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Toronto Presentation
Social Planning Toronto
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Governing Urban Diversity
Creating social cohesion, social mobility and
economic performance in today's
hyperdiversified cities

Project Leader: Ronald van Kempen University of Utrecht

Scientific coordination: Ronald van Kempen, Tuna
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Outline

- Introducing DIVERCITIES project
- Introducing the idea of the Policy Platform
- Future collaboration

DIVERCITIES Research Program

- EU 7th Framework Program
- 1 March 2013 – 28 February 2017
- 14 partners, 40-50 researchers
- Utrecht University as principal
- Funding: € 6.5 million
- In 13 European cities and Toronto
- www.urbandivercities.eu

Research methods

- Exactly the same research repeating in 14 cities
- Qualitative research methods
 - *Critical discourse analysis*
 - *Interviews with government, private sector and NGOs*
 - *Interviews with residents*
 - *Interviews with entrepreneurs*
- *Participative policy platforms and advisory board*

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DIVERCITIES: aim

- How can Europe *profit* from urban diversity?
- How can diversity *affect* social cohesion, social mobility and economic performance?
- How can policies and arrangements based on diversity (or with attention for diversity) *succeed*?



DIVERCITIES

- Specific focus on **bottom-up, participatory and innovative policy arrangements**
- Looking for **good examples, success factors, failure factors, opportunities and challenges**



DIVERCITIES: the cities



Urban diversity

Socio-economic, ethnic and cultural groups
living together within a specific area (city,
neighbourhood, etc)



Perception of diversity: Ethnic and immigration based



New challenges for policy makers

- Citizen and community identities are more **fluid, relational, and global** in nature than just **territorially-based** or racial identities;
- Policy interventions that cling to **collective understandings of citizenship** are doomed to fail;
- Policy-makers are faced with new challenges over how to govern, manage, and plan cities that are becoming **increasingly hyper-diverse**.



New approaches: Super-diversity

*"... the dynamic interplay of variables among an increased number of **new, small and scattered, multiple-origin, transnationally connected, socio-economically differentiated and legally stratified immigrants who have arrived over the last decade**".*

Vertovec (2007, p. 1024)



New approaches: Hyper-diversity

- A strong diversity of the population, not only in socio-economic, ethnic and cultural terms, but also with respect to **lifestyles, attitudes and activities**;
- **Dynamic and changing positions** in society, **layers of identities**;
- The basic characteristics based on **race or ethnicity do not explain everything**.



What is different?

- Hyper-diversity claims that **forms of representation** along the lines used by planners and others are not just **incorrect but flawed** representations;
- A more positive agenda comes through better forms of description and **governance arrangements that move away from such categorisations**;
- To equally meet needs of everyone the emphasis should be given to the '**need**' not to the **type of person** that receives it.
- For measuring the '**real need**' hyper-diversity offers a better framework



However...

- Defined a **commodified** and **marketable asset**;
- Converted into a **management problem** to be solved by **technical** interventions;
- Synonymous with the term **equality of opportunity**;
- **Governed through consensual delegation** of authority - community groups/private organisations;
- Tackled through the **re-organisation of financial** support by targeting/mainstreaming;
- **Anaesthetises** more conflictual terms such as '**racism**', '**stigmatization**', labour market '**discrimination**', and '**segregation**'
- New politics of progressive time – problems expected to melt away as the city becomes **more diverse**.



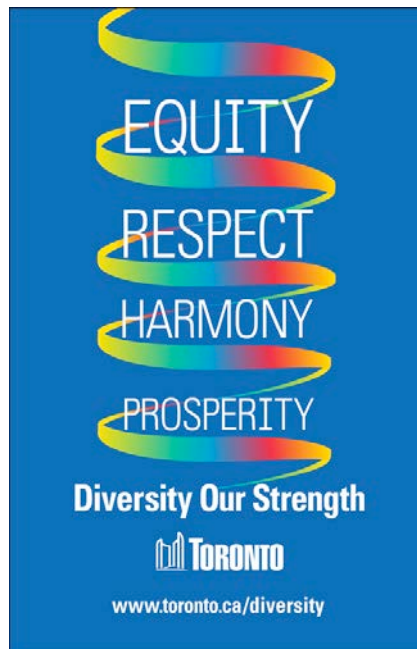
Narratives and realities

➤ In many European cities:

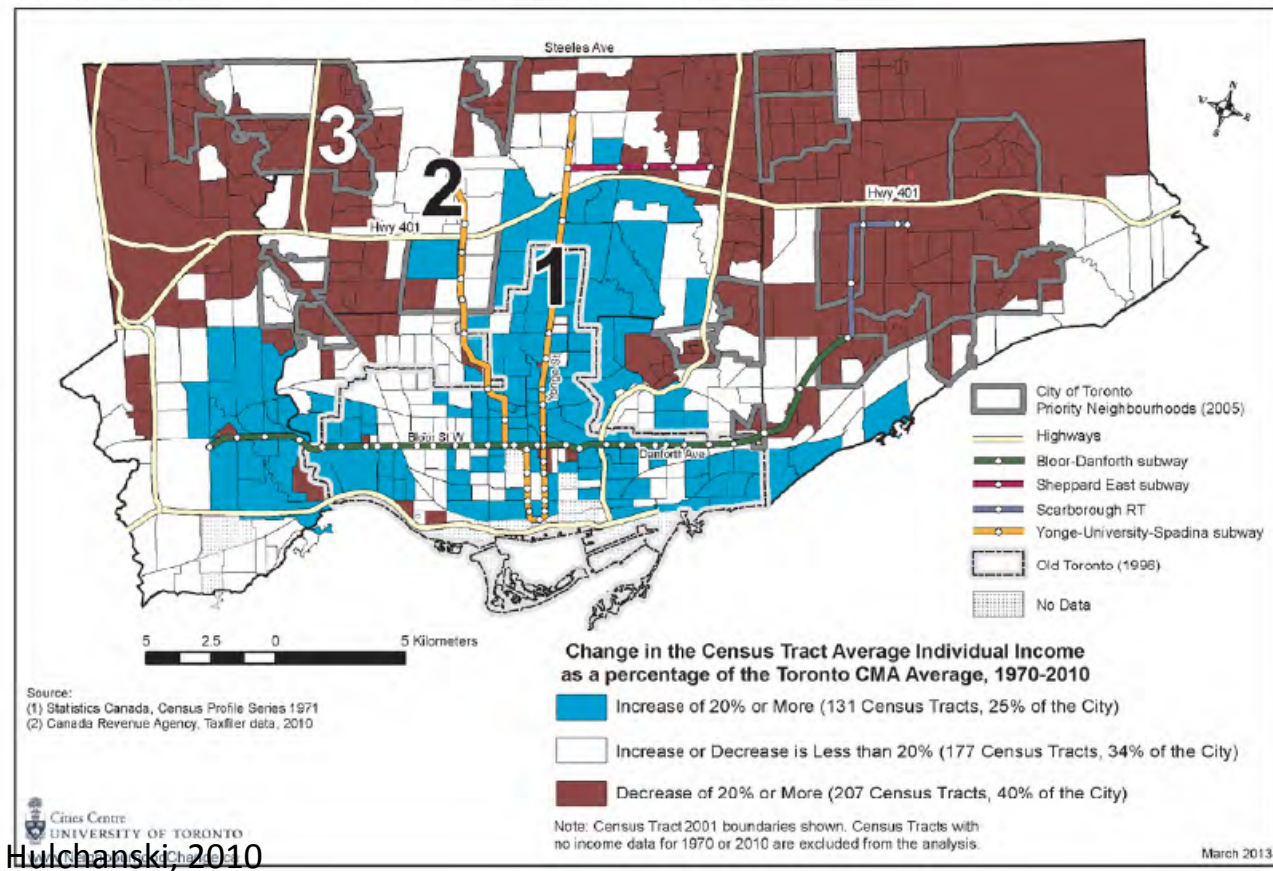
- Widespread increase in the **disparities between different groups, polarization, and segregation;**
- Reductions in public **funding** programs;
- **Greater private sector** involvement in **the provision of community services;**
- City and neighborhood level **responsibilization** programmes that abandon citizens;
- Wider shift in EU towards **neo-assimilationism, integration, and the rise of Far Right parties**



Toronto realities



Change in Average Individual Income, City of Toronto, 1970 to 2010
Average Individual Income from all sources, 15 Years and Over, Census Tracts



Hulchanski, 2010

DIVERCITIES Research Workpackages

- WP3 > Research and conceptual guidelines
- WP 4 > Assessment of urban policies
- **WP 5> Governance arrangements and initiatives**
- WP6> Fieldwork inhabitants
- WP7> Fieldwork entrepreneurs
- WP8> Cross-evaluation



DIVERCITIES Output

- Tasan-Kok et al., 2014, Towards Hyper-diversified European Cities, University of Utrecht Publications: Utrecht
- Policy Briefs
- Newsletters
- Conference presentations
(AAG 2014, Urban Affairs 2014)
- Academic publications



What is a policy platform?

- Expert group represented by variety of public and private organisations, NGO organisations, academics, and individuals.



Policy platform

- **First to be informed** of the results of the project,
 - reflect and give feedback on the validity of information, practical/implementation issues, and any short-comings in the proposals.
 - feedback on the policy advice
 - direct access to DIVERCITIES research output and materials.



What kind of feedback

1. In **identifying current policy approaches, initiatives, and arrangements** regarding urban diversity in case cities;
2. In **designing innovative and participatory policy instruments** in the case cities



Next time in Toronto

WP6 > Fieldwork inhabitants

- *How does urban diversity and policies and arrangements with respect to urban diversity affect **different population groups** living in the diverse cities in terms of social cohesion and social mobility? Who profit? How do they profit? What can we learn from the positive effects for other social and urban contexts?*
- Minimum 50 interviews with residents of

Time frame: September 2014-July 2015

- Back in town: most probably **October 2014**



What can we give back?

- Form of future collaboration
 - **Policy Brief's** based on Toronto to be disseminated through our website?
 - **'Topic-focused seminars'** during the Policy Platform meetings?
 - **'Digital platform'** where we can easily share ideas and get discussions going until we're here next time?
 - Social media or a blog?
 - **Focus groups**
 - **Suggestions** for giving back to community?



Further questions?

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