

International Research Workshop

The Contested Provisioning of Care and Housing: Insights from Karl Polanyi

The workshop draws on an international research project comparing the provision of care and housing¹. In contemporary capitalist societies both are undergoing profound changes: on the one hand we are witnessing a market shift towards enforced commodification of care and housing, on the other hand there is a community shift leading to their decommodification. In capitalist societies both, market-, and community-based modes and forms of provisioning of care and housing, are embedded in relations of dominance and inequality as well as their contestation.

Karl Polanyi is one of the key inspirations to reflect on contemporary transformations of provisioning of care and housing. The workshop will explore insights from Polanyi by enriching current debates on the transformations of care and housing with four of his concepts: (1) his substantive understanding of the economy, defined broadly as the organization of livelihoods, (2) his four economic principles of (market) exchange, reciprocity, redistribution and householding, (3) his concept of fictitious commodity and the related research on the commodification of goods (like housing) and services (like care) which have not been produced for exchange on markets and (4) his analysis of a double movement of marketization (movement) and social protection (countermovement) that characterizes market societies.

The workshop deepens these debates by focusing on the following questions:

- What are commonalities and particularities of care and housing regimes in different European cities? How can Polanyian concepts enrich regime analyses?
- What are commonalities and particularities of the double movement, of marketization and social protection in care and housing?
- How does the sector-specific composition of the principles of economic behavior and dynamics of the double movement impact on relations of dominance and inequality as well as their contestation in the field of care and housing?

The workshop strives to bring together experts from both research areas, to exchange perspectives on care and housing and to discuss how Polanyi's work can inspire the investigation of their contested provisioning.

¹ DOC-team 114 „The Contested Provisioning of Care and Housing“ at the Johannes Kepler University Linz and the WU Vienna/Austria, Applicants and PhD-Candidates: Benjamin Baumgartner, Valentin Fröhlich, Florian Pimminger, Hans Volmary, Co-Applicants and Supervisors: Brigitte Aulenbacher, Andreas Novy, funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (08/2021-07/2024). <https://www.contestedcareandhousing.com/>

Program of the Research Workshop

Wednesday, 04 May 2022 ([TC.2.03 Lecture Room](#))



16:00 – 16:15 Welcome

16:15 – 16:30 Introduction to Doc-Team 114

16:30 – 18.30 Lectures & Discussion: Polanyian Perspectives on Care and Housing:

Brigitte Aulenbacher (Linz): “Improvement or Habitation? The Great Transformation of Care”

Roland Atzmüller (Linz): “Freedom's Utter Frustration”

Ewald Engelen (Amsterdam): “Housing Crisis & Foundational Economy – The Dutch Case”

Andreas Novy (Vienna): “Spatializing Polanyi's Economic Principles”

Chair: *Fabienne Décieux* (Vienna)

Thursday, 05 May 2022 ([AD.0.114 Conference Room 1](#))

09.00 – 10:30

Lectures & Discussion: Polanyian Perspectives on Care and Housing Regimes: An International Comparison

Chair: *Brigitte Aulenbacher* (Linz)

09:00 – 09:45

Valentin Fröhlich & Florian Pimminger (Linz): “Senior Care Provision between Market and Community: Contested Care Regimes in Amsterdam, Budapest and Vienna”

Comment: *Dóra Gabriel* (Budapest)

09:45 – 10:30

Benjamin Baumgartner & Hans Volmary (Vienna): “A Housing Regime Framework for Comparing Amsterdam, Budapest & Vienna”

Comment: *Katalin Amon* (Budapest)

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 13:00

Lectures and Panel Discussion: Polanyian Perspectives on Care and Housing Regimes and Social Inequalities

Anna Safuta (Bremen): “Making sense of contemporary varieties of paid domestic work using Polanyi's socioeconomic principles”

- Eric Clark* (Lund): “Marketization of Housing in Denmark and Sweden: a Polanyian Analysis”
- Klaus Wegleitner* (Graz): “Caring Communities: Against the political instrumentalization, privatization and commodification of care?”
- Richard Lang* (St. Pölten): “Collaborative Housing and the Challenge of Social Inclusion”
- Chair: *Valentin Fröhlich* (Linz) & *Hans Volmary* (Vienna)

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:30

Lectures and Panel Discussion: Polanyian Perspectives on the Market- and Community-Based Provisioning of Care and Housing

- Christian Berndt* (Zurich): “Bringing life’s work to market: Performance struggles and incomplete commodification on the margins”
- Flavia Martinelli* (Reggio Calabria): “The Transformation of care in the Neoliberal Regime from (virtual) right to stratified provision. Problematising community-based services in a commodified context”
- Fanni Dés* (Budapest): “Women and Housing. Housing Solution Responding to Women’s Special Needs”
- Gerlinde Gutheil-Knopp-Kirchwald* (Vienna): “Housing Associations – The Viennese Case”

Chair: *Benjamin Baumgartner* (Vienna) & *Florian Pimminger* (Linz)

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break

17:00 – 18:30 Concluding Discussion

- Margaret Haderer* (Vienna)
Julie Froud (Manchester)
Petra Ezzeddine (Prague)

Chair: *Andreas Novy* (Vienna)

DOC-team 114: “The Contested Provisioning of Care and Housing”

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