

From housing to home-making

Insights of social inclusion of refugees from research and practice

Housing and integration for refugees in Europe are often technocratic and highly politicized. We want to counter this approach by focusing on the processes of homemaking, belonging and social inclusion of newcomers.



To sign up for lunch, email globalmigration@gu.se
(including any dietary restrictions)

Keynote Addresses

Sept 22nd 8:30-12:00

**Room 302,
Annedalsseminariet**

Paolo Boccagni, Professor,
Department of Sociology and
Social Research, University of
Trento, Italy.

Dragana Curovic, Social Housing
Developer, AB Helsingborgshem

Kristina Grange, Professor,
Department of Architecture and
Civil Engineering, Chalmers
University, Sweden.

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 **MERGING**
INTEGRATION FOR MIGRANTS



GÖTEBORGS
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Program

Location: Room 302, Annedalsseminariet

8.30 Welcome to the conference

8.40 1st keynote – **Paolo Boccagni**, Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento, Italy.

9.20 2nd keynote – **Kristina Grange**, Professor, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Chalmers University, Sweden.

10.00 Coffee break

10.20 3rd keynote – **Dragana Curovic**, Bosocial utvecklare, AB Helsingborgshem, Sweden.

11.00 Roundtable

12.00 Lunch

13.00-14.30 1st panel

14.30 Coffee break

14.50 – 16.20 2nd panel

16.20-17 Concluding discussions

Conference dinner (location TBC)

Keynote Address

House, home, both, neither: on the reach, boundaries and dilemmas of homemaking in an asylum centre

Paolo Boccagni, Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento, Italy.

Home and homemaking are recurrent questions in the international scholarship on forced migration. Little of this, however, has been situated in the lived experience of refugee accommodations, as approached "from within". With this premise, my lecture revisits a four-year ethnographic study of an asylum reception centre in Northern Italy, through the analytic of the housing-homing interplay. Within a housing context that is typically provisional and remote from the normative register of home, fine-grained ethnography of asylum seekers' daily routines reveals meaningful forms of homemaking in terms of space appropriation and, to a lesser extent, attachment. This is particularly salient within the residents' bedrooms - a semi-domestic space to which I gained access over time, as "guest of the guests". What home means and entails, under condition of legal, temporal and biographical suspension, can then be appreciated less at an abstract and principled level, than through a range of everyday practices. These have to do with boundary-making within and between groups, as well as with mundane rituals, material cultures, care and all ways to spend an apparently empty and "idle" time. Such an ethnographic perspective has important implications for the debate on the meanings, functions and dilemmas of home among forced migrants, as well as for the complex and ambiguous relation between housing and homemaking - more fundamentally, between house and home.

The process of making SällBo – When you care you dare

Dragana Curovic, Social Housing Developer, AB Helsingborgshem

SällBo is a pilot housing project situated in the neighborhood of Fredriksdal in the North-East area of the municipality of Helsingborg. The non-profit municipal housing company, Helsingborgshem, owns and runs SällBo as well as most of the public housing in the city. The housing company bought from the municipality this old building from the 1960-1970s. Their intention was to refurbish it and repurpose into a safe accommodation for people over 70. Before the renovation began in 2015, a large number of refugees arrived in the municipality. Hence, the municipality took the decision to rent temporarily the property from the company in order to host unaccompanied minors during the refugee crisis. As the municipality needed to host

unaccompanied young refugees even after the crisis they suggested that the property could cater for the needs of both the elderly and refugees. Helsingborgshem decided then, with the aim of enhancing social inclusion, to host also a third group, which would act as a "bridging group" between the elderly and refugees, i.e., young Swedes between the ages of 18 and 25. Therefore, SällBo was born to address demands of public housing from a multi-target audience – i.e., elderly, Swedish born youth, and refugees. The housing complex comprises of 51 two-room apartments and approximately 580 square meters of common areas that include common kitchens on every of the three floors in addition to private kitchens in every apartment, large living rooms, exercise rooms, scrapbook and sewing studios, a workshop, games room and a library.

Imaginarities of (dis)belonging: practices of exclusion analysed through the city of Gothenburg's plan to build 1000 accommodation units for refugees

Kristina Grange, Professor, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Chalmers University, Sweden.

This lecture will shed some light on discrepancies between on the one hand migrants' hopes for and imaginaries of being included when accommodated in Sweden, and, on the other, imaginaries of belonging among the majority population, and perceptions of who belongs where. The lecture draws on results from two case studies, whereof one included 20 interviews with migrants with the aim to identify their insights from being accommodated in three Swedish municipalities, and the other analysed why the city of Gothenburg's plan to build 1000 housing units for refugees ended with only 57 being built. The lecture draws attention to the need to scrutinize imaginaries among the majority population and contributes with some reflections on how unwillingness to share social space can be understood and how it produces practices of exclusion.

Panel 1 - 13.00 -14.30 – Room 302 Annedalsseminariet

Exploring challenges of housing integration of migrant newcomers in a cross-European perspective (via zoom)

Annegret Haase, Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research- UFZ, Leipzig. Anika Schmidt, Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig
Bahanur Nasya, Eutropian. Giovanna Astolfo, Development Planning Unit, Faculty of the Built Environment, UCL. Harriet Allsopp, Development Planning Unit, Faculty of the Built Environment, UCL.

Co-participatory design of a housing and social integration pilot project in the city of València, Spain

Carles X. Simó-Noguera, Jorge Velasco-Mengod, Alicia Bañuls-Millet, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Valencia.

Building housing for and with young, older and newly arrived migrants to create housing, work and community

Tinna Harling, Egnahemsfabriken.

Local housing and integration policies for refugees: Exploring policy success and failure in the implementation of two contrasting municipal projects in Sweden

Alexandra Bousiou, University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies. Sara Brorström, University of Gothenburg, Department of Business Administration. Andreas Dietrich, University of Gothenburg, Department of Business Administration. Olga Stepanova, University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies. Andrea Spehar, University of Gothenburg, Department of Political Science.

Housing as an empowering springboard for refugees' integration? Innovative housing experiences in 4 European cities.

Morena Cuconato, Department of Educational Studies, University of Bologna.

Panel 2 - 14.50 – 16.20 – Room 302 Annedalsseminariet

Justice in local planning strategies for refugees' housing? Narratives on sustainable housing in Sweden (via zoom)

Madeleine Eriksson, Department of geography, Umeå University. Eva Wikström, Department of social work, Umeå University.

Professionals and volunteers supporting exiled persons. Clashes and alliances in the field of accommodation and housing in France

Guillaume Negri, Emmanuelle Maunaye, Patricia Loncle, École des hautes études en santé publique, University of Rennes

Precarity, status and the organisation of housing

Klara Öberg, Halmstad University.

Boskola – evictions by other means

Mauricio Rogat, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg.

Housing, integration and space. A comparative study of two temporary refugee housing initiatives in Sweden with contrasting outcomes

Olga Stepanova, University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies. Andreas Dietrich, University of Gothenburg, Department of Business Administration. Alexandra Bousiou,

University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies. Sara Brorström, University of Gothenburg, Department of Business Administration. Andrea Spehar, University of Gothenburg, Department of Political Science.

ANNEX – Abstracts

Exploring challenges of housing integration of migrant newcomers in a cross-European perspective (via zoom)

Annegret Haase, Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research- UFZ, Leipzig. Anika Schmidt, Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig. Bahanur Nasya, Eutropian. Giovanna Astolfo, Development Planning Unit, Faculty of the Built Environment, UCL. Harriet Allsopp, Development Planning Unit, Faculty of the Built Environment, UCL.

The paper gives an insight into the conceptual approach of the JPI UE funded project HOUSE-IN (2021-2022) that focuses on a better understanding of challenges of housing integration of newcomers in different European urban contexts. HOUSE-IN defines housing integration as the nexus between the accommodation and housing of newcomers after arrival in a city and how the way of how newcomers (here, we focused on people who are “forced” migrants such e.g. refugees, asylum seekers etc.) are living or ‘being housed’ relates to, supports or hinders social integration. The nexus includes the flat or accommodation itself, the residential environment (building, neighbourhood etc.) and the social relations, networks and infrastructures that might be supportive, emancipatory but also hindering, disempowering for the settling and social inclusion of newcomers.

Drawing on four European case studies (Vienna/Austria, Lund and Helsingborg (Sweden), Riga (Latvia) and Leipzig (Germany)), the project identified different aspects of housing integration. Those are indispensable for understanding under which conditions housing integration currently happens and to explore how arrival and settling could happen non-discriminating and fair and correspond in a better way to the capacities and needs of newcomers. Among them are a) so-called critical junctures, i.e. the overlap and contingency of conditions that decide on how housing integration may (or may not) succeed for newcomers and b) the role of discrimination, racism and coloniality in housing integration policies and practice, procedures and attitudes.

The paper will, after a short introduction into our conceptualization of housing integration and our case study sample, focus on presenting and discussing challenges of housing integration. It will explain how the cross-European comparison contributed to their better understanding. In doing so, we will also expand on how the current mass escape from Ukraine changes/alters the situation and what specific problems but also potentials can be observed with respect to the response of cities and urban societies. We will also explain how the project’s transdisciplinary approach (science-practice cooperation) helped to identify, explore and understand housing integration

challenges, and how the cross-European perspective helped to improve supportive practice and policy dialogues.

Co-participatory design of a housing and social integration pilot project in the city of València, Spain

Carles X. Simó-Noguera, Jorge Velasco-Mengod, Alicia Bañuls-Millet, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Valencia.

Within the MERGING project, the city of València, alongside with Lyon and Gothenburg, will hold one of the 3 participatory pilot initiatives coordinated by the association Quatorze and aimed at integration through housing, constituting one of the core elements of the research project. To do so, we developed a co-participatory design to triangulate the expertise and know-hows of Third Sector entities who manage most of resources for integration of migrants and refugees, as well as of the Public Sector entities providing most of funds and regulatory frameworks for such tasks. Aiming to conjoin an innovative and participatory approach with a solid framework, beneficiaries will sign social contracts of rights and obligations, as well as formal commitments of participation in the social programs and statements of compliance with co-habitation rules for both the community and the specific building where each flat will be located at. An additional element is the so-called common-space, a street-level venue located within a 10-minute radius by foot from each one of the flats. Such space will operate as headquarters for the social intervention program staff provided by a Third Sector entity, also for organs of co-participatory management and supervision. Furthermore, it will constitute a socialization and cultural and knowledge exchange hub for both beneficiaries and the whole community of the neighborhood. To foster the potential of the common space, an exhaustive map of resources of the neighborhood and a map of effective and prospective stakeholders to be somehow involved in the pilot project have been made.

Building housing for and with young, older and newly arrived migrants to create housing, work and community

Tinna Harling, Egnahemsfabriken.

Egnahemsfabriken on Tjörn build housing for young, elderly and newly arrived migrants, but also for those who want to build and live more sustainably and build their own house according to their dreams and needs. Egnahemsfabriken started in 2017 as a direct response to the refugee crisis in 2015, starting with innovation funds from Vinnova. The idea was partly to give everyone in the local civil society at Tjörn a chance to contribute practically to the construction of housing for the newly arrived migrants and partly to try to create a platform that the newly arrived themselves could use to build their own homes in the new country with support. From the two ideas, other tracks also emerged. But the simple idea of building homes for those in need by

working together in solidarity is still the ideological core of Egnahemsfabriken. All based on the motto they have had with them since the start: Make homes - not war! Egnahemsfabriken is run as a cooperative and a social enterprise and has today gone from an idea to a business with 350 members and several employees, with co-creative design, co-construction and sustainable development as a base. The business has broken new ground for an organized collective self-construction, co-construction and rural development through co-creation. Egnahemsfabriken is currently working with several different research projects related to the housing issue for newly arrived immigrants and other groups in need of affordable housing. (Including "Egnahem för alla" which is run by Egnahemsfabriken in collaboration with, among others, the University of Gothenburg, Ekobanken and Orust municipality, "Housing innovation from the bottom up" together with the University of Gothenburg, the Tenants' Association and other partners and Merging- integration for immigrants" together with, among others, the University of Gothenburg and the French architectural firm "Quatorze")

Local housing and integration policies for refugees: Exploring policy success and failure in the implementation of two contrasting municipal projects in Sweden

Alexandra Bousiou, University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies. Sara Brorström, University of Gothenburg, Department of Business Administration. Andreas Dietrich, University of Gothenburg, Department of Business Administration. Olga Stepanova, University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies. Andrea Spehar, University of Gothenburg, Department of Political Science.

The local turn of migration governance has emphasized the important role of municipalities in initiating and implementing both housing and integration policies, especially after the raise of refugee arrivals of 2015 in Europe. The resulting local governance, especially in rather decentralized states like Sweden is characterized by increased divergence. The factors leading to this divergence and more importantly to policy success or failure remain underexplored. We engage with the question of what makes a municipal refugee housing project successful especially in relation to integration by looking at two cases in two different Swedish municipalities. Sällbö in Helsingborg and Askimsviken in Gothenburg are both cases of publicly organized housing for integration but they have profoundly divergent assumptions on what is integration and who needs integration. Although the institutional context is similar, the specific goals, tools and implementation is different as well as the assessments regarding the success of the projects. The one is characterized by all involved stakeholders, inhabitants, and the media as a failure while the other is recognized by all as a success. Housing and integration are increasingly discussed in tandem both in research and in policy. We are interested in understanding how housing and migrant integration policies are framed and implemented at the local level and with what effects. We contribute at the blooming literature of the local turn of migration governance and at a policy area which is highly contested

Housing as an empowering springboard for refugees' integration? Innovative housing experiences in 4 European cities.

Morena Cuconato, Department of Educational Studies, University of Bologna.

Studying refugees' integration through housing represents a complex and multivariate challenge. This contribution presents a qualitative analysis through local case studies on innovative housing projects *intentionally* pursuing integration goals. Starting from the assumption that integration is a two-ways and multifactorial process, multifunctional cases were analysed in four European cities (Bologna, Lion, Goteborg, Paris and Valencia) which go beyond the mere provision of housing solutions and offered different typologies of support to their beneficiaries' integration within the local social fabric. The selected projects offer housing services as a precondition to facilitate their beneficiaries' engagement with activities aimed at the development of new social skills intended not only to their eventual access to the labour market or training but also to the local community as a whole, namely by facilitating positive and regular interactions between beneficiaries and local citizens. Methodology and finding are proposed, showing that housing projects claiming to be innovative had to struggle with similar problems, concerning both structural and individual obstacles

Justice in local planning strategies for refugees' housing? Narratives on sustainable housing in Sweden (via zoom)

Madeleine Eriksson, Department of geography, Umeå University. Eva Wikström, Department of social work, Umeå University.

Housing for refugees is a contested issue within and between European nations. Sweden, like other nations, struggle to meet the needs for adequate housing and to maintain the prerequisites for integration. Drawing on qualitative interviews with local politicians, officials and the civil society, this study critically investigates municipal housing integration strategies and related spatial planning strategies of a medium-sized Swedish municipality. In this paper we argue for the importance of understanding and questioning different equality regimes employed in planning at different times and contexts. We show how views on justice have consequences for how policy makers view redistribution of resources, thus, how they prioritize investments in housing, but also how social sustainability is perceived and articulated.

Professionals and volunteers supporting exiled persons. Clashes and alliances in the field of accommodation and housing in France

Guillaume Negri, Emmanuelle Maunaye, Patricia Loncle, École des hautes études en santé publique, University of Rennes

In France, the migration policy sector is the responsibility of the State (Fischer & Hamidi, 2016), with undersized (Léon & Penna, 2019; Slama, 2015), underfunded, and particularly harsh policies (Halluin-Mabillot, 2012). In this context, local authorities can develop their own flexibility (Pinson & Offner, 2021) by complementing or compensating State action and its shortcomings. Implementing these local policies relies upon associations (Bourgois & Lièvre, 2019; Hamidi & Paquet, 2019; Pette, 2014), which are very diverse. The associations can be placed on a continuum, from highly-institutionalised ones — such as State operators working with people entitled to a certain number of rights, and relying on traditional social work (Demazière & Gadéa, 2009) — to weakly-institutionalised ones that receive little to no public subsidy, tend to work with rejected asylum seekers, and depend on volunteers. Between these two extremes lie more hybrid associations. This context brings the following question: in the local implementation of migration policies, how do professionals and volunteers cooperate and manage (or not) to coordinate responses to support exiled persons? This contribution is based on two ongoing research projects on accommodation and housing for exiled people, including about 60 interviews carried out in Rennes and its metropolitan area with a diversity of stakeholders (from State representatives to exiled persons). With our communication, we propose a detailed analysis of the local situation and of the system of public and collective action in this field. It is structured into three points: an inventory of the professional and voluntary actors; an analysis of their profiles and practices; and a study of the relationships developed.

Precarity, status and the organisation of housing

Klara Öberg, Halmstad University.

As a response to what has been called "the summer of migration" in 2015 legal policy changes regarding migration legislation, asylum system and reception of refugees took place in Sweden. In this paper the focus is primarily on the experience of precarity in relation to status, housing and home making among migrants. A comparative perspective is applied on before and after the legal turn from permanent residence permits to temporary residence permits and the Settlement Act (2016) that made it mandatory for municipalities to receive refugees and organize housing. The organization of housing resulted in a multitude of solutions in different municipalities, some of them hostile and unwelcoming. Apart from the individual experience the consequences from those changes can be understood as a general turn of governance

towards particularism from a long period of Swedish political and ideological values of universalism in relation to the reception of refugees (see Emilsson & Öberg 2021 for a discussion on this).

The aim is to discuss different experiences of precarity pre- and post the changes in legislation as well as of inducing factors of precarity. The paper exemplifies with interviews about housing with asylum seekers and irregular migrants pre- and post-2016 when the legal changes had been implemented. “Precarity”, “hyper-precarity” and being “unfree” are concepts traditionally more commonly used in relation to labour precarity. Theoretically this paper contributes to a discussion of a more complex understanding of precarity and housing.

Boskola – evictions by other means

Mauricio Rogat, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg.

While the state manages border and asylum policies, it is on the city level that migrant resettlement initiatives take place (Soederberg, 2019). With this in mind, this paper explores the municipal intra-state eviction schemes that have emerged in the wake of the Swedish state’s recently introduced migrant resettlement law.

The “long summer of migration in 2015” (Hess et al., 2017) coincided with a shortage of affordable housing in Sweden, particularly in metropolitan regions like Stockholm. To alleviate some pressure on the housing situation in these regions, the government and the parliament enacted the Settlement Act in 2016 to distribute the accommodation responsibility more equally in the country. Still, the new law engendered a variety of temporary housing solutions, accompanied by removal practices, to cope with the new law while avoiding interfering with the increasingly privatised local housing market. This paper focuses on the so-called *boskolor* [dwelling schools], which officially intended to support migrants with resettlement but resulted in further displacement and forced mobility.

The paper builds primarily on participant observations of municipal assistance in the search for a new home vis-à-vis the bureaucratic routines concerning short-term housing leases for migrants. It discusses the *boskola* as an institutionalisation of evictions by other means that engenders a state of “evictability” (van Baar, 2017) among status holders.

Housing, integration and space. A comparative study of two temporary refugee housing initiatives in Sweden with contrasting outcomes

Olga Stepanova, University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies. Andreas Dietrich, University of Gothenburg, Department of Business Administration. Alexandra Bousiou, University of Gothenburg, School of Global Studies. Sara Brorström, University of Gothenburg, Department of Business Administration. Andrea Spehar, University of Gothenburg, Department of Political Science.

Housing is at the core of social integration of refugees (Kohlbacher, J. 2020; Aigner, 2018; Borevi & Bengtsson, 2015). In cases where refugees are offered housing solutions, e.g., temporary municipal housing or collaborative housing that is shaped by the concept of intercultural co-living, or other public housing solutions, the social integration is usually reported as a success. This is partly because availability of housing for refugees as such may already be considered a success, see e.g. studies that describe refugees exclusion from and struggles to access housing, (e.g., Adam, F., Föbker, S., et al 2020 (check); Weidinger, T., & Kordel, S. (2020); Kohlbacher, J. (2020); Bolzoni, M., Gargiulo, E., & Manocchi, M. (2015).

In architecture, urban planning, and psychology and health literature the concept of space and its importance for people's well being is well known (Sampson, R., & Gifford, S. M., 2010; Dyck, I., & Dossa, P., 2007; Kale, A., 2019; Ziersch, A., & Due, C., 2018). In housing literature space is often referred to in its geographical or public meaning/connotation, e.g., public outdoor space (parks, squares) (e.g., Tsavdaroglou, C., 2018), rather than public indoor space, also sometimes in a more structuralist spirit. Although there are multiple studies that focus on the importance of housing for refugee integration, only few focus on the relational (post-structuralist) aspects of housing. For example, cases from Amsterdam where the importance of social and cultural connections in collaborative housing is emphasized (Czischke, D., & Huisman, C. J. (2018), a study from Vienna, by Kohlbacher, J. (2020) that highlights the paramount importance of social ties within and between the community with similar and different cultural backgrounds (refugees, host community), from Antwerp, Belgium (Mahieu, R., & Van Caudenberg, R., 2020) with examples of strengthened social ties and therefore social integration into a host community in case of cohabitation of young refugees and locals.

However, very few of papers look deeper into the preconditions for favorable outcomes for social integration of refugees through different housing solutions, halting in their analysis on the general notions of meaningful encounters with the local people (and other refugees too) (e.g., Huizinga, R. P., & Van Hoven, B., 2018 with a study on everyday geographies of belonging: Syrian refugee experiences in the Northern Netherlands conclude, among other things, that "Belonging emerges in everyday places through social encounters and interaction with others.").

In this paper, we aim to deepen this discussion by focusing on the role of space/room in housing for integration of refugees. We further aim to better understand the role of (indoor) space/room in enabling or impeding relational aspects of refugee housing and their implications for social integration of refugees. Only very few recent studies discuss integration and housing from the perspectives of space (some of them only indirectly). Some attempts were made by e.g. Boccagni, P. (2016) who maps domestic spaces of refugees; Valentine, G., Sporton, D., & Nielsen, K. B. (2009) discuss the importance of being in place for the sense of security, attachment and belonging, Boccagni, P. (2014) offers a discussion of migrants every day practices of home-making, and house-building, he is one of the few scholars who addresses materiality that underlies the home experience of migrants; Willems, S., De Smet, H., & Heylighen,

A. (2020) problematize a balance between privacy and connectedness in housing for refugees. Thus, by our study we contribute to fill this gap and look deeper into the role of indoor space in refugee housing for social integration.

This we do by comparing two cases of temporary housing for refugees in Sweden, a collective housing SällBo, Helsingborg, framed by the concept of intercultural co-living (refugees and host community members), and temporary housing for refugees only in Askimsviken, Göteborg. Despite having the same goal to promote and stimulate social integration of refugees these initiatives had opposite outcomes and contrasting contexts in terms of indoor space and other material aspects.