

At the Core of the Housing Problem: Effective demand versus social need

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Some basic terms

Demand: the amount of money that consumers in a market are willing and able to pay for a good at a particular price.

Effective demand: demand conditioned by constraints in other markets.

Some basic terms

Need: the quantity, location, form and condition of housing that households require in order to fully participate in social, political, economic and cultural life.

The core of the housing problem

The fundamental problem with housing systems dominated by market logics is that they respond to the effective demand for housing—rather than the social need for housing.

Two facets of the problem

1. The impact of non-residential demand

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1. The impact of non-residential demand
2. The insufficiency of effective demand

So what is to be done?

It is clear that there is a world of difference between effective demand and social need.

The core of housing justice is a housing system that respond to need rather than demand.

Housing systems must be decommodified and democratised.

End.

Thank you!

You can find me opining about these issues on
Twitter: @davidjmadden