

## From the President

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It's hard to believe it has been a year since the RC43 Conference in Chicago, and that in less than a year we will be looking forward to Hong Kong (see below for more details). The theme for 2017 is "Unreal Estate? Rethinking Housing, Class and Identity" – very fitting given the growing inequality and global investments. In addition to paper sessions, the organizers, Urban Research Group, Department of Public Policy at City University of Hong Kong, have arranged a great group of keynote speakers. This will be a really dynamic and stimulating gathering! In anticipation of the 2018 World Congress in Toronto, I want to encourage you to make sure you are up-to-date on your ISA membership, especially students and those members from Category B and C countries (see ISA website) as we may be able to provide ISA scholarships available to ISA members of RC43. I look forward to seeing you all in Hong Kong!

**Janet Smith**, RC43 President

## ISA and RC43 events

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2017 June 18-21, City University of Hong Kong. RC43. More information at [www.rc43.org](http://www.rc43.org)  
Call for Papers out now and are due December 31, 2016  
Send to [RC43.conference2017@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:RC43.conference2017@cityu.edu.hk)

2018 July 15-21. Toronto, Canada. XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology.

## Habitat III—October 17-20, 2016

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This October, Habitat III will be taking place in Quito, Ecuador. This will be the third Habitat conference, following the first in Vancouver, Canada (1976) and the second in Istanbul, Turkey (1996). As a United Nations conference, its intent is "to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty, and identify and address new and emerging challenges" ([Habitat III 2016](#)). It focuses on sustainability, following the Paris Agreement on climate change, and is intent on developing a new urban agenda for cities, towns and villages.

The draft Urban Agenda was developed following a multi-year process of research and consultation with civil society organizations and local authority associations around the world. Recognizing the dramatic changes emerging in cities as more than half the world's population has urbanized, the Urban Agenda seeks to recreate and revitalize cities in partnership with civil society, nonprofit organizations, governments and the private sector. The Urban Agenda is available here:

<https://www2.habitat3.org/bitcache/6d9d35f44a6238d3899a4948b140b7e564964447?vid=572132&disposition=inline&op=view>).

The program for Habitat includes assemblies for children, for women, for business, and for urban mayors. Special sessions will be convened on a wide variety of topics, including housing, informal settlements, local economic development, climate change, and many more. A central part of Habitat III is the Habitat III Village, which is a "unique, pioneering and innovative urban live laboratory that will embrace the effective participation of creative and proactive synergies of local and international urban actors in the city of Quito during the Habitat III Conference" ([Habitat III 2016](#)). It is intended to become a forum for participants to share ideas beyond the main agenda of the conference through examples of urban renewal, innovative transportation options, new technologies and new participation and engagement techniques.

Will any RC43 members attend Habitat III? If so, we would love to hear about your experiences, and what the best take-aways from the conference were—please send us your thoughts, and we will include them in the next newsletter.

## Updates

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**Dennis Keating** organized a Forum at the Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University on *The Arts as a Catalyst for Neighborhood Revitalization* held on June 7, 2016 featuring four Cleveland neighborhoods and community development corporations.

**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!

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](mailto:isa.rc43@gmail.com).

## Of interest: Other items and happenings

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2016 October 17-20, Quito. HABITAT III. United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. [www.habitat3.org](http://www.habitat3.org)

**Call for Papers:** *Housing, Theory and Society* serves to integrate housing research into the social sciences and applied fields of social research. It furthers the agenda of housing research as an integrated multidisciplinary field of research and practice that is theoretically informed and embedded in wider societal issues. The journal presents innovative research and debate concerning housing issues as they intersect with a broad range of other topics, including welfare provision, employment, education, gender, public health and the environment.

For more information: <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/shou20/current>

**Call for Book Proposals:** *Explorations in Housing Studies* is a newly launched series of high quality, research monographs which aims to extend and deepen both theoretical debate and empirical research in the housing studies field. The series is looking for novel and cutting edge contributions which may offer new links across disciplines, new policy insights or open up new research agendas. With editors based in Asia, Australasia and North America, the series expects to have a strong international and comparative dimension. The core audience is anticipated to be rooted in critical approaches in the social sciences but proposals from scholars in other relevant disciplinary fields are also welcomed. The editors are particularly keen to hear from new scholars with ideas for books.

For more information: <https://www.routledge.com/Exploring-Housing-Studies/book-series/HOUSING>

## New books and publications from our Members

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Aalbers, Manuel. 2016. *The Financialization of Housing*. New York: Routledge. [www.routledge.com/The-Financialization-of-Housing-A-political-economy-approach/Aalbers/p/book/9781138950580](http://www.routledge.com/The-Financialization-of-Housing-A-political-economy-approach/Aalbers/p/book/9781138950580)

“Due to the financialization of housing in today’s market, housing risks are increasingly becoming financial risks. Financialization refers to the increasing dominance of financial actors, markets, practices, measurements and narratives. It also refers to the resulting structural transformation of economies, firms, states and households. This book asserts the centrality of housing to the contemporary capitalist

political economy and places housing at the centre of the financialization debate.” (from the publishers’ website)

Betancur, John and Janet Smith. 2016. *Claiming Neighborhood: New Ways of Understanding Urban Change*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

<http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/44gyw3my9780252040504.html>

“As the authors show, a diverse collection of people and institutions, including urban policy experts, elected officials, investors, speculators, academics, service providers, resident leaders, churches, and community-based organizations, compete to control how neighborhoods change and are characterized. Their interactions and power plays ultimately determine the fate of neighborhoods and their residents. A key argument made is that in our postindustrial economy, neighborhoods have become sites of consumption and spaces to be consumed. Discourse is used to add and subtract value from them—for example, a romanticized image of “the neighborhood” too often exaggerates or obscures race and class struggles while celebrating diversity and income mixing. The authors challenge this image, arguing that in order to explain and govern urban space more equitably, scholars and policy makers must reexamine what sustains this image and the power effects produced.” (from the publishers’ website)

Keating, Dennis. 2016. *A Brief Guide to Tremont: Cleveland's Neighborhood on a Hill*. Charleston: The History Press/Arcadia Publishers. [www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781626197855](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781626197855)

“For almost two centuries, the historic Tremont neighborhood has rested on a bluff overlooking Cleveland’s industrial valley. The sleepy farming community was transformed in 1867, when Cleveland annexed it. Factories attracted thousands of emigrants from Europe, and industrialization gave rise to a class of wealthy businessmen. After the city prospered as a manufacturing center during World War II, deindustrialization and suburbanization fueled a huge population loss, and the neighborhood declined as highways cut through. The 1980s marked the beginning of the rebirth of the cultural treasure Tremont became. Author W. Dennis Keating chronicles the challenges and triumphs of this diverse and vibrant community.” (from the publishers’ website)

Tammaru, Tiit, Szymon Marcińczak, Maarten van Ham and Sako Musterd. 2016. *Socio-Economic Segregation in European Capital Cities: East meets West*. New York: Routledge.

[www.routledge.com/Socio-Economic-Segregation-in-European-Capital-Cities-East-meets-West/Tammaru-Marcinczak-van-Ham-Musterd/p/book/9781138794931](http://www.routledge.com/Socio-Economic-Segregation-in-European-Capital-Cities-East-meets-West/Tammaru-Marcinczak-van-Ham-Musterd/p/book/9781138794931)

The authors write, “Together with three colleagues we have just launched our book on socio-economic segregation in Europe. We show inequality and segregation is on the increase in most of the 13 cities studied.” [www.segregationeurope.eu](http://www.segregationeurope.eu) .

“Growing inequalities in Europe are a major challenge threatening the sustainability of urban communities and the competitiveness of European cities. While the levels of socio-economic segregation in European cities are still modest compared to some parts of the world, the poor are increasingly concentrating spatially within capital cities across Europe... This book provides rigorous comparative evidence on socio-economic segregation from 13 European cities... The main conclusion of the book is that the spatial gap between the poor and the rich is widening in capital cities across Europe, which threatens to harm the social stability of European cities.” (from the publishers’ website)

Valença, Márcio Moraes. 2016. *Arquitetura de Grife na Cidade Contemporânea: tudo igual, mas diferente*. Rio de Janeiro: MAUAD-X.

[mauad.com.br/index.php?route=product/product&product\\_id=20469](http://mauad.com.br/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=20469)

“Este livro trata do papel da arquitetura de grife no desenvolvimento das cidades contemporâneas. São analisados os casos de Bilbao, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong e Londres. O "efeito Bilbao" refere-se ao poder transformador de uma obra icônica na promoção econômica de uma cidade. Para manter uma dinâmica de crescimento, é necessário que a cidade produza uma sucessão de intervenções que regenere e/ou expanda o tecido urbano e o espaço econômico. Para isso, é necessário constituir novos atributos urbanos. Como esse movimento se dá no contexto da globalização neoliberal - e mesmo por causa desta -, estabelece-se uma competição urbana. Outras cidades também buscam constituir seus novos atributos, visando aos mesmos propósitos: atrair negócios (investimentos) e visitantes solváveis (consumidores). Assim, novos espaços públicos, culturais, desportivos, de entretenimento, como também shoppings, aeroportos, universidades, escolas, supermercados, restaurantes, edifícios corporativos e outros empreendimentos são instalados na cidade. Ou seja, uma vez engajada nesse processo, a cidade tem de produzir mais atributos e entrar nessa espiral competitiva. Os novos atributos não só têm de servir à função a que se destinam, mas aparecer bem na paisagem urbana e nas suas representações. Passam a constituir os novos cartões-postais, servindo à espetacularização da cidade. A utilização de arquitetura de grife é um recurso quase que infalível para garantir tal sucesso.” (from the publishers’ website)

Ward, P.M., E.R. Jiménez Huerta and M. Di Virgilio. 2015. *Housing Policy in Latin American Cities: A new generation of strategies and approaches for 2016 UN-Habitat III*. New York: Routledge.

[www.routledge.com/Housing-Policy-in-Latin-American-Cities-A-New-Generation-of-Strategies/Ward-Jimenez-Huerta-Di-Virgilio/p/book/9781138776869](http://www.routledge.com/Housing-Policy-in-Latin-American-Cities-A-New-Generation-of-Strategies/Ward-Jimenez-Huerta-Di-Virgilio/p/book/9781138776869)

“After the 1960s, rapid urbanization in developing regions in Latin America, Africa, and Asia was marked by the expansion of low-income "irregular" settlements that developed informally and which, by the 2000s, often constitute between 20-60 percent of the built-up area of metropolitan areas and other large cities. Apart from the activities of Latin American Housing Network (LAHN [www.lahn.utexas.org](http://www.lahn.utexas.org)), there has been minimal attention directed at the earliest portion of settlements that formed some 25-40 years ago that now form a large part of the intermediate ring of the cities. Developed as a coordinated collaborative research project, the authors and contributors offer original perspectives on the policy challenges of densification and rehabilitation facing much of the low income housing of Latin American cities.” (from the publishers’ website)

## RC43

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