The "Speakers’ Corner" is a quarterly newsletter to provide information regarding the progress of the IP-work. It informs about ongoing processes, decisions and events. Its content is the result of the close consultation of IP-Speaker, Manager and WP-Speakers. In the event of queries or requests for additional information please do not hesitate to contact us. This newsletter also contains an overview of the conceptual work on urban transformations which has been carried out by members of our IP. All work can be found on our internal IP Drive: Y:\Gruppen\pof3t13\WP1 Concepts and Synthesis\Eigene IP Publikationen

From 9th–11th April 2018, an extensive on-site evaluation took place as part of the UFZ’s scientific quality assessment process. UFZ received outstanding results throughout. IP UrbanTrans contributed within the poster session, where PhD candidates Jingxia Wang, Daniel Hertel and Maximilian Überham presented their research work. In the afternoon session of Research Unit Society, Sigrun Kabisch held a comprehensive presentation on Urban Transformations towards Sustainability with a special focus on flooding and environmental vulnerability.

ESKP Theme-Special on Urban Future Challenges: In May, the Earth System Knowledge Platform published a special edition “Metropolen unter Druck” (metropolitan areas under pressure). Four IP-members provided contributions regarding pressing urban challenges such as climate change adaptation, the provision of affordable housing and the importance of urban green infrastructure.

Start of new projects: BMBF-Project MigraChance "Migration-related conflicts as a challenge and opportunity for institutional change in large and small-city contexts" (2018-2021). Aim of the project is to investigate the impact of migration-related conflicts on the transformation of local institutions in different spatial contexts. Three case studies are being worked on with Leipzig, Gelsenkirchen and Bebra. The project is coordinated at the FH Erfurt, the UFZ as a partner is responsible for the (co-) management of several work packages (SUSOZ team: Annegret Haase, Alexander Krahmer).

FUSE: Food-Water-Energy for Urban Sustainable Environments (2018-2021)
Innovative policies and governance forms are needed to address competition for scarce resources in stressed urban food-water-energy systems. Scientific research takes place together with Stanford University, IIASA and ÖFSE Austria and UFZ Leipzig, where Raphael Karutz lately joined the FUSE team. The collaborative research consortium is supported by Belmont Forum and JPI Urban Europe.

FUSE adopts an innovative two-stage Living Lab approach with stakeholders, which will be applied in Amman, Jordan and Pune, India.

Special Issue Sustainability “Urban Transformations Towards Sustainability”: Call for papers until 30th November 2018. This special issue will depict outstanding research in order to provide different urban stakeholders with robust knowledge. This strongly includes context related hands-on solutions with addresses pressing questions impacting the daily life in cities (e.g., weather extremes, traffic collapse, affordable housing, migration streams, demographic change, environmental justice, urban health). Guest editors: Sigrun Kabisch and Raffaela Betz.

Special issue in LAND “Nature-Based Solutions in Cities—their Interaction, Benefits and Trade-Offs with Urban Land, Ecosystems, the Built Environment and the Urban Society” Call for papers until 30th November 2018: This special issue seeks to provide a state of the art of the functional, empirical, and field study-based experiences and data on NBS provided by green and blue infrastructure in cities. We focus on the interaction of the instrument of NBS, its benefits, and tradeoffs with urban land, the built environment in cities, and the urban society, in particular in relation to social wealth and public health, also taking into account stewardship and governance aspects. Guest editor: Annegret Haase et al.

International Conferences


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People

Congratulations to Manuel Wolff who was awarded his doctorate with highest honor (summa cum laude) for his thesis on „Uneven urban dynamics: The role of urban shrinkage and regrowth in Europe“. Dieter Rink has been selected by DKN Future Earth to co-design the 3rd mandate period. Sigrun Kabisch was appointed as an expert to the European Union Horizon 2020 Commission high level expert group for a strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA) on innovative cities. Annegret Haase started to work as an associate editor of a new section “Land use dynamics” of “Frontiers in Environmental Science”.

Conceptual Research on Urban Transformations

Since the start of our IP in 2014, IP members have continuously worked on the conceptual framing of urban transformations. Selected publications are presented in the following section. The full list of IP publications can be accessed on our website.

1) Books and Brochures

Book launch: On June 18th 2018 the latest IP related book “Großwohnsiedlungen im Haltbarkeitscheck” as well as the newest brochure “Leipzigs kleinere Großwohnsiedlungen im Blick” were presented by the authors from UFZ as well as their national and international colleagues from Poland and Czech Republic. The two products have been delivered to urban planners, politicians and representatives of housing enterprises. The feedback was throughout positive and encouraging. Several institutions already ordered the brochure as appreciated tool for further work.

In March the Assessment Report “Climate Change and Cities” by the Urban Climate Change Research Network was published. Several IP-researchers contributed chapters to the report. A short pdf “Summary for City Leaders” can be downloaded.

2) Selection of Peer-reviewed Articles


3) Selection of Blogs and Other Texts