

WORKSHOP

The Financialisation of Housing and the Automated Landlord

With
Dr Desiree Fields, University of Sheffield

Date 3rd November 2017
Time 9:30am – 12:45pm
Location Rm 557 Wilkinson Building (G04)
148 City Rd, Darlington, University of Sydney

Speaker Dr Desiree Fields, University of Sheffield
Discussants Professor Keith Jacobs, University of Tasmania
Dr Jathan Sadowski, University of Sydney



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This workshop is co-hosted by the School of Architecture, Design and Planning's Urban Housing Lab and the Smart Urbanism Lab. Dr Desiree Fields will cover two related themes: (1) The financialisation of housing; and (2) the use of digital technologies to manage the new asset classes that are being created by the financialisation of housing. Dr Fields traces the creation of new modes of property-led financial accumulation emerging in the US in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. In particular, she focuses on the historical and geographic contingencies making it possible to conceive of a large-scale single-family rental (SFR) market, the work of state and capital market actors in reframing repossessed single-family homes as rental properties, the strategies of issuers and credit rating agencies to frame a novel asset class for institutional investors, and the ways digital technologies allow for new forms of abstraction and aggregation. The SFR asset class affirms the fundamental role for housing in the ideology of capital, and speaks to new entanglements of financial actors, digital platforms, and home life as financial accumulation is adjusted to the post-crisis context.

The program has been designed to allow for extensive discussion around the key ideas. We will circulate several readings before the workshop. Participants are expected to contribute to the group debates.

Places will be limited to 30 people.

Please RSVP to pranita.shrestha@sydney.edu.au by 23 October 2017

Please join us for an informal lunch at the Rose Hotel after the workshop

Location of lunch: 52-54 Cleveland St, Chippendale NSW 2008

About Dr. Desiree Fields

Desiree Fields is a lecturer in human geography at the University of Sheffield, UK. Her work focuses on the treatment of housing as a financial asset and the urban struggles that surround this process, as well as how the emerging role of digital platforms is transforming real estate investment and operations, and the conflicts that may arise as a result. Her current project, Automated Landlord, is supported by the British Academy and investigates the intersection of platform and financial capitalism in the post-crisis financialisation of housing in the US.