Dr Zahra Nasreen

PhD Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, MSc and BSc (Hons) University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan

Postdoctoral Housing Researcher

Email
zahra.nasreen@sydney.edu.au

Address
G04 - Wilkinson Building
The University of Sydney

Associations
Member of Planning Institute of Australia and Institute of Australian Geographers

Websites
ORCiD ID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6626-9606

Twitter: zahra_nasreen

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-zahra-nasreen-a4b64455/

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Zahra Nasreen is a Postdoctoral Housing Researcher at the University of Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning. She is an urban planner whose research focuses on shared housing, migrant housing, housing informality, homemaking, platform urbanism, platform capitalism and urban governance. In 2020, she completed her PhD on 'shared room housing in Sydney: An exploration of housing informality, platform technology and home making' at Macquarie University, Sydney, for which she was awarded the prestigious Macquarie University DVC(R) Commendation. Her current research focuses on the ways digital platforms are reshaping the informal housing markets and (re)generating the existing socio-spatial inequalities in our cities.

Funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) grant 2023, she is also researching migrants' settlement patterns and housing circumstances where precarity in migration status has implications for precarity in housing and labour markets. She has been a co-editor of a special issue 'Cities after COVID-19: Reconsidering urban form, mobility, housing and planning in Australasia' in Urban Policy and Research. She has been involved in evaluating planning and policy reports, developing master plans, conducting and analysing socio-economic and land-use surveys, face-to-face interviews, expert panels, and database mapping. She has ample command over multiple analytical tools including Regression modelling, ArcGIS, MapInfo, AutoCAD, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), NVivo, Endnote and Mendeley.

AWARDS

- Awarded with Macquarie University 'DVC(R) Commendation' for impact-oriented research
- Awarded with 'Pierre Agnes Memorial Prize' for conference paper 'Valuing shared housing as home?' at the Institute of Australian Geographers Conference, Auckland, July 2018
- Awarded with 'Peoples' Choice 3-Minutes Thesis Award' for presenting my PhD research at the Faculty of Arts, Macquarie University

PUBLICATIONS

Book chapters

- **Nasreen, Zahra** (2023) Migrants' homemaking practices in shared housing, Chapter 28 in Handbook on Home and Migration, pp. 338–349, Edward Elgar Publishing, DOI: https://doi.org/10.4337/9781800882775.00039

Journals

- **Nasreen, Zahra**, Gurran, Nicole, & Shrestha, Pranita (2024) Supplementary rental supply? The digital market for low-cost and informal housing in Sydney, Australia, Urban Studies, DOI: 10.1177/00420980241262227

- Gurran, Nicole, **Nasreen, Zahra** & Shrestha, Pranita (2023) Discounted housing? Understanding shared rental markets under platformisation, Housing Studies, DOI: 10.1080/02673037.2023.2242794

- Shrestha, Pranita, Gurran, Nicole & **Nasreen, Zahra** (2023) From flatmates to realestate? Platform capitalism and the transformation of share housing, Digital Geography and Society, Volume 5, DOI: 10.1016/j.diggeo.2023.100070

- Gurran, Nicole, **Nasreen, Zahra** & Shrestha, Pranita (2024) Platform informality? Planning for new housing practices, Journal of the American Planning Association, pp 1-14, DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2024.2326554

- Swapan, Mohammad, Alam, Ashraful, Rogers, Dallas, Houston, Donna, Lobo, Michele & **Nasreen, Zahra** (2023) Editorial: Cities in COVID-19: Reconsidering urban form, mobility, housing and planning in Australasia, Urban Policy and Research, 41(1), pp. 1-5. DOI: 10.1080/08111146.2023.2193738

- **Nasreen, Zahra**, & Ruming, Kristian. (2022) Struggles and opportunities at the platform interface: tenants' experiences of navigating shared room housing using digital platforms in Sydney, Journal of Housing and the Built Environment, DOI: 10.1007/s10901-021-09909-x

- Gilbert, Catherine, **Nasreen, Zahra**, & Gurran, Nicole. (2021) Housing key workers: scoping challenges, aspirations, and policy responses for Australian cities, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Report No. 355, DOI: 10.18408/ahuri7323901

- **Nasreen, Zahra**, & Ruming, Kristian. (2021) Informality, the marginalised and regulatory inadequacies: a case study of tenants' experiences of shared room housing in Sydney, Australia, International Journal of Housing Policy, 21 (2), pp. pp. 220-246, DOI: 10.1080/19491247.2020.1803531

- **Nasreen, Zahra**, & Ruming, Kristian. (2021) Shared room housing and home: unpacking the home-making practices of shared room tenants in Sydney, Australia. Housing, Theory and Society, 38 (2), pp. 152-172. DOI: 10.1080/14036096.2020.1717597

- **Nasreen, Zahra**, & Ruming, Kristian. (2019) Room sharing in Sydney: a complex mix of affordability, overcrowding and profit maximisation. Urban Policy and Research, 37(2), pp. 151-169. DOI: 10.1080/08111146.2018.1556632

Book reviews

- **Nasreen, Zahra** (2024), Fearing the Immigrant: Racialization and Urban Policy in Toronto by Parastou Saberi, the University of Minnesota Press, 2022, Urban Policy and Research, DOI: 10.1080/08111146.2024.2307647

- Shrestha, Pranita, Clements, Rebecca, Blatman, Naama, Mouat, Clare, Alizadeh, Tooran, **Nasreen, Zahra** Bromfield, Nicholas, Lata, Lutfun Nahar Young, Alison Rogers, Dallas (2023) The Colonizing Self: Or, Home and Homelessness in Israel/Palestine by Hagar Kotef, published by Duke University Press in Planning Theory, DOI: 10.1177/14730952231163213

Reports

- Gilbert, Catherine, **Nasreen, Zahra** & Gurran, Nicole (2023) Tracking the housing situation, commuting patterns and affordability challenges of essential workers: a report prepared for HOPE Housing, Sydney: The University of Sydney and HOPE Housing, https://hopehousing.com.au/essential-workers-are-being-pushed-further-out-of-sydney-and-melbourne-with-the-rising-costs-of-housing/

Conferences

- **Nasreen, Zahra,** Gurran, Nicole, & Shrestha, Pranita (2022) Platform informality: online rental housing markets in Sydney, Australia, conference paper at the State of Australian Cities Conference 2021, Melbourne, Australia. https://apo.org.au/node/316344

- **Nasreen, Zahra**. (2020) Shared room housing in Sydney: regulatory and enforcement challenges and policy responses, conference paper at the State of Australian Cities Conference 2019, Perth, Australia. DOI: 10.25916/5ec7234d282df

- **Nasreen, Zahra**. (2018) Room sharing: A solution or an exacerbation to rental housing affordability crisis in Sydney? conference paper at the State of Australian Cities Conference 2017, Adelaide, Australia. http://apo.org.au/node/178301

- **Nasreen, Zahra**, Gurran, Nicole, Shrestha, Pranita (2023), Digital informal housing submarkets and socio-spatial inequalities in Australian cities, State of Australian Cities Conference 2023, 5 to 8 Dec, Wellington, New Zealand

- **Nasreen, Zahra** (2022) Migrants' struggles and endeavours for homemaking in shared housing, conference paper at Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, 2-5 November 2022, Toronto, Canada

Others

- **Nasreen, Zahra** (2022) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tenants and operators in marginal housing forms: a reply to 'COVID-19 and precarious housing: paying guest accommodation in a metropolitan Indian city' by Marella et al, Global Discourse: An interdisciplinary journal of current affairs, DOI: 10.1332/204378921X16322125797720

Selected Grants

- The University of Sydney and University of Glasgow Ignition Grant with Sophia Maalsen (Chief Investigator, University of Sydney), Pranita Shrestha, and Prof Nicole Gurran and Anna Gawlewicz (Chief Investigator, University of Glasgow) and Prof Mark Stephens for an international collaborative project (2023-2024) – Research Collaboration Project

- Housing temporary migrants: investigating challenges and policy opportunities, Faulkner D (Chief Investigator), Nasreen Z, Barrie H, Dekker K, Wasserman R, Levin I, Arthur N, Baltra-Ulloa A, Vincent K, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Ltd (AHURI)/National Housing Research Program - Research Projects

- Hope Housing for a research project (2022) with Catherine Gilbert (Chief Investigator, University of Sydney) and Prof Nicole Gurran (University of Sydney) – Research Project

- Australian Coastal Councils Association (ACCA) for research project (2023-2024) with Prof Nicole Gurran (Chief Investigator, University of Sydney) and Pranita Shrestha (University of Sydney) – Research Project

Contribution to policy debates

- Active involvement in policy debate for NSW Commissioning Housing: Ministerial Forum on Overcrowding and Homelessness, held on 19 September 2018 at Parliament House, with NSW Department of Family & Community Services.

- Engagement with the Housing Strategy Implementation Unit at Department of Planning and Environment and the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People on initiatives to improve housing outcomes for young adults

- Featured in the Tasmanian Housing strategy '2023-2043 Delivering more homes for a growing Tasmania and ending homelessness' (2023)

- Kent, Jennifer.L, Alizadeh, Tooran., **Nasreen, Zahra**., Werner, Greta., Astell-Burt, Thomas., Allen, Kirstie. (2024) "Discipline of Urbanism Submission to the Federal Government's Draft National Urban Policy", 4 July, 2024.

In the media

- Gilbert, Catherine, **Nasreen, Zahra** & Gurran, Nicole (2022) Essential workers a long way from home, Sydney Business Insights, https://sbi.sydney.edu.au/essential-workers-a-long-way-from-home/

- Gilbert, C. **Nasreen, Z.** and Gurran, N. (2022) Housing key workers in our increasingly unaffordable cities, Cities People Love, August 2022,

https://citiespeoplelove.co/article/housing-key-workers-in-our-increasingly-unaffordable-cities

- **Nasreen, Zahra**, & Ruming, Kristian. (2019). Tracking the rise of room sharing and overcrowding, and what it means for housing in Australia. The Conversation, https://theconversation.com/tracking-the-rise-of-room-sharing-and-overcrowding-and-what-it-means-for-housing-in-australia-107265

- **Nasreen, Zahra**, & Ruming, Kristian. (2019). Shared room housing: a growing form of overcrowded accommodation. Parity, 32(5), pp. 16-18.

- Featured in SBS news: the feed, Living in a basement with no windows. Life in a 12-person share house during Australia's rental crisis, https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-feed/article/living-in-a-basement-with-no-windows-life-in-a-12-person-share-house-during-australias-rental-crisis/lars2zusb

- Featured in the Guardian, Early career essential workers unable to afford house prices anywhere in Sydney and Melbourne, https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/mar/24/early-career-essential-workers-unable-to-afford-house-prices-anywhere-in-sydney-and-melbourne

- Featured in Daily Mail. How an immigration surge is forcing older people and couples into share house living - with a major bank warning building company collapses will worsen the housing crisis, https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12411687/How-immigration-surge-forcing-people-share-house-living.html

Featured in the Daily Telegraph: Why Sydney University Vice Chancellor wants affordable housing special provisions, https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/new-south-wales-education/tertiary/why-sydney-university-vice-chancellor-wants-affordable-housing-special-provisions/news-story/38abaa209a17c992521537315f835da8?btr=205f78030ad71f35175058cb329e61be