



# What are the Changes in Occupational Structures and Residential Segregation between Occupational Groups? A Global Perspective

**Speaker:** **Professor Tiit Tammaru**  
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**Chair:** **Dr Lin Weiqiang**  
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**Date/Time:** Friday, 19 August 2022, 3.30pm  
**Place:** AS2-02-03, Earth Lab

## Abstract

This talk is inspired by the social polarization thesis proposed by Saskia Sassen in her seminal book "The Global City" (1991). The central question to be addressed during the presentation is as follows: What are the changes of residential segregation between occupational groups in major cities around the world? The talk is based on a comparative study of selected 24 major cities from different continents. I will first document changes in the occupational profiles in the case study cities. The findings show that professionalization rather than polarization is the main change in urban labour markets. However, the income gap between occupational groups is widening. Levels of residential segregation between occupational groups, in turn, respond to levels of income inequality with about 10-year time lag. Changes in residential geography of occupational groups may be bigger than segregation indices reveal; high-income workers are moving to city centres or to attractive coastal areas and gated communities, while poverty is suburbanising. Levels of inequality and segregation are higher in cities in lower income countries, but the growth in inequality and segregation is faster in cities in high-income countries. This is causing convergence of segregation trends in cities around the world. These findings will be discussed from three perspectives. First, I will consider the role of residential segregation in producing and reproducing urban spatial inequalities within a vicious circles of segregation framework. Second, I will touch upon the emerging conflict between sustainable mobility and urban equity aims in cities from the perspective of high levels of residential segregation. Third, I will ask what could be the effects of the spread of telecommuting on the residential sorting of occupational groups.

## About the Speaker



Tiit Tammaru is Professor of Urban and Population Geography and Head of the Chair of Human Geography at the Department of Geography, University of Tartu. In 2018 he was a Visiting Professor at Delft University of Technology. Currently, he is holding a three-year research professorship at the Estonian Academy of Sciences. His research is focussed on comparative studies of socio-economic segregation in Europe and beyond and he is interested in the paradigmatic shift in segregation studies from residential neighborhood approach to activity space-based approach. His recent open access works include an edited book "Urban Socio-Economic Segregation and Income Inequality: A Global Perspective" and journal special issue "Vicious Circle of Segregation: Understanding the Connectedness of Spatial Inequality across Generations and Life Domains".

Book: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-64569-4> .

Special issue: <https://www.cogitatiopress.com/socialinclusion/issue/view/229> .

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