

## Going Local: Negotiations of care & feminist urban struggles in Berlin

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Fall term 2022: 5 September – 9 December 2022

### CATEGORY

Urban Studies and Sociology

### COURSE STRUCTURE

3 contact hours à 45 min per week (14 weeks)

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

#### Time

Tuesday, 9:00 am – 11.30 am

#### Place

to be announced

### COURSE LANGUAGE

English

**Language requirements** (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)  
English B2

### TARGET GROUP

Humboldt Perspectives Study Abroad courses are designed for undergraduate students. Students should have an interest in feminist readings and urban theory with regards to the city of Berlin. In this course we will work with innovative methods and produce a podcast as a final assignment. Therefore, students should have an interest learning basic skills for audio recording and producing a podcast.

### CREDITS = 6 ECTS

All courses are accredited according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Registration on Moodle (HU's e-learning platform)

## in case of online classes

- Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC)
- Stable internet connection
- Software: Zoom (video/audio)
- *Recommended* hardware: external headset for better sound quality

### EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

**Preparation for lively discussions:** be on time, have at least the required readings completed, and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

**Assignments:** complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on the schedule including handing them over to the lecturer.

**Commitment:** pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers).

**Academic guidelines:** Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct.

**Attendance policy:** Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the lecturer.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course we will deal with current feminist urban struggles in Berlin, put them into a greater theoretical, historical and societal context and use concrete case studies for a better and more comprehensive understanding. The course covers topics such as the care & feminist city, housing, marginalized neighbourhoods, solidarity, postcolonial thoughts on the city. Therefore, students should have a general interest in feminist readings and urban theory. The classical classroom formats are largely replaced by more interactive and innovative formats in combination with field trips. The final assignment is a podcast about one or a combination of topics of the course. During the field trips student gather audio material so that the podcast serves not only as an engagement with the encountered urban issues, but also as a reflection.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The objective of this course is to equip students with an in-depth understanding of current feminist urban issues in Berlin, theoretically engage with the encountered case studies, and critically reflect on the topics.

### Knowledge

- Understand, describe and identify the core urban themes in Berlin
- Engage with theoretical framework of feminist geography and care
- Provide an overview of academic theoretical and empirical work about Berlin

### Academic/Transferable Skills

- Analyze, communicate and critically reflect on empirical examples found in Berlin
- Select relevant theories and empirical data to analyze topic-related questions
- Reflect on the encountered issues and develop an own understanding through producing a podcast as a final assignment

### Competencies

- Become familiar with the most recent academic work on Berlin
- Apply the aforementioned research to identify

## **READINGS**

Angelika Gabauer, Sabine Knierbein, Nir Cohen, Henrik Lebuhn, Kim Trogal and Tihomir Viderman (2022): Care, Uncare, and the City. In: Gabauer, A. et. al. (eds): Care and the City. Encounters with Urban Studies. Routledge, pp. 3-14.

Atkinson, Rowland (2007): Ecology of Sound: The Sonic Order of Urban Space. Urban Studies 44, no. 10: 1905-1917

Birte Siim & Susi Meret (2021) Patterns of Reflective Solidarity and Migrant Resistance in Copenhagen and Berlin, Critical Sociology, 47:2,219-233. DOI:10.1177/0896920520944517

Lanz, Stephan (2014): Inclusion and Segregation in Berlin, the "Social City". In: Jeffry M. Diefendorf & Janet Ward (eds.): Transnationalism and the German City, pp. 55-71.

Marcuse, P. (2006): The Down Side Dangers in the Social City Program: Contradictory Potentials in German Social Policy. *German Politics & Society*, 24(4 (81)), 122-130.

Mayer, M. (2013): First world urban activism. In: *City*, 17(1), 5-19.

René Kreichauf & Margit Mayer (2021) Negotiating urban solidarities: multiple agencies and contested meanings in the making of solidarity cities, *Urban Geography*, 42:7,979-1002, DOI: 10.1080/02723638.2021.1890953

Ryan, J.R.(2004): Postcolonial Geographies. In: James S. Duncan, J.S., Johnson, N.C. & R.H. Schein (Eds.): *A Companion to Cultural Geography*, 469-484.

Soederberg, S. (2017) Governing stigmatised space: the case of the 'slums' of Berlin-Neukölln, *New Political Economy*, 22:5, 478-495.

## ASSIGNMENT INFO

### Workload and assignments

In order to be granted 6 ECTS, participants will be asked to

- actively attend all sessions (a minimum of 75% attendance is required for classroom and online sessions)
- prepare and revise the classroom/online sessions
- hand in the following **assignments**:
  - recordings of field trip
  - listen to the material and identify relevant passages
  - edit the audio material

Failure to fulfil one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

### Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of the above-mentioned assignments.

## YOUR INSTRUCTORS

**Sylvana Jahre** is a Research Associate and Lecturer at the Department of Geography at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. She is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Geography at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and her dissertation interrogates with the many ways urban policy frames migration and migrants. Furthermore she is a Research Associate in the project MAPURBAN

at Free University (FU) Berlin; and she is an Associate member in the graduate studies group of the CRC Refiguration of Spaces. Sylvana has studied Geography, Sociology and Urban Planning at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, the Technical University Berlin, the Lund University in Sweden and the University of Melbourne in Australia.

**Janina Dobrusskin** is Ph.D. student at the Department of Geography of Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany. As an associate of the Collaborative Research Center "Re-Figuration of Spaces" (CRC 1265), she conducts research in Germany and Singapore on the political role emotions and affects play in geographical imaginations. She finished her master degree in Urban Geography at Humboldt University Berlin and worked as a research assistant in initiating "Berlin's Competence and Advice Centre against Discrimination on the Housing Market". She is part of the editor's collective *kollektiv orangotango+*, that published "This is not an Atlas. A Global Collection of Counter-Cartographies" in 2018. In her research, she works on critical urban geography (social inequalities, housing, urban governance), on migration and border regimes, and feminist geography.

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## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1: General Introduction & Introduction to the Feminist City**

What is the feminist city?

### **Week 2: Introduction to Methodology: Sound & the City**

We engage theoretically and practically with sound as a methodology to study the city.

### **Week 3: Care & the City**

Theoretical Session

### **Week 4: Housing as Infrastructure of Care**

Theoretical Session

### **Week 5: Housing as Infrastructure of Care**

Field Trip

### **Week 6: Care for marginalized neighborhoods**

Theoretical Session

### **Week 7: Care for marginalized neighborhoods**

Field Trip

**Week 8: Listen to the feminist City**

Field trip: audio walk

**Week 9: Solidarity and Care**

Theoretical Session

**Week 10: Solidarity and Care**

Field Trip

**Week 11: Materiality of the City**

Field Trip

**Week 12: Archives as Care**

Theoretical Session

**Week 13: Archives as Care**

Field Trip

**Week 14: Final Session**

Final Discussion

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The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 30 March 2022