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Tuesday | 4 June 2019 | 16:30

| Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS)
Flakenstraße 29-31 | 15537 Erkner



Public Keynote Lecture I

**Knowledge Creation and the Interaction between Social Space
and Physical Place**

*Roel Rutten, PhD | Department of Organization Studies, Tilburg University,
The Netherlands*

Knowledge creation is a process of social interaction between individuals that takes place within and between social spaces, such as professional networks and communities of practice. The norms, values, customs, habits and routines of social spaces are the glue and the lubricant that allow individuals to exchange tacit knowledge. Rather than being an innate quality, the tacitness of knowledge follows from the fact that it is contextualized; that is, knowledge is connected to the social context from which it originates. Social spaces are not necessarily territorialized but may be connected to physical places in different ways. Whether individuals will bridge distance to engage in knowledge creation depends on distance dynamics and place dynamics. Distance dynamics affect the likelihood of individuals bridging distance because they want to be in a certain place. Distance dynamics are about 'being there' and concern 1) the effort required to bridge distance, 2) the preference to connect to certain individuals and 3) dependency on certain individuals. Place dynamics concern the attractiveness of places for knowledge-creating individuals. Place dynamics are about 'being where' and pertain to 1) socio-cultural diversity (who is there, what is going on?) and 2) amenities (what is there?). Strong and weak distance dynamics and strong and weak place dynamics suggest four different kinds of geographical dynamics of knowledge creation. Moreover, different kinds of knowledge creation happen in different social spaces that, in turn, connect to different physical places. Engineers developing new technologies connect to research facilities while members of the creative class may engage in knowledge creation in cultural amenities. This challenges economic geography to rethink the nature and dynamics of the geography of knowledge creation.

Roel Rutten is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Organization Studies at Tilburg University. He holds a PhD from Tilburg University. His disciplinary background is organization sociology and economic geography. His research focuses on knowledge creation and is applied in the context of networks, proximities and regional economic development. He investigates how characteristics of networks such as organizational structure, governance mechanisms, network composition, trust, communication, etc. affect the knowledge creation process in networks.



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Wednesday | 5 June 2019 | 10:30

| Research Lab Berlin University of the Arts
Einsteinufer 43 | 10587 Berlin



Public Keynote Lecture II

Space, Place and Urban Topologies: Historical Perspectives of Spatial Relationships

*Prof Richard Rodger | School of History, Classics & Archaeology,
University of Edinburgh, Great Britain*

It may seem axiomatic to focus on space as a central element of urban history. Contested, mediated, and regulated, the spaces of the city define the character of places (streets, sites and social structures) and are themselves outcomes of interactions between market forces and public interventions. Spaces have prices, and prices define uses. So places and place-making are intertwined in a number of urban variables. This inter-relatedness presents immense difficulties for social scientists and historians alike since separating the principal factors influencing the character of places changes over time and with differing spatial characteristics. Managing spatial datasets, therefore, provides ways of knowing the city that previously were difficult, if not impossible, and which offer both a richness and finesse when analysing urban dynamics. It is to illustrate some of these complexities of spatial relationships and place-making decisions that attention will be focussed in this lecture.

Richard Rodger obtained his MA and PhD from Edinburgh, and has held academic posts at Liverpool, Leicester, and Kansas, returning to Edinburgh University as professor of Economic and Social History in 2007. Rodger was Editor of *Urban History* for 21 years, co-organiser of the Urban History Group annual conference also for many years, and General Editor of more than 35 books in the series "Historical Urban Studies" (published by Ashgate 1996-2011), many of which have thematic and European perspectives. While at Leicester as Director of the Centre for Urban History and Director of the East Midlands Oral History Archive, Rodger built research capacity by bringing Audio and Visual resources together to strengthen urban historical research in Central England. He continues this thread of innovative urban historical research through his current project "Mapping Edinburgh's Social History" (MESH) which enables urban historians and the general public to develop historical and contemporary maps of the city in a one-stop process from a simple spreadsheet of data. His prize-winning monograph *The Transformation of Edinburgh: Land, Property and Trust* is just one of a dozen books, and he has contributed numerous articles on urban history to European journals including: *Storia Urbana (It)*, *Genèses (Fr)*, *Historia Urbana (Sp)*, and *Ler História: Cidades e Espaços Urbanos (Portugal)*.



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Thursday | 6 June 2019 | 9:00

| Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS)
Flakenstraße 29–31 | 15537 Erkner



Public Keynote Lecture III

Place in Bureaucratic Practice: The Spatial Textures of Regulatory Power

Prof Dr Merje Kuus | Department of Geography, The University of British Columbia, Canada

Place is a tricky thing to study: a sense or a feel of place is easy to evoke but difficult to analyze. The challenge is partly methodological: place is sensory and concrete, and it does not lend itself to standardized research techniques. Insightful theoretical claims on place are not always accompanied by an equally nuanced empirical work. This presentation concentrates mostly on the methodological difficulty of the empirical investigation of place. It will do so in two steps. I will first present some fieldwork material from my research on diplomatic expertise in an effort to conjure a sense of one diplomatic place – Brussels. Drawing from a dozen years of interview-based work on European diplomacy, I foreground the interpretative character of such work and the resulting challenges around generalization. I stress the ambiguous and indeterminate character of diplomatic decision-making and I underscore the need to closely consider the sensory texture of place and milieu in our analyses of it. I will then turn to the methodological difficulties that complicate such research. My argument interweaves the scholarship on the creation of transnational regulatory knowledge and the interdisciplinary literature around fieldwork method and ethics. My concluding comments highlight that the difficulties at hand are both about research design and about the institutional structures of a neoliberal university in which we undertake such design. I hope to spark discussion about the necessarily uncertain, ambiguous, and slow character of the scholarship on place.

Merje Kuus is Professor of Geography at the University of British Columbia. She holds a PhD from Syracuse University. Prof Dr Kuus is a political geographer whose research investigates geopolitical imaginaries, qualitative research methods, and policy processes in national and transnational regulatory institutions. She is the author of *Geopolitics and Expertise: Knowledge and Authority in European Diplomacy* (Wiley Blackwell, 2014), and *Geopolitics Reframed: Security and Identity in Europe's Eastern Enlargement* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), and a co-editor of the *Ashgate Research Companion to Critical Geopolitics* (Ashgate, 2013), in addition to articles in geographic, international relations, and European studies journals.