



Invitation

In August 2017 the prestigious, annual conference of the European Regional Science Association (www.ersa.org) will be held in the city of Groningen in the Netherlands. Prior to this conference, four public lectures will be held, directed to specific stakeholders of this conference. The speakers are leading scientists, who will be presenting easily accessible and highly (policy) relevant lectures. Every lecture will be responded to by a leading scientist working at the University of Groningen. The first lecture in the Road to ERSA 2017, will at the same time be the **opening of the conference season** and will be joined by Joost van Keulen, alderman for, among others, Economics and Innovation of the city of Groningen, and by Patrick Brouns, member of the Provincial Executives of the province of Groningen for, among others, Finance, Entrepreneurship and Innovation. This first meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6 2016 in 'Het Kasteel', Melkweg 1, Groningen (<http://www.hetkasteel.com>). Due to limited availability of sufficiently large halls in the 'Kasteel', we urgently request you to apply **before October 1 2016** at Jeannet Brondsema via the link: [register here](#).

Please make your reservation in time, because full is full

URBAN SEGREGATION

The theme of the first lecture will be 'Inequality of cities'. The rising gap between rich and poor makes that an increasing number of European cities face a spatial segregation. The rich and poor increasingly live further and further away from each other, which is detrimental to the social cohesion in cities.

15:30 Reception

16:00 Introduction to Road to ERSA by chairman Prof. Dr. Paul Elhorst, the chairman of the Local Organising Committee

16:05 A word of welcome by Prof. Dr. Jouke van Dijk, President of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA)

16:10 A word of welcome by Mr. Joost van Keulen, alderman for Economics & Innovation of the city of Groningen

16:20 Lecture '**Increased segregation in European cities due to income inequality**' by Prof. dr. Maarten van Ham. Maarten van Ham is professor of Urban Innovation and Living at the Delft University of Technology and head of the research group 'Neighbourhood Change and Housing'. He is also co-author of the recent study on 'Socio-Economic Segregation in European Capital Cities' (www.segregationeurope.eu). **A summary of this lecture is attached below.**

17:00 Corresponding lecture by Dr. Anet Weterings. Anet Weterings is researcher at the department of Urbanisation and Transport of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL). She co-authored the recent Dutch publication 'The divided



Triumph' (De Verdeelde Triomf) in which the PBL explores urban economic inequality and policy options.

17:30 Discussion and conclusions

17:40 Drinks

Summary of lecture of Maarten van Ham

The spatial segregation of rich and poor can become a breeding ground for ignorance and social unrest. The internationally comparative study, 'Socio-Economic Segregation', that recently appeared in *European Capital Cities* shows that, with some delay, rising social economic inequality in Europe has led to the phenomenon that different income groups start to live further and further away from each other. Increased inequality due to globalization, restructuring of economies and labour markets, neoliberal politics and (in some cities) falling investments in rental homes are direct causes for the increase in segregation. Even though this study was aimed at income segregation, it is clear that ethnicity often overlaps income segregation. Income segregation is hereditary from parent to child. Research from the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States shows that children growing up in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, will – once they have grown up – themselves also be living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. This effect is strongest for non-Western ethnic minorities. Many policy measures to counteract segregation particularly focus on the mixing of various neighbourhoods. Large-scale demolition and (re)building of houses may improve disadvantaged neighbourhoods, but that does not improve the arrears of the original inhabitants. In order to fight inequality investment in education and social mobility is needed. The research that was mentioned earlier on the hereditary of living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods also shows that education is an important way to get ahead.

Note for press

More information about public lectures within the framework of the Road to ERSA 2017 or about the conference itself, please contact

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The 57th conference of the European Regional Science Organisation (ERSA) takes place in the city of Groningen from August 28 till September 1 2017. www.ersa.org