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Ioana Florea

CONTEMPORARY HOUSING STRUGGLES. A FIELD OF CONTENTION APPROACH

LESSONS FROM HOUSING STRUGGLES IN BUDAPEST AND BUCHAREST

Together with Agnes Gagy and Kerstin Jacobsson, we did an in-depth contextual analysis of multiple forms of contention addressing housing issues, in Budapest and Bucharest, their (often unintentional) interactions, and their broader political-structural background. Looking at these two East European cities that fall outside the usual focus of urban movements research, we can find illuminating cases of how similar structural conditions (such as the financialization of housing and the resulting inequalities and expulsions, which are a central characteristic of capitalist crises), when governed by different political forces at the national and local scales, get politicized differently - that is, when they get politicized at all. I will share the most intriguing comparative lessons that we drew of housing contention in Budapest and Bucharest, followed throughout the period 2008-2021, through what we propose as a "structural field of contention" approach.

Ioana Florea is post-doctoral researcher at the University of Gothenburg, Department of Sociology and Work Science, and associated researcher with the Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca. Together with Agnes Gagy and Kerstin Jacobsson, they have recently published "Contemporary Housing Struggles. A Field of Contention Approach" (Palgrave, 2022) as part of the research project "Housing, social mobilizations and urban governance in Central and Eastern Europe", coordinated by prof. Jacobsson, funded by The Swedish Research Council Formas. Together with a team coordinated by prof. Eniko Vincze, Ioana is also currently working on the project "Class formation and re-urbanization through real estate development at an Eastern periphery of global capitalism", redurb.ro.

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The lecture series is organised by professors Camillo Boano, Francesco Chiodelli and Michele Lancione.



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