
Social Housing in globalizing urban contexts
Scientific Workshop

Vienna, April 05-06, 2013

Venue: University of Vienna, Department of Sociology, Rooseveltplatz 2, 1090

ENHR – Working Group Social Housing and Globalization

Claire Lévy-Vroelant, Christoph Reinprecht,
Viviana Fernandez, Sasha Tsenkova

PROGRAMME

Friday April 5

- 11.30 Welcome. Buffet lunch on the place
- 12.00 Presentation of the aims of the workshop, and of the program. Presentation of the participants, By Claire LEVY-VROELANT (Université Paris 8-CRH-LAVUE) / Christoph REINPRECHT (University of Vienna)
- 12.30 Perspectives on Latin America; Key-note, research based communications and discussion
Key note by Catherine PAQUETTE (Institut de Recherche sur le Développement, Marseille)
Research based communications
Luis VASCONCELOS (University of Oxford), The Brazilian Social Housing: Facing New challenges and opportunities
Vivianna FERNANDEZ (University of Chile), "Perception of socio-spatial integration in two housing developments in the Metropolitan Area of Santiago. Views and reflections from their inhabitants
Julio Cesar RODRIGUES (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), Le relogement dans la ville de Rio de Janeiro – quelques questions à la veille des grands événements sportifs
- 14.00 Perspectives on Asia / China; Key-note, research based communications and discussion
Key note by Mark STEPHENS (University of Glasgow) / Lie CHENG (Fudan University)
- 15.00 Coffee break

- 15.30 Perspectives on Western Europe; Key-note, research based communications and discussion
 Key note by Walter MATZNETTER (University of Vienna)
 Research based communications
 Wolfgang AMANN/ Alexis MUNDT (IIBW - Institut für Immobilien, Bauen und Wohnen),
 Habitat for Humanity, a comparative study among 23 countries
 Christiane DROSTE (Urban plus Berlin), The role of research in the field of social housing:
 Berlin case study
 Thomas KNORR-SIEDOW (Urban plus Berlin), Current trends in German social housing
 Teresa COSTA PINTO (Instituto Universitário de Lisboa), Social Housing in a context of
 austerity: the Portuguese case
 Douglas ROBERTSON (University of Stirling), Ruin, Repair and Repercussions: What did the
 'financial crisis' reveal about privatising national housing systems and what are its
 implications for the future of social housing?
- 17.30 Coffee break
- 18.00 Round Table: « Social housing, globalization and migration », introduced by Mansour TALL
 (UN-Habitat, Dakar) and Christoph REINPRECHT, (University of Vienna), inputs by Wolfgang
 FÖRSTER (Municipality of Vienna), Project „intercultural Housing“, Senol AKKILIC (Deputy,
 Landtag of Vienna)
- 20.00 Diner down town

Saturday April 6

- 9.30 Perspectives on Eastern Europe; Key-note, research based communications and discussion
 Key note by Sasha TSENKOVA (University of Calgary), Social housing and post-socialist dual
 housing policy
 Research based communications
 József HÉGÉDÜS/ Eszter SOMOGYI (Metropolitan Research Institute), Social housing agencies
 - are they a new model for social housing in transition countries? (Case study for Hungary)
 Sasha TSENKOVA (University of Calgary), Social housing in Warsaw and Prague
- 11.00 Perspectives on Western Africa and Middle East; Key-note, research based communications
 and discussion
 Key-note by Mansour TALL (UN-Habitat, Dakar)
 Research based communications
 Beril OZMAN MAYER (Eastern Mediterranean University), Informal Network towards an
 Inclusive Social Housing
- 12.30 Lunch buffet
- 14.00 Final debate: « What can the European experience learn and teach? »
- 15.00 End of workshop
 Guided Tour to Gemeindebaumuseum (museum of municipal housing), and (if sufficient
 time) Zentralbahnhof district

Contacts

Claire Lévy-Vroelant clevyvroelant@gmail.com
 Christoph Reinprecht christoph.reinprecht@univie.ac.at

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ARGUMENT

The aim of the Workshop is to contribute to a better understanding of what is probably a new phase of the social housing epopee, from western countries to Asia and the “global south”. This approach could also help to define to what extent action on housing (to take it broadly) influences the evolution both of urban contexts and of social structure in the globalizing cities.

The organizers’ intention to deal with diversity and promote comparative analysis (in time and space) through a two days symposium on housing issues clearly results from the numerous issues raised by what we could call a comeback of the “Housing Question” in a globalizing world. In a context of deep economic, financial, and political transformations, housing takes a key role in social integration and urban development, and thus has become a main topic for governments and deciders either on national or local levels. The phenomenon is not any more solely concerning Europe and the parts of the world where the industrial/urban revolution expanded at first. Nowadays, from China to Africa, from Latin America to India, from Eastern European countries to Australia, housing inequalities are challenging urban policy aimed to implement social cohesion and social sustainability while real estate markets’ developments goes along with wellness *and* risks. Societal and demographic changes (including life style and consumption trends) also appear to be at the core of transformations taking place in housing provision and distribution, and impacting the field of public actions related to housing. The understanding of social housing long standing adventure is consequently to be seen as crucial in the various contexts and at the different stages of its development.

While housing policies are redefining themselves at different scales and under new values, norms, and institutional and financial settings, the “European model” is clearly under redefinition in the different national frames, but also challenged at a more worldwide scale. All over the world the housing question is posed “between local and global”, displacing the debate on path dependence and engaging new types of partnerships, conflicts, negotiations. These reconfigurations involve many stakeholders and actors: States, organizations, institutions, enterprises, banks, political parties and unions, housing associations, local authorities, city planners, and last but not least inhabitants. “Traditional” social housing continues to provide responses to societal changes. At the same time, new initiatives are developing in different urban contexts, which include the transfer and exchange of references, technologies and practices.

Obviously, globalization does not mean homogenization. The scientific challenge consists in finding a way to compare outcomes in relation with their contexts thanks to a common questioning. Actually the challenge has already been taken up and international symposium have been organized, publications are already available or in the way to be published (ref); In a field very much structured by the tensions between political adverse options, academic research stands with crucial questions to be brought on the stage: once accepted the evidence of the finance globalization process, what consequences does it implies on housing provision? To what extent governments still can adjust and operate redistribution of wealth? How consensually admitted “social” challenges (rights and protection; environmental issues) are implemented on the field, and how actors configure their interplay in the local arenas? To what extent urban development is reflecting housing dynamics, and what is the role of social housing organization in the process?

Social housing (or social policies of housing) is presented quite consensually as a key element of urban welfare policy. One of the main starting ideas here is that the on-going transformation of social housing is linked to global processes *but* favored (or hampered) by locally designed dynamics. National policy makers have to deal with the issue even though worldwide agents have entered into the game, and local dynamics seem to play (again?) a strategic role. Local welfare redefinitions can operate (or fail) according to bottom up or top down logics, through conflicts or collaboration. Interesting enough to analyze, also in order to maximize the benefits of comparisons, is the redistribution of roles between the different actors, eventually going beyond national borders, and the role played by the incentives to participation, in a context where actors' communication strategies are more and more mobilized.

The organization of the workshop is organized in collaboration between the Department of Sociology, University of Vienna, and the Centre of Housing Research of LAVUE, CNRS Paris, and kindly supported by Institut CDC pour la Recherche, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, Paris (Ile-de-France), and the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Research Platform Migration and Integration Research, University of Vienna.