**Rethinking Urban and Rural Marginalisation: Peripheralised Places, Othering Processes and Liveable Lives**

*29. Other (please specify in your proposal)*

*Shifte Mosalli1*

*Lena Sohl1, Lovise Haj Brade1*

*1 Mid Sweden University, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sweden*

Proposal: Rural areas and marginalised urban neighborhoods have several things in common: they are peripheralized both discursively and economically and are framed as places to leave behind, reflecting a neoliberal mobility imperative (Farrugia 2016) that positions departure as a way to manage uncertainty and austerity i.e. making lives more liveable. This mirrors meritocratic ideals that in a similar matter mandate individuals to escape class-based marginalisation and exploitation. All paths to happiness and success lead to the white urban middle class! Previous research has explored the othering of marginalised urban neighborhoods and their residents, focusing particularly on how these places are gendered and racialised and consequently positioned outside the nation’s imagined community. Dominant racialising middle-class discourses portray these neighborhoods and their (male) residents as “different”, not gender equal and backwards (i.e. “non-white”). Similarly, rural areas are often depicted as narrow-minded and adhering to traditional norms around family, sexuality, and gender. Unlike marginalised urban areas, however, rural areas and their (male) residents are simultaneously positioned both within the nation’s imagined community—by being portrayed as white—and outside of it, by being framed as backward and racist and thus deviant from the “enlightened urban middle class”. Thus, there is a need to expand the classed, gendered and racialised understandings and narratives of places outside the white urban middle class norm and to nuance the understanding of the places that are rendered invisible and unlivable. In this session we hope to initiate conversations that challenge and expand dominating narratives about class, gender and race and their intersection with peripheralisation. We welcome contributions in both English and Swedish that explore how class-based experiences are linked to situatedness in time and space and to dominant discourses about (non) liveability in certain areas.

· We invite empirical and theoretical papers that critically examine the class-based ideas about places and the effects of marginalisation and/or idealisation of places.

· We invite papers that explore people’s responses to negative attributions and to dominant stigmatising discourses as well as explorations of the positive effects belonging to place and community can generate.

· We welcome papers about how people develop strategies to challenge and resist these dominant narratives.

· We also invite papers that expand the understanding of queer perspectives on class and rural areas, especially starting from the critique of the urban-centredness of queer research and what lives and experiences this renders invisible.