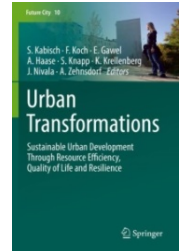




Six years of interdisciplinary research on sustainable urban transformations

In 20 editions, the "Speakers' Corner" provided information on research, events and collaborations within the IP. As POF III and the IPs are ending, we want to take a short look back on the joint research on Urban Transformations:

- In 2015, as a first highlight of cooperation, we presented insights in our long-term urban-ecological and sociological research on Leipzig in an **exhibition** for the city's 1000th anniversary, accompanied by a scientific programme.
- The jointly **edited volume "Urban Transformations"**, published in 2018, gathers conceptual and empirical contributions on sustainable urban development. With more than 5800 chapter downloads, it is among the top used publications on SpringerLink with regard to the SDGs.
- We organised six **lectures** of international experts on "Children's Environmental Health in Urban Context" in 2018/2019.
- **Symposia** dealing with "Environmental Justice", "Urban Transformations", "SDGs" or "Living Labs" with prominent guests improved our interdisciplinary concepts.
- During joint **excursions** to research sites we informed each other about the results of our projects.
- Eleven **PhD projects** and one **habilitation** could be realised.
- In more than 60 meetings, the **steering committee** ensured an informed cooperation between the involved departments.



For further impressions on the past years of joint research, activities and publications, visit our [IP website](#). We are looking forward to further interdisciplinary research on sustainable and resilient cities in projects within the **POF IV Platform "Sustainability Transformations"**.



How do you look back on the joint research within the IP Urban Transformations?

"The IP was a great platform for interaction across Departments and Research Units. Although it was sometimes **challenging to find common ground**, we crafted common products - first and foremost the IP book - and built a **solid basis for future collaboration**." (S. Knapp, BZF)

"Through the enlarged and close natural-social science cooperation in the IP and its WPs, we **considerably increased the quality of our interdisciplinary work**. Together, we were able to deliver high-quality scientific results, displayed in many papers and in our IP book" (A. Haase, SUSOZ)

"Joining the IP in 2015 as young scientist, the collaboration was a great **introduction to the interdisciplinary work at the UFZ**, with the IP book as one of the highlight results!" (M. Ueberham, UBZ)

"Initially, the interdisciplinary cooperation was a challenge, as we had to **find a common understanding and language**. During the IP work, we developed **concepts and methods** that were successfully applied to **real world problems**." (U. Schlink, SUSOZ)



"The enthusiasm to deal with urban challenges within the interdisciplinary collaboration was impressive. We established excellent **practice networks and international partnerships**. Our **voice was heard** within the scientific community and in high level international institutions." (S. Kabisch, SUSOZ)

"I have learned a lot from the interdisciplinary cooperation in IP over the last few years, and some of my **perspectives have changed**. The highlights for me were the exhibition in 2015 and the IP book where all the contributions came together and we made something new out of it." (D. Rink, SUSOZ)

The IP gave me valuable insights into the **broad spectrum of research on urban transformations** at UFZ. I look forward to the platform projects within POF IV, as we need to enhance formats and approaches for **real inter- and trans-disciplinary research!**" (A. Schmidt, SUSOZ)

"We developed a variety of conceptual as well as interdisciplinary case study articles- We brought together **our understandings of resource efficiency, quality of life and resilience** from different research strands to elaborate a precious book publication and demonstrate our strong network in this field of research. The IP served as a root out of which several **3rd party funded projects were acquired**." (E. Banzhaf, SUSOZ)

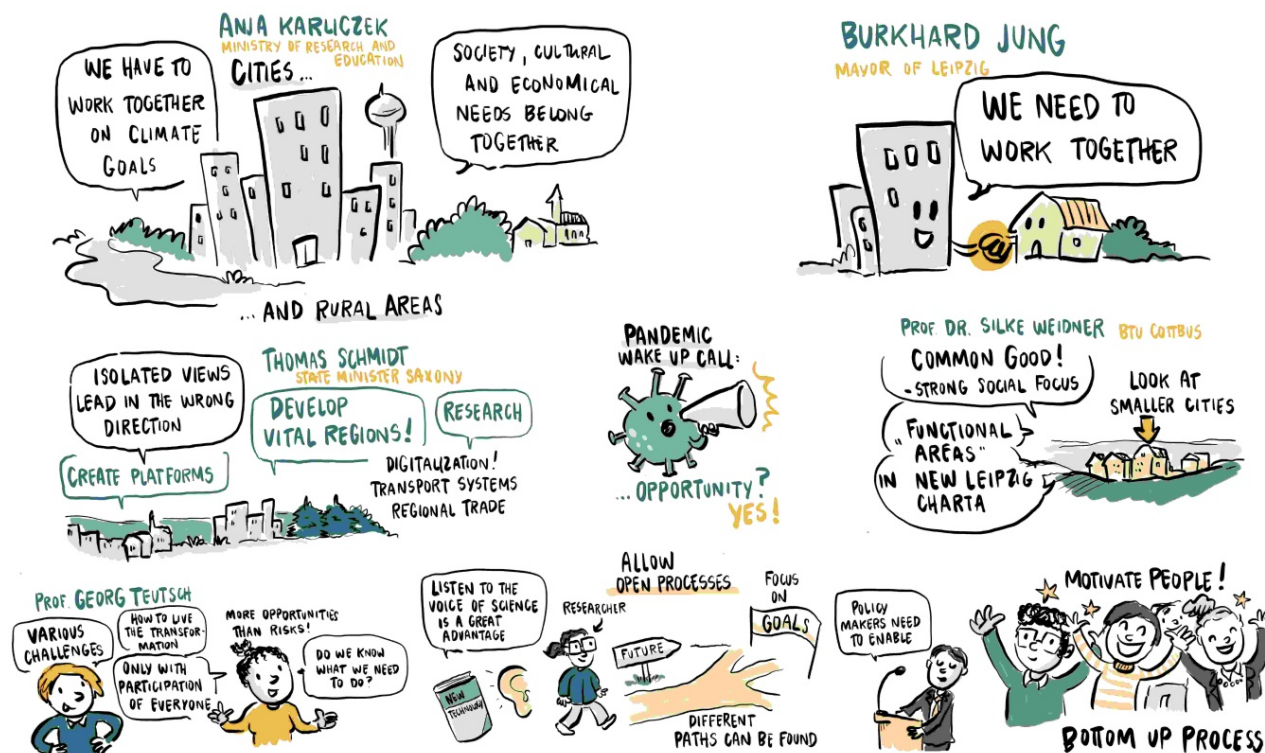
"The cross-disciplinary social science collaboration IP and Urban Research was **formative for the profile of our leading roles in the second Assessment Report Climate Change in Cities (ARC3.2)**." (R. Schwarze, OEKON)



The International conference "**Sustainable & Resilient Urban-Rural Partnerships**" on 26/27 Nov was the **IP-Highlight in 2020** and the final event of our IP Urban Transformations. Together with the research initiative "Stadt-Land-Plus", supported by BMBF, we organized this event as scientific contribution to the German presidency of the council of the European Union. We welcomed 450 registered participants from almost 50 countries. Distinguished keynotes, multi-faceted poster sessions and controversial panel discussions framed 30 thematic sessions. Sustainable and resilient urban rural partnerships can be considered as one avenue to deal successfully with present and future challenges such as climate change or pandemics – all affecting resource efficiency, resilience and quality of life in urban regions. Thus, we will further develop and prioritise our well elaborated research strategy on urban transformations in the next research period POF IV. Two **Special Issues** will be published in "**Land**" (MDPI) and "Spatial Research and Planning" (RuR, ARL). The editors are looking forward to your contributions – please check the [CfPs on URP2020!](#)



Figure: "The Grand Opening Session": One of several graphic recordings of the URP2020 Conference (by 123comics)



Session contributions by IP UrbanTrans members:

"COVID19 and beyond" by S. Kabisch, S. Bartke: The COVID19 pandemic acts as a driver for multiple crises and uncertainties requiring to rethink existing concepts and discuss new ones, including the urban-rural nexus. Emerging conflicts and trade-offs challenge us to find appropriate solutions. It is a wake-up call, that reminds us about the intersections of societal inequalities.

"(Re)growth and Urban-Rural Linkages" by A. Haase, D. Rink: The session discussed the factors which make cities turn from shrinkage to new growth. It clearly showed the importance to apply an urban-regional perspective and to observe impacts by crises (e.g. COVID19) on urban regions in a long-term perspective.

"Paradoxes of Resilience" by M. de Brito, C. Kuhlicke: Based on 5 presentation from different research contexts, both geographically and thematically, the discussion showed interesting overlaps and joint interests in further collaboratively exploring the role of paradoxes in societal attempts to make cities more resilient.

"Implementing Multifunctional Blue-Green Infrastructure" by M. Ueberham, R. Müller, U. Meyer: The key message was, that the systematic transformation towards decentralized, multifunctional blue-green infrastructures can only be achieved in a co-design process of local authorities, science and industry. The operation and maintenance of integrated water and energy systems has to be discussed more intensively in society and science.

„Urban – Rural (Dis-)continuities" by E. Banzhaf, P. Misselwitz/TU Berlin): The session discussed the social inequality between urban and rural nature at various levels. Participants recognised (non-)directional interactions between urban and rural implications where the rural hinterland feeds into the city, and vice versa and formulated a need to intensify research on multi-scale benefits in urban-rural interactions.