



Course Title	Metropolitan Studies – “My Home is not for Sale!” Rethinking Berlin’s Housing Question
Category	Metropolitan Studies & Urban Development
Class Time	Session III: August 22 th – September 2 nd 2016
Course Level	Master (graduate) and Ph.D. students in all relevant disciplines who are interested in the various aspects of Urban Geography and Metropolitan Studies and who have a strong interest in sociological, cultural, geographical, urban, economic and environmental topics.
Course Language	All classes will be conducted in English.
ECTS	4 ECTS (40 contact hours)
Instructor	Ms. Carolin Genz, M.A.
Course-related department / Faculty	Dept. of Geography (Cultural and Social Geography)

Course Description

Berlin is considered to be a "tenants city " with relatively low cost housing options. However, recent developments show increasing foreign property investment and the sale of public property by the city. At the same time more and more activists rise to reclaim their right to the city and create new forms of collaborative cultures. The questions about affordable housing and alternative spaces away from a capitalist logic are central for contemporary Berlin and its development. The "Housing Question" has become a competitive field of the urban and the production of space.

How do we want to live in the future? How can we create affordable living space in the long term? How do we provide opportunities for self-determination and new cooperative ways of living? Engaging with scholars, designers, architects, artists and activists the Summer School will discuss Berlin's housing challenges and investigate new modes of transdisciplinary discourse and research.

Research Perspective and Methods

Urban space is one of the central research fields of Anthropology, which understands cities as social laboratories where social and cultural developments are initiated and condensed. Nevertheless, Urban Anthropology depends on the views of other disciplines like historical and social sciences, architecture, city planning, urban design and arts. To work with people from different disciplines is always enriching to find blind

spots in one's own research perspectives and to develop new modes of transdisciplinary discourse and research. The conceptual idea of the Summer School at the Georg Simmel Center for Metropolitan Studies is based on the idea of an international and interdisciplinary research exchange and to open the scholarly examination of urban phenomena to a wider audience.

The Summer School will focus on an ethnographic perspective on urban phenomena - methodologically and theoretically. During the course we will focus on the political debates, the grassroots movements and the practices of the everyday life of different actors in this field and how they cause, effect and influence the dynamics of urban societies and thereby shape the housing question.

To develop the questions and topics of the Summer School and to bring together the different perspectives, actors and the complexity of the housing question we will approach different thematic theme blocks: (1) Mapping the Housing Crises, (2) Grassroots Movements and Participation, (3) Political and Urban Planning Strategies, (4) a Referendum on a New Housing Policy, (5) the artist and architecture perspective. During the course we will review academic key literature, among others, on the production of space (Lefebvre), spatial practice (De Certeau) and political participation (Arnstein).

To explore the complexities of the field as well as the discourse of the housing question we will work with participatory research methods, such as participant observations, field notes, mental mappings, discourse analysis and interviews in a format of a small case study. Therefore an actor-network-mapping is necessary to figure out who is in/visible. On a methodological scale we will develop new mapping methods as an ethnographical tool together with artists and architects and ask for the roll of design with regard to the questions of the Summer School.

The Summer School wants to take the chance to exchange interdisciplinary views on the current developments of urban restructuring measures as they are being debated in Berlin right now. We will discuss the theoretical approaches of urban studies and take the chance to consider the problems of urban development.

Course Objective

The Summer School includes lectures from invited speakers, discussions with activists, urban planners, artists and architects as well as topical tours and excursions. These contributions offer insights into the housing question of Berlin and inform about key aspects of Berlin's development as well as on the current political debates and the urban discourse. This perspective will help the participants to have a subsequent discussion forum to develop a deep understanding of specific issues and to discuss contemporary urban development.

The Summer School is planning to feature an exhibition visit, a film screening, urban excursions, an exclusive guided visit of generally inaccessible buildings, discussions

with local activists and a real estate agent, as well as a city tour guided by homeless people for a multi-perspective view on the issue.

With these perspectives, different theoretical approaches, and empirical methods the Summer School will give the participants the opportunity to develop insights into an exciting field, which has a growing relevance in other cities all over the world. These questions about the production of space, urban development and housing offer the possibility to a subsequent and sustainable engagement with the future of urban housing.

Required Textbook

Reading materials will be provided online prior to the commencement of the course.

Reading(s)/ Reference(s)

Due to the interdisciplinary approach we will read texts from different disciplines: among other things Urban Anthropology, Ethnology, Geography, Sciences of Planning, Urban Sociology, etc.

Detailed information coming will be available shortly.

Course Requirements/ Evaluation

Motivation letter: about one page in English
Language skills: English B2

In order to be granted 4 ECTS, students are required to

- participate actively in all classes,
- to prepare a mini case study

A minimum of 80% class attendance is required.

Class Schedule

Academic lessons:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Excursions
- Fieldwork

20 hours per week (Monday through Thursday)

Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: March 2016

In addition to your academic lessons you can choose from our cultural and leisure program about twice a week (e.g. theatre and/ or open-air cinema, guided tours, Potsdam excursion, picnic).

"My home is not for sale!" Rethinking Berlin's Housing Question

Monday, August 22	Tuesday, August 23	Wednesday, August 24	Thursday, August 25
Introduction	Mapping the Housing Crisis	Transition of Urban Living	Political and Urban Planning Strategies
<p>9.15-10 o'clock Introduction at the Georg Simmel Centre for Metropolitan Studies (GSZ) and International Office</p> <p><i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>10.15-12 o'clock Getting to know each other and Introduction Lecture "Berlin in the Housing Crisis?"</p> <p><i>Lunch Break</i></p> <p>13-15 o'clock Site visit "Berlin Townhouses" and visit to the exhibition "Berlin City Models"</p>	<p>9.15-10 o'clock Connecting Theory and Practice - Mapping the Housing System Guest Lecture: Diana Lucas-Drogan (Architect and Mapping Artist)</p> <p><i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>10.45-12 o'clock Group Exercise and Case Studies</p> <p><i>Lunch Break</i></p> <p>13-15 o'clock "Taking the Loop" - Berliner Ringbahn (railway ring) and site visit inner and outer city neighborhood</p>	<p>9.15-10 o'clock The Transition of Urban Living in Berlin, Guest Lecture: tba</p> <p><i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>10.45-12 o'clock Guest Lecture: "Migration and the Right to the City" by Dr. Ulrike Hamann (Sociologist, Berlin Institute for Migration and Integration Research (BMI) & Activist, Kotti & Co)</p> <p><i>Lunch Break</i></p> <p>13-15 o'clock Site Visit "Ackerstraße" Berlin-Mitte, Berlin Wall Memorial</p>	<p>9.15-10 o'clock Review of academic literature and perspectives of the Senate Department for Urban Development of Berlin</p> <p><i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>10.45-12 o'clock Connecting Theory and Case Studies, Presentation of next week's workshop</p> <p><i>Lunch Break</i></p> <p>13-15 o'clock Site Visit Tempelhofer Feld</p>
Monday, 29	Tuesday, August 30	Wednesday, August 31	Thursday, September 1
Grassroots Movements and the Struggle for Participation	Alternatives to the Housing Crisis?	Research Workshop	Summary of the Course
<p>9.15-10 o'clock Strategies and Network Practices - Grassroots Movements in Berlin (Filmscreening: "Mietrebellen")</p> <p><i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>10.45-12 o'clock Guest Lecture: "Development of Berlin's Housing Crisis and the Right to Housing" by Dr. Andrej Holm (Sociologist and Urban Researcher, HU Berlin)</p> <p><i>Lunch Break</i></p> <p>13-15 o'clock Site Visit Protest Movements</p>	<p>9.15-10 o'clock Tenement Syndicates and Re-communalization?</p> <p><i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>10.45-12 o'clock Common Goods and Situational Urbanism - Site visit "Ex-Rotaprint" (Berlin-Wedding)</p> <p><i>Lunch Break</i></p> <p>13-15 o'clock Site Visit "Alternative House Projects"</p>	<p>9.15-15 o'clock Collaborative research workshop discussion of individual research proposals and methodological approaches</p> <p>Discussion about the output of the Summer School and the online visualization of the mapping material</p> <p><i>Including Coffee & Lunch Break</i></p>	<p>9.15-10 o'clock Group work: Recap of the course content and looking forward</p> <p><i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>10.45-12 o'clock Reflecting the role of the research(ers), designers, artists, architects in urban change</p> <p><i>Lunch Break</i></p> <p>13-15 o'clock Evaluation (Outdoor Venue)</p>