

16:30 - 16:50

## **Conservative housing policy: conditions of its emergence and its long-term path dependence in Hungary**

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While the influence of liberalism and the labour movement on the development of housing systems has been widely discussed in the housing literature, conservative ideology is rarely mentioned to have an important influence on housing. The presentation argues that the lack of attention on conservatism stems from the fact it rarely played a significant role in the development of housing systems of highest-income countries that most theoretical works focus on. Drawing on works discussing the concept of familialism in housing (Bohle & Seabrooke, 2020; Norris, 2016), the paper suggests that conservatism has manifested itself most conspicuously in the housing policy of countries where housing got in the focus of policy-making in a relatively early phase of capitalist transformation. In these countries conservatism strongly influenced housing system formation with the aim of inhibiting the rise of social problems associated with urbanisation and industrialisation by supporting rural self-sustaining home-owning families to improve their housing conditions rather than addressing urban housing problems.

The paper presents the traits of Hungary's conservative housing policy and its path-dependent development since the beginning of the 20th century. Surprisingly many elements of the conservative housing agenda, consisting of pronatalism, the support of rural home ownership rather than the (de-)commodification of urban housing, facilitation of the involvement of homeowners' labour in housing provision and the discouragement of housing mobility, survived multiple regime changes in the past century and remained important elements of the Hungarian housing system. At the same time, conservative housing policies have not been completely resistant to change, but have been constantly adapting to different political regimes through incremental changes and continue to do so today.