

## From the President

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Whether it's royal weddings, hurricanes, the Olympics, or rebuilding shanty-towns, what can we do to prevent the violence that occurs when people are displaced? How do we promote housing and human rights that are meaningful, culturally specific and effective in the face of large-scale development? How do we respond to the contradiction inherent in celebrations like the Olympics and royal weddings that also create homelessness as they hide it from view?

In all these incidences, a common question we must wrestle with is: "What is a home?" How do we understand the idea of 'home' in a context where housing is increasingly seen as an investment, and where those without the capacity to invest—or even those who seek a home rather than an investment—are left houseless? We know it is more than a building, but how do we really grasp the very concrete aspects of the cultural significance of the home, of the security it represents, and its role in some form of moral compact?

The theme for the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology is *Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities*. This is an opportunity to discuss these questions, and to examine the relationship between housing, power, violence and justice. We have nine sessions full of interesting papers from around the world. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Janet Smith**, RC43 President

## Grenfell update

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A recent article in *The Guardian* (22 January 2018) noted that “the number of council and private blocks over 18 metres high across England found to be wrapped in similar combustible plastic-filled cladding has risen to 312 [based on] [figures released](#) by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government revealed. Almost all of those – 299 – are likely to be in breach of building regulations on fire safety. Officials predict the numbers will continue to rise.” Further: “Only three of the 160 social housing towers identified as dangerous after the [Grenfell Tower fire](#) are known to have been reclad with safer materials, leaving tens of thousands of people still living in ‘fire hazards’.”

The BBC produced “A visual guide to what happened at Grenfell Tower” available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-40301289>

## ISA and RC43 events

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2018 July 15-21. Toronto, Canada. XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology. **Registration deadline is March 20, 2018.** <http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/call-for-abstracts/>

## Updates

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

## New books and publications

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Lee, C. Aujean, Karna Wong, and Deirdre Pfeiffer, "On the Front Lines of Immigrant Homeownership: Asian American Nonprofits During the Great Recession" *Nonprofit Voluntary Sector Quarterly* (2017).

Asian American–serving nonprofits were on the forefront to help immigrant Asian American homeowners during the recession, particularly those with limited English proficiency. Yet, we know little about the experiences of these organizations, as they are relatively understudied in the nonprofit literature. We triangulated interviews with 14 Asian American–serving nonprofits providing housing counseling services with organizational tax records to advance theory on their roles and impacts. Our findings reveal that although Asian American nonprofits played an important role in serving limited English-speaking clients overlooked by other nonprofits during the recession, they struggled to provide comprehensive assistance and remain solvent. Asian American nonprofits used diverse troubleshooting strategies, including seeking certifications, diversifying funding sources, and creaming. Adopting more holistic funding criteria and encouraging greater collaboration among nonprofits serving immigrants would help Asian American nonprofits become more resilient.

Hirayama, Yosuke and Misa Izuhara. 2018. *Housing in Post-Growth Society: Japan on the Edge of Social Transition*. London: Routledge.

The volume offers a greater understanding of the characteristics of post-growth society – changing demography, economy and society – in relation to housing. It considers how a definitive shift to the post-growth period has produced new housing issues including risks as well as opportunities. Through analysis of the impact on five different areas: post-crisis economy, urban and regional variations, young adults and housing pathways, fertility and housing, and ageing and housing wealth, the authors use policy and institutions as overarching analytical tools to examine the contemporary housing issues in a post-growth context. It also considers any relevance from the Japanese experiences in the wider regional and global context.

Anacker, K., A.T. Carswell, S.D. Kirby, and K.R. Tremblay (eds.). 2018. *Introduction to Housing* (Second Edition). Athens: University of Georgia Press.

[www.ugapress.org/index.php/books/introduction\\_to\\_housing](http://www.ugapress.org/index.php/books/introduction_to_housing)

“This foundational text for understanding housing, housing design, homeownership, housing policy, special topics in housing, and housing in a global context has been comprehensively revised to reflect the changed housing situation in the United States during and after the Great Recession and its subsequent movements toward recovery. The book focuses on the complexities of housing and housing-related issues, engendering an understanding of housing, its relationship to national economic factors, and housing policies. It comprises individual chapters written by housing experts who have specialization within the discipline or field, offering commentary on the physical, social, psychological, economic, and policy issues that affect the current housing landscape in the United States and abroad, while proposing solutions to its challenges.” (UGA Press)

Rothstein, R. 2017. *The Color of Law*. New York: WW Norton and Company, Inc.

[books.wwnorton.com/books/The-Color-of-Law](http://books.wwnorton.com/books/The-Color-of-Law)

“In this groundbreaking history of the modern American metropolis, Richard Rothstein, a leading authority on housing policy, explodes the myth that America’s cities came to be racially divided through *de facto* segregation—that is, through individual prejudices, income differences, or the actions of private institutions like banks and real estate agencies. Rather, *The Color of Law* incontrovertibly makes clear that it was *de jure* segregation—the laws and policy decisions passed by local, state, and federal governments—that actually promoted the discriminatory patterns that continue to this day.” (WW Norton and Company).

King, P. 2016. *The Principles of Housing*. London: Routledge. [www.routledge.com/The-Principles-of-Housing/King/p/book/9781138939424](http://www.routledge.com/The-Principles-of-Housing/King/p/book/9781138939424)

“*The Principles of Housing* is an engaging and discursive introduction to the key topics within housing studies. Whereas many books get bogged down in country-specific policy or small innovations, this book argues that the fundamental concepts of what we call housing are relatively stable and unchangeable. By focusing on universal principles, the book provides an introduction to housing that can be used by students world-wide.” (Routledge).

Bernstock, P. 2014. *Olympic Housing: A critical review of London 2012's legacy*. London: Routledge. [www.routledge.com/Olympic-Housing-A-Critical-Review-of-London-2012s-Legacy/Bernstock/p/book/9781409420057](http://www.routledge.com/Olympic-Housing-A-Critical-Review-of-London-2012s-Legacy/Bernstock/p/book/9781409420057)

“One of the distinguishing characteristics of London's bid to host the games was its commitment to legacy where it was argued that ‘the legacy would lead to the regeneration of an entire community for the direct benefit of everyone who lives there’. This book adopts a critical approach to the concept of ‘legacy’ focusing specifically on housing. It argues there will be a range of both intended and unintended legacy outcomes and an urgent need for revised strategies if those original objectives are to be achieved. The concept of legacy is explored in a number of ways, including an overview of housing legacy in other host cities; the experiences and perspectives of those residents decanted to make way for the Olympic Park; a critical review of legacy plans; a detailed analysis of the conversion of the Athletes’ Village into housing; and a case study of the emerging area ‘Stratford High Street’, which explores issues of social class change and the limitation of planning policies. Whilst taking housing as its focus, this book adopts a sociological perspective by exploring the likelihood of social class change in order to draw conclusions about ‘gentrification’, ‘social polarisation’ and the extent to which ‘social inclusion’ is reflected in housing legacies.” (Routledge)

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions. 2007. Fair Play for Housing Rights: Mega-events, Olympic games and housing rights, opportunities for the Olympic movement and others. Geneva: Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions. [www.ruig-gian.org/ressources/Report%20Fair%20Play%20FINAL%20FINAL%20070531.pdf](http://www.ruig-gian.org/ressources/Report%20Fair%20Play%20FINAL%20FINAL%20070531.pdf)

Although not a new resource, this book provides an analysis of the impact of mega-events on housing and housing rights. Using the Olympics as a case study, it identifies a number of challenges associated with housing, especially for low-income households. It also provides recommendations and strategies that can be used to promote and protect affordable housing in planning for mega-events. It continues to be relevant today.

**Urban Displacement Project.** The Urban Displacement Project is a research and action initiative of University of California Berkeley in collaboration with researchers at University of California Los Angeles and Portland State University. The project aims to understand the nature of gentrification and displacement in the Bay Area, Southern California and Portland. It focuses on creating tools to help communities identify the pressures surrounding them and take more effective action. <http://www.urbandisplacement.org/>

## Calls for Proposals

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**Explorations in Housing Studies** (Routledge) is welcoming proposals for this exciting new Series!

Series Editors: Ray Forrest, City University of Hong Kong ([safrray@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:safrray@cityu.edu.hk)), Janet Smith, University of Illinois – Chicago ([janets@uic.edu](mailto:janets@uic.edu)), and Keith Jacobs, University of Tasmania ([Keith.Jacobs@utas.edu.au](mailto:Keith.Jacobs@utas.edu.au))

*Explorations in Housing Studies* is a 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.

The series is being introduced at a time when housing, in its various dimensions, is particularly closely intertwined with the impact of demographic change, economic instability, the shaping of life chances and wealth distributions and with the uncertain impacts of environmental and technological change. Books in the series may engage with these and related issues from a variety of perspectives and methodologies—for example, drawing on new political economy approaches or involving intensive ethnography or mixed methods. The key test will be whether the proposal offers new energy and new excitement to the housing studies field.

**To Submit a Proposal:**

Please contact the series editor closest to your region. Each volume will be approximately 60,000 to 70,000 words and include around 20 or 30 images. A proposal must be written and submitted to the Series Editors for consideration. The editors will make an initial decision on review, and then submit to Routledge for their consideration and external review. Final decision is made at that point, and a contract is placed between author(s) and Routledge. It is anticipated that four volumes will be published per year in the series.

<https://www.routledge.com/Explorations-in-Housing-Studies/book-series/HOUSING>

## RC43

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