

Housing Justice Encuentro!

4-6 April 2024

Barcelona



PROPERTY &
DEMOCRACY

SINDICAT
DE LLOGATERES

Housing Justice Encuentro

Organised by the Sindicat de Llogateres de Catalunya (Catalunya Tenants' Union) and the "Property and Democratic Citizenship" research project based out of Ghent University and the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Find out more: www.propertyanddemocracy.org

April 4 | Local tour

Barcelona has a rich and vibrant recent history of housing struggles. Led by local groups the tour will make stops at key sites of housing struggle and organization in Barcelona, getting to know some of the housing justice initiatives taking place today.

April 5 | CCCB

Location CCCB, C/ de Montalegre, 5. | **Time** 08:30–17:30

09:00 Introduction

Property and Democratic Citizenship research team and Sindicat de Llogateres de Catalunya.

9:30–11:00: Workshop 1. Financialised Corporate Landlords

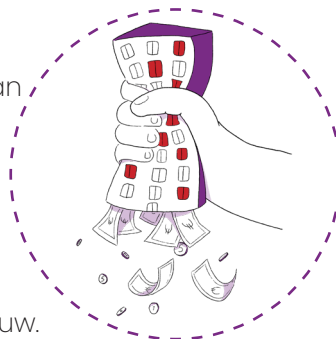
The rise of corporate landlords has created many new challenges for tenants, but also offers new opportunities to organise large numbers of tenants at once. Financialisation of property treats housing as an asset that must continuously generate higher revenues through ever-increasing rents. In this panel we discuss the consequences of the rise in financialised corporate landlords in the field of housing with a focus on understanding how these landlords operate and our strategies to resist them.

Lenea Maibaum, Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco and Veritas Tenants Association, San Francisco, US.

Pablo Pérez, Sindicato de Inquilinas de Madrid (Madrid Tenants' Union), Spain.

Desirée Fields, Geography and Global Metropolitan Studies, University of California, Berkeley, US.

Moderators, Christina Sakali and Eva Swyngedouw.



11:30–13:00: Workshop 2. Alternative Housing Models

How can we arrange property relations differently? How can we scale up from one property to a network of alternatives? What are the challenges we face when we try to act outside of or against dominant capitalist property relations? In this workshop we will discuss the plurality of strategies and struggles that exist to generate housing alternatives.



Mietshäuser Syndikat, Tenement Housing Syndicate, Germany.

CoHab, Action research group for cohousing and collective ownership in Athens, Greece.

Mara Ferreri, Assistant Professor in Geography, Polytechnic of Turin, Italy. Urban & Housing researcher at @InhabitationLab and volunteer @ladinamo_

Moderators, Theodoros Karyotis and Mirte Jepma.

14:00–15:30: Workshop 3. Racial Justice and Housing Justice

Organising for housing justice goes hand in hand with the fight for racial justice. In Europe, race intersects with ideologies of white nativism and exclusions through (presumed) citizenship status. Racism in the housing market makes it near impossible to find affordable housing. Highly profitable industries are created for housing asylum seekers in substandard accommodation. In the United States, access to housing rests on a series of racial exclusions from segregation and discrimination to the devaluation and destruction of Black and immigrant neighbourhoods. Even formal inclusion often results in discrimination (higher interest rates and higher risk). In this workshop we discuss how a fight for housing justice is necessarily also a fight for racial justice and share strategies for bringing these movements closer together.

Dominique Walker (she/her), Moms 4 Housing Inc., Oakland, US.

Jess Gonzalez, Amics del Moviment Quart Món, Barcelona.

Gargi Bhattacharyya (they/them), Professor of Anticolonial/Decolonial/Postcolonial Theory and Praxes, Decolonising Arts Institute, University of the Arts, London, UK.

Moderators, Marianne Maeckelbergh and Carlos Delclós.



April 6 | Can Batlló

Location Can Batlló, C/ Constitució, 19 Time 09:00–19:00

09:00 Introduction

Sindicat de Llogateres de Catalunya.

9:30–13:00 Rent Strikes, Member Defence and Direct Action Tactics

This workshop will explore methods of tenant mobilisation and resistance to secure rentals at more favourable prices or conditions. Classic mobilisation pathways, such as rent strikes and other forms of resistance, will be highlighted, discussing various strategies and tactics against landlord abuses.

9:30–13:00 How we grow: Territorialisation, Expansion, Coordination and Federation

This discussion will tackle the challenge of how to promote organisational growth, territorial establishment, and coordination among unions in second-level structures. We focus on sharing strategies for increasing the affiliates, territorial extension, and coordination/ federation among various organisations.

15:00–17:00 Representation Schemes and Collective Bargaining

This topic will cover how unions achieve representative capacities against landlords and the state, the available representation schemes, the existence of legalised collective representation frameworks, how they exert pressure on authorities for recognition, and tactics used to impose collective bargaining on landlords.

15:00–17:00 Alliances with Labor Unionism

This workshop will examine the importance of coordinating tenant unionism with labour unionism, how conflicts between the two are articulated, and how they can mutually strengthen each other. Since the interests of our mutual targets are already articulated on a supranational level, it's our duty to think of and build this alliance internationally too.

17:30–19:00 Closing ceremony of the Encuentro

Union representatives from several countries will give short speeches about the importance of international tenant solidarity, leading up to the joint reading of the Barcelona Declaration.

16:00–17:30: Workshop 4. Building Tenant Power

Tenant organising against rent exploitation has been around for centuries. In this workshop we explore some historical examples of tenant struggles and then look at how these historical examples can inform ongoing organising strategies to build rent strikes and tenants unions. In this workshop we engage in a living history exercise that explores contemporary forms of tenant mobilisation across Europe and North America. This is just the start of a discussion that will carry on throughout day 3 in a series of structured conversations on specific themes.



Jaime Palomera, Sindicat de Llogateres de Catalunya and head of housing at the Barcelona Urban Research Institute (IDRA).

Sharlene Henry, Co-Chair of the York South-Weston Tenant Union, Chair of the 33 King St Tenants' Association. Sharlene is an autoworker at the Stellantis plant in Toronto, and she has been on a rent strike for 11 months, leading hundreds of her neighbours against landlord Dream Unlimited.

Hannes Rolf, assistant professor at the Institute of Urban History, Stockholm University.

Moderators, Marta ill-Raga and Eva Betavatzi.

20:00 Onwards

Dinner & Celebration at Can Batlló (C/ Constitució, 19).



Organisations

Barcelona & Catalunya

Sindicat de Llogateres de Catalunya
Sindicat de Barri del Poble sec
Sindicat d'Habitatge de Gràcia
Sindicat d'Habitatge de Vallcarca
Sindicat d'Habitatge de Nou Barris
Grup d'Habitatge de Sants
Grup d'Habitatge de Les Corts
Resistim al Gòtic
PAH Barcelona
PAHC Bages
Sindicat d'Habitatge de Reus
Sindicat d'Habitatge de Vilamajor i Llinars
La Dinamo Fundació
Sostre Cívic

Basque Country

Batu Elkarlaguntza Sarea (Hego Uribe)
Haritu Elkarlaguntza Sarea (Iruñerria)

Belgium

WUUNE, housing union (Brussels)

Canada

York South-Weston Tenant Union (Toronto)
Autonomous Tenants Union Network (North American network)

Czech Republic

INN Iniciativa nájemníků a nájemnic (Prague)

England and Wales

ACORN The Union
Greater Manchester Tenant Union
London Renters Union

European Wide Network

European Action Coalition for the Right to Housing and to the City

France

Alliance Citoyenne

Germany

Deutsche Wohnen & Co
Enteignen, expropriation campaign (Berlin)
Mietshäuser Syndikat

Greece

CoHab Athens, cohousing & collective ownership projects
Unreal Estate - Assembly Against Rent Extortion (Athens)
Solidarity Network in Patisia (Athens)
Thessaloniki Tenants Union

Ireland

Community Action Tenants Union (Dublin)

Italy

Abitare Via Padova 1 (Milan)
Assemblea di Autodifesa dagli Sfratti (Rome)
Associazione Inquilini e Abitanti - Unione Sindacale di Base
PLAT Piattaforma di Intervento Sociale (Bologna)

Netherlands

Bond Precaire Woonvormen
Wij weigeren de huurverhoging
Woonprotest
We Are Here Movement, refugee action collective (Amsterdam)
de Nieuwe Meent cooperative housing initiative (Amsterdam)

Poland

Pomorska Akcja Lokatorska (Gdańsk)

Portugal

Habitação Hoje (Porto)
Vida Justa

Romania

Căși sociale ACUM (Cluj-Napoca)

Scotland

Living Rent

Serbia

Grad za sve (Belgrade)

Spain

Sindicato de Inquilinas de Madrid
Sindicato de Inquilinos de Zaragoza (Aragon)
Sindicato das Inquilinas Vigo (Galicia)
Sindicato de Inquilinas de Ibiza y Formentera (Balearic Islands)

United States

Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco (San Francisco)
Veritas Tenants Association (San Francisco)
Autonomous Tenants Union Network (North American network)
Los Angeles Tenants Union
Moms 4 Housing (Oakland)
Stomp Out Slumlords (Washington DC)

Acknowledgements

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Find a final compilation of this Encuentro at

www.propertyanddemocracy.org

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