

23. Human Geographies: Cities, Regions, Economies

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Swiss Association for Geography (ASG)

TALKS:

- 23.1 *Alpermann H.*: Caring for place in times of uncertainty. Residential use for Halle-Neustadt's district center?
- 23.2 *Beveridge R., Koch P.*: Policies in and of the urban everyday
- 23.3 *Dagkoulis-Kyriakoglou M.*: The vicious circle of familism in housing during Covid-19 in Greece.
- 23.4 *Delz S.*: Accessibility, Affordability, Adequacy: A Co-operative Response to Address the Chronic Urban Emergency of Housing
- 23.5 *Glaser M., Althaus E., Christensen L.*: Geographies of Age – Older people's access to housing and to urban life
- 23.6 *Hesse M.*: Relational cities as city-state formations: challenges for policy & planning
- 23.7 *Hilbrandt H.*: Housing in the Margins: Urban Order and the State in Berlin's Allotment Gardens
- 23.8 *Oesch L.*: What do you mean by planning? When urban planning in the refugee camp is rendered invisible
- 23.9 *Paschek, F.*: Promoting cycling with/without/against the state
- 23.10 *Sangermani C.*: Homes of refugees: A Human-Landscape Relationship
- 23.11 *Seabold A., Cocco-Beltrame D., Grimaldi A.*: COVID-19 Response in Self-Built Urban Communities: Lessons from the Global South
- 23.12 *Sewardor E.*: 'God Knows His Children': How Ghanaian Migrants in Italy are Sensing COVID-19, Mediating Rituals and Sociospatial Urban Practices

23.5

Abstract for the submission to

The panel “At home: the domestic city in times of crisis” at the 18th Swiss Geoscience Meeting

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Geographies of Age – Older people's access to housing and to urban life

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Not only the home itself, but also access to urban life plays a central role if ‘aging in place’ is to succeed, according to WHO policies (WHO 2007). In recent studies we show that the residential area is of great importance as the centre of life in old age and that informal encounters in various public and semi-public spaces from the entrance area to the local pub play a very important role for mental and physical well-being in late life (Christensen and Glaser, 2019; Althaus and Birrer, 2019). Taken on their own, the many spontaneous encounters in the immediate living environment and in the neighbourhood may seem insignificant, but it is precisely in the sum total that they unfold their potential. Accordingly, the possibility of participating in social urban life should be given high priority and guaranteed by low-threshold offers and barrier-free access in financial, physical and social terms. If spaces of encounter, but also social measures to promote neighborhood networking are missing, loneliness can potentially become the downside of self-determined living. Due to the lockdown and quarantine conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic older people's access to urban life has been severely challenged, in some cases leading to precarious circumstances. The situation of many elderly people has worsened, and their social isolation has increased. We look into the impact of the crisis on the effectively lived everyday experiences in late life and discuss the necessary action strategies to improve the situation.