

Keynote Vortrag Englisch

Francesco Chiodelli

Informal Italy: Features, actors and causes of illegal housing

In recent years the issue of informal housing has received a vast amount of critical attention, the large majority of which has focused on the so-called 'Global South'. On the contrary, in the North, informal housing is usually seen by the academic literature as fairly rare and related mainly to marginal groups. However, this is not the case of several Mediterranean Western countries, and of Italy in particular. In fact, in many parts of Italy (not only in Southern regions, but also in Northern ones) informality has become almost an ordinary way to access housing and to build the city, which relates to several millions of constructions. These cases of informality concern different phases of the life cycle of buildings and violates different regulatory regimes (e.g. urban planning regulations, building regulations, property rights, public housing rules of access). Examples of such infringements are unauthorized construction of an entire building on an agricultural plot, residential use of a non-residential space or the unlicensed use of public housing dwellings.

The lecture provides an overview of housing informality in Italy, focusing both on its different forms and architectural features and on its main actors. The institutional causes of this phenomenon are analyzed as well.

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