Critical realism and housing studies: An explanation for diverging housing solutions.

Lawson, J.M.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

The structure of housing provision thesis (SHP) was developed by Ball and via the work of Harloe and Martens (Ball, 1998, 1992, 1983, Ball, Harloe and Martens, 1988). In a recent review of various approaches (1998), he maintained that the SHP approach is still valid and useful as a prompt for empirical research in comparison with actor centred and institutionally focused approaches. According to Ball, a structure of housing provision

specifies the nature of the social agents involved in the provision of a particular form of housing and their inter linkages. Producers, consumers and financiers in different guises all have their place within structures of provision. Actual structures of housing provision, however, are empirical constructs and cannot be theoretically deduced, although obviously theory has to be applied in their analysis. (Ball, Harloe and Marteens, 1988:29)

Not only are the agents and their relations important, but their contexts: government policies, economic strategies such as wages, competition in the money market, and movements in interest rates (1983:18-19).

Almost twenty years ago, Ball (1983) provided a detailed examination of the home ownership in Britain, using SHP as a prompt to ensure comprehensive coverage of the various interconnected relations and their contingent contexts, as illustrated below.

**Structure of Owner Occupied Housing Provision in Britain (Ball, 1983:18)**

![Diagram showing the structure of owner occupied housing provision.](image)

Influences via:
1. Housing policy
2. Individual and corporate taxation
3. Employment legislation
4. Planning system and state infrastructure expenditure