

Call for papers to the special issue of Housing Studies:

## **“Housing Activism in a Neoliberal World”**

Guest editors: Dominika V. Polanska, Katia Valenzuela & Anne Kaun

The Journal of Housing Studies is pleased to announce a call for papers on “Housing Activism in a Neoliberal World”:

Privatization of housing, gentrification and displacement of lower income groups, poverty and exclusion in urban space, eradication of affordable housing, and stigmatization of minorities and marginalized groups, are some of the consequences of neoliberal urban policies for the benefit of economic growth. Researchers have shown that the effects of neoliberal urbanism in specific local contexts differ in time, space, degree and impact, and so do their contestations. However, when looking at the research on housing activism one can see that housing struggles have been researched unevenly over the world. The aim of this special issue is to contribute to levelling these differences by focusing on un-explored empirical and theoretical blind spots in the field of housing activism.

We are looking for contributions shedding light on how mobilization on housing issues emerges within specific historical, cultural, political and economic contexts. By focusing on housing mobilization the ambition is to go beyond the fallacy of social science to neglect agency, and in this case collective agency, on behalf of structural explanations. The contributions should focus on grassroots mobilizations contesting market-based solutions and economic reasoning in the field of housing policy. We would like to encourage the authors to address questions on what makes a mobilization “successful” and how “success” in housing struggles should be assessed including its unintended effects. We also welcome contributions dealing with housing activism and the questions of action and inaction, focusing on the ability of activists to deal with failures, threats, constraints, vulnerability and/or economic hardships. We especially welcome contributions recognizing the importance of social structures in housing mobilizations and would in particular encourage contributions exploring under-researched forms of activism in the field of housing, i.e. radical, informal, non-institutionalized or marginalized forms.

We welcome contributions from scholars with different interdisciplinary backgrounds on the following topics:

- Historical perspectives on housing activism, looking at the specificity of the local context, but placing it in comparative perspective
- Under-researched forms of activism in the field of housing, i.e. radical, informal, spontaneous, non-institutionalized and marginalized forms of activism
- Coalition-making and cooperation practices among housing activists, emphasizing facilitators and obstacles in collaborations
- Media in the context of housing activism: materiality, practices and strategies
- Theoretical contributions on the relation between housing activism and neoliberal urbanism

Comparative research with theory-developing ambitions will be given priority. However, we are also open to contributions dealing with specific, single cases of housing activism.

If you plan to **submit a paper**, please notify the Guest Editors by **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016** by sending in a proposal. The deadline for paper submissions is: **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**.

Each proposal should include:

- a 500 word abstract with keywords
- a short bio (maximum 300 words) and contact details

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