



HIC - Passerelle Publication: Unveiling the Right to the City

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Charlotte Mathivet is the editor and coordinator

This publication was presented and distributed at HIC General Assembly, GPR2C booth at Habitat III and GPR2C activities in Quito.

The right to the city concept has seen a large number of setbacks, back and forths, interpretations and has been given different meanings. Many different agents have claimed the right to the city, from Nanterre University back in the 60s to the favelas of Rio, the German self-governed groups or even the UN-Habitat.

It is surely of interest to live up the debate on a concept. Nothing is more pointless than having some principles stated in a book with no practical application of them. Naturally, very often the implementation stage generates disagreements. It is useless for some social movements and inevitable for some others, while some people do not use the term but concretely apply its components. Some, however, use the concept in order to alter the emancipatory potential Henri Lefebvre had thought out.

How can we clarify it? How can we understand what the operators claiming the right to the city actually want? And, how do we connect the militants, researchers and local authorities who, without talking about it directly, try to achieve this essential utopia, the right to the city?

This publication is a result of all of these questions, thanks to all the authors' contributions.

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Charlotte Mathivet, the editor and coordinator, is a political scientist, specialized in housing and city issues. She has been working at HIC General Secretariat and she is part of Droit à la (Belle) Ville, a HIC Member. She also edited number 7 of the Passerelle Collection, Housing in Europe: Time to Evict the Crisis, and number 10, Take Back the Land, The Social Function of Land, Housing, Resistances and Alternatives

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