



Call for papers

Home/City/world: Housing, inclusion and sustainability in the 21st century

The Free State Centre for Human Rights, University of the Free State (South Africa), Kent Law School, University of Kent (United Kingdom), and the Centre for Law Graduate Studies, Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil) will present a workshop on the theme 'Home/City/World: Housing, Inclusion and Sustainability in the 21st Century', from **22 to 24 October 2018** in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

In light of the global housing crisis, exacerbated by migration, economic and political instability and conflict, environmental degradation, security challenges and urban intensification the workshop will explore lived realities of home and housing rights in a variety of global cities from different perspectives and disciplines.

We take as starting point two key questions: 'How should housing rights be re-conceptualised today?' and 'How can housing rights be mobilized in our time?' In exploring these questions, we will interrogate the shifting meaning, functions and horizons of home in current times and identify innovative solutions to housing problems. This implies three interlinked and intertwined strands of investigation: (i) a theoretical, (ii) a socio-legal and (iii) a technical strand.

The focus of (i) the theoretical strand is on the need to reconceptualise home and housing rights, acknowledging realities of migration, insecurity, environmental degradation and dispossession in today's globalisation.

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This re-conceptualisation seeks to avoid a notion of home emphasising privacy, security and exclusion, which can deny the promise of home to the homeless and those who are unconventionally or precariously housed. Instead the emphasis will be on pluralised, inclusive notions of home, sensitive to difference and problematized notions of belonging and 'home'/'away'.

(ii) The socio-legal strand involves lived realities of home and housing rights in a variety of contexts. The emphasis is on experiential 'bottom' up understandings of housing challenges and mobilisation of housing rights, looking for strategies and practices deployed by those considered to have precarious homes as they seek to manage their existence and maximise opportunities. We are interested in innovative responses to the global housing crisis, such as co-housing, eco-housing, micro-housing, housing activism and other experiments in housing diversity and sustainability.

(iii) The technical strand focuses on implementation of housing rights; particularly the work of legal and administrative officers in ensuring remedies to housing problems. The emphasis is recognition of the importance of low level dispute resolution that provides speedy and sustainable solutions, not necessarily through the courts. This strand investigates the effectiveness and appropriateness of administrative responses - formal, semi-formal and informal - to deficits in housing rights across different locales.

Paper proposals related to any one or more of these strands are invited from scholars, practitioners and activists from all disciplines involved in housing work. Abstracts may be sent to Danie Brand at BrandJD@ufs.ac.za by Friday 21 September 2018.

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