



HOUSING NOTES

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As agreed at the Business Meeting in Toronto last Summer, this is the last time that a print version of the newsletter is being sent to all members. From now on, the newsletter will be distributed in digital form as an email attachment, although you will still receive a print version if you specifically request it.

There have been nominations for two new members of the Executive Council. Banashree Banerjee (India) and Sasha Tsenkova (Canada) will bring terrific expertise and a rich housing experience. I welcome them aboard and look forward to their contributions to the activities of RC43.

Many thanks to David Hulchanski for organizing the enormously successful Adequate & Affordable Housing for All; Research, Policy, Practice conference. More than 350 delegates presented 265 papers, representing 40 countries. David has also established a new website for RC43 at www.rc43.org. It includes the complete conference program and proceedings, which were also published by the University of Toronto Press.

This newsletter includes further information on three upcoming conferences organized or co-sponsored by our committee: the APNHR conference to be held September 6-8 of this year in Kobe, Japan; the GURU International Conference and Film Festival, Homelessness: A Global Perspective, which will take place from January 9th to 11th, 2006 in Mumbai, India; and the next ISA World Congress to be held in Durban, South Africa, July 23-29, 2006. Details follow below. It is not too late to propose submissions to the meetings in Mumbai and Durban, both of which will offer an exciting program, and I encourage

you to participate. Many thanks to Wim and Flavio for great work in putting the Durban program together at short notice! We had to abandon plans for a possible conference in Turkey, owing to logistical difficulties.

The listserv for RC43 is currently no longer operational and we are looking for help. Anyone able and willing to re-establish the listserv should contact me.

Willem van Vliet —
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CONFERENCES SPONSORED BY RC43

XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology
The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalizing World
July 23-29, 2006
Durban, South Africa
Research Committee on Housing and the Built Environment
RC43

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General theme:

Housing in a globalizing world: how far can we go?

Contributions are invited for the following sessions:

1. Housing policy and practice in a globalizing world
2. Housing processes and the urban form: social integration or social exclusion?
3. Multilateral agencies and the diffusion of policy innovation in the urban housing sector
4. Housing policies and metropolitan governance
5. Housing and poverty issues in developed economies
6. Housing the poor revisited: from welfare to markets

7. The transformation of housing policies in transitional economies
8. The future of social housing in developing countries
9. Business meeting

Interested presenters should send paper proposals to the Program Coordinators and to the session chair (if listed) before **October 1, 2005**. The above list of sessions is tentative since the number of sessions given to Research Committees depends on membership. We encourage you to check with ISA Secretariat <isa@cps.ucm.es> if you are registered as a member of both the ISA and RC43. If not, please do so before March 15, 2005 in order for RC43 to be allowed the maximum number of possible sessions. The ISA membership form is available at: http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/memb_i/index.htm

**GURU International Conference and Film Festival
HOMELESSNESS: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**
January 9 to 11, 2006
Mumbai, India

This conference will be held under the auspices of the Global Urban Research Unit (GURU) at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, England; in association with: The Department for International Development (DFID), UK; The Academy of Architecture, Mumbai, India; Slum Dwellers International (SDI); UN-Habitat Secure Tenure Programme

Deadline for Abstracts: 30th June, 2005.

Themes of the conference

We invite papers on a range of themes as follows and would hope to receive papers relating to age and gender under all themes

1. Experiences of homelessness
2. Causes of homelessness
3. Interventions in homelessness
4. Rights
5. Research approaches

The GURU Film Festival on homelessness

Videos and DVD productions relevant to the conference themes are invited from anyone concerned with homelessness. We will select a shortlist for judging by the delegates. A small prize will be awarded and we will try to raise sponsorship for the short listed film-makers to send a delegate to the conference.

Abstracts, submissions for the film festival and other queries should be sent to:

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**Co-sponsored by RC43: APNHR CONFERENCE 2005
HOUSING AND GLOBALIZATION**

September 6-8, 2005
Kobe, Japan.
http://www2.kobe-u.ac.jp/~hiraken/apnhr_conf/

OTHER EVENTS

**ENHR - International Housing Conference
Housing in Europe: New Challenges and Innovations in
Tomorrow's Cities**

June 29 – July 3, 2005
Reykjavik, Iceland.
<http://registration.yourhost.is/enhr2005iceland/>

**Securing the Urban Renaissance: Policing, Community
and Disorder**

June 16-17, 2005
Glasgow, Great Britain
www.gla.ac.uk/departments/urbanstudies/events/urbrenconf.html

3rd International Housing Conference of the Americas

November 3-5, 2005.
Mexico City, Mexico.
<http://www.nahb.org/mexicoconference>

**International Conference on
Built Environment Issues in Small Island States and
Territories"**

August 3-5, 2005.
University of Technology, Jamaica.
<http://www.utechjamaica.edu.jm/beisis/>

Universal Village: Livable Communities in the 21st Century

June 15, 2005.
Washington D. C., USA

**International Conference at Technical University
Darmstadt**

Technological and Aesthetic (Trans)Formations of Society
October 12-14, 2005.
Darmstadt, Germany.

**The International Congress on Environmental Planning
and Management
Environmental Challenges of Urbanization**

September 11-15, 2005.
Brasilia, Brazil
<http://www.urbenvironcongress.com/>

Asian Planning Schools Association Conference 2005

Penang, Malaysia.
September 11-14, 2005.
<http://www.apsa2005.net/>

City Transport World Africa 2005

October 10-13, 2005.
Gallagher Estate, Midrand, South Africa.
<http://www.terrapinn.com/2005/ctwza/>

**Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate School
of Planning**

October 27-30, 2005.
Kansas City, MO, USA.
<http://www.acsp.org>

**49th IFHP World Congress :
Urban Futures: Continuities & Discontinuities**

October 2-5, 2005.

Rome, Italy.
<http://www.ifhp2005rome.it/>

International Conference for Integrating Urban Knowledge & Practice

Life in the Urban Landscape

May 29 - June 3, 2005.

Gothenburg, Sweden.

<http://www.urbanlife2005.com/>

International conference

Speaking across Boundaries: Gender, Generation, and Social Justice in an Urbanizing World

November 21-25, 2005.

Maseru, Lesotho.

E-mail: Isas@isas.nul.ls or m.mapetla@nul.ls

NEW REPORTS

***Cities Transformed: Demographic Change and Its Implications in the Developing World.* Edited by M. R. Montgomery, R. Stren, B. Cohen, and H. E. Reed, Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press, 2003, xvii + 529 pp., US\$59.**

In the next thirty years, most of the growth in the world's population is expected to occur in the cities and towns of poor countries. As this demographic trend unfolds, the nature of urban life in low-income countries will itself be changing. The speed and scale of these changes present many challenges. Of particular concern are the risks to the physical environment and natural resources, to health conditions, to social cohesion, and to individual rights. As the poor countries continue to urbanize, the benefits derived from urbanization have tended to be overlooked. This book seeks an understanding of the distinctive features of urban life with the purpose of informing policies and directing future research in order to take full advantage of the potential benefits of urbanization.

Cities Transformed is the collective product of a panel of internationally renowned urban scholars and a number of staff from the National Research Council. Among them are demographers, economists, political scientists, environmentalists, urban sociologists, and urban development experts from around the world. It is the result of three-and-a-half-year effort in which existing literature was reviewed and new analyses were conducted. During this period the panel met several times to discuss the interim drafts. The data for analyses were mostly drawn from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and United Nations' *Demographic Yearbook*, a publication that includes data for cities as small as 100,000 in population and all national capitals. The linked DHS-United Nations database offered comparable measures for a broad range of demographic outcomes from as many as 90 surveys in more than 50 countries.

After the introductory first chapter, the book develops a theoretical rationale for studying urban contexts, giving an overview of recent thought on the importance of local social

and spatial environments (chapter 2). The remainder of the book focuses on improving knowledge in six areas: urban population dynamics and city growth, socioeconomic differentiation, fertility and reproductive health, mortality and morbidity, urban economy and labor force, and urban governance.

The book provides the regional context in which change occurs and reviews the basic demography of urbanization and city growth (chapters 3 and 4, respectively). Chapter 5 examines the social and economic diversity in urban conditions of life. It also provides several dimensions of urban poverty and presents new findings on the extent of poverty and inequality by city size and by region. Chapters 6 and 7 consider fertility and health, respectively, raising the question of whether there exist distinctively urban demographic regimes with distinctive implications for service delivery. Chapter 8 addresses the urban economy and its labor markets from a demographic perspective, and chapter 9 examines the challenges of urban governance.

The final chapter (chapter 10) develops a research agenda for urban affairs in "developing" countries and suggests ways of improving the basic infrastructure that would support urban research. It calls for developing systems for classifying regions and urban areas and their rural linkages so as to clarify the wider roles played by cities. It also emphasizes the need for spatially disaggregated data that can provide local governments a means of understanding where service gaps and redundancies lie and at the same time provide powerful political stimuli by bringing to light social, economic and spatial differentiation. Throughout the book attention has been drawn towards the need for comparative research on the following dimensions: "the situation of large and small cities; the conditions of the urban poor relative to the non-poor and rural residents; and among the urban poor, the circumstances of those who are spatially concentrated in slums and those who live in more heterogeneous communities" (p. 414).

The book presents easy to understand graphs, tables and maps to make its points wherever necessary. Except for chapter 4 and appendices B and D, the book avoids the use of complex mathematical models, measures and forecasting methods for urban population dynamics that might be difficult to understand for non-demographers. The appendices are helpful in supplementing some of key concepts and recommendations to policy makers and researchers.

The book has a few shortcomings. First, much of the new analysis that it presents is based on weak data. As the book itself identifies (p. 109), there are serious limitations in using data from DHS surveys in conjunction with the United Nations' data from *Demographic Yearbooks*. But the panelists do their best to make use of available infrastructure of urban population research and suggest ways to improve them. Second, the length of the book (500+ pages) might make it less attractive to government officials at national, provincial, and local levels dealing with urban issues and to the staff in various national statistical offices even though it presents important research and policy recommendations (such as the need for spatially disaggregated data at the city level) that can be valuable for many of them. Effort should be made to condense the findings and

recommendations in the book and disseminate them to a wider audience than academicians.

In spite of these shortcomings, this book provides one of the most comprehensive researches on implications of urban demographic change in the “developing” world. It draws on a large number of studies on urban affairs conducted in both developed and developing countries. It also provides a direction for future urban research towards comparative analyses and an emphasis on neighborhood effects. *Cities Transformed* is an invaluable reading not only for students and scholars engaged in urban research, development studies, and demography, but also for policy-makers, and practitioners at international, national, and local levels.

-Anirban Pal

***The State of the World's Cities 2004/2005: Globalization and Urban Culture.* Edited by UN-Habitat. London and Sterling, VA: Earthscan, 2004. 198 pp. Hardback £60.00 Paperback £19.99.**

Cities are facing enormous challenges, with rapidly growing urban populations, often worsening environmental conditions and deteriorating infrastructure, inequalities and housing shortages, unemployment, crime and violence. Yet they are the main drivers of cultural and economic development with the most concentrated resources and potential. This book, from the world's leading research institute on cities, looks at how that potential can be used to address these problems and create dynamic, multicultural and inclusive urban cultures. It lays out the conditions for a new culture of planning, involving civil society as well as public authorities, to ensure participation of even the most marginalized sectors. With extensive examples and illustrations with contributions from many of the world's leading urban scholars, it will be essential reading for professionals, and ideal material for course on urban geography and social science.

More information about the report can be found at:
<http://www.unhabitat.org/mediacentre/documents/sowc/sowc1aunched.pdf>

AWARDS

2004 Housing Rights Awards: Sudan, the US and Russia criticized for mass housing rights violations; Municipality of Sao Paulo commended; Indian housing rights activist honored.

Sudan, the United States and Russia have been named as recipients of the 2004 Housing Rights Violator Awards by the Geneva-based Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), for their systematic violation of the human right to adequate housing and continued failure to abide by their international legal obligations.

Each year, COHRE identifies three Governments as recipients of the annual Housing Rights Violator Awards. Recipients are selected on the basis of particularly egregious and pervasive

housing rights violations in the preceding year. COHRE has been issuing these Awards since 2002.

“Although the right to adequate housing is overlooked by many governments, in 2004 Sudan, the United States and Russia stand out for their appalling disregard for this basic human right. The Government of Sudan’s support for the Janjaweed militia’s campaign against black Africans – attacking and burning villages, killing thousands of civilians, raping women and looting property – is in clear breach of international law. The Sudanese Government’s support of this scorched earth policy, which has led to the displacement of more than 1.6 million people from their lands and homes in Darfur, is clear evidence of its complete disregard for human rights including the right to adequate housing,” said COHRE’s Executive Director, Scott Leckie.

“The United States – the wealthiest and most powerful nation in the world – is one of the worst housing rights violators and continues to treat millions of homeless people within its borders in an unjust and brutal manner. The criminalisation of homelessness in nearly fifty states around the country, military offensives and indiscriminate bombing campaigns in Iraq that have left thousands of Iraqis homeless, and continued opposition to recognition of the right to adequate housing as a human right in the international arena, are testimony to the United States’ arrogant disdain for this fundamental human right,” he added.

“Russia repatriated thousands of Chechen IDPs living in camps in Ingushetia despite the deteriorating security situation in Chechnya. In the last 18 months, Russia closed six IDP camps in Ingushetia providing shelter for more than 23,000 Chechen IDPs, without providing them with alternative adequate shelter. This move by the Russian authorities forced thousands of Chechen IDPs onto the streets,” said Leckie.

The Housing Rights Protector Award, presented annually to a government or other institution demonstrating an exceptional commitment to the protection and fulfilment of housing rights, has been awarded in 2004 to the Municipality of Sao Paulo, Brazil, for its innovative Bairro Legal (Legal Neighbourhood) Programme, an initiative providing security of tenure and improved living conditions for hundreds of thousands of its residents.

“COHRE praises the efforts of the Municipality of Sao Paulo, which have assisted 45,000 families to obtain legal title to their land, thereby safeguarding them from the threat of forced evictions, and improved the living conditions of more than 210,000 people through infrastructure improvement,” said Leckie.

He added, “The Municipality of Sao Paulo is a worthy recipient of COHRE’s 2004 Housing Rights Protector Award for its Bairro Legal Programme, which is testimony to the fact that the right to adequate housing can be made a reality if the political will exists.”

Rajeev John George, a 34-year old housing rights activist from Indore, India, has been named as this year’s recipient of the 2004 Housing Rights Defender Award, presented to an

individual who has shown outstanding commitment to the realisation of housing rights for all people.

“The award recognises Rajeev’s outstanding contribution to the struggle for the right to adequate housing in India, where he has worked tirelessly for over 12 years mobilising communities against evictions and empowering urban poor leaders to advocate for the housing needs of their communities, including adequate land for housing development and security of tenure,” said Leckie.

“One of Rajeev’s most significant contributions towards the realisation of the right to adequate housing in India has been his innovative strategies towards developing pro-poor interventions in the City Master Plans of Indore and Hyderabad, through the use of digital mapping to identify locations designated for the relocation of slum dwellers,” he added.

According to Leckie, “Rajeev’s work has played a key role in bringing to light the unjust practices of powerful elites, who continue to deny the housing rights of hundreds of thousands of urban poor in India by illegally occupying lands in major cities that have been set aside for the resettlement of slum dwellers. His groundbreaking work on the City Master Plans using digital mapping will be an inspiration to housing rights activist around the world and provide an essential tool for the achievement of housing rights of all.”

For more information:

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OBITUARIES

Cushing N. Dolbeare, a Lifelong Fair Housing Crusader Dies at 78

Cushing N. Dolbeare, 78, who spent more than half a century as an advocate for low-income Americans priced out of the nation’s housing market, died March 17 of cancer at her home in Mitchellville. After the Nixon administration’s temporary suspension of all programs for low-income housing in 1973, Ms. Dolbeare formed a national organization to spotlight that need. She assembled a coalition of labor, civil rights, religious and social groups to create the National Low Income Housing Coalition in 1974. She remained a tireless, fair-minded voice throughout the country and on Capitol Hill for millions of Americans who had difficulty finding affordable places to live.

Known for her ability to unite seemingly disparate groups, she found common ground between the financial interests of the real estate industry and the moral interests of advocates for the poor. She freely crossed party lines, forming unlikely alliances of conservatives and liberals. In 1952, she was named assistant director of the Citizens Planning and Housing Association of Baltimore. From 1956 to 1971, she was managing director of the

Housing Association of Delaware Valley in Philadelphia. After consulting for several years on housing and migrant labor issues, Ms. Dolbeare formed the National Low Income Housing Coalition in 1974.

Among her many honors were the 2002 Heinz Award for the Human Condition from the Heinz Family Foundation. She donated the \$250,000 prize to the housing coalition for an endowment fund.

For more information see < <http://www.nlihc.org> >

Rajeev John George, an Indian Housing Rights Activist 1970 – 2005

Housing rights activists in India and abroad were recently shocked and saddened by the untimely death of Rajeev George, Convener of the National Forum on Housing Rights in India and a co-founder of Deenbandhu (Friends of the Poor), a community organization based in Indore and well known for its innovative approaches to preventing forced evictions and developing pro-poor interventions in city Master Plans.

Rajeev, who was just 34, was widely admired by housing rights activists around the world for his passionate sense of justice and his creative solutions to the problems of the urban poor.

He received COHRE’s Housing Rights Defender Award in 2004 in recognition of his outstanding commitment to the realization of housing rights for all people, and his groundbreaking work using satellite images and GIS technology to accurately map slum areas and identify relocation sites.

COHRE’s Executive Director, Scott Leckie, said “Rajeev was an inspiration to housing rights activists throughout India, the Asian region and the world.

He combined dedication, intelligence, moral strength and real humility with great personal charm. He will be sadly missed by all of us at COHRE and his many friends in the housing rights field”.

(Source: COHRE <http://www.cohre.org/rajeev/>)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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**International Sociological Association
Research Committee on
Housing and the Built Environment**

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