

The Right to the City between Anti-Capitalist Critique and Neoliberal Uptake

Panel Chair: Dr. Margaret Haderer, Institute for Social Change and Sustainability (IGN), WU Vienna, margaret.haderer@wu.ac.at

Abstract:

The Right to the City has resurfaced as both, a prominent political rallying cry and conceptual lens for urban movements. Since the coining of the term in the late 1960s by Henri Lefebvre, democratic participation has been a core component of Right to the City-movements and -conceptualizations. In this context, democratic participation usually means more than taking part in political decision-making within a given political context, such as liberal democracy. It means claiming the right to redefining existing political contexts and their underpinning social relations, such as capitalist property relations, modes of allocating resources and the access to them, and ways of governing. Since, as Lefebvre underscored, any society hinges on space to become real (1990), proponents of the Right to the City-framework stress that appropriating and redefining space, including spaces of everyday life, is not merely a micro-political undertaking but the first step towards macro-political change.

This panel invites empirically-oriented papers on contemporary Right to the City movements, papers that shed light on the respective movement's take on political participation - its meanings, goals, and underpinning strategies - as well as challenges to political participation within neoliberal contexts.

The panel also invites conceptually-oriented papers, especially papers that make sense of the critical potential but also engage with the limits of the Right to the City-framework in contemporary societal settings. In short, the core goal of the panel is to bring to light and reflect on the strategies and narratives that underpin Right to the City-movements and -conceptualization within neoliberal contexts, which right-to city movements take issue with, but are often also absorbed by.

The panel is a part of the section *S60 The Changing Role of Citizen Engagement in Today's Challenges: Participation, Movements, Protest*.

To submit a proposal, you will need to create a MyECPR account and submit the following information by February 18th: your name, academic affiliation, email address, the title of your paper, an abstract of up to 500 words, and 3 to 8 keywords. For further information or to submit a paper proposal by February 18th, 2019, please send an email to margaret.haderer@wu.ac.at.