

Radical engagements with dwelling precarity

David Kelly and Libby Porter

In the wake of the pandemic and ~15 years of post-GFC neoliberal reform, eradication logics in housing are intensifying around the world, from the arrival of 'generation rent', to the acceleration of new forms of homelessness, incarceration and landlessness. At work are distinct contemporary formulations of racial banishment (Roy 2019) and an emerging condition of displaceability (Yiftachel 2020). Concurrent processes witness how: the financialization of housing and its digitisation is fuelling the growth of an increasingly vulnerable and unmoored rentier class (Aalbers 2017; Rolnik 2019; Sadowski 2020); the criminalisation of poverty, homelessness and asylum seeking is leading to more punitive and performative forms of enforcing and arresting mobility (Crane, Elwood, and Lawson 2020; Davies and Isakjee 2019; De Genova and Roy 2020; Young and Petty 2019); and property regimes continually reify and innovate the dispossession of Indigenous peoples from traditional lands (Blatman-Thomas and Porter 2019).

This session seeks to platform the contemporary scholarship and political projects that wrestle with these dynamics and logics of contemporary dwelling experiences. It will bring together contributions that move to decolonise relations to land and housing through examination of where housing policy intersects with coloniality, carcerality, global finance, militarism, extraction, and urban revanchism. As a non-exhaustive guide, we suggest contributions that aim to explore:

- the material and affective expressions of adjustment to uncertain and inadequate dwelling situations
- uncanny and counterintuitive practices of refusal and endurance
- critical engagements with the 'state' and policy worlds that push beyond the normative evaluative frame
- activist praxis that takes First Nations sovereignty as a material primary objective
- accounts of community and solidarity under contemporary conditions of precarity
- theoretical and empirical engagements with new and old forms of carceral dwellings and abolitionist movements
- intersectional approaches to dwelling, including the experiences of LGBTQ+, Black, ethnic minority, people with disability, racialized and gendered communities
- critical/radical insights into the precarious dwelling situations of renters (public and private), homeless households, asylum seekers, people in custody, and communities hyper exposed to the climate emergency

This session supports relational dwelling approaches that allow for empirical and analytical connection to be made between social experiences of displacement, dispossession, incarceration and abandonment that are conventionally treated as separate or unrelated. Focusing on the lived experience of dwelling refuses the reification of rational policy evaluation and attends instead to the incoherence and messy assemblages of these experiences in order to theorise *with* actually-existing lived relations. We ask, what happens when the aspiration to dwell well — one that emanates from precarious dwellings — works to animate geographical policy and research?

