Housing, Financialization, and Mobility

Start date: 5 October 2022 09:00
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Information sources:

Chairs: Myrto Dagkouli, Defne Kadioglu, Chiara Valli, Karina Villacura

(Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University, Sweden)

Under financialization, i.e. the growing influence of financial markets on the economy, housing becomes an asset that thrives on and fosters mobility of capital and people for the exploitation of trapped value. As capital investments mobility intensifies, the mobility of tenants is circumscribed in novel ways, e.g., by being “squeezed” (August & Walks, 2018) into low-quality rental housing, being confined to certain not-yet gentrifying areas of the city or by having to frequently move due to precarious housing arrangements (Grander, 2021). Studies in the field of housing mobility have typically focused on migration (Artero, 2020), life-course perspectives and events (Feijten & Van Ham, 2010), mobility-as-vacancy-chains (Ferrari, 2011), lower-income mobilities (Wood, 2014), economic outcomes of mobility (Dietz & Haurin, 2003) or hypermobility (Bergan et al., 2020), but they have rarely examined the causal nexus between the mobility (of money and people) and housing financialization. By relating mobility and housing financialization, we seek to highlight broader causal effects and identify new phenomena that have not been conventionally linked.

We welcome papers that address, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- How does financialization drive or hamper housing mobility?
- How does people’s mobility act as hindrance or vehicle for capital flow in a financializing housing system?
- What is the role of the (local) state in regulating, directing or facilitating the mobility of people and capital?
- How does the segmentation of the housing market trigger mobility?
- How do novel housing trends link to financialization, such as short-term rentals or new forms of shared housing?
- How do households’ indebtedness and over-indebtedness affect mobility patterns?
- What are the conceptual and methodological challenges in studying the link between mobility and housing financialization?

The ESA RN37 (European Sociological Association Research Network 37: Urban Sociology) V Midterm Conference entitled “Seeing Like a City/Seeing the City Through” will take place at the Georg Simmel Center for Metropolitan Research of the Humboldt University Berlin from the 5th to the 7th of October 2022.

Abstract proposals (max 250 words) to submitted by May 6, 2022 through the following link: https://forms.gle/kiymngod1MBzfRKi7

Myrto Dagkouli, Defne Kadioglu, Chiara Valli, Karina Villacura

Mobility

For the Mobile Lives Forum, mobility is understood as the process of how individuals travel across distances in order to deploy through time and space the activities that make up their lifestyles. These travel practices are embedded in socio-technical systems, produced by transport and communication industries and techniques, and by normative discourses on these practices, with considerable social, environmental and spatial impacts.

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Practical informations:

1 https://forumviesmobiles.org/en/dictionary/446/mobility