
Title of the project: PaDC: Property and Democratic Citizenship

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Web page: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/771795>

Area: Urban Governance, Commons, Internet and Social Innovation

What

This research explores the impact of property regimes on experiences of citizenship across five democratic countries: Greece, The Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States. Property rights are a foundational element of democracy, but the right to private property exists in tension with values of equality and a right to shelter. An investigation of property is urgent given the recent normalisation of economic models that have resulted in millions of evictions every year. By combining quantitative analysis with the ethnographic study of eviction, this research provides a comparative analysis of the benefits and limitations of contemporary property regimes for democratic citizenship.

A property regime is defined as the combination of moral discourses about real landed property with the regulatory policies and market mechanisms that shape the use, sale and purchase of property. The selected countries represent a diverse set of property regimes, but all five are experiencing a housing and eviction crisis that has created new geographies of disadvantage, exacerbated inequalities of race, gender, age and income, and led to social unrest.

Who

The project is funded by a Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council, within the Horizon 2020 Programme. The project was awarded to Principal Investigator Marianne Maeckelbergh, Professor of Political Anthropology at Ghent University and Professor of Global Sociology at Leiden University.

Carlos Delclós is a postdoctoral researcher at IGOP. He leads the UAB's Work Package within the PaDC project, which focuses on comparative quantitative analyses of selected property regimes and ethnographic field work on the role of risk in the performance of property relations.

Why

By critically examining the concept of property, the project examines how property regimes shape people's experience of citizenship and what can this tell us about the role of property in contemporary models of democratic governance. The high gain of this research lies in the opportunity to rethink the role of property within democracy based on extensive empirical data about how moral assumptions combine with

particular ways of regulating and marketing property to exacerbate, alleviate or create inequalities within contemporary experiences of democratic citizenship.

How

Mixed-methods research design to triangulate quantitative and qualitative empirical data

Statistical analysis of cross-sectional and longitudinal data on housing conditions in Europe and the United States

Ethnographic research on the role of risk in the performance of property relations

When

1 September 2018 - 31 August 2023.