Propositions

attached to the thesis

From the City to the Desert

Analysing shantytown resettlement in Casablanca, Morocco, from residents' perspectives

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1) Social structures are an important, but often underestimated aspect within resettlement and large-scale housing projects. *(this thesis)*
2) Standardised resettlement projects ignore the heterogeneous nature of living conditions in established informal settlements, which consequently leads to injustice and very different degrees of satisfaction with resettlement. *(this thesis)*
3) Resettling people from central informal settlements to the peripheries increases households' expenditures, exacerbates transport dependency, leads to more anonymous living conditions, and a general feeling of isolation among resettled people. *(this thesis)*
4) Even if most households have voluntarily accepted the resettlement conditions and almost all households could afford a new flat, resettlement remains a disruptive policy tool. *(this thesis)*
5) Policy makers as well as shantytown dwellers themselves tend to overestimate the relevance of shelter, although various other functions of housing such as proximity to workplaces, neighbourhood trust, and centrality also affect housing satisfaction in a significant way. *(this thesis)*
6) Choice for dwellers should be an essential element of housing policies.
7) Affordability is only one criterion among others that affect the success of housing programmes.
8) Resettlement and housing programmes should always be developed based on empirical research about the living situations of affected population groups.
9) Public authorities should not prioritise the clearance of informal settlements, but should support the incremental development of these neighbourhoods or – if there is no other solution than resettlement – the development of the new town.
10) Urban policy should engage more closely and directly with the needs and demands of less affluent population groups.
11) Urban space cannot be produced top-down.