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### **Middle Eastern migrants and the domestication of public spaces in Malmö, Sweden**

The project explores the process of transformation and appropriation of public spaces by immigrants, resulting in new roles and functions for such public spaces in post-industrial Malmö, Sweden. Such spaces have attained significant importance against the backdrop of increasing ethnic and economic segregation. The project is methodologically based on ethnographic research, documenting immigrants' practices in everyday life. It aims at exploring the interplay of spatial and social life in ethnically diverse neighborhoods, and how this contributes to the making of multiple and flexible 'home-places'. Theoretically, the research builds on concepts such as domestication, home making, everyday practices, materiality and territorial production. Home making in the public space takes place when individuals or collectives extend the concept of home outside the physical space of their houses, through material culture as well as symbolic exchanges. Migrants emplace themselves in the public and leave traces and marks through different forms of performances, exchanges and confrontations. By doing so they are (re)defining and negotiating their territory and visibility in the city. Through examples from my case studies, my research tries to illustrate the opportunities and barriers migrants face in such processes of home making. I argue that by appropriating new territories, migrants also produce new meanings in relation to home and public space, interconnecting past and present, here and elsewhere, through the domestication of the city.