

## Engaging with gentrification and financialization: a grassroots perspective

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Gentrification has become a central object, subject and concept in urban studies which aims at understanding the conditions and impacts of urban transitions on vulnerable socio-economic groups. This polysemous and controversial term is now popular in many disciplines (e.g. geography, political science, sociology), explored from micro-local to global scales, as well as in very diverse urban contexts, whether in North America, Europe, Latin America or Asia.

As an underlying process of post-industrial urban transitions, studies on gentrification are also subject to a constant renewal of their approaches according to the evolution urbanization processes. In this context, the notion of gentrification is increasingly linked to the notion of financialization and to the evolution of strategies of governance, financing and development of cities and territories (e.g. Fields and Aalbers, 2016; Wachsmuth and Weisler, 2018; Rolnik, 2019; Crosby, 2020; Gaudreau, Houle and Fauveaud, 2021).

Beyond the academic sphere *per se*, the notion of gentrification has infused the public sphere and became a popular term among the civil society involved in the defense of housing rights. The evolution of social struggles related to housing issues mirrors the transformation of urban development processes. Fights against gentrification increasingly incorporate critical discourses against financialization, which shows that this term is becoming more and more popular among the civil society. Such a reality has to be related to the emergence of new forms of housing commodification (e.g. platform and digital economies), new real estate investment strategies (e.g. the growing presence of financial actors in the housing sector) and new logic of public housing production (e.g. the growing role of financial stakeholders in the building of public-private partnerships).

This session wishes to engage in a dialogue between various approaches and perspectives on gentrification related to financialization. Our main objective is to explore the existing and possible links between more academic approaches related to financialized gentrification and citizen initiatives that take up these issues to defend housing rights. Since its creation in 2015 in Montreal, the Collectif de recherche et d'action sur l'habitat (CRACH) has launched several collaborative research projects resulting from exchanges between community-based housing rights practitioners and Montreal-based researchers. This session will also be an opportunity to present a part of the academic results that emerged from this initiative and to engage with other contributors working on similar issues in various geographical contexts.

### MOTS CLÉS

Urban renewal ; gentrification ; financialization ; housing rights