Infrastructure Megaprojects (Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sophie Schramm)

Africa, Asia and Latin America are currently the target of massive investments in infrastructure-megaprojects. Europe and North America however are affected to a lesser extent. Regional infrastructure networks like deep-water ports, airports or international transport-corridors are expanding rapidly. China is playing with The Belt-and-Road Initiative an increasing important role as pioneer. Furthermore, various actors are involved in the development and expansions of the regional infrastructure networks.

- On which spatial and economic ideas are the development and expansions of regional infrastructure based on?
- Who are the key players and actors driving the expansion? Which ambitions are these players aiming for? What are the unwanted consequences?

The geographical focus of the work is open.

Literature: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00343404.2019.1661984

Urban Megaprojects (Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sophie Schramm)

Urban design and urban planning are currently having a boom in Africa and Asia: Entirely new planned cities and satellite cities are springing up out of the ground. In Indonesia, for example, a new capital city is planned as a replacement for the overstrained Jakarta.

- Which models, ideas and ideals of urban development are at the basis of current mega projects? Who are the key players and actors driving this process? What role does urban spatial planning play?
- How do these new planned city fit into the existing spatial structures?
- For whom are these cities planned and who is excluded?

The geographical focus of the work is open.

Financialisation of residential property (Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sophie Schramm)

The financial sector grows in importance for the Economy and, through the financialisation of housing, it also has a direct influence on the planning and development of cities. The thesis can focus on following questions:

- How does the Financialisation change the housing market/situation in cities?
- How do these tendencies influence urban planning? Which types of action can planning choose to oppose them?
- Which opposing trends are deductible, who are the important actors?

The geographical focus of the work is open.
Heterogeneous Infrastructures (Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sophie Schramm)

The term “Heterogeneous Infrastructures” defines the manifold constellations by which city residents receive basic infrastructure services. These go beyond the standardized supply through centrally regulated large-scale networks. Generally the heterogeneity of infrastructure is depicted as a characteristic for urbanisation in the Global South, however in cities of the Global Northwest versatile constellations of infrastructure supply can be detected (for example: waste disposal in Dortmund-Nordstadt or Kreuzviertel). The thesis can focus on following questions:

- How do diverse kinds of city dwellers get access to basic services beyond large-scale networks?
- Which options do city dwellers have to alter their access to infrastructure, how much are they bound to their role as a passive receiver of services?
- Which broader questions of justice are connected to the concept of heterogeneous infrastructures?
- What role does/can spatial planning plays in the development of “Heterogeneous Infrastructures”?

The geographical focus of the work is open.

Insurgent Planning (Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sophie Schramm)

„Insurgent Planning“ (IP) describes interventions in the built space of actors, who are usually opposed to or excluded from traditional planning (for example: Hambacher Forst). The term broadens the conventional understanding of planning with practises that are usually not considered such.

- How do actors with IP-practises shape built space?
- In which relationship do these IP-practises stand to formal planning?
- How can formal planning rethink and improve its handling of IP-practises?

Coproduction of basic services (Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sophie Schramm)

Public actors and institutions are especially in cities in the Global South not able to guarantee supply for the urban population with basic infrastructure-services by their own. Coproduction is a term to describe the joint provision of services from different public and non-public actors. This could help improving access to services for residents. Slum Dwellers International (SDI), for example, is pursuing the approach of “coproduction” of basic services in cities of the Global South. The thesis can focus on following questions:

- How do governmental and non-governmental actors work together to provide basic infrastructure services?
- What are the factors for success or failure of Coproduction?
- How can initiatives be stabilized?
Urban – rural – connections in countries of the Global South (Genet Alem)

Urban – rural connections and effects on regional development and planning
Presentation of the literature discussion on urban-rural connections as well as background of traditionally separated approach of both. Focus on one country example to illustrate the connections and to highlight the possible consequences for both regional planning and development.

- Factors of success for development of strong Economic Cycles between small and middle towns to their hinterland.
- Influence of expansion of small and middle towns on the natural resources in the hinterland and possible actions of regulation

Informal city development (Genet Alem)

Urban informality and state regulation

- Investigation of informal forms of housing in a selected case study (on urban or neighbourly level) from the Global North or South. Detailed knowledge of the case study should be gained through empirical on-site surveys.
- Urban or national handling of informal housing forms; forms of private regulation through Neighbourhood communities, NGO etc. / International comparison of strategies for dealing with informal forms of housing. Literature study and evaluation. Question of portability.
- Grey areas in urban planning: exceptional regulations in planning, questioning mechanism, legitimacy and transnational regulatability of the construction industry and multinational property developers and project developers → for example: analysis of documents of a mega-project by empirical on-site surveys.
- forms of private regulations by standards-organisations → investigation the international standards (LEED, BREEM, DGNB) and its effects on the office and housing markets

Urban negotiation processes

- Analysis of participation processes and conflicts in planning in urban planning projects in the Global North and South.
- Investigation of emancipatory urban politics and alternative forms of housing using concrete case studies

Land use management, climate change, climate adaption in developing and emerging countries (Genet Alem)

Analysis of land use managements in a city or region in the Global South

- Land policy and institutional structure of land-management systems
- Access to housing markets and developed land
- Land use planning and land-management-instruments

Climate Change and Climate adaption in the Global South

- National and local ambitions and adaption strategies for climate change. Role and influence of the urban planning policies on climate change
- Institutional Capacities and adaption capabilities for a resilient urban development
Migration and Multilocality as themes in spatial planning (Katrin Gliemann)

Spatial impact of remittances in the countries of origin of migrants
Based on a survey of migrants from the same country of origin who live in Germany and make remittances to the country of origin.

Transnationalism and local/urban integration – a contradiction?
Literature discussion on transnationalism, transnational practices and possible effects on above all spatial integration processes. Analysis, for example, of an urban integration plan, to what extent these newer migration trends are taken into account, formulation of future approaches for planning.

Inclusive Cities in Canada: Factors of success for spatial integration of new residents
Analysis of planning process and paradigms on municipal levels, fields of action and success criteria for (social) spatial integration, role of different actors, question of portability on cities and regions in Germany

Citizens with a migration background as a target group in participation processes
- Participation obstacles and innovative access possibilities
- Compilation best/worst practise examples (national/international)
- Role of Migrant-self-organisations in participation
- “Foreigner”, “Non-German”, “migration background”: What do these categories contribute/worsen in urban or neighbourhood development?

Accommodation, housing and integration of refugees
- Comparison on housing strategies in national/international context
- Lessons learnt? Consequences from experience of the last years (Initial placement, municipal integration strategies, preventive measures ...)
- The simplification of zoning laws on housing of refugees: relevance for communal planning praxis
- Implementation and consequences of the residence requirements (for example: comparison of the methods in different German states, consequences on communal level)
- Housing of refugees in small or middle towns in rural areas
- Which role does the neighbourhood play? Radius of action of refugees
- Effects of the family reunification for cities and neighbourhoods
- The role of established migrant-self-organisations for the integration of refugees in cities
- Spatial practises of refugees in and outside of accommodations
- Arrival infrastructures from refugees and migrants
- Migrants as urban transformation actors

International retirement migration (Katrin Gliemann)
- (Spatial) effects on origin and/or destination regions. Focus on one destination or comparison of different destination areas
- Expansion of the IRM on structural weak countries
- Proposals for funding, limitation or control of retirement migration (depending on results of analysis)
Aspects of urban research

Transformation of urban space (Genet Alem)
Analysis of the urban space with high percentages of residents with migration background in German or other European cities → the entrenchment of ethnic and religious Variety in physical and sociocultural characteristics in the city → the role of urban space in the integration process of residents with migration

Sociocultural division in cities of the Global North and South: development and strategies (Katrin Gliemann)
Analysis of a case study or comparison of the development in two chosen countries/regions: how does the socialcultural division displays itself in these cities, how does the urban planning and policies deal with this topic, which strategies are discussed and implemented?

Fiction or reality: city district in the TV-show “Phoenixsee”
Analysis of the WDR TV-Show “Phoenixsee” especially regarding the display of the district Dortmund-Hörde and the Phoenixsee-project. Comparison to the actual situation in Hörde or other perspectives of the district; comparison with strategies of the district and project marketing. Embedment in the discussion on upgrading “disadvantaged” urban districts.

Digitalisation – a topic for spatial planning? National/international (Katrin Gliemann)
• Experience of or in Municipalites with webbased Media, on the basis of case studies in planning
• Analysis of local websites (various thematical containment possible)
• Digital participation: Distribution, possible uses, potentials and risks
• Usage of social media in field of action of city marketing

Potentials of “Reallabore” in urban development and/or urban research (Katrin Gliemann)
Analysis and comparison of projects in the context of urban development which are using “Reallabore”. Highlighting the positive effects, special challenges and limitations

How are narrations linked to spatial planning? (Katrin Gliemann)
Narration-oriented research and participation formats and their possible use in planning practise. For example: biographical Approaches, Story-workshops on urban district level etc.
Topics with Nick Nowara:

- Informal settlements and slums in the Global South and Global North
- Slum-Upgrading Programmes / Good Governance
- Refugee-Camp Planning
- Urban Development in the Global South
- Urban Design & Urban Planning / Rapid Urbanisation
- Architecture and Construction at a Subsistence Level (Incremental housing etc.)
- Emergency & Desaster Management (Prevention, Mitigation, Recovery, Resilience)
- Poverty and Homelessness

Topics with Moritz Kasper:

Urban Studies & Design in/for/with the Global South & Urbanism of the Everyday (Moritz Kasper)

I am happy to supervise theses in German or English, which combine theoretical and empirical material and ultimately give an outlook on how the knowledge gained could be used for urban / spatial design, urban planning or also urban governance / activism (research design Transfer). I am particularly interested in work that has one or more of the following aspects:

- **Comparative work**, i.e. Treatment and comparison of different case studies (cities, districts, streets, initiatives, etc.)
- Work on the everyday experience of urban space and the everyday collective production of urban spaces and architectures
- Working on cities in the Global South, especially Sub-Saharan Africa
- Works that apply topics / discourses from the global south to spaces / phenomena in the global north (postcolonial thoughts, (in) formality, exclusionary / violent urbanism, etc.)
- Works that understand cities or spaces as relational arrangements; integrated into local to planetary networks of humans and non-humans

I am looking forward to a wide range of specific topics within the framework mentioned above. Examples of subject areas that interest me include:

- **Road-Side Economies and Market Spaces**: socio-economic connections and networks, threats and opportunities, questions of gender and/or ethnicity, etc
- **Transport Planning, Policies, and Practices**: ride hailing apps, vehicle bans, large-scale infrastructure projects, etc
- **Cultural and Creative Scenes**: spatio-economic impact and importance, local and global constraints of access and connectivity, cultural institutions/ infrastructures and the city, etc
- **Urban (In)Equalities**: colonial planning legacies, right-to-the-city discourses and initiatives, socio-demographic segregation, etc