

Inget riktigt hem

Kvinnors erfarenheter av den tillfälliga bostadsmarknaden i Stockholm

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Akademisk avhandling för avläggande av filosofie doktorsexamen i etnologi vid Stockholms universitet som offentlig kommer att försvaras fredagen den 15 november 2024 kl. 10.00 i Hörsal 9, hus D, Universitetsvägen 10D.

Abstract

No real home. Women's experiences of the temporary housing market in the urban landscape of Stockholm

The lack of secure housing has increasingly become an urban phenomenon around the world. This book is situated in a time of growing housing precarity manifested in the uneven distribution of housing, where the waiting time for apartments are long and income requirements exclude people from the regular, rented and privately owned housing market. This thesis approaches the gendered dimension of urban living conditions and the problematic expectations and conditions that not the least women face while waiting for their own home, centering the question of what it means to be a woman in an insecure housing situation. Based on in-depth interviews, this ethnological thesis examines women's experiences in the temporary housing market in Stockholm, with the ambition to provide a deeper understanding and insight into what it means to navigate and deal with the everyday challenges that housing precarity entails and its gendered dimensions. The theoretical framework combines feminist phenomenology and theories about temporality and alienation, emphasizing relationships, invisible borders and tensions that materialize between female autonomy, housing, and private life. Taking a historical account on the housing market in Sweden, this thesis problematizes how the housing market in Stockholm has been and continues to be characterized by shortages. Here, the concept of housing "lines" allows us to understand the pathways that exist between the expectations of adulthood, urban living conditions, and longing for a home. While the city often carries notions and expectations of liberation, career development, and autonomy, the findings show how female tenants balance between the expected free, independent, urban normative femininity and at the same time parry the risk of sexual violence in the temporary housing market. This involves the risk of being exposed to molestation which leads to limited mobility and spaces of maneuvering in securing housing. Through digital observations, by examining digital housing platforms and notions of the well-behaved tenant, this thesis makes visible how gendered dimensions of women's bodies, care and emotions are rendered an exchange value in the sublet housing market and testify how housing conditions go beyond the spatial, temporal, and economic. A well-behaved, white, feminine body therefore becomes a symbolic capital that can be used in exchange for urban housing and temporary stability. Investigating women's experiences of a precarious housing market is motivated by a desire to understand their experiences and needs, with the ambition of contributing with perspectives and voices that are rarely heard in the housing debate. A prominent finding of the thesis is how housing and the desire for one's own home manifests a desirable independence while at the same time being challenged by culturally characterized and narrow norms about femininity, adulthood, and home ownership.

Keywords: *Temporary housing market, feminist phenomenology, alienation, housing pathways, chrononormativity, housing precarity, Stockholm, ethnography, Sweden.*

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