey (Department of Sociology, New York University), but all questions should be directed to Suzanne Nichols, Director of Publications, at journals@rsage.org and not to the email addresses of the editors of the special issue.

Proposers of accepted abstracts will receive notification by the beginning of October 2014. A draft of selected papers will be due by January 15, 2015 and will be reviewed by the editors and Russell Sage. A conference will be held at the RSF headquarters in New York City in early spring 2015 to discuss the papers. Travel costs, food, and lodging will be covered by the foundation for one author per selected paper. The contributors will gather for a one-day workshop to present preliminary findings and receive feedback from the other contributors. Papers will be circulated before the conference. Contributors will be asked to read each paper and come to the workshop ready to provide feedback. The goal of the conference will be to further improve the papers and to sharpen broader themes that emerge from the group of papers that are relevant for academic researchers and for policymakers.

Submission of a revised draft for peer review by experts in the field the paper addresses will be due on June 1, 2015. Papers should be no longer than 35 pages, including references, tables and figures. They should be double-spaced with 1-inch margins and printed in Times New Roman font. Tables and figures are included in the page count as are notes and references, which can be set single-spaced.

Because the volumes are intended to influence scholarly, policy, and public thinking, they will be vigorously publicized by the Russell Sage Foundation. Papers will be published open access on the foundation's website as well as in several digital repositories, including JSTOR and UPCC/Project Muse.