The UK has one of the highest levels of spatial inequality in Europe. Yet, area-based policies have fallen down the political agenda and the UK has never had a comprehensive regional policy to address spatial inequalities. But does inequality across space matter? Should we instead focus on addressing poverty and inequality at the individual or household level?

In the first part of this one day event, we will examine how inequality in housing wealth reinforces intergenerational inequality, and how discrimination in the housing market makes it more difficult for ethnic minorities to access neighbourhoods with the best economic opportunities. In the second part, we will take a broader view and examine how multiple processes – economic, social and political – intersect to affect the level and nature of spatial inequalities within UK and non-UK contexts. We will conclude with an open discussion with a view to identifying potential interactions between economic, social and political processes that might enable the development of new research and policy agendas aimed at addressing spatial inequality.

By bringing together policy makers, stakeholders and leading researchers from a variety of academic disciplines and policy perspectives we hope to build links and new collaborations that will inform and invigorate a new agenda for area-based policy grounded in the latest understanding of the multi-dimensional drivers of spatial inequality and its consequences.

Aim of the Symposium
This symposium will consider not only the latest research on whether and how spatial inequalities matter, but also the implications for policy innovation. Our goal is to bring together UK-based policy makers with an international team of academic experts from the USA and the UK to share the very latest research evidence and thinking around policy and practice. The goal is to create a forum for discussion and to inspire innovative ways of addressing spatial inequalities in Western democracies in the twenty first century.

Structure of the Day
Session I: Housing Market Drivers of Inequality

We will start the day looking at specific processes of spatial inequality arising from the housing market in the context of the USA and Norway.

- **George Galster** (Wayne State University) will explore the transmission of socio-economic inequality across generations through transmission of housing wealth. He will present his latest research based on Norwegian registry data, investigating how the tenure, size and location of housing occupied by grandparents relates to the tenure and value of housing occupied by their grandchildren. His results demonstrate the crucial role played by housing wealth in perpetuating social inequalities across several generations.
• **Chris Timmins** (Duke University) will discuss the impact of housing discrimination on access to the most desirable neighbourhoods. While there is an established literature based on paired-tester experiments that demonstrates that estate agents steer minority buyers away from particular neighbourhoods, we do not know the extent to which discriminatory constraints are linked to the characteristics of neighbourhoods that confer disadvantage. Professor Timmins will present his latest research which finds that that people from ethnic minorities are steered towards neighbourhoods with less economic opportunity and greater exposures to crime and pollution. The effect could potentially contribute to the income mobility gap and the higher exposure of African American mothers to toxic pollutants.

**Session II: Multi-dimensional Aspects of Spatial Inequality**

In the second session, the discussion will broaden to consider how multiple processes, economic, social and political, intersect to affect the level and nature of spatial inequalities within UK and non-UK contexts:

• **Professor Pat Sharkey** (New York University) will look at the growing link between space and inequality in the United States. He will show how a number of interrelated shifts have meant that space is becoming more important to understanding the life chances of US residents.

• **Dr David Walsh** (Glasgow Centre for Population Health) will focus on a case study of Glasgow to show how a variety of factors, including policy failure, economic inequality and deindustrialisation, have combined to create the “Glasgow effect” – disproportionately high levels of morbidity and mortality in Scotland’s largest city.

• **Professor Katherine O’Regan** (New York University) will discuss how co-residing with (or residing near) parents for young adults affects labour market adjustments, and explain how (due to educational and ethnic circumstances) this could be an important way in which inequality his increased.

**Session III: Brainstorming and discussion**

The final session will provide an opportunity for open discussion on the key drivers of spatial inequality (including those discussed within this symposium and others identified in the literature), and examples of policy success and failure. **Professor Gwilym Pryce** (University of Sheffield) and **Professor Katherine O’Regan** (New York University) will introduce the session with reflections on additional socio-economic and policy processes that we need to consider. The goal of the discussion that follows will be to identify potential interactions between economic, social and political processes that might enable the development of new research and policy agendas aimed at addressing spatial inequality.
Symposium Schedule: Dynamics of Spatial Inequality

(Venue: The Chimney House, Sheffield http://thechimneyhouse.com/)

Session I: Housing Market Drivers of Inequality

9.50am  **Gwilym Pryce** (10 mins) – Understanding Inequalities project

10.00am -- (1)  **George Galster** (30mins + 10 mins from Discussant + 10 mins open discussion) – “Reproduction of Social Inequality through Housing: A Three-Generational Study from Norway”

10.50am  **Comfort break** 5min (no coffee)

11.00am -- (2)  **Chris Timmins** (30mins + 10 mins from Discussant + 10 mins open discussion) – “Sorting or Steering: Experimental Evidence on the Economic Effects of Housing Discrimination”

11.50am  **Coffee Break** (15 mins)

Session II: Multi-dimensional Aspects of Spatial Inequality

11.05am -- (3)  **Pat Sharkey** (30mins + 10 mins from Discussant + 10 mins open discussion) – “The Growing Link Between Space and Inequality in the US”

12.55pm  **Lunch** (45mins)

1.40pm -- (4)  **David Walsh** (30mins + 10 mins from Discussant + 10 mins open discussion) – “Spatial inequalities – a case study: understanding excess mortality in Glasgow and Scotland”

2.30pm  **Comfort break** 5min (no coffee)

2.35pm -- (5)  **Katherine O’ Regan** (30mins + 10 mins from Discussant + 10 mins open discussion) – “Geographic and economic mobility? Labour market conditions and the living arrangements of young adults”

3.25pm  **Coffee Break** (15 mins)

Session III: Tackling Spatial Inequality in the C21st

3.40pm -- (6)  **Gwilym Pryce & Katherine O’Regan**: Introduction to Brainstorming session

- 5-10 mins – **Gwilym Pryce**: Reflections on additional socio-economic processes: decentralisation of poverty, neighbourhood effects, segregation, and spatial opportunity structures.
- 5-10 mins – **Katherine O’Regan**: Reflections on wider policy processes and realities, lessons from HUD policy interventions.
• 15 mins – **Participants and discussants** invited to add brief reflections for 2-5 mins on key processes/issues/ideas/ reflections that have arisen for them during the day, particularly with regard to policy solutions.
• 35 mins – unstructured discussion.

4.45pm
Finish

**Biographies of Confirmed Speakers:**

**George Galster** is Clarence Hilberry Emeritus Professor of Urban Affairs & Distinguished Professor at Wayne State University. He has held positions at the Universities of: Harvard, California-Berkeley, North Carolina, Amsterdam, Delft, Glasgow, Mannheim, Western Sydney and The College of Wooster. He served as Director of Housing Research at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC before coming to Wayne State University in 1996. Dr Galster has been a consultant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U. S. Department of Justice, numerous municipalities, community organizations, civil rights groups, and organizations like the National Association of Realtors, American Bankers Association, and Fannie Mae. He has served on the Consumer Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve’s Board of Governors, National Academy of Science review committees, and numerous other leadership positions in community service. Public officials in Australia, Canada, China, France, Scotland, and the U.S. have sought his housing and urban policy consultations. He is currently a co-investigator on the Economic and Social Research Council Understanding Inequalities research project researching the impact of neighbourhood poverty on life outcomes in the UK.

**Katherine O’Regan** is Professor of Public Policy and Planning at New York University, Wagner, and Faculty Director of the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy. She was Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the last three years of the Obama administration. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley and spent ten years teaching at the Yale School of Management prior to joining the Wagner faculty. Her primary research interests are at the intersection of poverty and space --the conditions and fortunes of poor neighbourhoods and those who live in them. Her research includes work on a variety of affordable housing topics, from the effect of the Low Income Tax Credit on economic and racial segregation, the impact of housing voucher households on neighbourhood crime rates, and the causes of neighbourhood transitions. Among others, she has served on the board of the Reinvestment Fund, the advisory board for NYU’s McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, and the editorial board for the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management.

**Gwilym Pryce** is Professor of Urban Economics and Social Statistics at the University of Sheffield. He is Co-Director of the ESRC Understanding Inequalities project, Director of the Advanced Quantitative Methods pathway of the White Rose DTC and is the Sheffield Director of the Centre for Doctoral Training in New Forms of Data which spans social science, engineering, health, law and computer science. He was formerly: (i) Founding Director of the Glasgow Q-Step Centre, (ii) Associate Director of the £10m Urban Big Data Centre, (iii) Co-Director of the ESRC AQMeN Centre; (iv) Founding Director of the Sheffield Methods Institute. His research spans a number of research areas including the socio-economic impacts of climate change, urban segregation and inequality, and housing supply. He has been a member of a number of government advisory panels, including the Economic Advisory Panel for the UK Government Department of the Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs, the Communities and Local Government Expert Panel on Housing Markets and Planning. He has also been an academic consultant to HM Treasury and the Financial Services Authority. His current research interests are primarily in social segregation and the impact of neighbourhoods on life outcomes.
Patrick Sharkey is Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at New York University. He is Scientific Director at Crime Lab New York, and is affiliated with NYU’s Robert F. Wagner School for Public Service. He holds a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy from Harvard University and was postdoctoral scholar at the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program, Columbia University. He is the author of Uneasy Peace: The Great Crime Decline, The Renewal of City Life, and the Next War on Violence, focusing on how the decline of violent crime has affected urban life and urban inequality in America. His first book, Stuck in Place: Urban Neighbourhoods and the End of Progress Toward Racial Equality, received the Mirra Komarovsky Award for the best book of the year from the Eastern Sociological Society, the Otis Dudley Duncan Award from the American Sociological Association, and The American Publishers Award for Professional and Scholarly Excellence in Sociology and Social Work. He has been consulting editor on the American Journal of Sociology and Sociological Science, and currently serves on the editorial boards of City and Community, Sociology Compass, and Cityscape.

Christopher Timmins is Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at Duke University, with a secondary appointment in Duke’s Nicholas School of the Environment. He holds a PhD in Economics from Stanford University and was an Assistant Professor in the Yale Department of Economics before joining the faculty at Duke in 2004. He works on developing new methods for non-market valuation of local public goods and amenities, with a particular focus on hedonic techniques and models of residential sorting. His recent research has focused on measuring the costs associated with exposure to poor air quality, the benefits associated with remediating brownfields and toxic waste under the Superfund program, the valuation of non-marginal changes in disamenities, and the causes and consequences of “environmental injustice”. He is also a research associate in the Environmental and Energy Economics group at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and has served on the editorial board of the American Economic Review, and as a co-editor of the Journal of Environmental Economics and Management. He now serves as an editor of the Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists.

David Walsh is a Public Health Programme Manager at the Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) in Glasgow, Scotland, where he has been in post since December 2006. He is also an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Glasgow. Within GCPH, he is responsible for leading a number of different research programmes. This has included a large body of work aimed at understanding Scotland’s (and Glasgow’s) high levels of ‘excess’ mortality, studies of deindustrialisation and health across European regions, and a range of other topics relevant to health inequalities and their determinants in Scotland and the UK. Recently the latter has included topics as diverse as adverse as ethnicity and health, earnings inequalities, and adverse early years environments. David has over 20 years’ experience of health and public health research. Prior to GCPH, David worked at the Public Health Institute of Scotland and NHS Health Scotland (2001-2006), ISD Scotland (the statistical arm of the NHS in Scotland) (1994-2001) as well as undertaking various research projects within NHS Greater Glasgow (1999-2000), NHS Argyll & Clyde (1996-98) and NHS Grampian (1993-1994).