From the President

Dear friends and colleagues of RC43,

I hope this finds you well during this unprecedented time. Here in Brazil, the impacts of COVID-19 have been tragic with over 1.96 million confirmed cases and over 75,000 confirmed deaths (Brazilian Ministry of Health, 2020). Political turmoil has consumed the country and its COVID-19 response.

One thing that has become evident during the pandemic is the importance of housing and its relationship with protecting human health. Housing problems and access to health have been largely documented worldwide. The problems are huge, and where inequalities are drastic, mainly in the global South, direct policy solutions become highly complex: locking down and washing hands, for instance. Imagine the difficulty when solutions include remote jobs, e-commerce and home schooling. These issues may be highly sensitive in favelas in Brazil, similarly to precarious housing conditions elsewhere. Conditions here often involve large families sharing crowded tiny houses and services are almost nonexistent, including safe water, sanitation and good quality Internet!

Good quality policies that lead to good quality housing have never been so important. At present, the houses of millions living in poverty do not provide the safety and protection needed to save lives.

We are still looking forward to the IV ISA Forum of Sociology which has been postponed until February 2021 (more details on p.4). A summary of the panel sessions is appended at the end of the newsletter. I hope to see you in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Regards,
Flávio A M de Souza

Updates

ISA membership Joining ISA provides many benefits, including discounts on SAGE publications and access to SAGE journals, and reduced registration fees for the ISA World Congress. It also offers the possibility of scholarships through RC43, but you must be an ISA member to be considered! See http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/membership/individual-membership/ for more information.

Please send ideas for updates as well as books, publications and events to feature on relevant housing and built environment policy, theory and practice to **isa.rc43@gmail.com.**

COVID-19, Housing and Equity

The global impacts of COVID-19 have left no sector immune, including housing. Perhaps at no other time has the importance of housing been so apparent. As countries went into lockdown, asking people to stay home or forcing them to under stay-at-home orders, the need for housing and its role expanded. People have rapidly adapted to undertake their daily activities from home at the same time as job losses and financial hardship has disrupted people's ability to afford housing costs. For those who do not have access to adequate housing, the impact has even more dangerous repercussions.

The pandemic has called attention to the connection between safe and stable housing and overall health. This is especially true for those who are homeless or living in informal settlements. Adequate housing is necessary to undertake the measures needed to protect yourself against COVID-19 (self-isolate, physically distance, wash hands, disinfect). The threat of inadequate housing during COVID-19 is striking in the world's largest refugee camp – the Rohingya refugee camp in southwest Bangladesh. There are approximately one million people living in the camps, with a population density of about 120,000 people per square mile (Khan et al., 2020). On average there are 4.5 people per household living in makeshift shelters 14m^2 in size. Access to clean water and sanitation is limited. Khan et al. (2020) state that even a single case of COVID-19 in the camps would create a 'mission impossible' scenario to manage or contain. As of June 10 there were 35 confirmed cases of refugees testing positive for COVID-10 and three deaths (The Guardian, 2020). The potential impact this may have on the camps is enormous and is just one example of how inadequate housing intensifies the threat of COVID-19.

In countries such as the UK and USA, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities based on the types of jobs lost and the number of COVID-19 related illnesses and fatalities. It has also exacerbated racial disparities in access to adequate housing. People of color and low-income families have been burdened by housing costs and instability long before COVID-19. In the USA, Black and Latino renters have more difficulty paying rent and there is a significant racial homeownership gap (Urban Institute, 2020). These disparities have been shown to increase during a recession. Structural barriers and persistent disparities make Black homeowners more susceptible to loss of home and wealth and have less ability to participate in economic recovery because their capital is often concentrated in their home (Urban Institute, 2020).

Housing has been a critical part of many government responses to the pandemic, giving varying levels of priority to protecting tenants and homeowners. Policy change has happened rapidly, demonstrating an ability for policymakers to enact change and protect housing rights. For example, Spain has established some of the most generous policies in Europe (Simpson, 2020). To protect private renters a number of measures have been put in place lasting until six months after the state of emergency ends: tenancy agreements set to expire have been automatically extended, a ban on evictions, and frozen rents. In an attempt to reduce rents, landlords with 10 or more properties have to decrease rents up to 50% during the state of emergency and for up to four months after it ends, or instead agree to rent payment plans that tenants can pay for up to three years once the crisis ends. These are examples of short-term solutions to protect people's ability to maintain housing.

As countries recover from the pandemic, securing adequate housing and housing equity must be prioritized as long-term commitments. The COVID-19 recovery presents an opportunity to address both racial equity and structural barriers. Policymakers are in a position to address persistent racial and ethnic disparities in housing equity, and to ensure that all households have access to good quality housing.

- Jayden Koop, University of Manitoba

New books and publications

Huang, Youqin (ed.), 2020. *Chinese Cities in the 21st Century*, **Palgrave Macmillan. Available at:**
https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030347796

From the publisher: "This book is an interdisciplinary examination of China's new urban development model and the challenges Chinese cities face in the 21st century. China is in the midst of a historic developmental inflection point, grappling with a significantly slowing economy, rapidly rising inequality, massive migration, skyrocketing housing prices, alarming environmental problems, and strong pushback from the West. In this volume, Western and Chinese scholars in different disciplines offer the clearest look yet at some of the main challenges China faces, including domestic and international contexts, the new urban development model, inclusion and well-being of migrants and their families, and urban sustainability. This book sheds light on

China's ongoing development and future directions, and has strong policy implications for anyone interested in the future of China."

Chen, Zhigang, Youqin Huang and Xianjin Huang, 2019. Public Support for Inclusionary Housing in Urban China, *The International Journal of Housing Policy.***First published online on March 22, 2019, Vol. 19 No. 4: 457-482. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1080/19491247.2018.1560543**

Abstract: "In recent years, China has been experimenting with inclusionary housing to develop affordable housing and promote mixed living in cities. There is thus an urgent need to understand residents' preferences and public support for inclusionary housing, which is important not only for the design and implementation of inclusionary housing but also for political legitimacy and social stability. This study developed a conceptual framework to understand public support for inclusionary housing. Hypotheses derived from the self-interest, ideology and institutional setup theses were then developed. A two-level mixed effect logit model was also conducted using data from a 2013 survey in Jiangsu Province. Results indicated that most people preferred inclusionary housing to concentrated low-income housing; all three theses were supported to some degree. People of lower socioeconomic status, recipients of housing subsidies, and those living in cities with significant low-income housing coverage rates were more likely to support inclusionary housing. On the other hand, migrants were less likely to support this measure. The effectiveness of inclusionary housing was also discussed and policy recommendations were provided."

Heslop, Julia, Colin McFarlane and Emma Ormerod, 2020. Relational housing across the North–South divide: learning between Albania, Uganda, and the UK, *Housing Studies***. First published online on March 12, 2020. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2020.1722801**

Abstract: "In this paper, we examine how to understand housing as a relational process. Drawing on research in three diverse cities, we stage an unlikely dialogue that brings together narratives of housing across the global North–South divide. In doing so, we are concerned with thinking housing relationally in two broad senses: first, housing as a relational composite of economy, space, politics, legality and materials, structured by particular relations of power and resource inequality. Second, housing as a space of learning through comparison, which connects geographically and culturally in distinct cities. What do we learn about relational thinking with regards to housing when we compare it across the global North–South divide? In response, we explore a dialogue between a set of cities often off-the-map in debates on housing and urban research: Gateshead (UK), Kampala (Uganda) and Tirana (Albania). In comparing how housing is produced, distributed and inhabited, we seek to contribute to a wider understanding of the relationalities of housing.

Pawson, H., Milligan, V. and Yates, J. (2020) *Housing Policy in Australia: a case for system reform***, Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan. Available at: https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9789811507793**

From the publisher: "This book, the first comprehensive overview of housing policy in Australia in 25 years, investigates the many dimensions of housing affordability and government actions that affect affordability outcomes. It analyses the causes and implications of declining home ownership, rising rates of rental stress and the neglect of social housing, as well as the housing situation of Indigenous Australians. The book covers a period where housing policy primarily operated under a neo-liberal paradigm dominated by financial de-regulation and fiscal austerity. It critiques the broad and fragmented range of government measures that have influenced housing outcomes over this period. These include regulation, planning and tax policies as well as explicit housing programs. The book also identifies current and future housing challenges for Australian governments, recognizing these as a complex set of inter-connected problems. Drawing on its coverage of the economics, politics and administration of housing provision, the book sets out priorities for the transformational national strategy needed for a fairer and more productive housing system, and to improve affordability outcomes for the most vulnerable Australians."

Conferences/Meetings

IV ISA Forum of Sociology
Challenges of the 21st Century: Democracy, Environment, Inequalities, Intersectionality
Moved to February 23-27, 2021, Porto Alegre, Brazil
October 16-25, 2020: Call for new abstracts
October 26-November 12: Submission of new abstracts
December 15, 2020: Registration deadline
The list of sessions sponsored by RC43 is appended to the end of this newsletter.

Cities in a Changing World: Questions of Culture, Climate and Design
Conference on architecture, urbanism, planning, sociology, health, environments and infrastructure
June 16-18, 2021, New York, USA (hybrid virtual and in-person event)
Early abstracts due June 30, 2020
For more information: http://architecturemps.com/new-york-2021/

Calls for Proposals

Special Issue "City Life in the Time of the Pandemic" - *Urbanities: Journal of Urban Ethnography*
"This special collection will include short contributions in the form of analytic reflections on the many interrelated aspects and consequences of the stay-at-home policy. Some countries have announced that they will start easing their lockdowns. However, we all know that the impact of the pandemic – and related policies – will stay with us for a long time to come."
For more information contact Giuliana B. Prato at g.b.prato@kent.ac.uk

The Radical Housing Journal has an open call for submissions. The RHJ is interested in publishing contributions from individuals and groups concerned with the fight for the right to housing and to the city globally. The Journal seeks interventions crossing disciplinary and institutional boundaries, and welcomes critical scholarship working at the intersection of political economy, feminist studies, critical race studies, decolonial praxis, poststructuralism, and more.

RC43

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Social Design. the Use of Design in Response to the Challenges of Modern Society
Session Organizer(s):
Paulina ROJEK-ADAMEK, padamek@up.krakow.pl, Pedagogical University of Kraków, Poland
Grzegorz GAWRON, grzegorz.gawron@us.edu.pl, University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland
Session in English

Contemporary understanding of design goes far beyond the creation of luxury goods. *Design is a vision, Design is a process, Design is a result* (Wolff M.). It is one of 50 different definitions offered by well-known designers, business people, and politicians published in a brochure printed by Design Council (1995)

From the beginning of the 21st century, there has also been a strong shift in design towards the use of design skills for social issues. This time the type of social involvement is different than in the pioneering years of industrial design, when it focused rather on creating mass products than minimize social diversity. Today socially engaged designers are more reacting to the negative consequences of what mass production has brought in the social, cultural and environmental dimensions (Papanek V., 1971).

That is why it is worth discussing the application of design to social issues, especially in the context of post-crisis reality and global processes of social and cultural changes. We would like to discuss the contemporary understanding of design and its perception in the wider social context considering the following issues:

- What is the role of design in contemporary society?
- How can design be used in solving problems related to social and cultural changes (demographic changes, modern technologies, etc.)?
- What is currently being done in this area and what can be done?
- How can the perception of designers change, showing examples of socially responsible design?
- How to involve institutions (local governments, entrepreneurs) in the process of socially responsible design?

Slumification of Consolidated Informal Settlements – a New and Unseen Challenge?
Session Organizer(s):
Peter WARD, peter.ward@austin.utexas.edu, University of Texas-Ausitin, USA
Session in Spanish, English

Today most scholars, policy makers, and residents themselves eschew the term "slum" and argue that it is high time to retire the term altogether (Mayne 2017). We agree, and yet we identify and explore counterfactual analyses of Latin American housing processes in which the conventional wisdom of successful housing consolidation appears to be severely constrained or stymied altogether. In the context of self-help ownership, low-income rental housing markets, and mass social interest housing estates which show high levels of abandonment and vacancies, this panel analyze why some types of housing remain heavily deteriorated, or having successfully consolidated, later enter a downward decline of deterioration into what might constitute the erstwhile term of "slums".

Building off the Latin American Housing Network (www.lahn.utexas.org) nine-country study, panelists will present findings from different types of consolidated settlements (30 years after their formation) and now located in the "innerburbs" ("first suburbs"), and where we have argued for new policy imperatives of housing and community rehab to overcome deterioration and dilapidation (Ward et al 2015). Despite the apparent success of self-building consolidation since the 1960s and 1970s, we are now beginning to observe evidence of heavy distress to the physical fabric of dwellings and communities – de facto *"slumification".* This is due in part to the failure to rehabilitate deteriorated housing conditions after many years of intensive use. Other triggers will also be examined: title "clouding" due to intestacy; overcrowding and densification; rising informality under neoliberal and post-neoliberal economic conditions, etc.

The Role of Real Estate Developers in Affordable Housing - Boon or Bane ?
Session Organizer(s):

Anthony BOANADA-FUCHS, anthony.boanada-fuchs@unisg.ch, St Gallen Institute of Management in Latin America, Brazil
Vanessa BOANADA FUCHS, vanessa.boanada@unisg.ch, St.Gallen Institute of Managment in Latin America, Brazil

Session in English

Housing and the built environment have gained center stage in international policy making. In particular the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda urge governments to move housing at the center of urban development and include all actors into the production of the built environment. Such idea of enablement is not fundamentally new, and the developments of the past decade underline the numerous conflicts that may arise in cross-sectoral undertakings.

The enablement paradigm promoted by the Washington consensus has ultimately concentrated on markets at the expense of civil society. Despite the importance given to businesses, delivered results have been sobering: housing remains unaffordable for most people, urban inequality is at the rise, and the built environment largely grows in unsustainable patterns.

The proposed panel invites contributions that highlight from a sociological vantage point the role(s) of real estate developers in affordable housing initiatives to advance our knowledge on private influences in the built environment.

Women's Housing and Land Rights in an Urbanizing World
Session Organizer(s):
Edith JIMENEZ HUERTA, ejimenez@cucea.udg.mx, Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico
Raquel LUDERMIR BERNARDINO, ludermir.raquel@gmail.com, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil
Session in English
Adequate housing is a key element of everyone's right to an adequate standard of living, recognized by international human rights law. Yet the world is facing an unprecedented housing crisis, with over one billion people inadequately housed. It is widely recognized now, that women are more likely than men to become homeless and live in inadequate conditions due to a combination of factors that range from discriminatory laws, policies and practices, to social and economic disadvantages. They are the worst affected in forced evictions, resettlement schemes, slum clearance, domestic violence, civil conflicts, discriminatory inheritance laws and practices, development projects and globalization policies. But while most existing work on gender and land rights focuses on rural (and African) contexts, gender remains neglected or is treated in an oversimplified way in much of the published work dedicated to urban land and housing.

The purpose of this session is to highlight the relationship that women have with housing and land rights in urban areas. Presentes are invited to provide an overview of the housing and land rights violations or challenges experienced by women, particularly those related to multiple layers of discrimination including class, ethnicity, and civil status. The session will shed light on methodological approaches used to conduct analysis of housing issues, and on the implications for laws, policies and practices of addressing the gap between the de jure and the de facto protection of women's housing and land rights. The session will be chaired by Dr. Edith Jimenez Huerta, University of Guadalajara.

Private Renting: From a Transitional to a Long-Term or Even a Life-Long Housing Tenure?
Session Organizer(s):
Alan MORRIS, alan.morris@uts.edu.au, Institute for Public Policy and Governance, University of Technology Sydney, Australia
Paul WATT, p.watt@bbk.ac.uk, Birkbeck, University of London, United Kingdom
Session in English
In many countries, especially in Anglophone nations, the Private Rental Sector (PRS) has grown substantially over the last three decades due primarily to the decline in social housing and the increasing difficulty of accessing home ownership in the post-Crash housing financial landscape. Historically, in most countries, the PRS has primarily been a transitional housing tenure, but increasingly it is becoming a long-term or even life-long housing tenure. For example, private renting is increasingly accommodating groups who would have previously gained access to social housing, such as low-income households with children and households dependent on government benefits for their income. There is also evidence that younger professionals are positively choosing the flexibility associated with private renting. In this stream, we are interested in examining both the factors underlying the expansion of the PRS and also the implications of long-term renting for the households affected. Some of the key questions that are worthy of examination include:
1. What are the structural factors underlying the expansion of long-term private renting?
2., How has the landlord-tenant relationship been impacted by long-term private renting?
3. Which groups are becoming more likely to enter and remain in private renting and what are the explanations for this?
4. What are the impacts of perpetual insecurity? Are long-term private renters able to create a sense of home; what are the impacts on children and relationships?
5. What is the geography of long-term private renting, both internationally and intra-nationally? Is long-term renting primarily an urban phenomenon?

How Does Migration Change the Built Environment? Comparing the Functions and Prospects of "Remittance Houses" in Latin America
Session Organizer(s):
Paolo BOCCAGNI, paolo.boccagni@unitn.it, University of Trento, Italy
Ruben HERNANDEZ-LEON, rubenhl@soc.ucla.edu, University of California Los Angeles, USA

Joint Session with RC31 Sociology of Migration (RC43 host)
Session in English
There is hardly an easier way to see the impact of migration on local communities of origin than by looking at the built environment. The buildings made (or refurbished) out of migrant remittances may stand out from the surrounding vernacular architecture for their layout, size and infrastructural qualities, but also for the possibility that they remain incomplete or uninhabited. Several case studies attest to the significance of migration-driven housing all over Latin America. However, more comparative research is needed on the social, economic and cultural "lives" of these houses, in many respects: the meanings and (expected) functions these buildings embody; the interface between diasporic house-building and the housing needs, claims and experiences of non-migrants; the engagement of local and transnational actors, within broader migration industries, in building and maintaining them. Still missing, likewise, is a comparative understanding of the interplay between migrant investments and local patterns of social change; more specifically, between remittance-driven housing and the endogenous housing markets, with all of the relevant stakeholders. Overall, the session explores how far transnational housing investments are specific to the migration corridors and contexts of settlement from which remittances are sent (including the biographical circumstances of senders), and how far – instead – they tend to reproduce similar patterns of expectations, house consumption and "housing careers" across migration systems and communities. In either case, while migrant houses are a tangible fruit of remittances, don't they also make for a new form of social, cultural and material remittance in themselves?

Migración Y Ciudades
Session Organizer(s):

Daniel GONZÁLEZ ROMERO, in.ciudades@cuaad.udg.mx, Instituto de Investigación y Estudios de las Ciudades, Mexico

Session in Spanish, English

Las ciudades son el espacio clave del futuro de la humanidad, de la generación los esquemas del capital, de la economía a escala mundial, nodos edificados y funcionales y espacio cuyas cualidades, en el umbral del siglo XXI, se encuentran y significan por la desigualdad, la vulnerabilidad y la incertidumbre que padecen millones de sus habitantes.

Ante el fenómeno actual de las corrientes migratorias que, por diferentes causas, se suceden en los países del mundo; en nuestro-este caso en los países de América Latina., se hace necesario explorar la complejidad de los procesos que se producen entre la migración externa-interna, en la transformación y asentamiento socio-espacial de los grupos y las familias que migran a las urbes, especialmente hacia las de carácter metropolitano, no obstante en los últimos años esto afecta también a las ciudades denominadas medias.

Analizar los impactos sociales que redundan en el reconocimiento y los derechos humanos de los migrantes respecto de su permanencia y asentamiento en el marco de los esquemas institucionales de planeación urbana, el acceso a la vivienda y a los servicios urbanos indispensables, realidades que de una u otra forma condicionan su calidad de vida. Abordar las políticas públicas al respecto de los migrantes y la ciudad.

Incluir en esta exploración, un acercamiento a los problemas de la calidad ambiental del contexto urbano y las migraciones.

Liveable Degrowth: Housing between Social and Environmental Sustainability
Session Organizer(s):
Sourayan MOOKERJEA, sourayan@ualberta.ca, University of Alberta, Canada
Session in English
This session addresses housing as fundamental to understanding the challenges and possibilities of degrowth. Degrowth espouses the quest for both human and ecological well being through the equitable reduction of production and consumption (Schneider et al. 2010). Given the centrality of housing to sociality and care as well as energy and material consumption, degrowth-oriented housing projects and practices foreground the possibilities and pitfalls of re-imagining social relations and built environments together. Papers in this session engage with the challenge and promise of degrowth housing, with particular attention to the interrelations of liveable housing and new energy futures. Case studies, policy analyses, and conceptual papers are all welcome.

The session will be a regular session of four 20-minute presentations, followed by response from a discussant from the seven year Just Powers, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Canada First Research Excellence FUND (CEFREF). Just Powers (2017-2023) is the leading research project on feminist and decolonial energy transition in Canada with 35 researchers from across the country.

Housing Regimes in the East and South: National Politics and International Connections of a Global Crisis

Session Organizer(s):

Oded HAAS, odedhaas@yorku.ca, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Canada
Azam KHATAM, azamkhatam@gmail.com, The City Institute, York University (CITY), Iran

Session in English

From Sao Paulo to Ramallah, from Singapore to Tehran, similar residential developments are being produced by national housing systems, responding to a global 'housing crisis' in extremely dissimilar contexts. While housing has become a highly contested issue in urban policy, struggle and research, our understanding of how the global crisis is produced by as well as re-producing particular political conditions is still limited. This session engages perspectives from the East and South with recent debates on the causes for, implications of and strategies against this crisis. Our aim is to understand the local ideological and political determinants of deep structures of 'housing regimes', and their dynamic relationships with global powers.

This session is part of a larger endeavour to expand the political economy lens of housing studies beyond its necessary critique of hyper-commodification (including buildings, land, labour and property rights) and financialisation of housing. We look to the East and South to see the explanatory value of 'housing regime': identifying the central role of the relationship between state power and the housing sector in shaping the present conditions of enduring religious, ethnic and colonial conflicts.

Looking comparatively at various cases, we question: do different housing regimes constitute different processes of (de)commodification; and how are housing regimes shaped by social movements, indigenous groups' relation to land, and marginalised groups' political demands? Exploring how models of housing policy, design and struggle circulate farther and further from the West will facilitate a more particularised and therefore comprehensive understanding of the global crisis.

JOINT SESSIONS HOSTED BY ANOTHER RC

Joint Session proposed through RC06 with RC43 Housing and Built Environment

From the Changing Idea of "the Family" to a Shifting Notion of Home? Spatiotemporal, Material and Affective Aspects of Contemporary Family Life

In family research current issues relating to mobility, multi-locality and fluidity in family life (e.g. migration, divorced families, blurred work-life boundaries, etc.) have brought up an increased interest in space and the notion of home – topics that have been marginalized for a long time.
The concepts of family and home have been strongly linked by the idea of the nuclear family (Hareven, 1991). However, the understanding of the family as a stable unit limited to a single house has been insufficient for capturing contemporary lives. Correspondingly, scholarly work introduced more complex definitions and multidimensional approaches to family life as well as to home and housing, notwithstanding the incorporation of the two realms still falls short and one has to ask whether the meaning of home has transformed along with the fading idea of 'the family' (James, 2013).
In this session, we wish to examine practices of doing family and home in various contexts, with focus on the temporal, spatial, material and affective aspects of everyday life.We plan to organize a joint session by RC06 and RC43 due to the overlapping interest in the topic and envision a regular session with a maximum of five 20-minute presentations

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Joint Session RC25 Language and Society with RC43 Housing and Built Environment

Discourses on Poverty, Homelessness, and Housing: Categorization in Policy, Media, Academy, Popular Culture and Beyond

Discursive representations of poverty and homelessnes in policy, the media, academic research, and popular culture influences how we perceive and react to social vulnerability, and how we relate to homeless and poor people. On one hand, naturalizing poverty and homelessness are partially discursive social problems. On the other hand, because language and society is a two-way relationship, these representations are also products of social practices and relations.

Discourse and critical discourse studies seek to bridge the gap between theory based on language and other semiotic systems and research that explores the roles of language (and other semiotics) in contextualized social practices. These efforts rely on theoretical bodies of language in society from the social sciences, to focus on how language functions in social life, as modes of representation and action. Because power depends not only on the use of force, but also on manufacturing consent, discourse is a crucial element for supporting/overcoming hegemonic relations in a given historical context.

Social injustice can become naturalized in texts when we employ classifications that legitimize differences. As a result, vulnerable groups can be stripped of their rights, undermining their ability to articulate experience and resist. Prejudiced representations of homeless and poor people must be addressed in different social-discourse spaces including media, policy, academic research, popular culture, etc., and its potential social and political effects. This session thus seeks to look at the representation of these vulnerable social groups in different kinds of discursive places, using a variety of theoretical backgrounds and methodological tools.

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