

Title: Housing and its influence on the everyday lives of asylum seekers

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Housing and its influence on the everyday lives of asylum seekers

The question of housing for asylum seekers is high on the political agenda all over Europe. As states respond in different ways to the housing challenges posed by the arrival of asylum seekers, the debate on the pros and cons of different models for accommodation and organisation of housing continues. The workshop welcomes papers on how different solutions regarding housing and accommodation influence the everyday life of asylum seekers and refugees in countries such as, but not limited to, the Nordic countries.

However, in the debate and public evaluations of models for accommodation as well as in most research on the topic the perspectives and experiences of asylum seekers often remain rather marginalized. This workshop therefore welcomes contributions that focus on the everyday experiences of housing of asylum seekers, with particular emphasis on issues as processes of dwelling and home-making, feelings of agency, belonging and identity as well as experiences of housing insecurity and informal practices. We particularly invite contributions that explore these issues through creative, ethnographic or participatory methods.

In the workshop we wish to open up for discussions inspired by the following questions: What are the rationalities and scopes of different housing models for the reception of asylum seekers? What are their conditions of possibility and consequences for the actors in question? How does the housing contribute to the shaping of migrant experiences of dwelling and home-making? How do they convey feelings of identity and belonging? What methods (and theories) are fruitful for studying housing and immigration?