Bio Sketch

Rowland Atkinson is Reader in Sociology at the University of York. His work has focused on issues of social exclusion and inequality (primarily in the British context). Between 2005 and 2009 Rowland was Director of the Housing and Community Research Unit at the University of Tasmania. With colleagues there he has worked on issues of public housing policy and anti-social behaviour for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute which had a focus on Indigenous issues and the inadequacy of housing responses.

More recently Rowland’s work has focused on the aggressive nature of social and urban policies within Western democracies. This focus, combined with a continuing interest in issues of ghettoisation and poverty concentration, led Rowland to carry-out work on Indigenous segregation across Australia. A research paper based on this work (see below) suggests the argument that Indigenous spatial separation and relative urban invisibility has enabled policymakers to create insensitive and inappropriate strategies, often based on a sense of Indigenous life as something that is spatially remote and culturally alien. Though based at the University of York Rowland continues to have an interest in Indigenous affairs.

Area(s) of Expertise

Indigenous segregation
Poverty concentration and area effects
Housing and urban policy
Anti-social behaviour and disorder

Current Research Activities

Rowland is completing work on the Gentrification of metropolitan Australia and the displacement of low-income households (AHURI funded) and, with Sarah Blandy (School of Law, University of Leeds), he is finishing the writing of Domestic Fortress: Fear and the Home Front, a book that connects fear of crime and affluence to the defence of the domestic home.

Two Key Publications
