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Manufacturing the Urban: Manufactured Housing and Manufactured Home Parks

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Rationale

Manufactured housing is the largest source of unsubsidized affordable housing in the USA (CFPB 2021), sheltering more households than public housing and federally subsidised rental housing combined (Lamb, Shi, and Spicer, 2022). Yet, urban researchers have focused relatively little attention on manufactured housing as a housing type or on manufactured home parks (MHPs, also commonly called “mobile home parks” and “trailer parks”) as a form of urbanism (Sullivan, Makarewicz and Rumbach, 2022). The lack of research attention to this sector is all the more troubling given that manufactured housing residents are especially vulnerable to the negative effects of two of the most critical challenges of contemporary housing and planning: financialization driven housing precarity (Sullivan 2014; 2018; Desmond 2016) and mounting environmental hazard risks associated with climate change (Rumbach, Sullivan, and Makarewicz 2020; Gabbe and Pierce 2020; Pierce, Gabbe, and Rosser 2022; Lamb et al. 2022). While manufactured housing is especially common in the USA, analogous housing types are increasingly found in countries around the world. Further, MHP residents face many challenges that also afflict people living in ostensibly very different settings globally, from tenure insecure and hazard-exposed informal settlements to temporary labour camps in rapidly urbanising regions.

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