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Mobilising Vulnerability: Political Resistance among Housing Activists in Madrid

Abstract

This paper analyses how housing activists from the Platform for People affected by Mortgages (Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca) in Madrid moved by common experiences of economic precarity, participate in various resisting practices. Through practices like, stop evictions, occupations of banks and empty houses, people in the PAH mobilise their vulnerability for the purposes of asserting their existence and as a result resist. I argue that vulnerability works as a way for individual actors to order and re-order politics that result in the reinforcement of social relations of cooperation and reciprocity within the movement. Vulnerability is not an existential condition but is part of the very practice of political resistance within the PAH.

Oberseminar