

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN THE CONTESTED FIELDS OF CARE AND HOUSING IN EUROPE



December 4th-6th, 2023

Johannes Kepler University Linz,
Uni-Center
Linz, Austria

International Conference of the Research Project
“DOC-team 114: The Contested Provisioning of
Care and Housing”

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 The Contested Provisioning of
 Care and Housing

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Transformative Change in the Contested Fields of Care and Housing in Europe

Care and housing are foundational for human well-being. Both deal with organising and sustaining livelihoods: while care as a human activity reacts to the ever-given contingency of life, housing arranges a place for undertaking everyday need-satisfying activities. In both fields, crises have exacerbated over the last decades, manifesting in care gaps, labour and care migration, and precarious working conditions of care workers, respectively in overburdening costs due to the transformation of homes into assets, leading to gentrification and segregation. Despite being seldomly investigated together, care and housing as well as their related crises are co-constitutive.

From the 1990s onwards, two simultaneous tendencies can be observed in European care regimes and housing systems. On the one hand, neoliberal reforms have aimed at privatisation, commodification, marketisation, and financialisation. This has rearranged welfare states, promoting variegated forms of capitalism. Allegedly singular events like the global financial crisis, subsequent austerity measures, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the current cost of living crisis have furthermore deepened structural problems of access and affordability. This has led to increasing socioeconomic and spatial polarisations as well as social inequalities in the relations of gender, race, and class. On the other hand, these developments have transformed the provision of care and housing into a contested terrain leading to labour disputes and struggles, such as care protests, or initiatives for expropriating institutional investors. The wide range of community-based or infrastructural projects has to be seen against the backdrop of the increasing search for alternative care and housing provision. On top of that, rapid technological developments and climate change further accelerate the reorganisation of care and housing arrangements and practices built up by all parties involved in both contested fields.

Given these multiple transformations, the conference “Transformative Change in the Contested Fields of Care and Housing in Europe” seeks to analyse the contemporary developments in care regimes and housing systems and respective configurations of care and housing. It aims at a broad interdisciplinary dialogue of social sciences to grasp different perspectives of these multidimensional changes.

Registration

Please register for the conference via the [registration-webpage](#) by November 30th, 2023. There are no conference fees. For further information see the [website of the conference](#).

Abstracts

Day One

Monday, December 4th

Opening: On-Stage Conversation, Lecture, and Discussion

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN THE FIELDS OF CARE AND HOUSING

Panelists: Brigitte Aulenbacher (*Johannes Kepler University Linz*), Cornelia Klinger (*Eberhard Karls University Tübingen*), Flavia Martinelli (*Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria*), Andreas Novy (*Vienna University of Economics and Business*)

This opening panel will discuss societal transformations with a focus on contemporary changes in the provision of care and housing from different disciplinary backgrounds. It will explore differences and common ground in understanding ongoing transformative changes in these fields as well as their relations and their entanglement with social and economic changes in the provision of other foundational goods, services, and infrastructure. Furthermore, it explores the perspective of a joint analysis of care and housing, first, for a better understanding of the preconditions for human wellbeing, and, second, for a better integration of policies to tackle contemporary changes.

CARE AND HOUSING - INSIGHTS FROM CROSSOVER RESEARCH IN EUROPE

Benjamin Baumgartner (*Vienna University of Economics and Business*), Valentin Fröhlich (*Johannes Kepler University Linz*), Florian Pimminger (*Johannes Kepler University Linz*), Hans Volmary (*Vienna University of Economics and Business*)

The presentation, „Care and Housing Insights from Crossover Research in Europe” aims to identify common denominators for discussing care and housing and its entanglements. It provides a conceptual exploration of the interconnections of care and housing, which are both foundational for human flourishing. Such an integrated perspective on the two fields represents a still existing research gap in the European context, where diverse approaches are beginning to be reviewed and interconnected. The presentation is divided into three parts: Part 1 defines care and housing as basic human and societal necessities, discussing differences, commonalities, and interconnections between the two fields. Part 2 presents some preliminary results from crossover research by zooming in on insights from case studies in Austria, Hungary, and the Netherlands. The last part will transition into a general discussion by reflecting on interrelations of care and housing against the background of our findings.

Day Two

Tuesday, December 5th

Plenary 1: Bridging Research on Care and Housing

CAREFARE REGIME IN THE ELDERLY CARE IN HUNGARY - TRADITIONAL AND NEW ACTORS IN A TRANSFORMING MARKET

Dóra Gábrriel (*Centre for Economic and Regional Studies Budapest*)

The presentation observes current tendencies in the eldercare provision in European countries, with a special attention to the Hungarian care regime. It focuses on the different, but sometimes overlapping roles of the state, the church and the market, and shows how the legislation of eldercare provision is connected to the political regime. After the collapse of state socialism, churches and church-based institutions started to take responsibility for different domains of life, such as education, eldercare, and childcare. The evidence of this development can be observed recently in anti-liberal regimes such as Poland and Hungary. In Hungary, church-based institutions receive extra subsidy for maintaining a care facility, however, they provide the same services as care homes maintained by the municipality. The number of places in institutions maintained by the church providing LTC for seniors has increased by 41% since 2010. At the same time, the presence of profit-oriented institutions is still marginal in Hungary. How can the growing role of the church be explained, and how is it embedded into the political trends? The other aim of the paper is to raise the question whether the Hungarian eldercare regime can be called *carefare* regime (Fodor 2022). Carefare regime is an essential part of the current economic, ideological and political system, which proclaims women as mothers and caretakers, and encourages the unpaid labor of women in the household. To answer this question, I present the main points and silences of the prevailing political discourse on eldercare provision.

WHY HOUSEWORK NEVER ENDS – A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF TECHNOLOGY'S BROKEN PROMISES IN THE HOME

Julia Gruhlich (*Georg-August University Göttingen*)

Paradoxically, the promise of technology to make work easier or to make human effort completely superfluous has not been fulfilled in the household. The androcentric design of technology bypasses the needs of those responsible for housework (the majority of whom are women) and ignores the specific nature of domestic work. The social-emotional activities such as cleaning and caring can hardly be rationalised or replaced by technology. The historical and current development of household technology shows an increase in normative demands (e.g. for hygiene) or creates new tasks (e.g. digital housekeeping), so that technology paradoxically ultimately leads to more work. It may

be that the solution to gender equality and good living conditions lies not in more or better technology, but in entirely new forms of gender relations, family and housing.

TRANSNATIONAL INVESTMENT IN CARE AND HOUSING – A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Leonhard Plank (*Vienna University of Technology*) & Hans Volmar (*Vienna University of Economics and Business*)

Against the backdrop of Covid-19, the visible return of geopolitics and cost-of-living-crises, governments have refocused attention to safeguarding critical infrastructure sectors. This entails the screening of transnational investment in an expanding number of economic sectors which may under certain conditions result in a ban of transnational investment. Drawing on the financialization literature we add to this debate by highlighting the risks that are associated with particular value-extractive business models. We develop a comprehensive investor typology that allows to differentiate between the practices and strategies of a heterogenous group of transnational investors. Furthermore, drawing on various data sources we shed light on the different level of transnational investment in the housing and care sectors of Austria and Germany. While both countries traditionally are subsumed as a variant of the ideal type of a conservative-corporatist welfare state, the different trajectories in the two sectors and countries suggest that more nuanced approaches are needed to explain this variegation – which we attempt to incorporate by comparing the different, path-dependent institutional set ups and how they enable or restrain associated business practices and strategies of transnational investors.

Session 1: Social Reproduction and Inequality

PERIPHERAL HOUSING AND THE CARE CRISIS. TOWARDS A FEMINIST POLITICAL ECONOMY

Mike Laufenberg (*Friedrich-Schiller University Jena*)

Rural areas in Germany have more recently been experiencing a boost of (re-)valorization as spaces for capital investment, recreation and experimentation for urban middle-class milieus weary of the city. As a consequence, rural gentrification gains momentum in many areas, leading to a shortage of affordable housing for the local rural population. For poor and low-income households in particular, the effects of this development (rising housing costs, long distances between home and workplace, erosion of social networks, etc.) are exacerbating a crisis of social reproduction and care. Based on findings from a qualitative research project on poverty in rural regions in East and West Germany, the paper presents three theses: 1. The current local political strategies of valorization not only accelerate the social division between the rural proletariat and the middle class; for their own social reproduction members of the inflowing urban middle class simultaneously exploit the reproductive labor of the rural proletariat (cleaning, care, gardening etc.). 2. Growing segments of the rural proletariat

have to compensate rising housing, mobility and living costs with cost-saving measures (e.g. in food, electricity and heating) and informal reproduction strategies, which entail both health risks and an intensification of labor for the reproduction of their own household. 3. The precarious, often informal and altogether intensified work for the social reproduction of housing in rural peripheries is disproportionately performed by women of the rural working class, for whom the poverty spiral thus further intensifies. Based on these three theses, the perspective of a feminist political economy of the transforming housing arrangement in Germany's rural peripheries is developed, which examines the significance of intersectional gender and class relations for capitalist accumulation in rural areas, while pointing out its connection to a stratified and exploitative regime of care in crisis.

HOUSING INEQUALITY IN EUROPE

Jenny Preunkert (*University of Duisburg-Essen*)

Housing has once again become one of the social issues of our time. Within the public and scientific debate, housing as a social issue is often understood as housing problems that primarily affect the lower income classes or other disadvantaged households. The paper is far from denying that housing problems, especially in urban regions and for low income households, represent enormous social challenges. However, it has to be also pointed out that this perspective is too short-sighted to understand patterns of housing inequality. Because housing inequality can only be understood if one knows the housing conditions of all income classes and, based on these, the relations between all housing conditions. Accordingly, it is necessary to ask how housing, its equipment and costs are distributed among the population, who has how much space, who has what equipment, and who spends how much pays for the living space. The aim of the paper is to understand the inequality patterns of housing in Europe using the explorative analysis of the EU-SILC data for the year 2019 of the distribution of living space in 31 European countries, and asks which households are particularly likely to live in overcrowded or generous housing conditions. By combining both class and national comparisons, a transnational perspective can be developed and a double class structure of housing can be identified for Europe. In all countries, overcrowded housing is more common among poorer income groups and generous housing among richer ones. Nevertheless, in poorer countries overcrowded housing is a phenomenon that extends far into the middle and sometimes upper income groups, while generous housing is less common overall. Conversely, generous housing is widespread in wealthy countries, while at the same time there are often large divisions between the income classes.

CARE AT THE CENTRE: REPRODUCTIVE WORK IN THE FOCUS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AS RESPONSE TO THE CARE AND HOUSING CRISIS

Almut Peukert (*University of Hamburg*) & Anne Vogelpohl (*Borough of Hamburg-Altona*)

While policymakers in Germany have paid significant attention to the housing crisis as societal problem and consequently implemented diverse measures aimed at alleviating its impact, the care crisis still has to be dealt with largely in households and families. The political instruments used so far to tackle care gaps hardly de-individualise familial and gendered care responsibilities. As "the urban" can comprise a general understanding of private and individual challenges as collective task, the thesis of our contribution is as follows: An urban development focussed on care work can contribute to making both moments of crisis visible in their entanglements and to partially deal with them. Such an approach places care at the centre of urban neighbourhood development. Based on an empirical case of care centres in a large German city, we discuss embedded logics of social inequality and possible solutions. We delve into questions such as the potential relocation of care activities from households and families to communal spaces and the establishment of innovative divisions of labor: Which care activities can be taken out of the household? Which institutions and which public spaces can foster a collective approach to care - from professional support to everyday neighbourly help? And how can housing provision in such a neighbourhood be designed as open and inclusive collectivisation for all people (e.g. with regard to language, residence status, low education, low income, mental illness)? Through this analysis, we scrutinize the pivotal role of institutions and public spaces in fostering a collective approach to care and housing, encompassing professional assistance and everyday neighborly support.

Session 2: Transformative Change in New Home Care Arrangements

'YOU ARE A RACE OF STURDY WOMEN': EASTERN EUROPEAN CLEANERS AND CARERS EMBODYING PERIPHERAL WHITENESS IN WESTERN EUROPE

Anna Safuta (*Eberhard Karls University Tübingen*)

There is now a considerable amount of studies showing that white migrants from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) are perceived as 'not quite white' in Western Europe (Fox et al., 2012; Lewicki, 2023; Narkowicz, 2023; Safuta, 2018). In order to account for the position of white CEE migrants in global racial hierarchies, I previously introduced the concept of 'peripheral whiteness' (Safuta, 2018), in reference to the (semi-)peripheral position of their countries of origin in the world-system (Wallerstein, 1974, 2004). Peripheral whiteness denotes both privilege (when compared with forms of racialisation affecting those excluded from whiteness) and subordination (in relation to 'core' Western whiteness). In this contribution, I examine variations in the perception of 'peripheral whiteness' across Western Europe, thus refining the concept. Eastern

European women dominate the domestic workforce in countries with very diverse migratory and colonial profiles. At the same time, relationships between workers, employing agencies and households are impacted by historical legacies – in particular those of WW2, the Cold War and colonialism. It is thus interesting to take a closer look at the Eastern European migratory experience across national contexts. To that end, I draw on two research projects, involving in-depth interviews with migrant cleaners and carers working in Belgium, Germany and Switzerland. Migrants from different origins are put in competition with each other on transnational labour markets structured by ethnicity and race. Peripherally white domestic workers are in demand because they can legally access the European Economic Area. They are however also sought-after for the ‘comfortable alterity’ they represent for employers, who perceive them as neither too similar, nor too different from themselves.

CARE4CARE: PROMISING PRACTICES FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF LIVE-IN CARE WORKERS IN AUSTRIA AND EUROPE

Simona Ďurišová (IG24) & Maria Sagmeister (University of Vienna)

Live-in care work poses challenges to labour law in terms of working hours and the private household workplace; it is often not fully included in protective legal scopes. Most workers are circular migrants, who live at their workplace during working cycles and do not have a permanent residence in the country they work in. As a result, the termination of the work relationship often results in the loss of housing. Our study explores regulatory approaches to the integration of live-in care workers into labour law from different European countries. Before the backdrop of the Austrian situation, in which bogus-self-employment is a major concern, it focuses on legal regulations that organize live-in care as employment. The selected countries are Spain, Italy and Switzerland; in addition, two co-operatives from the UK and Ireland are taken into consideration. The regulations vary with regard to their organizational structure; in some models, the care worker is employed directly by the care receiver, in others, by a third party, for example, a public service provider, a private agency or a co-operative. The overall result is, that employment with a public service provider is preferable for both the care workers and care receivers. The study was conducted in 2022 as part of the project Care4Care, which aims to improve the situation of migrant live-in care workers in Austria with regard to their actual working conditions and access to social and labour rights. It gives insights into different regulatory regimes and provides a basis for the development of an employment model that ensures both fair working conditions, including secure housing, and high-quality care; because good care requires well-rested and well-paid care workers."

FAMILY CARE AS PAID WORK. MOTIVATIONS, PERCEPTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS **Julia Radlherr (*IHS Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna*) & August Österle (*Vienna University of Economics and Business*)**

Growing long-term care needs, staff shortages in long-term care and recent long-term care reforms are strongly impacting the organization of care and therewith the role of family carers as the major resource in long-term care systems. Existing literature discusses trends of familisation, de-familisation or re-familisation and explores different approaches aiming to relief and/or support informal long-term care provided by family members within private households. These include, e.g., leave programs, respite care, direct or indirect financial support, social security coverage, or even formal employment opportunities for family carers. Across Europe, models for formal employment exist in rather diverse care regimes. In Austria, two provinces – Burgenland and Upper Austria – have implemented programs to establish family care as formalized and paid employment. This paper explores how family care workers experience the formalization of previously informal care. More specifically, it studies the motivations to participate in existing employment models and the implications that arise with the formalization, in terms of the understanding of family care as paid and unpaid work, but also in practical terms. The study is based on interviews with caregiving relatives employed through these programs and experts coordinating the programs. These are analyzed within the ideational and institutional structure of the Austrian long-term care system. Preliminary results suggest that family carers primarily opt for the formalization due to the inability to combine unpaid long-term care responsibilities with paid employment on the regular labor market. The formal employment as a caregiver represents an opportunity to reduce such double burdens as it provides access to stable income and social security. Moreover, it contributes to the recognition of family care as value-creating work. At the same time, however, the formal employment of family carers poses the risk of re-situating the responsibility of long-term care provision within the private and domestic sphere.

ENCOUNTERING PUBLIC PROFESSIONALISM IN PRIVATE HOME CARE. QUALITY ASSURANCE VISITS IN AUSTRIAN 24 HOUR LIVE-IN CARE.

Lukas Milo Strauss (*University of Klagenfurt*)

When the Austrian Ministry of Health (BMSGPK) introduced mandatory quality controls for state-subsidised live-in care in 2018, the measure was widely regarded as a much needed push towards professionalisation in a sector where most of the work is performed by migrant workers with no formal training. From this point on, trained nurses conducted home visits to recipients of the subsidy, where they assessed the care needs of the clients and the adequacy of the care work delivered by the live-in carers. The private recruitment and brokerage sector for live-in care work reacted by establishing a voluntary quality assurance protocol that similarly relied on quarterly home visits by trained nurses. Drawing on raw data from accompanying 40 ‘quality assurance’ home visits, I will analyse the assessment process as a ritualised mobilisation of gendered public-private dichotomies (s. Weintraub 1997). A cornerstone of Euro-

American care discourses and of “familialist” (Aulenbacher et al. 2021) welfare regimes, these dichotomies posit the ‘private home’ as the primary locus of naturalised, ‘warm’ family care versus a public sphere in which indifferent institutions provide ‘cold’ professional care (s. Hochschild 2003, cf. Mol et al. 2010, Thelen 2015). This codification of home care and public professionalism shapes the expectations towards the migrant lay carers and establishes a normative order that is separate from the norms of ‘proper medical care’ and ‘proper nursing’: home carers are expected to actively ‘make the home a home’, keep the established routines, and neutralise their own presence as foreigners and strangers. When agency or government nurses enter the intimacy of a private home care-arrangement, they do so as ambassadors of public professionalism, wielding the administrative categories of ‘proper care’, ‘proper nursing’ and ‘proper documentation’. In doing so, they enact their employers claims to ‘professionalism’ while policing the border between lay care and professional nursing.

Session 3: Care and Housing by Design

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND THE GENDERED CONFIGURATION OF CARE IN SMART HOMES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF GERMANY AND CZECHIA

Nina Fárová (*Czech Academy of Sciences*), Julia Gruhlich (*Georg-August University Göttingen*) & Petr Kodenko Kubala (*Czech Academy of Sciences*)

The rapid advancement of home automation and digital technologies has given rise to the emergence of connected, networked, augmented, smart, or intelligent homes. The business promise that drives this development is that the smart home will improve private living by making it more enjoyable, comfortable, clean, and safe, while facilitating domestic tasks traditionally associated with femininity and carried out by women. Therefore, the smart home raises important questions regarding the potential transformation of the relations between care and gender. Based on a recently started EU-project on smart home and power inequalities (SmartUp), we delve into the impact of digital technologies on the configuration of care and gender within private households. As gender and care relations differ between countries and are influenced by institutional factors at the local level, the impact of home automation on care configurations may vary as well. Focusing on two distinct welfare state models – Germany representing a conservative welfare state and Czechia exemplifying a post-socialist welfare state – we aim to analyze how different notions of care are embedded in the digitalization of housing. In pursuit of a deeper comprehension of how care and housing configurations are conceptualized within the cultural, economic, and political contexts surrounding smart homes, we conduct a document analysis of relevant economic and political frameworks as well as statistical data concerning the adoption and distribution of smart home technologies in Germany and Czechia. Based on this analysis, we seek to develop an analytical heuristic on the potential impact of housing automation on gendered care work.

LIVE INDEPENDENTLY AT HOME FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE! (DIGITAL) ASSISTANCE SYSTEMS AS A DECISIVE FACTOR

Ulrike Fettke, Andrea Kastl, Claudia Oestreich, Janna Boehm, Yvonne Rauner, Sabine Ittlinger (*Rosenheim Technical University of Applied Sciences*)

Independent housing is becoming more and more important. For German-speaking countries, studies on living orientations confirm that people of increasing age (Gangl, 2011) and with physical and mental illnesses (Richter & Hoffmann, 2017) want to live and be cared for outside of institutions and in their own four walls (Ollevier, Aguiar, Palomino & Simpelaere, 2020) Housing preferences require new care realities as permanent health changes and disabilities shift social and physical needs and interests. Equipment and construction of housing then determine the possibility of independently living at home (Sixsmith & Sixsmith, 2008, p. 227, Tucker et al., 2022). The relevant pool of technical innovations and pilot projects seems to be diverse. However, acceptance and feasibility problems reduce large-scale use and consideration in care structures. The research project DeinHaus 4.0 Oberbayern examines the conditions for independently living at home. In day visits, people in old age, with disabilities, in the post-rehab phase and with care needs experience, test and reflect on (digital) assistance systems. The acceptance, feasibility and sustainability of the measures are evaluated based on observation protocols, a questionnaire filled out by the visitors, a group discussion and a follow-up survey. Based on the premise that (digital) assistance systems act as determinants for the longest possible and independent live life at home, the proposed conference contribution presents and reflects on the research design and its claim.

HOUSING AND HEALING: THE ROLE OF TRAUMA INFORMED DESIGN IN THE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SECTOR

Anna Martin (*Corvinus University of Budapest*)

The built environment profoundly impacts our mental, emotional, and physical well-being and promotes empowerment. This study explores the role of trauma-informed design in the supportive housing sector, where people often live with complex needs. In the form of a conceptual paper, this research aims to bring together the knowledge and expertise of academic and non-academic members of our society. The paper consists of a literature review and builds upon the findings of forty in-depth semi-structured interviews with stakeholders in the housing and care sector. Interview data were analyzed with NVivo, following the logic of grounded theory, to identify key themes and develop recommendations. The diverse range of responses revealed both trends and differing perspectives on the role of trauma-informed design and how contemporary positive psychology and trauma theory principles can be applied to physical settings. Real-life examples mentioned by interviewees were chosen to illustrate potential ways to address contested care and housing needs with the help of various funding mechanisms. Ultimately, the paper argues that considering the fundamental principles of trauma-informed design should be a crucial aspect of any effective social housing program, whether at the European, national, or local level. The

results of this study go beyond the boundaries of specific scientific disciplines, offering a convergence of different theoretical perspectives. By considering sustainability as a matter of communicative rationality, this paper seeks to promote a holistic approach to designing supportive housing environments that prioritize the well-being of individuals with complex needs.

Session 4: Feminist Perspectives on Care and Housing

“WE TAKE WHAT WE CAN GET”: SINGLE MOTHERS CAPACITY TO CARE IN HAMBURG’S SOCIAL HOUSING

Janne Martha Lentz (*Karl-Franzens University Graz*)

The home is a focal point of daily life and daily care, a place from which we form relationships with individuals and society. Due to the gendered division of labour, women face housing requirements that are strongly driven by their responsibility to care for their household. This is especially significant for single mothers as they are more likely to be the provider, shelterer, and carer on a limited income, leaving them with limited resources to access adequate housing. Therefore, for many people with care responsibilities, housing adequacy fundamentally shapes how housing enables care. Conceptualising housing as an infrastructure of care helps understanding how housing systems organise the potential for caregiving and care receiving at both a household and a societal scale in the neoliberal system that treats care as an individual responsibility. Building on a feminist perspective and drawing from my research with single mothers living in Hamburgs Social Housing, I aim to illustrate how housing shapes single mothers’ capacities to care. Emphasising on the material conditions in which single mothers live and take care with(in) social housing in Hamburg, I highlight how various housing policy regulations influence their access to social housing as well as the housing materialities and designs. Research in social housing is particularly fruitful in this endeavour: Although, or perhaps because, social housing is particularly affordable compared to rising market prices, it is a useful starting point for examining the impact of housing materialities on the capacities to care. At the same time, social housing is often the only housing option affordable for single mothers and they make various compromises regarding location and housing design to live in a city like Hamburg.

A FEMINIST POLITICAL ECONOMY APPROACH TO HOUSING: THE CASE OF AUSTRIA **Stefanie Wöhl** (*University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna*)

The ongoing crisis of housing has had manifold effects across different European countries, leading to a shortage of affordable housing, changes in social housing systems and more evictions in specific countries after the financial crisis post 2008. This paper will analyze the changes in the housing market in Austria, looking at the degree of (increasing) financialization and the household situation particularly in the current recession. The effects this has on lone parents, mostly women, and how

individual households develop coping strategies regarding social reproduction of the household against rising rent and costs of living due to rising energy and food prices will be analyzed from a feminist political economy perspective of the everyday. The research question focuses on how an intersectional perspective of the everyday can grasp the different living conditions in a changing economic environment and what would be needed to safeguard households from income, food and energy poverty.

IDEOLOGY VS. PRACTICE: THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SECOND SHIFT

Ilaria De March & Victoria Juen (*Vienna University of Economics and Business*)

Even though leaps towards gender equality in the division of labour have been made since the mid-60s, large differences remain in the distribution of unpaid care work. This is especially true for heterosexual couples with young children. The present study combines the theoretical perspective of feminist family studies with research on gender inequality to analyse how unpaid care work is organised in nuclear heterosexual families in which parents consider themselves feminists. By conducting in-depth interviews with parents of young children (0-4 yrs) in Austria, we identify the transformative potentials and limitations of feminist ideals towards a more gender-equal distribution of care work, highlighting where and why the feminist ideal of equally sharing unpaid care work between working parents fails to translate into practice. Results show that feminist ideals translate into the practice of the equal distribution of actual and managerial care work when the three following factors interact: (1) the arrangement of institutional childcare, working conditions, and parental leave regimes enable an equal distribution of paid and unpaid labour between the two parents. (2) the parents develop clear strategies and make life & work choices for a fairer distribution of the second shift. (3) Parents work towards deconstructing stereotypical gender roles and fight against natural and societal tendencies of gendered patterns of behaviours. This entails that the father adopts the role of a caring parent, taking part in the childcare from the very beginning and the mother is willing to give some care responsibilities to her partner.

Session 5: Community Care and Housing

CARING COMMUNITIES AS POSSIBLE ACTORS OF TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN SENIOR CARE: MUNICIPAL PRACTICES AND CIVIL INITIATIVES IN RURAL HUNGARY

Dóra Gábrriel (*Centre for Economic and Regional Studies Budapest*) & Noémi Katona (*Centre for Social Sciences Budapest*)

The Hungarian senior care sector shows in some regards particular tendencies. Unlike the dominant marketization trends in neighboring countries, in Hungary unsupported familialism policies have been introduced and the senior care sector is becoming increasingly churchified, not marketized. The amount of cash for care benefits provided by the state have remained very low in the last few decades, and partly because of the low level of subsidy international market actors have not entered the country yet.

While the state withdraws from providing social care services and puts the responsibility on individuals and families, alternatively, a number of initiatives and informal solutions emerge in order to fill the care gap. Caring communities are important examples of intergenerational solidarity and organized attention towards the elderly. These initiatives and communities are commonly closely linked to local governments. In this presentation, we focus on rural settlements, and raise the following questions: 1) What kind of actors, means, and collaborations are aiming to bring transformative changes to care scarcity in rural Hungary; 2) What are the most important limitations, challenges in bringing transformative change; how do market logic and solidarity intertwine in these practices? 3) What mechanisms enable to build an innovative or simply decent living environment to the elderly? We present three cases (in three different localities) from the field of Southern Transdanubia. The empirical research was conducted between March - October 2023. Results demonstrate that the development of the existing care regime induces a growing need for caring communities and civil activity, which enhances intergenerational solidarity within the localities.

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND CARE RELATIONSHIPS OF OLDER ADULTS IN AN URBAN HOUSING ESTATE. INTERIM RESULTS OF THE PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PROCESS CARING-LIVING-LABS GRAZ

Klaus Wegleitner, Annette Sprung, Anna Kainradl, Brigitte Kukovetz, Dženana Pupić, Ulla Kribernegg (*Karl-Franzens University Graz*)

Intersectional entanglements of age, precarious socioeconomic living conditions (including housing situations), and migration-related inequalities complicate social participation and the cultivation of supportive care relationships in the neighborhood social space. A shared focus of education, care and aging research is to increase citizens' potential for engagement through community and learning processes, to overcome misconceptions about aging and care, and to improve coexistence in residential environments bridging generations, milieus, and ethnic-cultural affiliations. A central question of the ongoing 2.5-year participatory research project, "Caring-Living-Labs Graz: Living Well in Old Age," pertains to how social participation and communal processes involving older individuals in vulnerable living conditions can be strengthened. Within the conceptual frameworks of Active Urban Citizenship and Caring Communities approaches, we analyzed living circumstances and needs of the target group by creating collaborative spaces in a housing estate in Graz. The empirical methods used were interviews and observations within the settlements, supplemented by community outreach, storytelling cafés, and Living Labs. As an interim result, we delineate the conditions and measures that enable residents to reflect and exchange insights regarding aging and care, and to co-design the social space. Additionally, the importance of housing infrastructure, spatial dimensions, and community-building (educational) processes will be reflected in light of the residents' passions and concerns. The important supportive role of neighborhood work in strengthening citizenship and fostering community within the social space of the settlement becomes

clear. Inquiries into the structural and political landscapes are deduced, with implications extending to the areas of housing, social welfare, health, and integration are derived.

RE-CREATING LIVEABLE SOCIALIST NEIGHBOURHOODS: CASE OF “BENSKA BARA” NEIGHBOURHOOD IN ŠABAC, SERBIA

Jana Bogdanović (“Infrastruktura” PE), Ksenija Lukić (“PRAKSA59” Architectural bureau), Bojan Alimpić (“Infrastruktura” PE), Branislav Antonić (University of Belgrade)

Mass housing estates are among the main ‘emblems’ of cities across post-socialist Europe. Although a primary aim behind their construction was ideological, to prioritise the decent housing for workers in socialism, many of these housing estates were eventually built with higher-than-expected densities and with low-standard amenities, infrastructure and open public space due to demographic pressure from rural exodus in socialist period. The former Yugoslavia was a different case due to a specific type of socialism, which had open to the West and therefore incorporated some market elements. Yet, Yugoslavia was still a socialist country, which was reflected on housing development. Hence, three decades after the fall of socialism, many cities across this space are still struggling to regenerate mass housing estates. National and local authorities with a weak public sector have opted to form market-led housing driven by private investments in mass housing estates. As a result, many estates are still in a bad condition, especially considering open public space as a connecting element between individuals and community. The positive examples of regenerated mass housing estates are rather rare thereof; especially ones that promote citizen participation in every step of urban regeneration. This is the reason to present regenerated “Benska Bara” Estate in Šabac, western Serbia. Open public space in this estate was regenerated in the late 2010s, to both support local community and allow economic revitalisation. The aim of this presentation is to understand which reasons and gains can be highlighted to promote this affirmative type of urban regeneration.

Session 6: (De-)Commodification of Social Reproduction

FAMILIALISM RELOADED? ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WELFARE STATE AND SOCIAL REPRODUCTION IN CONTEMPORARY CAPITALISM

Raphael Deindl (Johannes Kepler University Linz)

The talk discusses how and in what ways social reproduction is (re)organized against the background of the neoliberal transformation of the welfare state in contemporary capitalism. Drawing on the Austrian case, it will be examined how the redistribution of reproductive tasks and responsibilities is reflected and manifested in respective family and childcare policies. Like many other OECD countries, the Austrian welfare state has implemented fundamental reforms in recent years. On the one hand, one can see that family policy programs and measures suggest a supposed freedom of choice while

following labor market and human capital-centered strategies and logics (defamilization); on the other hand, these policies in turn also stabilize and reproduce certain family and household forms and a gender-specific division of labor (familialization). In order to understand the extent to which the family continues to be an appropriate place for care and welfare production, these developments will be analyzed by following reflections on the political economy of welfare state as well as on social reproduction theory. Furthermore, it is necessary to look at the transformation of capitalism and the welfare state in the transition from Fordism to post-Fordism and the associated shifts in the sectoral division of labor and function between markets, state, the third sector and the family. Against this background, the analysis of the Austrian family and childcare policy system shows not only how structural problems of the capitalist economy are dealt with, but also how these developments correspond to the requirements of contemporary capitalism.

**CARE, HOUSING, AND THE PRODUCTION OF THE COMMODITY OF LABOR POWER:
FORM, STATICS, AND DYNAMICS OF AN EXPLOITATIVE RELATIONSHIP**
Kristofer Pitz (Friedrich-Schiller University Jena)

I want to propose a two-step approach to analyze the role of care within the capitalist mode of production. First, the category of the household, as the 'production site' of the commodity of labor power, needs to be systematically integrated into the dialectical order of categories of the Marxian »Critique of the Political Economy«. Second, a formal introduction of unpaid domestic care work into Sraffian production models will be undertaken. The combination of these steps provides a comprehensive account of the form, the statics, and the dynamics of exploitation of care work in capitalist economies. Conclusions can be drawn about the linkage points between capitalism, patriarchal, and racist domination. Unpaid domestic care work must indeed be regarded as productive work in the sense, that it contributes to the surplus produced by the comprehensive economy. The related conflict between domestic patriarchal exploitation and enhanced female labor force participation can also be shown within the proposed framework. In a next step, the interrelations of care, demographic developments and further patriarchal and racist dynamics within capitalism will be elaborated. When the workers' household is placed as a category within the Marxian framework, its dependency on renting property is a readily justifiable characteristic of this category. In the Sraffian framework, housing would be regarded as a nonreproducible production input in the production of the commodity of labor power. The qualitative and quantitative impacts of developments in the housing market on care can be analyzed subsequently. The analysis should meaningfully contribute to a discussion of the necessities and contingencies within the relationship of patriarchy, racism, and capitalism, as well as provide insights for political struggles concerning care and housing.

CARE AND HOUSING: INVISIBLE PILLARS OF SOCIAL REPRODUCTION, THE CASE OF BIH

Nejra-Nuna Cengic (*Karl-Franzens University Graz*)

This presentation focuses on the role of housing in domestic care work in post-socialist and post-war, internationally supervised Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Whereas social reproduction theory focuses on the role of care to reproduce labour power, housing is usually taken as a component of infrastructure that such work enables. Somewhat more attention is paid to homelessness. Still, between homelessness and having a secure roof over one's head, there is a large terrain of practical and affective struggle over housing. I address this gap, exploring how such struggles are present in care work, where housing is not only a physical space where reproduction takes place, but also an object of social reproduction. Building on my MSCA- sponsored ethnographic study of domestic paid care work with elderly people and children in Sarajevo and transnational care work of BiH women in Western Europe, I explore how struggles over housing in BiH influence unpaid reproductive work within one's own household and how they affect paid, largely informal, reproductive work in BiH and abroad. Key questions are: which new arrangements of care and housing provision are notable today, and which changes occurred? How do they relate to transformations of labour, which was the key source of social citizenship during the socialist period? What is the role of imaginations of a good life and of the future? Which old/new social inequalities are relevant?

Author meets Critics: The Migration Turn and Eastern Europe

Author: Attila Melegh (*Corvinus University Budapest*)

The book provides a comprehensive historical statistical overview of the global, European and regional development of demographic processes, care and redistribution from the point of view how marketization led to a migration turn and how a multilevel analysis can help in understanding East European developments. The book also includes the discursive analysis of a wide range of global and local policy documents, academic texts and discursive materials related to population development and migration globally and regionally in order to see from to where population discourses were evolving related to material changes. It also reinterprets discursive changes and demonstrates that the marketization (reification) of thinking about migration has led to the polarization of debates and the current conflicts leading to the rise of anti-migrant nationalist blocks in Eastern Europe. It demonstrates that Bibó's idea on the historically evolving "misery" and insecurity of small East European nation states in the era of globalization included the opening-up phase of globalization triggering very complex and controversial processes including care crisis, in which migration played a crucial role, being linked, however, to somewhat different national developmental trajectories and structural pathways like the cumulative effects, opening up to global capital markets, increasing incomes and re-ruralisation. In this respect an ex-socialist Eastern

Europe at the fringe of an unequal and open market block seems to be a prime example how the above factors could have shaped public mentalities.

"A timely and most sharp Polányian and Marxist unpacking and contextualisation of migration and population politics since the 1980s, Attila Melegh's precious and thorough analytical intervention defogs migration issues from the pervasive false choice between chauvinistic delirium and callous utilitarianism that throttles the current public imaginary in much of the world. He accomplishes this politically important demystification by shedding much needed light on the ruthless capitalist roots behind the latest intensification of worldwide mass dislocations."

- Salvatore Engel Di-Mauro. Professor, Department of Geography, SUNY New Paltz.
Editor-In-Chief of Capitalism Nature Socialism

"Having passed from socialist modernization to capitalist peripherality, embattled nations in Eastern Europe have come to exemplify new patterns of exploitative mobility, accompanied by populist socio-political discourses linking migration to population management. Attila Melegh's holistic approach to these dynamics is global in its coverage, rigorous empirically, sophisticated theoretically, and deeply humanist in its ethical inspiration."

- Chris Hann, Emeritus Director, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Fellow,
Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

Critics: Darinka Czischke (Delft University of Technology), Valentin Fröhlich (Johannes Kepler University Linz), Anna Safuta (Eberhard Karls University Tübingen)

Plenary 2: Places, Spaces, and Networks of Care and Housing

FROM THE 'HOUSING POLITICAL' TO A NETWORK OF SOLIDARITY. CARE, AFFECTIONS, AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN A HOUSING SQUAT IN ROME, ITALY
Chiara Cacciotti (Polytechnic University of Turin)

The 'housing political' has been mainly studied as a contested zone where the fight for just housing intersects the pressing domain of life sustenance in the face of constant expulsion from public space, the threat of eviction, the violence of law and bordering regimes, among the other things. Beyond this surface, there is an infrastructure of grassroots strategies and ethos of care that assess the acceptability of formally illegal experiences to impact the physical and social dynamics of their neighborhoods positively (Herbert, 2018). Among these, during COVID-19, many housing squats in Rome have played a predominant role not only in covering the institutional voids but also in creating new networks of solidarity that were crucial both for the squatters themselves and for the surrounding territories. This input will focus on the case of a squat located near the city center of the Italian Capital (Spin Time Labs), which proposed and co-founded in 2020 the solidarity network SOLID Roma, a project that

has gathered many local NGOs and grassroots movements active during the pandemic with the aim of designing and creating more adequate solutions for people in need. Presenting the genealogy of this centrifugal political strategy (from the single squat to the rest of the city), I provide a political reading of their ethos of care that might be of value both to scholars and housing activists alike to enrich the available grammars of the ‘housing political’ they work with.

GEOGRAPHIES OF FINANCE AND RESISTANCE IN SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURES

Amy Horton (*University College London*)

In this contribution, I conceptualise care and housing as social infrastructures – as ‘ambivalent, uneven, and contested configurations of places, people, and practices that differentially afford sociality, social reproduction, and survival’ (Horton & Penny 2023: 2). Inspired by critical infrastructure studies, feminist and southern theorisations, this approach provides a framework for analysing the different forms of labour, spaces and networks that shape care and housing. Empirically, I draw on research focusing on care homes for older people in the UK, as well as on contested housing provision and urban development in London, while using international literature to highlight commonalities and distinctive characteristics. Across care and housing, we find uneven patterns of financialisation influencing geographies of investment and disinvestment, which play an important role in determining conditions of care work and, more broadly, social reproduction. Different scales of the state have variously sought to actively entice those flows of private capital, or alternatively left space for it through the roll-back of public provision and regulation, within a national regime of austerity. In London and many other urban areas, we have seen the emergence of the ‘speculative city’, in which the local state seeks to govern and raise revenues by monetising public land, collaborating with private real estate actors (Horton & Penny, forthcoming). Such forms of governing are often presented as a progressive and strategic use of public assets to circumvent austerity. But it is vital to recognise that the speculative city is founded on classed and racialised dispossession. Workers and residents have often struggled to challenge the resulting exploitation and insecurity, as they are spatially fragmented, often in stigmatised places such as care homes and public housing estates, and face a powerful central government and highly-resourced investors. However, where they have managed to build broad coalitions and act strategically, they have at times succeeded in disrupting the speculative city.

FAILURE OF THE NORDIC MODEL? FINLAND’S GROWING DIFFICULTIES IN PROVIDING CARE AND HOUSING FOR ITS OLDER POPULATION

Teppo Kröger (*University of Jyväskylä*)

The Nordic region has not been unaffected by the global trends of neoliberalism and austerity, which have affected the provision of care and housing in these countries in many ways. However, the results vary between countries and service sectors. Among the Nordic countries, Finland and Sweden have been most prone to outsourcing service provision to for-profit providers, while New Public Management has also

affected Denmark, Sweden and Iceland. Finland has lagged behind in funding care for older people, and this has affected its ability to provide the necessary amount of good quality home and residential care. The last 15 years of austerity have further complicated the situation. This presentation will discuss this development and its consequences. It will also discuss the current problematic plan to introduce a new model of housing and care for older people, called 'communal housing'.

Day Three

Wednesday, December 6th

Plenary 3: Care, Housing, and Social Inequalities

LIVING TOGETHER IN OLD AGE: A CITIZEN-SCIENCE APPROACH TO CO-CREATE SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN HOUSING AND CARE

Darinka Czischke (*Delft University of Technology*)

The Netherlands, as many European countries, is facing a housing crisis. Housing has become commodified, leading to unequal access to the housing market (Arundel & Hochstenbach 2020). At the same time, there are increasing disparities in the housing situation of different generations. While the elderly live in spacious homes, young people and families can hardly find a suitable dwelling. Furthermore, since 2012, the national government has decreased its support of welfare initiatives and stimulated the 'ageing in place'. Community centres have diminished, and retirement homes are only accessible for elderly who are unable to live on their own. At the same time suitable senior-friendly housing is not provided or is of poor quality or unaffordable. Moreover, policy makers approach senior-friendly housing primarily as a place for care, which disregards that elderly people are emotionally attached to their homes and neighbourhoods through their lived experiences. For them, homes should provide feelings of safety and comfort to offer well-being at old age (van Hees 2017, Eriksson & Emmelin 2013, Satariano, Scharlach & Lindeman 2014). In a policy context stimulating 'ageing in place', collaborative housing (Czischke, Carriou & Lang 2020) could offer an attractive alternative to regular housing, where residents have the opportunity to organize their own environment, while aiming to de-commodify housing (Gruber & Lang 2018). Through a case study in Tanthof-Oost in Delft we illustrate the potential of collaborative housing as a transformative social innovation (Avelino et al. 2019) in housing and care for the elderly. We apply a citizen science approach combined with participatory design methods to empower elderly residents to play a central role in shaping their home and care needs.

CARING AT HOME, CARING FOR HOMES. WOMEN'S CARING PRACTICES ALONG THEIR RESIDENTIAL TRAJECTORIES IN BARCELONA

Irene Sabaté Muriel (*University of Barcelona*)

When women taking part at our ethnographic enquiry into the gender dimension of the housing crisis in Barcelona were asked to describe their residential trajectories, they recurrently mentioned how care needs and responsibilities had shaped their housing conditions, options, and decisions. This was so almost irrespective of whether they had been affected by evictions, or they had solely faced minor setbacks in securing a home.

The close link between care and housing emerged in a variety of senses. For some, care responsibilities had constrained residential choices, for example determining the location or the size of their homes. Care for members of the household was also at play as a driver of homemaking practices, and in turn triggered care for the dwelling, in the form of cleaning, decoration or repair practices. Many women also reported how their responsibility for unpaid care demanded time, leading them to choose part-time or temporary jobs, and confined them in precarious positions within the job market, or prevented them from making a career, which reduced their income, and made them unable to afford an adequate home. An inability also suffered by women who counted themselves among the working poor in the care sector. But care for household members could also encourage their struggle for decent housing, as it was the case for mothers at risk of homelessness, or migrants aiming at reuniting their families. And, for households threatened by displacement, the satisfaction of care needs provided by local support networks was a reason to resist. In all, this evidence signals the urgent need for housing systems that consider the entanglements of care and housing, with housing being the main location of gendered social reproduction processes, and care being the base of the interdependencies that are built within and among cohabiting households.

ORGANISING HOUSING AT THE MARGINS. THE HYBRID CHARACTER OF ACTION AGAINST HOMELESSNESS IN CONTEMPORARY GERMANY

Ingo Bode (*University of Kassel*)

Across contemporary Western welfare states, homeless assistance can be considered as being an important segment of both welfare state and housing policies. In this area, local authorities and non-state actors form a complex 'welfare mix' with various organisations and activities, including emergency or provisional accommodation, assisted living arrangements, day shelter facilities, and streetwork. In many countries, these activities are run in collaboration with the local welfare state. Moreover, the aforementioned welfare mix comprises advocacy groups of various types, among which, for instance, streetpaper projects. In 21st century Germany, this hybrid configuration materialises in a complex patchwork of agencies and organisations, with only some activities being orchestrated by public bodies. By the help of interview-based explorative field studies in German cities, one can discern both the evolving character and the wider implications of this hybrid configuration. Activities in this universe are indicative of a constantly disorganised mode of social intervention which overall feeds into a precarious administration of housing arrangements 'at the margins'. Concomitantly, the inherent welfare mix and its stakeholders permanently produce novel approaches to tackling social problems related to homelessness. This is prone to entail socially transformative practices at some point. That said, under current conditions, these practices are often fragmented, isolated, small-scale, and at odds with what co-actors from the field accomplish. Hence the hybrid character of homeless assistance in Germany, endorsed by mainstream concepts in praise of 'welfare

pluralism', lends itself to perpetuating the housing crisis and absorbing considerable energy of those engaged in this field.

Author meets Critics: Rebuilding Cities and Citizens

Author: Margaret Haderer (Vienna University of Technology)

In Vienna after WWI and Berlin after WWII, the provision of mass housing not only was a response to a dire social need but also served as a key lever for building variants of socialism and liberalism. Zooming into the interplay between political ideologies and the production of space, this book shows that ideologies, understood as political beliefs that underpin everyday life, are never simply 'written' into space but that their meaning is made and re-made, negotiated and contested, and sometimes cunningly subverted in and through space. How people live was – and continues to be – a profoundly political question that involves negotiations of, and decisions on, norms and ideals of citizenship, freedom, equality, property, democracy, gender, and family life – negotiations and decisions that come with legacies that shape the present.

"Margaret Haderer's book is a political archeology of housing utopias and impressively shows that there are alternatives to capitalist market logic. Her critical examination of ideologies reminds us that housing is not only determined by 'housing policies', but can be instrumentalized as 'politics of dwelling'."

- Dr. Andrej Holm, Housing Researcher at Humboldt University Berlin

"A work both of urban history and housing theory, Rebuilding Cities and Citizens explores the making of urban and residential space as a political project. It will become a touchstone for scholars of housing in Vienna and Berlin as well as anyone interested in the relationship between politics, ideology and the city."

- David Madden, Associate Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics and Political Science

Critics: Iván Tosić (Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest), Katharina Litschauer (Vienna University of Economics and Business), Hans Volmar (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

Session 7: The Provision of Care and Housing

HOUSING PROVISION BETWEEN COMMODIFICATION AND DECOMMODIFICATION: CONTESTED INSTRUMENTS AND PRACTICES IN VIENNA

Sarah Kumnig (*Vienna University of Technology*) & **Katharina Litschauer** (*Vienna University of Economics and Business*)

Vienna is considered a prime example of decommodified housing, with more than 40% of the population living in social housing and strict rent controls in large parts of private rental. However, deregulation, an increased presence of institutional investors and commercial developers, as well as rising housing costs indicate that the decommodified status of housing is coming under pressure. Against this background, we apply the concept of (de-)commodification to shed light on how the contradictory process of establishing and constraining the commodity form of housing unfolds in Vienna. Rather than equating public with decommodified and private with commodified housing, we investigate how housing becomes a commodity by degree within different housing sectors since the 1990s. Our findings reveal how the use value of housing – housing qualities and their ability to satisfy needs – as well as exchange value – the general exchangeability and the price of housing – are established in housing construction and allocation, and the way in which the latter comes to dominate the former. We analyze how policy instruments as well as provisioning practices either enable or constrain the commodity form of housing and what consequences this has for housing conditions. Ultimately, this serves to grasp the current transformation of housing systems in more detail and to outline potential pathways for advancing decommodification, which secures housing as a means of consumption rather than an instrument for profitmaking.

CARING COMMUNITIES: EXPERIMENTAL SPACES FOR CARING SOCIETIES?

Klaus Wegleitner & Patrick Schuchter (*Karl-Franzens University Graz*)

In addition to man-made global warming and its consequences, in addition to wars and global injustice, the rich countries of the Global North are scarred by the so-called care crisis. The shortage of staff in care contexts are the well-known but mostly external symptoms. On a deeper level, it is about the fact that activities that consist of caring for others are treated unfairly and badly in society, even though they are indispensable for life. Now, if we want to think about care in appropriate depth, it means thinking about how we as a society want to live together and care for each other - starting from the many practices of care. This is precisely what the initiatives that have been gathering under the term "caring communities" have been doing for some time. People are getting involved to create new relationships and communities, to raise awareness about the need for caring, and to bring creative forms of caring and solidarity to life. For some time, there have also been critical reflections on these initiatives. Are caring communities even regressive because they turn caring back into unpaid work and push women in particular back into the sole role of caring for others? Are they blind to the bigger economic, environmental, and sociopolitical picture? We want to use concrete

examples and care stories to reflect on the conditions under which caring communities shape good coexistence locally, but can also be an answer to the “big questions” of our time, as a field of experimentation for caring societies.

HOMEWARD BOUND: THE PLACE AND SPACE OF CARE - HÄUSLICHKEIT UND HEIMLICHKEIT ODER: DAS HAUS DER SORGE

Cornelia Klinger (*Eberhard Karls University Tübingen*)

I fully agree with the project of DOC team 114, in general, and of this conference, in particular, to focus on the immediate and crucial relation between the entire gamut of care activities and the many aspects of housing. The contemporary and future aspects are being debated at length and in detail in the manifold contributions of this event. It is my endeavour to add an outlook on the history of romantic love and the cosy home as both obtained some autonomy (Freiheit, Liebe, Bildung) due to the separation of the natural, emotional private sphere from the artificial, rational public domains over the 19th century. Notwithstanding glaring disparities, outrageous inequalities and injustices affiliated to this socio-political segregation, it can hardly be denied that the complementary and supplementary second sphere served as the mainstay of cultural and natural life offering some protection of plain and simple being (Dasein) from the grip of state bureaucracy, capitalist industry and the monster of technocracy that go together since the onset of urbanization und industrialization. The efforts undertaken over the course of the 20th century to remedy the shortcomings of this great divide never fully worked and fell flat at century's end. From then on, diverging routes are being taken: First and foremost, hegemonic capitalist neoliberalism reinforced the ongoing and wholesale commodification of care and housing as business for profit. When the housing bubble burst with the ensuing crisis of the neoliberal regime, values of solidarity, community and charity are coming back into view (whereas nuclear family structures seem to be wrecked beyond hope for revival). I will contend that no durable compromise is feasible among these conflicting approaches to both care and housing.

Session 8: Care, Housing, and Social Investment

SIMULTANEOUSLY TRADITIONAL AND NEOLIBERAL: SOCIAL INVESTMENT, MANDATORY ELEMENTS AND CARE PROTEST IN EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION IN AUSTRIA

Fabienne Décieux (*University of Vienna*)

Early childcare and education became a policy priority on the EU- and OECD-level with the beginning of the 2000s, leading to numerous national reforms. An expansion and reconfiguration of early child care institution resulted in different forms in different countries. The Austrian care-regime - which is the country of research - can be characterized as conservative and familialistic on a social policy level, this is also reflected in the prevailing social values. Nevertheless, defamilializing reforms in the

sense of social investment have been and are implemented. Targeting women and mothers as potential workforce and children as suitable workforce of the future. In this societal context, this led to a specific and public-private-welfare-mix accompanied by mandatory elements. This process can be interpreted as a case of quasi-marketization, which had consequences not only on the level of the expansion and contested reconfiguration in the division of function and labor between state, market third sector and family, but also had an impact on the meaning of early childcare and hence the working conditions. Thus, from 2014 to the present, care protests emerged repeatedly as the structural carelessness of capitalism and the care crises in this field/sector are significant, although early childcare has been politically and socially recognized as important. Drawing on (critical) welfare state theories, the sociology of care and insight from labor studies the talk will shed a light on the development and the contested transformation of early childcare and education in Austria.

ESCALATING SOCIAL INVESTMENT: THE DISRUPTIVE RECONFIGURATION OF ORGANISED CHILDCARE IN GERMANY

Sigrid Betzelt (*Berlin School of Economics and Law*) & **Ingo Bode** (*University of Kassel*)

Over the last decades, various European societies have seen a remarkable expansion of childcare services, with strong welfare state commitments to modernise a traditionally 'feminised' sector, characterised by low public recognition and rather poor working conditions. This paper, engaging with the case of Germany, discusses implications of the sector having been exposed to a multi-dimensional social investment agenda materialising in ever more challenging expectations from various stakeholders. Drawing on dispersed evidence and early findings of a qualitative research project started in 2023, we theorize about the wider implications of this reconfiguration. First of all, it is argued that German childcare organisations are nowadays pressurised to simultaneously pursue variegated objectives going beyond their traditional mandate, among which high-end early education, the inclusive treatment of individual needs of children (including those with disabilities), and action against social inequality and marginalisation. In addition, these organisations are driven to embark on 'co-parenting' arrangements and engage with complex quality management systems. Hence social investment is 'escalating' in the sense of swamping childcare settings with both inconsistent demands and 'positivist' technologies of formalised (self-)inspection. Importantly, the 'advanced' mandate of professional childcare addresses an increasingly diverse clientele from various socio-economic and cultural backgrounds which intersect with spatial segregations between and within regional territories. Hence the local level matters greatly concerning how the above agenda plays out. It is likely that this agenda produces permanent disruptions within childcare organisations and can only be pursued selectively. In particular, it is prone to entail complex role conflicts, with childcare workers being torn between conflicting goals, normative scripts, and diverse occupational identities. Ensuing tensions may make childcare services less effective in achieving the core objectives. It is less sure whether they elicit

'transformative struggles' geared towards redeeming childcare services from the deleterious consequences of the social investment hype.

Session 9: Homelessness: Care and Housing

DOING HOUSING FIRST. ACTORS' EXPERIENCES WHEN INITIATING AND IMPLEMENTING HOUSING FIRST AND HOUSING ACQUISITION PILOT PROJECTS IN NORTHERN BAVARIA

Frank Sowa, Anna Xymena Tissot & Nora Sellner (*Nürnberg Institute of Technology*)

Housing and care are foundational for human well-being. Yet, homelessness continues to exist as a phenomenon of extreme poverty in Germany and throughout Europe. Dealing with homelessness as a social problem in Germany, providing shelter or housing and care in form of social work support are either separated or offered in tandem as various concepts of assisted living, though without own lease. The Housing First approach, however, is considered a paradigm shift in the field of housing assistance with the potential of transformative change as it first addresses the most urgent need of unhoused persons and/or those experiencing homelessness: the unconditional provision of own housing and – if desired, in combination with social work support. It thus emphasizes the human right to housing and self-determination throughout the assistance process. The approach was developed in the U.S., and has already been proven successful in the U.S., Canada and in various European countries. Recently, several Housing First pilot projects were implemented in Germany. These new and promising developments involve various actors and approaches to implementation. Through developing the theoretical perspective of doing Housing First, we will highlight different approaches to housing and care. By using case studies in Northern Bavaria, this contribution aims to gain explorative insights into the perspectives of initiators, social workers, and new tenants. By using qualitative methods their motivations, (professional) attitudes and horizons of experiences including (self-defined) achievements as well as challenges while doing Housing First will be reconstructed with a focus on offering and receiving housing, care and assistance.

HOSTING HOMELESS AS CARING-WITH RELATIONS? ON THE AMBIVALENCES OF ENCOUNTER, COMPASSION AND CARE WITH STRANGE OTHERS IN THE PRIVATE SPHERE

Rivka Saltiel (*Karl-Franzens University Graz*)

Hébergement is an informal volunteer hosting initiative for precarious migrants in Brussels. It came into life as a reaction to social inequalities and the explicit situation of uncare refugees were facing in Brussels. Without access to any institutional support, refugees were pushed into homelessness, exposed to heavy rainfall, violence and policing. In welcoming and accommodating strangers at home, Belgian residents (predominantly female) took responsibility and cared-for, -about, and -with the

shelterless migrants. Hosting and being hosted significantly alters from other forms of migrant or homeless support. There is no script for this particular social constellation. Hosting requires trust and a great deal of physical and emotional labor – for all involved and often leads to exhaustion. Being together in and sharing the intimate space of the home, involves a continuous negotiation of – sometimes conflicting – needs (for space, intimacy, distance, self-care, ...) of all. Approaching Hébergement from a feminist care ethics perspective, the informal caring arrangements are understood as yet another expression of the lack of sufficient and adequate caring resources (including housing) on a societal level (care crisis). With its fundamentally relational approach, feminist care ethics unravels the uneven structures that permeate and define both the practice of care and caring relations. Emphasizing social interdependencies, it challenges the structural organization of care in capitalism that is exclusive, inherently feminized, domesticized, privatized and individualized and envisions an alternative more just social organization of care – in a caring society. Drawing on narrative interviews, the paper explores the particular host-guest relations of Hébergement asking how the intimate, private setting of hosting at home affects caring-with relationships of trust and interdependence. Therefore, it elaborates on how strangers encounter each other, how they care with each other, and how they address the potentials, ambivalences and limits of living with strangers.

Presenters' Biographies

Bojan Alimpić, MArch.Eng., is a licensed practicing urbanist and spatial planner in the “Infrastruktura Šabac” Public Enterprise in the City of Šabac, Serbia, where he works in the enterprise team for urban planning, architectural and urban design. His professional portfolio includes the teamwork creation of the spatial plans, the urban plans of general and detailed regulation, urban design projects and Sustainable urban mobility plan for the City of Šabac. He is also a Member of the Serbian Chamber of Engineers and a member of the presidency council of Serbian Town Planner Association. A participant in local research projects, strategies and sustainable development plans for local municipalities, as well as at national and international conferences.

Branislav Antonić, PhD, is a teaching assistant at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture, Serbia. His scientific, professional and pedagogic interests are urbanism and territorial planning, with a special focus on the development of medium-sized and small cities and communities, peripheral urban and spatial development and the urban dimension of housing. He is active in international and national research projects (Erasmus+, INTERREG, CEEPUS, IPA, bilateral cooperations), being the author of more than 70 scientific contributions: article journals, monograph papers, conference papers, and studies. As the coordinator or member of a working team, he has also been involved in the creation of 35 urban plans, urban design projects and spatial plans.

Roland Atzmüller holds a PHD in Political Science and is Associate Professor at the Institute of Sociology, Department for the Theory of Society and Social Analyses at the Johannes Kepler University in Linz/Austria. He works on transformations of social policies and welfare states and critical theories of capitalism and society. Recent publications include “Capitalism in Transformation. Movements and Countermovements in the 21st Century” (2019, ed., together with B. Aulenbacher, U. Brand, F. Décieux, K. Fischer and B. Sauer) and “Ambivalenzen in der Transformation von Sozialpolitisch und Wohlfahrtssatt. Soziale Arbeit, Care, Rechtspopulism and Migration” (2023, ed. together with F. Décieux and B. Ferschli).

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and Inclusion, Vol. 37, No. 4, Emerald, 2018 (with B. Riegraf); Global Sociology of Care and Care Work, Current Sociology Monograph, Vol. 66, No. 4, Monograph 2, Sage (with H. Lutz, B. Riegraf).

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Amy Horton, research areas: feminist economic geographies of social infrastructure, including the financialisation of care homes and housing, with a focus on the UK. She is an economic geographer specialising in finance, labour and urban development. Her research examines different approaches to financing social infrastructures of care and housing, and the implications for those who live and work in them. Her doctoral research investigated the spread and effects of investment fund ownership of care homes for older people in the UK, and workers’ strategies for organising in this context. More recently, she led part of a project on ‘Financial Impacts of Covid-19 on Care Homes’. This study examined how profits and staffing levels varied between for-profit and not-for-profit care homes in the UK during the pandemic (ficch.org.uk). In other research with Dr. Joe Penny, she has studied community challenges to the financialisation of housing that has been led by local government in London. Their book, *Disrupting the Speculative City: Property, Power and Community in London* is due to be published by UCL Press in 2024. Selected publications: Horton, A. and Penny, J. (2023). Towards a Political Economy of Social Infrastructure: Contesting “Anti-Social Infrastructures” in London. *Antipode*, 55: 1711-1734. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12955>; Horton, A. (2022). Financialization and non-disposable women: Real estate, debt and labour in UK care homes. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 54(1), 144-159. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X19862580>; Horton, A. (2021). Liquid home? Financialisation of the built environment in the UK’s “hotel-style” care homes. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. 46: 179-192. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12410>.

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10.1080/07360932.2022.2125423; Litschauer, K. & Friesenecker, M. (2021). Affordable housing for all? Challenging the legacy of Red Vienna. In: Kazepov, Y. & Verwiebe, R. (Ed.). Vienna. Still a Just City?, pp. 53-67, London: Routledge; Friesenecker, M. & Litschauer, K. (2021). Innovating social housing? Tracing the social in social housing construction. In: Kazepov, Y. & Verwiebe, R. (Ed.). Vienna. Still a Just City?, pp. 68-82, London: Routledge.

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Anna Martin has a background in environmental social science and holds a double degree from the Master Program in Environmental Science ([EnvEuro](#)) from the University of Copenhagen (Denmark) and SLU (Sweden). She completed her studies with a specialization in Environmental Management to be able to move between science, policy, and practice. Her experiences with private foundations, consultancies, and governmental authorities added to her strong interest in development projects based on specific societal issues.^[1] Anna is currently working on the research project “Housing crisis and its impact on adequate housing” as an early stage researcher of the RE-DWELL consortium (<https://www.re-dwell.eu>), conducting a holistic analysis of affordability and sustainability of housing through a transdisciplinary perspective. She is based at the Institute for Sociology (Centre for Social Sciences Budapest), and she is enrolled in doctoral studies at the [Doctoral School of Sociology and Communication Science](#) (Corvinus University of Budapest).

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Anne Vogelpohl, urban geographer, Borough of Hamburg-Altona. Research Areas: Housing Policy, Labour Geographies, Feminist Methodologies, Strategic Urban Development. Publications: Vogelpohl, Anne (2023): Soziale Erhaltungsverordnungen und Wohnraumschutz vs. touristische Aufwertung: Widersprüchliche Quartiersentwicklung im Hamburger Schanzenviertel. In: Kirschner, Ursula u. Anja Saretzki (Hrsg.): Zwischen Gentrifizierung und Touristifizierung: Das Hamburger Schanzenviertel. Bielefeld: transcript, S. 117-137; Vogelpohl, Anne, Christoph Haferburg u. Thomas Pohl (2023): Das Hamburger Modell und der Sickerereffekt – Wie funktioniert die Neubaustrategie in der Mitte Altona? In: Grubbauer, Monika u. Joscha Metzger (Hrsg.): Wohnen in Hamburg. Bielefeld: transcript; Hurlin, Lina, Élodie Vittu, Anne Vogelpohl, Lisa Vollmer und Marcel Weikert 2021: Organizing, Professionalisierung, Vernetzung: Aktuelle Entwicklungen der wohnungspolitischen Bewegung in Berlin, Hamburg, Jena und Leipzig. In: Soziale Passagen. doi: 10.1007/s12592-021-00392-3; Kemper, Jan und Anne Vogelpohl (2020): Die sozial-unternehmerische Stadt: Gesellschaftliche Ungleichheit, Reproduktionskrise und Stadtpolitik in Hamburg. In: Geographica Helvetica 75, S. 221-233.

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