



Convenors: Cecilie Sachs Olsen and Olivia Sheringham, QMUL;
Richard Baxter, Birkbeck; Mel Nowicki, RHUL and Katie Beswick, University of Exeter.

'It's just very, very hard to deal with,' Quinn told me when I visited her. 'This is my home, this isn't just a council place where I live. They can only do it to me because I have nothing. I'm sure if they had their way they would kill us. I really believe that' (James Meek, 2014, *Where will we live?*).

The 'housing crisis', and its negative impact on lives across the globe, has escalated in recent years. As one of the most pertinent issues of our time, the housing crisis has been examined extensively in housing scholarship, which includes work on the US subprime mortgage market, neoliberal forms of regeneration, gentrification, homelessness, and the impacts of austerity on housing. While such research has been instrumental in enhancing understandings of the logics and processes of the housing crisis, the role of *home* has remained strikingly absent. Although a substantial body of work on home has emerged since the 1990s, especially within feminist scholarship, its interaction with housing studies has remained surprisingly limited. This is, in part, due to the continued devaluation of the domestic within housing studies, with home often positioned outside political and economic spheres. This lack of dialogue between housing and home omits the important role that home has to play in furthering our understanding of the housing crisis and its lived impact. Recent initiatives within art, performance and architecture illustrate how interactions between housing and home provide fruitful interdisciplinary experiments that combine affective registers with critical perspectives relating to representation and participation.

Bringing together theory and practice, this symposium invites academics, artists, performers, architects, planners, writers and activists to explore further the relationships between home and the housing crisis from various disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Emphasising home as a multi-dimensional and relational concept that encompasses the negotiation of complex and asymmetrical power relations, the symposium asks questions such as:

- What might taking home seriously add to current understandings of the housing crisis?
- How can research on home contribute to debates about the housing crisis, and vice-versa?
- Why have ideas of home remained comparatively marginalised in discourse about the housing crisis?
- What theoretical and practical developments need to be made?
- What are the political and pragmatic challenges of exploring home in the housing crisis?
- How can ideas of home inform housing activism?
- How might creative fields, such as arts and performance, contribute to developing our understanding of and resistance to the housing crisis?
- What work are arts practitioners engaged in that sheds light on the relationship between home and the housing crisis?

The symposium will open with a dialogue between Professor Alison Blunt (QMUL) and Professor Loretta Lees (University of Leicester). Academic researchers Professor Anne Varley (UCL), Dr Richard Baxter, Mel Nowicki and Ignacia Ossul (UCL), will then share their experiences of exploring the housing crisis through the lens of home across a variety of locations and socio-political contexts. An interactive performance session, led by Dr Katie Beswick and Cecilie Sachs Olsen, will take place in the afternoon, where participants will be presented with an alternative solution to the housing crisis and sent out in Hoxton to explore its feasibility. The day will end with provocations by scholars, artists and activists, including Professor Gill Perry (Open University), Torange Khonsari (public works), Dr Lisa Mckenzie (LSE) and artist Nadege Meriau. The symposium is free to attend with lunch provided, but places are limited. If you wish to attend please register at www.homeinhousingcrisis.eventbrite.com