



Birkbeck Institute for Social Research

## The Housing Crisis: Experience, Analysis and Response

Friday 18th November 9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.  
Room 101, 30 Russell Square, Birkbeck, University of London

Please note: Refreshments are available in the morning and afternoon breaks. Please bring a packed lunch to eat over the lunchtime film.

### Programme (all in Room 101 unless otherwise indicated)

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|---------------|---|
| 9.30 – 10.00  | Coffee  |
| 10.00 – 11.40 | Welcome and Chair: Paul Watt<br><br><i>'The financial crisis and housing in the UK'</i> - Graham Turner (GFC Economics) <a href="http://www.gfceconomics.com/">http://www.gfceconomics.com/</a><br><br><i>'Housing as an encapsulation of the larger crisis: what next?'</i> – Dr. Michael Edwards (Bartlett School, University College London)<br><br><i>'Understanding the Con-Dem's assault on housing'</i> – Dr. Stuart Hodkinson (Department of Geography, University of Leeds)  |
| 11.40 – 12.00 | Tea/coffee (Room 103)   |
| 12.00 – 1.20  | Film screening: <i>A Palace for Us</i> (Tom Hunter, 2010) – about the Woodberry Down Estate in London. Introduced by the director, Tom Hunter <a href="http://www.tomhunter.org/">http://www.tomhunter.org/</a><br><br><i>'Mobility and security in mixed housing tenure: findings from an audio-visual ethnographic study of housing and class in an inner London locality'</i> - Debbie Humphry (Department of Geography, University of Sussex)<br><br><i>'Gypsies and Travellers in housing: adaptation, resistance and the reformulation of communities'</i> – Dr. David Smith (School of Health and Social Care, University of Greenwich) and Dr. Margaret Greenfields (BNU) |
| 1.20 – 2.30   | Chair: Stuart Hodkinson<br>Lunch – during the lunch period, there will be two film screenings.<br><br><i>Chocolate City</i> (Ellie Walton and Sam Wild, 2007) – about public housing in Washington DC. Introduced by Glyn Robbins (Department of Social Policy and Education, Birkbeck)<br><br><i>Fragments of War</i> (Sigridur Tulinius, 2010) – about the Icelandic banking crisis and it's materialisation in the built environment. Introduced by the director, Sigridur Tulinius <a href="http://sigridurtulinius.tumblr.com/">http://sigridurtulinius.tumblr.com/</a>  |

- 2.30 – 3.20                    *'Tower Hamlets response to the housing crisis'* – Cllr. Rabina Khan (Cabinet Member for Housing, London Borough of Tower Hamlets)
- 'Never let a serious crisis go to waste: the implications of cuts to housing benefits in Britain'* – Professor Chris Hamnett (Department of Geography, KCI)  
Chair: Glyn Robbins
- 3.20 – 3.40                    Tea/coffee (Room 103)
- 3.40 – 5.00                    *'The housing crisis and the Pro-Housing Alliance'* – Dr. Stephen Battersby (Environmental Health & Housing Consultant & Chair of the PHA) and Peter Ambrose (Visiting Professor in Housing and Health, University of Brighton)
- 'Good homes: lessons in successful public housing'* – Dr. Sarah Glynn (Independent Researcher)
- 'Towards a new strategy for housing: there is an alternative'* – Duncan Bowie (Dept. of Urban Development and Regeneration, University of Westminster)  
Chair: Stuart Hodkinson
- 5.00 – 5.30                    Final discussion and close

### **Organising Committee**

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The colloquium will provide an analysis of the social, economic and political nature of the current housing crisis as it is being lived out within the homes, streets and estates of the UK. This crisis illustrates the contradictory nature of housing within capitalist relations of production, contradictions which have been dramatically illustrated by the US sub-prime mortgage market meltdown and its UK and Irish equivalents; in each country, housing finance has been centrally implicated in the wider turmoil. In the UK, the social after-shocks of such crises are currently being felt by the unwitting victims of the Coalition Government's radical policy changes in relation to Housing Benefit and social housing as part of its 'Big Society' vision. The colloquium examines the nature of the UK housing crisis including how the growing problems of housing unaffordability and insecurity are being lived out with, for example, five million people on council housing waiting lists in England. The colloquium also highlights various responses to the housing crisis and the Coalition Government's policies that have emerged from civil society and local government. Finally, there are three film screenings throughout the day and we are extremely pleased that Tom Hunter and Sigridur Tulinius, the directors of two of the films, will introduce their films.