

Call for papers ‘The long view’: A Special Edition of Housing Studies

Guest editors: Keith Jacobs & Kathleen Flanagan (University of Tasmania, Australia).

Introduction

Contributors to this and other journals (Cole 2006; Jacobs & Manzi 2016; Garrett 2007) have bemoaned the amnesia evident in much contemporary policy making and the related lack of ‘a historical sensibility’ (Cole 2006, p. 286) in scholarly research. This special edition titled ‘The long view’ seeks to provide an antidote to this criticism by encouraging authors to adopt a historical perspective on contemporary research and policy questions in ways that advance theoretical and methodological exploration.

At its core, the long view special edition is seeking papers that step back from the immediacies of current policy concerns and consider how housing and related issues might be situated in a more critical, contextualised and problematised framework. In doing so, we invite authors to consider new ways to look at old problems, and thus contribute to a more nuanced knowledge and understanding of housing policies, practices and programmes.

The theme of the long view also contains ample scope for applying explicit theoretical perspectives, such as political economy, post-political or Foucauldian perspectives, but also others such as path dependency, historical institutionalism or macro-welfare reform. We encourage qualitative and quantitative papers that strengthen the empirical basis of any examination.

There are at least three discernible ways that the ‘long view’ might be incorporated into a paper for the special edition.

Looking backwards

Tracing the origins of present policy tropes and institutional settings.

Offering a longitudinal view of social and housing problems.

Using a historical gaze to engage in debate about present norms and orthodoxies that have become stabilised over time.

Critical engagement with the present

Offering theoretical and methodological guidance in relation to unpacking the present.

Offering a radical critique of the present, questioning and problematising contemporary housing policy trajectories through a long term lens (for instance, prevalent ideologies and their extension into social and housing policy over the past two decades).

Looking towards the future

Reflecting on the extent to which past and present policy settings and political (in)action may affect future generations.

Thinking through the housing question in relation to dominant global concerns such as climate change, inequality and poverty.

Exploring the values of futures/imaginaries/utopias of housing and housing policy.

Interested authors should email a title and abstract of under 500 words to both editors before 31st December 2016 (keith.jacobs@utas.edu.au and Kathleen.flanagan@utas.edu.au).

References

- Cole, I 2006, 'Hidden from history? Housing studies, the perpetual present and the case of social housing in Britain', *Housing Studies*, vol. 21, no. 2, pp. 283-295.
- Garrett, PM 2007, "'Sinbin' solutions: the 'pioneer' projects for 'problem families' and the forgetfulness of social policy research", *Critical Social Policy*, vol. 27, no. 2, pp. 203-230.
- Jacobs, K & Manzi, T 2016, "'The party's over": critical junctures, crises and the politics of housing policy', *Housing Studies*, published on-line 18 April 2016, doi: 10.1080/02673037.2016.1171829.