Does Selling State Silver Generate Private Gold?  
Determinants and Impacts of State House Sales and Acquisitions

Wednesday, 16 March 2011  
1.00pm – 2.00om  
MSB.1.02

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Abstract:  
We utilise two politically-determined natural experiments affecting state-provided social housing to examine impacts that housing tenure status has on neighbourhood outcomes. From 1990, New Zealand’s National Government sold a substantial number of state houses either to existing tenants (Home Buys) or to other purchasers (vacant sales). From 1999, the Labour Government ended Home Buys, reduced vacant sales and increased acquisitions. While vacant sales had no material effects, a higher prevalence of Home Buys (transforming existing tenants into homeowners) led to increased local real house price appreciation over the subsequent five years, consistent with an improvement in local community outcomes.

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