



Housing – A Critical Perspective.

08-09 April 2015

Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

- 1. Paper / Proposal Title:** Housing in the context of alienation and self-agency
- 2. Format:** Written paper
- 3. Author(s) Name:** Jamileh Manoochehri
- 4. University or Company Affiliation:** De Montfort University

5. Abstract (300 words):

This paper is concerned with housing and alienation. It assumes a consensus on the necessity of provision of social housing for everyone in need, the impact that loss of access to adequate housing of socially acceptable standards and problems that the dispersal of people from communities causes. It posits that the housing problem should be understood in terms of alienation.

Technological advances have changed our working and social interactions, and to some extent they have altered our relationships with both our homes, and the built environment. Whatever the definition or composition of the home, there is an inherent association with the family – it serves to accommodate the unit of human society. Notably, the role of this social unit has increasingly transformed over time - the relationships within the home are subject to change. Technological advances have decentralised the relationship within the family and allow for similar decentralisation in the workplace.

The connections and networks that relate individuals to one another are important in 'grounding' them and allowing them to develop. This is related to the issue of

'projection'. Happiness is related to our ability to imagine a role and value in our networks. Without a network we are individualised and disconnected.

Alienation is understood here as the fissure of local and societal connections; and is linked to the concept of alienation as the condition in which the product of our labour turns into something against us, and as an inability to mediate in our environment. This mediation, this agency, takes different forms - the aim of this research is to identify the optimum amount of self-agency required to mitigate alienation in our living environment. In this context the home is understood as the site of enactment and self-actualisation. This paper aims to set out the basis of fieldwork to test if and how this alienation can be mitigated.

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

Jamileh Manoochehri

Teaching, Subject Head, De Montfort University, Leicester School of Architecture

Jamileh Manoochehri is currently teaching at the Leicester School of Architecture, De Montfort University, where she runs a studio and seminar group on housing, at M Arch level. She is also Subject Head for Professional Studies.

She studied architecture at the Architectural Association. As a registered architect she has worked mainly on housing projects with Local Authorities and Housing Associations as clients. Projects included regeneration of several estates in LB Hackney as well as new build housing developments in London and Dundee.

She obtained her PhD on the effect of social policy and social values on standards in social housing in UK, from Development Planning Unit or University College London in 2009.

She has written a book on Politics of Social Housing in Britain, published in 2012 and has recently written a book Chapter on Social Sustainability and the Housing Problem in: Sustainable Futures, Design and the Built Environment published in 2015. methods. She has published on issues around ageing and mobility, PAR and community participation of older people.