

# USP SPEAKER SERIES

## Empirical Explorations in the Materiality of Housing and Eating Practices

This presentation will give an insight into empirical-methodological experiments that explore housing and eating practices and their physical-material aspects and effects in Germany. Investigations of kitchens in private households in Berlin lead to places outside the home, such as traffic junctions, office kitchens, rented kitchens and restaurants, and back to the home and 'empty nests.' Within the interdisciplinary field of architecture and social and cultural sciences, the object is approached through a combination of field research, interviews and analytical drawings. Following the concept of spatialisation, spatio-temporal patterns of use, the meaning of spaces and their creation, as well as changes in processual appropriation were investigated in order to gain indications of options for action.

The case studies reveal discrepancies between the ideas and desires of the interviewees and the spatial orders found. Transitory practices, the effectiveness of existing spatial structures and material objects, spatial reallocations and blurred boundaries between private and public spheres are described. The findings illustrate how qualitative empirical spatial research can reveal themes for transformative interventions.



**Friday Oct. 27**  
**12:00pm @**  
**Climate Action**  
**Lab - RWAC 116**

**RSVPs required:**  
<https://bit.ly/3tHSt05>

**Pizza will be provided!**



### SPEAKER

#### **Dr. Julia von Mende**

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Julia von Mende is an architectural theorist with a focus on housing, practice theory, qualitative empirical methods for investigating everyday practices, and the history of the city and the genesis of the urban metabolism (food). She is currently a fellow of the Thuringian Postdoctoral Programme at the Chair of Theory and History of Modern Architecture and a member of the interdisciplinary research group "Crisis and Transformation of the Private Home" at the Institute for European Urban Studies at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar.