

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

Dimecres 20 de març 2013 a les 17.00h.
Aula Magna de la Facultat d'Economia i Empresa

**(ETHNIC) RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION IN EUROPEAN CITIES:
ARE WELFARE REGIMES MAKING A DIFFERENCE?**

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Presentació de la Dra. Cristina López, membre del Grup de Recerca Consolidat Territori, Població i Ciutadania, organitzador de la sessió.

ABSTRACT

This presentation examines the relationship between welfare regimes and (ethnic) residential segregation across 16 Western European countries until the mid-1990s, including for the first time Southern Europe. It investigates the ways in which the diverse housing systems, embodied in wider welfare regimes, shape and reflect different principles of stratification. Consequently, it reveals the different ways in which the resulting mechanisms of differentiation crucially influence the scale and nature of patterns of ethnic residential segregation, particularly among low-income and vulnerable groups. Spatial and social dimensions of segregation are disentangled in each welfare/housing regime (four ideal-typical clusters - social-democratic, corporatist, liberal, and familiarist), as are their roots in the state-market relationship and entrenched distributive arrangements.

The emphasis on welfare regimes, as an ideal-typical analytical tool, has proven instrumental in building an overarching comparative framework to explore the large diversity of patterns across European cities. It shows that the redistributive arrangements embedded in the housing system and land supply are making the difference. In each welfare cluster, the combination between tenure policies (unitary/dualist systems) and modes of housing provision (promotion, production, land supply), whilst reflecting different principles of stratification, shape different and distinctive mechanisms of social and spatial differentiation, thus of segregation. This study contributes to further expansion of the current European debate on production of inequality, bearing on the renewed focus on the state-market nexus also in segregation studies. It opens further investigative lines towards planning realms, hardly regarded in segregation studies, reinforcing the importance of land in the social and spatial division of urban societies.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Sonia Arbaci is a Lecturer in Spatial Planning at the Bartlett School of Planning, University College London. Her career spans between academia and professional practices. She has a wide appreciation of planning, housing, social and urban issues, having worked as a chartered architect and city planner in the public and

private sector both in Europe and USA, and now researching and teaching in several European countries.

European comparative studies guides her research interest, with a particular attention to Southern European cities. Her work has progressed around the core theme of urban inequality and focuses on ethnic urban segregation, urban policy, housing and immigration. It ranges from a broader understanding of the European housing systems to the impact of urban policies and regeneration programmes on socio-spatial inequalities. She offers a critical look at mixing policies and anti-concentration programmes, addressing de-segregation, gentrification and re-commodification processes from a redistributive perspective.

Currently, she is undertaking a research project on "DiverCities: Neighbourhood interventions, and social and ethnic mix: the tackling of urban inequalities" funded by the Marie Curie Programme (FP7 – PEOPLE Intra-European fellowship) and hosted by the Dept. of Political and Social Sciences, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona. She collaborates in international networks and conferences, and guest speaks in seminar series, master courses and round table discussions in European institutions. For research activities and publications, see <http://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/browse/profile?upi=SLSAR47>