



Abstracts

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Non-coupled cohabitation - The case of Polyamory

Catrine Andersson // catrine.andersson@ibf.uu.se

Uppsala University, Gävle, SWEDEN

Norms of coupledness have not yet been a major area of interest for social scientists studying family and housing. The most elaborated theories that take norms of coupledness into account are hitherto the field of queer studies, in Sweden mainly studies on bisexuality, where the norms of coupledness are labelled mononormativity. In these areas of research, however, housing issues are seldom explored. Research done on non-normative families sometimes state that cohabitation nowadays marks coupledness. This statement points to a historical shift in intimate relationships, which has involved a new order of intimate relationships, where a couple in order to be perceived as 'a real' couple does not have to get married. Instead living together is the key to authenticity. This means an important connection between cohabitation and the construction of a family, built on coupledness.

In this paper, however, cohabitation and coupledness are explored in relation to each other. This is done by introducing polyamory into the discussion. Polyamory is a social movement that draws on an active resistance of coupledness, the nuclear family and the traditional notion of love. This active resistance also means non-coupled cohabitation, although there are no studies yet on the frequency of polyamorous cohabitation. The main questions in the paper concern what happens when polyamory is introduced into the equation of cohabitation marking coupledness. Will the norms of coupledness change? Or will the polyamorous relationships be interpreted within a discursive framework built on coupledness? Or neither?

Creativicide: The high cost of Rotterdam's gentripunctural treatment

Gideon Boie // info@bavo.biz

BAVO, Rotterdam, NETHERLANDS

This paper deals with Rotterdam's attempts to reinvent itself as 'Creative Capital of the Netherlands'. It focuses in particular on two recent housing developments in which the creative class features as a central referent: the Lloyd Quarter development in Delfshaven and the housing project The Poetic Freedom in Spangen. At first glance both projects seem to be two opposite types of urban development: while the first is a bombastic market-driven UDP, the second is a co-operative housing project that aims at restoring the balance of a dilapidated neighbourhood through a 'gentripunctural' intervention. Hence, The Poetic Freedom is presented by many as a revolutionary bottom-up style of sustainable urban development 'and is consequently given full governmental, financial and moral support. Through close analysis of these housing developments, this paper shows that while the Lloyd Quarter is the excess of the neo-liberal style gentrification of Rotterdam, The Poetic Freedom is its symptom: it affirms all the typical spatial logics of neo-liberalism (advanced public-private financing schemes, the self-exploitation of creative labour, etc.) in the sign of its opposite (as a co-operative and creative development with the user/customer occupying centre-stage in the process). In the paper, we use this paradoxical case as a springboard to move the analysis to a more general level and unravel the use and benefits of creative networks in the contemporary urban economy. The main argument of the paper is that given the crude instrumentalization of creativity through perverted schemes by city-development companies, the only option left for creative forces is to perform a similar act as the Greek mythological figure Medea who killed her children out of love. In a similar vein, we plead for creative agents to tactically act 'uncreatively' in face of the recent intensification of attempts to manipulate their creative potential for dubious causes.

Managing complexity: Multi-generational housing arrangements

Anne Bottomley // A.B.Bottomley@kent.ac.uk
Kent University, Canterbury, UNITED KINGDOM

In a country predicated upon a presumption of owner-occupation as the primary form of tenure (and which continues to promote aspirations to owner-occupation): what impact does the increase in house prices, the burden of debt (property purchase, consumer and student debt) and the ageing population have on the relationship between tenure and demographic patterns? This paper will begin to explore the impact of, on the one hand, changing patterns in 'when' children leave their home of origin, with, on the other hand, concerns about the provision and cost of care for the elderly and the impact of inheritance tax on the transfer of wealth between generations. Will 'family homes' begin to take on a new shape and, if so, to what extent will social and legal forms (and practices) have to be rethought?

Making real and significant choices. The third way and alternative futures v the National Care Standards Commission

Helen Carr // h.p.carr@kent.ac.uk
University of Kent, Canterbury, UNITED KINGDOM

This paper explores the dilemma facing the Care Standards Tribunal (the UK forum for appeals against decisions of the National Care Standards Commission) in deciding whether or not a number of care homes run by Alternative Futures Ltd should be deregistered. If the registration was cancelled the homes would no longer be subject to a welfare paternalist regime of inspection but would be regulated through the auspices of Supporting People, a New Labour programme which priorities third way values of autonomy, choice, empowerment and citizenship. The case raises complex issues of Human Rights, tenure, mental capacity and the theoretical and legal distinction between one's own home, and a care home. The Tribunal refused Alternative Futures application for deregistration. This meant that the homes continued to face a stringent inspection regime, but also that the service users were unable to claim valuable benefits. My interest in this decision focuses on the complexity and incoherence of the decision making process. The Tribunal rejected a 'simple best interests' approach and placed emphasis upon the 'real and significant choice of the service user', yet it ignored the service users lack of capacity to exercise choice. Moreover a hermeneutic reading of the case alerts us to those voices which were prioritised and those which were silenced by the law. The case raises particular challenges in connection with housing and caring for an elderly population and I suggest that it exposes the limits of a liberal legal paradigm and the limits of both welfare paternalism and the third way in responding to those challenges.

Explore the interplay between domestic life and public activities for women living in small/compact apartments in central Stockholm

Helen Ekstam // helen.ekstam@ibf.uu.se
Uppsala University, Gävle, SWEDEN

This paper aims at; from a feminist perspective; explore the interplay between domestic life and public activities for women living in small/compact apartments in central Stockholm. Feminist research has made a huge contribution and enlightening analyses of how women historically (and today) have been reduced to the domestic sphere while men have dominated the public arena. This phenomenon resulted in women's close connection to the home and men's control over public street life. The bulk of research in this field has studied either the domestic sphere or the public sphere. The point of departure in this paper is to study space as a continuum, where the compact home is seen in relation to the public city life that women lead. The study of compact apartments in the centre of town allows for an analysis of a

somewhat untraditional home setting, different from the suburban home away from the public city centre.

In order to fully understand the relationship between the two dichotomised spaces of home/private and city/public today, I will use theories on the object/subject that links the two together. Namely the body.

Single people in the context of Japanese Housing System: A cross-national comparative analysis

Nahoko Kawata // 037f414f@stu.kobe-u.ac.jp

Kobe University, Japan, Kobe, JAPAN

The focus of this paper is on the housing condition of single people in Japanese society. The housing system in post-war Japan has explicitly been oriented towards the promotion of family-owned housing. However, a decline in conventional households, a more uncertain economy and the changing norms of marriage and family relations have encouraged an increase in single people. Within the framework of the system biased towards family-owned housing, single people have been placed at a great disadvantage in the housing market. The paper draws on a cross-national comparative analysis of single people's housing to highlight the feature of Japan's housing system. Systems for housing provision in developed economies have increasingly been varied in terms of the relationships between housing and household formation. The housing condition of single people has reflected the nature of transformations in housing provision systems. The case of Japan demonstrates problematic experiences of single people in the context of systems oriented towards family housing.

The Influences of housing design on social interaction: Implications for sustainable housing in Bangkok

Sutida Sattayakorn // sutida.s@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UNITED KINGDOM

Housing design affects people in countless ways, particularly in terms of social well-being. Housing is not only about the physical form of the dwelling, but also about the places that housing creates, the interrelation of form, space and social dynamics. The sustainable housing concept also recognises social aspect as a key dimension and social interaction is an important indicator of social sustainability. The design of housing should therefore not only approach aesthetic quality and/or the environmental perspective but it should also aim at encouraging social interaction that will result in social sustainability.

Physical settings of housing can encourage, discourage, or be neutral to its residents' behaviour. They can provide resources for the conduct of interactions. Social interaction is enhanced by many variables; ranging from social factors regarding opportunity, space and proximity; those in urban design considerations including density, land uses, morphology, and accessibility; physical dimensions and design properties; and psychological aspects of roles, expectations and motivations.

In Thailand, an attempt to maintain good relationships in a neighbourhood is sensibly important, as often described in Thai as 'Baan Glai Rouen Kiang' meaning houses next door. Likewise, Social interaction of Thais is influenced by multivariate factors including physical settings of houses and community, psychological needs for security and livelihood, cultural factors such as lifestyle and pattern of daily life and economic characteristics such as level of income and occupation.

This study investigates the influences of housing design on social interaction in Bangkok, Thailand. The research combines a mixed quantitative and qualitative approach to propose the recommendations aiming to achieve a balance between the requirements of housing design and social interaction in the creation of a sustainable community in wider sense. It is hoped

that the identification of housing design features that influence social interaction may then feed into future sustainable housing design.

Intentional communities and care-giving: Co-housing possibilities

Susan Scott-Hunt // s.scott-hunt@mdx.ac.uk

Middlesex University, London, UNITED KINGDOM

The use of diverse types of common interest or intentional communities has burgeoned over the past decade or more both in North America and in Europe, but especially in Scandinavia and the Netherlands. This paper will examine aspects of the particular legal environment for a nascent but growing CoHousing movement within the UK. The relative advantages of a diverse range of legal vehicles used by or having potential utility for British CoHousing communities will be explored. These include established associative forms such as companies limited by guarantee or shares, cooperatives, declarations of trusts and partnerships and emerging UK forms such as commonhold and community interest companies. Legal form for CoHousing used in north America, such as non-profit corporations and condominiums will also be considered. What ties together the use of these legal vehicles by CoHousing communities are features of associated ownership; limitations on individuals' land use through mutually binding contractual mechanisms; and frameworks of positive mutual duties. The design of mortgage financing in the purchase of real property for co-housing projects, aspects of legal vehicles used by CoHousing to restrict alienation and to construct community governance will be examined in some detail.

There will be an effort to identify the social and economic causes of the interest in CoHousing, the motivations of CoHousing groups and the social significance of CoHousing as an expression self-help activity. The potential that emerging and adapted legal models of co-housing have for addressing issues arising from the housing and care needs of older people, especially older women will be explored in particular.

The paper will draw on a developed body of legal literature, statutes and some case law sources and will involve a detailed analysis of some aspects of legal documents used in co-housing arrangements within the UK.

The house as a moral value. Practising gender and generation in Danish single-family houses

Inger Sjørslev // inger.sjoerslev@anthro.ku.dk

Copenhagen University, Copenhagen k, DENMARK

How can a better understanding of gender and generation relations within single-family households inform housing policies? The paper aims to address this issue by setting out from values attached to the house, as revealed in peoples discourses about house practices. The theme gender and generation invites thinking in a long-term perspective about ideals, values and hopes for the future. In the Danish single-family households that provide the empirical basis for the analysis, husband and wifes ideals and values are mostly articulated in relation to children, and sometimes in relation to their parents. Gender and generational relations are condensed in articulations about the good life, which implies ideals about order, aesthetics, proper behaviour and moral values attached to house practices. Based upon qualitative research in a number of Danish single-family houses, a few cases will be presented and analysed with the purpose of illustrating how domestic practices reveal social values related to gender cooperation and differentiation, and to egalitarianism as well as respect across generations. Such basic ideas about 'the good life' should be taken into consideration also in developing policies for housing in a wider perspective.

Integration through housing?

Mark Vacher // mark.vacher@anthro.ku.dk

University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen k, DENMARK

This paper aims at exploring a possible relation between the experience of home and appearance in public space (for instance school and workplace).

The research is based on ongoing ethnographic fieldwork, focusing upon the meaning of home among 4 ethnic minorities in Denmark.

Using ethnographic examples I intend to show how Turkish, Iraqi, Somali and Pakistani family structures are negotiated and in some cases transformed as a result of home-construction in Danish social housing.

This interaction between social organization (based on gender and generation among other things) and buildings seems to have different implications on different ethnic groups. This calls for a cultural analysis of the meaning of home - not only among the ethnic minorities mentioned above, but implicates a further analysis of the Danish understanding that provides the architectural basis for the physical framework (the concrete flats they inhabit).