

## **Abstract**

### **More-than-human cohabitation: gentrification, displacement and belonging**

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This thesis examines displacement and gentrification, using the example of the department store Karstadt at Hermannplatz in Berlin. The ecofeminist critique of the binary division between nature and culture is central to my argument that gentrification and displacement are influenced by complex natural-cultural processes. The thesis utilizes a combination of ethnographic fieldwork, interviews, and affective reading of historical materials to investigate the historical interlinks between the construction of the Karstadt department store in the 1920s and the present-day situation. I argue that gentrification surpasses the architectural and demographic transformation of a neighborhood and is often rooted in intersectional oppression. Furthermore, displacement encompasses intricate more-than-human relations and processes, such as ways of shopping, and destroys complex local ecologies. Lastly, the agency of materials has a direct influence on the transformation of neighborhoods. The findings demonstrate that non-human agents can play crucial and dynamic roles in the interconnected economic, cultural, and ecological processes that facilitate gentrification.

**Key words:** more-than-human relationships, gentrification, belonging, displacement, naturecultures, department store, queer ecology