

Editorial

Statistics on social exclusion change along with the changing discourses of our times. The driving agents in this process of change include government ministers (e.g. Blair, Brown), civil society activists and lobbyists (e.g. the Child Poverty Action Group), and local / regional / national experts. The papers in this issue explain some aspects of the social inclusion debate.

The difficulties of measuring homeless people's victimisation are discussed in the first paper by Jessie Scurfield, Phil Rees and Paul Norman. They note that homeless people are more often subject to street violence but that it is difficult to record and count. They discuss the kinds of violence that took place in a small qualitative pilot survey in Leeds city centre and outskirts.

Issues of gendered social exclusion are taken up in the second paper by Wendy Olsen, Kingsley Purdam and Reza Afkhami. Gender is defined and social exclusion by gender is operationalised. A range of specific indicators that can be used to measure social inclusion of women are listed. Recent statistical sources are listed and described.

The third paper, by Ludi Simpson and Nissa Finney, uses relevant statistics to challenge the assumption of self-segregation by ethnic minorities. They examine the prevalence of same-ethnicity friendship groups and school segregation, suggesting that part of the latter may be due to segregation by income rather than by parental choice.

The fourth paper by Laura Vaughan and Ilaria Geddes maps poverty indicators for specific localities in London, adapting methods used by Booth a hundred years ago. They use space syntax to calculate measures of spatial integration, and conclude that urban designers can shape urban form in ways that disadvantage the poor less.

We end with a review by Robert Moore of *The Spirit Level* and some *Announcements and Reports*.

We are very grateful to the contributors and the reviewer for producing such a fine special issue. We know the articles may generate some debate, so please feel free to send in a response.

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