

IAG session proposal – sponsored by urban geography study group

Care infrastructures

Care involves "everything that we do to maintain, continue, and repair our world so that we can live in it as well as possible." (Fisher & Tronto 1990: 40). Care is made possible not only by the actions of individuals and groups, but also a variety of 'care infrastructures' - socio-technical webs where the various elements that enable care come together, even if uncomfortably (Power, 2019). In this session we will explore the range of infrastructures that facilitate care in cities, from the neighbourhood 'friendly fridge' to a city wide food banks network, from libraries to housing cooperatives, and from informal mutual aid associations to established welfare organisations. We invite papers that interrogate urban care infrastructures through empirical and/or conceptual perspectives, and offer new perspectives on their role in maintaining urban life 'as well as possible': when, where and how do urban care infrastructures emerge? What forms of care do they provide, by whom and for whom? How do care infrastructure impact on people, communities and cities? What resources and politics are needed to sustain and grow urban care infrastructure? And what are the theoretical and political possibilities of geographical research on care infrastructures?