



## **Mapping socio-spatial polarisation in urban environments**

Associate Professor Deborah Warr<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*University of Melbourne*

The presentation considers issues of socio-spatial polarisation in Australia and how it can be empirically explored using varied approaches to social network analysis. Socio-spatial polarisation refers to processes that are contributing to widening geographic separation between people living in contesting socioeconomic circumstances. It is widely noted to be evident across many post-industrial cities, including some Australian cities that have been described as 'increasingly fragmented social mosaics'. The phenomenon is important to understand because it generally contracts opportunities for citizens to participate in a diversity of social contacts and networks across socioeconomic and socio-demographic circumstances, and influences the potential benefits and risks that are generated through social connections in communities and neighbourhoods. It has the greatest impacts for those with the most and least socioeconomic resources, and arguably the most negative impacts for those living in neighbourhoods of concentrated household disadvantage. In this presentation I discuss current research projects that are exploring the socio-spatial dimensions of networks across low- and high-income neighbourhoods. These projects are using different methodological approaches (CATI surveys, contact diaries and a purpose-built phone application). In the presentation I also consider key methodological and ethical issues in using phone app technology to explore the spatial dimensions of networks.