

Call for Papers

Predation and Dispossession in a World of Speculative Urbanizing: Exploring Comparative Conjunctural Perspectives

Special Issue: *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*

Guest Editor: Richard Tardanico (Florida International University)

Key Dates:

- **February 1, 2027**—Abstract Submission Deadline
- **February 15, 2027**—Notification of intention to include paper in special issue
- **March 15, 2027**—Initial submission of paper, begin peer review process

Background:

The world's transformative expansion of neoliberal capitalism dating from the 1980s came to a crashing halt with the global financial crisis of 2008. Entangled with ecosystem crisis, pandemic, and forever wars, the emerging subsequent outcomes embed state machinery within an even more pronounced concentration and centralization of increasingly digitalized, boundary-crossing capital and widening socio-territorial inequalities. The geographic contours of those emerging outcomes vary notably, of course, across specific local institutional arrangements. Yet underpinning their polarizing commonalities are the shared fundamentals of this century's extractive transnationalized logics: old and new forms of financialization, speculation, predation, and dispossession.

Within that trajectory, urban(izing) real estate speculation—acquiring land and property as assets intended for near-term profitable sale—has become a more aggressive force for predation and dispossession, while also provoking responses of resistance, contention, and accommodation. How can critical scholarship go about making sense of such speculation's local/supralocal structures and processes of power, subordination, and popular response across the twenty-first century world?

Scholars have analyzed urban and peri-urban speculative real estate predation, dispossession, and popular responses from a range of perspectives. This Call for Papers solicits empirical work that critically engages specifically with a *comparative conjunctural approach* whose intellectual and political roots are grounded in theorizing by Antonio Gramsci, Louis Althusser, and Stuart Hall. As articulated by Leitner and Sheppard (2023) and Sheppard et al. (2024; see also, e.g., Hart, 2020, 2024; Charri et al., 2022; Goldman, 2023), the approach comprises three interrelated tiers:

- first, it adopts a multiscalar, conjunctural methodology that invites attention to worldwide interconnections and comparisons;
- second, it addresses the vertical as well as cross-cutting horizontal layers of real estate speculation's politico-social relationships;
- and third, it takes seriously initiatives by subaltern groups to parlay livelihood opportunities within those relationships into rights such as employment, housing, and

perhaps “the commoning practices so central to their livelihoods” (Leitner and Sheppard, 2023: 362; see Holston, 2019).

This framework points to multiscalar, comparative conjunctures as revealing not only spatio-historical forces of exploitation and dispossession but also “slippages, openings, and contradictions where [oppositional] pressure might be applied ...” (Hart, 2020: 241; see Dikeç and Swyngedouw, 2017). Complementarily, scholars such as Chakravarty and da Silva (2012), Noterman (2022), Roy (2022), and Bufkin and Danewid (2026) emphasize the ethno-racialization, past and present, of such forces, conjunctures, practices, struggles, and transformations.

In critical engagement with comparative conjunctural theorizing, the proposed special issue of *IJCS* seeks scholarship regardless of academic discipline that explores two expansive themes within the changing contours of twenty-first century capitalism:

- How the predatory and dispossessive processes of contemporary urban and peri-urban real estate speculation—whether financialized or not—play out within and across the vast breadth of world-historically situated global inequalities and local institutional diversities to, for instance:
 - impose household and community hardships if perhaps also creating interstitial social and economic opportunities;
 - urbanize populations while reshaping socio-relational and politico-ecological metroscales in wider territorial perspective;
 - generate future imaginaries while provoking varied class, ethno-racialized, gendered, community, and other responses;
 - and facilitate or impede long-term progressive socio-spatial capacities for resistance, contestation, and transformation.
- The potential lessons for social and environmental-justice organizing and action we might learn from the forms, successes, limitations, defeats, and absences of popular responses to urban and peri-urban real estate speculation under specific local-to-global relations and comparative conjunctures.

The special issue welcomes submissions that empirically explore such topics in urban and peri-urban settings while engaging—including critically—with comparative conjunctural theorizing, broadly defined. All variety of case studies are welcome (e.g., single, comparative, local/supralocal, longitudinal), as are all methodological levels of analysis (including biographical). While the special issue will focus on predatory and dispossessive processes of real estate speculation within the changing contours of twenty-first century capitalism, submissions that pose questions and draw insights from earlier times are welcome.

- Inquiries are welcome.
- **Please send an extended abstract (approximately 1,000 words) of your proposed paper to richard.tardanico@fiu.edu by February 1, 2027.**
- Decisions on abstracts will be sent by **February 15, 2027.**
- Papers invited for submission will be due by **March 15, 2027**, and will be forwarded to *IJCS*’s standard processes of peer review and final editorial decision.

- Invited papers should follow the Author Guidelines of the [International Journal of Comparative Sociology](#). Papers published in *IJCS* are generally a maximum of 8,000 words (all sections inclusive).

References

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Sheppard E, Leitner H, Peck J (2024) Conjunctural analysis. *International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology*. 18 September. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9781118786352.wbieg2203>.