

## Seminar 14: Housing Systems and Homelessness (Room: TBD) - Chair: Nóra Teller, HU

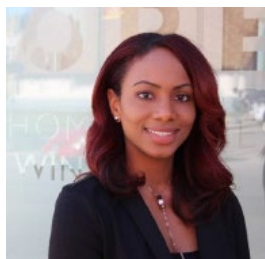
### Marie Cecile Kotyk, CA: Seeing in Colour: A Framework to Address Anti-Black Racism in Housing and Homelessness

This doctoral research focuses on raising awareness of the role systemic anti-Black racism plays in creating housing instability in Black communities and creating a framework to address anti-Black racism in the housing and homelessness sector. Utilizing a multi- method approach, including design science, Afrocentric, and autoethnographic research methodologies, this research conducts in- depth semi-structured interviews with eight Black individuals with lived/living experiences (BPWLE) in Calgary and nine Black key informants (KI) across Canada to better understand the impacts of systemic anti-Black racism. The interviews with BPWLE and KI highlighted the pervasiveness of anti-Black racism across sectors and the need for housing policies and practices to be grounded in equity and anti-oppression.

As a result of these interviews, a Black Housing Equity Framework (BHEF) was developed. The BHEF encompasses guiding principles aligned with the values and approaches of Black communities, as well as operational questions to

guide policymakers, housing practitioners and other stakeholders in developing equitable policies and practices. The BHEF is a crucial step towards recognizing and addressing the systemic anti-Black racism and discrimination that Black communities face when accessing and maintaining housing.

Presentation Description: Utilizing a multi-method approach oriented on lived experience, the doctoral research will present the unique stories of Black Canadians with lived/living experiences of housing instability, homelessness, and racism to raise awareness of the intersections between race and housing. It will discuss the results of semi-structured interviews with Black key informants who are experts in addressing systemic anti-Black racism in their field. Additionally, the presentation will introduce the Black Housing Equity Framework, which is based on Afrocentric guiding principles and includes a Black equity assessment tool. The first of its kind in Canada, this framework can help policymakers and housing practitioners address systemic anti-Black racism in their policies and practices, thus promoting equitable housing options and outcomes for Black Canadians.



*Dr. Marie Cecile Kotyk is a social planner and housing practitioner with 15 years of experience in the public and non-profit sectors. She specializes in designing and managing community development projects and conducting research to address spatial justice and racial inequities in the built environment. Her passion for social justice and racial equity led her to pursue her doctoral studies in the Doctor of Design program at the University of Calgary's School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture. Her research led to the development of a Black Housing Equity Framework, the first of its kind in Canada. This framework is designed to address systemic anti-Black racism and promote equitable housing policies and practices. Cecile's research has received national and international recognition, providing her with opportunities to present at conferences and educate practitioners on how to bring about*

*restorative justice in the planning and housing sectors. In 2023, she received the Alberta Human Rights and Multiculturalism scholarship at the doctoral level for her research.*

*Cecile is the founder and principal consultant at Kotyk Consulting, an assistant professor, and SAPL design justice research chair at the University of Calgary's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture (SAPL).*

## Jan Weckwerth, DE: Precarious Housing as a Gateway into and out of Homelessness

The deregulation and commodification of the housing market in Germany has led to a substantial shortage of affordable housing. The drivers of this current housing crisis are already well-known factors such as the withdrawal of the state and the decline in social housing. Furthermore, real-estate companies have recently tapped into the low-price segment as a lucrative business model. These developments not only result in the gentrification of previously lower-income neighborhoods, they also cause an increasing competition at the bottom end of the housing market and, thus, to further displacement processes of the – from a (socio-)economic perspective – most 'unattractive' groups of tenants into the most precarious housing situations or even into homelessness.

Such devastating consequences of housing policy affect not only metropolitan areas, but also smaller cities. In the case of the medium-sized German university town of Göttingen, these are particularly evident in three run-down and deprived 'sink estates' in which poor and marginalized people are spatially concentrated.

This study explores the reproduction mechanisms of the precarious housing status in relation to homelessness on the basis of semi-structured interviews with experts from the city administration and local assistance systems as well as with (former) residents who (mostly) have experienced homelessness. A multidimensional and multifaceted "denigration of place" (Wacquant/Slater/Borges Pereira 2014) on the part of various actors and institutions is revealed. These properties function as a gateway into and out of homelessness: they are often the last step before homelessness and usually the first – and only – option after a period of homelessness. This further leads to dependency on the rental situation and undermines individual resistance and collective organization. People can hardly escape from this environment and are ultimately kept in precarious living conditions.



*Jan Weckwerth is a postdoctoral scholar at the Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany. He received his Ph.D. from the Alpen-Adria-University of Klagenfurt, Austria. His research interests include social inequality, in particular class and lifestyle analyses, as well as urban sociology, housing and homelessness, the sociology of professions, and the sociology of culture and film.*