



HOUSING NOTES

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SAVE THE DATE!

International Housing Conference: "Adequate & Affordable Housing for All: Research, Policy, Practice"

Convened by RC 43
June 26-29, 2004, Toronto, Canada

"Adequate & Affordable Housing for All: Research, Policy, Practice" is the theme for a 2004 international conference that will be held in Toronto, Canada, under the auspices of Housing and the Built Environment, Research Committee 43 of the International Sociological Association. The conference, organized by the University of Toronto's Centre for Urban and Community Studies, will be held June 26 to 29, 2004 on the campus of the University of Toronto.

The conference seeks participants from all nations and will welcome research papers on a broad set of topics, including the following: Demographic, migration, economic and social trends affecting housing outcomes and housing futures at the local, national, and international levels; Poverty and homelessness; Comparative analysis of housing systems (production, access, management), in developed and developing nations and economies in transition; Discrimination, segregation, and social exclusion in housing markets; Social housing, housing partnerships, neighbourhood improvement, and community development initiatives; Household and lifestyle trends, housing

design, and their urban structure impacts; Housing and health; Theoretical and conceptual framing of housing issues and debates.

To be kept informed about the conference and to receive registration information when it is available, email your request to: housing.conference@utoronto.ca

CALL FOR PAPERS

Policy, Organisation and Society

Editors: M Ramesh (University of Sydney), Darryl Jarvis (University of Sydney)

Policy, Organisation and Society is an interdisciplinary journal of comparative public policy. Its objective is to compare domestic and international public policy and the social, political, and economic conditions and forces that shape them. The focus is on policy substance and policy process.

The journal invites submissions in comparative public policy from across a range of disciplines in Social Sciences, including Public Policy, International Relations, Political Science, Geography, Sociology, Political Economy, Industrial Relations/labor studies, and Management Studies. The comparison may be of a single policy across two or more jurisdictions or two or more policies within a jurisdiction.

Email manuscript to pos@econ.usyd.edu.au or send two copies to: POS, University of Sydney, Government and International Relations, Merewether Building H04, NSW, 2006, Australia. Papers should be no more than 7,000 words, including footnotes and bibliography. A 150 word abstract must accompany all submissions.

Varieties of Urban Experience: Everyday Life and the American City

Papers due June 30, 2003.

Essays are invited for this collection co-edited by Michael Ian Borer and Davin Heckman. The book's purpose is to foster "thick descriptions" of the cultural symbols, rituals, and myths that are spawned by and played out within contemporary American cities. It is intended to provide a corpus of urban experiences that will provide a means for understanding the paradigmatic essentials of urban culture in the U.S. Ideally this collection will be a comprehensive textbook concerning the

most prominent issues and debates in the field of urban cultural studies.

We welcome essays on a diverse array of cities that may include, but are not limited to, New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Austin, Santa Fe, Portland, etc. We are also interested in essays that apply, adapt, and critique a diverse array of theoretical and methodological approaches from both the social sciences and humanities.

Electronic submissions should be sent to miborer@bu.edu. Send completed manuscripts to: Urban Experience Submissions, Michael Ian Borer, Department of Sociology, Boston University, Boston, MA 02215.

Journal of Latin American Urban Studies

Due: July 1, 2003

Authors are invited to submit manuscripts studying the history of urbanization in regards to contemporary urban issues in Latin America, as well as the consequences surrounding them. For more information, contact: Careye@stjohns.edu. Send completed manuscripts to: Elaine Carey, Dept. of History; St. John's University; 8000 Utopia Parkway; Jamaica, NY 11439

Policy History Conference

Proposals due September 15, 2003

Conference: May 20-24, 2004, St. Louis, Mo.

Program chairs Suzanne Mettler and Julian Zelizer invite proposals on all topics concerning the history, development and implementation of public policy. Complete session proposals also are welcome. Send 2 copies of proposals and a CV to Policy Conference, Journal of Policy History, Saint Louis University, 3800 Lindell Blvd., P.O. Box 56907, St. Louis, MO 63156-0907.

European City in Comparative Perspective

Proposals due October 2003

Conference: October 27-30, 2004, Athens - Piraeus

This conference provides a forum for historians, sociologists, anthropologists, planners and others working on all aspects of urban history. The conference will take place close to famous Athenian sites, where many of the ideas and concepts of the modern European city were born.

Academic enquiries and proposals to Dr. Lydia Sapounaki-Dracaki Panteion University, Department of Economic and Regional Development, 136 Sygrou Avenue 176 71, Athens Greece, Fax:30104831631, ldracaki@panteion.gr Conference web sites: www.panteion.gr/gr/tmimata/topa/UK0.html, at www.elia.org.gr, and www.jmtiie.gr.

City Futures

Proposals due October 30, 2003

Conference: July 8-10, 2004, University of Illinois, Chicago

City Futures, organized by the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago, aims to throw new light on the impact of global forces on cities and the

ways that governments, cities, and communities are responding to these changes and preparing for the future. The conference will be structured around the overlapping tracks of Comparative Urban Analysis, Comparative Urban Planning, and Comparative City Governance. It seeks to attract a diverse group of colleagues from sociology, economics, geography, urban planning, housing, architecture, political science, public administration, transport studies, cultural studies, public policy. Submit abstracts of 500 words to cityfutures@uic.edu. A homepage will be available from September at www.uic.edu/cuppa/cityfutures.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Making Cities Work: Comparing between "Transitional" and "Developed" Urban and Housing Models

European Network of Housing Research

May 26-28, 2003

Tirana, Albania

www.enhr2003tirana.albnet.net

Vernacular Architecture Forum

June 5 - 8, 2003

St-Pierre et Miquelon, Canada

www.vernaculararchitecture.org

A Renaissance of Social Housing in European Cities?

June 12-13, 2003

Vienna, Austria

www.housing2003.at

or Dr. Johannes Lutter, lutter@europaforum.or.at

CECODHAS summer school: "Residents participation in the management of the social housing stock: a strategy to fight against exclusion"

June 28 - July 2, 2003

Lisbon, Portugal

Contact santos.margarida@mail.telepac.pt.

European Summer School in Local Government Studies

July 16-25 2003

Department of Government, University College Cork

www.ucc.ie/euroloc/

EURA-EUROCITIES Conference:

European Urban Development, Research and Policy - The Future of European Cohesion Policy

August 28-30, 2003

Budapest, Hungary

www.mri.hu. Email: tosics@mri.hu.

Challenging Urban Identities

Research Committee on Urban and Regional Development

International Sociological Association (RC21)

September 25-27, 2003, Milan, Italy

University of Milan-Bicocca, www.shakti.uniurb.it/rc21/

www.urban-europe.net

Gated Communities:

Building Social Division or Safer Communities

18-19 September, 2003

Glasgow, Great Britain

University of Glasgow. Contact Dr. Rowland Atkinson

(r.atkinson@socsci.gla.ac.uk)

www.gla.ac.uk/departments/urbanstudies/gatedconf.html

Cities & Markets: Shifts in Urban Development

World Congress of the International Federation of Housing and Planning (IFHP).

5-8 October, 2003

Vienna, Austria

Email: congress@IFHP.org or ifhp2003@europaforum.or.at

Web site: www.europaforum.or.at

ARTICLES

UN World Summit in Johannesburg: Upgrading Housing

The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) helped organize and lead the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg from August 26th to September 4th, 2002. The summit was the successor to the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro almost a decade ago, and over a hundred heads of government attended. Of particular interest for our readers was the summit's focus on the areas of overlap between environmental concerns and poverty alleviation. One such issue is the objective of improving access to clean water and sanitation as a part of housing and infrastructure upgrading programs.

It is estimated that over a billion people lack access to safe water, and more than twice as many have no easy access to sanitation. Not only are many working hours lost because of the time wasted in fetching and collecting water, many suffer from water and sanitation related ailments, and almost two million people die each year from water-borne diseases such as diarrhea. There is little disagreement or controversy about the need for helping the world's poorest secure safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. It is acknowledged that unsafe water and sanitation is one of the leading preventable causes of death in the developing world.

According to the Millennium Declaration of 2000, all members of the United Nations pledged, as a part of the Millennium Development Goals, to reduce by half the portion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015 (Goal 7). The summitters at Johannesburg agreed to expand this target by including access to sanitation in the objective. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is charged with monitoring the progress toward the target.

How this is going to be achieved, is less than clear. Although many donor countries promised that financial aid would be channeled and targeted to water and sanitation improvement projects, the summit did not see major financial commitments. Moreover, within the development and academic communities there are disagreements on the best way to solve the problem. Opinions are divided among privatization, public-private

partnerships, community-based initiatives, cost-recovery pricing, universal or targeted subsidies, and so on. It is unlikely that the water and sanitation situation will improve drastically without governments experimenting with numerous approaches and initiatives, and subsequently following-up with the more successful ones.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge that a large number of environmental activists were upset about the eventual direction of the environmental summit. Many felt that the summit did not adequately emphasize environmental and conservation issues, such as targets for the use of renewable energy sources. They argued that the development focus, albeit with a useful emphasis on poverty, had hijacked the agenda and driven a wedge among community activists.

--Vinit Mukhija

Bush Proposes Budget Cuts, Program Changes

The budget that President Bush has proposed for fiscal year 2004 includes a range of cuts to longstanding housing programs, as well as significant changes in program design. While the overall budget increases HUD's funding by 1.3 percent, the National Low Income Housing Coalition notes the increase "is based on small increases to select programs, flat funding for other programs, decreases in others, and outright elimination of others." In addition, reminiscent of the Reagan years, the president's proposed tax cuts would diminish government revenues, thus limiting domestic spending levels (including housing) in coming years. As the budget makes its way through Congress, here are a few of the housing issues to watch. For more information, see the National Low Income Housing Coalition's member updates, www.nlihc.org.

By ceasing appropriations to HOPE VI, Bush's budget would end this public housing program that has fueled the demolition of deteriorating high-rise complexes and their replacement with townhomes, often mixed-income developments. This has been a controversial program among housing advocates, although it has been popular among elected officials, both local and national, and has represented the only funding available for new public housing construction. Opposition to defunding HOPE VI has emerged in Congress, with reauthorization bills introduced in both chambers.

Bush also has proposed that states take control of the Section 8 housing voucher program, shifting responsibility from HUD. States would receive a lump sum for the voucher program each year, and would distribute the vouchers to local housing authorities. Administration officials call this a logical extension of the devolution of welfare to the states. Housing advocates fear that states could change current rules directing most vouchers to the lowest income families, and complain that although the budget proposes \$1 billion more in funding for vouchers than 2003, the figure still does not meet the need for affordable housing, nor address the problem of rising rents in the private sector which make vouchers difficult to use. A fact sheet about Section 8 changes, by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, can be found at www.cbpp.org/3-27-03housingfact.htm.

--Mara Sidney

REBUILDING IRAQ

Now that the war has ended in Iraq, assistance is needed to rebuild the country's urban infrastructure. Many international aid agencies have long been involved in development and humanitarian efforts in the country, and have plans to address current needs. Indeed, Iraq's infrastructure and housing needs were great prior to the recent military action. Readers can follow developments in the rebuilding process and the politics of reconstruction at the following web sites. Most descriptions focus on critical infrastructure such as electricity and water, health services, and education; so far, there is little specific mention of housing activities.

USAID: www.usaid.gov/iraq

The U.S. Agency for International Development describes its reconstruction activities as aiming to restore economically critical infrastructure, support health and education services, expand economic opportunity, and improve efficiency and accountability of government. The first major contract for reconstruction was awarded in April to Bechtel. USAID states that it will work through partnerships with NGOs, international agencies and universities.

UNDP: www.undp.org

The United Nations Development Program has worked in Iraq since 1976. Its plans for Iraq address emergency repairs to infrastructure; job-creating reconstruction programs; and demining coordination. Past programs have included a pilot neighborhood revitalization effort in Baghdad.

UN Humanitarian Affairs: www.un.org/ha/

The UN's Oil-for-Food Programme covers 24 sectors of need, and has addressed housing since 2000. Proceeds from Iraqi oil have purchased construction materials to build an estimated 65,000 housing units, and the needs remain high.

Relief Web: www.reliefweb.int

Relief Web serves the information needs of the humanitarian relief community, and includes a section on Iraq with official documents and news reports of rebuilding and relief efforts. It also links to the Humanitarian Information Center for Iraq.

-Maureen Zatarra & Mara Sidney

NEW INFO SOURCES & REPORTS

Fair Housing and Discrimination

The National Fair Housing Alliance's 2003 Trends Report estimates that 3 million instances of discrimination occur each year, while only about 25,000 complaints are received by HUD, state agencies and fair housing groups. The Alliance charges HUD with straying from a focus on enforcement to emphasize education instead www.nationalfairhousing.org.

"Discrimination in Metropolitan Housing Markets: National Results from Phase 1 of the Housing Discrimination Study" presents results from the latest national housing audit. It finds significant levels of differential treatment, the prevalence of racial steering, yet a decline in the overall level of discrimination.

www.huduser.org/publications/hsgfin/phase1.html.

"Ending Chronic Homelessness: Strategies for Action," released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), finds that 10% of U.S. homeless are chronically homeless, and that no existing programs adequately serve these individuals.

aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/homelessness/strategies03/index.htm.

"House and Home bibliography" by David Thorns contains 180 annotated entries plus a review article of the field.

www.soci.canterbury.ac.nz/h&hpubs.htm

"UNESCO Archives Portal" has been added by H-Urban to its links. UNESCO's site has links to archives and other collections of primary sources all over the world. In addition to NGOs, national and regional (or state) archives, it has links to 771 municipal archives in Europe, 297 in the U.S. and Canada, 45 in Asia/Oceania and 41 in Latin America. A current feature is "Europe Reflected in Archives" at www.euarchives.org/ with short presentations from the archives of Bergen, Bologna, Cracow, Helsinki, Prague, Reykjavik, and Santiago de Compostela.

www.unesco.org/webworld/portal_archives/pages/index.shtml

Children and Cities

Growing Up in an Urbanising World edited by Louise Chawla and written by an interdisciplinary team of child-environment experts from the fields of urban planning, architecture, geography, anthropology, psychology and environmental education, has been released by UNESCO Publishing and Earthscan Publications

<http://upo.unesco.org/bookdetails.asp?id=3685>

Creating better Cities with Children and Youth- A manual for participation by David Driskell in collaboration with members of the Growing Up in Cities Project, is a resource for architects, planners, city officials, and development professionals.

<http://upo.unesco.org/bookdetails.asp?id=3684>

"The Impact of CDBG Spending on Urban Neighborhoods" A new study from HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research. www.huduser.org/publications/commdev/cdbg_spending.html.

Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy" www.brookings.edu/urban

The Globalization and World Cities website contains data bases, a teaching center, a discussion group and a comprehensive set of links. Study Group and Network website at www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/

U.S. Housing Trends

What will the housing needs of immigrant households, elderly households, and non-Hispanic white households look like in 20 years? Can we continue to assume that their past housing demands are a good indicator of their future housing needs? Three recent HUD-commissioned papers address these questions.

"Issue Paper on the Impact of Immigration for Housing," argues that high levels of immigration are not likely to create a housing crisis in the United States, as long as the factors determining their demand for housing are understood and appropriate planning is undertaken. In "Projections of U.S. Households by Race/Hispanic Origin, Age, Family Type, and Tenure to 2020: A Sensitivity Analysis," the authors project that "22.3 million owner households will be formed over the first two decades of this new century, with 53 percent of those being non-Hispanic whites and 47 percent being minority." "How Changes in the Nation's Age and Household Structure will Reshape Housing Demand in the 21st Century" discusses the aging population, the growing prevalence of minority households, and the effect these trends may have on housing demand. For instance, while data suggest that the typically higher income, post-childrearing/pre-retirement age group would be expected to move to smaller homes, anecdotal evidence shows that this group has a preference for larger, more lavish homes.

Papers are available at www.huduser.org/publications/econdev/demographic_trends.html

GRANTS

W. T. GRANT SCHOLARS AWARDS

Deadline: July 1, 2003

Each year the William T. Grant Foundation awards up to \$300,000 (\$60,000 per year for five years) to each of five post-doctoral scholars from diverse disciplines. The awards fund research that increases the knowledge base contributing to creating a society that values young people (ages 8-25) and helps them reach their potential. Visit www.wtgrantfoundation.org or: 570 Lexington Avenue, 18th Floor, New York, New York 10022-6837 Phone: 212-752-0071 Email: wts@wtgrantfdn.org

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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