



# FEMINIST CITIES

## The Interactive Map

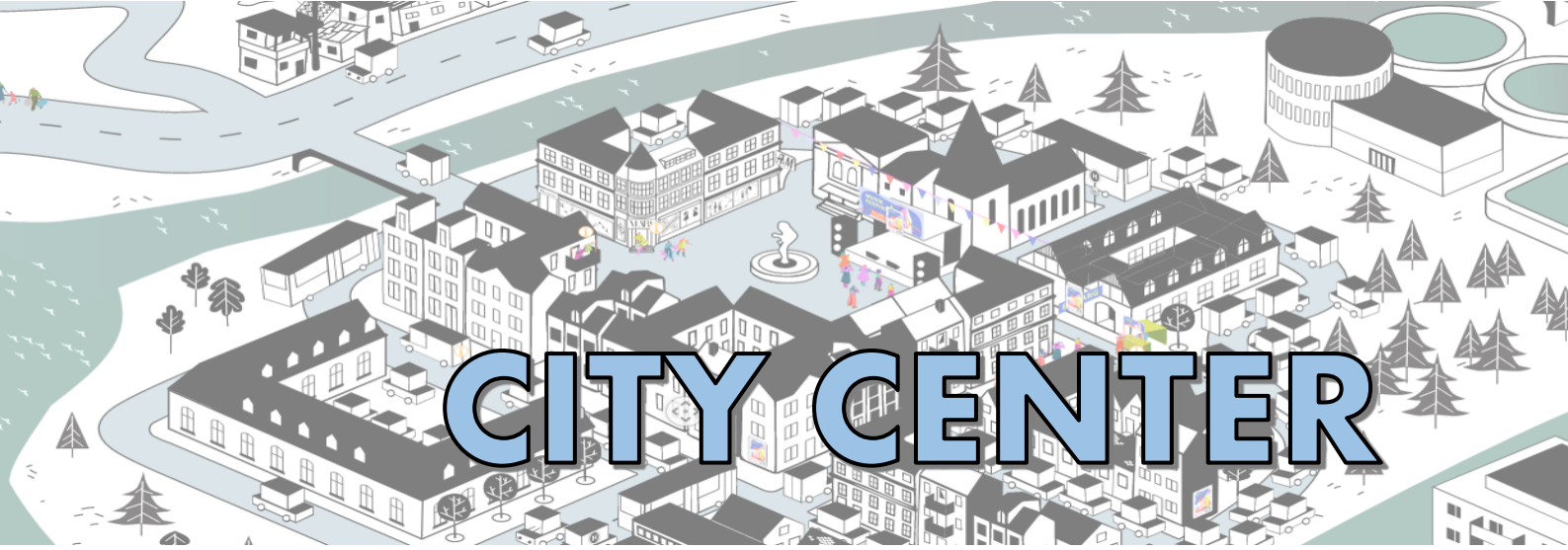
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In cities, societal power dynamics are literally carved in stone. It's crucial to ask: For whom were these spaces constructed? What kind of life is facilitated here – and what kind isn't? Experience the daily lives of residents in various parts of a city with this interactive map, get to know their stories and issues, and learn how to organize in order to make cities more feminist and just.

With this interactive map we want to ask these questions from a feminist perspective and understand how gender relations are reflected in urban planning. This map shows life in a city with three different parts of the city: the old town, a large prefabricated housing estate, and an informal settlement located next to a luxury housing project. With this interactive map you can experience the everyday life of the residents in different parts of the city and get to know their stories. What problems do women, old people, children, queer people, poor people who live there have to deal with? And what could a more feminist and just city look like?

### **What Does a Feminist City Look Like?**

The designs of feminist cities can be just as diverse as housing and living conditions - after all, it's not about following a set of rules, but about ideas of inclusion and equality, as well as fair access to space and resources. Using the interactive map, we hope to encourage you to imagine how a feminist city could be, understand its connections to social struggles, and make feminist demands regarding urban and housing policies.



# CITY CENTER



# 1.

## New Home, New Life?

#Displacement #Touristification #Disneyfication

*The Lewinskis have lived in the downtown area all their lives. Recently, they received a letter terminating their rental contract. The owners are renovating the apartments and renting them out at high prices as luxury vacation apartments through an online platform.*

*Where should the Lewinskis go? The new construction projects on the hillside are very expensive and they cannot afford to live there.*

*They found a one-room apartment in a large apartment block, but it has been infested with legionella for years. The real estate company is not investing a single cent in repairs. It only supplies sterile filters every now and then.*

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Lewinski,

With this letter I terminate your rental contract dated 3 April 1973, taking into account the statutory period of notice effective 15 March 2023 or at the earliest possible date due to personal need in accordance with §573 para. 2, no. 2.

The apartment in question, with an area of 75 m<sup>2</sup>, is to be used in future as follows: residence for relatives.

Unfortunately, I cannot offer you an alternative apartment at the moment.

Please contact me regarding a suitable appointment for the handover of the apartment.

With kind regards,  
Mark Schneider



### Touristification

The term **touristification** refers to a process that makes a city's cultural and culinary offerings uniform, adapting them to the tourist groups with the most purchasing power. What can the feminist transformation of a city affected by touristification look like? In various places, people are organizing to prevent their city being sold out to investors, and are demanding the right to decent and affordable housing.



# 2.

## Gentrification and Care Work

#DivisionOfLabour #CareWork #EconomicStrategy

*Ms. Reimann and her family have lived in the city centre all their lives. In this neighbourhood, the family has also operated a hat store since 1890: they sell traditional hats, caps, and everything in between! However, in recent years, their store rent has increased a lot and the demand for their hats has decreased. Today a representative of the fashion chain MATA came with an offer.*



*Where is Ms. Reimann supposed to work now? For the next few months, she will just stay home and do the housework until she can make new life plans. Her husband continues to go to work in another district and she hopes to eventually get out of this situation. She had other plans in life.*

### Purchase Proposal

Dear owner of Reimann Hat Fashions,

As part of the strategy to promote economic growth in the historical centre of the city, an agreement has been signed with the Federal Ministry of Economy to strengthen trade in this area with great tourist potential. For this reason, the international, world-renowned fashion chain MATA would like to bring your hat business under its brand.

We offer to buy your business and transform it into a subsidiary of our chain, which will allow us to diversify the product range and support it with our international experience.


We are offering you 100,000 euros and would like to start the remodelling process on the 4th of April of this year.

Thank you very much in advance for your understanding,  
MATA Executive Board



### How are people affected by touristification/ gentrification?

Mostly women, the elderly, migrants, and socially-vulnerable groups are the ones most affected by gentrification/touristification. Multinational chains displace local shopkeepers, and housing is often misused for profit generation through lucrative short-term rentals. Such strategies for economic growth focus almost exclusively on quantitative indicators that do not consider policies to protect a fair distribution of income or the right of all people to live in the city.



# 3. Touristification and Precarization

#Festivalization #LocalCulture #PrecariousWork

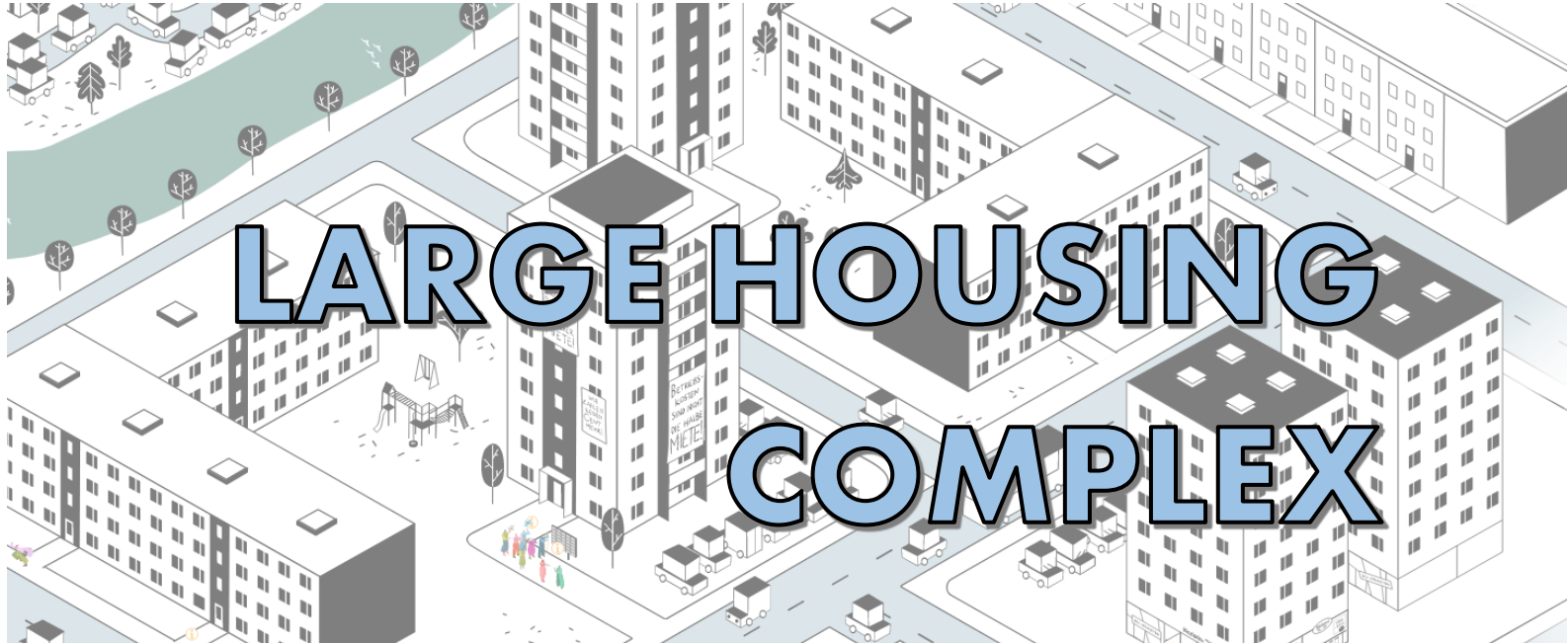
*Yasmin has been working in a cultural centre in her district for a decade. The city government’s development strategy is to make this neighbourhood an attractive place for tourists and people from the rest of the city. Private investors, who want to create an international music festival, now finance the cultural centre.*

*Yasmin and her colleagues can now only work on the logistics of the festival. The festival managers are not providing permanent contracts and the old cultural agenda of the centre has been discontinued. Local artists and the staff are considering occupying the main square and taking over the cultural centre.*



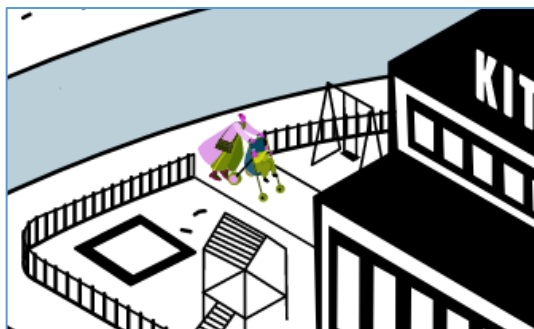
### Displacement of Communal Meeting Places

More and more local meeting places are being privatized. Cultural centres are also becoming commercialized spaces. New festivals and other events in the city increase road traffic, making space for walking in public spaces scarcer. At the same time, for the local population these new structures often represent the only opportunity for work — usually poorly paid, socially unprotected, and often unequally distributed in terms of gender.



# LARGE HOUSING COMPLEX

Since the 1960s and 1970s, road traffic has increasingly become the basis for planning cities, regions, and mobility. A particularly extreme form of car-oriented urban planning is the large housing complex. Many originated with the serial production of building materials and were built on the edges of cities. These housing estates were functionally separated, with many apartments and some green spaces, but hardly any infrastructure such as schools, kindergartens, hospitals, or supermarkets. Often, residents have to walk long distances or even travel to the next district to run everyday errands.



## 4.

### Gender-Specific Mobility

**#CareWork #CityOfMen #Auto-Friendly #PublicTransportation**

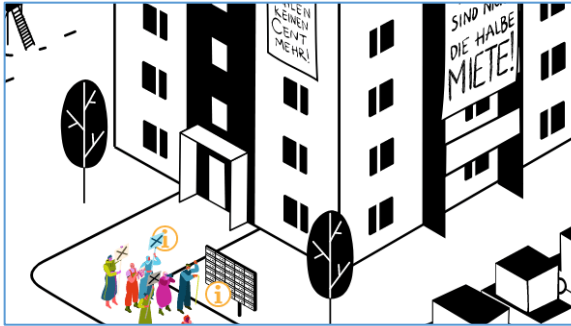
*Every morning is a race against time for Niloufar. She raises her son alone and helps her sick neighbour with his groceries. Even before breakfast, she has to make several stops: daycare, supermarket, work. Time is against her, and she often misses the bus, which unfortunately has an irregular timetable.*



**i**

#### City of Men?

According to some scientific research, the planning of the car-friendly city can sometimes be “androcentric”. This means that the ideal image of a white, heterosexual man with full-time employment is the basis here to favour a certain form of transport in the design: individually by private car. These connections only make sense if the daily commute extends from home to work and back again. However, as soon as routes are between neighbourhoods or small towns, and do not lead to the city centre, detours must often be taken. Many women have to deal with these detours, as they are usually the ones who take care of children, neighbours, and relatives, and who travel from town to town.



# 5.

## We Can Do it Differently!

### Adjustment to Advance Payment of Utility Fees

Dear Tenant,

The calculated portion of operating costs for your premises amounts to a total of 840.00 euros for the year 2022. Due to an actual increase of 420.00 euros in operating costs, this results in an additional payment of 1260.00 euros that is still pending settlement. Accordingly, we hereby assert the right to adjust the future advance payment of utility fees (§560, IV BGB). This increase will come into effect starting from next month. If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Yours sincerely,  
im Auftrag  
Lara Hoppenfels

(Property Management)

*At the mailbox, Nadiya and Finn start talking. Today they all got a letter from the property management company. Due to inflation, they will increase service and utility fees by 61%. Finn exclaims angrily: "But inflation is only 11% and they won't raise my salary! How is this possible?!"*

*Nadiya proposes a meeting with the neighbours: someone must know what to do! Nadiya and Finn make a flyer.*



### Financialization and Housing

**#SecondRent #UtilityCosts #Financialization #ProfitMaximization**

Utility fees are also known as the second rent. Although it is forbidden by law to make money on utility fees, some companies try everything to maximize their profits. The Vonovia Company established subsidiaries that provide repairs and services for residential properties. This means that they can commission their own companies to carry out maintenance work and collect utility fees, thereby keeping service charges and profits in Vonovia's hands.

## We are self-organizing against abuse of tenants!

Are you tired of being at the mercy of our landlord's profiteering?

Are you also fed up with contaminated water and don't know how you'll be able to pay the utility bills?

**Enough!**

We invite all neighbours to our first meeting to exchange ideas and to look for alternatives together!

**Where: Old Tailor Shop Behind The Supermarket**

**When: 16 April At 6:30 P.M.**By the way! We

did some quick research and found the following interesting info:

There are alternatives to renting from private companies. Examples are cooperatives, the neighbour's unions, or communal landlords. Many of these forms favour tenant participation through tenant councils or other forms of organization. Let's discuss these and other options together!

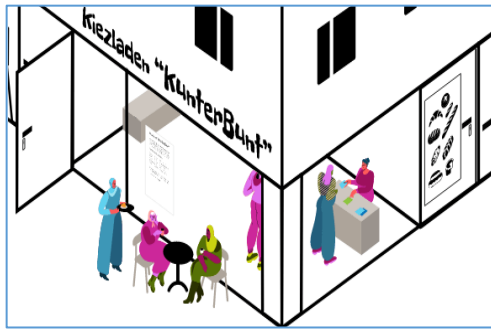
Best,

Your committed neighbours Nadiya and Finn :)



### **#Organizing #Self-Management #Socialization**

Since the successful Berlin referendum for the expropriation of housing, the "Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co" campaign has become famous nationwide. 59.1% of the voters were in favour of the socialization of housing belonging to companies which own more than 3,000 housing units. With the expropriation, the apartments would become public property, administered by an institution under public law. Such a legal form does not operate on a profit-oriented basis. This could have a positive impact on multiple levels: On the one hand, it would be possible for tenants to participate in the strategies of this institution. On the other hand, stakeholders, such as neighbourhood councils, associations, and the local community, could have a voice in the whole process.



# 6

## Collective Spaces for the Neighbourhood

#EmptySpaces #NeighbourhoodCentre #Repurpose



Apartment buildings often provide ground-floor spaces for businesses such as bakeries, retail, or premises for tradespeople. In many cases, these businesses do not generate a return on investment and many of these spaces remain vacant.



### Self-organized Community Spaces

The empty storefronts provide perfect conditions to build meeting places and social spaces for the neighbourhood. With predominantly ground-level access and large store windows, these spaces can become barrier-free environments. As a result, we could establish new spaces for social infrastructure, such as daycare centres, places for education, counselling, or networking. We need such spaces in the city!



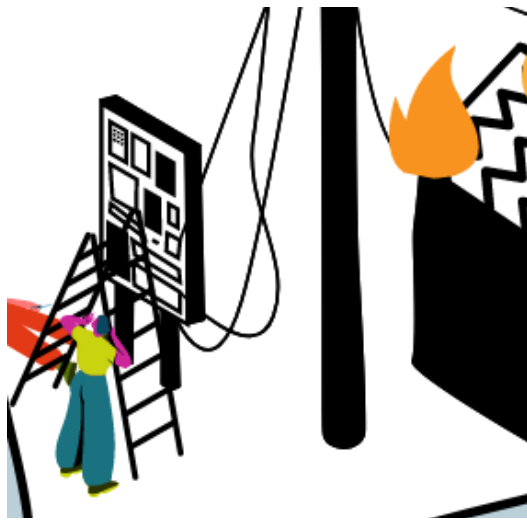
# INFORMAL SETTLEMENT



## 7.

### Built Overnight!

#Informal #Infrastructure #RightToTheCity



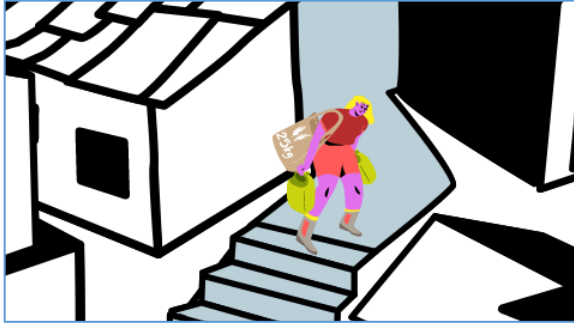
*The Adanalı family has been living in the informal settlement on the outskirts of the city for five years. They came to the city looking for work, but could not find an apartment with affordable rent. Instead, they found an empty piece of land and initially built a very simple home there.*

*Although the Adanalıs were not allowed to build there, the city government tolerates their house as well as those of their neighbours. As a result, they could not rely on access to the urban infrastructure and had to lay their own connection to the electricity and water network.*



#### Life in Informal Settlements

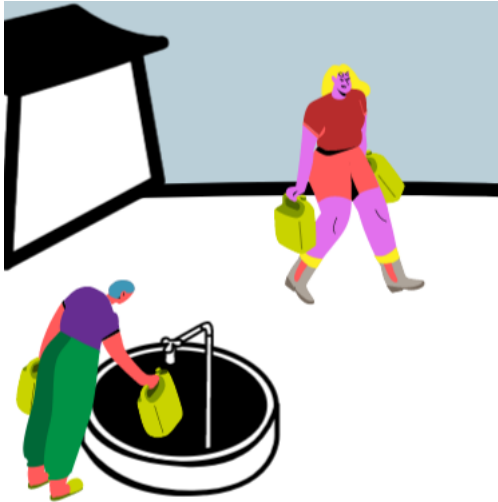
While informal settlements are mostly tolerated, city planners have long ignored them. This means that the residents themselves organize the connection to the urban infrastructure — sewage and supply lines, electricity lines, waste disposal, telecommunication, transport, healthcare, and education infrastructure. They sometimes divert power from the grid, which poses a high risk of fire or electrocution.



# 8.

## Right to Water, Right to the City!

**#WaterSupply #Infrastructure #Health**



Usage rights, property titles, and building rights are prerequisites for integrating informal settlements — often located far from urban centres — into the network of municipal infrastructure. As a result, residents of these settlements are often forced to rely on public water points or purchase drinking water from supermarkets. Families often build their own water filters using their own resources. Women often carry out this work, as in the traditional division of labour; men are typically engaged in work outside the home.



#DistrictOrganizing #CommunityPolitics #Demolition #Displacement

**#CommunityPolitics**

**Persepolis Community Council**

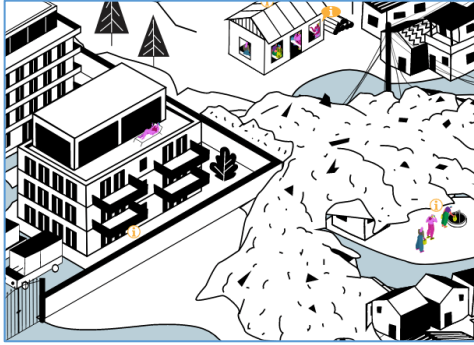
**Agenda**

1. Power supply and protection scheme	2. Preparing for the rainy season 3. Legalization of Persepolis 4. Miscellaneous
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### Resistance in Informal Settlements

In informal settlements, not only is the use of the land tolerated, but also the self-constructed houses. Meanwhile, the old settlements especially have become a permanent part of the cities, and in some cases they are even centrally located within the city. These conditions are attractive to investors. The potential profits motivate the government to evict the residents from their settlements, but residents are resisting and organizing against this. They are organizing neighbourhood assemblies and appointing spokespeople to negotiate with the government for formal land rights.



# 10.

## A Matter of Climate Justice

**#ClimateCrisis #ClimateImpactAdaptation**

As the climate crisis worsens, new questions arise in local politics: who will pay for the necessary adaptation of cities to the consequences of climate change? Scientists have long assumed that extreme weather events will become more frequent. However, the question of whether the state will have to pay for subsequent damage is still unresolved. The precarious situation of people living in informal settlements without rights of use or land is thus becoming critical. What we need is a global model of solidarity in which resources get to those most affected by the climate catastrophe.