

<p>Social Contents of Changing Housing Landscapes of the Capital Metropolises of Armenia and Georgia: Institutions, Stakeholders, Policies</p>	<p>Countries involved: Armenia and Georgia</p>
	<p>Institutions involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Human Geography at Tbilisi State University http://www.tsu.edu.ge/en/ • Yerevan State University http://www.yu.am/main/en
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<p>Short Description:</p> <p>The proposed research, based on comparative explorations and analyses of Tbilisi and Yerevan, intends to explore the social and spatial implications of the new housing developments. In particular, we aim at investigating the spatial transformation of the socialist-built housing estates and mikrorayons, as well as the planning peculiarities of the newly emerged residential neighborhoods. These will be analyzed in connection with the sociocultural aspects of social diversification and population redistribution, including the separation or segregation of particular groups in specific residential neighborhoods. A special focus will be dedicated to revealing and interpreting of roles of different institutions and actors in the (re)production of housing spaces. A comparison of several cases observed in Tbilisi and Yerevan will help us test a hypothesized "Caucasus model" of housing allocation for the further comparisons with other Central and Eastern European cities. The scientific merit of the research is determined by the application of, and contribution to, theoretical insights such as: (i) theories of social mobility, (ii) conceptual developments on social resilience, including those on "Persistent resilience" (engagement with continual, mundane and lasting challenges that underlie everyday social relations and moderation of these relations), (iii) "right to the city" and post-socialist city – critical geography perspectives on socio-spatial practices, and (iv) key concepts of institutional economy and Niklas Luhmann's social systems theory.</p>	
<p>Main Objectives:</p> <p>The project aims to investigate following interconnected topics: a) distribution of social groups by types of housing and their geographical situation; b) role of institutions and stakeholders in allocation of dwellings in new housing estates; c) official policies towards housing provision for poor and vulnerable social groups.</p>	
<p>Expected Outputs:</p> <p>As the result of the project, the team envisages to publish a book - comparative study on the state of housing development in the capital metropolises of Tbilisi and Yerevan. Several articles will be submitted to the leading journals in the field including "Urban studies", "Housing studies", "Journal of housing and the built environment". The outcome of the project will be available online, additionally, the team intends to present the project at different conferences including congress of IGU (International Geographic Union) in Krakow, Poland in 2014, AAG (Association of American Geographers) in Tampa in 2014 and Chicago in 2015.</p>	
<p>Duration: 24 months (1 March 2014 - 29 February 2016)</p>	<p>Value: 99'886 CHF</p>