

## **Living the Mix? Between imaginary cohesion and the struggle for cohabitation in a formerly deprived neighbourhood in Vienna.**

The presented paper starts from the premise that the concept of “social mix” as a core desire and policy measure for upgrading deprived neighbourhoods struggles when it comes to everyday encounters between long-term residents and newcomers. Social mix policies generally assume that a ‘balanced’ social mix improves the life circumstances of long-term residents with the means of valuable encounters. However, the “social tectonics” metaphor (Jackson & Butler 2015) clearly demonstrates that socially mixed neighbourhoods do not imply social mixing amongst diverse social groups per se.

Based on a qualitative case study conducted in a formerly deprived neighbourhood – the southern part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Viennese district – the presentation will explore the relation of physical space, ‘neighbourhood belonging’ and everyday encounters between old-established residents and newcomers. In-depth interviews provide insights into places of everyday encounters, how residents experience and make sense of encounters in a changing neighbourhood and how a sense of belonging to the neighbourhood is constructed. We will show that places of everyday encounters of both old-established residents and newcomers do not differ, which means that the physical set-up would allow for mixing practices, but the experience and interpretations of encounters are important drivers for neighbourhood belonging and social mixing.

Authors: Michael Friesenecker, Department of Sociology, Universität Wien & Yvonne Franz, Department of Geography, Universität Wien

Presentation (in English): Michael Friesenecker

### **TIME AND PLACE:**

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, 12:30 – 14:00.

4<sup>th</sup> floor – Besprechungsraum, Department of Sociology, University of Vienna