

To: Shubhra Gururani and Xuefei Ren

[gururani@yorku.ca](mailto:gururani@yorku.ca); [renxuefe@msu.edu](mailto:renxuefe@msu.edu)

c/c rc21ciudad2016@colmex.mx

1. Abstract submitted to **stream 6: Challenges of Doing Comparisons: Theory and Evidence from the Global South**

2. Abstract:

This paper addresses the changing landscape of capital accumulation focusing on the political economy of housing. I discuss how capital, in its most abstract forms (such as finance), connects to housing production in its various concrete forms. The starting point was a comprehensive research I've been conducting during my undergraduate studies, master, PhD and post-doc in trans disciplinary fields including planning, social sciences and economics. The paper also benefited from my experience as tutor at the Housing System Academy in Berlin, last October, when I tried to contribute to the conceptualization and analyses of what we called there "the housing system", in collaboration with colleagues from several different countries.

The paper highlight the pressure exerted by capital during finance-led globalization to connect with local housing production circuits aiming at expanding itself in cities from 1990s onwards, and its consequences. The main questions addressed are: Has capital redefined the housing question as part of the neoliberal turn? How does this process unfold in different countries and social formations? Other questions I've been addressing during my research that I'd like to discuss with colleagues from other countries are: Does the influence of international organizations such as the World Bank lead to the standardization of the housing system, thus reducing local specificities? How can we identify local and global hegemonies? What is the importance and place of the practice of self-construction of slums and tenements in each subsystem's political economy? What kind of resistance and alternatives has been tested?

The research empirical basis is the Brazilian case compared with the American case, due to the participation of the latter in the elaboration of the

real estate securitization model, and its dissemination in Asia and Latin America. Nonetheless, as the paper will explain, I don't mean that transformations come from abroad in a one-way process. I also don't mean that finance capital managed to command the whole process on its own terms. On the contrary, I highlighted the role of national states and local elites; the coalitions and conflicts between different fractions of capital, the struggle between workers and capital, the connections between formal real estate production, housing policies, state subsidized projects, and self-construction of the so-called informal settlements. I do believe that connections are there to be found and mapped, although not in the most obvious places, and therefore demand a great amount of research to be identified.

New kinds of housing policies, investments, credit systems, architecture typologies, urban forms, and ideologies, though partially inspired by the same ideas or models of other countries, overlap with very different social, political and institutional structures, as well as distinct patterns of accumulation, feeding local circuits that are more or less internationally articulated.

### 3. The contact of the author:

Name: Mariana Fix

Affiliation: Lecturer at Institute of Economics, University of Campinas, Brazil

Address: Avenida Higienópolis, 938 – apto 24. 01238-000  
Sao Paulo SP Brazil

Phone Number: 5511992737762

E-mail address: [marianafix@gmail.com](mailto:marianafix@gmail.com)