How Can We Measure Social Segregation Outside of Residential Areas?

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Ethnic segregation as spatial separation of some population groups from others is one of the most important population processes in urban areas. Segregation of minorities is usually deemed to be negative because the isolation is associated with problems in education, employment, poverty, safety, and health care. A traditional analysis of segregation on the basis of a study of activity places (residence, place of work, leisure) may not show the complete picture of the population processes because the activities may take place across many different places or activities. Thus, researchers have increasingly highlighted the need to study segregation in the whole extent of the places of activity of people and in the whole extent of the 24-hour activity cycle.

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