

Spencer Cahill Annual Lecture Series Presents:

ROOMS WITH LITTLE VIEW: RELUCTANT HOMEMAKING IN AN ASYLUM CENTER



**Dr. Paolo
Boccagni**

University of Trento

His lecture unpacks the racialized and gendered tensions, dilemmas, and inequalities that inform everyday life in a forced waiting modus among young Black men who have "made it" to Europe but remain potentially deportable. He argues that everyday life in an apparently meaningless and empty time-space is made up of continuous boundary-making among residents and with service providers. In the rooms and shared kitchens that operate as proxies of domestic spaces, residents do not simply "wait". They engage in forms of space appropriation (and occasionally form attachments) that illustrate the ubiquity of homemaking even in temporary and unhomely settings. As long as someone is stuck in it, a refugee room offers little of an external view, however, it provides a unique internal window into its occupant's everyday life experience, practices, and future prospects.

Dr. Paolo Boccagni is Professor in Sociology at the University of Trento. He has done extensive research on transnational migration, home, diversity and social welfare. His emerging research involves everyday life in asylum, shared housing and dwelling, as well as the production and scaling of relevance, the ways of coping with absence and distance, the encounter with death in migration and the promise of future-related imaginaries and practices.



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10:30-12:00pm

ISA 5020

University of South Florida, Tampa

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
& INTERDISCIPLINARY
SOCIAL SCIENCES**



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