

# Call for Papers for the 18<sup>th</sup> Swiss Geoscience Meeting

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Convener: Hanna Hilbrandt, University of Zurich, Social and Cultural Geography

This panel is part of the stream “Cities, Regions, Economies”, 07.11.2020

[https://geoscience-meeting.ch/sgm2020/program/symposia\\_description/#title23](https://geoscience-meeting.ch/sgm2020/program/symposia_description/#title23)

## At home: the domestic city in times of crisis

In the last decade, a substantial volume of literature has documented a housing crisis of global dimensions (Rolnik, 2019; Madden and Marcuse 2016). This work has explored the tremendous vulnerability of renters in face of capitalist urbanization, yet it largely focuses on the institutional and politico-economic relations that work to put affordable rental space out of reach for lower-income tenants. As a result, the effects of this crisis on the home as a social, cultural, material and economic environment remain largely underexplored. To be sure, geographies of home (Dowling 2006; Brickell 2012) have long brought critical questions concerning the lived experience of housing to the fore. Yet while these remain on the sideline of academic housing debates, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the relevance of the home as a site of geographical research, particularly as this pandemic intersects with the capitalist housing crisis.

Over the past weeks, urbanites across the globe have experienced the domestic world as a place of labor, learning, withdrawal and care in unknown intensity and bodily ways. With the lock-down of (most) urban live, the pandemic not only displays the tremendous difference in the ways in which residents experience the home along multiple axes difference, it also widely exacerbates existing inequalities. In this way, the crisis renders visible the economic and political stakes of the home as a place of urban and domestic injustice. This conjuncture calls for a reinvigorated debate about the contemporary conditions of the home in the city and the city as home. The session calls for papers that discuss the lived experience of housing in times of urban crisis.

We invite submissions that address the following themes, or other issues pertinent to critical geographies of home:

- The experiences of people living in temporary, informal or sub-standard housing as well as of being unhoused and coincident experiences of risk, fear and impacts on health and wellbeing;
- Oppressive and frequently gendered relations of power within the home, domestic injustice, housing violence;
- Housing conditions of particularly vulnerable groups including refugees, single mothers, the elderly;
- Questions of identity, stigma, belonging and subjectivity related to the domestic world and to being at home in the city;
- The politics of domestic life, i.e. the home as a sphere of state regulation, socio-legal perspectives on the home;
- Struggles to overcome the crisis of the home, everyday coping strategies, cooperative or alternative practices of home-making;
- The material quality and standards of housing, e.g. living with vacancy, in deteriorating housing stock or conditions of overcrowding;
- The home as a site of (reproductive) labor;
- Ethics and methods of studying the ‘black box’ of the home.

Please email your paper proposals (250-300 word abstract) or queries to Hanna Hilbrandt ([hanna.hilbrandt@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:hanna.hilbrandt@geo.uzh.ch)) until the **30th of June 2020**.