Annual

| 2019-2020

IRS Leibniz Institute for
Research on Society and Space

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Annual 2019-2020

Content

Dear Readers,

You are holding in your hands the first Bi-Annual of the IRS. With this volume, which reports on the years 2019 and 2020, we are moving from an annual publication of the traditional IRS Annual to a biennial rhythm. When we decided to make this change, however, no one suspected that the two years in question could not have been more different.

While 2019 was still characterised by intensive personal encounters at international conferences, at the IRS Spring Academy or in the context of research trips or guest stays, life at the Institute had to be abruptly shut down in March 2020 in view of the escalating COVID 19 pandemic. Since then, the IRS has been operating in emergency mode, which continues until today in spring 2021, interrupted only by shorter phases of relaxation. Face-to-face exchanges have been replaced by distance rules, travel restrictions, hygiene measures and, above all, video conferencing. While we enthusiastically launched a research programme in 2019 to investigate the socio-spatial effects of digitalisation, but also to explore the opportunities of crises, we became subjects of our own research topics in 2020. We found ourselves thrown into a largely virtual working world and gained involuntary, but in many ways also valuable, experience in practical crisis management. From the use of digital media to the internal regulation of working hours and places, the crisis set a lot of things in motion in the IRS.

The wisdom that a crisis is often also an opportunity is ultimately also proven by this Bi-Annual. It shows the spectrum of IRS research in the past two years, which has found new ways for empirical research as well as for advisory and transfer activities in times of the pandemic.

Now I wish you a pleasant read!

Prof. Dr Oliver Ibert | Director

About the IRS

The Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space conducts problem-oriented basic research on processes of social and spatial change. It focuses its analyses on the spatial dimension of social action in regional, national and international contexts. Around 50 scientists from the fields of economic and social geography, political science, sociology, planning science, history and the history of art and architecture work together in five research departments. They support actors in spatial development in politics, administration and civil society through active knowledge transfer.

With the Scientific Collections on the Building and Planning History of the GDR, the IRS maintains an internationally renowned special archive for recent East German building and planning history with a focus on the GDR period. The collections function as a repository, especially for the estates of architects and planners, and include drawings, plans, written documents and photos, which are made accessible to interested parties from planning, media, and civil society. The archive collections continue to grow through intensive acquisition activities. The collections are also pushing ahead with the digitalisation of their holdings.

As a non-university research institute and member of the Leibniz Association, the IRS is scientifically independent. Basic funding is provided by grants from the state of Brandenburg together with the federal government and the other states in accordance with the implementation agreement to the GWK agreement on joint funding by the federal government and the states. The IRS performs its statutory tasks under private law in the legal form of a registered association.

1992 founded as

Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning

since **1995** member of the Leibniz Association

since **2016** with current name

Employees *
including auxiliary staff

96

scientific staff including auxiliary staff

62

archive and documentation **4**

trainees **2**

201

Publications 2019 and 2020
of which with Peer Review

65

Disciplines Represented
geography, sociology, political science,
planning, history, cultural studies

Funded Junior Research Groups and Training Networks

Leibniz Junior Research Group
Constructing Transnational Spaces of Higher Education, Dr Jana Kleibert

Freigeist Fellowship
Conquering (with) Concrete,
Dr Monika Motylinska

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Training Network
Social Entrepreneurship in Structurally Weak Rural Regions, Prof. Dr Gabriela Christmann

International Partnerships

Department of Geography at the School of Environment, Education and Development
University of Manchester

Centre of Urban History – School of Historical Studies
University of Leicester

Adam-Mickiewicz-Universität, Poznań

University of Eastern Finland

Department of Geography and Geology
University of Turku

Facts and Figures

Budget 2019 and 2020 in €

	total	Total Core Budget	Third-Party Funds Managed
2020	5.842.000	3.979.000	1.863.000
2019	5.856.000	3.896.000	1.960.000
2020 (red)	11.698.000	7.875.000	3.823.000
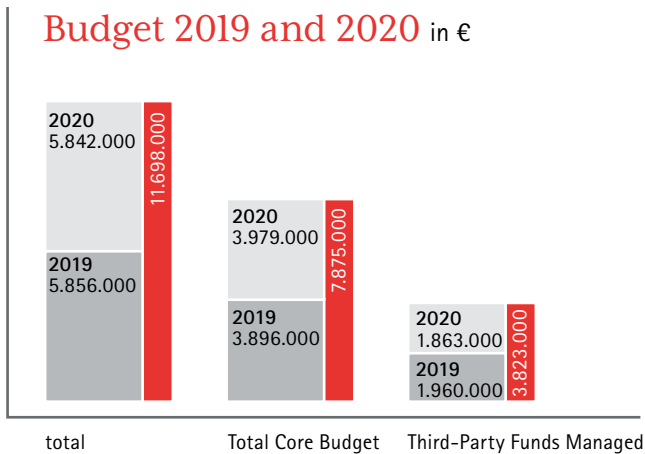
Third-party Funds Managed
Shares of the Funding Providers

Leibniz Association: 19,9 %

EU: 10,5 %

Federal States: 1,3 %

Federation: 46,0 %

DFG: 22,3 %
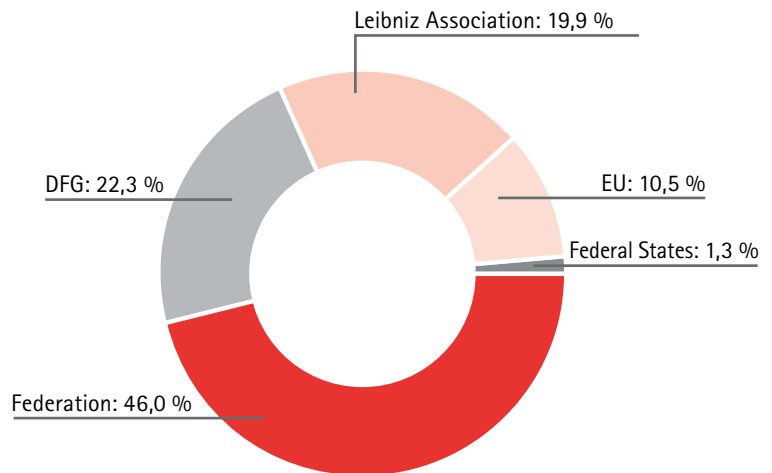
Appointments 2019 | and 2020

Jun.-Prof. Dr Verena Brinks
Department of Geography, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

Prof. Dr Laura Calbet i Elias
Urban Planning Institute, University of Stuttgart

Prof. Dr Ludger Gailing
Institute for Urban Planning, Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg

Professorships *

Prof. Dr Oliver Ibert
Institute for Urban Planning, Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg

Jun.-Prof. Dr Suntje Schmidt
Department of Geography, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

apl. Prof. Dr Christoph Bernhardt
Institute for Historical Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

apl. Prof. Dr Gabriela Christmann
Institute for Sociology, Technische Universität Berlin

Cooperation within the Leibniz Association

Leibniz Research Network
Spatial knowledge for society and the environment

Leibniz Research Network
Crises of a globalised world

Leibniz Research Network
Historical authenticity

Leibniz Research Network
Energy transition

* Status 31.12.2020

Dynamics of Economic Spaces

The research department is interested in the complex relationships and inter-actions in creative, innovative and economic activities. It investigates how new knowledge emerges, how it changes and how it is evaluated. The reconstruction of creative and innovative processes in their temporal and spatial dimensions enables the researchers to understand the complex spatialities of knowledge-intensive work and their territorial embedding and, building on this, to discuss development perspectives for regions.

In this context, the researchers investigate for example new forms of organised creativity and the role of digital platforms in creative processes. Knowledge, understood as a competence to act, is researched in connection with questions of the economic development of regions, for example in relation to the organisation of knowledge transfer between universities and their surrounding regions or in connection with places for creative work and collaboration in rural regions. Furthermore, the researchers seek to understand how knowledge about crises, the course of crises and ways of dealing with crises contributes to solving problems, and how this creates opportunities for structural change. . Finally, the research addresses the globalisation of knowledge-intensive economic sectors using the example of the international academic science and research landscape.

More than in the past, the effects of digitalisation are being taken up in research on entrepreneurial and creative activity. The specific opportunities that digital technologies offer their users and how they use them to satisfy their needs are of particular interest. The current lead project "Platform Ecology: Creative Collaboration in the Field of Conflict between Virtual and Concrete Spaces Using the Example of Fashion Design" (2019 - 2021) focuses on the significance of digital platforms for design processes in the fashion industry and addresses the question of whether and to what extent forms of creative collaboration can be digitalised. The project team, consisting of Anna Oechslen, Alica Repenning, Oliver Ibert and Suntje Schmidt, is investigating which differently specialised digital platforms are used or connected with each other in the design process, but also in the marketing of creative products or for the presentation and evaluation of creative objects. This explicitly user-centred research approach opens up new perspectives on the spatial contexts, online and offline, in creative collaboration. For example, the first results reveal that fashion designers closely link up analogue and digital creative processes and specifically use and combine the possibilities that different digital platforms offer to create and to visualize.

Jana Kleibert

Offshore Campuses:
Why Universities Invest Abroad

Why do universities set up branches abroad? Why do they offer copies of their degrees outside the home country? And how are these projects embedded in the urban and regional development strategies of the recipient regions? These are the questions addressed by the Leibniz Junior Research Group TRANSEDU.

Under the project title "Constructing Transnational Spaces of Higher Education", the team consisting of Jana Kleibert (leader), Alice Bobée, Tim Rottleb and Marc Schulze is researching the emergence of transnational spaces of higher education from an economic and urban geography perspective. The group, which was enacted by the Leibniz Association in the 2018 "Best Minds" competition, is part of the first cohort of junior research groups of the Leibniz Association and thus represents a novelty. First, the junior research group created a database of all offshore university branch campuses and published the results in their report "Global Geographies of Offshore Campuses" on the spatial distribution as well as the temporal development of offshore

campuses worldwide. The report covers just under 500 of these locations. It turns out that the universities are mainly found in existing metropolises such as Dubai or Singapore. However, clusters of different international universities – the research group developed the term "transnational education zones" for this – are also used specifically to contribute to the development of new cities. The temporal analysis shows that the number of foreign campuses is still increasing, even though there have been frequent disinvestments and campus closures in recent years. Further empirical qualitative research builds on these findings. Using multi-local and multi-scalar research, research data was collected in Europe (United Kingdom, France, Germany, and the Netherlands) as sending countries of foreign campus investments, as well as in the Arab Gulf States (United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Oman) and in Southeast Asia (Singapore and Malaysia) as receiving countries of these investments. The team conducted a total of 135 interviews with university officials and policy makers.

Multiple Motives, Uncertain Prospects of Success

Research to date shows that universities have become dependent on new sources of revenue, particularly as a result of the withdrawal of state funding for education (e.g. in the UK). These actors are increasingly turning to international markets to circumvent domestic restrictions (e.g. restrictions on student visas). In crises, the importance of such strategies increases. In the context of the Brexit, offshore campuses are increasingly used by British universities as an "insurance policy" to continue to have access to the European Higher Education and Research Area. Universities from countries with stronger state funding are reacting less out of financial pressure and more out of a desire to gain reputation through international visibility. Attracting specialists in and from former colonies can also be a goal. So far, however, the realisation of financial as well as reputational gains seems extremely uncertain, and many universities suffer losses at both levels. The research group offers expertise and recommendations for decision-makers in higher education institutions, educational policy organisations and ministries of education.
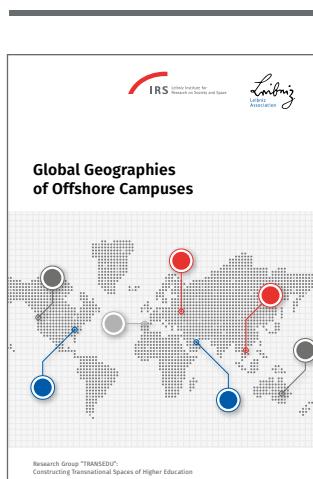
Kleibert, Jana; Bobée, Alice; Rottleb, Tim; Schulze, Marc (2020): Global Geographies of Offshore Campuses. Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space

Foreign branches of universities play an important role as infrastructures that can both replace and specifically promote international student mobility. Alice Bobée's research shows, for example, that branches of French Grandes Écoles in Africa, which are intended as an alternative to educational migration, often facilitate international mobility within the framework of French post-colonial migration policy. As part of a newly acquired research project funded by the Regional Studies Association, the group has been researching the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the new role of foreign university branches in a world of temporally suspended physical mobility since autumn 2020.

Oliver Ibert and Lukas Vogelgsang

Organised Uncertainty
Creative Processes in Music Production and Pharmaceutical Development

The research group "Organised Creativity" at Freie Universität Berlin is interested in organisations that face the challenge of organising creativity in order to maintain their own innovative capacity. Specifically, this was investigated in four sub-projects using the example of creative processes in the pharmaceutical and music industries. One of the sub-projects, "Governance of Creativity", was carried out at the IRS.

How can companies in technological and artistic industries organise creativity in order to repeatedly create something new – innovative – in the long term? To answer this question, the IRS sub-project, worked on by Lukas Vogelgsang, placed two characteristics of creativity at the centre of the analysis: Firstly, it did not consider creativity as an achievement or disposition of an individual, but as an emergent effect from collaborative processes.

The IRS sub-project investigated how certain forms of organisation and coordination, such as hierarchies or networks, influence the factor of uncertainty and thus creativity. The findings paint a picture of dynamics: it is hardly possible to permanently organise uncertainty and thus creativity within an unchanged coordination framework. Instead, creativity arises when forms of cooperation and the handling of the uncertainties involved are constantly changing. Creativity is therefore also a result of the tension between a constant project and a changing organisation.

Consequently, the project did not focus on the creative individual, but on the question of how collaborative processes have to be designed in order to promote creativity. Secondly, the project saw uncertainty and indeterminacy as central factors for creativity, because the absence of established solution patterns and the acceptance of uncertainty regarding new approaches – be it a new active ingredient or a novel combination of musical styles – is necessary for creative work. Uncertainty and indeterminacy are thus important "ingredients" in organising creativity.

Uncertainty is Strategically Initiated

Furthermore, uncertainty is not only accepted, but sometimes also strategically initiated in order to organise creativity. This generation of uncertainty is a complex task, because organisations strive for routine and the known. Organising creativity thus requires an organisation to accept the unknown as well as to maintain routine. The results of the project show that a dynamic approach to uncertainty in particular can address this paradox. During creative processes, actors divide the unknown into different qualities and then deal with these uncertainties "in portions". By repressing some uncertain aspects of an idea, this in turn creates the possibility for innovators to deal creatively and openly with an uncertainty. The repeated alternation between the "focused" uncertainty thereby maintains the creative process. In this way, possibilities for organising creativity emerge.

In pharmaceutical development, for example, we observed that scientists spent a long time thinking about how they could produce an active ingredient, but without clarifying what it could be useful for later. The researchers only turned their attention to the question of usefulness when a possibility of production was found. Similarly in music production: In our cases, musicians and composers repeatedly spent a lot of time clarifying who should be involved in a new project, without answering what the actual goal and musical direction of this project are. By changing the focus of uncertainty, the participants can creatively face problems without having answers to all open questions at an early stage.

This acceptance of uncertainty poses problems for organisations. In both fields, we have observed the emergence of organisational "subgroups" working on a creative idea without recourse to the rules and resources of the organisation. In pharmaceutical development, this is often achieved by "secretly subsidizing" new projects from other budgets. In music, artist networks within labels provide an opportunity to dedicate themselves to new projects. Such formal and informal properties offer organisations the possibility to endure and explore uncertainty in order to foster creativity and ultimately innovation.

Vogelgsang, Lukas (2020): Transition rather than Balance: Organizing Constraints for Collective Creativity in Pharmaceutical Development. Creativity and Innovation Management, 29 (3), 413–423

Emerging from Emergencies

Exploring *CRISIS* as a Dynamic Opportunity Structure

Tjorven Harmsen and Oliver Ibert

Opportunities of a Crisis

Not only since the COVID-19 pandemic does it seem as if the socio-logically titled "risk society" is increasingly becoming a "crisis society". More and more decisions are made reactively, under conditions of threat and urgency. This increases the need to understand crises and to learn what those involved can do to solve them in a sustainable way. The BMBF project "RESKIU - Coping With Crises in a Resilient Manner: The Role of Expert Advice in the Creation and Use of 'Opportunities' in Crisis Situations" (2017 - 2021) is dedicated to this task.

Research shows that decision-makers in crises are radically confronted with the limits of their knowledge. One coping strategy is to involve external expert advice – a still little researched topic. The project distinguishes between two types of advisors with different forms of knowledge. "Experts for crises" have process knowledge. They are familiar with typical crisis phases across all cases. In comparison, "experts in crises" have case-specific knowledge. Since they are usually called in unexpectedly to give advice, they lack a generic understanding of crises. In a practical guide, the project team makes the process knowledge of experts for crises accessible to this type of counsellor.

With its qualitatively collected crisis biographies, the project also makes an important contribution to basic research. In publications, Oliver Ibert and Verena Brinks (now at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz) established a link between spatial and crisis research, using the COVID 19 pandemic as an example, among others. Tjorven Harmsen's dissertation deals with crises as opening phases ("submergence phases") of social systems in an empirical study of complex ship accidents. The final conference "Emerging from Emergencies" will take place from 30 June to 2 July 2021.

Team

1	Prof. Dr Oliver Ibert	Director and Head of Department
		Lead project management: Platform Ecology: Creative Collaboration in the Field of Tension between Virtual and Concrete Spaces in the Case of Fashion Design
2	Prof. Dr Suntje Schmidt	Acting Head of Department
		Project management: Open Region: Regional Challenges as Starting Points for Innovation (Innovation Hub13 – fast track to transfer)
3	Dr Jana Maria Kleibert	Action Head of Department (10 | 2019 – 9 | 2020)
		Junior Research Group Leader: Constructing Transnational Spaces of Higher Education. International Branch Campus Development at the Interface of Network and Territorial Embeddedness (TRANSEDU)
4	Alice Bobée	Constructing Transnational Spaces of Higher Education. International Branch Campus Development at the Interface of Network and Territorial Embeddedness (TRANSEDU)
5	Tim Rottleb	
6	Marc Schulze	
7	Anna Oechslen	Platform Ecology: Creative Collaboration in the Field of Tension between Virtual and Concrete Spaces in the Case of Fashion Design
8	Alica Repenning	
9	Dr Verena Brinks until 8	2019	Coping With Crises in a Resilient Manner: The Role of Expert Advice in the Creation and Use of 'Opportunities' in Crisis Situations (RESKIU)
10	Tjorven Harmsen	
11	Jeannette Higiro until 4	2020	(Verena Brinks is now a junior professor at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)
12	Erik Ooms until 11	2020	Open Region: Regional Challenges as Starting Points for Innovation (Innovation Hub13 – fast track to transfer)
13	Julia Stadermann	
14	Dr Andreas Kuebart	Local Anchors of Translocal Knowledge Communities: New Focal Points of Knowledge Generation and their Territoriality
		Post-Doc Fellow at the Department of Spatial Transformation and Social Research at BTU Cottbus - Senftenberg
15	Dr Lukas Vogelgsang	Governance of Creativity: The Distribution of Uncertainty in Collaborations
		Post-Doc Fellow at the Department of Spatial Transformation and Social Research at BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg
16	Heike Pirk	Project Assistance

Institutional Change and Regional Public Goods

The research department investigates forms of governance and institutional arrangements through which the provision of common goods – such as energy – is organised. The researchers are particularly interested in the spatiality of these public goods. They ask what material form they take, for example in the form of infrastructure networks, and how action at different levels – local, regional, national, and transnational – interacts in their production. In doing so, they also include the social and political construction of institutional regulations of infrastructures.

The lead project "Critical Infrastructures: The Political Construction, Spatiality and Governance of Criticality" (2019 to 2021) takes up a current discourse with the question of criticality. "Critical infrastructures" are described as essential supply networks for the community, the disruption of which can mean collective security risks. But which infrastructures are considered critical and by whom? Which collective ideas of criticality have led to institutional regulations? And what role do space and time play in political discourses and institutional regulations? The project team, consisting of Ludger Gailing (head), Elisa Kochskämper, Wolfgang Haupt, Kristine Kern and Felicitas Klemp, first looked at the discourses and the legal framework in Germany and the EU. In addition, the researchers integrated the question of how the COVID 19 pandemic changed the assessment of critical infrastructures. In the next step, they focused on digitalisation in cities – on the one hand as an instrument for more flexible control of complex infrastructure networks and on the other hand as a new source of insecurity, for example for cyberattacks.

In the past two years, new energy spaces and regional turns in energy policy as well as climate policy in cities and regions have been the focus of departmental research. The department asked: How can passive "installation spaces" for renewable energies become active regional spaces of action for the energy turnaround? How can municipalities actively shape the energy transition and profit from it? What are the dynamics between pioneering and lagging cities in terms of climate policy and how can cities learn from each other? The research results have led to numerous scientific publications, and the practical expertise gained has resulted in the formulation of policy recommendations, for example in the context of policy briefs and workshops.

After 17 years at the IRS, the acting head of the research department, Ludger Gailing, was appointed to the professorship for regional planning at the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg in 2020. During his time at the IRS, Ludger Gailing became one of the leading international researchers on socio-ecological transformations, especially on spatially related issues of the energy transition.

Eva Eichenauer

How Can the Burdens and Benefits of the Energy Transition be Distributed Fairly?

Conflicts over the construction of energy transition infrastructures, such as wind turbines or large-scale photovoltaic plants, are rarely discussed in the context of urban-rural relations. The large-scale generation plants, including their undesirable effects, will be installed in rural areas for the foreseeable future, not least because of their land requirements, whereas the majority of the consumers are located in urban areas. The associated conflicts, which have been politically marginalised as "local protests" for many years, also predominantly take place in rural areas.

It is becoming increasingly clear that, not least because of these disputes, the expansion of onshore wind power plants – which is absolutely necessary to achieve the climate targets – has come to an almost complete standstill. The conclusion that can be drawn from this is that the further transformation of the energy system can only succeed if it is perceived as fair in the affected communities.
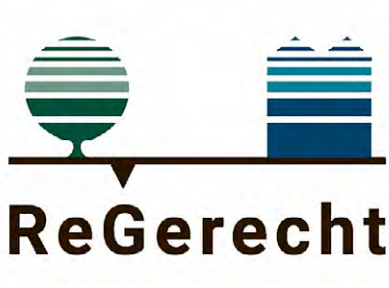
In the joint project "ReGerecht - Integrative Development of a Fair Balance of Interests between the City, the Urban Hinterland and Rural Areas", regional land use conflicts in various sectors (in addition to energy infrastructures, e.g. digital infrastructure, housing development or land supply) are to be analysed and mechanisms for balancing interests to implement regional justice to be developed. The issue of urban-rural justice has many dimensions. While rural areas are disproportionately burdened with energy generation infrastructures, urban centres often bear a higher burden of transport infrastructure and the associated immissions. Expenditure for the provision of social and cultural infrastructure is also higher than in rural areas. Rural areas, on the other hand, benefit from this infrastructural offer, but often have hardly any corresponding offers in the vicinity. At least from the point of view of rural communities, planning procedures take too little account of the wishes of small communities, as some decisions are made at a higher level.

Benefits and Burdens of New Wind Power Projects

In the sub-project of the IRS, led by Ludger Gailing and Kristine Kern (09/2020-12/2020), and worked on by Eva Eichenauer and Andreas Röhring, the focus lies on the question of a regionally just implementation of the energy transition, both in the local and in its extended spatial and temporal context. One case under investigation is wind turbines and the question of fair distribution of burdens and benefits between regions in the expansion of wind energy. A particular focus is on aspects of municipal participation in wind power projects, both financially and in terms of municipal opportunities for co-determination.

While the burdens caused by the construction and operation of wind turbines are predominantly located in rural areas and place a very heavy burden on some regions, the energy generated is predominantly consumed in cities and the financial profit often flows to completely different regions. The reasons for this are manifold and, especially in eastern Germany, not least structural. Not only planning arrangements, but also the question of land ownership determine the extent to which local actors and communities can participate in and benefit from the expansion of wind energy plants. For example, in eastern Germany, unlike in western Germany, a significant proportion of municipal land is not in municipal hands.

Recommendations for Community Participation

In 2016, the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania took the lead in establishing the Citizens' and Municipalities' Participation Act (BüGembeteilG M-V), which requires a minimum level of participation by private individuals and municipalities in the vicinity of newly constructed wind power plants. One focus of the research work at the IRS is the analysis of the first experiences with this law, which is unique in Germany so far, as a possible equalisation mechanism. From this, concrete recommendations for institutional framework conditions were derived, which should lead to an improved financial and procedural participation of municipalities in wind power plants. Three main areas for optimisation were identified, which can guide further legislative initiatives. Firstly, the added value for municipalities must be calculable, for example through fixed levies, instead of through the acquisition of shares, which

require municipal investments and lead to fluctuating returns. Secondly, opportunities for municipalities to have a say must be created. Currently, and in contrast to for example in the construction of area photovoltaic plants, municipalities can only exert a very limited influence on the development of wind power on municipal territory. And thirdly, municipalities should have the possibility to be advised and supported in the quite complicated and technical decisions.

The results were discussed at a workshop in September 2020 with representatives of the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Ministry of Energy, the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern State Energy and Climate Protection Agency (LEKA) and the onshore wind energy agency (Fachagentur Windenergie an Land) and were published in the IRS Dialog series (02/2020). ■

Eichenauer, Eva; Gailing, Ludger (2020):
Gute Bedingungen für lokale
Wertschöpfung aus Windkraftanlagen.
Erfahrungen und Empfehlungen.
Policy Paper. IRS Dialog, 2/2020

Wolfgang Haupt

What Climate Policy Pioneer Cities Can Learn from Each Other

The advancing climate change and the management of its consequences are putting cities under increasing pressure to act. However, no city is on its own in the search for answers. Solutions that have already been tried and tested can be transferred from other cities. A successful transfer is more likely if it takes place between similar cities ("matching cities").

The Finnish city of Turku is considered a pioneer in urban climate policy. It wants to be climate neutral as early as 2029. On behalf of the city and in cooperation with Åbo Akademi University, the IRS is investigating in the project "Matching Forerunner Cities" (MaFoCi) what Turku can learn from "Matching Cities" in the North and Baltic Sea region in terms of climate policy and what the cities can learn from each other. It is led by Kristine Kern and worked on by Wolfgang Haupt. In addition to Turku, Groningen (Netherlands), Rostock and Malmö (Sweden) were studied as comparative cities in the MaFoCi project. The four cities were chosen because they have numerous structural similarities with Turku: They are similar in size, are growing cities, are considered climate policy pioneers in their countries, are traditional Hanseatic cities and have a strong research infrastructure as old university cities. All four cities have also developed into regional centres over the course of their long history and have long depended economically on maritime trade, shipbuilding and fishing. More recently, they have coped with economic structural change to successfully transform their economies, politics and societies and have, in a sense, reinvented themselves.

The City of Turku hoped that the project would provide a scientific analysis of its climate policy to date and concrete policy recommendations. Turku City Council employees involved in climate policy had an active influence on research topics and designs as well as on the choice of transfer formats. A focus group in June 2020 and a large final workshop in November 2020 were designed and organised together with the partners from Turku. At the latter, the city administrations of the comparison cities and other cities were also represented. This approach expresses the application-oriented and transdisciplinary approach of the MaFoCi project.

The Concept of "Matching Cities" will be Further Developed

In the course of the research, the selection of the three MaFoCi comparison cities proved to be viable: many of their experiences were relevant to Turku. However, the perspective had to be opened up on two issues: While Turku is a leader in climate protection measures, climate adaptation is not yet institutionally anchored in the city, unlike for example in the German comparison city Rostock. Likewise, in terms of the participation of the population, Turku, as Finland as a whole, has hardly any experience. With Groningen and Rostock, two extremely participatory

cities were available as comparative cases, whose experiences are hardly transferable to the situation in Turku – the lead is too large. Groningen in particular can look back on decades of civic initiative, which have contributed significantly to Groningen's transformation into a bicycle city.

At the final workshop held by video conference on 13 November 2020, the project team therefore drew on contacts from the BMBF project "ExTrass – Urban Resilience to Extreme Weather Events", which compares German cities with regard to their climate strategies. In the case of climate protection and climate adaptation, the city of Hamburg, where both topics have been dealt with in an integrated manner for many years in a climate control centre, could serve as a model. The contributions to the discussion by an employee of the Hamburg city administration met with a great response and led to many questions. On the topic of participation, the experiences of the city of Zwickau proved helpful and instructive. Zwickau, which only became a city favoured by the climate-friendly economy with the start of electric vehicle production by VW, has experience in the cautious development of participatory structures in a population that is rather hesitant with regard to climate policy. In this respect, the Saxon industrial city is closer to Turku in Finland than the other pioneering cities.

Even though MaFoCi formally ended in December 2020, the project team continues to work on continuously evaluating and improving the "Matching City" concept together with the partner cities. Based on the needs of a pioneering climate policy city, the MaFoCi project thus led to a deeper understanding of what and how cities can learn from each other in climate policy. ■

Kern, Kristine (2019): Cities as Leaders in EU Multilevel Climate Governance: Embedded Upscaling of Local Experiments in Europe. Environmental Politics, 28 (1), 125–145

Team

1	Dr Ludger Gailing until 8	2020	Acting Head of Department
		Today: Professor and Head of the Department of Regional Planning at BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg
		Lead Project Management: Critical Infrastructures: The Political Construction, Spatiality and Governance of Criticality
2	Prof. Dr Kristine Kern	Provisional Head of Department since 9	2020, previously Deputy Head of Department
		Matching Forerunner Cities: Coping with Climate Change in Turku, Malmö, Rostock, and Groningen (MaFoCi)
3	Felicitas Klemp	Lead Project: Critical Infrastructures: The Political Construction, Spatiality and Governance of Criticality
4	Dr des. Elisa Kochskämper	
5	Dr Timmo Nils Krüger until 10	2020	
6	Andreas Röhring	
7	Dr Wolfgang Haupt	Urban Resilience vis-a-vis Extreme Weather Events - Typology and Transfer (ExTrass)
8	Dr Peter Mark Eckersley	
9	Dr Stefan Niederhafner until 1	2019	
10	Eva Eichenauer	Energy Transition in Social Space - Subproject: Social Research (ESRa)
11	Dr Peter Ulrich	
12	Martina Leppler	Project Assistance

Dynamics of Communication, Knowledge and Spatial Development

The research department investigates socio-spatial transformations that take place in the course of innovative initiatives, especially in the field of digitalisation in rural regions and in cities. At the centre is the question of what role (digitised) communicative action plays in the production of new spatial knowledge, social processes, and material spatial constructions.

The department's research on rural areas analyses the processes of emergence, establishment and dissemination of new ideas, practices and projects in spatial development, which are also referred to as "social innovations". In the context of cities, on the other hand, the focus is on the actors in urban planning and the digitalisation of planning activities. The question here is what changes in planning practices themselves, in urban public spheres and in urban planning arrangements accompany this.

The lead project "Smart Villagers. Digitalisation and Social Innovation in Rural Areas" (2019 - 2021) deals with the role of digital technologies in the development of innovative solutions to problems in rural areas. The department has been researching social innovations in rural areas for quite some time. What is new, however, is the focus on aspects of digitalisation. The project team, consisting of Gabriela Christmann (head), Ariane Sept and Nicole Zerrer, is researching five peripherally located rural communities in Germany that are considered to be rather structurally weak and have developed solutions for gaps in services of general interest. The research team is specifically pursuing the following questions: In which processes do the actors develop their solutions? How do the new solutions affect village life and community development? And how are digital and social innovations connected?

The German research landscape on the topic was initially limited, so that networking was actively sought with other research institutions, such as the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering (IESE) or the Fraunhofer Center for Responsible Research and Innovation (CeRRI). Public interest in the research was high from the beginning and increased again during the COVID 19 pandemic. For example, the findings of Research 2020 were incorporated into the "Heimat 2.0" project of the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) and Fraunhofer IESE on behalf of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community Affairs (BMI). The scientists are regular guests on expert panels or proactively promote networking. The most important platform for this is the annual "Zukunftsforum Ländliche Entwicklung" (Future Forum on Rural Development) of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), parallel to the "Grüne Woche" (Green Week) agriculture and food trade fair in Berlin, at which the Research Department itself hosted an expert forum in 2019 and actively participated in a forum in 2020.

Martin Schinagl

How Digital Planning and Visualisation Technologies are Changing Urban Planning

The DFG-funded research project "Digital Urban Planning: Planning Actions and Material-Physical Arrangements", carried out within the framework of the Collaborative Research Centre "Re-figuration of Spaces", explores changes in urban planning through new digital technologies and communication media worldwide. It investigated processes of mediatisation using the example of three cities: New York City (USA), Lagos (Nigeria) and Frankfurt am Main (Germany).

Three overarching research questions were at the centre of the study: (1) How have digitalisation processes in urban planning developed since the 1970s? (2) What changes have occurred in the course of this for planning activities? (3) How are visualisations of urban futures created on the basis of digital planning and how is their role in the planning process changing? With the help of a multi-method approach, which included document analyses, participant observations, expert

interviews and visual analyses, it was possible to reconstruct digitalisation processes, observe planners' actions and examine the creation of visualisations.

A timeline helped to compile technical developments, discourses in architecture and urban planning, (visualisation) practices and ideas about the future: from the late 1950s or early 1960s, a new way of thinking about planned spaces can be discerned, particularly prominent in the field of architectural and planning discourses around cybernetics. The first experimental attempts to use digital techniques for planning purposes followed in the USA and the first computer-based drawings were produced. In the following decades, technical systems spread, became established and stabilised. In planning practice, however, they developed only slowly for technical as well as financial reasons. It was not until the 1980s and 1990s that digital planning tools became widespread, and in the 2010s they boomed. From a global perspective, digitalisation processes in planning did not occur simultaneously. Rather, a slow, fragmented process of re-figuration can be observed, with strongly uneven progressions and locally specific planning cultures.

Changing Action in Planning

The analysis of the collected data showed that planning activities across the different cases have changed greatly in the course of advancing digitalisations. E-mails, video telephony and networked systems have turned office work in general upside down, making it more flexible and condensed. Specific innovations have also found their way into planning offices: The use of computer graphics programmes (Computer Assisted Design, CAD) and geoinformation systems (GIS) has become established worldwide. Depending on the local planning context, drones, tablets, simulation programmes, algorithms and big
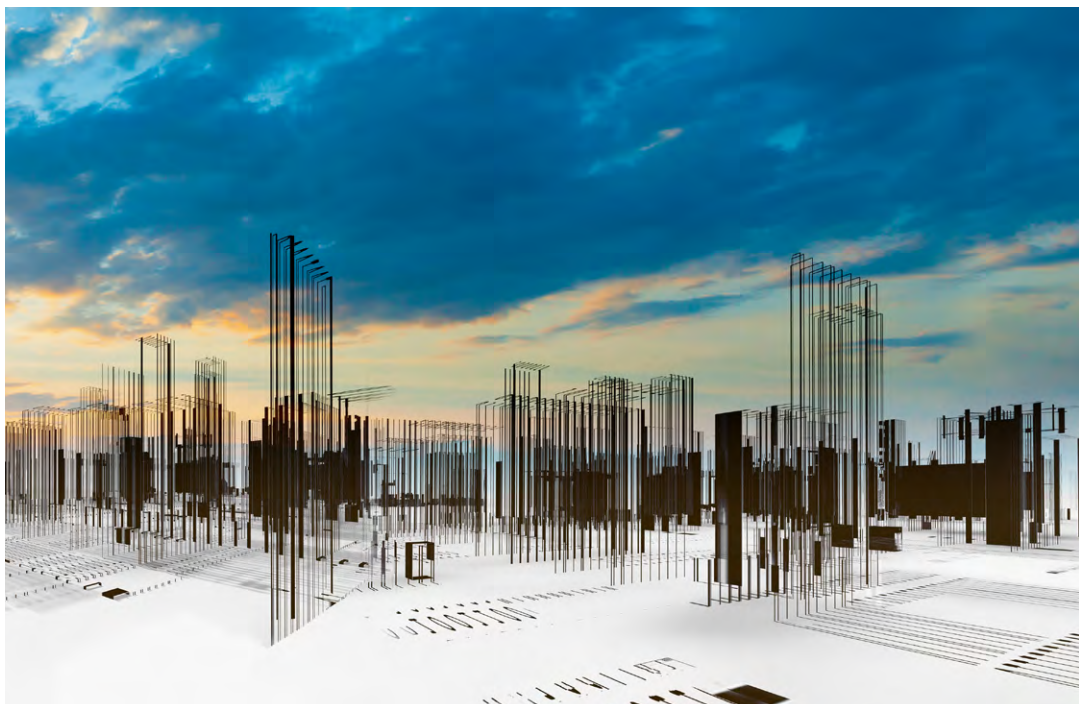
data play a role, sometimes more, sometimes less, but to an increasing extent. They enable and force a new approach to communication within offices and with other actors in planning.

Light tables, rulers and ink hardly play a role in planning offices any more, but paper plans and foam models do. Digital media make it possible to make sense of spaces in a new way. Nevertheless, on-site inspections are still carried out, discussions are sought and maps are drawn up. All of this is intended to create a cognitive framework that is as manageable as possible for planning decision-making processes. However, physical presence no longer seems to be an absolute necessity when it comes to strategic planning and master planning in a distant location. The spatial reach of most planning offices today goes far beyond the local context. They can also organise themselves in a network-like manner, distributed across different locations. Team members work together on the same project from different offices, which may be located on different continents – sometimes even simultaneously. The refiguration of spaces is reflected in the division of labour in planning processes, which can be characterised as complex, networked, division of labour, agile and mobile.

Changing Visualisations of Urban Futures

The project also investigated how digital visualisations are generated and used. The data basis is photorealistic renderings of two mega-projects, the Eko Atlantic project in Lagos and the Hudson Yards project in New York City, for which a database with hundreds of photorealistic digital renderings was created.

Such digital visualisations are created with enormous technical effort. The corresponding software is expensive, and the requirements for hardware and technical competence are high. In the USA, specialised visualisation agencies have been working for ten to 15 years to create photorealistic renderings for real estate developers and architectural firms. Why photorealistic? Renderings are used to pursue certain visual strategies that can be observed worldwide, for example through the targeted use of non-architectural elements such as plants and people or light and shadow. At the same time, locally different conditions such as the climate, the local planning system or the local visual culture counteract the supposed homogenisation.

Renderings are also a new combination of established types of (architectural) visualisation, for example architectural photography, perspective drawing, but also painting and the associated visual habits. In this way, renderings merge different temporal and spatial logics and co-construct possible futures in relation to urban transformations. In this sense, they are hybrid digital images. Another finding is that the temporal and spatial logic of digital renderings, i.e. their cyclical changeability and reproducibility, come into conflict with the linear processuality of planning procedures.

Gabriela Christmann

Innovative Problem Solvers in Structurally Weak Rural Regions
The Most Important Results of the RurAction Network

In the EU-funded Innovative Training Network RurAction (2016-2021), 21 researchers from seven European countries spent four years investigat-ing the conditions under which social enterprises can contribute to the development of social innovations and rural regions. Among them were ten doctoral students who were supported in their doctoral projects by a network of renowned academics and award-winning social enterprises. Gabriela Christmann led the project as scientific coordinator. At the IRS, Jamie Baxter and Sune Stoustrup advanced their doctoral projects within the framework of RurAction.

In many structurally weak rural regions in Europe, a downward spiral has been set in motion in recent decades. Faced with comparatively poor living conditions and unfavourable future prospects, many inhabitants moved to cities. Others, however, stayed. In their search for solu-tions, rural residents became active and developed highly innovative approaches. The research in RurAction shows that there is already a wealth of such socially innovative initiatives in rural areas in Europe. In some cases, the actors have found supporters who accompany creative pro-cesses and innovative problem-solving approaches. We are talking about social enterprises. These are specialised in promoting socially innovative solutions. The aim of RurAction was to gain insight into concrete mechanisms of social innovation in European rural areas and to gain a

better understanding of the role of social enterprises in these areas. On the basis of empirical analyses, RurAction was thus able to close a research gap at the interface between social innovation research, social entrepreneurship and rural development. At the same time, recommendations for action for the municipal, regional and subnational (federal states), national and transnational (EU) levels were derived on the basis of the results.

Promoting Innovation Processes Differentiated according to Phases

The most important finding, which has been noted in the RurAction Policy Paper "Wie man soziale Innovationen in strukturschwachen ländlichen Räumen befördern kann" (How to promote social innovations in structurally weak rural areas) (IRS Dialog 5/2020, see p. 57), is that social innovations in rural areas take place in typical processes and can be described in terms of four phases: (i) the latency and problematisation phase, the emergence phase (which includes the planning and realisation of a novel practice), (iii) the adaptation phase, and (iv) the stabilisation and dissemination phase. Each phase has its own characteristics and places specific demands on the innovative work. In each phase there are typical critical points that can lead to stagnation or even termination of the process. The key message for policy makers is therefore that modular support strategies and funding programmes are helpful, which are tailored to the respective phase of the innovation process and help to overcome the critical hurdles.

Another result is that innovations result from co-creation, co-working and intensive networking. Different actors have to be brought together and ideas negotiated with a high investment of time. Social enterprises often take on the role of initiating, advising and accompanying local or regional networks. Although networking is so important for the innovation process, there is usually no funding for this work itself. Social enterprises often have to use overhead resources from other projects to finance this work. Where this is not possible, it becomes difficult to continue offering these services.

Extensive Transfer Activities

Christmann, Gabriela (2020): Wie man soziale Innovationen in strukturschwachen ländlichen Räumen befördern kann. Policy Paper. IRS Dialog, 5/2020

Last but not least, the RurAction researchers have organised a systemic transfer of knowledge. While the aforementioned policy paper is directed at political decision-makers, the "Handbook for Practitioners" (IRS Dialog 6/2020) on social enterprises to help them reflect on their role and strategies in rural areas. In addition, a 30-minute documentary film produced by Łukasz Rogowski and Michał Sita and a digital exhibition aim to raise awareness of the potential of social enterprises in rural areas. In the course of five regional policy roundtables and one policy roundtable at EU level, there were also intensive discussions on possible funding strategies – including with representatives of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Urban Development (DG REGIO), who received the project results with great interest.

Team

1	Prof. Dr Gabriela B. Christmann	Head of Department Lead project management: Smart Villagers: Digitalisation and Social Innovations in Rural Spaces
2	Dr Ariane Sept	Deputy Head of Department Smart Villagers: Digitalisation and Social Innovations in Rural Spaces
3	Dr Christian Reichel until 9	2020	Smart Villagers: Digitalisation and Social Innovations in Rural Spaces
4	Nicole Zerrer	
5	Dr Ralph Richter	StadtQuartier4.1 – Development and Implementation of Flexible City-Hubs in the Berlin-Brandenburg Metropolitan Region Study „Market-Oriented Social Businesses in Brandenburg – Accounting for of the Existing Entrepreneurship Landscape and Identifying Supportive and Constraining Conditions for Entrepreneurship"
6	Mandy Töppel	Perceptions of Safety in Urban Spaces. Best Practices for Structural-Spatial Design and Digital Planning
7	Sophie Mélix	Digital Urban Planning: Planning Practices and Physical Arrangements
8	Martin Schinagl	
9	Kamil Bembnista	Socio-spatial Transformations in German-Polish „Interstices". Practices of Debordering and Rebordering (De-Re-Bord)
10	Dr Vivien Sommer until 2	2020	
11	Dr Tobias Federwisch until 8	2019	Office of the "Demography Commission for Secondary General Education Schools in the State of Brandenburg
12	Dr Ajit Singh until 5	2020	The Mediatisation of Urban Development Planning and Changes to the Public Sphere (MedPlan)
13	Dr Thorsten Heimann until 3	2019	Creating Sustainable and Integrated Logistics Systems at Berlin's Holzmarkt Site Through Processual and Infrastructural Transformations (Stadtquartier 4.0)
14	Jamie Baxter	Social Entrepreneurship in Structurally Weak Rural Regions: Analysing Innovative Troubleshooters in Action (RurAction)
15	Sune Stoustrup	
16	Marie-Julie Jacquemot until 2	2020	
17	Rebecca Roggisch	Project Assistance

Regeneration of Cities and Towns

The research department deals with current issues of urban development from planning and political science perspectives. Within these, cities are understood as local arenas for negotiation that are shaped by different actors and practices, processes, logics and power structures. The concept of urban governance is a central research approach for investigating these areas of tension. The current focus is on the question how urban policy deals with migration. The current lead project "Migration: Governance-Dilemmas of Cities" (2019-2021) deals with the local governance of immigration. So does one DFG-funded and one BMBF-funded third-party project.

Despite its long history of migration, Germany's role as a country of immigration is still the subject of controversial debates. Since 2019, a new immigration law has opened additional pathways for legal labour migration. On the one hand, the refugee migration since 2015 has generated a lot of solidarity; on the other hand, it has become a central projection field for new right-wing parties and movements. These articulations also lead to new challenges at the municipal level. The lead project examines how structurally weak cities formulate immigration policies in the context of these dynamics, which conflicts arise in dealing with immigration and how city administrations and civil society actors deal with migration-related segregation processes in "arrival neighbourhoods". The project is headed by Manfred Kühn. The team also includes Matthias Bernt and Gala Nettelbladt.

Empirically, the project is based on an explorative study in Cottbus. The structurally weak city in Lusatia is dependent on immigration to cope with economic and demographic change. But especially refugee migration, which Cottbus initially met with openness, is polarising: Right-wing actors regularly organise protests against immigration, which briefly led to a halt in the allocation of refugees. Again and again there are racist attacks, and the share of votes of the right-wing populist AfD is above average compared to other cities of the same size. At the same time, with the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg and the municipal clinics, the city has "cosmopolitan" institutions that rely on international professionals. In 2019, the city's leadership conducted a series of citizen dialogues in several districts in order to involve protesting citizens more and to defuse the conflicts.

The lead project uses a theoretical understanding of planning that places conflicts at the centre of the analysis. It helps to better understand how the articulations described above influence urban policy-making processes. The researchers have contributed their expertise on this topic in various formats to public discussion and policy advice.

Manfred Kühn and Henning Boeth

Immigration Strategies: How Do Cities Become Attractive for Immigration?

Cities depend on immigration to grow. Despite the increasing competition for young residents, students and qualified professionals, cities have so far hardly developed any strategies to attract immigration. With their integration policies, cities usually only react to the influx of migrants and the allocation of refugees and asylum seekers by the state. The management of immigration has so far been considered a task of the nation states.

The DFG-funded project "Immigration Strategies – Planning Policies in the Regeneration of Cities" (2018 - 2021) is therefore investigating the question of the extent to which and the local planning approaches with which cities can control immigration. In six empirical case studies, the project team, consisting of Manfred Kühn (head), Henning Boeth and Gala Nettelbladt, is investigating what scope for action there is for such strategies at the local level, what governance forms are formed in this context and what conflicts and obstacles they encounter in planning practice. The case studies cover three pairs of cities in West and East Germany.

In addition to the university cities of Göttingen and Jena, the medium-sized cities of Bamberg and Brandenburg an der Havel as well as Ravensburg and Wismar are being examined. The detailed results from the case studies were published in the IRS Dialog series (03 & 04/2020) and can be viewed on the IRS website.

The results of the project show that demographic change, the economy's need for skilled workers and the "competition for the best minds" in particular are important drivers for the formulation of pro-active immigration strategies. Growing university cities like Göttingen and Jena are in international competition for highly qualified "talent". Due to the strong influx of immigrants in recent years, housing and land are becoming increasingly scarce here, so that immigration is sometimes no longer seen as a potential for urban policy, but as a problem that causes "growing pains". The situation is different in cities that have experienced emigration and where housing vacancies and a shortage of skilled workers are pressing urban development problems. Some medium-sized cities such as Brandenburg an der Havel and Bamberg therefore focus on in-migration into their housing markets, others – such as Wismar – on labour immigration.

Hardly any Explicit Immigration Strategies

The topic of immigration is usually addressed in urban development concepts. These contain many statements on demographic development, but often only implicit statements on immigration needs. Thus, guiding principles such as the "growing and sustainable city" (Jena), "urban quality of life" (Brandenburg an der Havel) or "reurbanisation" (Bamberg) are formulated, which are more or less directly aimed at immigration. However, an explicit immigration strategy is only discussed in Brandenburg an der Havel. In other cities – such as Göttingen, Jena, Ravensburg and Wismar – it is rather individual projects, such as "Welcome Centres", that offer counselling services for those wishing to move. However, these are aimed at the phase of arrival and integration – less at the phase of recruitment. The recruitment of immigrants is mostly done through initiatives by companies, such as "Wirtschaftsinitiative Ostseeraum Wismar (WOW)" (Baltic Sea Region Business Initiative), which intends to attract skilled workers to the location.

In addition to analysing planning policies, the project investigated which actors and coalitions are committed to immigration and which reject it, also motivated by xenophobia and right-wing populism. The research team found a very powerful "alliance for skilled workers" in Jena, where the economic development agency works very closely with local businesses and city politics. These actors form a so-called "growth coalition". In Göttingen, the university proved to be a strong driver in immigration policy. It is not only the largest employer, but also significantly shapes the image of the city. The findings show that not only private companies follow the growth imperative, but also public institutions that want to secure the city's finances through population growth or that compete for "excellence".

Tight Housing Markets Dominate Problem Perception

However, the formation of local growth coalitions in cities does not always succeed. Partly, there are differences between political leaders and the administrative level about growth potentials. In univer-

sity cities with tight housing markets, the social problems of housing shortage dominate the debate and have already led to alliances for affordable housing. In Jena, there is also resistance from the citizenry against further building projects in the city area. In contrast, there was hardly any resistance to immigration by xenophobic and right-wing populist groups or parties in urban politics in the cities studied. This can be explained by the fact that local politics in academically dominated university and high-tech cities is strongly shaped by liberal and "cosmopolitan" parties. Pushback against immigration, especially of refugees, by right-wing extremists is perceived by the actors more as a problem in the surrounding areas of the cities or of structurally weak cities.

Kühn, Manfred; Münch, Sybille (2019) (eds.):
Zuwanderung und Stadtpolitik.
disP – The Planning Review, Theme Issue,
Volume 55, Issue 3

Overall, the case studies show that the development of strategies for immigration is a cross-cutting municipal task in cities, as migration closely interacts with the housing, labour and education markets. Opportunities for managing immigration exist primarily in targeted offers of housing for specific target groups. Companies themselves remain primarily responsible for recruiting skilled workers. Highly qualified people are particularly desired and courted in the cities, since as high earners they also contribute to the consolidation of the city finances. But it is precisely these groups that are very mobile on the labour markets and therefore difficult to retain. ▪

Madlen Pilz

From Urban Redevelopment to Arrival Neighbourhoods

The Influx of Refugees into Large Housing Estates

Since reunification, the large housing estates in many East German cities – Halle-Neustadt is probably the most prominent example – have been significantly affected by the decline in population (in some cases up to 50 %) and the increasing concentration of older residents and financially weak households. The municipalities reacted to this with deconstruction and adjustments to the infrastructure and housing stock. With the increasing immigration of refugees since 2015, these large East German housing estates, which despite all the measures still had high vacancy rates and thus vacant living space, have become hotspots of transformation: their populations are rising, their infrastructures are increasingly overloaded and new population groups have to be integrated.

The practice-oriented research project "From Shrinkage to Immigration. New Perspectives for Peripheral Large Housing Estates", funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, is investigating in three selected large housing estates – Mueßer Holz/Neu Zippendorf (Schwerin), Südliche Neustadt (Halle) and Sandow (Cottbus) – how the international influx is changing the neighbourhoods and how financially constrained municipalities can respond to the resulting demands. In the network, which is coordinated by Matthias Bernt, the IRS cooperates with other research and advisory institutions as well as practice partners.

The focus of the project component based at the IRS, which is pursued by Madlen Pilz and Matthias Bernt, is the comparative analysis of the municipal management of integration in the three cities. A special focus of the research lies on the inner-city integration processes and the cooperation between municipal actors – the departments of social affairs, urban planning and the integration commissioner – and the social organisations, civil society, voluntary and migrant initiatives in the neighbourhoods. Numerous important questions for municipal integration work are still only partially clarified, such as the question of the wishes and perspectives of the new resident groups to stay, the infrastructure requirements and the long-term guarantee of equal participation for all residents in the neighbourhood and, last but not least, the sustainable financing of municipal integration work. Based on its analyses, the project network will develop recommendations for action that take into account the specific situation in the three municipalities and can be transferred to municipalities with similar constraints.

For the municipalities, this new situation offers not only challenges but also the opportunity to stop the shrinking process in the neighbourhoods. In the course of the current situation, the municipalities have set themselves the goal of ensuring more stable basic services for all residents. The new diversity of residents has different, sometimes contradictory effects in everyday life. For some it brings unrest, insecurity and conflicts, for others new contacts, acquaintances
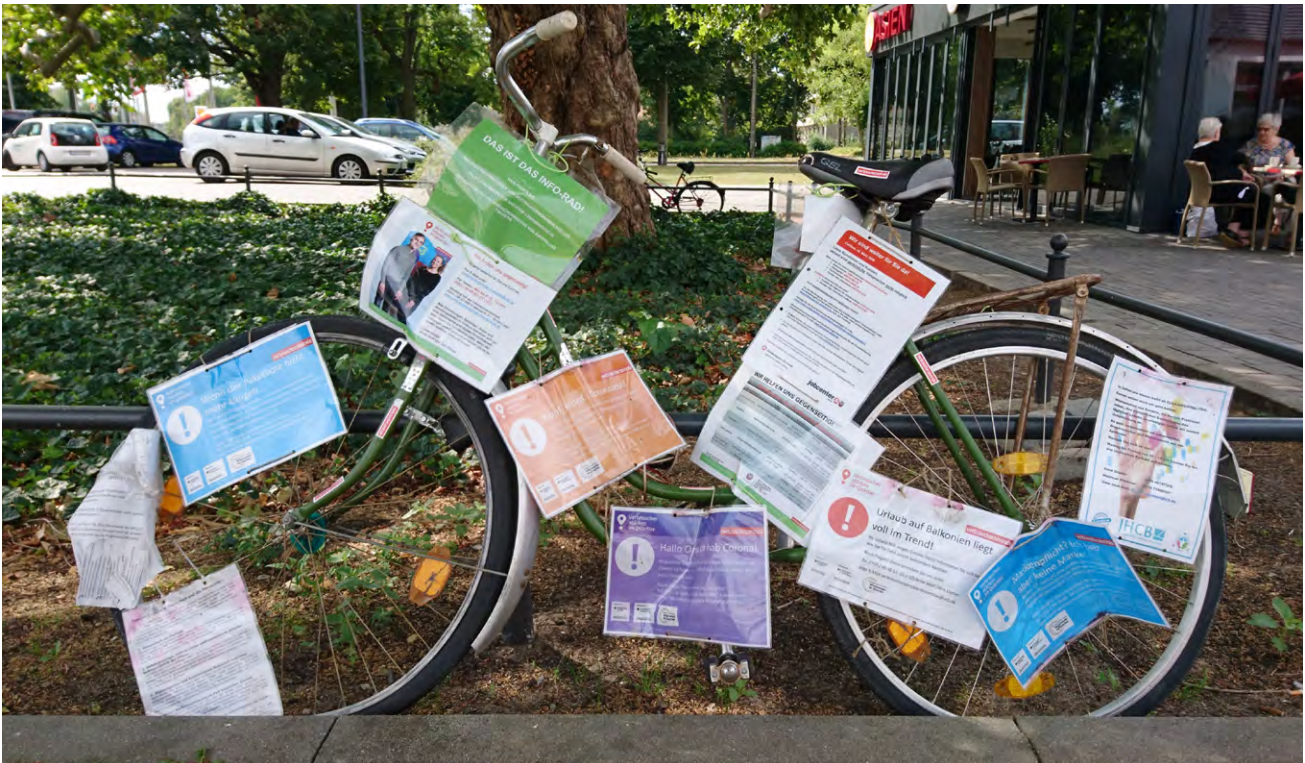
and also fields of activity, especially in the voluntary sector. This confronts the municipalities with the task of creating a coexistence or even a side. The aim is to promote mutual understanding in spite of all the differences in the neighbourhoods, to recognise voluntary commitment and to meaningfully link it with their own integration measures. Furthermore, it is important to establish a process of understanding in the neighbourhood and city-wide about the new identity of these neighbourhoods, their inner-city function as arrival neighbourhoods or "integration machines" and to initiate and shape their image as social hotspots.

El-Kayed, Nihad; Bernt, Matthias; Hamann, Ulrike; Pilz, Madlen (2020): Peripheral Estates as Arrival Spaces? Conceptualising Research on Arrival Functions of New Immigrant Destinations. Urban Planning, 5 (3), 103–114

Despite the pandemic-related restrictions, the research and exchange with the actors on the ground were, for the most part, successful and often took place in various digital formats as a substitute. The first important insights and findings are already emerging in the analysis. For example, in all three municipalities, despite the political strengthening of the AfD, the positive attitude towards international immigration continues to be the guiding principle in politics and everyday life. This is formulated and pursued by the actors with a growing awareness of the political situation.

Team

1	Prof. Dr Felicitas Hillmann until 5 | 2020	Abteilungsleiterin
2	PD Dr Matthias Bernt	Commissarial Head of Department from 06 | 2020
		Project management: From Shrinkage to Immigration. New Perspectives for Peripheral Large Housing Estates (StadtumMig)
3	Dr Manfred Kühn	Deputy Head of Department
		Lead Project Management: Migration: Governance-Dilemmas of Cities
		Immigration Strategies – Planning Policies in the Regeneration of Cities
4	Dr Anne Volkmann	Similar but Different: Neighbourhood Change in Halle and Łódź (SimDiff)
5	Dr Laura Calbet until 9 | 2020	Project management:
		Urban Co-production of Participation and Common Good Negotiation Processes Between Civil Society Actors and City Administrations (KoopWohl)
		(Dr. Laura Calbet now holds a professorship for theories and methods of urban planning, director of the Institute of Urban Planning at the University of Stuttgart)
6	Aya Kleine	City Co-production of Participation and Common Good Negotiation Processes between Civil Society Actors and City Administrations (KoopWohl)
7	Gala Nettelbladt	Migration: Governance-Dilemmas of Cities
8	Jesko Meißel until 8 | 2019	
9	Dr Madlen Pilz	From Urban Redevelopment Focus to Immigrant Neighbourhood? New Perspectives for Peripheral Large Housing Estates (StadtumMig)
		Large Housing Estates After Transformation (EAT)
10	Henning Boeth	Immigration Strategies – Planning Policies for the Regeneration of Cities
11	Kerstin Wegel	Project Assistance

Department for Historical Research

The Department for Historical Research is concerned with the design, planning and appropriation of spaces in modern history as well as the documentation thereof – in archives and, more recently, in digital form. The department examines the patterns and development paths of the urbanisation and planning of urban spaces in socialist and western societies. Particular interest is given to convergent and divergent trends in urban development in different regions and social systems as well as the role of architects and planners as "experts" in cooperation with actors from the state, political parties and civil society.

The researchers investigate the circulation of planning knowledge and its adaptation between the level of transnational organisations and local building projects. They also analyse the biographies and strategies of architects and urban planners. In recent years, longer-term developments, back to the time of National Socialism, as well as socio-historical contexts, such as the work of citizens' initiatives in the renewal of old towns in the late GDR, have been increasingly analysed. The close interlinking of research with the scientific collections provides opportunities to the evaluate, but also to acquire previously unanalysed source material. The archivists and researchers in the department also work closely together on knowledge transfer, for example via exhibitions and the online portal of the academic collections.

In recent years, the department has increasingly turned to problems of social division in historical perspective. The current lead project "Socio-Spatial Disparities and Equalisation Policies in Cities and Towns of the GDR and FRG" (2019 - 2021) is based on the observation that in urban areas on both sides of the Wall, below the fundamental systemic differences, analogous processes of socio-spatial division have also occurred to a greater extent than is often known, for example with regard to the exclusion of minorities from the majority society or disparities in housing provision for different population strata. The project team, consisting of Christoph Bernhardt (head), Stefanie Brünenberg, Harald Engler and Malgorzata Popiolek-Roßkamp, is working on the desideratum of a theory and methodology capable of grasping socio-spatial disparities across economic systems, in socialist and western societies. On the other hand, it empirically examines socio-structural profiles and patterns of perception of inequality as well as strategies of urban renewal and socio-spatial equalisation from a comparative system perspective. Initial results point to divergences in the distribution of social groups in urban spaces in East and West, to certain particularities compared to disparities in other European countries, and to the historical roots of today's social division. ■

Harald Engler

On the History of German Building Policy under National Socialism and in the Soviet Occupation Zone/GDR

In 2005, research into the history of the Federal Foreign Office under National Socialism marked the beginning of a series of historiographical studies of the often highly charged history of the predecessor ministries of today's Federal Republic of Germany under the Third Reich. Since 2018, a research programme funded by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) on "Building and Planning in National Socialism" has been investigating central state building policy, for which the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community has been responsible since 2018. In addition to the period of the Third Reich, one of the 17 sub-projects focuses on the GDR history of the department, which was awarded to the IRS's Department for Historical Research.

The mandate and special approach of the IRS project "Housing and Urban Development Policies in the Soviet Occupation Zone and the GDR until 1955" is to analyse historically how the policy field of building and housing was transformed after the Second World War in the Soviet Occupation Zone and the GDR, which was founded in 1949. The project investigates the history of transformation in the building sector from the Nazi state to the Soviet Occupation Zone, particularly with regard to continuities and breaks in personnel, institutions and urban planning models. Since the topic has hardly been researched from this system transformation perspective

so far, the team, consisting of Harald Engler and Frank Betker (project management) as well as Christoph Bernhardt and Tanja Scheffler, conducted extensive research in the Federal Archives as well as regional and city archives.

What are the key results? Overall, unsurprisingly, the breaks in the system between the Nazi period and the early Soviet Occupation Zone/GDR period in the building industry clearly outweighed the continuities. It is true that lines of continuity can be traced in the careers of individual planners and architects (e.g. Hermann Henselmann and Hans Gericke). On the whole, however, only very few architects who had already been active during National Socialism made a career in the GDR; rather, as in many other fields, there was a veritable change of elites. However, despite fundamental differences, there are partially convergent or similar central state organisational patterns between the two systems, which were also reflected in the building and housing sector. This can be observed, for example, in forms of construction organisation (construction site logistics), in the central distribution of resources or in building typologies and standard measurements. The staging of new state ceremonial rituals for architectural lighthouse projects such as the Stalinallee (Karl-Marx-Allee) in Berlin or the first "socialist city on German soil" in Stalinstadt (later Eisenhüttenstadt) also show parallels to the staging of architecture in the Nazi state.

Overall, however, the differences between the two systems clearly predominate. Although persons incriminated by the Nazis were soon taken on in the civil service, the GDR pursued a much more anti-fascist accentuated policy at the personnel level than the Federal Republic. The number of people incriminated by the Nazis in the new state apparatus is significantly lower than in the Federal Republic, where there is considerably more continuity with the Third Reich. In 1950, for example, 18.9 per cent of former NSDAP members worked in the GDR's Ministry for Reconstruction, which had been founded a year earlier, mainly in lower ranks. In West German ministries, the proportion was at times 66 per cent. What is decisive, however, is that in the GDR, in contrast to the Federal Republic, a completely new political, social and economic system was established. In the building industry, this included the (too) one-sided emphasis on industrial construction (in prefabricated concrete slabs) in a centrally planned economy controlled by the state and largely excluding private-sector activity. The abrupt change of course in the state guidelines for building (from modern building via the "national tradition" to industrial building) and the major disruptions in ministerial administrative action, which can be easily traced in the files, were blatant and made an adequate housing policy virtually impossible in the first few years.

The Department for Historical Research of the IRS is represented in the research programme with another sub-project, "Urban Design and Building Stock-oriented Construction Policy 1933-1945", headed by Christoph Bernhardt. The monographic contributions from both projects will be published in a comprehensive four-volume anthology of the entire project network and will be accompanied by an exhibition, which is expected to be shown in 2023 at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin. ■

Sarah Day, Harald Engler, Julia Wigger

Citizens' Groups against Old Town Decay in the GDR

In the GDR in the 1980s, more and more houses in the old building stock of the cities fell into disrepair – an accepted consequence of the SED leadership's unilateral prioritisation of industrial prefabricated construction. In the course of the last decade of the GDR, more and more city dwellers fought against urban decay, fighting in citizens' groups for the preservation of the building fabric.

This protest is the focus of the research network "Stadtwende" (Urban Turnaround), which, in addition to the IRS, includes the universities in Kaiserslautern (network coordination), Kassel and Weimar and is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The special approach of the project is to focus not only on citizens' groups, but also on other reform forces in institutions such as urban planning offices or the Bauakademie (Building Academy), which have so far been rather unknown and hardly researched. In addition to writing scientific publications, the project gives special importance to a comprehensive transfer of knowledge, which includes above all a touring exhibition and an elaborated website that are intended to stimulate further research. Harald Engler (head of the IRS sub-project) and Julia Wigger from the Department for Historical Research are responsible for researching the citizens' groups, Sarah Day is the documentalist in charge of the project website.

A Little-Known Protest Movement

In contrast to the independent environmental, peace and human rights movements in the GDR, little is known about the individuals and associations of citizens who were committed to fighting against the visible decay of the historic city centres and against planned demolitions. But with the international rediscovery of the old cities in the 1960s and 1970s, city dwellers in the GDR also came together to campaign for the preservation of the old buildings. However, they rarely used the roof of the church, but integrated themselves into state structures in order to avoid criminalisation and expand their scope of action. It is striking that this was by no means a marginal phenomenon. At the end of the 1980s, according to current research, groups can be found in almost 40 towns and cities, from Schwerin and Potsdam to Erfurt and Meißen.

In autumn 1989, the number of initiatives increased by leaps and bounds. Their commitment was partly absorbed in the mass demonstrations of the Peaceful Revolution, but they also formed new structures of their own. By 1990/91, however, the majority of the citizens' groups had already ceased their work. New, private challenges and regulations such as "restitution before compensation" and an adjustment of rents shifted the focus of those involved.

The "Stadtwende" Website: an Interactive Research Tool

▶ stadtwende.de

The Stadtwende website as a research resource is an interactive tool for delving into the urban turnaround topic. On the first level, it shows a map with so-called "Stadtwendepunkte" (urban turnaround points) in different categories such as citizens' groups, institutions, people and places. These categories provide users with an exploratory introduction and show meta-information on the one hand and detailed explanations in text form on the other, supplemented by photographs of the respective topic. The individual points are formulated and continuously enriched by the researchers of the joint project on their main topics. With this interactive map, the website offers a knowledge resource that can be used for further research on the topics of civil society appropriation of urban spaces, protest, and the history of time, cities and buildings in the GDR. Texts describe the various aspects of the main topics of the sub-projects are scientifically deepened. The website also offers further information about the project, such as events and publications. It was designed and programmed by Sarah Day (IRS) in cooperation with the web design company KNICK Design from Leipzig.

The decay of large old city districts and phenomena such as black housing contributed to the GDR's political system increasingly losing its basis of legitimacy in the 1980s. The Stadtwende project makes a contribution to this transformation history of the GDR. The struggle of urban citizens and other actors against these signs of decay is also a hitherto little-known phenomenon and can become part of a new narrative for many GDR biographies beyond the dominant, sometimes stereotyping narratives of GDR history. The question of how urban citizens interfere in urban politics and who actually claims what right to the city is also still highly relevant to society today.

Daniel Hadwiger

Urban Authenticity

Dealing with the "Stone Witnesses of the Past"

How do we deal with the building heritage of European cities? What do the preference for buildings from the Baroque period and the widespread demolition of post-war architecture in many German cities say about the guiding ideas on spatial design in politics and society?

The project "Urban Authenticity: Creating, Contesting, and Visualising the Built Heritage in European Cities since the 1970s (UrbAuth)" (2020 - 2023), funded by the Leibniz competition and led by Christoph Bernhardt, is investigating how parts of the built heritage in European urban societies have been valorised since the Second World War and what role "authentication" plays in this process. The question of "authenticity" as the socially negotiated "real", "pure" and "true" quality of things and buildings has become an important topic in public discourse in recent decades. It has triggered numerous debates on how to deal with cultural heritage and cultural change and has become a central field of research in the humanities.

In many European cities, political conflicts and urban planning discussions were ignited primarily by the reconstruction of buildings and neighbourhoods. This research project is the first to systematically analyse the patterns of such discourses in a transnational historiographical perspective. The study focuses on public debates and practices of citizens' initiatives, city administrations and other actors in the field of tension between building policy, tourism and migration since the 1970s. The debates about an "authentic" building heritage are examined in the project network on the basis of four case studies in cities in the Federal Republic, the GDR, Poland and France: Nuremberg, Potsdam, Szczecin and Marseille. The sub-project on Marseille is being conducted by Daniel Hadwiger at the IRS.

Special attention will be paid to visual sources as visual memory. Around 200 representations (photographs, paintings, brochures) of the Berlin-Brandenburg region will therefore be presented on a website from 2022 and related to selected visual sources from the four cities under investigation.

Team

1	Prof. Dr Christoph Bernhardt	Head of Department
		Lead Project Management: Social-Spatial Disparities and Equalisation Policies in Cities of the GDR and the FRG
2	Dr Harald Engler	Deputy Head of Department
		Project management: Urban Renewal at the Turning Point – the Significance of Citizens' Initiatives against the Decay of the Old Town for the Turnaround in the GDR
3	Stefanie Brünenberg	Lead project:
4	Dr Małgorzata Popiołek-Roßkamp	Social-Spatial Disparities and Equalisation Policies in Cities of the GDR and the FRG
5	Dr Monika Motylinska	Head of Junior Research Group: Conquering (with) Concrete. German Construction Companies as Global Players in Local Contexts.
6	Paul Lennart Sprute	Conquering (with) Concrete. German Construction Companies as Global Players in Local Contexts.
7	Dr Andreas Butter	Urban Renewal at the Turning Point – the Significance of Citizens' Initiatives against the Deterioration of the Old Town for the Turning Point in the GDR
8	Sarah Lisa Day	
9	Julia Wigger	
10	Carla Aßmann until 3 | 2019	Conflict field "Car-friendly City". Inner-city Open Space Design as an Urbanisation Strategy in East and West since 1945
11	Dr Frank Betker until 8 | 2020	Building and Planning under National Socialism. Preconditions, Institutions, Effects: Setting the course for housing and urban development in the Soviet Occupation Zone and the GDR until 1955
12	Dr des. Daniel Michael Hadwiger	Urban Authenticity: Creating, Contesting, and Visualising the Built Heritage in European Cities since the 1970s (UrbAuth) (UrbAuth)
13	Kathrin Meißner	The Mediatisation of Urban Development Planning and Changes to the Public Sphere (MedPlan)
14	Dr Rita Gudermann	Project Manager | Special "Digital Infrastructure"
15	Dr Kai Drewes	Head of the Scientific Collections
16	Alexander Obeth	Special Representative for Pre- and Posthumous Bequests | Academic Collections
17	Anja Pienkny	Archive | Academic Collections
18	Petra Geral	Project Assistance

Innovation
Hub 13
fast track to transfer
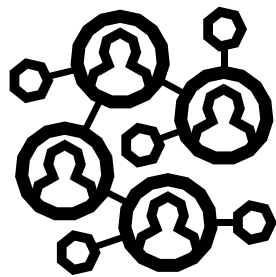
InnoSalon
GEMEINSAM POTENTIALE HEBEN

Ariane Sept, Suntje Schmidt, Peter Ulrich

Problems to Innovations

IRS knowledge transfer in Brandenburg and beyond

Not only technical inventiveness, but also everyday challenges and problems drive innovation processes. The special conditions of predominantly rural areas form a context that can produce innovative solutions and yet is only gradually being discovered as a space for innovation. The IRS researches such innovations and supports them through transfer activities. Three projects are examples of this, all of which are related to rural areas in Brandenburg.

In order to understand and support problem-driven innovation, researchers must look at processes in which committed individuals, initiatives or networks succeed in reinterpreting a problem as an opportunity and in mobilising resources to deal with it in a new way. This can involve money, technology and technological competence or other types of expertise. How does such an initial reinterpretation come about? How do people bring together their own local knowledge with other sources of knowledge? How do they organise expertise from other, often distant, sources? Each of these aspects can provide a starting point for targeted knowledge transfer.

Digitally supported solutions in villages

The lead project "Smart Villagers: Digitalisation and Social Innovations in Rural Spaces" (see p. 29) took a close look at the village of Barsikow in the district of Ostprignitz-Ruppin. Here, the citizens converted the empty village store into a meeting place with a Wi-Fi hotspot, set up an electric village car that can be booked and billed digitally, and organised digitalisation courses for the village community. In addition to the immediate benefits for mobility and internet connectivity, such and similar digital solutions (other examples are telemedicine and delivery apps) also revive the often dormant communication in the village. It is striking that it is the older people in the village who regularly become digital innovation drivers. The project team was able to show that, in addition to the comprehensive provision of public services such as education and network infrastructures, activating and participatory measures are also needed for those involved (such as training, coaching, contacts to external experts and technology providers) in order to promote innovation. At state, federal and EU level, the researchers fed their findings into policy-related expert discussions.

Scientific and local expertise

Other projects work on concrete local solutions, such as the project "Open Region: Regional Problems as Starting Points for Innovations". As part of the "Innohub13" alliance of Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau and the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg, funded by the BMBF's "Innovative Hochschule" (innovative university) programme, it aims to help identify and exploit regional opportunities for problem- and user-centred innovation processes in Brandenburg. To this end, the expertise of citizens is brought together with scientific expertise from TH Wildau and BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg. Innovation salons are used as an instrument for this. In this interactive event for-

mat, a regional problem is jointly defined and specified in the first round. In a subsequent salon, the majority of the participants are the same, and additional expertise is brought in to develop model solutions to the problem using methods such as design thinking, rapid prototyping or protowriting. The first salon tandem, which was prepared in 2020, addresses solutions for medical care in rural areas with the help of a health house. In this way, not only are innovative solutions to problems supported, but the transfer of knowledge between the region and its universities is also expanded at the same time.

Coworking and securing skilled labour

The innovation alliance "region 4.0", financed by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, focuses on problem-centred innovations in the implementation region of Barnim and Uckermark in Brandenburg and in the old district of Uecker-Randow in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. It addresses the fields of agriculture and nutrition, public services and infrastructures as well as nature-based tourism. Under the coordination of the Eberswalde University of Applied Sciences, civil society participation formats are also being carried out in the region: A "Feasibility Day" focused on the establishment of coworking in rural areas. A "Future Day" with young people focused on ways to secure skilled labour. And a German-Polish "Regio- Hack" looked for solutions to various challenges in the German-Polish border region between Eberswalde and Szczecin – for example in the areas of living, working and entrepreneurship. These formats were developed from the region in a problem-centred way and implemented by drawing in knowledge from outside, for example from universities. Following the "Feasibility Day", a coworking space was actually founded in Pasewalk. Other results were further developed in idea workshops. Local leaders (e.g. mayors) contributed their experiences to the analysis of the innovation environment in a virtual focus group discussion on opportunities, experiences and barriers of regional innovation and development processes. In this way, first approaches to solutions were developed and possibilities for connecting the results were pointed out. The virtual format of the focus group reduced participation barriers and facilitated participation. ■

Matthias Bernt, Madlen Pilz

Arrival Quarters as an Opportunity in Eastern German cities

Since 2015, large housing estates in eastern Germany have increasingly become "arrival neighbourhoods" of immigration – a term introduced into the debate by Canadian journalist Doug Saunders to describe the chances of migration-influenced neighbourhoods. The 48th Brandenburger Regionalgespräch (Brandenburg Regional Talk) asked what this means in practice for the cities.

In July 2020, Dr. Stefanie Kaygusuz-Schurmann (Head of the Service Department Education and Integration of the Cottbus Municipality), Dr. Madlen Pilz from the research department "Regeneration of Cities", and René Wilke, Mayor of the City of Frankfurt (Oder), discussed municipal planning options in an immigration society. They also discussed the difficulties with the term "arrival neighbourhood", which, despite its growing popularity, has not yet been conclusively spelled out either scientifically or politically. The conditions for municipal integration work in Cottbus and Frankfurt (Oder) also differs from the arrival neighbourhoods described by Doug Saunders: Both municipalities can finance numerous projects, contact points and also work opportunities with the help of the Brandenburg state fund for municipal migration social work. The large stock of municipally owned housing opens up broader scope for the municipalities in accommodating immigrants city-wide.

It also became clear in the discussion that the term "arrival neighbourhood" opens up new perspectives. It directs the focus to the creativity and high commitment of the immigrants to organise their new everyday life, to build up new contacts and networks or to gain a foothold in the world of work. In this way, it also opens the view for new municipal fields of action to support the arrival. Both Kaygusuz-Schurmann and Wilke concluded that their contact with the academic debate on arrival neighbourhoods, specifically also in preparation for the Regional Talk, provided impulses for rethinking in their local political contexts.

Raumwissenschaftliches Kolloquium 2019

Anker im Raum?
Klein- und Mittelstädte in
strukturschwachen Regionen

Manfred Kühn

Small and Medium-sized Towns – Anchors in Rural Areas?

With the growing interest in "disconnected" areas, small and medium-sized towns are moving up the agenda: Can they help as "anchors" to stabilise particularly structurally weak rural areas? The Raumwissenschaftliche Kolloquium (Spatial Science Colloquium) 2019 addressed this question and brought together important findings from research and practice.

The Raumwissenschaftliche Kolloquium is the biennial transfer conference of the former 5R Network, which is now continued by the Leibniz Research Network R - Spatial Knowledge for Society and the Environment (in short: "Leibniz R"), newly established by the Presidential Board of the Leibniz Association. In February 2019, the IRS, together with the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) and the Academy for Spatial Development in the Leibniz Association (ARL), organised the conference "Anchors in Space? Small and medium-sized towns in structurally weak regions". Coinciding with an intensive political and technical debate on equal living conditions, it met with a great response and was attended by highly interested participants who enjoyed the discussions.

In her keynote speech, Monika Thomas, Head of the Department of Urban Development, Housing and Public Building Law at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI), emphasised how important the topic is from the federal government's point of view. Torsten Pötzsch, Mayor of the town of Weißwasser in Upper Lusatia (Saxony), again showed what a committed municipality can achieve in a rural region plagued by shrinkage. Researchers from all institutes of the 5R network presented current findings on the role of small rural towns in a balanced spatial development. From the IRS, for example, Manfred Kühn, deputy head of the department "Regeneration of Cities", presented the concept of peripheralisation. Annett Steinführer from the Thünen Institute in Braunschweig concluded by calling for increased efforts for genuine small-town research and at the same time introduced a corresponding ad hoc working group of the ARL.
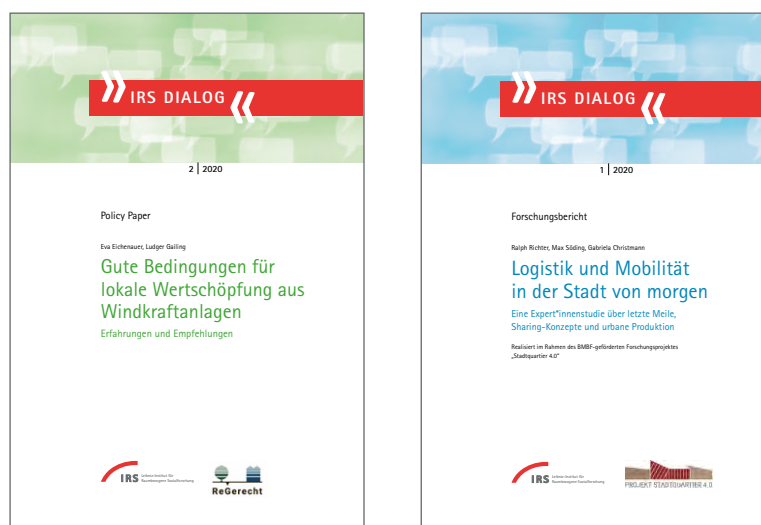
Felix Müller

In Dialogue with Society –
New Publication Series of the IRS

In 2020, the IRS established the publication series "IRS Dialog" as an umbrella format for the publication of IRS research results beyond specialist journals and books. In this way, the IRS makes its findings directly and easily accessible to the public.

The new series includes the subcategories Research Reports, Policy Papers and Working Papers. It will be published online on the IRS website and in the EconStor repository. Six issues of IRS Dialog were published by the end of 2020. In its research report "Logistik und Mobilität in der Stadt von morgen" ("Logistics and Mobility in the City of Tomorrow. An expert study on last mile, sharing concepts and urban production") (June 2020), Ralph Richter, Max Söding and Gabriela Christmann, for example, present research results on the feasibility of alternative concepts in urban logistics. The data was collected as part of the BMBF project "Stadtquartier 4.0". In the policy paper "Gute Bedingungen für lokale Wertschöpfung aus Windkraftanlagen" ("Good conditions for local value creation from wind power plants. Experiences and recommendations") (September 2020), Eva Eichenauer and Ludger Gailing describe success factors for the participation of municipalities in wind power plants erected in their area (see p. 22). They give implementation recommendations for the amendment of the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) and prepare practical experiences on the Citizen and Community Participation Act of the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (BüGembeteilG M-V), which was passed in 2016. In another policy paper entitled "Wie man soziale Innovationen in strukturschwachen ländlichen Räumen befördern kann" ("How to promote social innovations in structurally weak rural areas"), Gabriela Christmann proposes a policy approach for rural areas that uses support measures for social-innovative initiatives differentiated according to the development phases of social innovations. This would increase both the efficiency and the effectiveness of support for structurally weak rural areas. The paper is based on findings from the EU project "RurAction" (see p. 33).

Rita Gudermann

A Project with a Promising Future: The Expansion of the Digital Infrastructure of the Scientific Collections

In January 2020, a four-year, institutionally financed, forward-looking project was launched under the direction of Rita Gudermann: Large parts of the holdings of the scientific collections of the IRS are to be made digitally accessible, existing databases and digital copies are to be brought together, and the digital infrastructure is to be expanded. Among other things, it is planned to present the collections online in a new collection portal and to make them available on large portals such as the German Digital Library.

With its scientific collections on the building and planning history of the GDR, the IRS has an important and intensively used special archive. However, as enlightening as the handling of the physical materials is, in future documents must increasingly be made available to a broad public in digital form. It is not only in times of the COVID 19 pandemic that users appreciate the service of being able to search and view archive holdings from their own computers. Comprehensive digitalisation also pursues conservation goals: Brittle paper and fading colours on film strips and slides make it increasingly necessary to digitise documents and image collections and thus protect them from loss. After all, about ten per cent of the collections' holdings have already been digitised. And a growing proportion of the holdings are already "born digital" in the archive, i.e. they originated in a digital camera, in a CAD programme, or even as a website or database.

Target Groups

Who uses the collections and to what purpose? During the inventory and requirements analysis for the project, it quickly became clear that the use cases are highly diverse: There is the teacher who is doing a project on the history of the Dutch Quarter in Potsdam and needs historical photos for it. The engineer who is looking for an old catalogue of building parts. The exhibition team that needs design drawings and pictures of East Berlin's architectural history. Or the IRS doctoral student who is looking for documents on the decay of the GDR's old towns. And so on. But the most intensive use of the holdings is made by the staff of the archive itself, who record, index and prepare the materials for use and process a wide variety of enquiries. They all need very different access to the holdings: While some want to quickly look at a few photos, others are interested in an entire estate in its context. However, not everyone may be granted unrestricted access to all materials, because protection periods, copyright and personal rights must be observed.

Implementation

It quickly became apparent that the diverse demands on the future digital infrastructure of the scientific collections could not be met by a single programme. The access to the underlying databases and the needs are too different: While the archivists are interested in a precise view of the holdings, their tectonics and storage locations, it is irrelevant to most users where exactly an archive item is located and under what circumstances it came into the archive. While the archive team wants to trace the processing status of a collection and record legal aspects, the users are interested in being able to browse through large amounts of material with the help of keywords and online catalogues without much effort. They all want to find what they are looking for quickly and intuitively and need powerful search functions to do so. But while finding aids are created in the archive, user enquiries are answered, archive visits and reproduction orders are managed, many users want to be able to view what they have found in their own collections and ideally even download it easily.

Procurements

Against this background, after extensive market studies and software tests, the decision was made to procure two different programmes: an Archive Information System (AIS) and a Digital Asset Management System (DAM). The former represents the most important work tool in the archives' daily routine. It replaces MidosaXML, which has been used in the scientific collections up to now, and makes it possible in the future to also manage various inventory overviews, which have been kept separately up to now and which are currently available in the form of Office files, for example. In an AIS, non-digitised holdings are also managed. A DAM system, on the other hand, enables access to the individual digitised material – a photo, a letter or a newspaper page.

But while most of the programmes fulfil the most important requirements, they do so very differently in detail. It was also important to have the possibility to programme specific adaptations in order to be prepared for the future. Furthermore, the new systems should enable long-term archiving of data and be designed for growth. These features were also offered in very different quality and prices. This was the first major challenge of the project: an elaborate multi-stage tendering process in accordance with the specifications for public procurement contracts. In order to meet current and future requirements, the associated hardware also had to be expanded to include several servers and many terabytes of storage. In December 2020, the contracts for software and hardware were awarded so that implementation can take place in 2021.

Dr Rita Gudermann

Since January 2020, Rita Gudermann has been the project manager in charge of the special fate "Digital Infrastructure" of the IRS's scientific collections. The historian worked for many years as a research associate at the economic history institutes of Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. In 2010, as part of an Exist grant from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, she founded a historical image database that still exists today

Present

The installation of the new digital infrastructure is not the end of the story, because now comes the second major challenge: the migration of the old data – a complicated undertaking for records that have grown over decades, requiring the standardisation of designations, the mapping of data fields and the adaptation to new technical specifications. Thus, the current work is characterised by the increase and enrichment of the existing holdings – the continuation and facilitation of the digitalisation work, the enrichment of the digitised material with metadata (including GPS information) and the creation of new classification structures (virtual folders, categories, ontologies). There are also initial attempts at archiving entire websites, as they are now being created in large numbers in the IRS, but also by various donors of estates. But even with this, the new digital infrastructure is not yet complete: For what has been neatly recorded must also be presented appropriately. To this end, a new portal must be designed and implemented. It is to be expected that use will increase further with the establishment of the new digital infrastructure.

Trendsetting

It is already apparent that the realisation of the new digital infrastructure opens up completely new potential for research and knowledge transfer: for example, the presentation of the collections on an online portal opens up the possibility of involving users in the indexing process. As soon as photos are marked with GPS data, they enable the presentation of holdings with cartographic methods and deep mapping procedures. The administration of digital archives that will enter the archive in the future is also made possible. Finally, 4D representations are also coming into focus, i.e. the presentation

of the built environment and its time changes. This enables them to connect to a lively branch of the historical sciences, the digital humanities. And finally, the scientific collections can take on a pioneering role for smaller archives.

Further Digital Activities in the First Corona Year

The year 2020 was also special and difficult for archives, but it made creative solutions possible. In the scientific collections, resources could be channeled into further digital activities. For example, a digital showcase was opened in April with the "Find of the Month" on the internet portal on GDR planning history. By the end of 2020, eight blog posts had already appeared, telling the story of an object from the collections. In the Corona year 2020, scanning thousands of photos and slides and enriching them with keywords also played a major role – mostly from home over a period of months. It proved very fruitful for the archive team to exchange experiences in video conferences and to draw conclusions for further work.

In addition, there were two pilot projects with external partners in 2020. With the help of the Deutsche Fotothek, the more than 1,700 IRS records on and digitised portrait photos of GDR architects were brought into the Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek as part of DigiPortA (digiporta.net), a portal of Leibniz archives. On the other hand, a contract was awarded to the photo restorer Lutz Matschke to have a large number of colour negatives of slides scanned for the first time. Photo negatives are playing an increasing role in archives, as the digital discussion group with the other archives in Berlin-Brandenburg Leibniz institutions, which has also been in existence since 2020, has made clear.

Kai Drewes

Despite Difficult Circumstances: Hybrid Exhibition on Thälmann Park
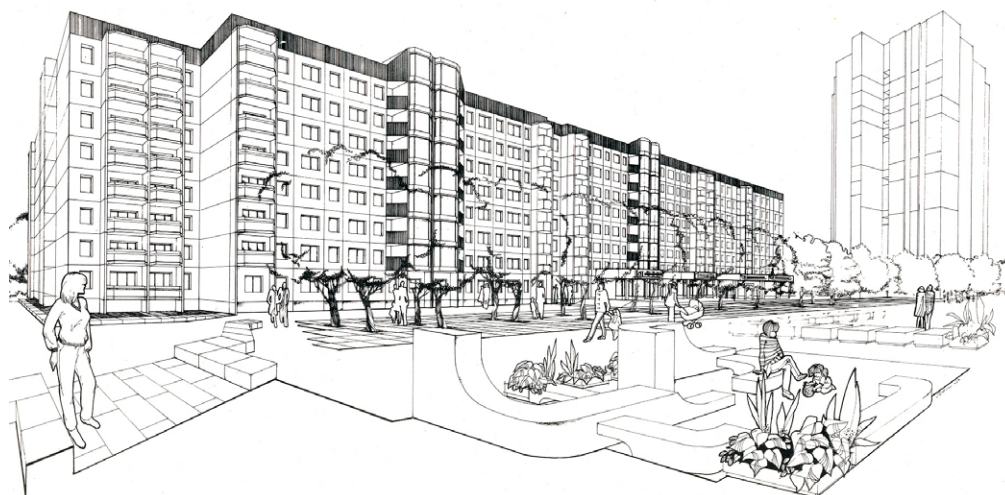
Supported by partners, including the foundations Neue Kultur and Planetarium Berlin, a comprehensive exhibition on the planning history of the Ernst Thälmann Park in Berlin Prenzlauer Berg was developed at the IRS. The park was a prestige project of the late GDR and is currently receiving a lot of attention. The exhibition was on hold due to the COVID 19 pandemic, but could be realised.

The project, for which it was possible to draw almost exclusively on IRS holdings, was funded by the Berlin State Agency for Civic Education. With Paul Perschke, a curator was recruited who had recently completed his Master's thesis on the same topic and already knew the Scientific Collections well as a student assistant. Kai Drewes was in charge of the project. The continuous German- and English-language exhibition consists of seven large flags printed on both sides with texts and illustrations, supplemented by original design drawings.

The implementation of almost all project phases under corona conditions was challenging, but succeeded with a lot of dedication. The only problem was that the first presentation of the exhibition from December 2020 to February 2021 in the foyer of the Zeiss Planetarium on Prenzlauer Allee fell victim to the second lockdown. Without further ado, the exhibition team developed a website and put all texts and images online at thaelmann-park.berlin at the beginning of December, supplemented by a virtual tour on YouTube. This "great online exhibition" (taz) is now permanently available.

Interview with Séverine Marguin, Jamie Baxter and Vivien Sommer about the Hybrid Mapping Methods working group

"We Draw More by Hand"

Maps are orientation aids in everyday life. Every day, map apps on our smartphones navigate us through traffic. Maps are also the means of choice for presenting countless phenomena, from election results to the drying up of the soil, in their spatiality in a visual and very catchy way. We are used to seeing in print and online media – in the latter case often interactive or animated – the familiar contours of our city and its subdivisions, in recurring shades of colour that sometimes signal good news and sometimes bad. But how many conscious or unconscious decisions, how many unquestioned assumptions flow into such a map in the process of its creation? What could be found out by turning away from the finished product map and towards the great variety of possible mappings? Couldn't "mapping", i.e. the process of mapping, be understood much more comprehensively as a research method and as an object of reflection for all disciplines of spatial research?

The DFG Collaborative Research Centre "Re-figuration of Spaces" (SFB 1265) at Technische Universität Berlin, in which the IRS is also involved, is researching the extensive spatial rearrangements caused, among other things, by globalisation and the spread of digital communication technologies. The working group "Hybrid Mapping Methods" is also located here. It aims to develop mapping as a cross-disciplinary research method and is dedicated to the aforementioned questions. All disciplines that also make up the SFB are represented in the group: sociology, architecture and urban planning. It has six permanent members, five of whom are employed at the IRS. In this interview, sociologist Séverine Marguin, architect Jamie Baxter and sociologist Vivien Sommer talk about what the group wants to achieve.

How did the Hybrid Mapping Methods working group come about?

Marguin: The term "hybrid mapping" was already an idea in the proposal for the Collaborative Research Centre, so it originated there. I head the Methods Lab in the SFB and decided to pursue the topic of visual methods, especially mapping, with high priority. Through Martin Schinagl and Sophie Melix, the team of the SFB project "Digital Urban Planning", which is based at the IRS, we then got in touch with other researchers at the IRS who were interested in the topic. In 2018, we had our first meeting in Berlin-Mitte.

Baxter: We have been meeting regularly since then. Although we didn't know what a hybrid map was exactly at the beginning, there was a good energy in the group. Discussions quickly arose, which we found very fruitful. We felt from the beginning that we were talking from different perspectives about a common problem that we wanted to address, even if we didn't define it exactly yet. This has sustained the group so far and given us enough to talk about to get us around the table once, sometimes twice a month.

Marguin: We also have unforgettable parties (laughs).

What does "hybrid mapping" mean? What is hybrid about it?

Baxter: Generally speaking, there is a new field of research that deals with maps as a form of spatial research tools and that will be developed in the SFB. Architecture, planning and social sciences come together there. This field must be further developed in the future – theoretically, conceptually and methodologically. That is our challenge. We want to know whether hybrid mapping can be a joint, interdisciplinary research approach that can be applied in our disciplines.

Sommer: The word "hybrid" means that we bring together different types of data when it comes to mapping: geographical maps, various forms of visualisations, e.g. visualised movement patterns, texts, numbers and certainly also audio data. In addition, the word means that we also want to combine opposing perspectives. Maps, for example, have different functions for us. They are not only used to collect data, to systematically prepare and visualise data, but also to analyse and interpret the different types of data that characterise certain spaces brought together in this way. We are also not only concerned with the product map, but just as much with the methodological process of mapping.

Marguin: There are even more dimensions of hybridity. Interdisciplinary collaboration is also part of it, as I said. We bring together the social science perspective on mapping with the architecture and design-oriented perspective. Especially in architecture, the aesthetics of maps also play a role. We also want to integrate different types of data – qualitative and quantitative data. Hybrid Mapping stands for all of this.

Why is this important? And to what extent does it fill a gap in the disciplines mentioned?

Sommer: Mapping has not really played a role in sociology so far, apart from some approaches to mental mapping*. But because space is becoming more and more important as a category of analysis in the social sciences, we have to deal more intensively with the question of how space and spatiality have been represented up to now – in maps, through mapping, but also how they can be represented in the future, and not only for everyday use (e.g. as is the case with a city map).

The project is not only a tool for the development of a new spatial science, but also for scientific research and for the visualisation of spatial science research results.

Baxter: In architecture, producing maps is very important. Of course, we have a fluid understanding of maps. They can be changed at any time. Some would therefore rather call what we do "plans". For

* Mental maps or cognitive maps are ideas that people have about their spatial environment. In spatial research, people are sometimes asked to draw their spatial environment as they perceive it. In this way, spatial perceptions can be explored.

Dr Vivien Sommer

Vivien Sommer is a sociologist and research associate at the Institute of Sociology at the TU Berlin. Until February 2020, she was a research associate in the research department "Dynamics of Communication, Knowledge and Spatial Development" of the IRS in the DFG project "Socio-spatial Transformations in German-Polish 'Interstices'. Practices of Debordering and Rebordering (De-Re-Bord)". Her research interests include the sociology of knowledge, media sociology and urban and regional sociology.

** GIS stands for Geographical Information Systems.

me, drawing and capturing different dimensions is very central as a working method. But from my point of view as an architect, hybrid mapping is also about the question of how different spatial categories, such as "relational spaces" or "container spaces", which are distinguished in spatial social research and seen as something opposite, can nevertheless be thought of together.

If one understands the term in a traditional way, a map is a two-dimensional representation of the earth's space with the help of a mathematic projection rule. Certain contents are then prepared in this mapping. How does hybrid mapping differ from this definition?

Sommer: The problem with this definition is that it sees spatial reality as something objectively given that can be depicted. But if you understand reality and its spatiality as something socially constructed and want to get to the bottom of the processes of construction, you can't work with it. To do this, one has to understand social reality and its Reconstruct spatial dimensions, i.e. understand how certain spatial representations (e.g. maps) came about.

Marguin: I would also say that hybrid mapping differs from the approach found in classical cartography, for example, where the aim is to delineate sections of space from one another using quantitative methods.

Are there any cartographers in the group?
Marguin: No. We have a somewhat ambivalent relationship with cartography.

Baxter: But we had a GIS course** the other day.

Sommer: We have now received a GIS certificate! (All laugh) It was really interesting. A cartographer led the course. He showed us where we can download geodata and process it in GIS. But all the data we used for our GIS map came from external sources. We did not collect our own data.

Baxter: Yes, and the interpretation of data was not part of the programme. We got the impression that in general a lot of work is put into the visualisation of data and into the end product map and much less work is put into the collection and interpretation of data with the help of maps.

If it's not about working with GIS, what is the group working on and with?
Marguin: So far we have talked more about drawing by hand than about GIS.

Baxter: Yes, we asked ourselves what it means to draw. What processes take place when you draw? Which are more analytic and which are more practical? How does it become a map, a form of knowledge? A few times we

went to the park or the city or the TU campus and did mapping exercises. Our first year was mainly about sharing our knowledge, developing a common language and common competences. And of course the processes we practise by hand are also in a mapping with GIS, only it's the computer that draws. We are interested in uncovering the assumptions that are inherent in mapping processes. For example, that space is static and that you map a social reality that is in flux against the background of a static space. In the group we read a lot, we have literature sessions. We discuss our respective projects, but we also invite interesting guests to our meetings. Some have presented their work, others have done very tangible workshops with us. Via our WhatsApp group, we are constantly in touch about what is going on in Berlin at the moment, for example where an interesting lecture is taking place. We benefit from what is happening around us.

Sommer: These meetings with external guests are very inspiring. They come from sociology, planning, architecture. They broaden our horizons about what mapping means in different disciplines.

Is there such a thing as a hybrid map?

Sommer: If you start from the definition of hybrid mapping as a process, then this can also create a hybrid map.

Marguin: There are some examples that our guests have shown us. Dagmar Pelger and Emily Kelling from TU Berlin, for example, have created a map of informality in Berlin's hostel economy that brings together very different types of data and information. I would see this map as a hybrid map.

Is the group working towards a specific goal?

Sommer: We want to develop a research method. We want to show how to do hybrid mapping. When it comes to the question of how we publish our results, we tend to use communication channels other than the classic handbook. But that is still open. We are currently working on an article for a trade journal. So that we have something to refer to. And we want to develop from a working group into a larger network.

Jamie Baxter

Architect and spatial scientist Jamie Baxter is a research associate in the research department "Dynamics of Communication, Knowledge and Spatial Development". He is a PhD student in the EU project "Social Entrepreneur- ship in Structurally Weak Rural Regions – Analysing Innovative Troubleshooters in Action" (RurAction), which is coordinated by the IRS. He focuses on the dynamics of social innovations.

Dr Séverine Marguin

Séverine Marguin is a sociologist and heads the Methods Lab of the SFB "Re-Figuration of Spaces" at the TU Berlin. Her research focuses include science studies and visual research methods. As part of her habilitation, she is currently conducting an ethnography of science of interdisciplinary cooperation in the spatial sciences through.

Marguin: We want to continue doing what we do anyway, but in a wider circle. In Berlin there are so many people working on the topic of mapping and we can integrate them into our work. We want more visibility for the topic and we want to be more than an unofficial working group between two institutes. To become a real, formalised network, we have to apply for funding. We are preparing that right now.

Is there also a practical use for hybrid mapping?

Baxter: There is a big practical side. About half of our group works not only in research but also in practice. I'm doing research at the moment, but I also see myself as an architect and practitioner. One reason I am involved in this group is that mapping has been practised in architecture for a very long time, but there are many shortcomings in doing so. With a sociological perspective, we can address these shortcomings. Unques tioned assumptions, bias and subjectivity in planning and design pro- cesses need to be reflected. This has great practical significance. Because if actors map the urban environment and do not think about how they choose something and what decisions they make in the process, and if buildings or entire cities are then planned and built on this basis, then this can have far-reaching consequences.

▶ www.sfb1265.de/forschung/methoden-lab/
arbeitsgruppe-hybrid-mapping-methods

Hennig Boeth

From Berlin to Bamberg

At first glance, medium-sized cities like Landshut, Böblingen or Kleve do not have much in common with large cities like Berlin, Hamburg or Munich. Only on closer inspection does it become clear what these different types of cities have in common: In recent years, they have all experienced growth driven by in-migration.
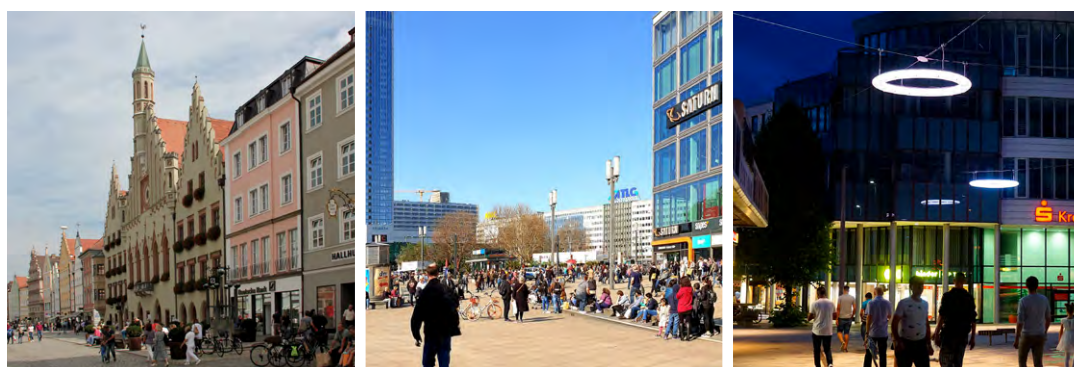
However, such reurbanisation has so far been scientifically investigated mainly in large cities. In contrast, there are hardly any studies on medium-sized cities that systematically analyse the causes and migration groups that have led to the positive development trends, beyond the presentation of the increasing migration balances and population figures. and what possibilities policy and planning in the municipalities have to steer these developments. I am trying to answer these open questions in my dissertation project.

I am investigating Bamberg and Brandenburg/Havel in the form of case studies that are integrated into the DFG-funded project "Immigration Strategies – Planning Policies in the Regeneration of Cities" (2018 - 2021). The close link between the dissertation and the DFG project resulted in numerous synergies, for example in conducting expert interviews and analysing statistical data. In spatial and planning science research, the development conditions of urban and rural areas are usually researched and compared. I find the examination of the special features of the political-administrative control of medium-sized cities, as a kind of connecting element, particularly exciting and important. Since the work analyses strategies and instruments of urban development policy, it is also (planning-)practically oriented. It also gave me a critical view of theories and planning practices that focus exclusively on growth.

Henning Boeth

Henning Boeth is a research associate in the research department "Regeneration of Cities". He is doing his doctorate in the field of applied geography and spatial planning at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin on the subject of "Possibilities of municipal control of reurbanisation in medium-sized cities: A comparative analysis of planning policies and forms of governance". The work is supervised by Prof.Dr Henning Nuissl.

Felicitas Klemp

Protection or Resilience?

Felicitas Klemp

Felicitas Klemp is a research associate in the Research Department "Institutional Chance and Regional Public Goods". She is doing her doctorate in human geography at the University of Bonn on the topic "Political Construction of Critical Infrastructures on the Empirical Example of Smart Cities". The work is carried out by Prof. Dr Nadine Marquardt.

For about twenty years now, people have been talking explicitly about critical infrastructures, for example when it comes to electricity, water or health care. The word "critical" refers to the importance of an infrastructure for the state community. Nation states determine sectors that are considered critical and formulate definitions.

Being classified as critical infrastructure means that operators must implement more stringent security measures. In Germany, the concept of "protection" is associated with critical infrastructures. This concept pursues the goal of preventing damaging events that lead to major supply failures.

Two questions seem central to me: How do public discourses influence policy making and implementation? And how are critical infra-structures perceived at the local level, for example in cities? For the first question, I use a discourse analysis to examine which strands of discourse are dominant and which receive little attention. This has shown that the topic of cyber-attacks has become increasingly dominant in recent years. The second question is examined using the example of "Smart Cities". This is the term used to describe cities that are particularly digitally networked and have "intelligent" systems. They are also potentially affected by hazardous events. In Germany, the typical response is the idea of protection. Another concept, resilience, is thus pushed into the background. The idea of resilience focuses less on prevention and more on the robustness of infrastructures to withstand damaging events. Sweden and other Nordic states have been using resilience concepts for their critical infrastructures. Therefore, I am investigating which concepts are relevant in my case cities in Germany and Sweden.

I am pursuing my research within the departmental project "Critical Infrastructures: The Political Construction, Spatiality and Governance of Criticality". This allows me to embed my dissertation project in a larger context and to receive constructive feedback from an interdisciplinary team of experienced researchers.

Interview with Jana Kleibert and Monika Motylinska

"Hopeful despite Uncertainty"

Ms Kleibert, Ms Motylinska, you have both acquired a junior research group. What does that mean for your scientific careers?

Kleibert: It means a big leap: the opportunity to carry out a more extensive project over five years and to tackle a larger research topic. I have more freedom, more responsibility and also more visibility.

Motylinska: Becoming a Freigeist Fellow has been my goal and dream ever since I learned about this programme during my PhD. For the current phase of my academic career, it is the best scenario I could imagine.

What do you enjoy in this function and what is difficult?

Motylinska: For me it is very exciting and gratifying to observe how the ideas from the project application are implemented and elaborated in the team. The constant exchange in the team motivates me even in the months of uncertainty that the pandemic has brought us.

Kleibert: I really enjoy working in the team. I can't think of anything off the top of my head that I don't enjoy. However, the COVID 19 pandemic, which has thrown our plans out of kilter, is causing difficulties.

Dr Jana Kleibert

Urban and economic geographer Jana Kleibert and her Leibniz Junior Research Group are researching "Constructing Transnational Spaces of Higher Education" (TRANSEDU) (2018–2023), how higher education is marketed in international "Branch Campuses". The group includes doctoral students Alice Bobée, Tim Rottleb and Marc Schulze.

What role does the IRS play?

Motylinska: A crucial one, both for the acquisition and for the implementation of the project. There are not many places where truly interdisciplinary research between diverse spatial, historical and social science fields is possible. We also benefit from the experience of Jana Kleibert's junior research group.

Kleibert: The IRS offers a good environment and support. The PhDs in the project have many exchange opportunities, for example through the IRS doctoral group or the IRS Spring Academy. Junior research groups in the IRS also have a lot of autonomy. I look forward to Monika Motylinska's group being complete and getting started!

What is special about your respective funding programmes?

Motylinska: The Freigeist programme supports risky and innovative projects that would otherwise fall through the cracks of disciplinary boundaries. It also promotes science communication, for example through training.

Kleibert: The Leibniz Junior Research Group is a classic junior research group similar to the DFG's Emmy Noether Programme. However, the format is new to the Leibniz Association. The first cohort started in 2018 with eight groups, including ours. A pilot project!

Where are your research groups at the moment?

Motylinska: In January 2021, two new doctoral students, Sadia Amin and María Jeldes, completed the team – so we were able to start shaping the individual projects, but also the joint projects.

Kleibert: Two and a half years after we started. We have completed the data collection and have already published a number of articles in journals and prepared data in a report for stakeholders.

What has surprised you in the course of your projects so far?

Dr Monika Motylinska

With her junior research group "Conquering (with) Concrete" (2020 – 2024), funded by the Volkswagen Foundation's Freigeist Programme, the architectural historian Monika Motylinska is investigating what German construction companies were able to do in the 20th century have contributed to the globalisation of architecture. The group includes PhD students Sadia Amin, María Jeldes and Paul Sprute.

Kleibert: What an exciting research gap we have come across! We are the only group researching international higher education from an economic and urban geography perspective. The fact that Europe is such an important location for educational investments, partly due to Brexit, was also new to me. It was also new to me how higher education is naturally turned into a commodity and how universities act as companies.

Motylinska: From a historical point of view, the manifold activities of German construction companies in Latin America during the inter-war period are particularly surprising. I also didn't expect that so many architects and engineers in the 1930s were interested in the subject of tropical construction and actually implemented their plans. Nevertheless, I am sure that the biggest surprises await us only during the field research.

In your research projects, numerous research trips are to be made – to Africa, South America and Asia. How has the COVID 19 pandemic affected your research?

Kleibert: Two of the team were on the road and had to be flown back, other trips had to be cancelled. That was bitter, the interviews were all planned after weeks of preparation, the trips were organised, we were on site. We were lucky in that we had already completed our first data collection phase. We also acquired a new research project on the question of how Corona is changing our field of research.

Motylinska: The first lockdown began in the third month of the project (March 2020), so it is no exaggeration to say that the consequences of the pandemic are devastating, because not all research trips can be postponed at will. So far, we have concentrated on archival research in Germany as long as the archives were open.

How do you look to the future? What do you wish for?

Motylinska: Hopeful despite the uncertainty, because even in the most difficult months of the lockdown we were able to continue intensive research. However, my greatest wish is to start field research in the target regions of the project.

Kleibert: Positive. I'm just looking forward to being able to meet with my team again in person and not just via small screen tiles.

What do you recommend to postdocs who want to advance their scientific career?

Motylinska: There are many goals and many paths in science. There is no ideal career path. If you enjoy teamwork and research outside your comfort zone, you are certainly well suited to the role of a junior research group leader.

Kleibert: Intrinsic motivation and perseverance. Everything else is overrated.

Tobias Federwisch

Excellent Research and Successful Transfer

I am interested in the diversity of rural areas in Germany. And in lively villages that successfully escape the much-vaunted downward spiral. As a research assistant at the IRS, I was able to pursue this interest and explore what makes some places so special.

Dr Tobias Federwisch

Tobias Federwisch was a research assistant in the research department "Communication and Knowledge Dynamics in Spatial Areas" from 2015 to 2019. He moved to the Competence Centre for Rural Development (KomLE) of the Federal Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (BLE)

Specifically, it was about innovations in rural communities and about the conditions, actors and processes of creative community development. In doing so, we primarily focused on social innovations. Together with my colleagues at the IRS, I was able to research how such innovations function in rural areas – and which players drive them.

With the focus of our research on social innovations in rural areas, we had hit a nerve. In science and in practice. For example, we have repeatedly made a name for ourselves with our research results at the "Zukunftsforum Ländliche Entwicklung" (Future Forum for Rural Development) – the annual industry get-together during the "Green Week". The high number of participants in our own specialist conferences. The many discussions in our forums and the positive reactions to our contributions have repeatedly demonstrated the great interest in our topics.

I now work in the Competence Centre for Rural Development at the Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE). Here, the focus is also on rural areas, innovative projects and creative minds. Together with my colleagues in Bonn and Berlin, I implement the Federal Rural Development Programme (BULE). I myself am now working on the digitalisation of rural areas as part of the Smarte.Land.Regionen model project.

The BLE knows and appreciates the IRS. For its excellent research and for the successful transfer into practice. For myself, the IRS was an important station on my way into the federal administration. I am grateful to the IRS for very exciting years in an inspiring environment with its finger on the pulse.
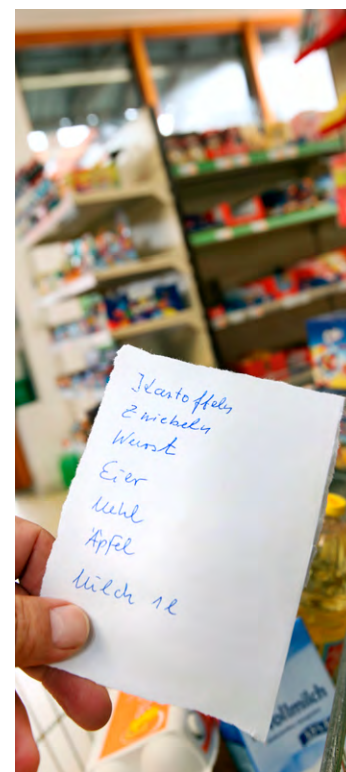
IRS
Spring
Academy
2019

Sarah Brechmann

A Visible Place

Together with the Design Research Lab of Universität der Künste Berlin, the IRS hosted the third IRS Spring Academy in June 2019. This format brings international PhD students and postdocs to Erkner every year under a specific thematic focus to network with each other, receive support from renowned academics and get to know the IRS. In 2019, the theme of the Academy was "Topologies".

Since 2017, there has been an annual edition of the IRS Spring Academy "Investigating Space(s): Current Theoretical and Methodological Approaches". It was funded by the Volkswagen Foundation from 2017 to 2019. Since then, the format has been continued by the IRS itself. It is now widely recognised in spatial research and strengthens the international visibility of the IRS. The first edition in 2017 on "Temporality and Procedurality", jointly organised with the Department of Sociology at the Technische Universität Berlin, focused on the processuality of spatial and social phenomena. The following 2018 issue on "Virtuality and Socio-Materiality", organised jointly with the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society, addressed the interface between virtual and non-virtual spaces.

In 2019, the focus on concrete places – cities, neighbourhoods, local institutions – served as an analytical focus for researching society. 38 participants from research institutions in ten countries came together in Erkner and Berlin. The diversity of their perspectives is reflected in the three keynote lectures. Ruel Rutten (University of Tilburg) asked about the role of places and supra-local relationships in the creation of new knowledge. Richard Rodger (University of Edinburgh, Emeritus) addressed the question of how information systems and administrative boundaries influence the possibilities to economically value places in a city. Merje Kuus (University of British Columbia) used the example of diplomatic negotiation processes in the EU bureaucracy in Brussels to show how power relations are established through local practices. The Berlin Open Lab, where part of the IRS Spring Academy was held, stood itself as an example of socially effective places, as design professor Gesche Joost explained: an open experimental lab, set up in a converted factory building, which now belongs to the DRLab, a network for digital emancipation that also includes institutions such as the Weizenbaum Institute and the Einstein Center Digital Future.

A special format of the Spring Academy 2019 were the "Doing Research Workshops": The aim here was to exchange ideas on very specific practical research problems. Jana Kleibert from the IRS led such a workshop together with Cristina Temenos from the University of Manchester. The workshop discussed "multi-site research", i.e. how to research an object of study in several places, so to speak through space. The fourth IRS Spring Academy on the topic "Spaces of Crisis" in 2020 had to be cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. It will be made up for in virtual form in May 2021. ∎

Oliver Ibert

"Edge" – the Creative Power of the Periphery

Urban centres, it is said, are innovative, while rural peripheries do not generate any impulses for renewal. The international, DFG-funded conference "Edge – Creation and Valuation of Novelty at the Margins" brought together leading experts in Berlin in November 2019 to challenge this attribution, which has long prevailed in innovation and creativity research.

The IRS hosted the conference with HafenCity University Hamburg at the Hamburg State Representation in Berlin. This was largely due to the long-standing research cooperation between IRS Director Oliver Ibert and Gernot Grabher, Professor of Urban and Regional Economics at HCU. The conference brought together a variety of perspectives on the topic, including contributions on radical utopian lifestyles in American suburbs (Amanda Kolson Hurley, journalist, Washington, DC), on the question of why innovations are more easily overlooked outside centres (Richard Shearmur, McGill University, Montreal) and on the radicalisation of ideas on the way from the centre to the periphery (Stoyan Sgourev, ESSEC Business School, Paris). The sociologist David Stark from Columbia University in New York concluded by summarising the central motives and findings of the conference.

Together with the conference, the 15th IRS International Lecture on Society and Space took place – a format that brings outstanding researchers to the IRS for a guest lecture twice a year. Chris Gibson, Professor of Human Geography at the University of Wollongong (Australia), addressed the importance of experimentation at the peripheries of production networks. Using the example guitar production, which relies on very old, slow-growing woods and is increasingly in need of raw materials due to ongoing deforestation, he showed the extent to which individual experiential knowledge, creativity and cultural sensitivity are working to establish alternative forestry practices.

Szymon Marcińczak

German-Polish Research Cooperation on Urban Change

I spent almost two years at the IRS as part of a Humboldt Research Fellowship for experienced researchers. The stay advanced my research in many ways.

Prof. Dr Szymon Marcińczak

Szymon Marcińczak is a Lecturer at the Institute of Urban Geography and Tourism Research at the University of Łódź (Poland). His research focuses on the socio-spatial change in post-socialist cities.

From September 2017 to June 2019, I worked in the research department "Regenerating Cities" closely with Matthias Bernt, my host at the IRS. As part of my research project "Public Housing Reforms and their Effects on Urban Change: Lessons from Berlin and Warsaw", I investigated the effects of urban structure and housing policy on the development of segregation patterns between immigrants and natives in Berlin in the 2010s. Furthermore, Matthias Bernt and I jointly recruited a new third-party project on socio-spatial change in shrinking cities. It is jointly funded by the DFG and its Polish equivalent NCN (Narodowe Centrum Nauki/National Research Centre) from the Beethoven II programme. The project runs from 2018 to 2022 and focuses on two shrinking cities: Łódź (Poland) and Halle/Saale (Germany).

The stay in Erkner was very fruitful for my professional development. Thanks to the discussions with my colleagues from the IRS, I became interested in the topic of large housing estates. I also had the unique opportunity to learn more about the institutional system of public housing, spatial planning and urban development in Germany and especially in Berlin. Of course, I also explored Berlin thoroughly, which I consider crucial for researching such an interesting case. The support of Matthias Bernt and other IRS researchers helped me a lot in understanding the evolution of the social and ethnic composition of Berlin's neighbourhoods.

My work at the IRS resulted in an article in the journal Urban Geography 2019, and further results will be published in the journal Cities in 2021. I am still in contact with Matthias Bernt about our joint research project. We are also planning joint research work and applications for the future.

Jamie Baxter

Researching and Experiencing Rural Development in Europe

From autumn 2017 to the beginning of 2021, as a doctoral student at the IRS, I was part of the Innovative Training Network "RurAction". This internationally oriented programme aimed to train PhD students and provide them with work experience abroad. My experience in Portugal was invaluable for me.

Jamie Baxter

Jamie Baxter is a PhD student in the RurAction project. He is doing his PhD on social innovations in rural areas.

I am British and worked in spatial planning and research in London before the programme and moving to Germany. In the RurAction project (see p. 33), I was one of ten researchers, spread across seven European regions, based either at a research institution or a social enterprise. Our goal: to research social innovation and social entrepreneurship in rural areas. In addition to regular conference, workshop and seminar visits, we had research visits to other EU countries. I spent six weeks in Austria and six weeks in Portugal. During this time I was able to immerse myself deeply in the field. In Moura, a small town in the south of Portugal, my family accompanied me, including two small children. The children attended the local kindergarten and we all lived on the outskirts of Moura in a small house on a family farm that belonged to a warm and generous retired farmer named José. José had recently returned to Moura from Switzerland, where he had spent much of his life working in the postal service. His story was in some ways typical for many men of his generation who had emigrated to other parts of Europe in the 1970s due to a lack of employment opportunities in the region.

During the day I spent a lot of time with the management team of ADCMoura, a local development agency that has been doing grassroots rural development work throughout the Alentejo for 25 years. I was invited to participate, observe and learn about ADCMoura's thoughtful and deeply compassionate working practices. From here, I went on field trips to meet young farmers and social entrepreneurs working in the fledgling herbal farming industry, taking in the vast, majestic landscape of the region. I am still in contact with some of the people I met during my stays in Portugal and Austria. Together with the other RurAction researchers, we started planning future projects on rural development and social equality in rural areas. ■

Mikkel Høghøj

Urban History and Urban Studies at the IRS: "A Real Interdisciplinary Environment"

In autumn 2020 – between two lockdowns – I had the pleasure of spending a one-month research stay at the IRS. I wanted to connect to the thriving research scene on urban studies and urban history in Berlin. With its strong interdisciplinary profile, the IRS offered an ideal space for such a scholarly exchange.

Dr Mikkel Høghøj

Mikkel Høghøj is a postdoctoral researcher at Aarhus University, Denmark. His research topic is urban, Planning and welfare history of the Nordic countries.

During my stay, I was based in the junior research group "Conquering (with) Concrete" led by Monika Motylinska, with whom I have been working since 2016. In 2018, we co-led a session at the European Association for Urban History (EAUH) conference in Rome, which resulted in the 2020 issue of Modern Urban History (MSG) on spaces of fear in 20th century urban Europe, which we co-edited. I would therefore like to express my deep gratitude to Monika Motylinska and Sarah Brechmann for coordinating my visit and making me feel very welcome throughout my stay at the Institute.

From my point of view, the IRS offers a real interdisciplinary environment and is an ideal place for researchers working on different aspects of the built environment of cities. I benefited a lot from the exchange with the researchers at the institute. I presented different aspects of my research in two seminars. and received highly qualified feedback that helped me to further advance my research. In a combined face-to-face and online seminar in October, I presented preliminary results from my current postdoctoral project on the urban history of water in 20th century Denmark. The following day, in a smaller and more informal seminar, I presented a paper examining urban activism in the context of Danish mass housing in the 1970s, which stems from my PhD project. The IRS, with its extremely stimulating and hospitable environment, provided me with an ideal platform to develop my research. I hope that my visit will be the starting point for future collaborations.

20 Selected IRS Publications

from the years 2019 and 2020

Shrunk Properly?
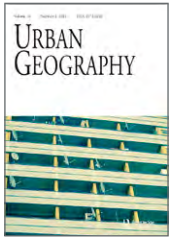
The fact that cities are shrinking is not a new phenomenon. The fact that politics and planning are dealing with shrinkage and "right-sizing" as a dedicated field of action, on the other hand, is. Urban research is faced with the task of appreciating individual urban development paths and designs for the future, while at the same time critically discussing them. The programme was born under lobby pressure, but it also generated a serious agenda for sustainable urban development. This was the case, for example, with the federal programme "Stadtumbau Ost" (Urban Redevelopment East), which, born under lobby pressure, provided financial support to large housing companies in distress, but also generated a serious agenda for sustainable urban development. In their special issue "The Political Economy of Managing Decline and Rightsizing" in the journal Urban Geography, Manuel Aalbers and Matthias Bernt have brought together five international contributions that look at examples, different spatial levels, agendas and actors of urban rightsizing.

Aalbers, Manuel B.; Bernt, Matthias (2019) (eds.): The Political Economy of Managing Decline and Rightsizing. Urban Geography, Special Issue, Volume 40, Issue 2

Wind Power Resistance

What is the reason why resistance to new wind power plants is formed and how conflicts are fought out? The political-administrative system has a strong influence, Andrea Bues found out in her dissertation project at the IRS, in which she studied and compared anti-wind power movements in the Canadian province of Ontario and in Brandenburg. Both regions are pioneers of the energy transition, but both also have strong opposition to new plants. In Brandenburg, however, a positive view of the energy transition predominates. Bues explains the difference with a more participatory planning system in Germany and with the power of the discourses prevailing in the respective societies.

Bues, Andrea (2020): Social Movements against Wind Power in Canada and Germany: Energy Policy and Contention. Routledge, Abingdon
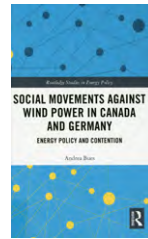
Mobility Lab Berlin

From the Berlin Mobility Act to the Tesla Gigafactory to pop-up cycle paths and the "Berlin car-free" initiative, the German capital is engaged in debates about the mobility of the future. The city already occupied this pioneering position earlier – as a metropolis of local public transport in the 1920s and as a centre of car-centred planning after World War II. With a look at both halves of the divided city, the authors of the special issue "Urban Automobility in Cold War Berlin: a Transnational Perspective" in the Journal of Transport History, edited by Christoph Bernhardt, illuminate the rise and challenges of car-centred mobility planning in 20th century Berlin. They show that the city, precisely in its particularity, played out more general lines of development: Car-oriented urban development as a common heritage of European cities in the 20th century, in the East as well as in the West.

Bernhardt, Christoph (2020) (ed.): Urban Automobility in Cold War Berlin: A Transnational Perspective. The Journal of Transport History, Special Issue, Volume 41, Issue 3

Struggling with Innovations

Social or innovative? The tension between different views of the concept of social innovation can be summed up very succinctly in this formula: On the one hand, it describes self-organisation in solidarity in neighbourhoods and local networks; on the other hand, it also describes the emergence and spread of social innovations – with winners and losers. In her thematic issue "Struggling with Innovations" in the journal European Planning Studies, Gabriela Christmann brings together seven contributions by renowned authors who examine social innovation conceptually and empirically, especially its role in neighbourhood, urban and regional development and planning. In all these areas, creative, innovative approaches emerge, spread, are imitated, but also fought against, adapt, overcome resistance and change spaces in the process; often for the better, for some sometimes for the worse.

Christmann, Gabriela (2020) (ed.): Struggling with Innovations. European Planning Studies. Themed Issue, Volume 28, Issue 3

Visual Planning

Digital visualisations have become an indispensable part of urban planning. But does that mean that planning works in a fundamentally different way? This question is addressed in the special issue of "Visual Communication in Urban Design and Planning" published by Gabriela Christmann, Christoph Bernhardt and Jörg Stollmann in Urban Planning journal. The eight articles in it take up debates on digitalisation and mediatisation in architecture, history, urban planning, sociology and human geography. They understand the technically mediated act of visualisation not as a neutral representation of facts, but as an effective way of planning. Examples from Egypt, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden and South Africa support this claim. They range from new building plans for entire capitals, suburbs or residential areas to the reconstruction of historical buildings. Visualisations reproduce historical structures on the one hand and produce interest-driven visions of urban futures on the other.

Christmann, Gabriela; Bernhardt, Christoph; Stollmann, Jörg (2020) (eds.): Visual Communication in Urban Design and Planning:
The Impact of Mediatisation(s) on the Construction of Urban Futures.
Urban Planning, Special Issue, Volume 5, Issue 2

The Other Arrival Neighbourhoods

In migration research, there is an established image of neighbourhoods that serve as stepping stones for newcomers into an arrival society: They have long migration histories and high proportions of migrants in the population, as well as established migrant networks, are densely built-up and functional. mixed (urban), have a fluctuating population and relatively cheap housing. Could other neighbourhoods do the same – such as the large housing estates on the outskirts of eastern Germany, which became immigration hotspots in the wake of the influx of refugees from 2015 onwards? Nihad El-Kayed and her co-authors work out the differences between the classic and the new arrival neighbourhoods and identify the critical questions for future research.

El-Kayed, Nihad; Bernt, Matthias; Hamann, Ulrike; Pilz, Madlen (2020): Peripheral Estates as Arrival Spaces? Conceptualising Research on Arrival Functions of New Immigrant Destinations.
Urban Planning, 5 (3), 103-114

History of a Collector

For several decades, especially since the 1960s, efforts were made in the GDR to establish a GDR architecture museum and to acquire architectural estates for this purpose. In his essay Kai Drewes traces this history in "Museum Rhetoric?", which is also a history for the museums led by Drewes. Scientific Collections of the IRS. The focus is on Kurt Junghanns (1908-2006), building historian at the Bauakademie in East Berlin, communist intellectual and passionate collector. The Scientific Collections archive correspondence between Junghanns and potential donors, such as Lena Meyer-Bergner (1906-1981), the widow of the second Bauhaus director Hanes Meyer (1889-1954), who lived in Basel. Junghans sought to obtain his estate. Drewes uses the material to show the twists, contradictions and individual ambivalences in the search for an architectural-historical identity for the GDR.

Drewes, Kai (2021): Museum Rhetoric? The building historian Kurt Junghanns and the development of an architecture collection at the Bauakademie in East Berlin. In Farrenkopf, Michael; Ludwig, And- reas; Saupe, Achim (eds.): Logik und Lücke: The Construction of the Authentic in Archives and Collections, Wallenstein, Göttingen, 215-235.

Prevented Urban Motorways

The ideal of the car-friendly city seems to be coming to an end. The fight for the car has a long historical history. Harald Engler has compared social movements against urban motorway planning in East and West Berlin since 1970. The case studies show a cross-system, time-shifted parallel development: an automotive modernism challenged by a growing environmental movement. In West Berlin, civil society – in this case the "West tangente" initiative – was more powerful, whereas in East Berlin there was professional resistance in the planning system, for example against building over the Weißensee Jewish Cemetery. In both systems, essential projects of the car-oriented city were ultimately prevented.

Engler, Harald (2020): Social Movement and the Failure of Car-Friendly City Projects: East and West Berlin (1970s and 1980s).
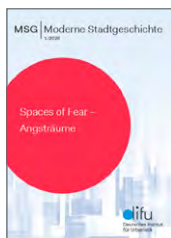The Journal of Transport History, 41 (3), 353-380

Transformation and Power

Energy networks shape space through their very materiality: once elaborately laid out, they create production, transit and consumption spaces, centres and peripheries. In such structures, power is expressed and reproduced at the same time. Capital is also accumulated, where providers, as it were, act as spiders establish themselves in the network. In their thematic issue "New Energy Spaces" of the journal Environment and Planning A, Ludger Gailing and Gavin Bridge outline a geographical research perspective that is capable of depicting such interactions. They bring together contributions that specifically highlight the transformation to post-fossil energy systems – because power imbalances and capitalist logics of exploitation are also at work in the energy transition.

Gailing, Ludger; Bridge, Gavin (eds.) (2020): Theme Issue: New Energy Spaces. Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space, Volume 52, Issue 6

Cities as Climate Pioneers

Cities have long been among the political pioneers of climate protection. Most of them are wealthy metropolises, often in Northern and Western Europe, which have ambitious climate protection programmes, network with each other and learn from each other. However, this "horizontal upscaling" is not sufficient to protect the majority of the small towns, many of which are lagging behind in climate protection and some of which have been left behind altogether. In their paper "Cities as Leaders in EU Multilevel Climate Governance", Kristine Kern explores governance arrangements that allow for catching up without slowing down the pioneers in their ambition. A successful example: the EU initiative "Covenant of Mayors", which combines mandatory standards with networking and support services.

Kern, Kristine (2019): Cities as Leaders in EU Multilevel Climate Governance: Embedded Upscaling of Local Experiments in Europe, Environmental Politics, 28 (1), 125-145

Fear and Space

In their thematic focus "Spaces of Fear" in the journal Modern Urban History (MSG) published by the German Institute of Urban Affairs (DifU), Mikkel Høghøj and Monika Motylinska examine the dialectic relationship between the spatiality of European cities in the 20th century. The focus is on the history of the 20th century and a particular emotion – fear: from the physically palpable fear of bombing during the Second World War, to the fear of traffic accidents present in urban planning discussions, to more diffuse fears associated with railway stations or subways. The focus comprises six international contributions. They address various aspects, roots and shades of the tension between fear and urban space and thus provide insights into the emotional history of 20th century urban Europe.

Høghøj, Mikkel; Motylinska, Monika (2020) (Hrsg.): Spaces of Fear – Angsträume. Moderne Stadtgeschichte, Themenschwerpunkt, Ausgabe 1/2020

Controversial Fur Fashion

Consumer goods are created in global production networks. To sell, they have to have the right look and feel and tell the right story – often a moral one. When animals are killed and processed for fashion products, such as for fur clothing, spaces open up for challenge. Attacks (verbal, media, also physical) and resistance are part of the reality of these production networks. Jana Kleibert and Felix Müller visited the "sites of contestation" of the fur industry: Farm and auction house, trade fair and wholesale, atelier and furriers, shopping mall and campaign office. Together with Martin Hess, they sketch the map of a controversy that itself creates value in an attention-based economy.

Kleibert, Jana; Hess, Martin; Müller, Felix (2020): Sites of Contestation in Global Fur Networks. Geoforum, 108, 39-48

Open Ecosystems

Entrepreneurial ecosystems are considered success factors for start-ups. These systems consist of regional knowledge networks and support structures. But are entrepreneurial ecosystems really regionally limited? Based on qualitative case studies of seed accelerators in Amsterdam, Berlin, Detroit and Hamburg, Andreas Kuebart and Oliver Ibert show how the organisations studied draw on resources outside the region. In particular, start-ups in digital fields share knowledge about business models that is not available in traditional, regional clusters. The authors conclude that entrepreneurial ecosystems are not primarily regional entities.

Kuebart, Andreas; Ibert, Oliver (2019): Beyond Territorial Conceptions of Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: The Dynamic Spatiality of Knowledge Brokering in Seed Accelerators. Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftsgeographie, 63 (2-4), 118-133
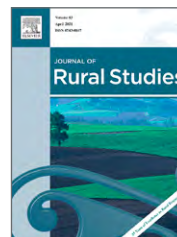
Managing Immigration Locally?

The management of migration is actually a matter for nation states. But a „local turn" in migration research increasingly focuses on cities. So how can urban policy deal with immigration? The thematic booklet „Immigration and Urban Policy" edited by Manfred Kühn and Sybille Münch in of the trade journal disP – The Planning Review asks what room for manoeuvre cities have to manage immigration and what driving forces, but also resistances against immigration exist in municipal policy. In addition to discussing municipal instruments and policy fields, the booklet also collects examples. Oliver Schmidtke, for example, compares the local control options in the classic immigration country Canada with those in Europe.

Kühn, Manfred; Münch, Sybille (2019) (eds.): Zuwanderung und Stadtpolitik. disP – The Planning Review, Themenheft, Jahrgang 55, Heft 3

In the Dilemma

How is the issue of migration addressed in urban development strategies? Which target groups do the cities focus on? Does the perception of migration as an opportunity or a problem predominate? Manfred Kühn and Matthias Bernt have examined the strategies of Leipzig and Bremen. In their article "Growing through whom?" they show that cities primarily want to attract highly qualified people, but this does not do justice to either the urban labour markets or the real migration situation. The cities' influence on the latter is small – a dilemma. Where coordinated action would be possible, in urban development and urban integration work, the spheres remain largely separate.

Kühn, Manfred; Bernt, Matthias (2019): Wachsen durch wen? Urban development strategies in Bremen and Leipzig in dealing with migration. Spatial Research and Planning, 77 (5), 403-509

Doubly Networked

Tackling the problems of structurally weak rural areas in an entrepreneurial and innovative way – that is the approach of social enterprises, i.e. enterprises with a mission oriented towards the common good. But to what extent do social enterprises have an innovative effect? Ralph Richter characterises social enterprises as "embedded intermediaries" who are doubly networked – locally in the village and far beyond. They import ideas, adapt them to local circumstances and thereby create something new. Richter draws on case studies from Austria (a social enterprise that uses open technology labs to attract creative people to the countryside) and Poland (a regional development company that combines educational work, tourism and the training of disabled people in a museum village).

Richter, Ralph (2019): Rural Social Enterprises as Embedded Intermediaries: The Innovative Power of Connecting Rural Communities with Supra-Regional Networks. Journal of Rural Studies, 70, 179-187

Regional Energy Transition

Whether the energy transition succeeds also depends on the depends on whether actors at the regional level appropriate it as a project. This is what Ludger Gailing and Andreas Röhring explain in their policy paper „Energiewende dezentral!". The energy transition is per se a project of decentralising: diverse forms of distributed energy generation replace large power plants with centralised supply networks. If municipalities with similar challenges join together to form energy regions, if they give themselves visions and management structures, they can become spaces of action for the energy turnaround and benefit from it, instead of being regarded as „Installation rooms" only provide areas for solar or wind power plants.

2Röhring, Andreas; Gailing, Ludger (2019): Energiewende dezentral! Regional spaces of action for the energy transition and climate protection. Policy Paper. IRS Dialog, 1/2019

Rural Labs
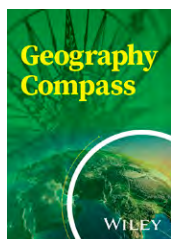
Not only in urban centres, but increasingly also in rural regions, there are more and more open experimentation places such as FabLabs, Maker Spaces or Coworking Spaces. They allow creative collaboration in project groups or social initiatives, individual tinkering with new technologies, and also economic activities. These collaborative workplaces have attracted great interest from many social science disciplines – but surprisingly little from geography. In her review paper "In the Making", Suntje Schmidt structures the interdisciplinary discourses on collaborative workplaces and elaborates points of contact for decidedly (economic) geographical perspectives.

Schmidt, Suntje (2019): In the Making: Open Creative Labs as an Emerging Topic in Economic Geography? Geography Compass, 13(9), 1-16

Dynamics Instead of Balance

Creativity is an important resource for organisations. In order to generate and maintain creativity, a common good piece of advice from organisational science: find a balance between freedom and restrictions! Lukas Vogelgsang has studied creative development processes in the pharmaceutical industry. rie now observes and rethinks this advice: he understands freedom not as the absence of restriction, but as the space of creative possibilities that a certain, partial restriction opens up. Creative processes need phasic changes between such settings. To promote creativity, Vogelgsang therefore recommends regularly changing the types of constraints in the course of a development process.

Vogelgsang, Lukas (2020): Transition rather than Balance: Organizing Constraints for Collective Creativity in Pharmaceutical Development. Creativity and Innovation Management, 29 (3), 413-423

Smart Village Initiatives

In villages that suffer from a lack of infrastructural supply, digitally supported social innovations can be part of the solution: a village car that can be booked via smartphone, a digital communication and exchange platform or a digital emergency neighbourhood assistance. These innovations emerge from the bottom up, out of the village. Nicole Zerrer and Ariane Sept have traced these processes in case studies and identified different actor roles, each of which brings specific potentials and motivations: "drivers", "supporters" and "users". "Smart villagers" – a term for the digitally engaged local actors – organise themselves locally and at the same time mobilise the necessary expertise from outside.

Zerrer, Nicole; Sept, Ariane (2020): Smart Villagers as Actors of Digital Social Innovation in Rural Areas. Urban Planning, 5 (4), 78-88

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