

structures, but it is not inaccessible without this background knowledge. The case is made, at the end of the book, that the field of spatial navigation is a growing one and should clearly be studied in its own right; I believe that this book's existence strongly makes that case.

References

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Socio-spatial inequalities in contemporary cities by *Alfredo Mela* and *Alessia Toldo*, Springer, Cham, Switzerland, 2019, 83 pp. ISBN 978–3–030–17256–5.

Socio-spatial inequalities in contemporary cities gives an overview of concepts related to social sustainability in an urban context, a topic of great concern today. The overview covers not only contemporary cities, as the title suggests, but includes examples from a longer period. The aim of the *Springer Briefs in Geography* series is to present a condensed overview of a certain topic. Alfredo Mela and Alessia Tolo have definitely succeeded and the book includes texts from a wide selection of researchers, discussing the urban inequalities of cities. Yet it is a selection and, although anything else would be impossible, the delicate selection of contributions is of huge importance to avoid knowledge gaps. For instance, the book discusses many relevant aspects of inequalities, but with a strong focus upon *residential* segregation while non-residential segregation is not elaborated to the same extent even though it is mentioned in a few passages. It would be more valuable with a more balanced focus since research on residential segregation is much more developed, compared to studies of segregation in public space, at workplaces or in schools. The few examples that are found in this

book are valuable and important since they widen the perspective to study inequalities and segregation beyond residential segregation.

In chapters 2 and 4, the authors present 'classical' icons such as Durkheim, Simmel, Wirth, Weber and Marx, along with more contemporary scholars. Furthermore, the authors systematically introduce core concepts, especially in Chapter 2, for example social exclusion, inequalities, social integration, social inclusion, difference, and intersectionality. Together, this provides a good general background to studies and discussions related to socio-spatial inequalities.

In Chapter 3, segregation and exclusion are discussed in relation to, for example, changing norms and attitudes, globalization and political development. The book refers to research by Giddens, Castells, Young, Butler, Zukin, Smith, Sassen, and De Verteuil among others. Specific themes include social class, gender differences, queer spaces, ethnic minorities, Roma people, and homeless people. The selected theories and approaches presented here introduce the reader to these questions and provide a guide where to look for more if one wants deeper knowledge.

It is emphasized throughout the book that there are large variations in how segregation plays out in different cities, regions, or countries, partly as a result of history or socio-cultural contexts and, thus, how difficult it is to transfer knowledge and insights about segregation and inequalities from one context to another. One needs to keep in mind, and weigh in many different aspects, such as history, political system, socio-cultural aspects, traditions and changes in population composition over time.

The book is especially useful for this community when the prerequisites and conditions created by urban form, that is, spatial structures and urban morphology, are highlighted, which are in general rarely included in texts about inequalities. It is important to see the spatial dimension in relation to the social, and perhaps chapter 3 describes this most explicitly. It is important to keep in mind that space not only influences the reproduction of certain phenomena or social processes, but may also influence the constitution of different kinds of groups and/or urban practices that turn them into spatial phenomena. In research, we may study the social and the spatial component separately but, at some point, it is important to bring them together again if we want to deepen our understanding.

Also, in relation to the urban environment, the authors highlight the difficulty of knowing when

it is possible to use specific theories and concepts developed for one context in another. For example, some problems related to US suburbs are difficult to relate to European suburbs, because not only are the history and political system different, but the morphological characteristics of these neighbourhoods and their relation with the core city differ considerably.

This recognition of the complexity of the topic is worthy of note and is important. Apart from the contextual sensitivity, the authors highlight three other complexities to take into consideration. First, individuals and groups most often have multiple identities, which has an impact on how patterns of inclusion and exclusion may play out in cities. Secondly, some effects have a structural component while other effects emerge in a group or even on an individual level; and thirdly, these effects are intertwined. People may belong to one or many different identities or 'categories', for example women, disabled, homeless or immigrants. It is important to acknowledge such multiple identities in order to get a nuanced understanding of various social processes in urban environments.

Having said this, it would have been helpful to get some more guidance on the generalizability of different theories and ideas brought up in the book. For instance, to what extent and when are the older theories relevant for contemporary cities and are they useful for cities of different sizes? Although the condensed format of the book series limits the possibility of expanding on too many questions, this addition would have responded more strongly to the title of the book.

Overall, the topic and the scope of this book are highly relevant, and the book will most likely be a very helpful introduction for those who are interested in getting an overview of social inequalities in an urban context. The theories presented here are interlinked in different ways and, depending on the reader's interest, the book presents a palette of relevant texts and concepts and points out where to go for further studies and deeper knowledge. The chapters deal systematically with several current core concepts. It is emphasized that urban exclusion has a multiplicity of causes, which is important to remember in these days when many actors look for easy explanations and, not least, easy solutions of problems that are both comprehensive and complex. A conclusion from this book is that there is no 'silver bullet' or 'quick fix' for achieving more just cities. The fact that there may be very different conditions depending on the city, including geographical and political, indicates that what

may be an efficient solution in one city or in one political situation may not be applicable or useful in another context.

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London Bridge and its houses, c. 1209–1761
by *Dorian Gerhold*, London Topographical Society, London, UK, 2019, 168pp. ISBN 978 0 902087 69 9.

It may seem strange in this journal to review a historical study of a single structure. However, a structure of the scale of the original London Bridge helps shape the structure and functioning of the city on both sides of the river; the minutely-documented history reveals much about both building type (for this bridge was built up with houses and other building types) and the agents and agencies responsible for its construction, maintenance and change over time; and large-scale infrastructure is under-represented in morphological research. These are all good reasons for urban morphologists to seek out this volume.¹

This landscape-format 300 × 240 mm book is both carefully researched and well produced: the format obviously chosen to best illustrate this linear structure. The illustrations are exceptional and include high-quality reproductions, many in colour, of original views and plans, modern reconstructions, diagrams of tenancies, and so on.

This was the longest inhabited bridge in Europe, known in childrens' rhyme ('London Bridge is falling down . . .') and fable (this was *not* the bridge purchased, dismantled and shipped to Arizona in 1967). Timber used in this bridge was felled in 1187–8 and a datestone of 1192 was found in the eighteenth century. Houses and other structures were constructed on the bridge probably from an early date, and by the time of the first surviving views of the bridge, in the sixteenth century, there were three major buildings and four groups of houses. The bridge withstood several collapses and fires; the houses were removed in 1757–61 and the bridge was demolished in 1831.

Although nothing (except for river-floor archaeology and some architectural salvage) remains of the structure, this book's novel research is based