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Alan Gilbert worked as a lecturer, reader and professor of geography at University College London between 1970 and 2010. His research is concerned with urbanisation and poverty in developing countries, and particularly in Latin America and South Africa. He has undertaken projects on: housing subsidies in Chile, Colombia and South Africa; secondary housing markets in Colombia and South Africa; the impact of globalisation on urban life in Latin America; and rental housing in informal settlements in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He has published extensively and has authored or co-authored nine books, edited four others and written well over a hundred academic articles on these topics.

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