

# Home office – Show me your workplace!

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Doctoral session A  
Paper No 219  
WEDNESDAY, 28.JUN.2017 13:00-14:30  
Berlage 1 - Faculty of Architecture

# NEW WAYS OF WORKING : FLEXIBLE WORKING



HOME

WORK

milieu:

social and material context

people place time objects



‘standing patterns of behavior’ \*

# WHAT TYPES OF SPATIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEST SUITED FOR HOMEWORKERS ?

- Problem definition
- Methods
- Insight into data collection and results

# WHAT TYPES OF SPATIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEST SUITED FOR HOMEWORKERS ?

1989 –NEARLY 30 YEARS AGO....

Ahrentzen S. (1989): A place of peace, prospect, and...a PC: The home as office.  
In: Journal of architectural and planning research 6(4):271-288, December 1989

104 home workers in metropolitan areas in the USA were interviewed in their homes.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Ng C. (2010): Teleworker's home office: an extension of corporate office?  
In: Facilities, Vol. 28, Iss.3 / 4, pp. 137-155.

'to understand the relationships between the design and physical conditions of home offices and teleworkers' work behaviors'

# WHY DO THIS RESEARCH?

- People working from home:
  - how do other people deal with the situation?
  - feeling part of a community
- Employers:
  - insight: What is the base for successful homeoffice?
  - decision base for flexible working of own employees
- Housing market / politics:
  - new requirements for housing
- Office furniture industry:
  - how did people adopt ideas on homeoffice workplaces?
  - where is demand of support?
  - Inspiration pool ('street style')

**WHAT TYPES OF SPATIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEST SUITED FOR HOMEWORKERS?**

# METHOD: GROUNDED THEORY

Why qualitative method?

It's on personal experience... Qualitative methods help to find out, what's behind the phenomenon.

Grounded Theory (Strauss / Corbin) : To develop a theory or a model on the base of empirical data. Grounded Theory Method gives structure for Data collection, data analysis and development of a theory or model.

Data collection methods:

- guided interviews at the homeoffice workplace
- floor plan sketches, based on observation
- fotos of the homeoffice workplace

Analytic methods:

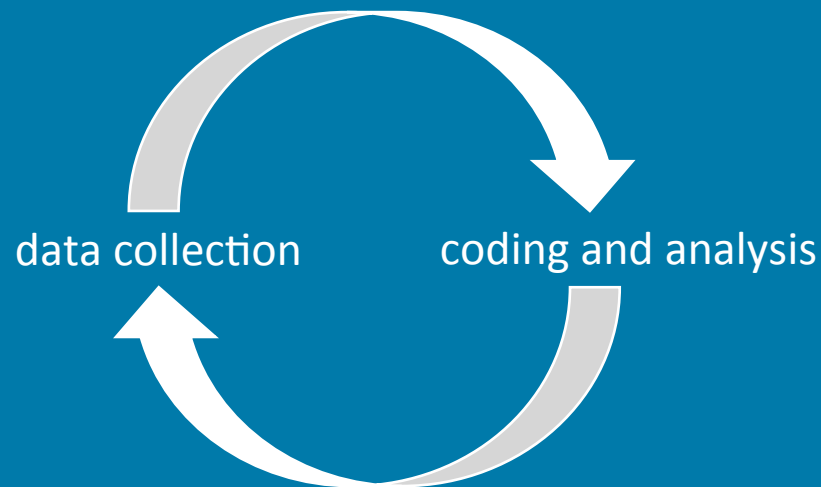
- coding
- circular process
- openness

**WHAT TYPES OF SPATIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEST SUITED FOR HOMEWORKERS?**

# SAMPLING: GROUNDED THEORY

Sampling: Openness in the start: Generation of many categories  
later focusing of relevant categories: consolidation

circular process: permanent adaption of sampling



WHAT TYPES OF SPATIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEST SUITED FOR HOMEWORKERS?

# SAMPLING: VIENNA / AUSTRIA

## CATEGORIES:

- 1) Business field: IT / architecture and design / science and education
- 2) own business – employed

## In these categories:

- a) Male / female
- b) Age group
- c) Children in the household
- d) Extend of working hours at home
- e) position (management responsibility?)

**WHAT TYPES OF SPATIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEST SUITED FOR HOMEWORKERS?**



# SPATIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 1) urban space – suburban area – rural area
- 2) house – apartment: layout and household structure
- 3) Workplace: own working room ?

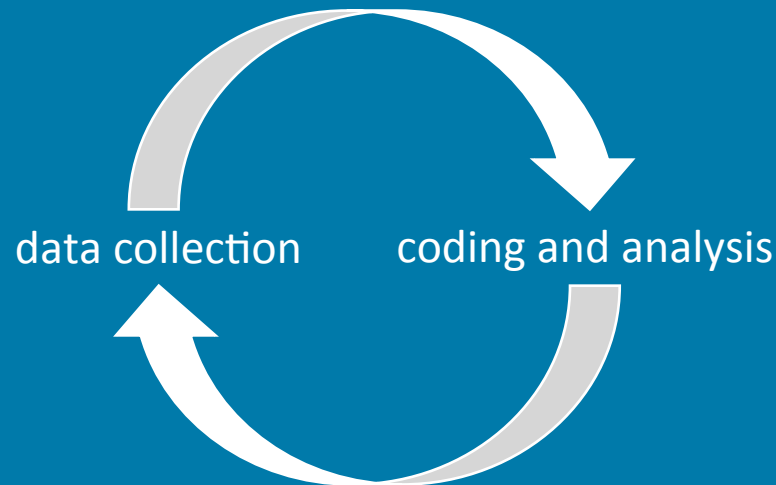
**WHAT TYPES OF SPATIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEST SUITED FOR HOMEWORKERS?**

# SAMPLING: 'FIRST ROUND'

April / May 2017

data collection

- 10 interviews and observations
- Detailed documentation















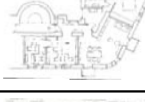

















June / July 2017

- Development of a standardized documentation sheet
- ‚line-to-line‘-coding of the transcribed interviews
- Identification of relevant categories

from August 2017:

- more interviews with focus on the relevant categories, identified in first round
- Process ends, when no new codes or categories emerge

	Sector	Self-employed - Employed	Working time in homeoffice	management responsibility	area		household	floor layout	sqm	own working room?
1	DESIGN	S	50% time remaining: Maker Space		1020	 45-50 y.	 14 y. / 10 y.		130 sqm	no
2	ARCHITECTURE	S	90% time remaining: 'Kaffeehaus' building site		1030	 30-35 y.	 3 y.		55 sqm	no
3	IT	S	80% time remaining: Travel, clients Meetings		1030	 50-55 y.	 12 y. / 13 y.		135 sqm	yes
4	ARCHITECTURE	S	90% time remaining: building site, Meetings		1050	 55-60 y.			113 sqm	yes
5	IT	S / E	70% time remaining: employers office 'Kaffeehaus'		1040	 40-45 y.			200 sqm	yes
6	SCIENCE and TEACHING	S	95% time remaining: University		1100	 30-35 y.			40 sqm	no
7	ARCHITECTURE	S	95% time remaining: building site workshop		1060	 50-55 y.	 19 y. / 16 y.		160 sqm	yes
8	TEACHER	E	30% time remaining: school		1180	 40-45 y.	 13 y. / 11 y.		85 sqm	no
9	IT	S	90% time remaining: clients travel		1230	 35-40 y.			110 sqm	yes
10	IT	E	85% time remaining: clients travel		NÖ - Perchtoldsdorf	 40-45 y.	 13 y. / 11 y. / 8y.		160 sqm	no

# DATA-SHEET



1030 WIEN  
size (sqm)

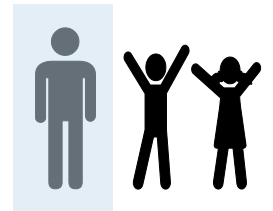


**Who lives here?**  
**And who works here?**

**orientation**



A circular symbol containing a horizontal line, representing a north arrow.



**BRANCH**

Interview 01  
01.04.2017

In the presentation in Doctoral session you can see some of the data-sheets.  
These data-sheets give a very personal insight to the home of the interviewed persons.  
For the protection of the rights of privacy the data sheets can not be provided for public download.  
If you want more information, please contact me:  
[christine.hax-noske@tuwien.ac.at](mailto:christine.hax-noske@tuwien.ac.at)

# CODING:

- 1) Open coding: Generation of categories
- 2) Axial coding: Linking categories with help of a coding paradigm
- 3) Selective coding: ‚story line‘, conceptualization around core category

# WORK PROCESS



WHAT TYPES OF SPATIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEST SUITED FOR HOMEWORKERS?

# QUESTIONNAIRE: GUIDELINE

- Tell me something about your person and about your living situation
- Describe your actual job
- What is the reason for working from home?
  
- Please show me your workplace: How do you use the apartment for work?
- Did your apartment change, since you work from home?
  
- How do you get inspiration, if you have to develop something new?
- How do you communicate with colleagues / clients / consultants?
- **How do you deal with privacy and work sphere?**
  
- What is the role of the neighborhood or the area where you live?
- Did this change, since you work from home?
  
- Are you satisfied with the situation?
- Do you think, you work efficiently?
- What would you like to change?



# privacy and work

## VERY CLEAR GENERAL DISPOSITION

### SEPARATION

„I try to divide this very strickly.“ (3,IT,male)

I should be much more stringent, that's a difficult topic. I have the freedom and I like that, but I'm not capable to set clear limits. That's my problem.

(6, Science, female)

### INTEGRATION

I use the entire apartment. I have a workplace in the sleeping room. I also like to work in the kitchen, because of the big table. (1, Design, female)

Internet is everywhere in the apartment. I can sit and work wherever I want. The terrace is great for work!

(6, IT, male)

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Questions? Please contact me :

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