



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM



Call for Papers

Conference: **HOUSING WEALTH AND WELFARE**

Hosted by the Centre for Urban Studies,
University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
May 25th & 26th 2016

Along with the proliferation of homeownership as well as volatile property price increases in recent decades, housing wealth has been increasingly eyed as a resource that can be drawn upon to support a variety of consumption and welfare needs. Becoming an owner-occupier has thus been recognized by households, governments and markets alike as a means to accumulate personal wealth that functions as private insurance against life-course risks such as unemployment, divorce and old age, as well as a way to pool shelter and share the benefits of asset accumulation with children. Changes in housing wealth have, however, also been associated with broader trends in inequality, within and between generations. Both the increasing importance of and growing inequalities in, housing wealth have begun to reshape policy approaches to housing and welfare, as well as the political economy of welfare states

This conference aims to bring together the latest theories and empirical findings in the dynamic research field surrounding housing wealth and welfare, taking into account the different meanings of 'welfare' – from welfare provision to well-being as well as situations indicating a 'lack of welfare', such as poverty and inequality. It does so with a cross-disciplinary focus that seeks to better unify sociological, economic, political, geographical and anthropological understandings of housing goods. The increased centrality of housing equity as both an investment and as collateral that may potentially finance other needs necessitates a fundamental change in the way we approach the relationship between housing and welfare, as well as the provision of both by states, markets and families. At the same time, the politics, culture and social economy of housing vary widely across advanced welfare states, demanding sensitivity to local contexts and their interaction with more global forces. A particular focus of the event will be the consideration of the findings of two recent European Research Council funded projects addressing housing wealth, welfare and inequality issues in cross-national contexts (HOUWEL and HOWCOME)

We invite the submission of abstracts (deadline, late-January 2016) for papers to be presented in workshop sessions that will take place over the two days. There will also be a number of keynote and plenary sessions given by leading researchers, practitioners and thinkers in this field. The conference will conclude with a round table session that will contemplate the overall outcomes of two-days of presentation and discussion, and their implications for policy and the future of housing markets, assets, welfare and inequality.

The Venue: The event is organized in association with ERC Starting Grants HOUWEL (www.houwel.uva.nl) and HOWCOME (www.tilburguniversity.edu/howcome), and hosted by the Centre for Urban Studies at the University of Amsterdam. The main location of the conference will be at the University Library (on the Singel) in the historic city centre of Amsterdam.

The Themes: We invite the submission of abstracts and papers addressing a number of key areas related to homes, households and housing, the economy and society. Suitable questions include, but are not restricted to...

- How do households and families share, transfer and exchange welfare and wealth through means of their homes and housing property?
- How much do the experiences and welfare outcomes of housing wealth vary from country to country, or from city to city?
- How have the welfare and housing outcomes for different social groups affected by changes in homeownership and property wealth?
- What are the urban and spatial dimensions of transformations in housing equity and family welfare exchange?
- How are relationships between housing, housing careers and the life-course changing?
- How have housing markets, policies and regimes, and in particular the tenure of homeownership, changed in the past decades?
- What are the specific economic and political implications of an increasing centrality of housing wealth in social inequalities?

How do I submit an abstract? Abstracts can be submitted via email to the following email address before midnight (Amsterdam), February 20th, 2016: Hww-fmg@uva.nl

Participants will be informed of acceptance of their abstract (or not) by early February. The website will be open for conference registration from January 4th until early May, 2016

Conference organisers: Caroline Dewilde, Christa Hubers, Christian Lennartz, Richard Ronald