

# RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

## Citizenship and community organising

**Dr Dallas Rogers from the School of Social Sciences and Psychology and Professor Peter Phibbs from the Urban Research Centre will research how low-income housing policy interventions can adversely affect civil society organisations. This project is funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI).**

'Policy interventions designed to address concentrations of disadvantage have implications on the movements of low-income citizens and these can threaten place-based civil society organisations - e.g. public housing tenant groups, local community coalitions and other neighbourhood alliances', explains Dr Rogers. 'Place-based civil society organisations have been important sites of citizen participation in low-income neighbourhoods since the Second World War. On the one hand, the political ideology that makes the market the central focus of housing policy is driving mobility of public housing tenants and low-income private renters. On the other hand, a range of state and private sector interests are creating new "citizen participation" strategies to involve the remaining citizens in place. The significant restructuring of our cities, the movement of low-income citizens and the changing nature of our political systems, means that the way low-income citizens collectively organise to engage in civil society is in a state of flux.'

The team will conduct interviews with community leaders from public and social housing organisations, and stakeholders within the public, non-for-profit and the private sectors who are involved in "community engagement". Participant observation of low-income community organising efforts, including online advocacy, as well as community engagement events, community meetings, the private sectors' management of community engagement will be undertaken.



The outcomes of this study will inform gaps in the knowledge base relating to how low-income citizens might create new civil spaces and use information technologies to be involved not only in individual place-based redevelopment projects post announcement, but also how they might inform urban and social policy more generally in a market-led housing system undergoing significant change.

**Project Title:** Citizenship, concentrations of disadvantage and the manipulated mobility of the urban poor: The role of urban and social policy

**Funding has been set at:** \$135,000

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