



PREMIER MINISTRE



Vincent Chriqui,
Director General of the *Centre d'analyse stratégique*

Hervé Masurel,
General Secretary of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Urban Affairs

are pleased to invite you to the symposium:

From “neighbourhood effects” to urban policy
An international outlook

Thursday, 24 November 2011, from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
Centre d'analyse stratégique
18, rue de Martignac – 75007 Paris

How does living in an underprivileged – or privileged – neighbourhood affect individual behaviours and life paths? Are these so-called “neighbourhood effects” linked to the concentration of persons with common characteristics? To their place of residence (e.g., spatial isolation, stigmatisation etc.)? To social and structural shifts occurring outside of the neighbourhood?

In the United States and in most Western European countries, the main “neighbourhood effects” to which policy-makers pay attention are those linked to the concentration of poverty. The existence of such effects, proved or not, produces public policies that target underprivileged areas – the districts of the priority geography in France – and aim to improve social integration through urban desegregation policies.

Beyond this political consensus on the need to reduce concentrations of poor populations, the relevance of these strategies are subject to controversy in the scientific community, in particular in the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and France, where the study of “neighbourhood effects” is developing rapidly.

As the second National Urban Renewal Programme is being launched in France, what conclusions may be drawn from this research? What leveraged initiatives may be taken to promote social mobility? What are the new trade-offs between support for territories and support for individual persons?

MORNING

9:00 – Welcome

9:30 – Introduction

Pierre-François MOURIER, Deputy Director General of the Centre d'analyse stratégique

9:45 – Round table 1: Mechanisms of “neighbourhood effects”

Chairman:

Noémie HOUARD, Centre d'analyse stratégique, Social Affairs

How does living in an underprivileged – or privileged – neighbourhood affect individual behaviour? What “neighbourhood effects” can be identified (e.g., electoral tendencies, educational performance, delinquency, health, etc.) using available data? Are such effects linked to endogenous factors (such as “peer effects”, concentrations of distressed persons, etc.) or exogenous factors (such as special isolation, stigmatisation, and structural shifts outside the neighbourhood)?

- **George GALSTER**, Professor of Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit, United States
- **Henri REY**, Director of Research at CEVIPOF, Sciences Po, France
- **Florent SARI**, Researcher at the University Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée, France

11:15 – Round table 2: Scale of “neighbourhood effects”

Chairman:

Anthony BRIANT, ONZUS, General Secretariat of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Urban Affairs

Do “neighbourhood effects” have a long-lasting impact on individual life paths? How to characterize social mobility of inhabitants in the critical urban areas? What can be said in terms of educational, professional and residential performance? Are sufficient data available to shed light on these processes?

- **Jean-Louis PAN KE SHON**, Researcher at INED, Paris, France
- **Sophie BODY-GENDROT**, Professor at the University Paris-Sorbonne, France
- **Marteen VAN HAM**, Professor of Urban Renewal, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands

12:30 – Free lunch

AFTERNOON

2:00 – Round table 3: Political implications of the notion of “neighbourhood effects” – International comparisons**Chairman:**

Adil JAZOULI, General Secretariat of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Urban Affairs

In the United States and many Western European countries, most policies targeting underprivileged neighbourhoods and their inhabitants are based on the existence of “neighbourhood effects”, proved or not, linked to the concentration of poor populations and sometimes even ethnic minorities. What policy trends may be observed? Based on available research on “neighbourhood effects”, what can be said in terms of the effectiveness of public policies?

- **Duncan McLENNAN**, Professor at the University of St Andrews, United Kingdom
- **Cyril COSME**, Social Counsellor at the French Embassy in the United States
- **Marie-Hélène BACQUE**, Sociologist and Professor at the University Paris-Ouest, France

3:30 – Round table 4: In France, how is the territorial criterion reflected in public action?**Chairman:**

Julien DAMON, Associate Professor at Sciences Po, Scientific Adviser at the Centre for Strategic Analysis

In France, urban policy targets “priority” areas with the goal of having them catch up with their environment. However, each year reports from ONZUS (*National Observatory of Critical Urban Areas*) reveal that social inequalities are not narrowing. This raises questions on the effectiveness of urban policy in social-economic promotion, especially as the inhabitants of targeted neighbourhoods are sometimes stigmatised, as seen in the recent appeals to the Défenseur des Droits (the french equal opportunities and anti-discrimination commission).

As the second National Urban Renewal Programme is being launched in France, what are the new trade-offs between people-based policies and place-based policies? Should the territorial criterion be set aside in public action? Should a new criterion of discrimination be considered, that of “territorial discrimination”?

- **Thomas KIRSZBAUM**, Associate Researcher at the Institut des Sciences sociales du Politique (École normale supérieure of Cachan, France)
- **Daniel BEHAR**, Director of the ACADIE cooperative, Associate Professor of Geography at the Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris - University Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne, France
- **Edward G. GOETZ**, Professor of urban and regional planning at the Humphrey School, University of Minnesota, United States

5:00 – Conclusions:

Hervé MASUREL, Prefect, General Secretary of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Urban Affairs

Registration and Contacts

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■ Directions:

Underground : lines 8, 12 and 13
Stations: Invalides, Solférino, Varenne
RER C – Station: Invalides

More about the Centre d'analyse strategique on our website:
www.strategie.gouv.fr
(Soon in English)



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