



CAT-ference 2019 session proposal

Title: Large Housing Estates after Privatization

Description:

All across Central and Eastern Europe large scale housing estates are visible markers of the housing policies dominating in the socialist era. Centrally planned, constructed with state support, managed by the state (or by organizations at arms length of the state), they provided accommodation for a broad scale of social groups. In the past two decades, however, these constellations have been turned upside down. The governance and the management of large scale housing estates have been subjected to processes of marketization and privatization. Property structures have changed too, with private ownership becoming an important, if not the dominating, feature. While path-dependencies and institutional differences still matter, it is clear that corporate investors and global financial capital are more present than ever before in large housing estates. In sum, the institutional configurations have faced a profound change.

Academic research on post-socialist housing policies has not yet really caught up with this state of affairs. It largely ends with comparing privatization paths in the early transition period and provides only few insights into the governance of large housing estates *after* privatization. While it is well known that post-socialist countries have followed different trajectories of privatization, less is known about the impact of different reforms on the ground e.g. for the management of housing estates, for housing consumption patterns, residential segregation and other topics.

Moreover, the connections between the “Europeanization” of some post-socialist countries and housing markets, austerity policies, weak state capacities, urban social movements (and other topics) and privatization seem to be largely unexplored. Past “privatizations” thus call for a new evaluation of governance and planning practices in large housing estates.

Against this background, we invite contributions which discuss the implications of recent institutional rearrangements—marketization and privatization— for governance and planning related to large scale housing estates.

We are interested in contributions on a broad range of topics, including:

- Comparisons between different governance practices and urban planning strategies related directly or indirectly to housing estates;
- Analyses of marketization and financialization of dwellings in housing estates;
- Processes of socio-spatial differentiation and changes in the social mix, related to privatization and/or marketization;
- Issues of multi-level governance and ‘Europeanization’;
- Examples of spatial interventions, reacting to these processes;

- Other topics critically analyzing the recent development of post-socialist housing.

We look forward to receiving empirically informed and theory-based abstracts (300 words max.) tackling one or several of the aforementioned topics by April, 8th 2019. We are interested in submissions from all disciplinary backgrounds and parts of Europe.

Session Organisers:

Oleg Pachenkov

European University of St. Petersburg, Russia

Email: pachenkov@yahoo.com

Matthias Bernt

Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, Erkner, Germany

Email: matthias.bernt@leibniz-irs.de