



# Anna Zhelnina

# URBAN ACTIVISM AND URBAN MOBILIZATIONS IN RUSSIA

## The Housing Renovation Program in Moscow

In summer 2017, residents of thousands of socialist-era apartment buildings in Moscow were invited to vote and decide whether their building should be included in the demolition and relocation program proposed by the Mayor's Office. Renovation is an ongoing urban renewal plan, first announced in Moscow in February 2017, to demolish whole neighborhoods of socialist-era, five-story buildings and replace them with high-rises. The vast project affected more than 5,000 buildings with approximately a million inhabitants. This lecture will explore the reasons why some Muscovites actively resisted the proposal while others responded to it with hope and anticipation, and demonstrate how neighbors tried to influence the voting outcomes in their buildings. It will also outline the prolonged effects of this massive urban mobilization which continue to affect Moscow's politics and social life today.

# 07/12 2021

17:00  
BBB (online)

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Anna Zhelnina holds a PhD in Sociology from the City University of New York (USA). Her research interests include such topics as urban civic participation, challenges of engaging neighbors in diverse neighborhoods, and the mechanisms that urban political players employ to promote their visions of the city's future. Since September 2020, she has joined the Helsinki Institute of Urban and Regional Studies as a postdoctoral researcher to work on the Urban utopias, citizenship, and alternatives" theme.