

Walk#05 : RELATIONS DE PROPRIÉTÉ ET BIEN PUBLIC

Saturday 26 October 2-6 PM

Guests: Nicolas Bernard and Vincent Wattiez

LLN offers a unique case study in land governance. UCLouvain is the naked owner of the land. In the form of long-term leases of 99 years, and in exchange for a symbolic ground rent and an infrastructure fee, individuals or developers (who do not have to pay the price of the land) obtain the right to build on it. This form of ownership, quite exceptional in Belgium, separates the land from the buildings on it. This stratification of land ownership allows UCLouvain to retain control of the land, but could it also contain speculation?

We will address these questions with Nicolas Bernard who will share his expertise on the pros and cons of the long-term lease and his knowledge of alternative property relations.

We will also talk with Vincent Wattiez, a resident of La Baraque, who cooperated in the participatory process of developing a decree on light housing (habitat léger). Drawing on local and international housing initiatives, he is studying, with the RBDL, ways to challenge the relationship between property and speculation. Can alternative forms of housing and direct democracy applied to the alternative neighbourhood of La Baraque inspire other forms of property that would better protect the general interest and the social function of housing?

Nicolas Bernard is a Doctor of Law and a graduate in philosophy. He specialises in the right to housing and tenancy law. He was appointed professor of property law at the Saint-Louis University in Brussels

Vincent Wattiez is coordinator of the Brabant Network for the Right to Housing at the Centre Culturel du Brabant Wallon (RBDL). He is a member of the Halé collective. He lives in La Baraque.