Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences
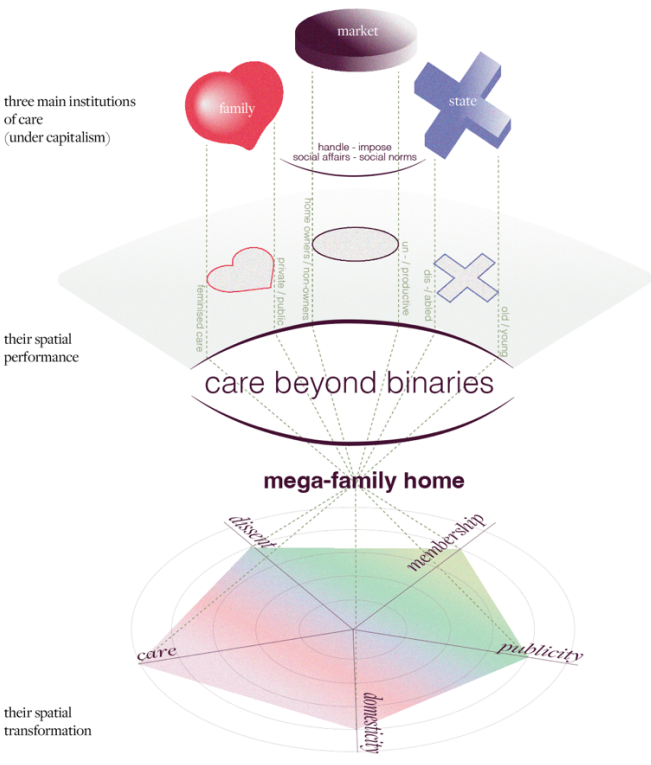
Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Johanna Zehntner
Student number	5844983

Studio		
Name / Theme	Planning Complex Cities	
Main mentor	Dr. Caroline Newton	Spatial Planning & Strategy
Second mentor	Prof.dr.ir. Machiel van Dorst	Urban Studies
Argumentation of choice of the studio	In my thesis, I wish to analyse social norms and policies rooted in national and economic ideologies, their influence on non-normative bodies and how to overcome through participation in urban space. I am interested in spaces of reproduction and how a reclassification of such spaces suggests an organisation of the commons and a post-growth future. Firstly, the research-based approach of the studio Planning Complex Cities is necessary for me to sharpen my eye for 'hidden ideologies' in urban spaces. Secondly, its focus on governance models offers a great opportunity to engage the voices of non-normative bodies. Moreover, this studio will challenge me in my comfort of a design-based practitioner.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	After-Work: Planning Care Beyond Socio-Spatial Binaries
Goal	
Location:	Luxembourg, Grand Region
The posed problem,	The ageing population in Europe is projected to increase the amount of care work necessary. The current performance of care work is mainly bound to governmental institutions and the private household. Their respective spaces structure modes of care which prescribe gender roles, bodily norms, and labour practices. It is therefore important to understand the future of care work linked to other demographic challenges such as the housing shortage, a decreasing labour force, and changes in social and private life. A sole emancipation of reproductive labour into waged jobs will not eliminate its tediousness and withhold its gendered, ableist, ageist, and classist nature.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework, Author's Work

research questions and	**Main Research Question:** How can alternative concepts on reproductive labour contribute to a socio-spatial transformation of existing spaces and networks of aged care in Luxembourg? **Sub-Research Question 1:** What are current spaces employed and norms imposed in the realm of social reproductive labour? **Sub-Research Question 2:** How will the demographic change affect existing spaces and networks of care in Luxembourg? **Sub-Research Question 3:** What are alternative concepts on social reproductive labour and their spatial performance?
design assignment in which these result.	The aim of this thesis lies in disclosing and challenging institutionalised perceptions, spatiality, and norms in social reproductive labour or care work in the European context of the welfare economy. It questions the role of family, the welfare state, and the private market as main institutions of care as well as the values and conditions imposed on caregivers and receivers alike which are linked to their spatial configuration. The thesis analyses these three units and their spatial performance considering significant demographic challenges such as ageing, housing affordability, and social cohesion. Through a queer-feminist perspective, it uncovers gendered, ageist, ableist, and classist conceptions and their spatial performativity of care in old age. Through this lens, the thesis later aims to illustrate speculative alternatives which centre around care as communal activities employing concepts from utopian precedents on communal life away from capitalist compulsion and advocate for social justice.

- SQ1 will be answered through **two theoretical frameworks (Spatial Analysis – Scenario Building)** which later support the further execution of SQ2 and SQ3. The theoretical frameworks are built up through **a written review of the chosen literature as well as illustrated through diagrams in the form of flowcharts and space-time diagrams.** The written text as well as the diagrams illustrate existing conceptions of care work in the private home, spaces of the welfare state and spaces of the market. This critical review will result in parameters for the scenarios which are part of SQ3.
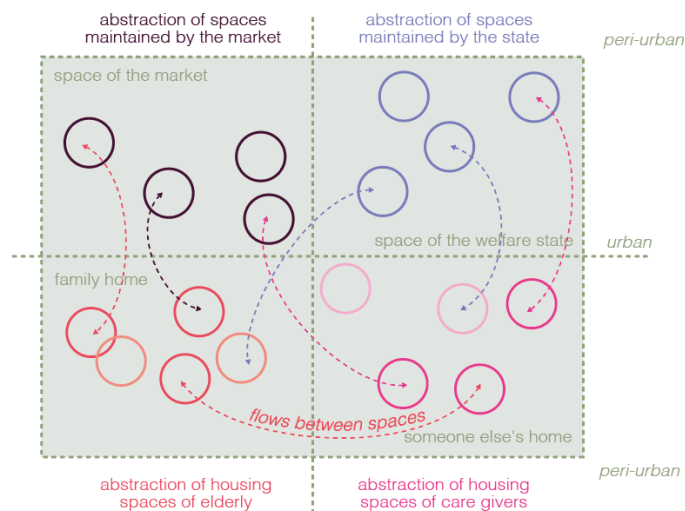

Figure 2: Theoretical Framework for Spatial Analysis, Author's Work
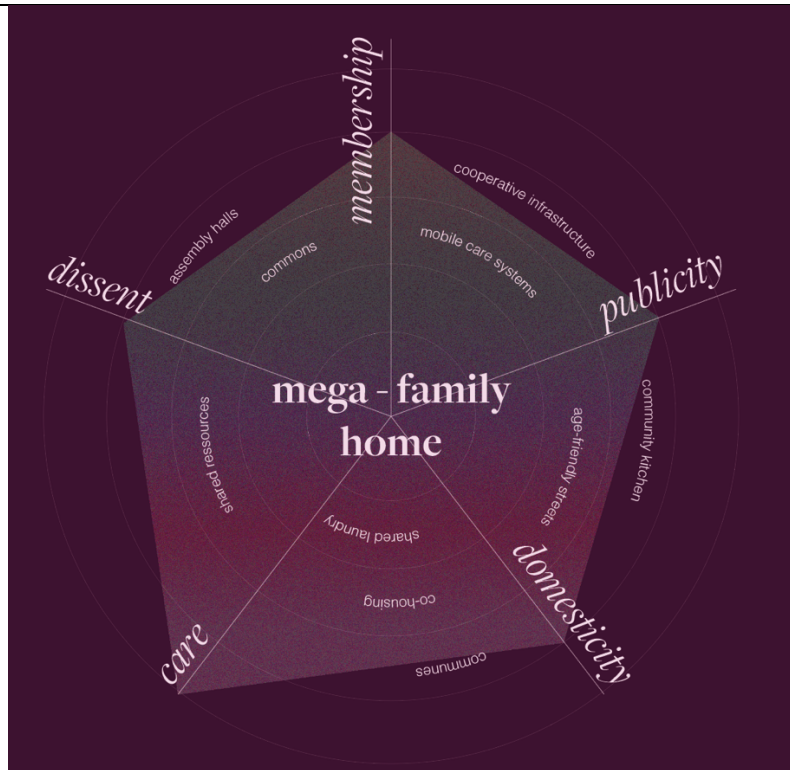
Process	
Figure 3: Theoretical Framework for Scenario Building, Author's Work

- SQ2 will be answered through **maps and diagrams of the spatial performance of aged care in Luxembourg**. It further informs the execution of SQ3 through **a spatial framework.** The maps and diagrams showcase current caring spaces and networks as well as the challenges imposed by demographic development. These visualisations will critically reflect on the spatial performativity of care and build the base for the scenarios.
- SQ3 will be answered by the compilation of a **catalogue of utopian design precedents** which focus on communal life and will suggest spatial design elements which foster this community. It will be further answered by the building of **scenarios** which centre around the thesis' main goal to communally organise care and is based on information gathered from SQ1 and SQ2 as well as the catalogue. These scenarios result in **a series of design applications on the respective case study.** The scenarios are further illustrated through **imagined stories of everyday life in the scenarios.**

For a more thorough relation of expected outcomes, research questions and methods used, please consult the methodology framework in the method section. |
| | |

Process

Method description

RQ: How can alternative concepts on reproductive labour contribute to a socio-spatial transformation of existing spaces and networks of aged care in Luxembourg?

mixed method-approach

methods used

intended outcomes

SQ1: What are current spaces employed and norms imposed in the realm of social reproductive labour?

research by unlearning

in Chapter 4: Unlearning Family
(*results are also used in Chapter 3: Mega Family Homes*)

literature review on existing binaries in labour, gender, ability, age, and their spatial performance

- Literature Review
- Theoretical Review
- Theoretical Space-Time Mapping

builds basis for

theoretical framework for scenario-building

builds basis for

theoretical framework for spatial analysis

SQ2: How does demographic change affect existing spaces and networks of care in Luxembourg?

research by understanding

in Chapter 5: Understanding Homes

spatial analysis of the socio-demographic situation & development in Luxembourg

- Statistical Data Analysis
- Policy Analysis
- Site Visit
- Mapping
- Space-Time Mapping
- Semi-Structured Interviews with Experts
  ◦ field of aged care
  ◦ field of spatial planning
- Informal Interviews on Site

feeds back into

maps & diagrams of spatial performance of aged care

spatial framework for scenario-building

builds basis for

SQ3: What are alternative concepts on social reproductive labour and their spatial performance?

research by experimenting

in Chapter 6: Mega Experimenting

scenario-building with alternative concepts of aged care provision and design application on the case study

- Critical Analysis of (utopian) precedents
- Site Visit Familistère in Guise, France
- Setting of Scenario-Parameters
- Design Experiments: What if?
- Creative Imagination
- Storytelling

feeds back into

narratives of personal experiences in scenario

catalogue of utopian precedents

design of scenarios on a case study

feeds back into   *feeds back into*   *builds basis for*   *builds*   *feeds back into*

Figure 4: Methodology Framework, Author's Work

Furthermore, the methods are described in more detail, as well as in relation to the research question and the chapter of the report:

Chapter 4: Unlearning Family – research by unlearning

Contemporary modes of organising care such as the welfare state, the family, and the private market and their spatial performance are ingrained in our social understanding and planning. The chapter and main method of Unlearning therefore presents the theoretical framing of the thesis and the project. It is called Unlearning because apart from understanding current paradigms in care provision the main goal is to challenge and move away from them.

<u>*Sub-research question 1:*</u> What are current spaces employed and norms imposed by social reproductive labour?

<u>*Methods:*</u> Literature Review, Theoretical Review, Theoretical Space-Time Mapping

<u>*Steps taken during analysis:*</u> This chapter mainly focuses on the building of the theoretical framework which is later used in spatial analysis and scenario-building. The literature review is composed of books and essays which deal with notions of labour, gender, ability, and age. The main theories follow political theory such as Arendt and Foucault, as well as Marx's review on labour and value theory. These concepts re-emerge during a second wave of feminism with Federici and Dalla Costa who add a gendered perspective to Marx's understanding. Through the application of queer theory as well as notions of post-work theory, the understanding of reproductive labour is further enriched. This Literature is layed out and connected via a theoretical review, linking main concepts and relations in the main theoretical framework of the thesis of Chapter 3.

The theoretical notions are explored through diagrams and time-space mapping revealing the spatial performativity of care work. I see time-space mapping as an important method to bridge between theory and spatial analysis. Moreover, this method presents an opportunity to relate (im)mobility on the micro-level to planning on the regional level (Hägerstrand, 1970). Hägerstrand introduces his concept as a model for human behaviour which is not based on mass probabilistic behaviour but as a redefinition of social roles through acknowledging social organisation and technology available on the micro-level. He describes time as a critical aspect of when trying to make people meet and interact. Time geography thus, can reveal "fundamental issues in public […] by linking together micro- and macro-perspectives" (Ölberg, 2005, p. 344). Ölberg further describes that Hägerstrand's methods and diagrams help us to understand "how individual persons both formed the structural conditions and became the servants of the structure" (p. 344).

Chapter 5: Understanding Homes – research by understanding

Chapter 5 is mainly focusing on the spatial analysis through the framework given by Chapter 4. It mixes a variety of qualitative and quantitative approaches.

<u>*Sub-research question 2:*</u> How will the demographic change affect existing spaces and networks of care in Luxembourg?

<u>*Methods:*</u> Statistical Data Analysis, Policy Analysis, Site Visit, Mapping, Space-Time Mapping, Semi- Structured Interviews with experts, informal interviews on-site

<u>*Steps taken during the analysis:*</u> The statistical data analysis comprises themes of age-dependency, population structure about age and nationality, and labour market conditions in the sector of long-term and healthcare, housing accessibility and lastly predictions on further population development. This statistical data is then mapped on the case area of Luxembourg to accomplish a deeper understanding of its socio-spatial challenges. According to data and previously acquired knowledge, one to three case locations will be chosen to further investigate on the second field visit. A policy analysis of urban planning strategies, housing, and care provision will be conducted to further understand relations as well as barriers in current regulations. The policy analysis is accompanied by semi-structured interviews with experts in urban planning and care provision which have been and will be conducted on-site to gain further insights in decision-making processes. During the site visit, next to empirical observations, informal interviews with participants of the target group such as the elderly and their respective caregivers will be conducted. This interviews will help to understand how care work is organised and what experiences affected people have. Another component of this research is a more exploratory mapping of the spatiality of family as in housing conditions, welfare state as in nursing homes and hospitals, and the market as in more privatised areas of care which will construct a spatial framework of the existing networks and spaces. The mapping intends ti reveil interdependencies and flows which enable the provision of care in a certain location. This exploratory mapping is further

developed through the means of space-time mapping as already employed in Chapter 4. This time, space-time diagrams will be based on empirical observation, semi-structured interviews, and informal interviews on-site.

Chapter 6: Mega Experimenting – research by experimenting

Chapter 6 presents the most experimental part of the research and is highly influenced by the outcomes of Chapters 4 and 5. Nevertheless, the outcomes of this chapter may influence the theoretical and spatial framing of the thesis. This chapter mainly employs the method of research by design.

Sub-research question 3: What are alternative concepts on social reproductive labour and their spatial performance?

Methods: Critical Analysis of (Utopian) Precedents, Site Visit of the Familistère in Guise, setting of scenario parameters, design experiments, creative imagination, storytelling

Steps taken during analysis: This chapter starts by critically examining existing, vanished, and or imagined utopian projects which have rethought care work in a communal sense. These utopias can be traced back to socialist and feminist theories. A further step of this research is to experience a built utopia by myself during the field visit to the Familistère in Guise, France. Through this, I wish to gain an embodied experience of a built utopia. Furthermore, drawing from the conclusions of theoretical and spatial analysis, this chapter will set the parameters for the scenarios. A common way of scenario-building is the setting of two critical uncertainties which either reach their maximum or minimum potential, also referred to as the 2x2 matrix technique (Rhydderch, 2017). Thus, scenario-building follows an exploratory approach and contains elements of future-visioning (Avin & Godspeed, 2020). Creative imagination as a method fosters the exploratory character and helps in imagining something that does not yet exit (Hayes et al., 2015).
Following, these scenarios are used to craft a series of design experiments drawing from potentials identified in the utopian precedents on selected case studies. The spatial designs are further illustrated utilising storytelling which crafts a series of daily encounters centring around care.

Sources:

Avin, U., & Godspeed, R. (2020). Full article: Using Exploratory Scenarios in Planning Practice. https://www-tandfonline-com.tudelft.idm.oclc.org/doi/full/10.1080/01944363.2020.174668

Hayes, M. T., Sameshima, P., & Watson, F. (2015). Imagination as Method. International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 14(1), 36–52. https://doi.org/10.1177/160940691501400105

Hägerstrand, T. (1970). What about people in regional science. Regional Science Association, 24. http://courses.washington.edu/cee500/What%20about%20people%20in%20regional%20science.pdf

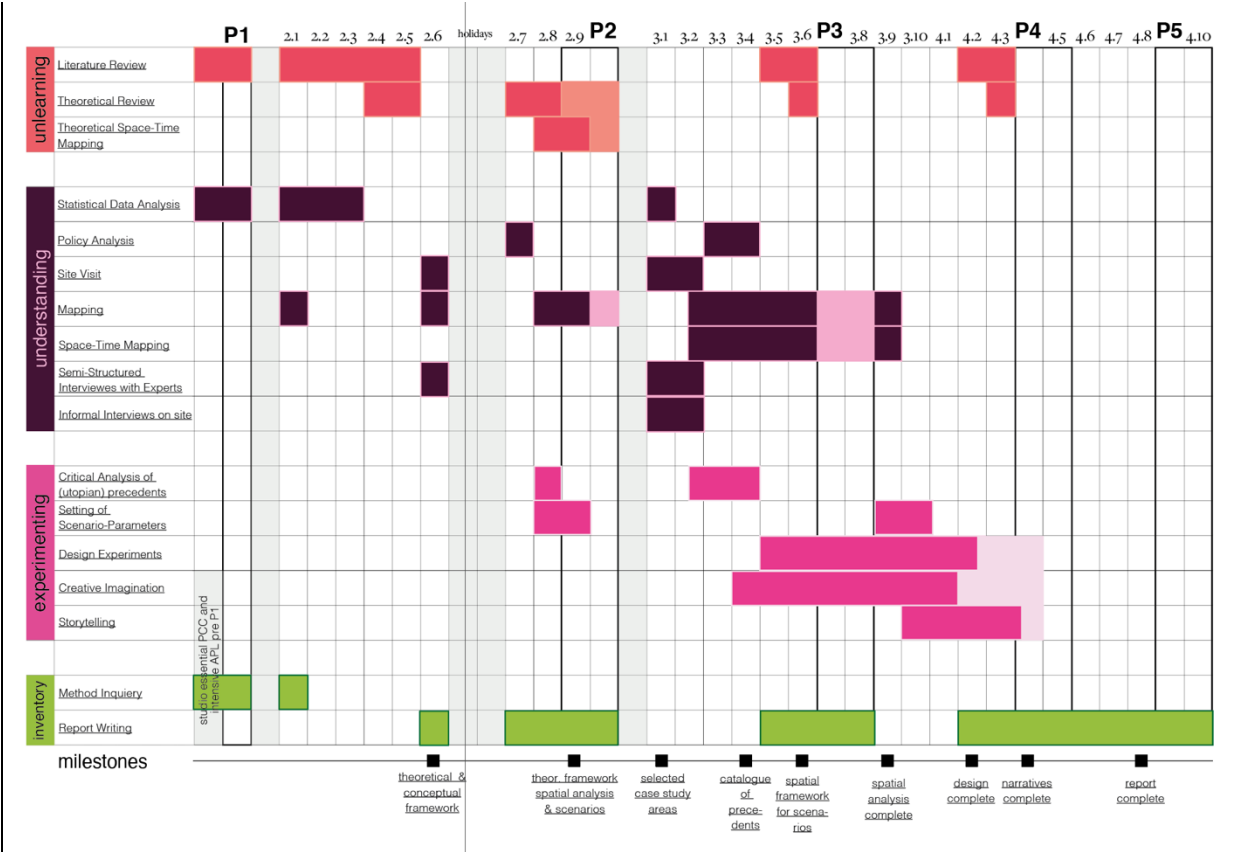Öberg, S. (2005). Hägerstrand and the remaking of Sweden. Progress in Human Geography, 29(3), 340–349. https://doi.org/10.1177/030913250502900313

Figure 5: Phasing and Methods, Author's Work

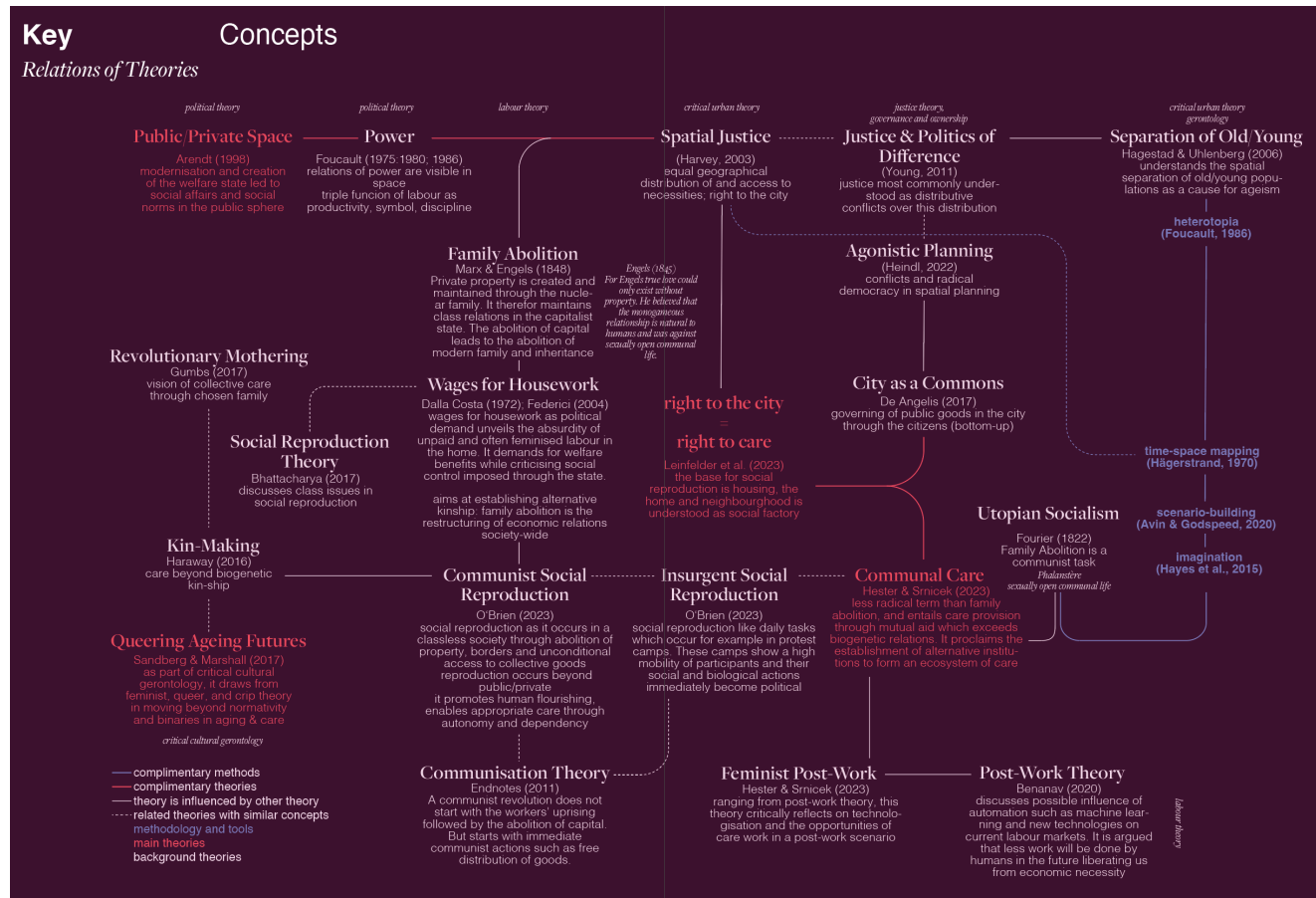# Literature and general practical references

Main theories used:

Figure 6: Key Concepts and Relations, Author's Work

The main theories stem from political theory, labour, and critical urban theory including:

- Arendt, H. (1998). The Human Condition. The University of Chicago Press.
- Foucault, M., & Miskowiec, J. (1986). Of Other Spaces. Diacritics, 16(1), 22. https://doi.org/10.2307/464648
- Hester, H., & Srnicek, N. (2023). AfterWork. A History of the Home and the Fight for Free Time. Verso.
- Leinfelder, H., Pannecoucke, I., Van Damme, W., & Verstraete, J. (2023). De Politisch Economische Rol van Huisvesting. Wonen uit de schaduw. Liber amicorum Pascal De Decker. Gompel & Svacina.
- Sandberg, L., & Marshall, B. (2017). Queering Aging Futures. Societies, 7, 21. https://doi.org/10.3390/soc7030021

For statistical and geo-data as well as analytical reports I mainly consult:
Luxemburg & Grand Region:
- Statec - Le Portail Statistique de Luxembourg: https://statistiques.public.lu/fr.html
- Liser – Luxembourg Institute for Socio-Economic Research: https://www.liser.lu
- Sante.lu – Healthcare System platform: https://sante.public.lu/fr.html
- Geoportail de la Grand Region: https://geocatalogue.gis-gr.eu/geonetwork/gis-gr/eng/catalog.search#/home
- National Geoportal of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg: https://www.geoportail.lu/en/

Europe:
- Eurostat Database: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?gclid=Cj0KCQiA-62tBhDSARIsAO7twbaMkUT8bNt_9dOpRXiaaO3NTKTCsVyee7678nOsm4kBJXZzbG8QU0saAnQEEALw_wcB
- European Climate & Health Observatory: https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/catalogue/climate-health/eng/catalog.search#/home

Reflection

Relation with the Studio and Master Program:
The topic of my graduation project aligns very much with concepts employed in the studio of Planning Complex Cities. On the one hand, the case study of Luxembourg represents a complex region in transformation. Challenges such as the competing market of housing as well as the security of public social systems due to migration and ageing represent complex issues to deal with in the realm of spatial planning. Moreover, the project engages with the concept of planning as a critically engaged method, through its active questioning of current structures in care provision and governance. The thesis discloses binary conceptions in social reproductive labour imposed by family, welfare state, and market paradigms alike. Lastly, the thesis with its method of design experimenting through scenario-building and designing based on former utopian precedents aligns with the understanding of urban planning as a future projective discipline.

The thesis further aligns with the approach of the Urbanism Master Track to integrate social, cultural, economic, and political perspectives into urban design and planning. The thesis references a large variety of concepts based on political and labour theory, as well as gender studies and critical cultural gerontology. It thus employs extensive research on aspects which concern local trends in housing, mobility, and care needs combined with a larger perspective on the general ageing of the European population. A main component of the graduation project is the critical analysis of current spaces of care in general as well as applied to the case study which is a main component of the master track. It proposes a sustainable solution for aged care provision through the rethinking of current models and spaces. The methods used also reflect on skills used in design practice and social sciences and thus correlate with the MSc AUBS in its blended research.

Scientific Relevance
There is a wide range of information on challenges and problems presented by demographic change and an ageing society. However, there is a lack of concrete strategies at various levels of politics, economy, and society to address these challenges (IZAH, 2023). There are concepts like age-friendly cities or the 15-min cities but often they do not include challenges faced by rather rural areas. My project is positioned at the intersection of diversely dense areas and explores the interdependencies between these areas. Moreover, many contemporary concepts of ageing centre around a form of active ageing which hide certain aspects inherent to ageing. Rather than making old age fit into current economic systems of efficiency and optimisation, my thesis explores possibilities to learn from non-normative experiences of ageing.

Societal Relevance
My project will highlight the significance of care in an ageing society. By firstly analysing the often-opposing definitions of private and public space as well as understanding both the welfare state, the family, and the market, as institutions of care provision, I will then move to exploring alternative concepts. Both areas of analysis are deeply space- and culture-bound, in for example more individual or collective environments. From an understanding of these areas, I will then present scenarios which foster and/or renounce local concepts of care provision: moving from a substantive way of planning care services to a more procedural and contextualised approach. The thesis therefore deals with organising care differently from contemporary societal notions and binaries. It actively questions social norms in the realm of aged care provision.

Ethical Consideration
Arendt (1998) claims bodily matters as the most private ones and the most difficult to communicate. This is one crucial element in my project, as for many people the need for care is considered private and people may often feel ashamed of it. I am aware that I develop this project as an able-bodied and young person. At the same time, I wish to contribute to a different understanding of care needs. However, I am aware that such a change in the understanding takes time or may never occur because of biases. Another aspect is by building scenarios based on local social behaviour and

necessary changes; I actively suggest change in behaviour. It is yet unclear how change of behaviour is influenced, enforced, or appreciated by local actors. Benhabib (1993) raises the concern that when dealing with private as political matters one may lead in feminist thinking to "authoritarian utopias" (Benhabib, 1993, p. 100). In the thesis, I actively use utopian precedents to showcase a possible future through scenarios. These scenarios are first and foremost tools for me to test my role as a designer and do not intend to cause any outside action.

Sources:

Arendt, H. (1998). The Human Condition. The University of Chicago Press.

Benhabib, S. (1993). Feminist theory and Hannah Arendt's concept of
public space. History of the Human Sciences, 6(2), 97–114.https://doi.org/10.1177/095269519300600205

IZAH (2023) Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Altern Halle. https://www.izah.uni-halle.de/