Scaling up Affordable and Social Housing through Partnerships and Planning Tools: Lessons from Melbourne’s Transforming Housing program

Lecture by Prof. CAROLYN WHITZMAN from Melbourne, Australia

Over the past six years, Melbourne Australia’s Transforming Housing research program has developed a university-community partnership involving local and senior governments, private and non-profit developers, philanthropic and private finance. This partnership has, in turn, influenced housing and planning policy, including getting a new definition of affordable housing and putting it as a core purpose of the planning act, and developing a series of tools to implement policy: needs assessment, locational rating, mapping appropriate government ‘lazy land’ for social housing, affordable housing calculator, and cost benefit analysis calculator. This presentation discusses how partnerships between researchers, policy-makers and practitioners were made (and un-made) and how the tools might be utilized in Canada.

Prof Whitzman has been Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Melbourne. She has recently relocated to the University of Ottawa, where she is Bank of Montreal Scholar at the Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies.

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