

Reading Assignment

Article: Dang, Yunxiao, et al. "Land-Based Interests and the Spatial Distribution of Affordable Housing Development: The Case of Beijing, China." *Habitat International*, Pergamon, 17 June 2014, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0197397514000769.

URL: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0197397514000769>

This article analyses affordable housing development efforts in the city of Beijing. Specifically, it focuses on land-based interests (i.e. revenue, cost of demolition) as the determinant for affordable housing developments; it determines the probability whether or not a project would be approved as well as where they will be physically located. Researchers found that when taking into account land price, the year the home was built and its proximity to public transit, affordable housing developments are more likely to be approved and built out in the city's periphery rather than the central core. They argue that it is because of the private interests of local government officials that affordable housing developments are pushed to the periphery. This furthers disparities between social classes while physically segregating the rich and the poor.

Although this case study focuses on the city of Beijing, this is a prevalent issue all throughout the world. Whenever the word affordable is used, its perceived as a negative connotation; individuals get the notion that such development would be detrimental to the image and the land value of the local community. In the US, while government officials push for affordable housing, they don't provide incentives or implement programs that would make developers want to build affordable housing. Private developers would rather build market rate units and maximize their profits. Even if developers include a set of affordable housing units, the price is set to a lower threshold that low income households are still unable to afford. Such developments are pushed out to the periphery where it makes it difficult for tenants to find employment and commute to while also being discouraged from using public and private amenities.