



The "Speakers' Corner" provides information regarding the progress of the research within the IP Urban Transformations. It informs about ongoing processes, decisions and events.

SPECIAL SECTION: Urban Transformations in times of Corona

Since the last "Speakers' Corner" no. 18 in March 2020, our research topics and research conditions have been fundamentally influenced by the global COVID-19 pandemic. We all face a change of daily life conditions, which has an influence on behaviour, perceptions and priorities. In this context, research questions have to be revised and adapted. Some research projects require intensive human contacts such as expert interviews, questionnaire surveys, focus group discussions or measurements by clients. These projects had to respect "social distance" which in fact is physical distance. Field work had to be delayed, causing challenges to meet the project schedule.

Projects that are particularly affected are e.g. [uVital](#), [Grünau-study](#), [PIVO](#), [KoopLab](#), [ExpoAware](#) and the PhD-project of Juliane Schicketanz. She had planned to do further walking interviews with primary school children along their routes to school in order to analyse socio-spatial impacts on children's physical activity in urban areas. Due to



COVID-19 pandemic, the start of the questionnaire survey within the unique long-term study "Housing and Living in Leipzig-Grünau" had to be postponed to 26 June 2020. Still, the team was able to conduct a number of online expert interviews with representatives of different housing

companies during the preparation phase. All of them agreed to support the investigation and are interested in the results. Several events had to be postponed, such as a workshop on science-practice-cooperation related to urban green space development in cooperation with the City of Leipzig (KoopLab) or the workshop "Resilient Cities: Promises and Paradoxes". Other projects switched to online events, such as several workshops with local stakeholders within the [MigraChance](#) project or a [REGREEN](#) project meeting originally planned in Paris which was transferred into a two-day „Virtual Paris 2020“ event with 59 participants from Europe and China. The meeting helped to understand each other's work processes, but all field-related work had to be cancelled and smaller "in-between" interactions that go along with international meetings could not take place. Some international projects and collaborations face severe challenges and colleagues abroad are confronted with even harder restrictions as well as professional and personal difficulties, e.g. our Brazilian partners in uVital-project.

All in all, the COVID-19 pandemic particularly points out the **need for research on vulnerability and resilience in cities** in a global dimension. It sheds light on social injustice, winners and losers in times of crises, shocks and conflicts, and questions new approaches and pathways to reach sustainability.

New activities related to COVID-19 within IP Urban Transformations

Together with researchers from SUSOZ, UPOL, and ÖKON, Mariana de Brito, Christian Kuhlicke, and Danny Otto are coordinating an initiative on the **analysis of sustainability transformations resulting from the COVID-19 crisis**. They use **text mining tools** (e.g. topic modelling, quantitative content analysis) to analyse the content of 60.000 news articles in order to monitor the ongoing discourse in Germany following the European Green Deal framework in the context of COVID-19 recovery plans.

IP Urban Transformations members will work on a joint **position paper related on "Urban Research in times of Corona"** (working title). Annegret Haase formulated a first draft which will be revised by the steering committee members and openly discussed within an **online workshop on 2 July 2020, 10:30-12:30am**. If you are interested to join the exchange, please get in touch with [Anika Schmidt](#).

IP News

New book "Lokale Wohnungspolitik" published by Dieter Rink (together with Björn Egner, publisher Nomos): It encompasses 14 case studies from German cities and analyses possibilities, limitations and variety of local housing market policies. It puts a special emphasis on the "new housing question" („neue Wohnungsfrage“) as well as the rising relevance of a municipalisation of housing policies. [LINK](#)





Annegret Haase has contributed to a “Global Roundtable” on changes in life and work due to Corona by **The Nature of Cities**: More than 30 scientists wrote about their perceptions how routines have changed and how they professionally, but also personally negotiate a new post-virus “normal”. TNOC is an international platform for transdisciplinary dialogue and urban solutions. [LINK](#)

Anika Schmidt and Annegret Haase participated in several **Urban Arenas for Sustainable and Just Cities** organized by UrbanA project in the last weeks. Julia Palliwoda and Sigrun Kabisch joined for the open Webinar “**Covid-19, justice, and sustainability in cities**” on 5th June. Helen Cole (social epidemiologist), Isabelle Anguelovski (urban planner) & Panagiota Kotsila (political ecologist), all from the Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability (BCNUEJ), talked about the need for urban transformations towards sustainable and (pandemic) resilient cities without neglecting multiple issues of injustice, e.g. in infection risks, housing conditions and green space access. [LINK](#)



New REGREEN team player: Julius Knopp started in April 2020 and had to get to know all project members through virtual meetings. He graduated from the Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena with a Master’s degree in Geoinformatics. His main focus is in urban remote sensing, and he has a keen interest in qualitative approaches and their linkages to spatial data.

Reminder to present your projects within our **Urban Expo - Virtual exhibition on urban transformations**: We provide a compilation of the results of diverse **completed research projects** at the UFZ dealing with environment-related urban challenges. Please contribute (contact [Anika Schmidt](#)) with **short reports and results** (maps, charts, etc.) in order to give insights into the research conducted within the IP Urban Transformations! [LINK](#)

Upcoming events/ Save the date



International conference “Sustainable & Resilient Urban-Rural Partnerships” will take place in Leipzig! In order to welcome as many participants as possible the conference will be organised in a hybrid form, including presence and virtual programme parts.

Deadline for [abstract submission](#) is on **30 June 2020**. Different formats are possible: poster, pitch (one-minute advertising introduction to a poster) or session contribution (see [list of sessions](#)).

International workshop on “Resilient Cities: Promises and Paradoxes” will be postponed to a yet unclear date. To stay in touch, write to [Mariana Madruga de Brito](#).

Selection of (peer-reviewed) Articles

A full list of publications related to the research within the IP Urban Transformations can be found on our [website](#).

Banzhaf, E., Kollai, H., Kindler, A., (2020). Mapping urban grey and green structures for liveable cities using a 3D enhanced OBIA approach and vital statistics. *Geocarto Int.* **35** (6), 623 – 640. [LINK](#)

Cavender-Bares, J., Cubino, J.P., Pearse, W.D., Hobbie, S.E., Lange, A. J., **Knapp, S.,** Nelson, K.C. (2020). Horticultural availability and homeowner preferences drive plant diversity and composition in urban yards. *Ecological Application* **30**(4), e02082. [LINK](#)

Kuhlicke, C., Masson, T., Kienzler, S., Sieg, T., Thieken, A.H., Kreibich, H., (2020). Multiple flood experiences and social resilience: Findings from three surveys on households and companies exposed to the 2013 flood in Germany *Weather Clim. Soc.* **12** (1), 63 – 88. [LINK](#)

Palliwoda, J., Banzhaf, E., Priess, J.A., (2020). How do the green components of urban green infrastructure influence the use of ecosystem services? Examples from Leipzig, Germany *Landsc. Ecol.* **35**, 1127 – 1142. [LINK](#)