



8th International Conference on Building Resilience, 14-16 November 2018, Lisbon

Considering the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 we expect submissions to be aligned, in particular, with priority 4 "Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to Build "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction".

Track: **4B**

Resilience and Right to the City in European urban margins: the role of civil society in housing processes

Description of Track Scope

In the current neoliberal context, we are witnessing the widespread growth of socio-spatial inequalities, particularly in urban margins receiving the majority of the vulnerable groups, such as migrant communities and their descendants, gypsies and, more recently, refugees from Africa and the Middle East arriving in Europe. These European urban margins concentrate a diversity of housing situations, as they fit into what we call 'self-produced (housing) spaces', in line with Lefebvre's key-concept 'production of space', generally referred to as slums or informal settlements, but also into neighbourhoods of public promotion and/or incentive, the legally recognised housing stock, increasingly targeted by real estate market speculation and with little conditions.

Taking into account this complex urban scenario, organised civil society (such as local associations, non-governmental organisations, religious congregations, science outreach

initiatives, etc.) has a very important role to play, both in the upgrading of vulnerable housing spaces and, also, in fomenting the articulation with national and/or local governmental (re)housing policies and practices, while resiliently claiming a broader right to the 'right to the city'. This struggle is not always successful, but has generated important consequences concerning the socio-spatial transformations, on the one hand, and the definition of an international 'New Urban Agenda', on the other hand, to be followed (or not) by the central and/or local administrations. Systematising and disseminating the impacts of conflicting options are important for future approaches and socio-spatial gains.

Mains Questions

Currently, in general terms, the dominant strategies and approaches of intervention defend the tabula rasa of the pre-existing spaces. Others policies and practices of less expression tend to promote its upgrading through participated and emancipatory processes or, in turn, propose alternative solutions to (re)housing processes based on the communities' experiences and particular necessities and rhythms. Given this: (1) What is the capacity of the civil society, in general terms, and of the local communities and the academia, in particular, to promote and implement alternative practices that aim to improve the housing and living conditions of the most vulnerable social groups? (2) How do the different agents involved in these complex processes articulate? (3) What is the effective impact of such ground-breaking approaches?

These are the central questions we wish to explore in this track, following a multidisciplinary, critical and reflexive view of the housing upgrading and promotion processes in the European urban margins. Considering the ongoing debate on the resilience of local communities and the 'right to the city', we suggest some topics for communication proposals: (a) social arena; (b) civil society movements and activism in defence of the 'right to the city'; (c) practices of resistance to the dominant system; (d) alternative intervention approaches and actions; (e) adequate housing and housing spaces; and (f) socio-spatial inclusion.

Deadline

Abstract submissions close 15 April 2018, 12PM, GMT + 1,00 TIME.

For more information and online submission, please visit buildresilience.org/2018

Track chair and co-chair information

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