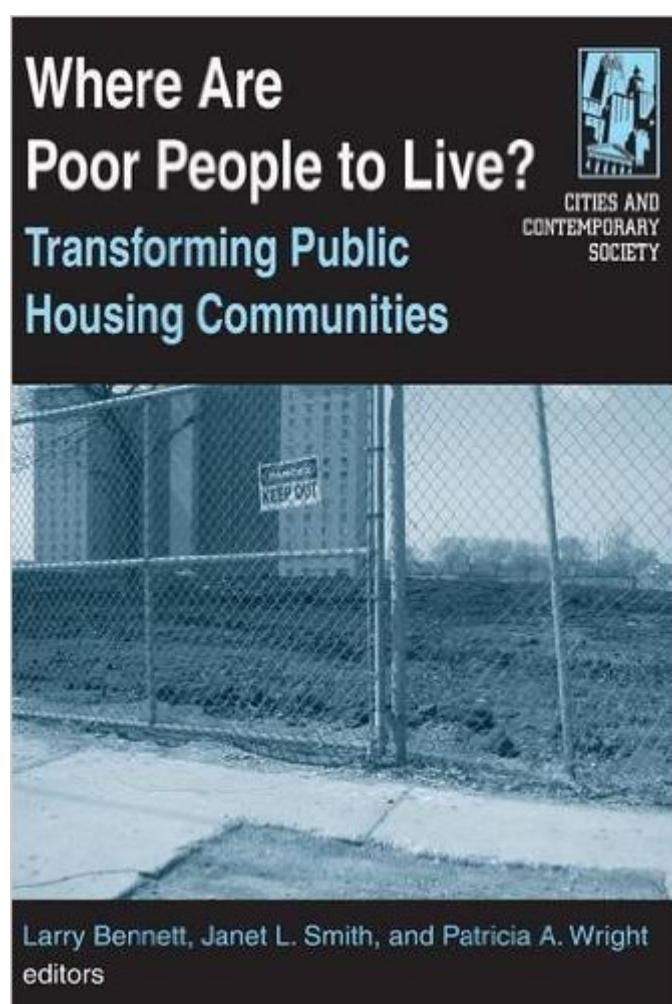


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Where Are Poor People To Live?: Transforming Public Housing Communities (Cities And Contemporary Society (Paperback))



Synopsis

This groundbreaking book shows how major shifts in federal policy are spurring local public housing authorities to demolish their high-rise, low-income developments, and replace them with affordable low-rise, mixed income communities. It focuses on Chicago, and that city's affordable housing crisis, but it provides analytical frameworks that can be applied to developments in every American city. "Where Are Poor People to Live?" provides valuable new empirical information on public housing, framed by a critical perspective that shows how shifts in national policy have devolved the U.S. welfare state to local government, while promoting market-based action as the preferred mode of public policy execution. The editors and chapter authors share a concern that proponents of public housing restructuring give little attention to the social, political, and economic risks involved in the current campaign to remake public housing. At the same time, the book examines the public housing redevelopment process in Chicago, with an eye to identifying opportunities for redeveloping projects and building new communities across America that will be truly hospitable to those most in need of assisted housing. While the focus is on affordable housing, the issues addressed here cut across the broad policy areas of housing and community development, and will impact the entire field of urban politics and planning.

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Customer Reviews

Scholars and interested parties critical of the presumptions and practices of HUD's infamous HOPE

VI program have often had a byzantine research path to follow. Part of the blame falls on the lack of institutional memory at HUD (referenced in the Zhang and Weismann paper in chapter 2 of this book), but serious critical insight into this program has been a long time in coming. Given the considerable impacts this program has had and continues to have on urban ethnic and racial minorities, that is a major public administration shortcoming. Using the ongoing Chicago "Plan for Transformation" experience as a springboard, this volume furnishes the best one volume treatment of ongoing American public housing "transformations" currently available. This book is highly informative; in addition to containing chapters on the historical context of 1990's "transformation," the book also furnishes analysis of what the demolition of public housing actually looked like on the ground, who stood (and stands) to benefit from the gentrification engendered by the demolition of high profile public housing, and also contains some excellent critical analysis of the "new urbanist" premises that were built into the HOPE VI program in the early to mid 1990's. This book is a much-needed critical antidote to the architectural determinism of much of the "smart growth" and "new urbanist" dogma still seeping out of this country's leading urban and regional planning schools. One noteworthy example: New Orleans, post hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

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