Urban Inequality: Global Perspectives

Organizers:
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1. Introduction
Inequality is one of the key challenges globally, and has been intensified since the recent global financial crisis. Equity has become a top sustainable development goal of the UN's post-2015 development agenda. However, there is relatively limited scholarship that explores the urban context of inequality, especially outside the 'northern' world. We need more sophisticated studies to examine equity and sustainability issues of urbanization globally and comparatively, and understand the myriad ways in which urbanization and inequality are interrelated.

2. Objectives and Contributions
This session will provide comparative perspectives on urban inequality trends in different world regions. It will examine patterns, structures, and dynamics of socio-economic and spatial inequalities in urban context. The premise is that inequality in cities has critical spatial dimensions: inequality is at once conditioned by and expressed in spatial context. This session will feature: 1) comparative perspectives, 2) global coverage, 3) a focus on inequality trends in the context of urban space.

The session will contribute to broadening the understanding of the spatial and temporal aspects of urbanization - their patterns, processes and intertwinement to equitable and sustainable development. We invite theoretically guided, quantitatively oriented, international appealing, empirical research articles. We will select a set of papers with varying (world) regional foci.

3. Research Content and Questions
This session will examine spatial and temporal dimensions of socio-economic inequality, analyze the significance of urban context for inequality, and provide insights for urban planners and administrators to balance efficiency, equity and environment. We welcome articles that address questions including the following:

- What is the nature of inequality trends in the city/cities in question? What is the temporal/spatial dynamics?
- What is the explanation for these inequality trends and, specifically, how do they relate to (a) urbanization trends, (b) the urban political economy of these cities, and (c) local/national urban policies?
- How is urban inequality manifest in residential segregation, spatial mismatch, housing inequality, digital divide, environmental injustice, and in general spatial inequality?
- What are the theoretical and policy implications of the research?