

**International Sociological Debates  
Universitat de Barcelona (ISDUB)**

**Dimecres, 27 de maig a les 15h.  
Aula Magna de la Facultat d'Economia i Empresa**

**Prof. Ronald van Kempen**

**Inequality and Urban Diversity:  
Different Discourses or a Crucial Connection?**

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**LECTURE ABSTRACT: Inequality and Urban Diversity: Different Discourses or a Crucial Connection?**

Inequality and social polarisation have been high on the (urban) research agendas for a long time. They can be seen as crucial aspects in the debate of globalisation and global cities. Recently the attention for inequality has drastically increased, for a large part due to the publication (and translation) of Piketty's "Capital in the Twenty-First Century". At the same time, and largely separated from the literature on income inequality, we can detect an increasing attention for the diversity of cities and neighbourhoods and for the lives people live there. This increased interest is partly a consequence of growing urban diversity in itself, for a large part as a consequence of international (and partial national) migration, but is partly also due to the fact that diversity sometimes seems to come with problems, for example in the form of urban riots. In other cases, however, the (new?) diversity of urban areas is celebrated: the diverse, super-diverse or hyper-diverse cities and neighbourhoods are presented as places where people more or less happily live together. The research agendas on inequality and diversity are large and still expanding, but seem to be largely unconnected. To our opinion this is an unwanted situation. In this paper we will explore the ways in which this connection could be strengthened. To our opinion these connections are important, because ignoring the possibilities to combine research into inequality and urban diversity will lead to too general or even false conclusions and to policy failure.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

**Ronald van Kempen is a Professor of Urban Geography. His research focuses on urban spatial segregation, urban diversity, housing for low-income groups, urban governance and its effects on neighborhoods and residents, social exclusion, and minority ethnic groups. He has coordinated several large projects, e.g. the EU 5th-Framework RESTATE project (the comparison and future of 29 post-WWII**

housing estates in ten European countries). At present he is the PI of the EU-FP7 project **DIVERCITIES (Governing Urban Diversity)**. The principal aim of **DIVERCITIES** is to examine how European cities can benefit from diversity. The project's central hypothesis is that urban diversity is an asset. Van Kempen has co-edited books and special issues of international scientific journals. He has published over 200 reports and articles, most of them in international social and urban geography journals. He is experienced in administrative and managerial tasks: he has been Research Director, Vice-Dean and Dean of the Faculty of Geosciences.

#### Ten selected publications

Van Kempen, R. and Wissink, B. (2014), Between places and flows: towards a new agenda for neighbourhood research in an age of mobility. *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography*, 96 (2), 95-108.

Van Kempen, R., B. Wissink, Y. Fang & S. Li (eds.) (2012), Living in Chinese enclave cities. *Urban Geography*, 33 (2), 161-294.

Van Kempen, R. & G. Bolt (2012), Social consequences of residential segregation and mixed neighborhoods. In: D.F. Clapham, W.A.V. Clark & K. Gibb (eds.), *The SAGE Handbook of Housing Studies*, 439-460. Los Angeles: Sage.

Tammaru, T., R. van Kempen & M. Gentile (2012), Heteropolitization: social and spatial change in Central and East European Cities. In: *Cities*, 291-349 (special issue).

Bolt, G. & R. van Kempen (2010), Ethnic segregation and residential mobility: relocations of minority ethnic groups in the Netherlands. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36 (2), 333-354.

Van Kempen, R. & A. Murie (2009), The new divided city: changing patterns in European cities. *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*, 100 (4), 377-398.

Rowlands, R., S. Musterd & R. van Kempen (eds.) (2009), *Mass Housing in Europe: Multiple Faces of Development, Change and Response*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.

Van Kempen, R. (2009), Cities between economic and social developments: relationships and possible outcomes. *DISP* 45 (1), 47-57.

Madrazo, B. & R. van Kempen (2011), Explaining divided cities in China. *Geoforum* 43, 158-168.

Marcuse, P. & R. van Kempen (eds.) (2000), *Globalizing cities: A New Spatial Order?* Oxford: Blackwell.