



Webinar Series on COVID-19 & Inequality

Spatial Inequalities during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic

with Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, London School of Economics
and Laura Khoury, Norwegian School of Economics

Thursday 8th July 2021

4:00pm (CET)

Virtual event

Poorer regions have experienced higher Covid-19-related mortality, in line with the fact that social distancing was less feasible and harder to implement there. At the same time, the development of teleworking may trigger a rebalancing of opportunities and prices between areas, with long-term consequences for productivity and inequality across regions. Pr. Rodríguez-Pose presented his views on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on spatial inequality, while also reflecting on its possible future trends. In a second presentation, Laura Khoury documented spatial inequalities in excess mortality in France during the pandemic. [In her paper](#), she shows that the poorest municipalities experienced a 30% higher increase in excess mortality over the year 2020. Both labour-market exposure and housing conditions are major determinants of the direct effect of the epidemic on mortality inequalities.

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose is the Princesa de Asturias Chair, a Professor of Economic Geography at the London School of Economics, and the Director of the [Cañada Blanch Centre LSE](#). He was awarded the 2018 [ERSA Prize in Regional Science](#), arguably the highest prize in regional science. In 2019 he received Doctorates *Honoris Causa* from [Utrecht University](#) (the Netherlands) and [Jönköping University](#) (Sweden). Pr. Rodríguez-Pose is an editor of [Economic Geography](#), and sits on the editorial board of 33 other scholarly journals, including many of the leading international journals in economic geography, human geography, regional science, and management.

Laura Khoury is a postdoctoral researcher at the [Centre for Experimental Research on Fairness, Inequality and Rationality \(FAIR\)](#) at the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH). She received in 2020 the French Association for Economic Science Award for her PhD thesis "Optimal Unemployment Insurance and On-the-Job Behaviours". Her main areas of research include public economics, labor economics and economics of crime.

This webinar, co-organised with the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, is part of a series of webinars that aim to carve a comprehensive overview of the COVID-inequality nexus in a number of areas including: income, spatial inequality, labour, gender, education, mental health and more.

For more information visit: <https://oe.cd/covid-inequality>.

Agenda

4:00pm Welcome by Rudiger Ahrend, Head of Division at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

4:05pm [Presentation by Andrés Rodríguez-Pose](#), London School of Economics

4:35pm [Presentation by Laura Khoury](#), Norwegian School of Economics

5:05pm Floor open for discussion

5:15pm End of meeting



Webinar series organised by the OECD Centre for Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE), in collaboration with the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (ELS)