



Delft University of Technology

**Paolo Boccagni: Handbook on Home and Migration**

**Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023, 702 pp, ISBN: 978 1 80088 276 8**

Zhou, Yan

**DOI**

[10.1007/s10901-025-10179-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10901-025-10179-0)

**Publication date**

2025

**Document Version**

Final published version

**Published in**

Journal of Housing and the Built Environment

**Citation (APA)**

Zhou, Y. (2025). Paolo Boccagni: Handbook on Home and Migration: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023, 702 pp, ISBN: 978 1 80088 276 8. *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10901-025-10179-0>

**Important note**

To cite this publication, please use the final published version (if applicable).  
Please check the document version above.

**Copyright**

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download, forward or distribute the text or part of it, without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license such as Creative Commons.

**Takedown policy**

Please contact us and provide details if you believe this document breaches copyrights.  
We will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

***Green Open Access added to TU Delft Institutional Repository***

***'You share, we take care!' - Taverne project***

***<https://www.openaccess.nl/en/you-share-we-take-care>***

Otherwise as indicated in the copyright section: the publisher is the copyright holder of this work and the author uses the Dutch legislation to make this work public.



# Paolo Boccagni: Handbook on Home and Migration

Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023, 702 pp, ISBN: 978 1 80088 276 8

Yan Zhou<sup>1</sup>

© The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Nature B.V. 2025

‘Home and homemaking’ is a topic with a long history and relevance to everyday life, and one that has taken on greater diversity and importance facing contemporary global migration. Moving beyond merely the antithesis of migration, the meaning, experience, and practice of home and homemaking in migration represent ways that migrants struggle for place attachment and appropriation, and on their aggregate and societal impact (Boccagni, 2023b). To bridge the gap between the separated attention on ‘home’ and ‘migration,’ the *Handbook on Home and Migration*, edited by Paolo Boccagni, is a comprehensive collection of multidisciplinary studies related to the complex mutual entanglement of these two concepts.

Beginning with the theoretical underpinnings of ‘home’ as a concept, moving through the lived experiences of migrants and diasporas, the materiality of housing, the methodological approaches, and the specific discussions on the global South, the seven-part structure of this book decodes ‘home and migration’ into clusters of digestible knowledge. Questions of ‘home and migration’ are addressed from human mobility (Rapport & Dawson, 2023), cultural studies (Bonnerjee, 2023; Levin, 2023; Martsin & Samuel, 2023; Salzberg, 2023), to governing (Walters, 2023), and management (Jacobs, 2023). Different viewpoints transform our epistemology of ‘home and migration,’ and support real-world applications like evaluating management strategies and enhancing policymaking. The broad focuses of this book also extend beyond the macro-level understanding of migration categories to a micro-level recognition of complexities and inequalities in different migrant communities. It brings topics related to gender (Wilkins, 2023), young and old (Meijering & Bailey, 2023; Moskal, 2023), refugee (Donà et al., 2023; Grønseth, 2023; Paju et al., 2023), skilled migrants (Bailey, 2023), LGBT (Boccagni, 2023a), religions (Boccagni, 2023c), and multiple-time migrants (Winiarska et al., 2023). Further issues in different migration contexts include patriarchy and capitalism (Boccagni, 2023d), settler colonialism (Handel & Kotef, 2023), post-colonial (Meijering & Bailey, 2023), post-pandemic (Hadjiyanni, 2023), etc.

Concerning migration, ‘home’ encompasses the physical, emotional, spatial, and temporal aspects that form the sense of belonging, identity, and memory. An article’s scope can extend far beyond the PART it belongs to. It is widely discussed throughout

---

✉ Yan Zhou  
yan.zhou@tudelft.nl

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands

the book, for example, the multiscalarity of home across space and time, highlighting migration experience is spatially and temporally unstable and nonlinear, which can develop attachments, familiarity, and belonging that unfold over time and are shaped by historical, sociopolitical contexts (Winiarska et al., 2023). The experience and making of home is constantly resynchronized between the countries of origin and destination (Yeoh & Morais, 2023) and changed through everyday life (Paju et al., 2023).

Having the potential to serve for built environment-related research, this book contributes mostly to housing studies. On the one hand, migrant housing is a typical materialization of ‘home,’ which cultivates a sense of belonging, identity, and integration (Klaufus, 2023; Levin, 2023; Meijering & Bailey, 2023). The practice of home can cross the scales of houses, neighborhoods, countries, and borders (Bonizzoni et al., 2023; Meijering & Bailey, 2023). On the other hand, territories and spaces are symbols of cultural, social, and political identity. Moving from a territorized to a deterritorized notion of ‘home,’ the sense of belonging is emphasized (Bonnerjee, 2023; Donà et al., 2023; Ghorashi, 2023). There are complexities and challenges in negotiating conflicts between the home and host societies (Duyvendak, 2023; Handel, 2023; Walters, 2023). Research also mentions migrants’ struggles and strategies for tackling the impact of housing markets, housing policies, and housing conditions (Jacobs, 2023; Nasreen, 2023; Nielsen & Andersen, 2023; Piemontese & Maestri, 2023). Another attention is migration and diasporic heritage practices, which serve as means for marginalized communities to claim ‘home’ (Bonnerjee, 2023; Christou, 2023).

The METHODS pointed out in ‘home and migration’ studies would attract readers’ interest. There are not only the reflection and adaptation of traditional approaches but also the embracement of creative methods and perspectives, such as quantitative research (Boccagni et al., 2023), visual research and participatory research methods (Ratnam, 2023). Although these methods are just the tip of the iceberg, they all urge the development of people-centered approaches to ‘home and migration’ studies. Future research should also focus on how, for example, participatory migration research methods can capture information about migrants more broadly and authentically, and navigate the invisibility and marginalization of migrant communities.

The *Handbook on Home and Migration* serves well as a reference book or toolkit for social science and humanities researchers. For those who are in the field of spatial studies, built environment research, or art and design studies, such as geographers, urban planners, architects, heritage professionals, and designers, this book can serve as an entry point, a guidebook, and a toolbox for integrating disciplinary knowledge with migration-related studies. It is worth noting that the different disciplinary knowledge of migration is scattered in different chapters, which might result in a non-continuous narrative of research themes and understanding of their impacts on ‘home.’ It is expected to reinforce the interconnectedness between chapters. Additionally, the information density of nearly 700 pages may feel demanding for more casual readers.

In conclusion, the *Handbook on Home and Migration* is a significant contribution to various fields related to migration, uniquely positioned at the intersection of migration studies and home studies. The encyclopedic perception constituted by the various chapters of this book is important and tells us about the complexity and diversity of home and migration. In an era of global migration, this work stands as an important approach, inspiring continued exploration and innovation in understanding ‘home,’ bridging the past and future, the material and emotion, and the roots and routes.

The eBook version is priced from £20/\$26 from eBook vendors, while in print, the book can be ordered from the Edward Elgar Publishing website.

## References

- Bailey, A. (2023). Home and homemaking practices among skilled Indian migrants. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Boccagni, P., Santinello, C., & Armanni, B. (2023). Exploring home and migration through quantitative research: Enlarging scales, unsettling questions. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Boccagni, P. (2023a). Homemaking and mobilities among LGBT people: An interview with Andrew Gorman-Murray. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Boccagni, P. (2023b). Introduction. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Boccagni, P. (2023c). Religion, immigration, and homemaking: An interview with Peter Kivisto. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Boccagni, P. (2023d). Moving from home to accommodation a conceptual alternative for the historical manipulation of home for violent and exclusionary ends: An interview with Barak Kalir. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Bonizzoni, P., Gargiulo, E., & Artero, M. (2023). Making home at the borders of citizenship: Migrants, home, and (il)legality. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Bonnerjee, J. (2023). Between longing and belonging: Home, homemaking and diasporas. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Christou, A. (2023). Making home through memories and ritualised social practices. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Dona, G., Brun, C., & Fabos, A. H. (2023). Home and forced migration. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Duyvendak, J. W. (2023). Home, nativism and migration. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Ghorashi, H. (2023). Home and the politics of location and displacement. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on Home and Migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Grønseth, A. S. (2023). Refugee housing and homing: Negotiating self and humanity. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Hadjiyanni, T. (2023). Why (and how) home matters in the “stay-at-home” order and beyond. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Handel, A., & Kotef, H. (2023). Settler colonialism and home. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Jacobs, K. (2023). Housing studies, migration and home. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Klaufus, C. (2023). Norms and forms of the remittance landscape in Latin America. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Levin, I. (2023). The migrant house: The meaning of its architecture and materiality. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Martsin, M., & Samuel, A. (2023). Moving toward home away from home: A cultural psychology perspective on home and migration. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Meijering, L., & Bailey, A. (2023). Homemaking and cohousing by postcolonial migrants in later life. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Moskal, M. (2023). Migration and home in research with children and young people: Story, participation, agency. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Nasreen, Z. (2023). Migrants’ homemaking practices in shared housing. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Nielsen, R. S., & Andersen, H. S. (2023). The importance of the housing market for the housing opportunities of immigrants. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

- Paju, E., Niire, L., & Merikoski, P. (2023). Home and homemaking during refugee journeys. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Piemontese, S., & Maestri, G. (2023). Home, migration, and Roma people in Europe. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Rapport, N., & Dawson, A. (2023). Migrants of identity: Cosmopolitan actors at home in the world. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Ratnam, C. (2023). Visual research and participatory research methods. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Salzberg, R. (2023). Towards a social history of home and migration. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Walters, W. (2023). Governing the state as a home: Domopolitics and migration. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Wilkins, A. (2023). Gendering home and migration. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Winiarska, A., Salamonska, J., Kluszczynska, M., & Krzyworzeka-Jelinowska, A. (2023). Polish multiple migrants and their narratives of home and homemaking over time. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Yeoh, B. S. A., & Morais, F. (2023). Temporalities of migration and homemaking. In P. Boccagni (Ed.), *Handbook on home and migration*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

**Publisher's Note** Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.