



Housing – A Critical Perspective.

08-09 April 2015

Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

- 1. Paper / Proposal Title:** Seeing housing like a local state (in partnership)
- 2. Format:** Written paper
- 3. Author(s) Name:** Emma Ormerod
- 4. University or Company Affiliation:** Durham University

5. Abstract (300 words):

Housing is now in a permanent state of crisis. The housing market is often understood as being at the root of this crisis, and yet the dominant understanding of housing as a commodity, investment and even a social signifier maintains that the market itself is ironically the solution to the problem it creates. There is a geography of the housing-market-crisis and subsequent state intervention, which is often overlooked. The housing market in certain areas in the North of England has been represented as having 'failed' under one of the most controversial regeneration programmes, Housing Market Renewal. This paper focuses on one particular neighbourhood in the North East which 'failed' to keep up with the market pace, and considers how the housing market is now being (re)constructed through a joint venture partnership; a growing mode of housing delivery in the UK. It argues that the local authority have become increasingly active in stimulating and shaping the housing market. Seen as a proactive and innovative approach to housing delivery under conditions of austerity and localism, the partnership is becoming a strategic and long-term housing developer across the local authority borough, with a large portfolio of publicly owned land. This paper critically

considers what is at stake in this partnership as decision making becomes less transparent and increasingly marketised by an entrepreneurial local authority. Finally it is argued that a (re)consideration of the concept of the local state can be used to make sense of these changes, and how it 'sees' (Scott, 1998) housing.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Emma Ormerod
PhD Researcher Durham University, Geography.

Emma Ormerod is a PhD researcher in the Department of Geography at Durham University with an interest in housing, regeneration, planning, local government and politics. Prior to beginning her research, Emma had worked as a Town Planner for over ten years in various public and non-public organisations.