

(English version)

## **Feminist Geographies of Housing**

Currently we are witnessing how power relations are established – e.g., via race, gender, class, or body – in housing on several scales: The financialization of housing markets detaches real estate logics from the actual needs for affordable housing. As a result, the living conditions become precarious – particularly for people without property, with low and insecure incomes, and for sole wage earners. Furthermore, care workers are facing multiple strains, while their invisibility is socially accepted. Under the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic the home has become even more visible as a site of violence. The home was supposed to be a shelter, which was not available for people in refugee accommodations or for people without any home. These examples illustrate that housing and dwelling are produced by social structures, while at the same time these social structures are embedded in housing and dwelling practices.

Within social sciences, housing studies are either dedicated to political-economic approaches or are conceptually linked to research of practices, routines, experiences, relationships and everyday life inside a living space. Drawing on the slogan "the private is political" and the observation that living spaces are a central site of social reproduction, feminist geographers have addressed housing in a variety of ways. Following materialist-feminist debates of the 1970s, they highlighted supposedly private processes and practices within the home as central to the maintenance of social norms, but also for capitalist modes of production.

For the Geo-RundMail in January 2022, we want to invite you to consider the conditions of housing provision and home as a lived practice in conjunction with one another. We especially welcome contributions that address marginalized housing experiences, practices, and debates. Below/attached you will find further inspiration and specifications.

The call is open to everyone. Housing research is an interdisciplinary field. We thus welcome contributions from other disciplines. In particular, we would like to give students the opportunity to submit their thoughts, ideas or works. Also encouraged are activist contributions. Moreover, we explicitly address our call to people who are not (anymore) connected to academia – because we all have experiences with housing!

There is no fixed word limit, we suggest 1500-2500 words. Submissions are possible in any language. Contributions can take creative shapes such as essays, interviews, comics, etc.

If you are interested, please contact [marlene.hobbs@uni-jena.de](mailto:marlene.hobbs@uni-jena.de) (she/her), [eva.isselstein@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:eva.isselstein@uni-bayreuth.de) (she/her), or [elisa.gerbsch@mailbox.tu-dresden.de](mailto:elisa.gerbsch@mailbox.tu-dresden.de) (she/her) by mid-November. The deadline for submissions is December 10th, 2021.

## **Further questions and inspirations:**

### **1. linking housing markets/politics and housing as lived experience**

- Feminist research aims to question dualistic worldviews. What theoretical approaches can be used to challenge and complicate dualisms such as housing/home, outside/inside, public/private, male/female, production/reproduction as supposed binaries in housing research?
- What are the implications of the housing market and housing policy for housing as home? What could be promising approaches here?

### **2. power structures in everyday practices and experiences of housing**

- How can housing be understood within contemporary capitalist relations of production? How do current processes shape our understanding of housing? e.g., how do digital technologies change home and housing? What are the effects of the pandemic?
- How are social conceptions of housing institutionalised? To what extent do these reflect racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist and other attributions? (e.g. governmental concepts of homelessness, migrant housing).
- How do these conceptions materialize (e.g. in housing floor plans, costs of housing)? How do they influence everyday practices of housing? What impact do they have on gender roles, security, violence, well-being, or care?

### **3. housing as resistance**

- What do we understand by housing struggle? How can everyday experience and practices in the home be conceptualized as housing struggle/resistance?
- Which past struggles and resistances in housing are relevant today? What can we learn from historical housing struggles, such as feminist urban critique of the 70s, the housing struggles of the 70s/80s, ...
- What alternatives already exist, what utopias do we dream of? What role does community, technology, care work... play in this? (Creative contributions very welcome here (and everywhere).)

### **4. how do we do research around the home?**

- What are suitable methods to study the home from a feminist perspective are suitable? How can mapping be used?
- What does it mean to do research in a "private" space? How do we gain access? How can we meet the particular challenges?
- Where do we do research on housing anyway? e.g., housing association, tenants' association, tech company, senior citizens' residence, neighbourhood, ...