STRUCTURES OF UNHOUSING:
Racial Capitalism and Housing Precarity in Los Angeles

Desiree Fields, University of California, Berkeley
Terra Graziani, The Anti-Eviction Mapping Project
Ananya Roy, University of California, Los Angeles
Pete White, The Los Angeles Community Action Network
STRUCTURES OF UNHOUSING: Racial Capitalism and Housing Precarity in Los Angeles

KEY PROPOSITIONS:
- The systematic production of unhousing
- Forces of speculation combined with state-organized violence to produce evictions, displacement, and banishment
- Rooted in long histories of racial dispossession and spatial illegalization

KEY ACTIONS:
- Ending the criminalization of poverty
- Regulating financial speculation
- Guaranteeing the right to remain
- Socializing housing
STRUCTURES OF UNHOUSING: Racial Capitalism and Housing Precarity in Los Angeles

Desiree Fields, University of California, Berkeley
“EVERYBODY WORKS BUT THE VACANT LOT”

I paid $3600 for this lot and will hold till I get $6000. The profit is unearned increment made possible by the presence of this community and enterprise of its people. I take the profit without earning it. For the remedy read

“HENRY GEORGE”

Yours truly,
Fay Lewis
$187m to build…

$3.4bn increased value for nearby properties…

$103m in additional property tax.

“The rest went to private landowners”
URBAN RENT-SEEKING STRATEGIES

RIDING
PUBLIC INVESTMENT

UPGRADING

UNDERDEVELOPMENT

FINANCIAL AND DATA

Photo: Hunter Kerhart
RENT AND UNHOUSING

Tolani King, Moms 4 Housing, Oakland, CA, December 2019

Wedgewood Inc. headquarters, Redondo Beach, CA, December 2019
“FINALLY DOWNTOWN HAS BECOME A REAL CITY, BUT I'M CONCERNED IT'S GOING TO COLLAPSE AGAIN...”

(DOWNTOWN LA DEVELOPER)
Cycles of Investment + Disinvestment

REDLINING

FORECLOSURE CRISIS

WALL STREET BUYS UP HOMES
Alameda County Foreclosures, 2006-2016, and 1939 Redlining Map

Foreclosures mapped in relation to 1939 Redlining Map. Click here for more on Redlining.

- Oakland Foreclosures
- Berkeley Foreclosures
- Redlining, 1939

GEC, Grade
- B
- C
- D
- A
- Others

- Oakland Neighborhoods by For...
- Black Population, Alameda Cou...
First Republic Bank Loans Made to Evictors compared with Oakland's 1939 Redlining Map

- First Republic Funding O...
- First Republic Bank
- Historic Redlining Oakland
- Oakland Neighborhoods

Map by Anti-Eviction Mapping Project
Eviction is a Tool of Speculation

THE ELLIS ACT
THE DESTRUCTION OF LOS ANGELES AFFORDABLE HOUSING DUE TO THE

Ellis Act!

26251
NUMBER OF UNITS IN WHICH LANDLORDS/DEVELOPERS FILED ELLIS ACT DECLARATIONS TO EVICT TENANTS WITH THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

1/1/2001 - 9/24/2019

Map created by the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project

In collaboration with the Coalition for Economic Survival.
Policing is a Tool of Speculation

LOS ANGELES' CITYWIDE NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROGRAM
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Los Angeles Police Department</th>
<th>Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office</th>
<th>Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Department of City Planning</td>
<td>Housing and Community Investment Department</td>
<td>(Collectively known as The Problem Property Resolution Team)</td>
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</tbody>
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ZERITA JONES

tenant of the Chesapeake Apartments and founder of the Cheasapeake Tenants Association
"The security isn’t for us. Its for their property"

ZERITA JONES
CNAP and Black Population in LA

2013-2018 cases filed by the City Attorney under CNAP
Speculative Vacancy

SPECULATIVE FINANCE KEEPS HOUSES VACANT AND PEOPLE UNHOUSED
Is Anybody Home?

In a sample of 25 luxury buildings across Los Angeles...

- **3,569** Total Vacant Condo Units
- **73%** or 2,692 Units are Vacant or Second Homes
- **47%** or 1,469 Units are Investor-Owned

Los Angeles has over 3 vacant units per unhoused person.
How Do We Stand Up to Speculation in Our Cities?
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SOCIALIZING HOUSING

Ananya Roy, University of California, Los Angeles
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Can there be housing justice on stolen land?
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Who has the right to property?
STRUCTURES OF UNHOUSING: Racial Capitalism and Housing Precarity in Los Angeles

The social function of property
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Expropriation
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“Why would you want to save capitalism, and not human beings?”

Walter Mignolo
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KEYWORDS:
RENT
SPECULATION
RESISTANCE
SOCIALIZATION