

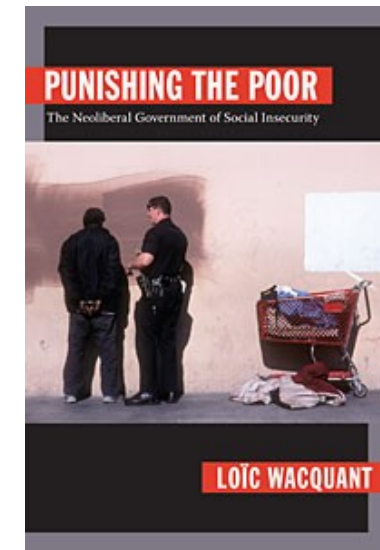
Epistemological Insecurity in the Conditional Welfare State: Neoliberal Social Policy, Housing Associations and the Practice of Housing Management

Tony Manzi

University of Westminster

Context: Actually Existing Neoliberalism

- Housing and ontological security
- Welfare reform and conditionality
- 'Welfarisation' of housing (Fitzpatrick and Watts, 2017)
- Disciplinary workfare and moral behaviourism – the 'Centaur state' (Wacquant, 2009)
- Liquid modernity (Bauman, 2007)



Neoliberalism and Epistemological Insecurity

- Intentional manufacture of doubt and ignorance – ‘agnotology’ (Mirowski, 2014)
- ‘There is not much reason to believe that, if at any one time the best knowledge which some possess were made available to all, the result would be a much better society. Knowledge and ignorance are relative concepts’ (Hayek, 1960, p.146)
- Politics as inherently domain of uncertainty and disorientation (Sluga, 2014)

Uncertainty and Disorientation

- We are uncertain when we don't know (don't know for sure) what has been, what is, or what will be....We are disoriented, on the other hand, when we don't understand what has been, what is, or what will be because we lack adequate words and concepts to do so (Sluga, 2018)



Housing and the Conditional Welfare State

- Long history of conditionality in social welfare (Watts and Fitzpatrick, 2018)
- Housing never been universal service – ‘wobbly pillar’ thesis (Malpass, 2008)
- New barriers to entitlement
 - Fixed term tenancies
 - Reduced security of tenure
 - Behavioural change
 - Stigma and moral pressures

The Production of Ignorance

- 'Broken Britain' (Slater, 2012)
- Housing as an engine of social disadvantage
- Individualisation of risk – 'privatized Keynesianism' (Crouch, 2008)
- Reconfiguring the role of the state
- Conditionality as largely symbolic policy



The Role of Housing Associations

- Organisational hybridity
- The commodification and financialisation of social housing (Aalbers, date)
- Regeneration, gentrification and symbolic violence (Bourdieu and Wacquant, 2002)
- The dilemmas of practice (Flint, 2018)







Conclusions

- The contradictions of neoliberalism – expansion (not withdrawal) of the state)
- Resisting stigma
- Questioning the role of housing associations
- Towards the just city



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