

# Approaching Issues of Homelessness through Heidegger's Notion of Dwelling

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## SYNOPSIS

1. Homelessness is a pervasive issue that needs to be addressed using holistic measures (not merely political or structural solutions).
2. Martin Heidegger's notion of Dwelling can serve as inspiration for an ethic that encourages the stewardship of other individuals and their environment.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Unpack Heidegger's notion of Dwelling in his essay, *Building, Dwelling, Thinking*.
2. Survey current philosophical literature on Heidegger and homelessness.
3. Use Heidegger's notion of Dwelling to provide insights into issues surrounding homelessness and propose an "Ethics of Dwelling."

## EXEGESIS OF *BUILDING, DWELLING, THINKING*

1. Dwelling is the basic characteristic of being and an activity unique to humans.
2. Dwelling protects and liberates the Fourfold: earth, sky, divinities, and mortals.
3. Dwelling often occurs via building, which establishes spaces for the Fourfold.

## CONTEMPORARY SCHOLARSHIP ON HEIDEGGER AND HOMELESSNESS

1. Homelessness is a conceptual analog to refugee situations.
2. Homelessness is inevitably intertwined with human connection to the planet.
3. Dwelling can be a means to combat issues surrounding homelessness.

## AN ETHICS OF DWELLING

<b>Earth:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Post human perspectives</li><li>• Respect living and non-living entities</li><li>• Adopt a framework of earth citizenship</li><li>• Accelerate conservation efforts</li><li>• Focus on local and global issues</li></ul>	<b>Sky and Divinities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conceptual touchstone</li><li>• Inspire humility</li><li>• Acknowledge limits</li><li>• Accept change gracefully</li><li>• Continue to wonder</li></ul>
<b>Mortals (tangible):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actively help others find housing</li><li>• Make housing a human right</li><li>• Legalize squatting in unoccupied spaces</li><li>• Increase quantity of existing affordable housing</li></ul>	<b>Mortals (intangible):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educate others on issues of homelessness</li><li>• Inculcate empathy and cultural awareness</li><li>• Continued attunement with being(s)</li></ul>

