



ESR 6

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# Vocabulary

## Housing Governance

Research area: Policy and financing

The concept of “governance” emerged in the 1970s as a shift from traditional government interventionism to a more facilitative and cooperative approach. This transition transformed governments into interactive partners and led to the development of governance as interactive social-political forms of governing. Governance involves both formal and informal processes and institutions that guide and restrain collective activities. It is characterized by decentralization, flexibility, and the inclusion of public, private, and third-sector actors in hybrid and temporary institutional arrangements. Defining “housing governance” is challenging due to its multilevel nature, encompassing family homes, housing associations, and local/national housing governance frameworks. At the household level, governance involves managing daily time allocation and resolving conflicts. On the local level, it includes public interventions, strategies, policies, and provisions to meet local housing needs. On the national level, it entails a structure of government and non-governmental actors involved in all phases of public rental housing provision. Critics highlight challenges in public accountability within decentralized governance structures, such as demarcation and enforcement issues. The evolving understanding of governing and the role of government in different systems (capitalism, corporatism, socialism) affect housing governance at local and national levels. Defining housing governance universally remains a challenge, requiring careful consideration of specific contexts. Further exploration of housing governance, particularly on the municipal level, is crucial as housing provision mechanisms continue to evolve.



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“The quality of shared spaces increases the quality of housing. But one must be able to reduce one’s own private space and instead have a collective luxury of shared infrastructures and spaces: living rooms, courtyards, kitchens, laundry rooms, libraries and workspaces. These shared spaces can also help overcome the isolation of certain types of inhabitants.”

Anne Kockelkorn, RE-DWELL Round-table no. 4, “How can community participation in the provision of affordable and sustainable housing be guided”, 14 July 2022



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## Blog

Network members activities



### Energy efficiency renovation of buildings in Croatia

Posted on 24-03-2022

Around 90% of Croatians are homeowners. Homeownership was catalysed by the “give-away”...

Author: M.Horvat (ESR6)

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### Understanding the differences between architects and the “rest of us”

Posted on 16-12-2021

As a social scientist with a background in economics and environmental science, I have...

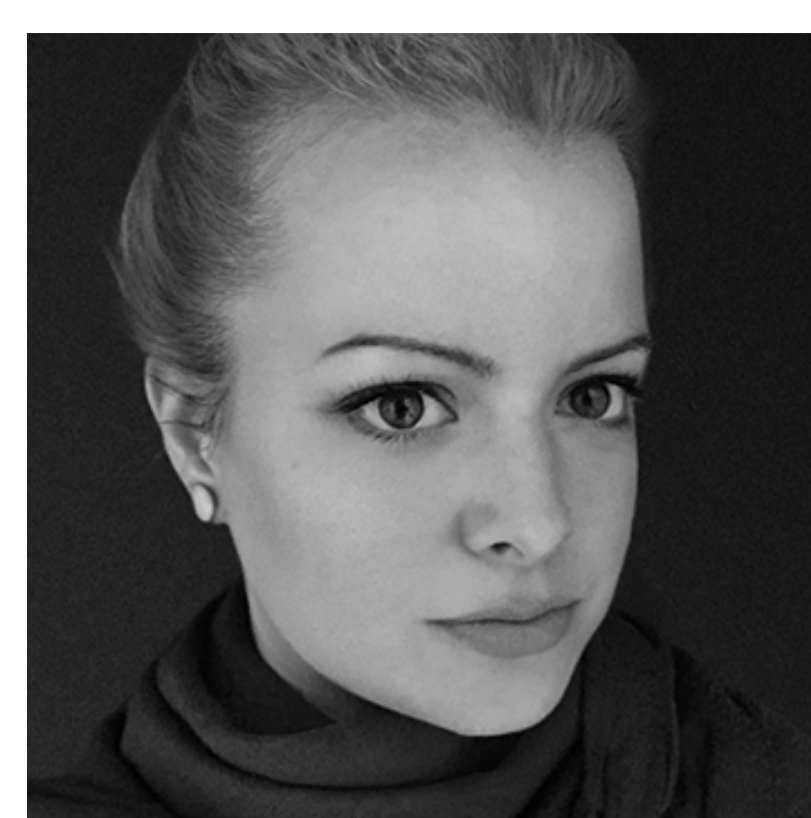
Author: M.Horvat (ESR6)

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“The Dutch minister of housing, Hugo de Jonge and MPs are discussing plans to add 900,000 homes to the national housing stock by 2030. Last year, 80,000 new homes were built, falling short of the annual target of 100,000. This year, only 45,000 permits are expected to be issued due to factors such as higher mortgage interest rates, increased building costs, a shortage of workers, and declining house prices. Developers need to sell 70% of a project in advance for it to be financially viable.”

Dutch News, “The Dutch housing market: what exactly is the government doing?”, 30 March 2023



ESR 7

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## Vocabulary

### Housing Regime

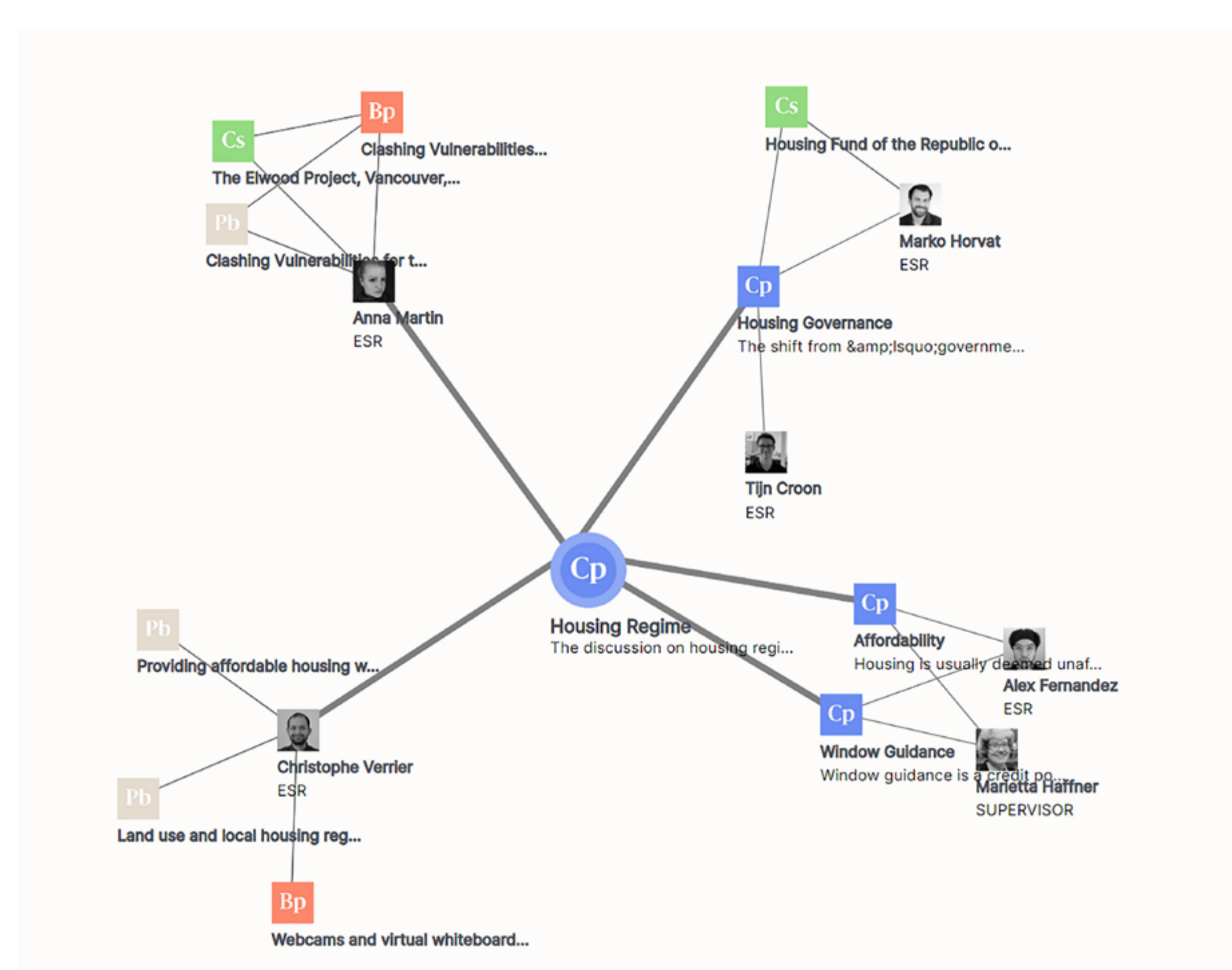


Research area: Policy and financing

Ruonavaara defined the housing regime as a “set of fundamental principles according to which housing provision operates in some defined area (municipality, region, state) at a particular point in time” (2020a, p. 10). These principles are present in discourses, institutional arrangements, and political interventions. All actors have certain principles when operating in the system of housing provision at a given time and place. Housing regimes can be considered as the “principles of operation”. In this sense, the housing regime concept faces challenges in its ability to represent an effective analytical tool for today’s housing systems. For Stephens (2020), it is necessary to rethink housing regime as a way to find middle-range theories given that current accounts of neoliberal convergence barely manage to explain the role of regime path-dependences in continuing to shape variegated housing outcomes.

Ruonavaara, H. (2020a). Rethinking the concept of ‘housing regime.’ *Critical Housing Analysis*, 7(1), 5–14.

Stephens, M. (2020). How Housing Systems are Changing and Why: A Critique of Kemeny’s Theory of Housing Regimes. *Housing, Theory and Society*, 37(5), 521–547.



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The first RE-DWELL conference was held on 8 and 9 December 2022 and was organized by Pacte Social Sciences Research Centre of the University Grenoble Alpes. The conference brought together a diversity of researchers from different academic backgrounds whose work focused on transforming and adapting the existing housing systems and professional practices while establishing new conceptions of housing in order to meet the present and future challenges that cities face. The conference was part of the agenda of Grenoble European Green Capital 2022, and its December theme “Living in tomorrow’s cities” / “Habiter les villes de demain”.



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“Housing affordability is a primary driver of precarity, affecting both upward and downward mobility.”

Anna Martin, blog post “Clashing Vulnerabilities”, February 2023



“To better understand the interrelated aspects of affordability and sustainability, it is essential to transcend the defined limits of scientific disciplines.”

Anna Martin, blog post “Clashing Vulnerabilities”, February 2023



“RE-DWELL activities showed us that understanding and explaining science as a complex and pluri-disciplinary system has important practitioner-oriented as well as research-oriented benefits.”

Anna Martin, personal reflection after the RE-DWELL Workshop in Zagreb, March 2023