



Special Session Proposal

Social Housing and Socio-Spatial Segregation: New Challenges in Urban Planning

Juan Eduardo Chica-Mejía, juane.chicam@utadeo.edu.co, Universidad de Bogotá Jorge Tadeo Lozano (*corresponding convener*)

Nelcy Echeverría Castro, necheverria@unisalle.edu.co, Universidad de La Salle
Laura Lucía Amezcuita García, laural.amezquitag@utadeo.edu.co, Universidad de Bogotá Jorge Tadeo Lozano, Politécnico Grancolombiano

Abstract

The growth of large cities in the Latin American region and other cities in the Global South faces numerous challenges. Socio-spatial segregation is one of these challenges, manifested through the functional and social division of space, with significant implications for the socio-spatial and socio-economic marginalization of communities. The proposal for this special session is based on a research project that aims to analyse and characterize the dynamics of the social housing market in two major metropolitan areas of the Latin American region: Bogotá and Medellín, in Colombia. It seeks to measure the impacts of these dynamics on the reproduction of socio-spatial segregation in border territories.

The hypothesis posits that the supply of social housing in large cities is largely influenced by the dynamics of the real estate market, especially given the high value of urban land. Consequently, social housing tends to be located on the cheapest urban fringes, thus reproducing patterns of socio-spatial segregation.

The research methodology adopts a multidimensional, multiscale approach. First, the level of socio-spatial segregation is assessed using spatial variables, such as proximity to services and employment centres, as well as the functionality of the territory, including land-use diversity, specialization, and the consolidation of the urban fabric. Second, the perceptions of inhabitants regarding spatial social segregation are measured through semi-structured interviews.

The results of this research will be beneficial for local governments, real estate developers, and the community at large, providing insights for the development of new public policy tools and alternatives to address the issues associated with the production of social housing.

Contributions to the special session are welcome from research projects in metropolitan cities, particularly in the Global South, on topics such as the production of social housing and spatial inequity, social housing in urban fringes, and the relationship between social housing and sustainable development, among other related subjects. This special session will foster discussions on the impact of public policy on social housing and its role in addressing territorial inequities, while recognizing best practices. Additionally, the exchange of methodologies for measuring socio-spatial segregation in urban fringe areas will generate valuable academic discourse, given the complexity of socio-spatial segregation in cities of the Global South.