

GIB Lecture Series: Räumliche Gerechtigkeit und Große Transformation

Dienstag 31.01.2023 | 16:15 - 17:45 | GEO II, H8

Dr. Caitlin Robinson

(University of Bristol, UK; UK Research and Innovation (UKRI))

Spatialising restorative energy justice: Mapping energy efficiency in the English private rental sector

Energy efficiency is integral to a person having access to a high-quality ambient environment - the conditions in their home that allow them to be comfortable, to be well, and to thrive (Bouzarovski and Robinson, 2022). Energy efficiency has been framed as a form of restorative justice (Lewis, Hernández and Geronimus, 2020) and remains one of the most equitable, just and long-term of the mechanisms via which to tackle the interrelated energy and cost-of-living crises that have magnified in European countries, especially the UK. Like many countries globally, the private rental sector plays an increasingly significant role in the UK housing sector, owing at least in part to intergenerational wealth inequalities, housing unaffordability, and the privatisation of social housing. The sector also contains some of the poorest quality and least energy efficient properties despite being home to many of the most vulnerable households. Subsequently, tackling energy efficiency in private rental properties is key to addressing the interrelated challenges of (energy) poverty and climate change. Yet, to date, data restrictions have limited our understanding of the spatialities of energy efficiency in the sector. In this talk we will analyse new, property-scale energy efficiency data using spatial data science approaches. Detailed characteristics for approximately 4 million properties will be combined with social and demographic data to classify the quality of private rental properties across cities in England and Wales. We will explore patterns and drivers of social and spatial inequalities in housing, showing that domestic energy landscapes are highly spatially fragmented across and within cities. We will also reflect on how potential policy mechanisms could build on principles of restorative justice to address inequalities in energy efficiency.

This talk is based on research from the UKRI funded Mapping Ambient Vulnerabilities project.