

## Working Title: Cleaning as Care Work -Social (In)Visibility of Cleaning Work during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically increased the need for clean and sanitary spaces. Cleaners have been on the front lines of the pandemic, working tirelessly to disinfect and sanitize spaces to prevent the spread of the virus. This led to cleaning work being one of the fields that were classified as systemically relevant thus assessed as central to critical infrastructure. At the same time however, cleaning work continued to remain barely visible during the pandemic.

This dissertation is dedicated to researching formal, i.e., remunerated cleaning work under pandemic conditions as care work. In order to get a broad overview, the focus is not only on cleaners, but also on other important stakeholders in the cleaning industry, such as cleaning companies, temporary employment agencies and employers (in private households, as well as institutions of the health system).

In this study, qualitative interviews will be used as the primary method of data collection. The interviews are analyzed using qualitative content analysis.