

Housing, Theory and Society

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Special Issue on *A Theory of Housing: Problems and Potential* Volume 26, Issue 1, 2009

Housing, Theory and Society is an international, academic journal that aims to encourage the application and development of social theory in the housing field.

2008 was the 25th anniversary of *Housing, Theory and Society* and its antecedent the *Scandinavian Journal of Housing and Planning*. To mark the occasion a plenary debate was organized at the European Network for Housing Research conference in Dublin on 8 July 2008. This special issue has arisen from that debate.

The subject of the debate was the role of theory in housing research. Clearly this fits with the journal's objective, established by former editor Jim Kemeny in 1999, which is to stimulate the application of theory to housing research. This followed Kemeny's call in his book *Housing and Social Theory* (Kemeny 1992) for a more theoretically informed housing research. This call was accepted by many people and the articles published here reflect on the impact this has made.

The issue consists of four papers which cover a number of themes. The first theme is the argument put forward by both Bengtsson and Gibb for a multi-disciplinary approach to housing studies. Both hint at further potential for an inter-disciplinary approach. King goes further than this arguing that there can be a theory of housing which by its very nature must be interdisciplinary. The introduction examines whether and how this is possible, and looks at some of the barriers.

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