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# IRS AKTUELL

Newsletter for Social Science-Based Spatial Research

## International Affairs at the IRS

**An International IRS** – Vision and Strategy

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# An International IRS – Vision and Strategy

The Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning examines socio-spatial interrelationships and developments on different scales: from regional actor constellations (e.g. in the energy transition) to international and global questions such as climate change. To be able to tackle many of these questions, an international perspective is inherently necessary.

As in many other activities, day-to-day research no longer stops at regional or national boundaries. Beyond our joint appointments with Berlin and Brandenburg universities and work in research networks focusing on spatial research, we can observe active collaborations with international scholars, conferences activities within the global scientific community and a growing number of international researchers who come to work at the institute in Erkner.

institutions whose profile is complementary to IRS research interests, and research contacts have already been established. Apart from exchanging guest researchers with these partners, the IRS aims to develop joint projects and contribute to conferences and graduate schools. For IRS researchers, this means greater participation in research contexts such as the Association of American Geographers (AAG) (see page 3) or the Royal Geographic Society. The benefits of such work

**“Our internationalisation strategy is primarily geared towards setting long-term priorities.”**

Based on a vision of the IRS as an internationally networked research institution working on globally relevant questions, the IRS defined a number of concrete goals and, moreover, made a strategic effort with its research programme 2012-2014 to increase its international visibility. “With regard to our limited temporal and financial resources, our internationalisation strategy is primarily geared towards setting long-term priorities”, explains IRS director Prof. Dr. Heiderose Kilper. “We have carefully examined the communities and conferences in which we want to be present. Moreover, we have also developed plans to increase the profile of IRS research abroad.”

New strategic forms of cooperation are currently being intensified in North America, Great Britain, Scandinavia and Poland. Each of these regions is home to important research

are already apparent. The conferences “Constructing Resilience” (see issue 74) and “Scale in Environmental Governance” (see page 3) brought together internationally renowned researchers and were a great success. Moreover, ten scholars represented the IRS at the AAG annual conference in April 2013 (see page 5).

Finally, it has to be mentioned that the internationalisation strategy has also had an impact on our staff. On 1 June 2013, Dr. Karina Böhm took up employment at the IRS as “Advisor on International Issues”. Her main tasks will be to support researchers in their participation in European research funding programmes as well as to maintain and develop ties with international partners and funding organisations.

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Karina Böhm is Advisor on International Issues at the IRS. Her tasks comprise the maintenance and development of cooperation and relations with funding organisations and international partners.



## The Misfits – the Role of Scales in Environmental Policy

Be it climate protection, energy transition or water resource management, projects related to environmental policy tend to encounter implementation problems. Why is it that objectives like the reduction of carbon dioxide or sustainable river management are so hard to achieve? Apart from disagreement on goals and conflicting interests, so-called scalar effects are also observable, says Dr. Timothy Moss from the IRS. Collaborating with Dr. Frank Huesker, Moss conducts the research project “Rescaling Environmental Governance in Europe” (ReScale). This project focuses on how political action at various scales (from municipalities to the EU-level) and a lack of compatibility (‘fit’) between spatial units – for instance between administrative and biophysical spaces – tend to influence the management of these processes.

“When we think of the scalar dimension of environmental policy, we have to differentiate between two factors”, Moss explains. “On the one hand, there are stakeholders, such as local or regional actors, national governments and the European Commission, who operate on several scales of governance within the boundaries of the political-administrative system. How effectively certain measures can be identified, resolved and implemented depends on the interplay between these different scalar levels.

Questions of competence are often found at the heart of these interactions. Which scale is most appropriate to tackle a certain problem? In the case of climate policies, the global reach of this issue speaks for an “upscaling” - taking decisions at

the global or national scale. At the same time, climate protection without a consideration of local concepts is impossible. Thus Moss regards the

**This orientation of management to natural spatial areas has brought about significant change, particularly in fields where municipalities and federal states cooperate**

right scalar balance to be the key factor for successful policy measures: “Very often, legitimisation and participation are played off against effectiveness and, concomitantly, the local against global scales.”

The second aspect related to scales in environmental policy is of equal importance. “The spatial coverage of different governance units is hardly ever identical. For instance, this is

to say that a river basin area does not fit with the area covered by regional administrative structures”, Moss explains. If we want to ensure the

sustainable management of a particular river, we always need to involve dozens of municipalities, districts and federal states. For policymakers, the challenge is to overcome the limits imposed by the various political-administrative boundaries. “The introduction of the Water Framework Directive in 2000 introduced the alternative approach of managing water resources within river basins. This orientation of management to

natural spatial areas has brought about significant change, particularly in fields where municipalities and federal states cooperate”, says Moss.

At the same time, Moss emphasises that there is nothing intrinsic to the river basin which makes it the ideal spatial entity for managing water policies. River networks are interconnected through channels, groundwater follows its own path anyway, and freshwater and sewage pipelines do not stop at these boundaries either. Further, water management also depends on other systems such as environmental protection, spatial planning and agriculture. “The fact that environmental policies are characterised by an interweaving of a number of governance and management dimensions illustrates the complexity of scalar problems. We are dealing with an accumulation of ‘misfits’ here, which need to be ordered and addressed as well as possible.”

In their project ReScale, Moss and Hüesker have analysed a) the ways water management stakeholders have



implemented the Water Framework Directive since 2000 and b) how they have operated within and between spaces and scales. “One thing we became aware of is that scales must not be regarded as simple facts, ‘givens’. They are rather the result of conflicting interests and power struggles. Of course, every stakeholder tries to consolidate his or her position within the hierarchy of competences. Environmental associations or regional organisations, for example, sometimes bypass the national scale and negotiate with the EU directly instead.” According to Moss, such actions prove there is a need to place further emphasis on the analysis of scalar conflicts and misfits.

“There are, however, also researchers who have a different, very much positivist perspective. According to this approach, we only need to find out about the right configuration of scales so as to solve problems in an efficient manner.” Against this background, Moss and Hüesker organized the international symposium “Scale in Environmental Governance” together with researchers based at Leuphana University Lüneburg. This event aimed to bring together different schools of research on the scalar dimensions of environmental policy and provide a forum for the presentation of case studies from around the globe. The researchers (half of whom came from abroad) presented papers on governance and management processes in sectors such as energy and climate change, forestry, ecosystem services, as well as air and water quality.

“Undoubtedly, there are scholarly differences of opinion in this research area”, Moss stated after the conference. “That said, we can regard it as a success in that we have brought the different schools to one table. We have thereby managed to break down well-established disciplinary ideologies. In fact, there is nothing wrong with pursuing different approaches when dealing with this question. Nothing will be gained from simply stirring all the existing concepts together. This will not bring us any closer to a blueprint for an ideal spatial and institutional configuration for environmental policies and the corresponding governance and management processes.” Instead, the symposium contributed to broadening the horizons of participating scholars and, moreover, helped to identify examples of both more and less successful scalar constellations from many parts of the world. Based on this, the participants discussed the options for transferring good practices from the field of environmental policy to other countries or regions. In his concluding statement, Professor Erik Swyngedouw

(University of Manchester) stressed that the researchers’ task is to utilise their knowledge of scalar effects in environmental policies to conceptualise future models of governance and management.

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Timothy Moss is head of the IRS research department „Institutional Change and Regional Public Goods“. Among other issues, his research agenda comprises institutional analyses, transformations of socio-technical infrastructure systems as well as the spatial governance of climate change.



Dr. Frank Hüesker

Frank Hüesker was employed as a researcher at the IRS research department “Institutional Change and Regional Public Goods“. In his dissertation, he dealt with the changing public service-oriented state on the example of the partial privatisation of the Berlin Waterworks (“Berliner Wasserbetriebe”). Infrastructure systems are his object of research.



## It's all Coming Together in LA

In April 2013 the Association of American Geographers (AAG) held its annual conference in Los Angeles. Almost 7000 researchers from various disciplines (among them ten geographers, political scientists, sociologists, planners and historians from the IRS) took up the invitation to the Californian metropolis to participate in the world's largest meeting of spatial researchers. As Professor Dr. Oliver Ibert and Dr. Manfred Kühn from the IRS noted, there is hardly another place in the world more appropriate for a meeting of this size and with such an agenda. LA undoubtedly serves as an evocative example of and think tank for urban research in the second half of the 20th century.

"It's all coming together in LA" read a headline in the LA Times, one Ed Soja took up in his "Postmodern Geographies". It also served as a discussion topic at the "CITY Perspectives Session" with Allen Scott and Ed Soja. "It's all coming together in LA" captures the sense that all important global trends flow into each other in this single place. In LA the dynamics of global cultural production and capital valorisation merge with those of international migration and trade. "This is why Los Angeles is seen as emblematic of late 20th century developments", says Oliver Ibert, head of the IRS department 'Dynamics of Economic Spaces' and conference participant. "The city is regarded as a laboratory where the

social upheavals integral to a globalising society can be observed in numerous real-world experiments. Where else in the world could we find more pronounced examples of ethnic segregation, the structuring of space according to the logics of security and surveillance, the influence of the automobile, the social construction of safety in the light of impending natural disasters, alongside the decline of inner-city districts?"

Given that the 109th annual AAG conference took place in Los Angeles, it is natural to address the city's special status as an object of spatial research. There is, of course, even talk of a "Los Angeles School", a term to signify a highly produc-

tive cluster of academics in the late 20th century, whose members have made use of this urban laboratory to either develop or try out their theories. At the conference, one of the most important exponents of the LA School, Allen C. Scott (now professor emeritus of geography and public policy at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)), was honoured for his lifetime achievements and played a prominent role in many of this event's activities (e.g. a panel organized by CITY journal). Together with some of his most well-renowned contemporaries like Ed Soja (UCLA), Sharon Meagher (University of Scranton) and Elvin Wyly (University of British Columbia), Scott discussed the extent to which

contemporary global “third wave” urban development must be interpreted in the light of the interplay between a global “cognitive-creative workers” elite on the one hand, and a local “servile class” on the other hand. Another issue under discussion was whether it was justified to regard LA as a global trendsetter also at the beginning 21st century. In her function as a correspondence editor of CITY, IRS researcher Dr. Anna Richter was involved in the organisation of this panel.

## For 5 days, 7000 scholars representing all facets of spatial research came together in the city.

“It’s all coming together in LA” has a second meaning in relation to the AAG. For 5 days, 7000 scholars representing all facets of spatial research came together in the city. The programme was tightly packed with more than 5000 presentations on recent research findings. Without doubt, the classic presentation as part of a paper-session was still the most common format here. “The conference did, however, include a large number of poster presentations, fieldtrips and roundtable discussions”, says Dr. Manfred Kühn, acting head of the IRS research department ‘Urban Regeneration’. “This is what makes the AAG one of the most thematically rich and multifaceted conferences worldwide. Today, the AAG is the only conference within the field of spatial sciences that really deserves the attribute ‘global’”, Kühn continues. While the majority of participants still come from North America, attendees from other parts of the world have been increasingly apparent in recent years.

Together with eight other researchers, Ibert and Kühn provided comprehensive representation of key IRS research themes (see box for specific contributions of the IRS researchers). Moreover, Ibert and Kühn succeeded in bringing two topics from the IRS lead project onto the conference’s agenda: “The Generation of Knowledge – a Spatio-Temporal Process Perspective” (in cooperation with: Harald Bathelt, University of Toronto; Johanna Hautala and Jussi Jauhiainen, University of Turku; Sebastian Henn, Leibniz Institute for

Regional Geography, Leipzig) and “Peripheralisation and Marginalisation (in cooperation with Tassilo Herrschel, University of Westminster, London). Due to the positive response from the international scientific community, it was possible to successfully integrate both topics into the conference programme with several sessions.

Being an annual event for geographers by no means implies that the conference is confined to a narrow circle of disciplinary experts. Instead, in recent years spatially-oriented researchers from other disciplines such as sociology, economics, planning and political sciences have shown increased interest. “The ever-increasing interdisciplinary character of research has turned the conference into an interesting stage for all research departments at the IRS”, Ibert concludes. “Owing to the altogether eight presentations and seven co-organized sessions, the institute was highly visible during the conference. This was emphasised by the fact that scholars have been invited to further panels or to act as panel discussants.”

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## Contributions from IRS Researchers at the AAG

<p><b>Oliver Ibert</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chair of the Paper Session “From cluster to process? New economic geographic perspectives on knowledge generation II: Time-Spatial Bundling”</li> <li>▪ Organizer of the Paper Session “From cluster to process? New economic geographic perspectives on knowledge generation III: Locally Situated and Globally Connected” (with Johanna Hautala)</li> <li>▪ Organizer of the Paper Session “From cluster to process? New economic geographic perspectives on knowledge generation IV: Trajectories of Innovation” (with Johanna Hautala)</li> <li>▪ Presentation at the Paper Session “From cluster to process? New economic geographic perspectives on knowledge generation IV: Trajectories of Innovation”</li> <li>▪ Discussant at the Paper Session “From Store Clerks to Google Searches: Curating and Filtering Information in the Cultural Economy I”</li> <li>▪ Discussant at the Paper Session “From Store Clerks to Google Searches: Curating and Filtering Information in the Cultural Economy II”</li> <li>▪ Discussant at the Panel Session “Resilience and Critical Practice”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kai Pflanz</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation: “Local Adaptation and Variation in Transnational Engineering Consultancies” at the Session “Evolutionary perspectives on the multinational corporation (MNC)-institution nexus”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ross Beveridge, Kristine Kern</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation: “From Policy Diffusion to Policy Mobility? Relational urbanism in energy transitions, smart city and LA21 policy-making” at the Session “The multiple geographies of policy mobility: Informational infrastructures and expertise”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ute Hasenöhr, Katharina Krause</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation: “Berlin’s contested nightscapes – Institutionalizing urban lighting practices in past and present” at the Session on “Light, Landscape and Place I: Histories of Light and Dark”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Anna Richter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Co-convenor of the Session “Emerging Cities of the Third Wave”</li> <li>▪ Co-convenor of the Session “Why it’s kicking off everywhere?” (Co-Organizer)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Manfred Kühn</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation: “Peripheralization – Theoretical Concepts explaining Spatial Disparities”</li> <li>▪ Organizer of the Session “Peripheralization and Marginalization – Product and Production of Spatial Disparities (1): Conceptual Reflections”</li> <li>▪ Organizer of the Session “Peripheralization and Marginalization – Product and Production of Spatial Disparities (2): Actual Manifestations”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Laura Colini</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation: “Localism shift and European urban policies” at the Session “Global Urbanization and Local Politics in an Age of Austerity IV: Austerity Localism”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Daniel Förste</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation: “Look beyond the surface – New social divisions in Berlin” at the Session “Moving to Berlin 4: Housing and Neighbourhood Change”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hans-Joachim Bürkner</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation: “Sonic capital, local scenes and digital buzz: shifting modes of value creation in Berlin’s electronic music production” at the Session “This Must Be the Place: The Evolving Economic Geography of Music”; Moderation/Organization: Brian J. Hrac, Michael Seman</li> <li>▪ Panel presentation and Paper on “Options for critical research on borders: Where is power? Where are imaginaries?”</li> <li>▪ Panel Session: Border Studies as Critical Practice? Organisation/Moderation: Ulrich Best</li> <li>▪ Presentation: “Europeanization, EU External Borders and Political Grassroots Initiative” at the Session “Border studies as a critical practice?”</li> </ul>

# International Guest Researchers at the IRS

An intensive exchange with fellow researchers from abroad constitutes an integral part of the IRS internationalisation strategy. The relevance of IRS research is revealed at conferences and its reception by renowned colleagues is indicative of its excellence. Guest researchers play a key role. Both international researchers staying at the IRS and IRS researchers working abroad for a limited period of time are crucial for the development of the institute's work. Learning other ways of working, exposure to different forms of research and strategic foci can be conducive to reflecting upon, verifying and enriching one's own work.

As a means to encourage guest stays at the IRS, the IRS decided to launch a "Fellowship Programme" in January 2013. Apart from providing easy access to practical information related to the guest stay, the institute also offers organisational and financial support. The English lan-

guage brochure provides an overview of the research topics and the scholars working at the IRS. In addition, it contains all important information on the formal requirements related to guest stays.

Last year the IRS also opened its guesthouse. It is part of a listed building, which belongs to the former "Bakelitwerk Erkner" site now housing the institute. The guesthouse provides fully equipped workstations and a meeting room for informal exchange.

Since its opening several international researchers have enjoyed stays here and enriched the research environment at the IRS. For example, Dr. Johanna Hautala (post-doc researcher at the University of Oulu) paid her second visit to the IRS Research Department "Dynamics of Economic Spaces". As an economic geographer, she conducts research on the spatial dynamics of knowledge e.g. within

international networks of researchers. For further information, see the interview with Johanna Hautala on page 10.



www.irs-net.de/kooperationen/fellowship-programme.pdf

## NEW "ADVISOR ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES"



On 1 June 2013, Dr. Karina Böhm took up employment as the "Advisor on International Issues" within the science management and communication section. The main areas of responsibility for this newly created position comprise active participation in the application and coordination of international research projects as well as implementation of the IRS internationalisation strategy. Within this framework, Ms Böhm is in charge of maintaining and fostering relations with both national and international contacts and research funding organisations. Moreover, she holds responsibility for informing, advising and supporting the Institute's management and researchers in all matters related to EU research funding.

After obtaining a Masters in communication and media studies (with minor subjects psychology and educational science) in 2003, Karina Böhm completed her doctorate in communication and media studies in 2012 at Leipzig University. Between 2007 and 2012, she was employed at the Center for International Affairs and Languages (ZIS) at the Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences, in Brandenburg an der Havel. During this time, she also helped develop the internationalisation strategy, contributed to the realisation of grant applications and provided support for international guests.

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## The “IRS International Lectures on Society and Space” Start with Lars Coenen

On 26 April 2013 the IRS launched a new international lecture series. The idea is to invite renowned international scholars to give talks on issues related to social-scientific spatial research. The series is offered in English and aims to attract scholars and practitioners with backgrounds in, for example, geography, political science, sociology, planning, economics, as well as architectural and contemporary history.

The first guest speaker invited was economic geographer Professor Dr. Lars Coenen, who is employed at the Centre for Innovation, Research and Competence in the Learning Economy (CIRCLE) at Lund University, Sweden. Professor Coenen gave a presentation on transformations towards sustainable socio-economic systems, such as the “Energiewende” in Germany. In doing so, he pointed to what he argued was a “spatial gap” in transformation research. In his speech, Coenen made particular reference to innovation system research and transition research. He criticised the former for characterizing complex technological and systems change as occurring mainly on a distinct spatial scale (e.g. in national or regional innovation systems), while neglecting spatial differentiations and cross-scale dynamics. In contrast, Coenen introduced a consideration of technical-func-

tional innovation systems and their way of operating across diverse spatial scales.

In his supplementary presentation, Dr. Timothy Moss, head of the research department “Institutional Change and Regional Public Goods”, took up key aspects of Coenen’s presentation and established a link to research conducted at the IRS. “Be it research on spatial aspects of innovations, questions related to power and materiality in the course of transformation processes, or implications for peripheral regions – we can gain many insights from this presentation”, says Moss. For Coenen, the discussion with the 20 participants of the International Lecture is just the beginning of a long-term cooperation with IRS scholars, especially since mutual guest researcher stays are already envisaged.

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From Helsinki and Oulu (Finland) via Uppsala (Sweden) to Erkner – Johanna Hautala’s scientific career is international.

## “We Need Connection Points as Much as We Need Differences”

Dr. Johanna Hautala studied applied geography and regional planning at the University of Oulu, Finland. After visiting the IRS and its research department “Dynamics of Economic Spaces” in 2012, she returned to Erkner in March 2013. Another guest stay is already being planned. In the following interview, she reveals why she came back to the IRS.

*You studied in Oulu, where you also graduated and completed your PhD. Why was it the right decision for you to stay at the same place for a long period of time?*

In fact, I first commenced my studies at the University of Helsinki and went to Oulu three years later. In today’s university system, this would mean completing the Bachelors at one university and the Masters at a second. In Oulu, I found the atmosphere to be highly productive, mainly because of one particular professor. He had a really big influence on my scholarly development and my choice

of research topics. For this reason, it seemed a natural decision for me to stay there. It was simply the right place for me to study the production and transformation of knowledge within their spatial and temporal contexts.

*It is said that geographers need to go outside and discover the world. You put this into action. You first went to Uppsala and now you are back at the IRS for the second time. What role have these guest stays played in your career?*

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Dr. Johanna Hautala works as a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Geography at the University of Oulu, Finland. In her doctoral thesis, she dealt with the role of spatial and temporal connections for the production of knowledge. Currently, her research focuses on knowledge generation in international research networks as well as on related questions in the field of regional development and policy making.

Notwithstanding that Oulu provides ideal conditions for my work, I find these stays abroad extremely important – actually, I think that they are likely to become even more important for me in the future. When I first went to Uppsala, I realised I had become really well acquainted with the academic world of Oulu. I felt ready for new influences and insights. The most important thing is to get into conversation with people who are “at home” in my research field, but at the same time have different perspectives and opinions. I wanted to expose myself to such a change of perspective – and it worked. ‘People’ were also my main motivation for coming to the IRS.

I already knew Oliver Ibert as he had been involved in my dissertation at Oulu.

I knew that his approach to knowledge and space

would be very inspiring for me. This proved to be true when I first stayed at the IRS and, moreover, I also got to know the other researchers working in his department. This is a very good working group to which I wanted to return for a second time. Thanks to a research grant, I will have the opportunity to come back to work at the IRS next summer. I am very much looking forward to engaging with new ideas and ways of thinking.

*Today, it is easy for researchers to establish a network and to exchange their ideas and thoughts online. What is the advantage of coming here and meeting colleagues in person?*

This is a great difference between online and actual contact. When we discuss research questions via email, words are all we have to communicate. The range of knowledge we are able to exchange by this means remains rather limited. When you engage with researchers face-to-face, there are gestures, language and direct contact. As a result, there is a much greater opportunity to exert influence. Moreover, you get

to talk to each other more often and also much more informally. You also exchange views on issues which are only peripherally linked to your research topic and, by this means, eventually gain a more complete picture of the person’s ways of thinking.

*So where exactly are the links between your research and that of the IRS?*

Thus far, I have dealt with the production of knowledge in academic settings. At the moment, I am about to expand this research to the fields of arts and culture. I am particularly interested in understanding the kinds of geographical, communica-

**“When you engage with researchers face-to-face, there are gestures, language and direct contact. As a result, there is a much greater opportunity to exert influence.”**

tive or cognitive spaces within which this knowledge emerges, becomes shared and is finally processed. In this regard, the IRS is an excellent base for me, particularly since Oliver Ibert’s department has come to concentrate its research on changing knowledge economies. Suntje Schmidt, for instance, has conducted research on the artistic field. As a consequence, we share a broad common knowledge as far as the literature in this field is concerned. At the same time, however, we have quite different ways of thinking, which is a very good thing. I, for instance, work a lot with cognitive distances and mental maps. At the IRS, I have yet to come across such an approach. It is this mix of links, connection points and differences that makes a guest stay productive and rewarding.

*What obstacles do you encounter when you attempt to conduct research abroad?*

With regard to research stays in Germany, language is certainly the most problematic factor. I only speak a few words and sentences and this

does not help me much when I start looking for a flat. It is not that easy to find your way around in everyday life only speaking English. In the end, however, I even managed to find young people in Erkner with whom it was possible to communicate well with. Generally speaking, it might be more difficult for postdocs to be as mobile as doctoral researchers. I have a family and it always takes a major effort to either leave or to move abroad together. It requires meticulous planning, but in the end it is always feasible.

*In what ways can an institute like the IRS support such guest stays? Can a hosting institute affect areas other than the practical and organisational?*

In my opinion, the hosting institute bears most respon-

sibility for providing an appropriate working environment. I am extremely satisfied with the IRS in this respect. I did not need to worry about anything and I have the possibility to use workrooms and facilities without having to pay for them. I know that this is basically self-evident here so I really feel like I am in good hands. Maybe I will face other kinds of challenges at a later point in time, but for now workspace and accommodation are the major issues.

*What will your agenda look like upon your return one year from now?*

To begin with, my funding relates to the work I started to deal with during my dissertation. So this is what I will continue to work on at the start. Beyond that, however, I am planning to acquire third-party funds for the department and participate in projects. We shall see how possible this is.



## New DFG Projects

# Innovation Processes in Spatial Planning

The aim of this research project is to examine how novelty emerges in spatial planning. Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), it is conducted by two IRS research departments and the University of Stuttgart. The main goal is to render the category 'innovation', which is already well-established in fields such as economic geography and sociology of technology, more relevant and productive for urban and regional planning.

Dr. Gabriela Christmann and Prof. Dr. Oliver Ibert were responsible for the IRS contribution to the project proposal. The project itself consists of one theoretical section and four empirical case studies. "Some conceptual clarifications are still required before we will be able to utilise the concept of innovation for a better understanding of the ongoing changes in planning", says Ibert. "This results from the specific context of spatial planning. There is reason to believe that the courses of innovation processes will reveal some peculiarities within a context characterised by such particular institutional and organisational settings." A key goal is to distinguish truly novel develop-

ments (innovation) from merely new aspects (ideas). At the same time, there is the challenge to reconstruct different development stages – starting from an idea, to a new planning routine, all the way through to a fully consolidated planning strategy.

The case studies are conducted within four fields of action and are emblematic of particular innovations and reference cases. On the example of new urban districts in Hamburg, Tübingen, and Potsdam Prof. Dr. Johann Jessen (University of Stuttgart) analyses how the modern urban development concept has been replaced by the concept of the compact and mixed city. Christmann focuses on spatial pioneers within their field of action and conducts research on the legalisation and the strategic inclusion of interim uses into urban planning in Berlin, Leipzig and Wuppertal. The sub-project conducted by Ibert deals with several International Building Exhibitions (including Emscher Park) and analyses the transition from adaption to adaptivity in the field of regional development. Another study conducted at the IRS is led by Prof. emeritus Dr. Uwe-Jens Walther (Tech-

nische Universität Berlin) and deals with processes of integrated neighbourhood development as opposed to sectoral planning with some spatial concerns in neighbourhoods located in Berlin, Duisburg, Hamburg and Munich.

The duration of the project is two years from October 2013. One national and one international workshop will be conducted during the course of the project, which will be completed in the second half of 2015.

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# Know-Man: Knowledge Management in Technology Parks



In cooperation with 15 European partners, the IRS led the IVC-Project “Know-Man” for a period of three years (2010 – 2012). The project aimed to improve the tools required in the management of regional knowledge networks. As a means to initiate learning processes, it promoted the exchange of experiences among stakeholders. Apart from producing interesting publications, the project has ensured that the partners contributed to European integration and cooperation beyond the actual project duration. Knowledge is always multidimensional. This piece thus highlights the forms of externalised knowledge that have emerged from the project and describes the ways in which implicit knowledge drawn from the project was developed and will be further advanced in the future.

## PUBLICATIONS

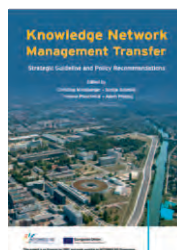


### Know-Man Good Practices

The brochure brings together tools for the management of knowledge networks that have been successfully implemented in certain regions. For instance, it details instruments supporting start-ups, the transfer of

knowledge, the establishment of essential infrastructures, networks and networking, the advancement of personalised competences and, finally, the funding of knowledge-intensive structures.

::: [www.know-man.eu/files/1111/file/knowman\\_good\\_practices\\_fin.pdf](http://www.know-man.eu/files/1111/file/knowman_good_practices_fin.pdf)

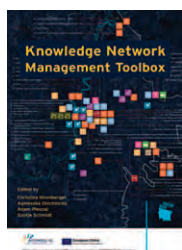


### Knowledge Network Management Transfer

Whereas the first two Know-Man publications outlined tools and their capacity for inter-regional learning, this brochure addresses policies and policy fields that have the potential to

support the management of knowledge networks. The contributions are illustrated with revealing examples of how Know-Man partners have mobilised inter-regional and complex systems of knowledge networks.

::: [www.euroreg.uw.edu.pl/dane/web\\_euroreg\\_publications\\_files/2885/knowledge\\_network\\_management](http://www.euroreg.uw.edu.pl/dane/web_euroreg_publications_files/2885/knowledge_network_management)



### Knowledge Network Management Toolbox

The project partnership was used to develop tools to help promote cooperation on a regional level and the exchange of experiences on an inter-regional level. These include, for example, demand analyses, benchmarking and knowledge atlases. Drawing on the partners' expertise, these three tools were adapted to ensure their viability and practicality in very different spatial, organisational and institutional contexts.

::: [www.know-man.eu/files/155839593/file/knowledge\\_network\\_management\\_toolbox.pdf](http://www.know-man.eu/files/155839593/file/knowledge_network_management_toolbox.pdf)



### Know-Man Knowledge Atlas

Each of the Know-Man partner regions compiled a knowledge atlas to visualise key knowledge providers. Such knowledge atlases provide guidance with regard to the questions “Who offers what in my region and

where do I find the right contact person?”. By means of preparing brochures and posters, each region presented a clear overview of key contact points for start-ups.

All six knowledge atlases can be accessed at  
::: [www.know-man.eu/products](http://www.know-man.eu/products)

### The IRS in the Smart Specialisation Debate

Thanks to the Know-Man project, the IRS was able to acquire expert knowledge on the practical implementation of EU regional policies, but also on future strategies, foci and processes of European funding programmes. Equipped with this knowledge, the IRS has actively contributed to debates on tailoring the future programme period. The concept of smart specialisation is also apparent in the academic field. The IRS provides advice to the EU project Science Link, especially with regard to the question of whether and in what ways research infrastructure facilities may specialise within the Baltic region. Moreover, the IRS accompanied and moderated smart specialisation processes, for example, during a European Workshop on “Stakeholder Engagement and the RIS3 Governance” in Vaasa, Finland. Finally, the IRS hosted a regional discussion with the heading “What does smart specialisation actually mean? Perspectives for the capital region in the new EU funding period”.



### Brief Study: Innovation Labs and Creative Labs in Berlin

The Know-Man knowledge atlas serves as a tool to portray individual actors or organisations and their potentials and competences. Due to the fact that it provides a clear overview of knowledge potentials and provides easy access to these sources of information, the knowledge atlas has also proved suitable for marketing regions. This tool was transferred to the creative industries of Berlin, where new forms of temporally and spatially limited cooperation are currently being established. Analogous to the Know-Man knowledge atlas, these developments were analysed, described and depicted cartographically.

## Open Days: INTERREG-Projects – A Network Perspective

Apart from research content-focused products, one key added value of interregional projects consists in the establishment of diverse networks among partners. This applies to the inter-regional level but also – and increasingly so – to networks that are being renewed or reinforced in the regions involved. The IRS analysed the networks between partners within the scope of the Know-Man project. At a workshop conducted by the North Rhine-Westphalian economics ministry during the Open Days 2013 in Brussels, the IRS will present different methods of network analysis for INTERREG projects.



## Optical Technologies: Knowledge Transfer between Berlin and Warsaw

The Berlin Knowledge Atlas on optical technologies constitutes a key component for a newly established form of cooperation between the Berlin and Warsaw optical clusters. Supported by the Berlin Senate Administration for Economics, Technology and Research, the Phoenix project aims to strengthen the network between both capitals. With the aid of regional knowledge atlases, it helps to visualise the clusters' structures as well as important contact points. In an advisory capacity, the IRS contributes to the realisation of these knowledge atlases.

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## International Conference



7th and 8th of November 2013

Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS)  
Flakenstraße 28-31, 15537 Erkner (near Berlin), Deutschland

Innovation is an omnipresent topic in social discourses and scientific discussions. Due to the change from an industrial towards a knowledge society the development of new ideas and innovation capacity became an essential societal resource and the constant invention of new products, services as well as procedures has become a necessity. Nowadays the pressure to innovate does not only exist in the technological or economic sectors. Also cities and regions are under pressure: Municipal actors are faced with challenges such as for example climate change, demographic change, global economy crisis, and social polarisation and the fierce competition between cities forces them to establish unique selling points that attract investors, companies, and tourists. Against this background, cities are required to solve their problems by developing creative and innovative strategies or to reinvent themselves. In this context technological and economic innovations alone cannot provide solutions; social innovations are just as important.

The conference focuses on such social innovations. Leading academics of innovation research will interdisciplinarily discuss conceptual approaches to social innovation and its specificities in comparison to other innovations. Furthermore, the conference aims to shed light on the wide range of innovative actors from a variety of different social contexts. In such different constellations of actors competing ideas may emerge and conflicts may arise. Thus, a particular emphasis will be put on the role of these conflicts in social innovation processes to answer the key question, how social innovations, conflict and spatial development are interrelated.

☐☐☐ [social-innovations.irs-net.de](http://social-innovations.irs-net.de)



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