

Residential Segregation

Sociology

How segregation is produced and measured: choice or constraint.

Preference is one mechanism among several, and rarely the largest.

Mechanisms

Discrimination in lettings and lending.

Historic zoning and redlining decisions.

Price sorting by income alone.

Steering by agents and informal networks.

Preference for co-ethnic neighbours.

Schelling: small preferences tip whole areas.

Measures

Dissimilarity: share who must move to even out.

Isolation: exposure to one's own group.

Entropy across several groups at once.

All measures depend on the unit chosen.

Educational reference. Segregation indices change substantially with tract size, so compare only like-for-like measures.