

## Journal of Urban Affairs

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## Avi Friedman, *Town and Terraced Housing for Affordability and Sustainability* (New York: Routledge, 2012).

Apr 10, 2013 05:40 am | Wade Andrew Hart

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## PLANNERS' ROLE IN CREATING FAMILY-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: ACTION, PARTICIPATION AND RESISTANCE

Apr 10, 2013 05:40 am | MILDRED E. WARNER, JOSEPH RUKUS

## ABSTRACT

A national survey of planners conducted with the American Planning Association in 2008 assesses planners' attitudes about barriers and opportunities to creating more family-friendly cities. The survey measured the extent to which planners promote the interests of families in zoning, housing, child care, transportation, recreation, urban design, and public participation. Regression analysis shows that communities that have more action on the ground in support of families (e.g., affordable housing, child care, walkable streets) also engage families more in the planning process and include needs of families in site planning and zoning. Action can lead to community resistance, but resistance is lower in cities that have more positive attitudes about families with children. Resistance is higher in communities that are ignorant about how to address family needs, and in communities that specify family-friendly goals in their comprehensive plans. This research suggests the key to real action is family participation and addressing family needs in site planning and zoning.

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## PLANNING, POLITICS, AND URBAN MEGA-PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXT: LESSONS FROM MEXICO CITY'S AIRPORT CONTROVERSY

Apr 10, 2013 05:38 am | [ONESIMO FLORES DEWEY](#), [DIANE E. DAVIS](#)

## ABSTRACT

Using a focus on a failed airport project for Mexico City, this article explores the conditions that enable and constrain urban mega-project development in countries facing simultaneous political and economic transition. The article argues that the Mexico City airport project faced three major obstacles, each inspired by citizen efforts to influence planning decisions: (1) divisions within and between the political class and citizens, driven by democratization, decentralization, and globalization; (2) conflicts between local and national authorities over the relevance of citizen participation in project development; and (3) a strong coalition of local, national, and international allies using cultural identity, historical allegiances, and geographic location to build and expand struggle against the airport. In theoretical terms, this article suggests that the historical and institutional legacies of urban and national development in Mexico have created bureaucratic ambiguities and tensions over who is most responsible for major urban mega-project development. It also concludes that planning authorities have not yet developed institutional structures and processes that can enhance government legitimacy and allow the successful implementation of mega-projects in the face of forceful opposition.

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## PUTTING ACTIVISM IN ITS PLACE: THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT OF PARTICIPATION IN NEIGHBORHOOD-FOCUSED ACTIVISM

Apr 02, 2013 06:05 am | MEGAN E. GILSTER

### ABSTRACT

Neighborhood-focused activism is one way residents enact their vision for their community. This study examines the neighborhood socioeconomic antecedents of participation in neighborhood-focused activism in a diverse sample of residents of Chicago neighborhoods to test three theories of neighborhood socioeconomic context and participation: (1) affluence affords participation, (2) activism addresses neighborhood needs associated with disadvantage, and (3) socioeconomic inequality creates contention that necessitates participation. Measuring neighborhood socioeconomic status as two unique dimensions—neighborhood affluence and neighborhood disadvantage—and accounting for both individual and neighborhood characteristics, I find support for each theory. Neighborhood socioeconomic context matters for participation, regardless of individual socioeconomic characteristics. Only when these three perspectives are considered jointly can they fully capture the socioeconomic context of participation in neighborhood-focused activism.

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## VICTIMS OR VICTORS? THE EFFECTS OF FORCED RELOCATIONS ON HOUSING SATISFACTION IN DUTCH CITIES

Apr 02, 2013 06:05 am | HANNEKE POSTHUMUS, GIDEON BOLT, RONALD KEMPEN

## ABSTRACT

Urban restructuring is changing the face of many Western European cities. Old, relatively cheap dwellings are being demolished and replaced by new, more expensive ones. The spatial effects of this process have been extensively studied, but little is known about the residents who are forced to relocate so that their dwellings can be demolished or updated. We therefore studied how satisfied forced movers are with their current housing situation, and what factors contribute to this. Using data from four Dutch cities, we found that most displaced residents were quite satisfied with their new dwellings and neighborhoods. However, those with low incomes and those from ethnic minority groups were less satisfied with their homes and neighborhoods. We can explain their lower level of neighborhood satisfaction by the fact that they move to less desirable neighborhoods—for example, neighborhoods with higher concentrations of ethnic minorities.

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## ETHNIC DIVERSITY AND ITS IMPACT ON COMMUNITY SOCIAL COHESION AND NEIGHBORLY EXCHANGE

Apr 01, 2013 03:51 am | REBECCA WICKES, RENEE ZAHNOW, GENTRY WHITE, LORRAINE MAZEROLLE

## ABSTRACT

Putnam's "constrict theory" suggests that ethnic diversity creates challenges for developing and sustaining social capital in urban settings. He argues that diversity decreases social cohesion and reduces social interactions among community residents. While Putnam's thesis is the subject of much debate in North America, the United Kingdom, and Europe, there is a limited focus on how ethnic diversity impacts upon social cohesion and neighborly exchange behaviors in Australia. Employing multilevel modeling and utilizing administrative and survey data from 4,000 residents living in 148 Brisbane suburbs, we assess whether ethnic diversity lowers social cohesion and increases "hunkering." Our findings indicate that social cohesion and neighborly exchange are attenuated in ethnically diverse suburbs. However, diversity is less consequential for neighborly exchange among immigrants when compared to the general population. Our results provide at least partial support for Putnam's thesis.

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Apr 01, 2013 01:05 am | Beth Walter Honadle

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