

Call for Abstracts

Working Group on Collaborative Housing, European Network for Housing Research (ENHR)

Virtual special workshop session “The history of housing cooperatives”

Date: Friday, November 20, 2020

Time: 10am – 1pm

Venue: Zoom Webinar

You have probably heard that ENHR has cancelled its 2020 Annual Conference due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Nevertheless, the ENHR working group “Collaborative Housing” is happy to convene a **virtual special workshop on the history of housing cooperatives**. This virtual workshop will be co-ordinated by Jardar Sørvoll (Oslo Metropolitan University) and Richard Lang (Johannes Kepler University Linz). The main goal of the workshop 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 et al. 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:

CONFERENCE DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2020

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Send your abstracts to jarso@oslomet.no and richard.lang@jku.at.

Notification of abstract approval: October 15, 2020

Optional Full Paper Deadline: November 9, 2020

Special workshop session co-ordinators:

Richard Lang, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria, richard.lang@jku.at; Jadar Sjørvoll, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway, jarso@oslomet.no

ENHR working group co-ordinators:

Claire Carriou, University of Paris Nanterre, France; Darinka Czischke, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands; Richard Lang, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria; Henrik Gutzon Larsen, Lund University, Sweden.

References

Czischke, D., Carriou, C., & Lang, R. (2020). Collaborative Housing in Europe: Conceptualizing the field. *Housing, Theory and Society*. DOI: 10.1080/14036096.2020.1703611 (in press).

Flanagan, K. & Jacobs, K. (2019) 'The long view': Introduction for Special Edition of Housing Studies. *Housing Studies*, 34:2, 195-200, DOI: 10.1080/02673037.2019.1558592.

Hagbert, P., Larsen, H. G., Thörn, H., & Wasshede, C. (eds.). (2019). *Contemporary Co-housing in Europe: Towards Sustainable Cities?* (Open access). London: Routledge.

Lang, R., Carriou, C. & Czischke, D. (2018) Collaborative housing research (1990-2017): a systematic review and thematic analysis of the field. *Housing, Theory and Society*, DOI: 10.1080/14036096.2018.1536077.

Sjørvoll, J. & Bengtsson, B. (2018) Mechanisms of Solidarity in Collaborative Housing – The Case of Co-operative Housing in Denmark 1980–2017. *Housing, Theory and Society*, DOI: 10.1080/14036096.2018.1467341.

Thompson, M (2018) From Co-Ops to Community Land Trusts: Tracing the Historical Evolution and Policy Mobilities of Collaborative Housing Movements. *Housing, Theory and Society*, DOI: 10.1080/14036096.2018.1517822.