

Call for abstracts for the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Research Group 'Geographical housing market research' (AK Wohnungsmarktforschung) on 15th & 16th of June 2017 at the University of Luxembourg, Campus Belval, Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg)

Internationalisation of housing – Market developments, policies, research approaches

The current trend towards the internationalisation of residential real estate and rental housing markets is reflected amongst others in changing supply structures, new financing models and innovative urban development strategies. Real estate markets across Europe are strongly affected by this development, and they also increasingly influence each other (BBSR 2016). Due to their significance for urban development, these changes have come into focus of urban research. Themes such as urban renaissance or renaissance of inner-city dwelling, rising scarcity of housing, not only in metropolises, but also out of town, or displacement processes at the local level have become subjects of public debates. The 2013 Conference on the “Internationalisation of housing and real estate - markets, actors and strategies” (organised by the Research Group 'Geographical housing market research' in cooperation with the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development/BBSR) has already dealt with this topic, putting a certain emphasis on market developments and changes.

The 2017 annual meeting now aims at providing an up-to-date overview of the importance of the internationalisation of the housing sector in more general terms. Apart from market developments and the related strategies of suppliers and buyers, the focus is also directed to possible urban development policies and strategies, and on research approaches and methods that can be helpful when studying these issues.

Against this background, we invite researchers and practitioners to contribute abstracts on the following three topics:

Internationalisation of markets: Global real estate investments by institutional and private investors have become increasingly important in recent years, not least because of shifts in the financial markets. The logics of urban development are thereby significantly shifted, possibly at the expense of local processes and actors and for the benefit of abstract exploitation interests. How has the housing market offer changed in recent years against this background? Who are the actors and how do they shape the supply? Which strategies and exploitation logics can be observed? How does the demand side react to these market changes? What are the cornerstones of internationalised housing in cities? To what extent is the increasing importance of inner-city housing dependent on local investment strategies, how far does this benefit or hinder the creation of housing space?

Policies: What are the implications of this dynamic for urban development (see BBSR 2010)? How do urban actors react to the internationalisation of real estate capital and land utilisation? Which strategies and measures are developed by the cities in order to deal with, respectively to control, these changes on the supply side? How do cities incorporate this development into their planning concepts (for example, in the context of place making concepts or improvement districts)? How is the internationalisation of real estate markets perceived and communicated by the affected cities themselves?

Research approaches: Which concepts of scale and levels of analysis are used in order to investigate internationalised housing and real estate markets? To what extent can research approaches such as “urban policy mobilities”, theoretical concepts such as “transnational

urbanism" (Smith 2001) or conceptualisations of "property" (Christophers 2016) help to better understand these developments? Are there indications for more recent explanatory approaches, e.g. "transnational" forms of gentrification? How is the geographic research practice, in particular the data collection, in this international context organised, e.g. with regard to the increasing dependency on the databases of transnational companies?

Interested speakers may submit a one-page abstract (3,000 characters max.) by sending an E-mail to <AKWohnen2017@uni.lu> by 31st January 2017. The programme will be defined and announced in early March 2017.

References

BBSR (Ed.) (2010): Internationale Immobilienmärkte - globale Immobilienwirtschaft. Informationen zur Raumentwicklung, Heft 5/6. Bonn.

BBSR (2016): Wohnungs- und Immobilienmärkte in Deutschland 2016. Bonn.

Christophers, B. (2016). For real: land as capital and commodity. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 41(2), 134-48.

Smith, M. P. (2001) Transnational Urbanism: Locating Globalization. Wiley-Blackwell.

Logistics

The meeting will take place on 15th and 16th June 2017 at the University of Luxembourg, on its Campus Belval in Esch-sur-Alzette. A participation fee of €25 (reduced €15 for students) is charged. Due to the desired workshop character, the number of participants is limited.

The conference language is German. In order to grasp the internationality of the subject matter, we would like to offer a session to be held in English as well.

This call for abstracts, any updates on the programme and organisational information will be stored on the homepage of the research group:

<http://www.ak-wohnungsmarktforschung.de/>.

For further information on the conference, please contact <AKWohnen2017@uni.lu>.

University of Luxembourg, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning:

- Prof. Markus Hesse (Professor of Urban Studies)
- Tom Becker (Research assistant)
- Nathalie Christmann (PhD student)

Speakers of the Research Group:

- Dr. Katrin Klein-Hitpaß (University of Bonn, Department of Geography, klein-hitpass@uni-bonn.de)
- Dr. Jan Glatter (State Capital of Dresden, City Planning Office, jglatter@dresden.de)