

# Rebuilding Precarity

Demolitions & Dwellings  
in Jamestown Harbor,  
Accra, Ghana

By Bianca Malkoc  
Crisis Housing Assemblages II  
Saturday, April 10 at 9:50 AM



# Demolitions in Jamestown Harbor 2015 - 2018

Cartographer: Bianca Malkoc  
Date: November 15, 2020  
Sources: ESRI, Google Earth, Maxar Technologies,  
Natural Earth, American Enterprise Institution,  
Environmental Justice Foundation



# Jamestown Harbor, 2019



Photo: B. Malkoc



Photos: B. Malkoc, 2019



# Research Question:

How have the demolitions in Jamestown harbor affected residents' dwellings that they rebuilt? How has precarity manifested itself?

# Why are dwellings significant?

- Material
  - Constructed out of physical things
- Non-material
  - Way of “being and becoming into the world”
  - Subject to a politics of inequality in ways that can oppress



# Theoretical Framework

- Urban Political Ecology
  - Vulnerability
  - Eviction & Precarity

# Methodology

## Grounded Theory and Ethnography

- Participant observation
- Semi-structured interviews
- Drawing exercise

## Data Analysis

- In-vivo coding
- Memos
- Member checks

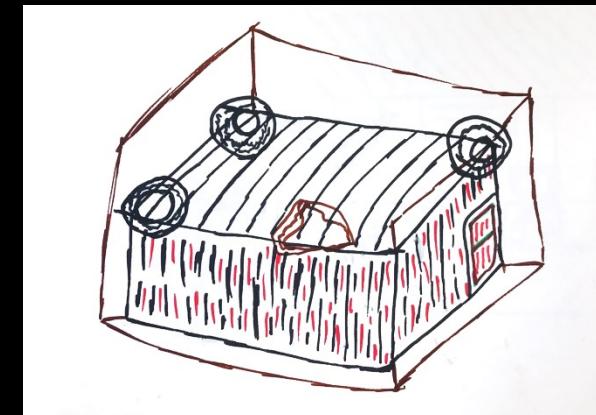
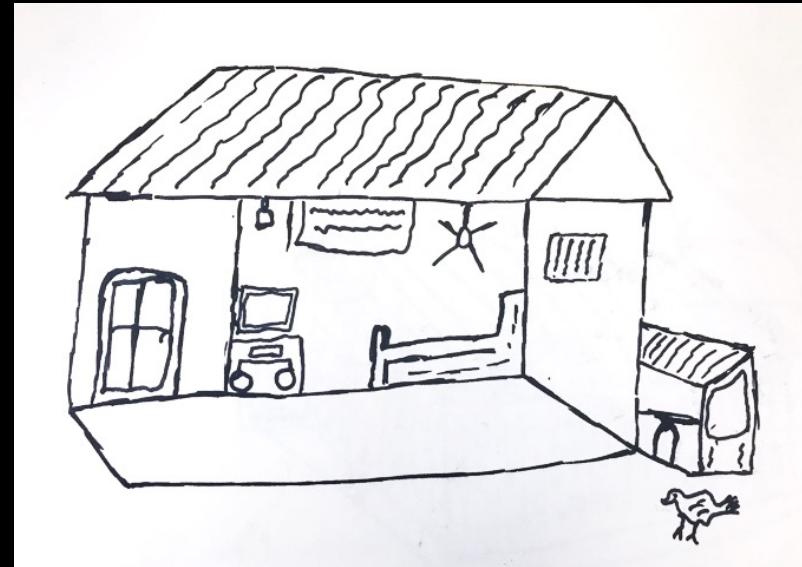
# Methodology

## Grounded Theory and Ethnography

- Participant observation
- Semi-structured interviews
- **Drawing exercise**

## Data Analysis

- In-vivo coding
- Memos
- Member checks



## **Results:** How did the demolitions impact dwellings?

1. How did they impact the size of dwellings?
2. How did they impact the use of building materials?

# Building Materials in Jamestown Harbor



Metal roofing "slate"

- Sturdy
- Water resistant
- Salt resistant
- Costly
- Difficult to replace

# Building Materials in Jamestown Harbor



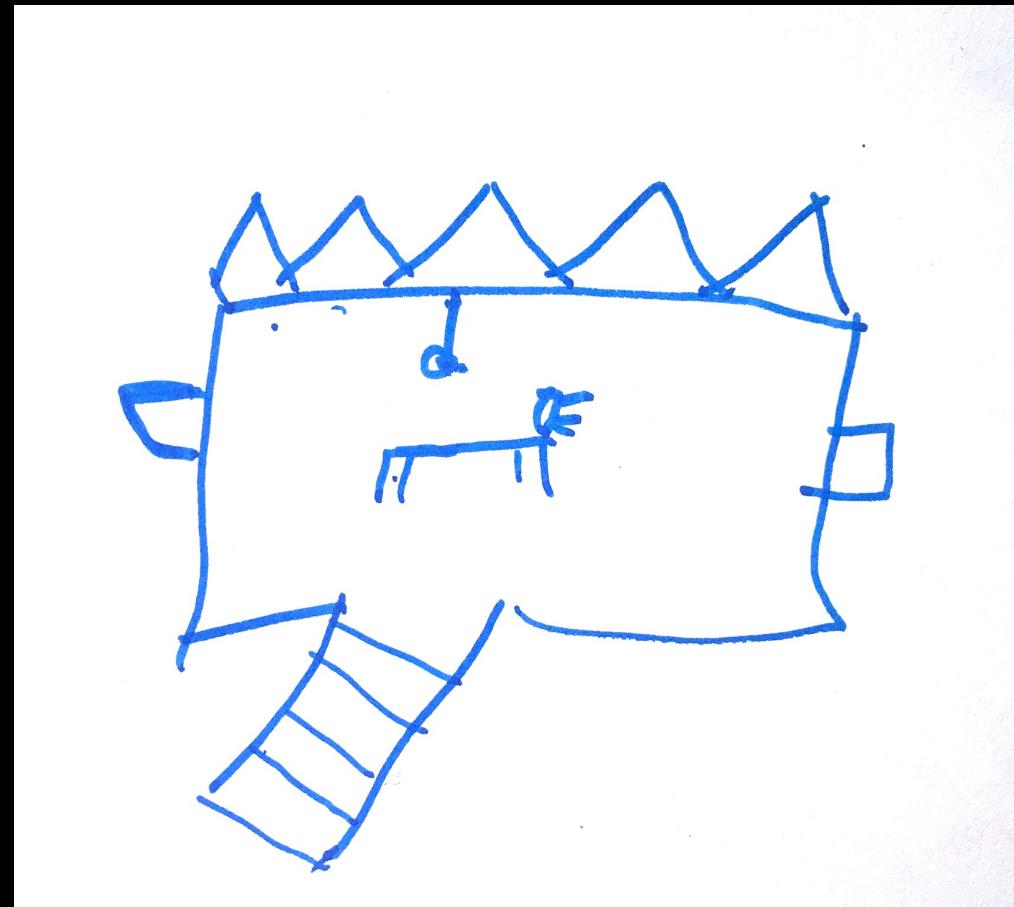
Plastic roofing "rubber"

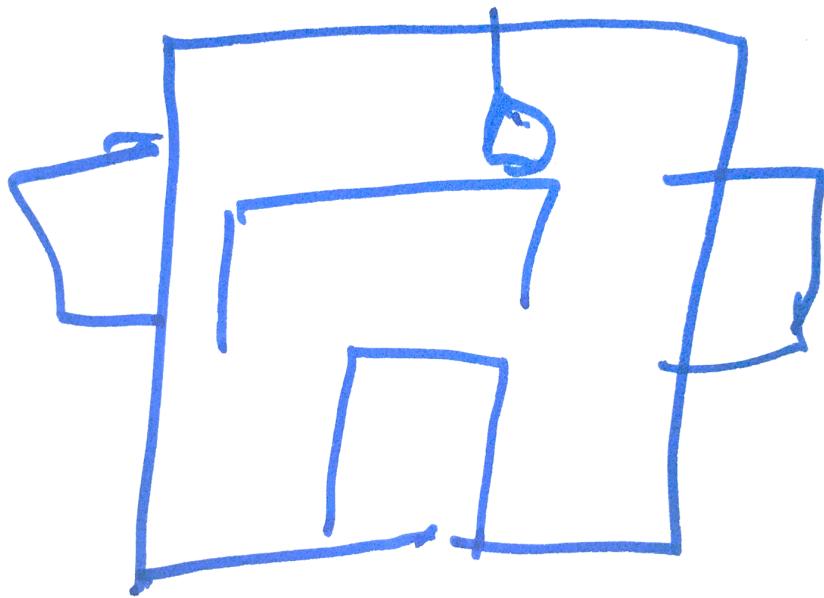
- Tears easily
- Semi-water resistant
- Less costly
- Easier to replace
- Less desirable

## **Results: Underinvestment in dwellings**

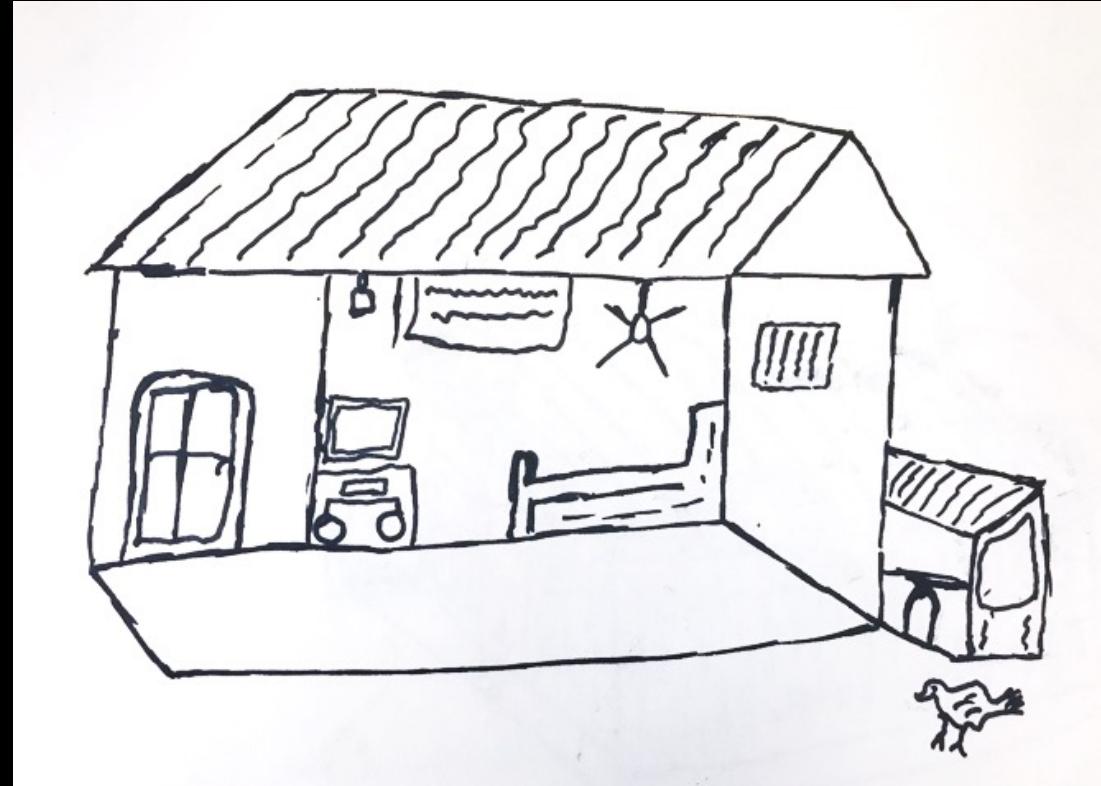
1. Residents constructed smaller dwellings
2. Residents used less-desirable (cheaper) building materials

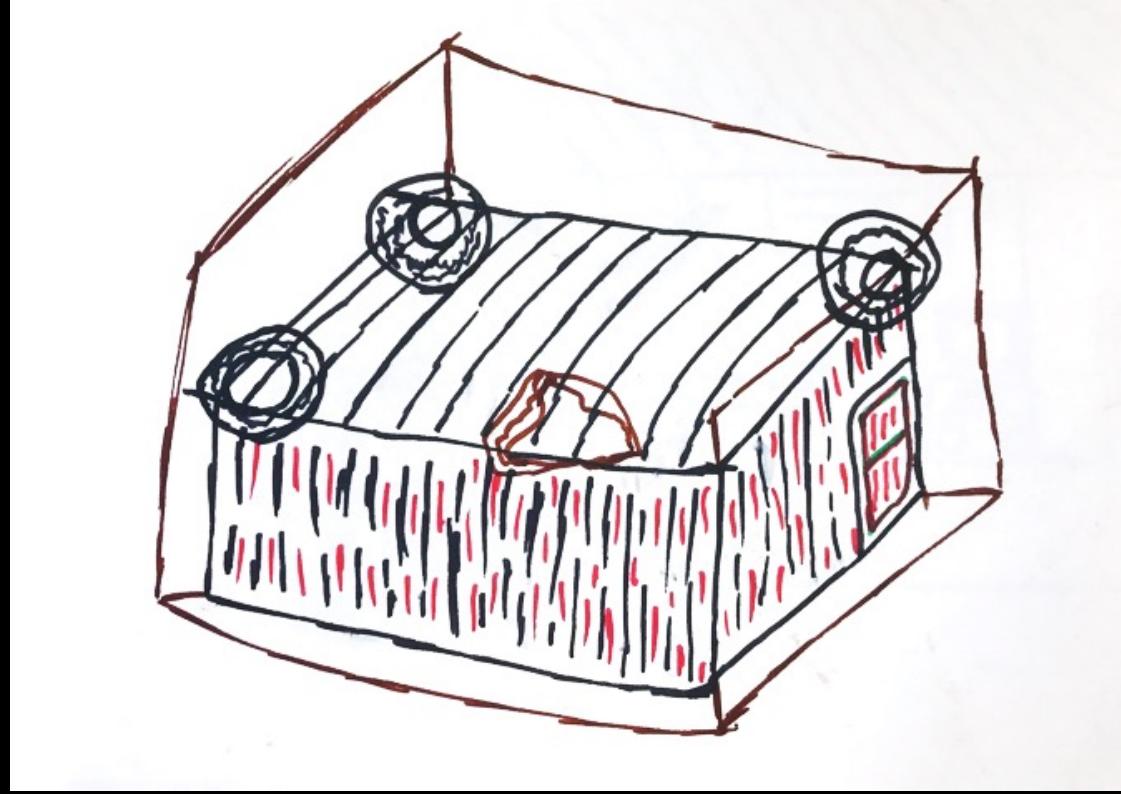
Faith, 58





Darryl, 25

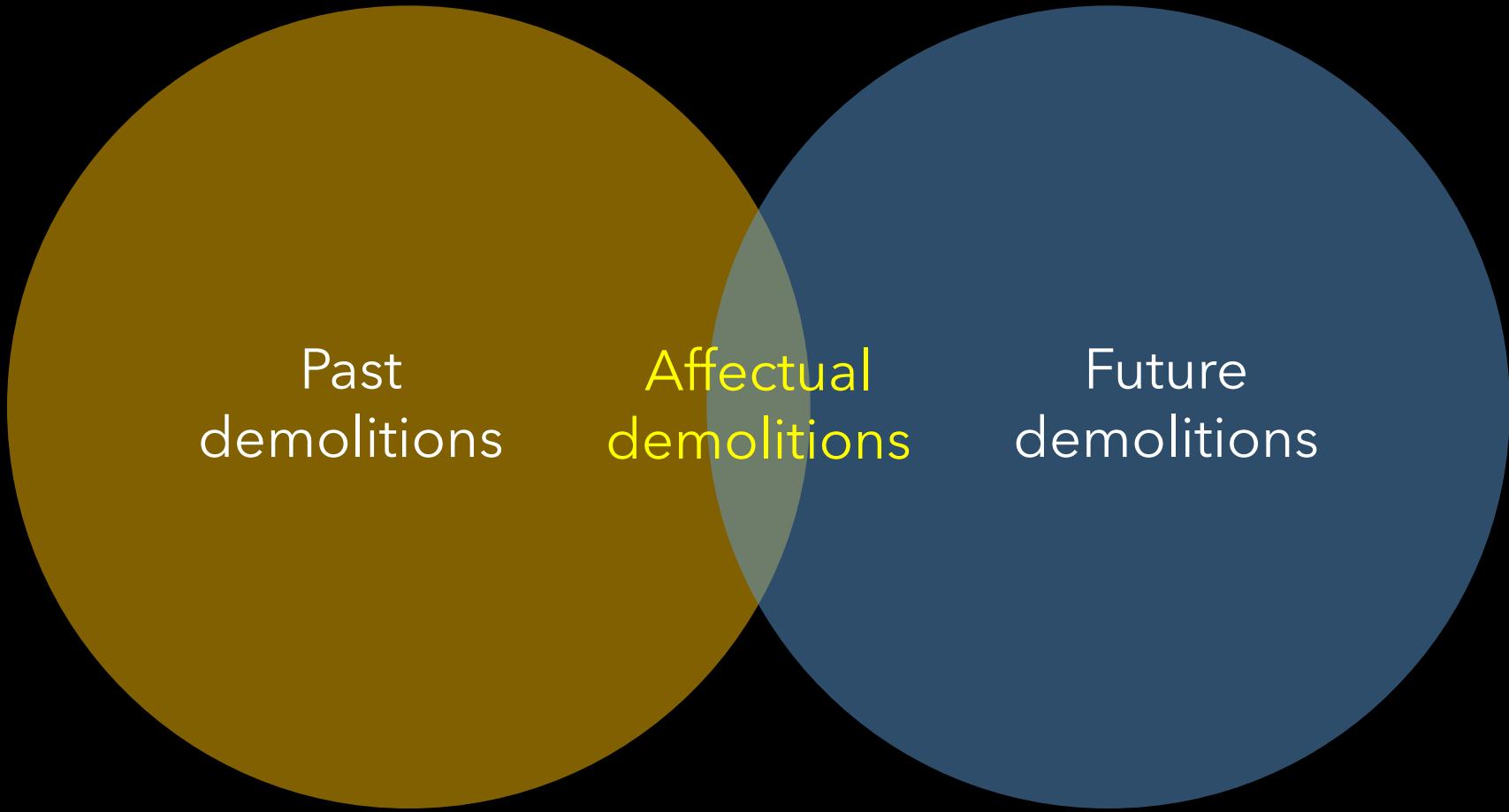




## **Results:** Underinvestment in dwellings

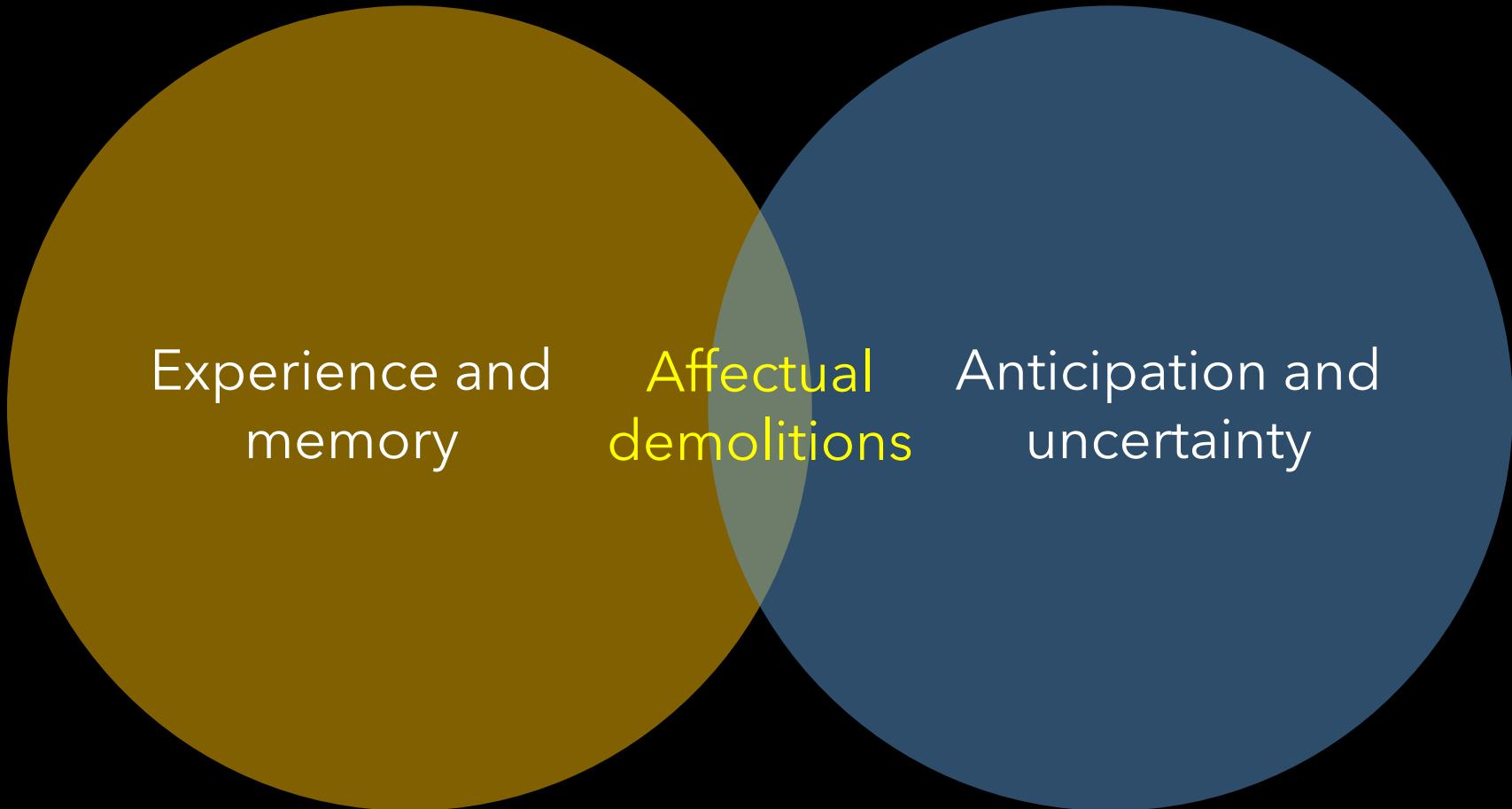
1. Residents constructed smaller dwellings
2. Residents used less-costly building materials

# The Affective Politics of Precarity



(Joronen & Griffiths, 2019)

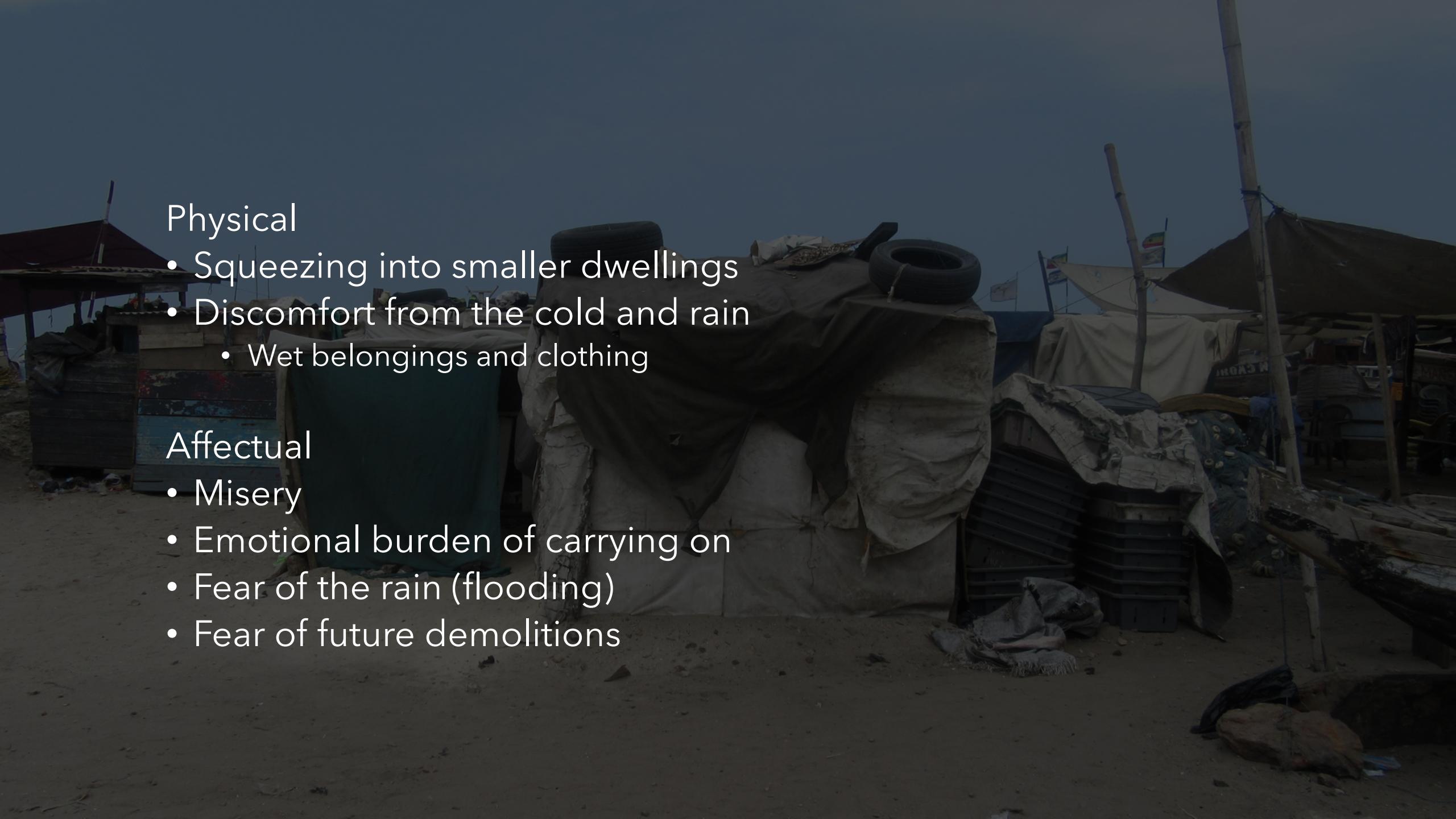
# The Affective Politics of Precarity



(Joronen & Griffiths, 2019)



What kinds of precarity has this created?



## Physical

- Squeezing into smaller dwellings
- Discomfort from the cold and rain
  - Wet belongings and clothing

## Affectual

- Misery
- Emotional burden of carrying on
- Fear of the rain (flooding)
- Fear of future demolitions

"This thing is meant for goats."  
-Grace

"If you are walking inside, you  
have to walk like an animal."  
-Darryl





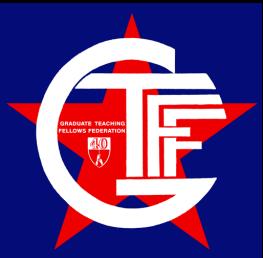


# Thank you

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## The Geography Department



## Graduate Committee

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Dr. Leslie McLees  
Dr. Alexandra Rempel

## Condon 208

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## The Tindi Family

## Friends and Family