



**Department of  
Geography**

# Post-Crash Cities Workshop

## Housing Financialisation, late-Neoliberalism and Community Responses

8-9 May, 2018

### Schedule and Directions

*With the generous support of:  
Maynooth University Conference & Workshop Fund, Irish Research Council, MU  
Department of Geography*



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## WELCOME TO THE WORKSHOP ON POST-CRASH CITIES!

In this booklet you can find more information on the workshop venue and how to get there, the schedule and the participants list. The workshop will take place in Rocque Lab, at Rhetoric House on the South Campus of Maynooth University.

Coffee breaks, will take place in the Rocque Lab itself. The lunch will take place at Pugin Hall, St Patrick's House, South Campus.

In case of an emergency, you can call the Department of Geography at +353 1 708 3610

This workshop is a Pre-[Conference of Irish Geographers](#) event.

Follow us on Twitter @ [Maynoothgeog](#) and Tweet [#PRECIG2018](#).

Workshop and [field trip](#) registrations are online through EVENTBRITE:  
<https://post-crashcities.eventbrite.ie>

**Attendance at our workshop is free** and we hope that you will all enjoy it!

### The organizing committee at Maynooth University Department of Geography:

*Sinéad Kelly*, Lecturer in Human Geography - Chair

*Lidia K.C. Manzo*, IRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow - Chair

*Una Holton* - Workshop Administrator

### This workshop is supported and funded by:

Maynooth University Conference & Workshop Support Fund

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Department of Geography, Maynooth University



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## **POST-CRASH CITIES Workshop**

### **Housing Financialisation, late-Neoliberalism and Community Responses**

**Maynooth University**

**8-9 May 2018**

The increased intertwining of finance and real estate was a prelude to and intimately bound up with the global economic crisis, yet the aftermath has been particularly dynamic as new roles are cast for private-equity firms and other financial actors in the 'for-rent' residential sector and as states engineer new policies to further affirm the treatment of housing as a financial asset. One upshot of these new post-crash configurations of cities has been to accentuate sharply the vulnerability of urban communities, left with fewer state protections and buffers to resist urban marginalization.

This workshop brings together the latest theories and empirical findings in the research field surrounding contemporary cities and late-neoliberalism, taking into account the 'aftermath' of the global economic crisis and its different implications – from political-economic arrangements to more micro consequences for urban communities, such as housing accessibility crises, marginalized citizenries and raising socio-spatial segregation. It does so with a multi-disciplinary approach that seeks to better unify geographical, economic, political, sociological and anthropological understandings of the intertwining of global processes of financialisation of housing and gentrification with neoliberal urban policies at different scales.

'Post-Crash Cities' aims to bring scholars at different stages of their career coming from different academic approaches to discuss some of the following:

- How post-crash processes of housing financialization are forged, governed, contested, experienced and performed?
- What roles do state and financial actors play in promoting housing financialization? What are the impacts of the entrance of private-equity companies and REITs as the new asset owners and landlords in post-crash cities?
- What is the role of local communities? How do they cope with everyday affordability problems in the current climate of welfare state retrenchments, gentrification pressure, predatory lending practices, displacement and eviction?
- With particular reference to low-income urban communities, how do they exercise and maintain their right to housing, participation and community forms of support and solidarity?

The workshop is part of a series of initiatives organised by Dr. Kelly and Dr. Manzo including a special panel session, 'Confronting the commodification of housing', at the *Conference of Irish Geographers*, Maynooth University, May 2018 and an accepted session, 'Putting the Financialisation of Housing in the 'Rights' Place', for the *XIX International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology*, Toronto, July 2018.

## DAY 1 – MAY 8

**15:30-18:30. Field excursion in Dublin's Liberties** ([Click here](#) for details and to register!)

Led by Lidia K.C. Manzo

## DAY 2 – MAY 9

**9:00. Registration**

**9:30. Opening Welcome and Workshop Overview**

*Sinéad Kelly* and *Lidia Manzo* (Department of Geography, MU)

**9:45-12:40. The Financialization of Housing and Real Estate**

Chair: *Sinéad Kelly*

**9:45-11:05 Keynotes presentations**

Key lecture 1: *Manuel Aalbers* (KU Leuven) - The Financialization of the City

Key lecture 2: *Amy Horton* (University College London) - Home, work and care in financialised space

**11:05-11:20 Coffee break**

**11:20-12:40 Workshop Presentations**

Discussant: *Eoin Flaherty* (Department of Sociology, UCD)

- *Michael Byrne* (UCD) - The decline of homeownership and financialization of the private rental sector: limits of financialization?
- *Declan Redmond* (UCD) and *Richard Waldron* (Queen's University Belfast) - The Trojan Horse of 'Viability' and the Recasting the Irish Planning System
- *Dáithí Downey* (Dublin City Council) - Sustainability, Affordability and Choice: Towards a Cost Rental and Unitary Rental System
- *Sinéad Kelly* (Department of Geography, MU) - Governing by finance: the new logics and consequences of urban policy in post-crash cities

**12:40-13:20. Cities in late-Neoliberalism**

Discussant: *Philip Lawton* (Trinity College Dublin)

Key lecture 3: *Ugo Rossi* (Turin University) - The urban condition under late neoliberalism: neoliberal resiliency and its political consequences

**13:20-14:20. Lunch break**

**14:20-17:00. Housing Rights, Austerity and Community**

Chair: *Lidia Manzo*

**14:20-15:20 Keynotes presentations**

Key lecture 4: *Marie Antoinette Glaser and Eveline Althaus* (ETH Zurich) - Building sustainable communities in a growing city. Challenges from the Swiss housing reality

**15:20-17:00 Workshop Presentations**

Discussant: *Ela Drazkiewicz* (Department of Anthropology, MU)

- *Rory Hearne* (MU Social Sciences Institute) - Crisis without end? Financialisation, inequality and the right to housing in post-crisis Ireland
- *Cian O'Callaghan* (TCD), *Cesare Di Feliciano* (University of Leicester), and *Michael Byrne* (UCD) - Governing urban vacancy in post-crash Dublin: contested property and alternative social projects
- *Rachel McArdle* (NIRSA & Geography, MU) - Apollo House and the Irish Housing Network as examples of the changing nature and politics of housing activism
- *Sander van Lanen* (University of Groningen) - Austere lifeworlds: austerity urbanism and multiple exclusion for youth from marginalised neighbourhoods
- *Lidia Manzo* (Department of Geography, MU) – 'People helping one another when you have nothing'. How ethnography still counters myths about the urban poor after the crash.

**17:00-17:15 Coffee break**

**17:15-18:00. Roundtable with Keynotes**

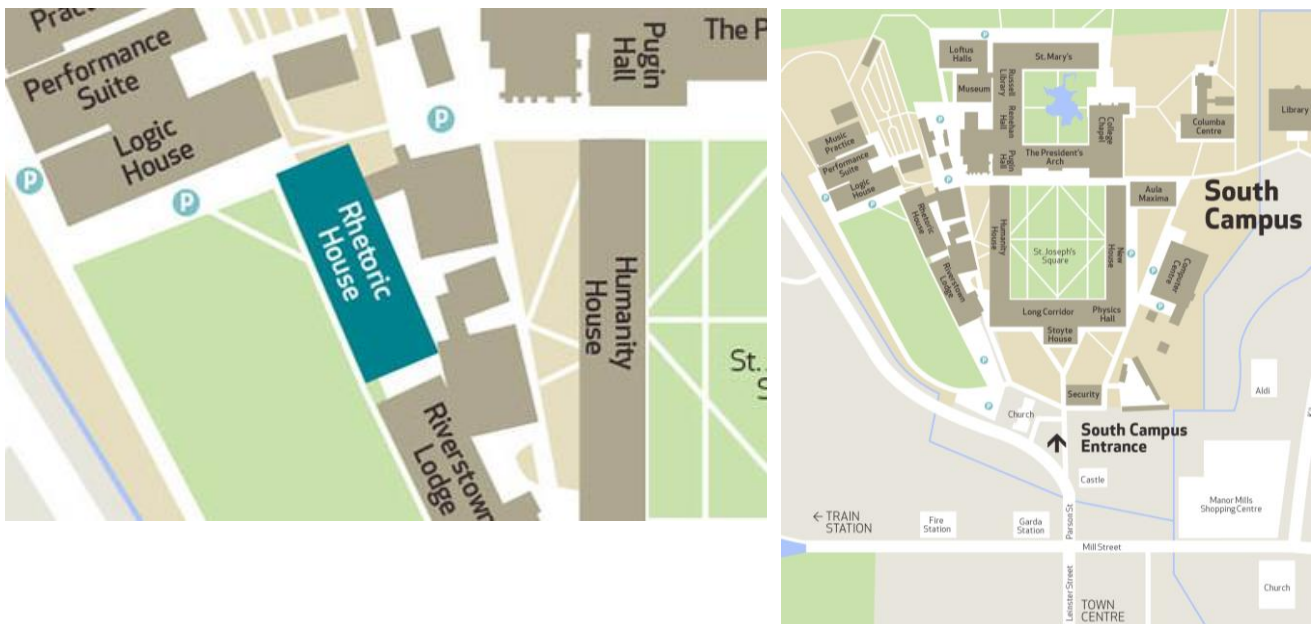
*Manuel Aalbers, Eveline Althaus, Marie Antoinette Glaser, Amy Horton, and Ugo Rossi*

## WORKSHOP VENUE

The workshop will take place in Rocque Lab (Rhetoric House), on the South Campus of Maynooth University in Maynooth, co. Kildare (Ireland).



Rocque Lab is on ground floor of Rhetoric House, in the photo below:



Maynooth is 25 km west of Dublin. It is 40 minutes by train ([www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)) from Dublin city center stations (return ticket about €7) and 45 mins - 1 hr by bus (<https://airporthopper.ie/maynooth-timetable>) from Dublin airport (return ticket €13.60 - €17; get off at the terminus). Maynooth is served by two Dublin Bus routes – the 66 and the 67. They both depart from Merrion Square in Dublin and run frequent services to the town. See the [Dublin Bus](#) website for full details. The campus is under 15 mins walk from train and bus stops. More details here (<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/location>).

[Google Maps directions to the workshop venue](#)



## WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS

### **Dr Sinéad Kelly**

*I am an urban political geographer interested in understanding the changing socio-economic dynamics of cities and their effects on urban communities.*

Having gained a PhD in Geography from Trinity College Dublin (2008, Taking Liberties: Gentrification and Entrepreneurial Urban Governance), I was appointed as Lecturer in Human Geography at Maynooth University. I have a particular interest in property development and processes of financialisation, urban regeneration, gentrification, planning policy and post-crisis processes of neoliberalism. I am currently researching the myriad ways in which processes of financialisation are affecting cities drawing particular attention to the increasing integration between real estate, finance and urban planning. My current scholarship and working papers focus on the role of new state instruments and on the emerging role of new investment funds in buying up distressed real-estate assets in post-crash cities. I am a research affiliate of the ERC-funded Real Estate/Financial Complex (REFCOM) project led by Prof. Manuel B. Aalbers, KU Leuven and for Nov 2016-Jan 2017 I was a Visiting Fellow at KU Leuven. I am a member of the FINGEO international research network and a member of Maynooth University's social Sciences Institute (MUSSI).

I recently completed a jointly edited book (*Neoliberal Urban Policy and the Transformation of the City: Reshaping Dublin*, with Andrew MacLaran, TCD) examining the reshaping of Dublin city through a range of neoliberal urban policies (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) and have authored/co-authored articles on the role of growth machines in post-crash cities (AGORA, 2015), Ireland's neoliberal crises (Space and Polity, 2015 with O'Callaghan, Boyle and Kitchin) and austerity politics and the global financial crisis (Human Geography, 2013 with Fraser and Murphy).



### **Dr Lidia Katia C. Manzo**

*I am a socio-cultural geographer and urban ethnographer who engages in collaborative research about place, housing and urban communities.*

After completion of my PhD in Sociology and Social Research from Trento University (Italy) through a research affiliation with CUNY (USA) in 2014, I spent 2 years as lead-researcher in Milan for the EU-funded HOUWEL project (*Housing markets and welfare state transformations*) of the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Amsterdam. Currently, I am a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Geography of Maynooth University where I am conducting an ethnographic/community-based research project on post-crash gentrification in Dublin from the perspective of existing working class residents. The project is supervised by urban political geographer Dr Sinead Kelly and funded by the Irish Research Council<sup>1</sup>. I have been developing my academic expertise mainly in the field of gentrification, by researching social class, race/ethnicity, gender and sexual inequalities across different countries and urban contexts: the Chinese enclave of Milan, the super-gentrified neighborhood of Brooklyn's Park Slope in NYC, and, more recently, the working-class struggle for the right to housing in Dublin. My PhD thesis on super-gentrification in Brooklyn's Park Slope is a significant contribution to the literature, representing an in-depth investigation of the influences of displacement, housing-abandonment and resettlement in gentrification processes.

I have also published 4 monographs and edited books, 13 articles in high-ranking peer reviewed journals and 8 book chapters, which have been very well received like in my most recent edited volume, *Culture and Visual Forms of Power: Experiencing Contemporary Spaces of Resistance* (Common Ground, 2015) and the journal article *Naked Elites: Unveiling Embodied Markers of Superiority through Co-Performance Ethnography in gentrified Brooklyn's Park Slope* (in *Urban Geography*, 2017). Parallel to academia, the participatory management of a co-funded Lombardy Region project with 31 local institutions and 4 university departments allowed me to develop a *territorial policy agenda for young people in a time of crisis*. I was recommended by the City Mayor of Milan to edit a book that was launched in December 2015 and was later characterised by other Italian cities as a ground breaking initiative and good-governance model.



<sup>1</sup> See more here: <https://lidiakcmanzo.com/dublin-liberties-research-project/>

## KEYNOTES

### Keynote 1: Manuel Aalbers (University of Leuven)

#### The Financialization of the City

In his seminal 1989 paper David Harvey argued that an entrepreneurial form had replaced the post-war managerial approach of urban governance. In recent years the literature has introduced financialization to the analysis of urban governance and urban development. Evidence of financialized urbanism to date is scattered, contested and not always well connected to other theorizations of urban development. Even when such connections are made more explicitly, it remains a question if financialized urbanism is a new phase of urban governance and development or rather a specific form of entrepreneurial urbanism. In this paper I argue that a new form of urban development is emerging in which processes of financialization play a key role. Transformations of urban development are embedded in changes at other scales in which financialization also has become one of the dominant processes. Although such changes can be contested at the urban scale, it is difficult to completely escape pressures to financialize the city.



**Manuel B. Aalbers** is the coordinator of the Real Estate/Financial Complex research project. He is trained as a human geographer, sociologist and urban planner and is currently associate professor of Social and Economic Geography at KU Leuven / University of Leuven (Belgium). Previously, Manuel held positions at the University of Amsterdam and Columbia University (New York) and was a guest researcher at New York University, City University New York, the University of Milan-Bicocca and at the University of Urbino (Italy). His main research interest is in the intersection of real estate (including housing), finance and states. Manuel has published on redlining, social and financial exclusion, neighbourhood change (including decline and gentrification), the privatization of social housing and the Anglophone hegemony in academia. He is the author of *Place, Exclusion, and Mortgage Markets* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011) and *The Financialization of Housing* (Routledge, 2016) as well as the editor of *Subprime Cities: The Political Economy of Mortgage Markets* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012). He is also the associate editor of the *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies* (Sage, 2010) and of geography journal *TESG*. He is also on the board of the journals *Urban Studies*, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, *Belgeo* and *Geografie*. [manuel.aalbers@kuleuven.be](mailto:manuel.aalbers@kuleuven.be)

### Keynote 2: Amy Horton (University College London)

#### Home, work and care in financialised space

Care homes in the UK house a population equivalent to that of Cardiff, employ a vast workforce, and over the last two decades have been subject to intense, uneven patterns of financial investment. In poorer regions of the UK, disinvestment is driving the decline and closure of residential facilities, causing evictions of vulnerable populations and precarity for marginalised care workers. In wealthier areas, international investment is producing new spaces of care in which experiences of home and work are reconfigured by their entanglements with finance. These processes challenge existing understandings of housing financialisation, and invite greater engagement between geographical political economy and socio-cultural geographies of home and care. Care ethics offer a productive framework for critiquing the spaces of home and work that are produced by financialisation, the relations of care that they promote or destroy, and the differential mobilities of capital, labour and care home residents.



**Amy Horton** is a lecturer in economic geography at University College London. Her research investigates the effects of financial investment and logics within eldercare provision in the UK, on spaces of care, welfare policy and services, and labour. Social and labour movements in the UK and US are a further area of interest. She has published research on the living wage and community organising, as well as a range of policy documents for campaign groups relating to financial markets, regulation and development. [a.horton@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.horton@ucl.ac.uk)



### Keynote 3: Ugo Rossi (Turin University)

#### The urban condition under late neoliberalism: neoliberal resiliency and its political consequences

The late neoliberal era has witnessed an intensification in the double Polanyian movement of dis-embeddedness and re-embeddedness that is characteristic of capitalistic societies in transitional times. This dynamic is illustrative of the ambivalence of late-neoliberal societies and of today's urban condition in the 'biopolitical metropolis' more specifically. In this perspective, the speech will zoom in on the re-socialization of post-recession cities along neo-entrepreneurial lines, particularly looking at the financialisation and entrepreneurialisation of society and the self-illustrated through the lenses of technology-based economies at the urban level (from the sharing economy, to start-up economy and the urbanization of platform capitalism). The concluding part of the speech will discuss the political implications of this biopolitical, deeply financialised form of urbanised capitalism.



*Ugo Rossi holds a doctoral degree in Geography from the University of Naples 'L'Orientale' in Italy. He is currently university researcher in economic and political geography at the University of Turin (Italy). His main research interests variously relate to the field of urban politics, bringing together political economy approaches and ideas drawn from critical theory. He's editor of Dialogues in Human Geography and sits in the editorial board of the Italian-language journal Archivio di Studi Urbani e Regionali. He's the author (with A. Vanolo) of Urban Political Geographies. A Global Perspective (Sage, 2012) and of Cities in Global Capitalism (Polity, 2017). His work has appeared in a number of academic journals, including Area, European Urban and Regional Studies, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Progress in Human Geography, Territory Politics & Governance, Urban Studies. [ugo.rossi@unito.it](mailto:ugo.rossi@unito.it)*

### Keynotes 4-5: Marie Antoinette Glaser and Eveline Althaus (ETH Wohnforum Zurich, Switzerland)

#### Building sustainable communities in a growing city. Challenges from the Swiss housing reality

The lecture reflects critically on contemporary Swiss housing and the challenges of building sustainable communities in transforming cities like Zurich or Geneva, without a national social housing scheme. Swiss cities grow due to a booming economy and raising influx of people. In Times of neoliberal politics, the housing market in the cities fails to provide enough affordable housing and sees itself confronted with a high demand for housing for families, elderly, single persons, etc. Getting access to affordable housing turns almost impossible for vulnerable groups. The existing civic formations in a city like Zurich like housing cooperatives and social services at the interface of housing market and social aid are key actors when it comes to balancing the urban society. Traditional housing cooperatives as well as new successful housing initiatives act as stakeholders for long-term sustainable community building in transforming cities.



*Marie Antoinette Glaser, PhD, is the director of ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE and senior lecturer at the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich. She researches as social anthropologist and is teaching in the interdisciplinary Master of advanced studies course MAS ETH ARCH Housing. She works on housing and social space, social sustainability, housing and vulnerable groups. She recently published with Eveline Althaus et al the "Guide for Swiss cantons, cities and communes on housing assistance and support services for vulnerable households" (Federal Office for Social Insurances, 2017). [glaser@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:glaser@arch.ethz.ch)*

*Eveline Althaus is a social scientist at ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE since 2011. After her studies in social and cultural anthropology at the University of Fribourg and the Humboldt-University of Berlin, she was a researcher at Bern University of Applied Sciences, Institute of Social Work (2008-2011). In 2015 she completed her PhD at the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich. Her research focuses on social and cultural aspects of housing: living and housing in old age (ageing in place), neighbourhoods and high rise living, house biographies, migration and diversity, housing and poverty, qualitative methods in housing research and accompanying research projects in cooperation with various practice partners. [althaus@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:althaus@arch.ethz.ch)*

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