

## **Cultural geography study group sponsored session**

### **Making home: material geographies of house and home**

**Convenors: Andrew Gorman-Murray (University of Wollongong) & Rosie Cox (Birkbeck College, London)**

This sponsored session responds to the growing interest in house, home and domesticity in geographical and related research, and calls for papers addressing the broad theme of ‘making home’. As the truism goes, house and home are not the same, and in this session we are interested in papers which explore the relationship between residential housing and the notion of home. This, in turn, demands attention to the material geographies of house and home, and particularly the material processes of homemaking. Homemaking should be understood broadly to include a range of practices, including (but not limited to) DIY, home repair, home decoration, interior design, material consumption, spatial arrangements, renovations, housework, gardening, waste disposal, and a wide range of financial practices. How are these material processes enlisted to turn houses into homes?

A range of further questions emerge from these provocations. How is the conventional gendering of house and home confirmed or challenged by material homemaking practices? How do our multiple subjectivities – class, race, gender, sexuality, disability – inform practices of making home? How are non-human presences – pets, plants, dirt, weather patterns, *inter alia* – implicated in material homemaking? Indeed, how is homemaking influenced by the house itself (denoted by Daniel Miller as ‘estate agency’)? Relatedly, what is the role of money and debt in homemaking practices? How is consumption and disposal of ‘things’ balanced in homemaking efforts? In this context, have material homemaking practices changed in light of concerns about environmental conditions and impacts of global warming? How might sustainable housing be seen as a way of making home? We invite papers addressing these questions and more.