

argument, it is evident that both deprived informal settlements and privileged gated communities need to be further studied on social and physical grounds for better comprehending and diagnosing, and subsequently for enhancing and refining policies and strategic interventions for each.

As shown on Figure (1) and discussed above in this paper, it is evident that informal settlements, along with gated communities are two main contrasting components of the spatial form and social structure of Cairo metropolis. Future research is required to evaluate this assertion and prove its validity and reliability. Extensive descriptive and analytical studies can qualitatively and quantitatively identify the nature and magnitude of social polarization, segregation, and exclusion, as well as spatial disparities of the urban fabric.

Rational planning approaches and initiatives encountering socio-spatial fragmentation introduced in this paper are by no means novel or hypothetical. Rather, they are a few that the authors have selected and revisited among numerous policies and strategies introduced and discussed throughout literature and experience of Third World countries. As such, selected initiatives represent some general, yet principle policies, rather than a comprehensive policy framework for strategic intervention. This framework is indeed needed and calls for further research detailing not only policies that should be adopted, but also mechanisms and public/private actor roles for implementation.

#### Acknowledgements

The authors are indebted to Islam Ghoneimy and Taher Abdel Salam for their assistance in data collection, and the production of Figure (1) of this paper.

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