
W69 - HOUSING SOCIOLOGY



International Housing Policy Seminar

The 16th Plenary Meeting of W69 was preceded by an International Housing Policy Seminar which took place in delightful surroundings in Gothenburg, Sweden (as evidenced by the accompanying photographs) from 4th to 8th June 1998.

The topic was:

Resurgence and Transcendence: Assessing social consequences of the implementation of housing policies in Europe.

The planning and organisation were in the hands of Timo Tanninen, Principal of NOPUS - The Nordic Education Programme for Social Service Development and Annika Alström, NOPUS R&D Secretary and all who took part were full of praise for the excellent arrangements that had been provided.

Twenty delegates hailing from 10 countries attended a carefully chosen programme of technical and scientific papers, discussions and site visits.

The venues were the premises of NOPUS itself and Chalmers University of Technology.

In Memoriam Ola Siksjö

The opening address was given by Dr. Karl-Ola Warnhammer, Head of the Board at the School of Architecture at Chalmers and this was followed by the Ola Siksjö Memorial Lecture.

The inclusion of this in W69 Symposia to commemorate Ola Siksjö, former Coordinator, who was tragically killed in an accident, is an imaginative tribute to an outstanding figure in W69 and Judith

Allen who delivered the lecture fully matched the significance of the occasion with her contribution entitled Discourses of Social Exclusion in the United Kingdom.

Variety of Topics

A local flavour was injected by an illustrated lecture on Fifteen Years of Development in Gothenburg by Birgitta Holmdahl, Professor of Housing Design at the Department of Architectural Design at Chalmers and this was backed up by interesting and relevant visits to see neighbourhood projects and development of suburbs into "ecodistricts."

Professor Holmdahl also spoke on searching for a new paradigm for housing and planning.

Other presentations at the Symposium included:

- Katrin Paadam - Tallin Technical University, Estonia on Transition to Home Ownership: individual and institutional perceptions of housing renovation.
- Mauno Inkinen - Ministry of Economic Affairs Housing Department, Estonia on Analyses of Housing Reform in Estonia and its Feedback to the Current Housing Scene.
- Augustinas V. Raginis - Institute of Architecture and Construction, Kaunas, Lithuania on Seven Years after Restoration of Independence in Lithuania: economic changes, housing policy and social consequences.
- Eva Kaltenberg-Kwiatkowska - Centre for Social Sciences, Warsaw University of Technology on Housing in Poland: ten years of transformation.
- Roode Liias - Department of Building Production, Tallin University of Technology on Housing Management Schemes: Organisational dilemmas of running housing stock in transition.
- Barbara Verlic Christensen - Institute of Social Sciences, Ljubljana, Slovenia on Ups and Downs of the Housing Markets in Slovenia.
- Jurgis Vanagas - Urban Design Department, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania on Housing in Lithuania: past experience, modern changes and trends.
- Eva Van Kempen - Department of Human Geography, University of Amsterdam on Housing Differentiation in Downgraded Neighbourhoods.
- Ola Nylander - Department of Architectural Design, Chalmers University of Technology on The Architectural Qualities of the Home.
- Barry Hills and Kevin Gilliam - Plas Coch University of Wales Associate College on The Social Consequences of Housing Management on Large Estates.
- Judith Szekely - Hungarian Central Statistical Office on Housing Regulation Before and After the Transition in Hungary.
- Michel Conan - CSTB, France and Professor Sten Gromark - School of Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden on Learning from Karlskrona: Beyond convention and invention.

W69 Meeting

The Commission Meeting itself was held on 7th June 1998 with Ivor Ambrose in the Chair.

We are grateful to him for the prompt Minutes of the Meeting from which the following Summary has been compiled.

There were 12 members and 3 Observers at what was the 15th Meeting of W69.

The first item on the Agenda was a discussion of membership and potential applications of the CIB Developing Countries Fund.

The W69 Publications Programme was reviewed.

Tallinn 1997 Proceedings

Katrin Paadam reported that these Proceedings were not yet ready for publication. All documents were on diskettes in the possession of Austin Jaffe, who was recovering from a road accident. The expected date of publication will be in the autumn of 1998.

Gothenburg 1998 Proceedings

Sten Gromark offered to work with Timo Tanninen to gather the texts for a low-cost publication produced at Chalmers Technical University, Gothenburg.

Final drafts of papers are required by Sten/Timo by 1st September on diskette or by e-mail. Ivor Ambrose offered to edit final copies prior to publication.

The suggestion was made that in future years W69 might produce a journal rather than proceedings. Issues arising from this suggestion were:

There is a possibility to publish on websites, use electronic mail etc., which might be considered, although not all W69 members have access to Internet.

Care must be taken not to compete with the CIB Journal.

Themes of Concentration

Following a discussion it was agreed that this year's meeting had maintained the theme, but there was widespread support for extending the themes of Housing Tenure and Housing Quality to include Housing Innovation.

More than one member suggested that Architectural Analysis and Interpretation could be included as this has general relevance to issues of Quality, Form, Social aspects, etc.

It was agreed take up these suggestions in a draft amendment to the W69 Objectives, to be put forward for discussion at the next meeting in 1999.

Future Meetings

The meeting was reminded of a previous offer from Romania to host a W69 Meeting, possibly in 1999. This now seemed very unlikely, since there has been no confirmation of the offer for two years.

After an approach from the Coordinator, Augustinas Raginis and Jurgis Vanagas agreed to investigate the possibility of hosting the 1999 Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Another offer received previously was from Barry Hills and Kevin Gilliam, proposing the North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI), Plas Coch, Wrexham, Wales as a venue for the year 2000 at the earliest.

The choice of Vilnius, Lithuania for September 1999 and Wrexham, Wales for September 2000 was supported by the members. This would maintain the East-West European balance of venues which, so far, had been a characteristic feature of W69 Re-unions.

On behalf of everyone, the Coordinator warmly thanked the hosts of the Meeting Timo Tanninen, Sten Gromark and Annika Alstrom and other colleagues (in absentia) for their hard work and excellent organisation, concluding that the event had been a great success in all respects.

The next Business Meeting of W69 is planned for September 1999 in Vilnius, Lithuania.