

Geography Days, Tampere University
Keynote lecture, Thursday 3 November at 10:15 (Pinni B1100 auditorium)

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Becoming Part of the City: Local Emplacement After Forced Displacement

Abstract: Arrival entails more than simply permitting entry and is inherently emotional and relational, this talk explores a series of questions around how forced displacement turns into local emplacement. It is argued that it is important to recognize that global migration is grounded through attention to the ways in which such processes are locally lived and produced (see also Massey 1994, Mitchell 1997, Lamb 2002, Hall 2021). How do forced migrants become entangled in an infrastructure laid out for them as a special category of migrants, what tensions arise between the official response to arrival and the everyday lived experiences of refugees and how do refugees themselves try to build connections and find their way in a new city.

I take the concept of arrival infrastructures (Meeus et al. 2019) as a starting point. This concept allows me to look beyond the architecture of bureaucracy and legalistic logics and practices and take a closer look at *all* factors playing a role in starting again somewhere new, including concrete places that matter for homemaking (Boccagni, 2017). Apart from acknowledging that homemaking is a transnational phenomenon that takes place beyond borders, it is argued that concrete places and people may trigger emotional and affective responses that are part of homemaking processes, offer opportunities to socialize and are an important part of finding one's place in a new city of arrival. Focusing on everyday experiences also enables us to see how the past and present get linked (Cresswell 2010), and how identities are reinvented in relation to new environments (van Liempt & Bygnes 2022).