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Abstracts

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Autobiographical materiality and affects in research of everyday objects

All of us possess a variety of everyday objects, which can become important or even feel irreplaceable in our lives. The reasons for cherishing material items may vary. They can connect to meaningful memories or activities, or they can have a certain “something”, which triggers emotional and bodily reactions. Objects have the power to affect us through sensory, personal, cultural, emotional, narrated and unverbilized aspects. This raises interesting research questions but also methodological challenges for exploring the affective capacities of material objects. In this paper we explore affective human-object-relationships as autobiographical materiality, pondering upon the intertwining of materiality and life history. We introduce examples from our ongoing research project in which we study meaningful objects and materiality of home employing ethnographic methods, including autoethnography.