**Δ Correlations (2021 – 2017)**

**Main idea:** Early post-2017 changes reflect diverging social and political dynamics.

* **Δ Gini ↔ Δ poverty (+0.55):** inequality and poverty rose together in several districts.
* **Δ rent ↔ Δ poverty (−0.71):** faster rent increases corresponded to *lower* poverty change — likely wealthier, central areas.
* **Δ rent ↔ Δ Die Linke (+0.70):** Die Linke gained slightly in rising-rent areas, possibly where housing became a political issue.
* **Δ Gini ↔ Δ Die Linke (−0.72):** growing inequality linked to declining Die Linke support.
* **Δ AfD ↔ Δ Die Linke (−0.53):** inverse trend — AfD rise where Die Linke fell.

➡ **Summary:** From 2017 → 2021, inequality and poverty increased together, but left-wing support weakened where inequality rose, while AfD gained modestly in opposite areas.

**📉 Δ Correlations (2025 – 2021)**

**Main idea:** Mid-term phase marked by housing stress and further polarization.

* **Δ rent ↔ Δ rent\_growth (+0.89):** confirms strong housing-cost acceleration.
* **Δ poverty ↔ Δ Die Linke (−0.68):** continued loss of left support in poorer districts.
* **Δ AfD ↔ Δ rent\_growth (−0.63):** AfD grew more where rent growth slowed — i.e., outer or less pressured districts.
* **Δ Gini ↔ Δ Die Linke (−0.64):** inequality increase still paired with Die Linke decline.

➡ **Summary:** From 2021 → 2025, housing pressures intensified, but again correlated with declining Die Linke support and little AfD linkage to rent dynamics.

**🧩 Δ Correlations (2025 – 2017)**

**Main idea:** Long-term (8-year) structural trends show persistent decoupling of social stress and left-wing response.

* **Δ Gini ↔ Δ poverty (+0.55):** inequality and poverty consistently rose together.
* **Δ poverty ↔ Δ Die Linke (−0.66):** strong negative link — left support eroded in high-poverty-growth districts.
* **Δ rent ↔ Δ AfD (−0.61):** AfD gains concentrated in lower-rent-growth areas.
* **Δ rent\_growth ↔ Δ Die Linke (−0.69):** steep rent growth associated with Die Linke decline.
* **Δ Gini ↔ Δ Die Linke (−0.40):** inequality growth accompanied by reduced left-wing vote.

➡ **Summary:** Across 2017–2025, rising inequality, poverty, and rents did *not* translate into greater left support; instead, Die Linke weakened where social hardship intensified, while AfD advances were concentrated elsewhere — showing a geographic and social decoupling between economic stress and political response.

**Overall Interpretation: 2017–2025 Dynamics**

Across Berlin’s districts between 2017 and 2025, **rising inequality, poverty, and housing costs** unfolded without a unified political response.  
Three consistent patterns emerge:

1. **Inequality and Poverty Move Together:**  
   Income inequality and poverty rates are strongly correlated throughout all periods — signaling a deepening structural divide between districts rather than short-term volatility.
2. **Rent Growth as a Spatial Divider:**  
   Rent and rent-growth changes cluster geographically — sharply increasing in already expensive central areas. These housing pressures did **not** systematically boost either AfD or Die Linke, but rather marked a **social and spatial polarization** between high-rent, affluent cores and lower-rent, outer areas.
3. **Erosion of the Left in Areas of Hardship:**  
   Die Linke’s vote share declines most consistently where inequality, poverty, and rent burdens increased — indicating a weakening connection to its traditional voter base.  
   In contrast, AfD gains are modest and concentrated in **less gentrified or slower-rent-growth** areas, suggesting a different social geography of support rather than a direct response to economic stress.

**🧩 Conclusion**

From 2017 to 2025, **Berlin’s socio-economic stress indicators rose**, yet **political responses diverged**:

* **The left (Die Linke)** lost traction in districts most affected by inequality and housing stress.
* **The right (AfD)** expanded mostly in areas *outside* the direct zones of rent escalation.

This points to a **decoupling between material hardship and electoral behavior** — a shift where urban inequality and political radicalization no longer overlap spatially.  
For urban planners and policymakers, this underlines how **housing and inequality dynamics reshape political geography** even when they no longer align neatly with traditional socio-economic voting patterns.