

“Collaborative Housing in Europe: Conceptualising the field”

Guest Editors: Darinka Czischke^{*}, Claire Carriou[†], Richard Lang[‡]

Call for papers

Since the 1990s many European countries have seen the development of a wide range of self-organised forms of collective housing provision. These take a variety of shapes, including Community Land Trusts (CLTs), co-housing, residents' cooperatives, self-help and self-build initiatives, experimental work-life communities, ecological housing communities, new settlements based on (local) community asset ownership, etc. While not entirely new, this recent wave of collective self-organised housing feature some new aspects and approaches, including concerns for wider social inclusion and cohesion as well as affordability and higher environmental sustainability standards.

“Collaborative housing” has been adopted by many researchers and practitioners as an umbrella term to encompass the wide variety that these forms of housing can take. The term suggests that collaboration among residents in housing provision represents one core aspect of all different models (Vestbro 2010; Fromm 2012). Over the last decade, grassroots activity and international exchange in this field have increased, and the number and breath of research and publications is rapidly growing. Nevertheless, European research debates on these housing models are still weakly connected despite a few notable efforts. The latter include the first International Conference on Collaborative Housing, which took place in Stockholm in 2010, three special issues (Built Environment 38/3, 2012; Urban Research & Practice 8/1, 2015; and one forthcoming in the International Journal of Housing Policy) and the formation of a new ENHR (European Network of Housing Research) working group on collaborative housing in 2016. However, while in recent publications case studies and thematic analysis are rife, there is a recurrent question underpinning practice and research discussions: are we talking about the same categories?

Practitioners in this field often ask the question, on whether strict definitions or ‘labels’ are really important or necessary to advance the field. From a scientific perspective, we believe a discussion about definitions is important for a number of reasons. Clearer definitions of collaborative housing practices would help us identify the limits and potential of these different housing types, notably vis-a-vis other types of housing provision. It would help us look into convergences between the different forms and for the conditions for these to happen. It would also help us to identify the (operational) conditions for each type to achieve its goals e.g. different tensions and balancing acts between professionals and non-professionals. Ultimately, a better definition and theoretical conceptualisation of what collaborative housing means would help this emerging sector to position itself within wider debates about current failures of institutional housing actors to address a variety of housing needs.

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With this special issue, we wish to encourage further theoretical and empirical enquiry into the nature and characteristics of collaborative housing. We invite contributions from different disciplinary backgrounds and welcome papers applying various theoretical perspectives. In particular, we hope to publish papers that challenge readers' existing knowledge about forms of collaborative housing and contribute to a better and more comprehensive conceptual understanding of this phenomenon. Therefore, papers should aim to shed light on key aspects of these debates, such as: What are the particularities of this type of housing? What do collaborative housing projects have in common, and how do they differ? Are there any fundamental common values and principles running across their wide organisational, legal and geographical difference? What are the main differences between them? Where are the boundaries to other "established" types of housing provision? What kind of actors on different levels and scales are involved in collaborative housing initiatives and how do they interact? Against this background, we are looking for contributions addressing one or more of the following themes:

- Conceptual approaches and definitional discussions
- Historical developments in different contexts and emergence of different organisational forms, including comparisons between earlier, pioneering and more recent waves and cross-national comparisons.
- Typologies of collaborative housing, e.g. based on tenure, core values, resident involvement, legal/organisational forms, actors involved, territorial contexts, etc.
- Critical reflections on the emergence of a new housing sector or field, including future challenges and opportunities.

Key dates

Call for papers published on 26 September 2016

Deadline for abstract submission: 20 November 2016

Decision on selected abstracts: 20 December 2016

Submission of preliminary full papers 21 April 2017

Feedback from guest editors: 22 May 2017

Submission deadline of full papers to online submission system: 30 June 2017

Please send an abstract, maximum 500 words, indicating research questions, theoretical approach, methods and main research findings (if applicable) to corresponding guest editor Darinka Czischke (d.k.czischke@tudelft.nl).

ENHR workshop at the TU Delft: The guest editors invite interested authors to submit an abstract to be presented and discussed at a workshop organised by the ENHR working group "Collaborative Housing". This workshop will be held at Delft University of Technology (the Netherlands) on **17 and 18 November 2016**. Interested authors will need to submit their 500-word abstract by **14 October 2016** to Darinka Czischke (d.k.czischke@tudelft.nl). Decisions on abstracts to be presented at this workshop will be communicated by 18 October 2016. Please note that authors presenting at this workshop will still need to submit a preliminary full paper for review by the guest editors by 21 April 2017 and follow the above-described process from that point on.