

# **'The Right to the City' Movement and its place on the radical municipalist agenda - A strategy perspective for social ecologists**

*Presentation by Dimitri Roussopoulos, Montreal*

## Abstract:

Since the early writings of Henri Lefevre, the 'right to the city' theory has ebbed, wained and been reborn. Lefevre's works has been revived; new writings have been published on his contribution to critical urban theory and practice. And we have witnessed that those social movements and organisations that struggle for tenants' rights, for social housing and against evictions, the squatters included, have embraced the idea, in various forms.

The radical version of 'right to the city' challenges the domination of market capitalism and its hold on the power of property ownership. These movements also blend into the whole human rights and the city idea and movement.

The important analysis of David Harvey and others from the Marxist left on the one hand, and the philosophy and politics of Murray Bookchin on the other, as well as a cursory literature review, will be examined during this lecture, to see what convergences exist and what politics arise. In turn, a review will be made and a strategy offered for both further research and action by social ecologists.

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Dimitri Roussopoulos is a political activist, ecologist, writer, editor, publisher, community organizer, and public speaker living in Montreal. He is the founder of Black Rose Books, Montreal Urban Ecology Center and TRISE. He is the editor and author of several books on political ecology, urban development and participatory democracy.