Western
Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance

Urban Horizons Lecture Series



Friday, October 30th, 2026 · 10:30am–12:00pm · SSC 5220

Investing in displacement?

The financialization of housing, rents, and evictions in Toronto



Dr. Martine August is an Associate Professor in the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. Her research focuses on urban inequality, housing, and planning for social justice.

The financialization of rental housing – the growing ownership of apartments by financial firms like private equity funds, asset managers, institutions, and real estate investment trusts – is reshaping housing stability in Canada. This talk examines this trend and its impact on rental price increases and evictions in the city of Toronto, and proposes policy solutions to fight financialization and pursue housing justice.