

Housing for Highly Mobile Transnational Professionals: 'New' Forms of Housing Practices in Moscow and London

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Mobile lifestyles and transnational living

- An expansion of *transnational work*, diversification of highly mobile lifestyles, temporary and precarious job contracts (Urry and Elliott, 2010; Castles et al., 2013)
- Migrants increasingly involved in liquid, circular and commuting mobility, transient migration, FIFO (fly-in/fly-out) lifestyles, and LDC (long-distance commuting)
- More overseas *secondments* (Jones, 2008).
- Most studies focus on *the job-related mobility* (Limmer and Schneider, 2008; Reuschke, 2010) rather than on transnational migration for economic reasons
- Several studies examine *multi-locality* (Rolshoven, 2007; Hilti, 2009; Reuschke, 2010; Wood et al., 2015)

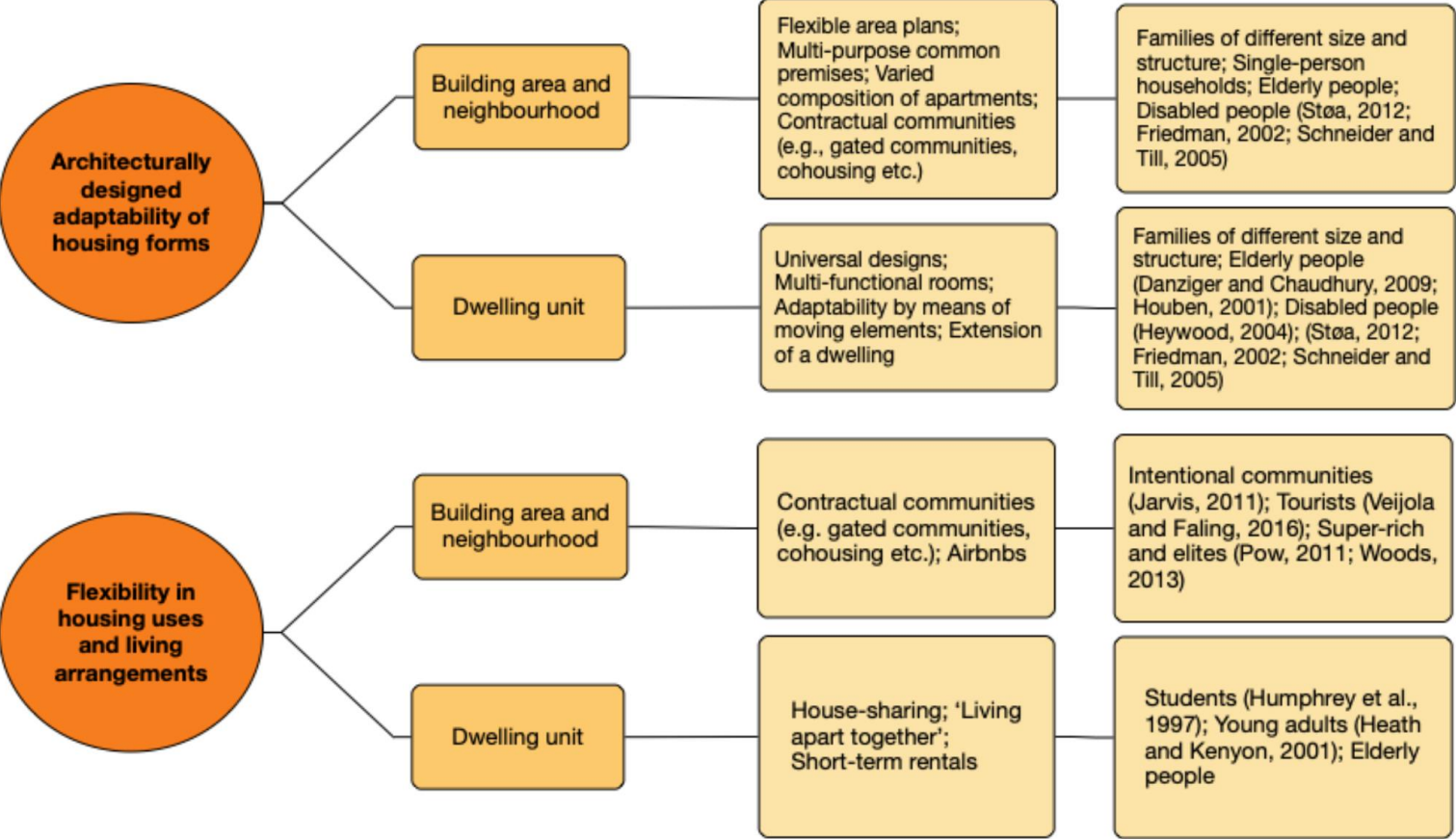
Research Question

What housing uses and living arrangements emerge from the conditions of temporality and mobility practised by middle-class high-skilled transnational professionals?

Qualitative Study

- 65 semi-structured interviews with professional migrants from 2017-18: 33 interviews in Moscow and 32 interviews in London
- professional profiles: analysts, entrepreneurs, consultants, editors, lawyers, designers, and language teachers
- from Western countries: UK, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Greece, Cyprus, Switzerland, Hungary, Russia, Sweden, the US, Australia and Canada

Studies on flexible forms and uses of housing



Findings: mobile work, transnational living and construction of home

- FIFO lifestyles: story of Peter

**Peter, 26,
Cypriot in
London**

'Everyone in my company travels. Everyone does what I do, to some extent: they are based in London or anywhere else and then they travel to and from the client.'

'Regarding working hours, there's no formal schedule... you are supposed to work as long as you have to. I work more or less constantly and I do everything else in between: I would go for a dinner with my friends and then I'd come back and work; I exercise and then I come back and do a bit of work.'

- Construction of home: dwelling-on-the-move

Findings: factors determining housing practices of highly mobile transnational professionals

- *Economic constraints*: the need to save on housing costs due to middling backgrounds
- *Temporal limitations*: position in the life course; sharing in time (short-term lets, Mon-Fri lets); choice of temporal lodging arrangements
- *Requirements for physical and functional dimensions of housing*: quality of the housing, circulation of expat flats, amenities within reach

Discussion: a niche in housing research

Characteristics of the highly mobile living	Implications for the housing uses	Similar examples among existing housing forms and uses
<i>Economic constrains for housing preferences</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving on housing costs • 'Middling' nature of • transnational workers • Multilocal dwelling 	'Living apart together'; Sublets; Airbnb
<i>Temporal limitations over the life course</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Non-traditional' households: single-person households instead of nuclear family • Short period in the lifetime • Highly fluid and flexible arrangements 	House-sharing; Sublets; Hotels and temporal housing; Dual home-ownership
<i>Requirements for physical and functional dimensions of dwelling</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptable housing solutions (e.g., floor plans) • Need for 'standardized' spaces • Flexible living arrangements • Easy spatial and social integration 	Short-term rentals; Student dorms; House-sharing; 'Second' homes

Conclusions and research directions

- Transient mobility associated with short-term, temporary and circular migration, and high levels of mobility and transnationalism change housing demands in the cities.
- It requires adaptations of existing housing forms and uses.
- Three key factors form housing demands of transnational professionals: economic constraints; temporal limitations; requirements for physical and functional flexibility.
- More research is needed in this niche, including quantitative.
- Post-COVID dynamics: remote working, forced residence, travelling restrictions and closed borders.

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