RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Kristin Makszin
Title of clinic:	Framing homes: A comparative analysis of political texts on housing policy in Europe
Number of students:	4-6
Major *(if applicable and approved by the Major Convener)*:	GED
(Pre)requisites *(if applicable)*:	None

Research context

The global financial crisis drew increased attention to the variation in housing systems, policy, and finance across countries, as housing policies and markets were intricately linked to many countries' experience in the wake of the crisis. Housing systems involve the interactions of markets, governments, and families. The variation in these systems across countries means that housing policy takes on many different roles and is framed differently across countries and over time. This project looks at housing policy towards vulnerable groups (social housing) and housing finance policy to detect variation in approaches and the framing of these policies by political actors. This project will compare housing systems and policies across multiple European countries. Furthermore, we will analyze politicians' speeches and other political texts over time to qualitatively assess the framing of housing policy by developing, applying, and adapting a theoretical coding scheme. Potential framing for housing policy include those that address housing as a social right, an asset, the basis for family formation, and more. The multidimensional nature of housing policy creates significant room for maneuver for policy-makers to conduct and frame housing policy. This project aims to understand this variation and its social consequences. The case studies will include Ireland and Hungary, but other countries may be added based on the interests and language skills of the participants in the research clinic.

The participants in the research clinic will be involved in collecting information on housing policy and assisting with qualitative text analysis, including the collection of texts, developing a systematic coding scheme, coding of the texts, and the subsequent analysis through comparison across countries and over time. The research clinic will include a hands-on training in content analysis of texts.

Students' tasks and activities

Learning aims:
- Deeper understanding of housing systems and the role of governments and markets in shaping them
- Development of skills required for qualitative text analysis, including the construction and systematic application of coding schemes
- Ability to link the results of text analysis to literature on policy-making
- Improve capacity to form policy recommendations based on research findings

Weeks 1-3: Background reading on text analysis and housing systems and policy
Training in applying and working with a coding scheme for qualitative content analysis using Atlas.ti
Weeks 4-5: Case studies of housing systems and policies
Presentation of case studies to group
Weeks 6-8: Development of initial coding scheme based on literature and case studies
Pilot coding of qualitative texts and group discussion of coding scheme
Weeks 5-12: Collect and clean text for analysis of specific case
Systematic coding of qualitative texts and with weekly meeting to report progress and findings in collaboration with other coders
Weeks 13-16: Comparison of findings across case studies
Written report summarizing results of analysis
Policy brief for case specific policy recommendations