Care, which is the provision of practical or emotional support, is increasingly recognized as a critical part of our lives and societies. As housing crises exist in most global North cities today, developing an understanding of how housing too can provide care or serve as an infrastructure of care in unequal housing systems is increasingly urgent. In this talk, Samantha Thompson engages feminist care theory to trace the forms of care that arise in response to housing crises through municipal tenant protections. Drawing on her research in Seattle, USA, she explores how care is experienced and enacted by tenants and how this in turn shapes tenants’ experiences of housing crises. She argues that theorizing the urban care politics of tenant protections helps us to consider a broad range of possible caring housing futures.

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