

# Call for papers “Debted lives: how financialisation is remaking housing and home”: A Special Edition of *Housing, Theory and Society*

Guest editors: Nicole Cook & Charles Gillon (University of Wollongong, Australia).

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## Topic Description

Researchers have increasingly observed how financial logics and practices are reshaping our experiences of housing and home. These logics generate new dependencies between everyday life and the world of global speculative finance, housing development and neoliberal statecraft. From owner-occupiers called on to fund their own welfare against declining assets, to social housing tenants forced to relocate for estate renewal, citizens in market societies are indebted to financial institutions, housing and planning authorities and landlords for the right to occupy a home. This special edition will interrogate these debted-lives by inviting contributors to examine the ways that debt (both financial and otherwise) is experienced in the settings of home and neighbourhood. Focusing on the social relations that accompany financialisation, the special issue will bring together contributions that interrogate some of the significant societal developments shaping both housing and the home.

## Coverage of the Topic Provided by the Special Issue

In the special issue we seek papers that pay attention to the experiences, affects, social relations and or subjectivities of debted lives. While anchored in the everyday experiences of owner-occupiers and renters, debted lives are simultaneously situated in broader institutional, political and cultural contexts. Thus, papers focused on the everyday experience may also develop a simultaneous focus on the technologies, policies and discourses that normalise debted lives, desired behaviours and identities.

We define debt in relation to housing and home in its broadest sense- as a debt to someone else for the right to occupy one's home. Thus, rental relationships may be considered relations of indebtedness (to a landlord) or to a housing authority who manages rental property. In focusing on the social, affective and subjective experiences of housing debt, the special issue seeks papers that unsettle the boundary between housing finance and home life, and in doing so more accurately chart the consequences of public policies that tie home-ownership to mortgage-market deregulation, and affordable (and public) housing to privatisation, private equity and real estate finance. While debt is often conceptualised in a linear fashion — as a repayment by borrowers' whose character and identity remain fixed (at least until the debt is paid)— social researchers recognise the porosity and openness of social life to debt, whose potential and capacities are shaped by the ebb and flow of debt-relations (Garcia-Lamarca and Kaika 2016; Harker 2017). The special issue thus provides an opportunity to develop new understandings of the social character of debt: of the ways that familial tension, frustration and shame for instance, become part of the 'repayments' households make to secure affordable rental housing (Fields 2017); or of the emotional suppression that underpins investor-subjectivities and owner-occupation (Gillon and Gibson 2018).

In addition to the authors mentioned above, the special issue will foreground the foundational work by Susan Smith, Jane Pollard, Paul Langley, and Manuel Aalbers. The special issue provides the scope for a range of theoretical approaches including but not limited to Foucauldian analysis of biopower and subjectification (Garcia-Lamarca and Kaika 2016); alternative political economies of financialisation and housing (Fields 2017); affective articulations of the 'background hum' of debt and indebtedness (Dawney et al 2018); and/or housing/home as socio-material assemblage (Rogers 2016; Cook, Davison and Crabtree, 2016). It also provides the scope for more sustained attention to the political socialities (Suarez 2017), diverse tenures (Crabtree 2018) and organisational responses (Power and Bergan 2018) that move beyond debted lives.

### Submission of abstracts

200-300 word abstracts should be submitted to both Dr Nicole Cook ([ncook@uow.edu.au](mailto:ncook@uow.edu.au)) and Dr Charles Gillon ([cgillon@uow.edu.au](mailto:cgillon@uow.edu.au)) by **30 February 2019**

Full paper submission to the guest editors by **31 August 2019**

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