

Melissa Fernández Arrigoitia
LSE London

Abstract Proposal for *Theme 3: Rethinking forms of ownership*

Alter Prop International Symposium, 28-29 October 2013, Tours

This paper will explore how co-housing in the UK can be considered an alternative form of home ownership. After providing a general context to the housing shortage and affordability problems in London, it will then briefly review the various kinds of ownership and management structures that have been proposed and employed by co-housing (or similar) groups in the country. The discussion will then turn to focus more closely on one case study which we have been following since 2011: an emerging senior co-housing group in South London. The co-housing group came together *after* the land and housing structure to be developed was bought by a Housing Association; and they have varying amounts of control over design and development processes. Based on our ethnographic research, the paper will examine what this on-going arrangement has meant for the economic, legal and social development of the co-housing project; and, more generally, what it means for rethinking forms of ownership.

While this abstract falls under Theme 3, it integrates elements central to Themes 1 and 2 as well. In particular, the paper will discuss issues that have been raised in Featherstone's co-design process (in terms of shared living spaces and sustainable resources) and in group meetings regarding values, membership conditions, and future community living and management arrangements. Since the final form of these have yet to be determined, discussion will centre on way these issues have been raised and shifted over time.