

Asia Pacific Network for Housing Research (APNHR)
2011 APNHR Conference



First Call for Papers

**Neoliberalism and Urbanisation in Asia Pacific :
Challenges and Opportunities for Housing**

The University of Hong Kong
8 – 10 December 2011

Conference Aims

Neoliberalism argues for the primacy of the market and a limited role of the government in producing economic prosperity. Since the global financial crisis of 2008, the success of this free market ideology has been increasingly questioned. In the Asia Pacific region, views on the neoliberal ideology, especially in regards to land policy, housing development and urbanization, are divided. Some argue that the neoliberal agenda has become a direct threat to the existing political and economic structure by exacerbating social inequality, while others point out that many countries' economic success has been tied to these same practices. With a growing clamour for state intervention in the housing arena in many Asian countries recently, has the heyday of neoliberalism gone?

To commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of APNHR, this conference is organised for the purpose of reflecting on the past impact and future prospects of neoliberalism as relates to housing and urbanization in the Asia Pacific region. Of particular interest is how governments, communities and housing institutions in the region respond to and cope with the changing impact of neoliberalism, especially in terms of housing efficiency and equity. Experiences from Western cities are also welcome to provide comparison and to establish global perspectives.

Conference Themes

The conference will pursue the following themes, but proposals to organize workshops related to the neoliberal urbanisation processes and their consequences for housing are also welcome.

- Coping with neoliberalism: the state and other innovations

- Neoliberal urbanization and affordable housing
- Housing governance and community revitalization
- Neoliberalism, the meaning of home, and home ownership growth
- Neoliberalism and urban sustainability
- Housing finance and the turbulent global economy
- Post-neoliberalism in the making

Workshop proposals by participants are welcome. Please refer to the conference website.

Conference Venue

Hong Kong is a uniquely fascinating city for anyone interested in housing and urbanisation, and an especially relevant case study for the topic of neoliberalism and urbanisation due to its seemingly schizophrenic set of policies. Its laissez faire economic policies earn it the rank of 3rd in a global 'ease of doing business' survey by the World Bank, yet it maintains one of the largest public housing systems in the world. The city also provides important examples of challenges and successes in urbanisation policies for the Asia Pacific region. In spite of an extremely high population density, roughly 30,000 people per square kilometre of developed areas, a liveable urban environment is maintained through high-rise residential development, strong urban management and smoothly running transportation systems. Over the last three decades the city has rapidly de-industrialized and become a global financial centre, an economic shift that has led to an increase in both average per capita income and income inequality. The way Hong Kong adapts to these shifts will provide lessons for the challenges that will eventually face many large Asian cities in the 21st century.

Important Dates

1 December 2010	First call for papers
1 June 2011	Abstract submission deadline
30 June 2011	Notification of abstract acceptance
3 October 2011	Early-bird registration deadline
31 October 2011	Submission of full paper
31 October 2011	Final registration deadline

Conference Secretariat

Website: <http://web.hku.hk/~apnhr/>