

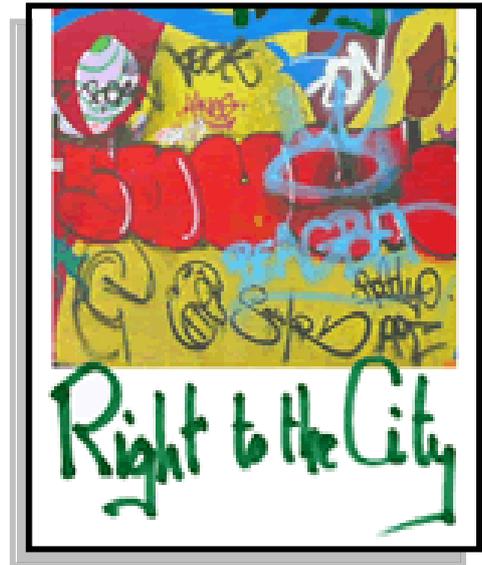
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# Right to the city! Lessons from Chile's social housing experience

Tuesday, October 20, 2009  
noon – 2:00 pm

University of Toronto Faculty of Social Work  
246 Bloor St. West, Room 548  
(St George subway at Bedford)

*Ana Sugranyes, Habitat International  
Coalition, Santiago, Chile*



Chile's "social housing" approach since the late 1970s allowed hundreds of thousands of poor families to become home owners, and strengthened construction activity in the national economy. However, the low-cost and low-quality housing that was produced has increased socio-spatial discrimination, stigmatized the poor and created new urban and social problems. Similar policies in other countries have become instruments of neo-liberalism by attempting to "make markets work for the poor" instead creating public policies for sustainable and equitable cities. In response, a movement is emerging in Latin America focused on the "right to the city". It is led by civil society organizations and urban social movements. It promotes a different kind of society in which people-centred housing and community development takes priority. The Habitat International Coalition is in a leading role in this movement in Latin America and globally.

This seminar will explore these issues and examine what Canadians can learn from this experience both for our domestic approach to urban housing and for our international development programs.

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*Ana Sugranyes is an architect and General Secretary of the Habitat International Coalition – a global network working on housing and land rights. She is a Catalan, Chilean, and global citizen. For the past 30 years, her work with urban social movements and capacity-building has focused on the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of housing programs and policies, and local development initiatives. She has a special interest in the role of international co-operation.*

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