

**HOUSING AND THE SENSE OF
BELONGING:**
Collectivity of vulnerable social groups
Thesis research proposal

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Problem Statement

Displaced people are always susceptible to physical and emotional harm. The lack of permanent dwelling, renders them alienated from the society. Also, Discrimination, deprivation of human rights, and lack of access to basic necessities are common occurrences. There is also the grief and psychological traumas brought by losing of family members or properties. They become marginalized in their own country, aggravated poverty levels that can result to social delinquency and resorting to crime for survival.

Several methods have been proposed in order to combat this Perhaps, one of those can be Collective housing. Many local governments have opted for massive housing constructions that are today are being abandoned.

Objectives

This research aims to reveal how collective-living can give a resolution to the lack of ownership in social housing projects in Latin America.

- Determine the importance of the sense of belonging in social housing projects.*
- Understand the relationship between collective design and human well-being.*

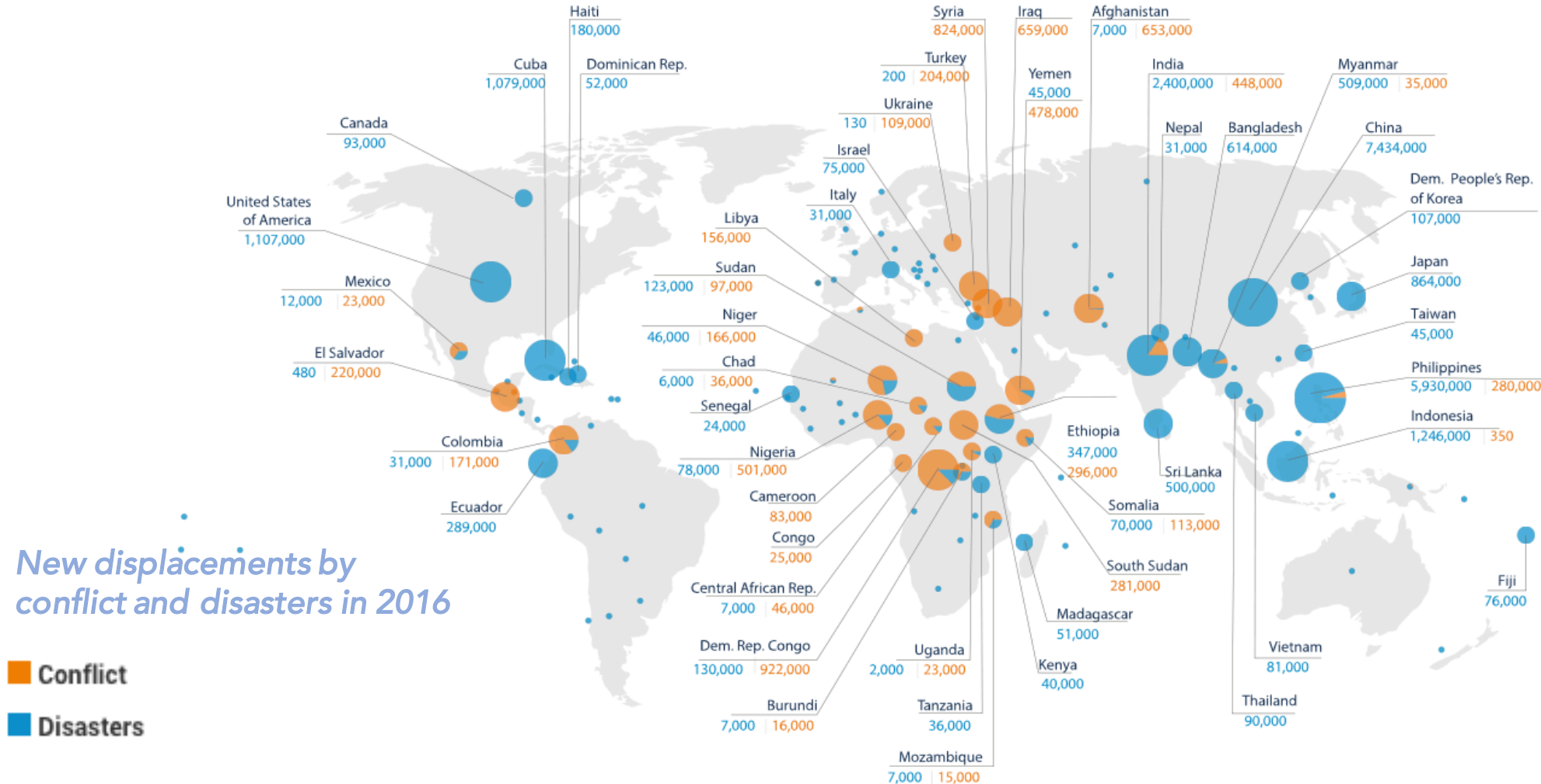
Research Question

Why collective housing can generate sense of ownership and contribute to housing deficit?

- *Does the sense of belong hold potential influence in the acceptation of social housing projects?*
- *Could a displaced person be interested in put apart individualism (or start to believe others) to be part of a community again?*

Background

During the last decades the number of displacements of people caused by conflict and natural disasters keep rising.



Colombia case.

After six years of negotiations between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country finally reached a peace deal in late 2016 to end more than 50 years of armed conflict that cost more than 260,000 lives and **displaced more than seven million people**. Violence has continued, however, with the assassination of community leaders since the agreement was signed in November and **thousands of people newly displaced**. (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) 2017)



Photograph of a family leaving their home

How many families are **homeless or live in poor quality houses**?



Source: IDB. 2012. Room for Development.

Residents abandoning Mexico's affordable-housing sprawl.

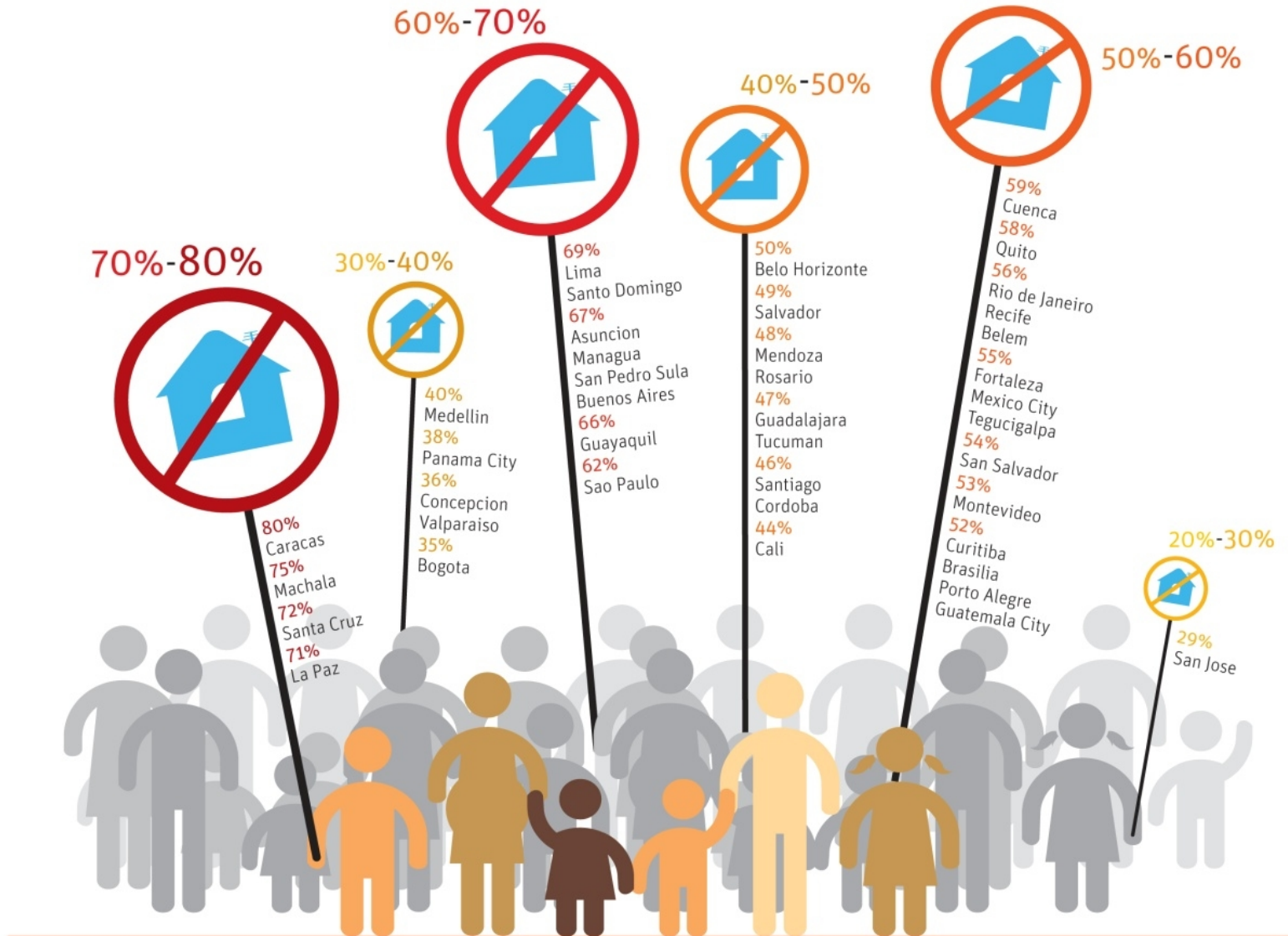
- Lacks of infrastructure and services*
- Too expensive*
- Too far from working centers.*



Two Million Homes for Mexico project in Tonalá- Mexico

However Mexico is not the only case...

How many families cannot afford a house in Latin America?



Source: IDB. 2012. Room for Development.

Literature

Collective housing
Co-housing
Collaborative housing
Co-living
Cooperative housing

Forms of intentional community:

participatory process (residents are active in designing and developing their own community), **common facilities** (typically including cooking/dining facilities, laundry, children's rooms, etc.), **Self-management**...

Literature

Eva Sandstedt & Sara Westin

Beyond Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft. Cohousing Life in Contemporary Sweden. 2015.

What does it mean to live in a cohousing unit and who is living here?

The inhabitants are living in different households and flats and with common spaces. Architecture is important as well as the organization of cooperation and everyday life.

Literature

Elizabeth A. Markle, Rachel Rodgers, William Sanchez & Mary Ballou.

Social support in the cohousing model of community: a mixed-methods analysis, Community Development. 2015.

Grounded in a theoretical synthesis of social support, social capital, and social sustainability, cohousing as an innovative community model that may support social well-being.

Cohousing members both gave and received significantly more socially supportive behaviors than their non-cohousing peers, and that a complex interplay of developmental, societal, and individual factors.

Research Method

Quantitative approach. Data will be collected by a *questionnaire-based survey* to pursue distinguishing distinguishing features within a population. Since people perception is subjective, the survey set out to explore peoples' attitudes and and believes.

Questions Possible Classification

- Time lived in neighborhood.
 - + I feel I belong here
 - + I would miss this place if I moved out
 - The place doesn't mean much to me
- socio-demographic categories
 - I have difficulty with the cost of living
 - + Is affordable living here
- Community inclusion category
 - + know many people in this neighborhood
 - I not involved in community groups
 - + I can influence indecisions of the neighborhood

Possible questions

- *If you are renting; do you intend to buy your home?*
 - No, cannot afford it.
 - No, don't intend to.
 - Yes, but only if I get benefit from the government.
 - Yes, will try to get a mortgage.
- *How satisfied are you with the quality of your home?*
 - Very satisfied
 - Fairly satisfied
 - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 - Fairly dissatisfied
 - Very dissatisfied

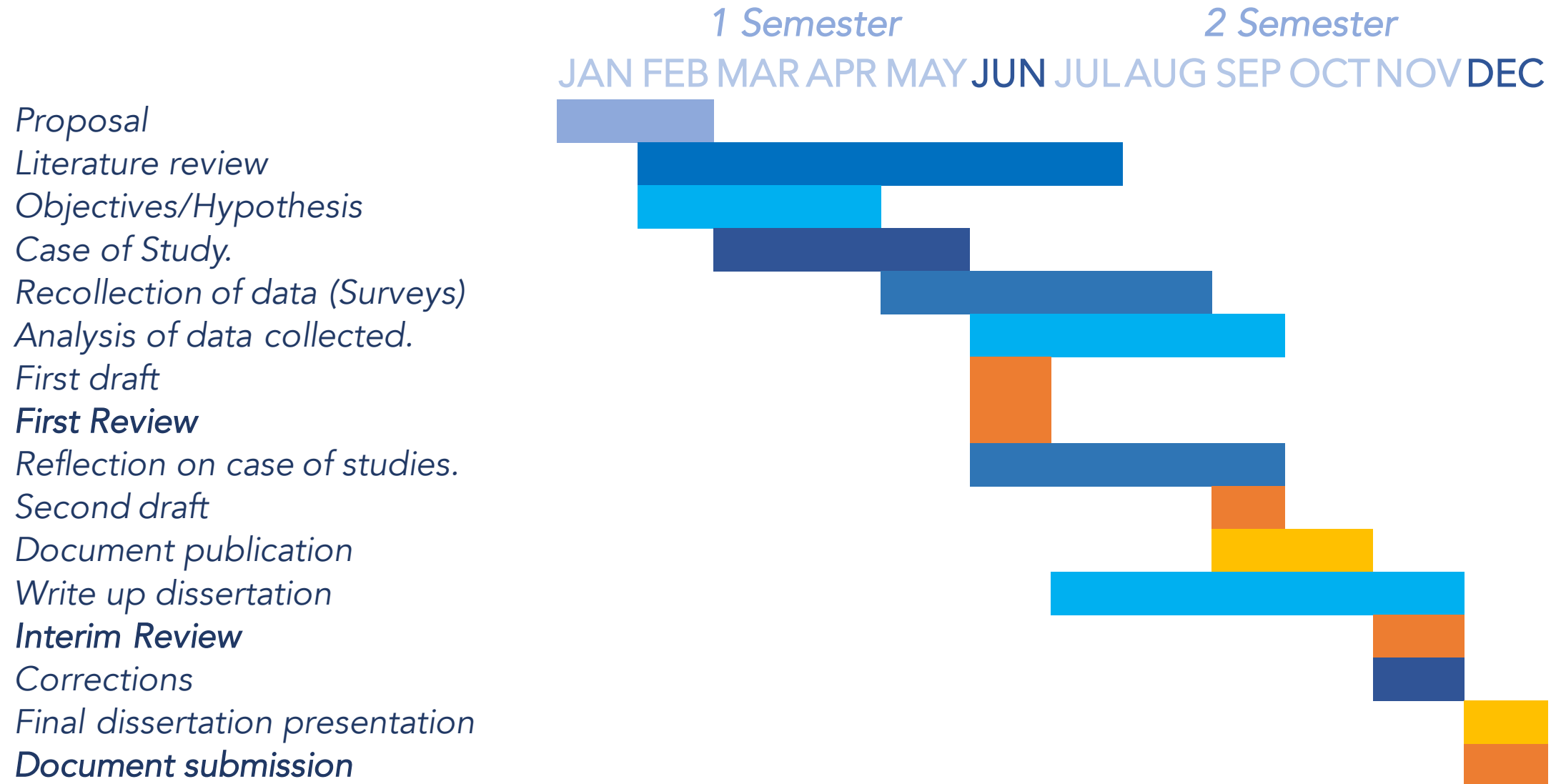
Scope and limitations of the study

Location: Colombia. (Bogota, Medellin, Barranquilla)
Respondents: 30 per area.

- Findings cannot be generalized.
→ Case of study.
- The survey and questionnaires must to be conducted in Spanish.
- It may require visit to site due to lack of internet access.



Time Line



Sources

2017 Global report on internal displacement

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2017/pdfs/2017-GRID.pdf>. Access 9 of December 2017

Could cohousing transform affordable housing in an era of no money?

<https://www.theguardian.com/housing-network/2010/dec/09/could-cohousing-transform-affordable-housing-in-an-era-of-no-money>. Access 9 of December 2017.

Elizabeth A. Markle, Rachel Rodgers, William Sanchez & Mary Ballou. *Social support in the cohousing model of community: a mixed-methods analysis*. 2015. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15575330.2015.1086400>

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Helen Jarvis. *Saving space, sharing time: integrated infrastructures of daily life in cohousing*. 2010

Las ruinas que dejó el boom de la vivienda popular en México

<http://www.magis.iteso.mx/content/las-ruinas-que-dejó-el-boom-de-la-vivienda-popular-en-méxico>

Malotki, Achim Von. 'Sense of Belonging in an Inner London, Social-Housing-Dominated Neighbourhood on the Verge of Urban Regeneration'. 2015.