

# INTERPRETIVE POLICY ANALYSIS CONFERENCE 2021

**Panel Title:**

*P13 - Spaces of inclusion and exclusion*

**Panel Convenors:**

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The daily encounters of people in public space may foster social cohesion and people's sense of belonging to a community. However, many current phenomena such as political polarisation, social exclusion and marginalisation, urban segregation, the strengthening of social media networks, cuts in public services, and the rise of commercial and private spaces can strengthen the trend where people mainly interact with those who come from their own social circles or represent their own reference group. This, in turn, may lead to a vicious circle, where these processes strengthen one another.

This panel aims to critically assess the relation between public space and processes of inclusion and exclusion. The papers can focus on public space, but also to semi-public and commercial spaces and even digital space, as long as they concern the inclusiveness and openness of these spaces to different citizen groups and various kinds of activities. The papers can also address different contexts, such as more or less diverse or divided societies. We welcome positive examples of local spaces and meeting points where people and from various background meet and interact with each other, papers addressing exclusionary spaces (e.g. segregated neighbourhoods or spaces with a high level of surveillance) and more general analyses on space and inclusion/exclusion.

As we see it, interpretive policy analysis can shed light on and unravel the relation between space, inclusion and exclusion because of its focus on interpretation and the multiple methodological approaches that it allows. These can be for instance case studies, various forms of participatory and action research, the interpretive analysis of policy documents and other textual material, but also theoretical studies on the topic.