

# IUSD Lecture

## Why low-income people leave state housing in South Africa: progress, failure or temporary setback?

by **Dr. Raffael Beier (TU Dortmund University)**

Wednesday, 11.12.2024 | 11:30 CET | K1 building, Room M11,11



Source: Raffael Beier

### The Lecture

The delivery of houses for homeownership to low-income urban dwellers has been a cornerstone of post-apartheid policies in South Africa. In this context, policy stakeholders and scholars have been puzzled by housing beneficiaries who leave their state houses, either selling or letting them. Are they carelessly wasting a unique asset or are they moving 'upwards'? Due to methodological challenges, research on the experiences and perspectives of "leavers" is scarce. Based on narrative interviews, I argue that "leaving" could be construed as people-led reconfigurations of pro-poor housing policy – representing alternative, individually adapted but partly constrained pathways towards inclusion.

### The Lecturer

Raffael Beier is an Urban Geographer of the research group International Planning Studies (IPS) at TU Dortmund University. He holds a joint-PhD from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague and the Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE) at Ruhr University Bochum. As a postdoc, he was part of the Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies (CUBES) at Wits University in Johannesburg. Working mainly on North and Sub-Saharan Africa, his research has largely been concerned with people-centred perspectives on displacement, resettlement, and affordable housing.

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