

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: *Segregation as a Global Societal Challenge*

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Urban segregation is a stratification process that constitutes a clear obstacle to the development of a socially sustainable city. The Segregation in Gothenburg is a part of a global challenge, propelled by societal factors. In order to contribute to breaking the patterns of segregation, a concentrated effort must be made at the University of Gothenburg (GU) as well as through development of collaborations with actors outside academia. This Expression of Interest is an initiative based on four scientific fields whose purpose it is to focus on three areas, or hubs, the aim being to develop *university based strategies* for breaking patterns of segregation. This will be accomplished through research and education as well as collaboration with the local community. Segregation has entailed a lack of equality between different groups of people in the city of Gothenburg, particularly in the areas of education, health and justice.

The three hubs are relatively independent. However, in order to develop, they must be open in relation to, and have a simulating effect on, each other. Academics at GU are already involved in developing relations with the surrounding society. Regarding health, the Sahlgrenska Academy's collaboration with Angered Hospital – the local hospital in Angered, an under privileged and segregated area in Gothenburg, with worse health and considerably shorter life expectancy – is worth mentioning, as are the contingent efforts made in coordination with groups of citizens in Angered. With respect to education, there are the college programs of GU's Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts in Angered as well as the Learning Plaza at Hammarkullen, in Angered. These initiatives are being realized in collaborations between GU and local community centers, folk high-schools, sports associations, ethnic group societies, and borough and district committees in Gothenburg. In response to an interest in *justice* the Law Department has created a Law Clinic. The Clinic functions as a platform for cooperation in research as well as in education. On the theme of the segregated city the Law Clinic offers a course for law students on advanced level in close cooperation with eight different NGOs all of which are working on a grass-root level in the city with dilemmas enhanced by poverty, exclusion, discrimination and segregation.

Through our three hubs, we aim to strengthen, develop, coordinate and do research on the work that is being done in these areas. Among other things, a professional center will be created as a forum where educators and students of education, social work, architecture, medicine, nursing, public health, religious studies, law and art programs can gather around themes that arise from the challenges created by segregation. Processes initiated as a consequence of these encounters between academia and society will provide starting points for central research questions in each hub and in the Program as a whole. A number of projects are already being carried out by various participants of the group. Support for these projects comes from agencies such as the Swedish Research Council (VR), the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (BRÅ), and the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences (RJ). These projects deal with research questions that are relevant to our program. In addition, there is a need for a discussion to generate theories and to put segregation in a global and social perspective. Sustainable urban development will be an integral part of these efforts. Given that it represents a number of disciplines and considerable research experience, the group will be able to develop and deepen a relevant theoretical framework. The following scientific fields and scientists are part of the project:

1) *Health* - Social Medicine, the Sahlgrenska Academy, Henry Ascher, Maria Magnusson, Tove Hedenrud

2) *Social Sciences and Humanities* – Legal Science: Sara Stendahl, Karin Björelid, Urban studies: Anders Törnqvist, Ove Sernhede, Religion: Göran Larsson, Education: Thomas Johansson, Anette Hellman, *Social work*: Torbjörn Forkby, Stig Grundvall. *Swedish language*: Dimitrios Kokkinakis.

3) *Art* – School of Design and Crafts (HDK): Maria Nyström-Reutersvärd; Academy of Music and Drama (HSM): Catharina Bergil, Maria Larsson; Literary Composition: Khashayar Naderehvandi and Johan Öberg.

4) *Technology*: *Associated seat of learning*: Chalmers University of Technology and the branches of Technology and Architecture: Björn Malbert.

**Proposed reviewers:** Professor Louise Archer, King's College, London, UK; Professor: Martin Sanchez-Jankowski, Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, UC, Berkeley, USA.

