

Resisting Eviction: Domicide and the Financialization of Rental Housing

Bio:

Andrew (Andy) Crosby is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin land. Crosby has a PhD in Sociology (Carleton) and his research engages with various themes relating to policing and housing justice. Crosby is author of *Resisting Eviction: Domicide and the Financialization of Rental Housing* (Fernwood 2023) and co-author of *Policing Indigenous Movements: Dissent and the Security State* (Fernwood 2018).

Abstract:

Financialized real estate investment firms increasingly dominate the rental housing landscape in Canada. Landlord investors target racialized and working-class neighbourhoods, where tenants typically pay below average-market rents, in order to produce gentrification and profits. This is what residents in the Heron Gate neighbourhood in Ottawa have experienced in recent years. Yet, tenant-led struggles in Ottawa and beyond have contested the idea that the financialization of the rental housing sector is inevitable. Using a political activist ethnographic approach, this eviction resistance research sheds light on real estate investment strategies as well as tactics that firms deploy to attempt to demobilize tenant opposition. The research further demonstrates how gentrification is produced through discourses of improvement—such as liveability, revitalization, and community wellbeing—that work to unmake homes and communities for some (marginalized, racialized populations) and remake them for others (affluent, white populations), contributing to how we understand the evolution of racialized property relations in settler society. The significance of this research is that it informs a broader understanding of the financialization of rental housing, larger impacts on affordable housing, and the role that grassroots tenant movements can play in defending their buildings and neighbourhoods.

Dr. Andrew Crosby

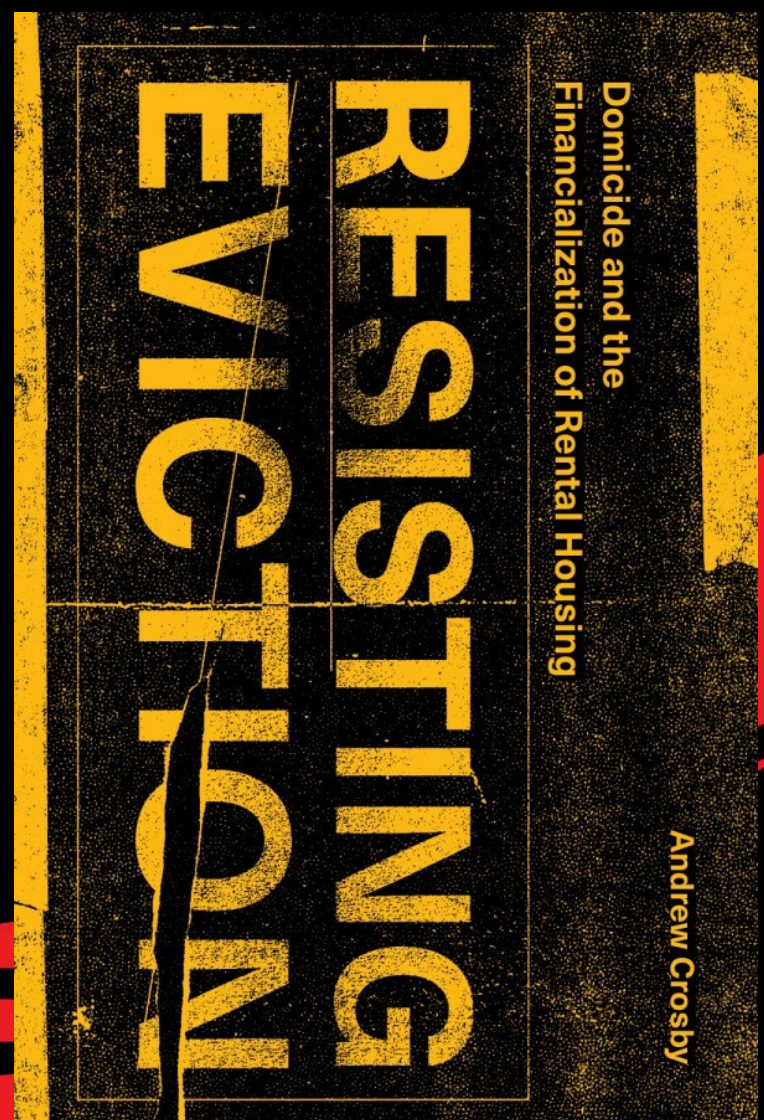
Wednesday, March 20th

2:30-4:00 p.m.

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More info:

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