

Call for Abstracts

Working group Collaborative Housing, European Network for Housing Research (ENHR)

“Collaborative housing in and beyond unstable contexts”

and

Special session: “The history of housing cooperatives”

****NEW ENHR CONFERENCE DATES: 28 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2020, NICOSIA, CYPRUS ****

The co-ordinators of the ENHR working group Collaborative Housing invite abstracts related but not limited to this year’s ENHR conference topic, with a particular focus on the **links between collaborative housing forms and housing in unstable contexts**. “Collaborative housing” is an umbrella term that encompasses a variety of housing forms with different degrees of collective self-organization and formalisation. Central to this type of housing is the presence of a significant level of collaboration amongst (future) residents, and between them and external actors and/or stakeholders, with a view to realising the housing project (Czischke, Carriou & Lang, 2020); Lang, Carriou & Czischke, 2018). Collaborative housing initiatives have often provided important responses to housing shortages and displacement, especially in (post-)war and economic crisis periods. This crucial role has been confirmed in the aftermath of the Global Economic and Financial Crisis of 2008, which has seen community-based housing initiatives fighting urban decline and housing exclusion through practices such as commoning or taking over vacant homes. Against this background the working group welcomes abstracts addressing questions, such as the following:

- What role does collaborative housing play in locations affected by crises, conflicts and different forms of housing exclusion?
- How can we grasp collaborative housing in responses to gentrification, commodification, housing evictions and welfare state retrenchment? What are short-term and long-term effects of collaborative housing initiatives for those involved, the wider neighbourhood and the city? What is their potential to influence housing and social policy and to what extent are collaborative housing initiatives themselves influenced by and embedded in political discourses and agendas?
- How can we conceptualise the relation between collaborative housing and urban social movements that are addressing housing issues, such as “Right to the City”? (How) can collaborative housing address issues of social inclusion and social justice?

In general, the working group focuses on six central themes:

1. Wider social, economic and technological trends underpinning contemporary collaborative housing initiatives

Work within this theme addresses the overarching societal trends that may be driving current collaborative housing initiatives, as well as their mutually shaping relationships. These trends include socio-demographic developments such as ageing, the redefinition of gender roles, the environment and sustainability agenda, new lifestyles, and increasing ethnic diversity. Socio-economic developments to take into account include economic and financial downturns and their impact on housing markets and income levels of the population. Last but not least, papers could address the impact of technological changes such the increasing role of social media in self-organisation, the rise of the smart city paradigm and advances in sustainable construction and domestic/urban recycling systems, amongst others.

2. Organisational dynamics of collaborative housing: management, stakeholders and networks

Work within this theme addresses the variety of ways in which these initiatives and their participants are organised and structured, and how they re-structure as the specific projects progresses. This includes intra-organisational dynamics and the changing role(s) of professionals working with residents’ groups in collaborative

housing. It also looks at wider stakeholder relationships, networks and collaboration arrangements in which these initiatives take place.

3. Links between collaborative housing initiatives and wider policy and institutional frameworks

Work within this theme deals with the degrees and types of embeddedness of collaborative housing initiatives in wider policy, legal and institutional frameworks in their respective countries. Furthermore, papers in this theme could explore the relationship between collaborative housing and other/adjacent housing fields and sectors (e.g. social housing, non-profit housing), and related sectors and policy fields (e.g. social care, social enterprises, socio-political movements).

4. Collaborative housing, urban planning and neighbourhood dynamics

Work within this theme deals with the connections, synergies and tensions between the proliferation of collaborative housing initiatives and the wider neighbourhood and urban scales. Papers may focus on specific (public) promotion programs for collaborative housing in different countries or planning/developer competition programmes targeting collaborative housing models. Further, contributions may focus on the role of intermediaries and sector umbrellas in accelerating the promotion of these types of housing.

5. Epistemological frameworks, methods and ethics in collaborative housing research

Work within this theme reflects on the specific epistemological and methodological (quantitative and qualitative) frameworks that are most useful to research the different aspects of collaborative housing. In addition, it takes into account ethical considerations of potentially invasive methodologies used in this field (e.g. action research, participant observation, longitudinal ethnographic research, etc.). Such ethical questions relate to the boundaries between normative and empirical aspects of this research and the role of the researcher as militant/advocate and scientist.

6. Theoretical perspectives on collaborative housing research

Papers are also welcome to elaborate on the applicability of theories from a range of disciplines to understanding the different dimensions of collaborative housing, including but not limited to social network theory, innovation theory, institutional theory, management and organisational theories, transitions theories, etc.

Special workshop session: “The history of housing cooperatives”

In addition to the central CfA of this working group (above) this year the workshop coordinators would like to convene a **special workshop session on the history of housing cooperatives**. This special session (or sessions) will be co-ordinated by Jardar Sørvoll (Oslo Metropolitan University) and Richard Lang (Johannes Kepler University Linz). The main goal of this workshop session(s) is to unpack the potential of historical perspectives and methodologies for the emerging research field of collaborative housing research. It should help us develop a better understanding of factors that led to present configurations of welfare and housing policies, conditions on housing markets, as well as actor configurations and practices in housing fields. In that sense, “taking a long view” (Flanagan & Jacobs 2019) also highlights why certain intended outcomes have not been achieved and what lessons need to be learned for the future.

The present re-emergence of collaborative housing (Czischke et al. 2020; Hagbert, Larsen, Thörn, & Wasshede, 2019) is a reminder that organisational models and practices in housing change over time. Cooperatives as the internationally most widespread and oldest collaborative housing model serve as a good example to study such institutional change. In some countries, housing cooperatives have moved away from their historical roots as community-based organisations that were created as a response to uncertainties and instabilities on housing markets. However, over time, they increasingly incorporated elements of public or market-based provision and thus gradually scaled back resident participation (see, for instance, Sørvoll & Bengtsson 2018). In recent years, a new generation of cooperative actors has emerged on the housing scene across Europe. Those initiatives and organisations are committed to a revival of traditional cooperative principles of democratic, member-based governance as well as autonomy and independence as self-help organisations. Therefore, the term “cooperative”

should also not be limited to legally incorporated “cooperatives” but is conceived here in a wider sense as member-based organisations which are governed according to cooperative principles.

For this special workshop, we welcome contributions that apply historically-sensitive research approaches to analyse questions such as the following,

- How and why does the meaning and configuration of cooperative housing change over time in and between places. What are underlying forces for converging and diverging tendencies in Europe and other parts of the world?
- How have cooperative housing sectors interacted with other housing fields? How have political institutions and discourses shaped cooperative housing?
- How have experiments and reassembling of past ideas influenced contemporary cooperative and collaborative housing practice (see, for instance, Thompson 2018)?
- What can we learn from history of housing policy and housing markets in policy-oriented research in respect to cooperative housing? (see also “The long view” Special Issue in Journal of Housing Studies in 2019).
- Previous research has pointed to many of the benefits of historical approaches, but what about the challenges and pitfalls?
- What explains the rise and fall of cooperative housing movements in the past? How may present collaborative housing movements avoid past mistakes and emulate the successes of past housing experiments?

Depending on the response to this call and quality of submissions, the special workshop conveners will also explore the possibility of a joint publication project.

Key dates:

NEW CONFERENCE DATES: 28 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2020

EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: 29 MAY 2020

EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: 17 AUGUST 2020

Notification of abstract approval: TBA

Full papers deadline: TBA

Please keep checking the conference website, <http://cyprusconferences.org/enhr2020/>

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Special workshop session co-ordinators:

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References

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