Understanding salient inequality in London

LSE Research Online URL for this paper: http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/100615/
Version: Published Version

Conference or Workshop Item:

Reuse
["licenses_typename_unspecified" not defined]
UNDERSTANDING SALIENT INEQUALITY IN LONDON

Joel Suss
Dept Psychological & Behavioural Science, International Inequalities Institute & Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion

Research questions
1. What does economic inequality look like?
2. Which parts of London are characterised by salient inequality?
3. What are the consequences of salient inequality?

Motivation
• Existing analysis of economic inequality lacks:
  1. Granularity; focus on country- or regional-level (when local contexts matter)
  2. Diversity; focus on income inequality (which is typically unobservable)
• Existing research suggests visual, salient manifestations of economic inequality are important drivers of behaviour and emotion (Decelles and Norton, 2016; Sands, 2017)
• This project examines granular, observable manifestations of economic inequality and their consequences in London

What does economic inequality look like?
• Pilot study: 195 participants recruited online and asked to categorise various images
• Most people agreed that two types of visual contrasts were salient:
  1. Between people
  2. Between places

Which parts of London are characterised by salient inequality between 1) people and 2) places?
Utilising data which gets at salient inequality in local areas through the use of measures which capture the:
  1. Prevalence of rough sleepers
  2. Inequality of housing values
Maps of salient inequality are constructed.

What are the consequences of salient inequality?
• Experiment conducted (n = 805) to assess the impact of inequality on individual behaviour and attitudes
• Two conditions, using photoshop:
  - Measure emotional response using Discrete Emotions Questionnaire (Harmon-Jones et al., 2016)
  - Find significant and substantive negative response to observed inequality (1 = “extremely”, 7 = “not at all”)

Areas of further research:
• Combining features into a Salient Inequality Index
• Empirical analysis of the relationship between local, salient inequality and outcomes:
  1. Neighbourhood-level: e.g. crime rates
  2. Individual-level: e.g. subjective wellbeing

Please get in touch! J.suss@lse.ac.uk