

# Re-Figuration of Spaces: Mediatization, Mobility, Globalization and Social Dislocation

First International Conference of the  
SFB 1265

**February 20-22, 2019**

Technische Universität Berlin  
Straße des 17. Juni 135  
10623 Berlin

## Overview

---

The collaborative research center “Re-Figuration of Spaces” at Technische Universität Berlin investigates changes in contemporary spatial arrangements with an emphasis on digital technologies and transnationalization. The goal is to determine the characteristics of the so-defined “re-figuration of spaces”. In order to achieve it, we examine a variety of subjective spatial experiences and knowledge production practices. This includes a more thorough examination of how emerging spatial structures are conditioned by increased interconnectedness of places and the circulation it implicates. Our conference thematizes how spaces change through mediatization, increased mobility, globalization and social dislocation. We ask which forms of arrangements, spatialities and materialities underwrite these processes. How are spaces negotiated and (visually) communicated? These questions will be addressed by international lecturers and discussed in plenary and parallel sessions.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

---

10:00 am-13:00 pm

### **City walks**

3:00-4:00 pm

### **Opening Lecture: Re-Figuration of Spaces**

4:15-6:00 pm

### **Plenary Session 1: Spatializing Contemporary Modernities and the Postcolonial Challenge**

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019

---

9:00-10:45 am

### **Plenary Session 2: Visualization and Urban Space**

11:15 am-1:45 pm

### **Session 1: Spatiality and Public Spheres**

### **Session 2: Security, Control and Power**

### **Session 3: Translocal Planning?**

3:00-5:30 pm

### **Session 4: Materiality, Affordance, Re-figuration: Planning and Appropriation of Urban Space**

### **Session 5: Spatial In-/Exclusion. Global and Local Perspectives on Spatial Inequality**

6:00-7:30 pm

### **Keynote Lecture: Thinking Across Scales: From Place-Based Community to Large-Scale Social Integration**

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019

---

9:30-12:00 am

### **Session 6: Entanglements of Space and Time**

### **Session 7: Urbanity, Migration, Mobility**

1:30-3:15 pm

### **Plenary session 3: Space, Labor and Economy**

3:45-5:30 pm

### **Plenary Discussion: Interdisciplinarity in Spatial Research**

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

---

10:00 am-13:00 pm

**City walks** (upon reservation)

3:00-4:00 pm

**Opening Lecture**

Room 3005

Martina Löw/ Hubert Knoblauch (SFB 1265):

Re-Figuration of Spaces

4:15-6:00 pm

**Plenary Session 1: Spatializing Contemporary Modernities and the Postcolonial Challenge**

Room 3005

Chair: Philipp Misselwitz

Gurminder K Bhambra (Sussex):

Neoliberal Modernity and the Refashioning of "Open Borders": A Postcolonial Critique

Jennifer Robinson (London):

Re-Conceptualising Urban Politics: Territories, Interests and Institutions

Discussant: Johanna Hoerning

6:00 pm

**Meet and Greet**

HKW Mapping Presentation (Séverine Marguin (SFB 1265))

Thursday, February 21, 2019

---

9:00-10:45 am

**Plenary Session 2: Visualization and Urban Space**

Room 3005

Chair: Angela Million

Gillian Rose (Oxford):

The Spatialities of a Digitally-Mediated city: Hypertopics, Zooms, Morphs, Fields

Eva Ehninger (Berlin):

Imageability. Sign and Signage in Ed Ruscha's Streets of Los Angeles-archive

Discussant: Timothy Pape

10:45-11:15 am

**Coffee Break**

11:15 am-1:45 pm

**Parallel Sessions**

**Session 1: Spatiality and Public Spheres**

Room 3006

Chair: Daniela Stoltenberg

Christoph Neuberger (Munich):

Borders and Connections: A Morphology of Public Communication

Barbara Pfetsch/ Annie Waldherr/ Daniel Maier/ Daniela Stoltenberg (SFB 1265):

Translocal Networks in Urban Twitter Spheres

Marco Bastos (London):

Social Networks Online and Offline

Ingo Schulz-Schaeffer/ Eric Lettkemann (SFB 1265):

The Publics of Locative Media

**Session 2: Security, Control and Power**

Room 3005

Chair: Joshua Schröder

Tugba Basaran (Cambridge):

Security, Law and Borders

Hubert Knoblauch/ Arne Janz/ Joshua Schröder (SFB 1265):

Everything under control?

Christine Hentschel (Hamburg):

Radical In/Security in Rightwing Times

Ilse Helbrecht/ Miro Born/ Janina Dobrusskin (SFB 1265):

Geographic Imaginations: People's Sense of Security and Insecurity in a Cross-Generational Comparison

### **Session 3: Translocal Planning?**

Room 3025

Chair: Jan-Peter Voß/ Gabriela Christmann

Maarten Hajer (Utrecht):

Imagination and Materiality: Reinventing Planning in a Society Without Appetite for the Future

Gabriela Christmann/ Sophie Mélix/ Martin Schinagl (SFB 1265):

Digital Urban Planning: Planning-Oriented Actions and Physical-Material Arrangements

Kevin Ward (Manchester):

Planning at Distance? Planning Practices and Prefiguring Urban Futures

Jan-Peter Voß/ Volkan Sayman (SFB 1265):

Mobile Methods: How Planning Know-How Circulates (Deliberative Public Participation as a Case Study)

1:45-3:00 pm

#### **Lunch Break**

3:00-5:30 pm

#### **Parallel Sessions**

### **Session 4: Materiality, Affordance, Re-figuration: Planning and Appropriation of Urban Space**

Room 3006

Chair: Dominik Bartmanski

Edgar Pieterse (Cape Town):

Frustrated planning in the face of makeshift practices in Delft on the Cape Flats

Terence McDonnell (Indiana):

The Materiality of Development: Interventions, Objects, and the Built Environment

Ignacio Castillo/ Juliane Heinrich/ Angela Million/ Jona Schwerer (SFB 1265):

"I Spy With My Little Eye...": Children's Appropriation and Re-Figuration of Public Space in Defiance of its Intended Use

Martina Löw/ Jörg Stollmann/ Dominik Bartmanski/

Timothy Pape/ Seonju Kim (SFB 1265):

Smart Cities: Everyday Actions in Digitalized Living Spaces

Stefanie Bürkle/ Janin Walter (SFB 1265):

Migrating Spaces

### **Session 5: Spatial In-/Exclusion. Global and Local Perspectives on Spatial Inequality**

Room 3005

Chair: Fabian Gülzau

Manuela Boatcă (Freiburg):

Exclusion through Citizenship and the Spatial Commodification of Whiteness

Steffen Mau/ Fabian Gülzau/ Kristina Korte (SFB 1265):

Borders: Walls, Barriers, Checkpoints and Landmarks

Sabine Meier (Siegen):

Newcomers as Scale Makers? Scale Theory and Processes of In-/Exclusion in Mid-Sized, Downscaled Cities

Johanna Hoerning/ Paul Welch Guerra (SFB 1265):

Addressing Inequalities: NGOs and the Translocalisation of Housing and Refugee Politics

5:30-6:00 pm

#### **Coffee Break**

6:00-7:30 pm

#### **Keynote Lecture**

Room 3005

Craig Calhoun (Phoenix):

Thinking Across Scales: From Place-Based Community to Large-Scale Social Integration

8:00 pm

#### **Dinner**

9:30-12:00 am

**Parallel Sessions**

**Session 6: Entanglements of Space and Time**

Room 3006

Chair: Nina Baur

Susanne Rau/ Sebastian Dorsch (Erfurt):

Spatio-Temporal Entanglements. Mapmakers' Re-configuring Lines, Rivers and Spaces

Elmar Kulke/ Nina Baur (SFB 1265):

Space, Time and the Economy

Oliver Ibert (Erkner):

Moving Backwards and Forwards Through Time – Why the Concepts “Ignorance” and “Uncertainty” Matter in Time-Spatial Analyses of Creativity

Gunter Weidenhaus/ Claudia Mock (SFB 1265):

Narrating Space-Time: Biographies of Middle Classes

**Session 7: Urbanity, Migration, Mobility**

Room 3005

Chair: Philipp Misselwitz

Ayona Datta (London):

Gendering the Smart City: WhatsApp Diaries of Safety, Mobility, and Translocality Amongst Young Women in Delhi's Urban Peripheries

Ayham Dalal/ Philipp Misselwitz (SFB 1265):

Planning the Ideal Refugee Camp? A Critical Interrogation of Recent Planning Innovations in Jordan and Germany

Sabine Hess (Göttingen):

From adhocacy to ANKER. Ethnographic insights into the reception policy field

Vief, Robert Vief/ Henrik Schultze/ Daniela Krüger/ Talja Blokland (SFB 1265):

Taking Urbanity Beyond Place: Thoughts on Translocal Networks, Space, and Research Methods

12:00-1:30 pm

**Lunch Break**

1:30-3:15 pm

**Plenary session 3: Space, Labor and Economy**

Room 3005

Chair: Lech Suwala

Roberto Patricio Korzeniewicz (Maryland)

Mapping Spaces of Inequality: A World-Historical Perspective

Michael Storper (Los Angeles):

Separate Worlds? The Current Wave of Regional Polarization and its Implications for Cities and Other Regions

Discussant: Elmar Kulke

3:15-3:45 pm

**Coffee Break**

3:45-5:30 pm

**Plenary Discussion: Interdisciplinarity in Spatial Research**

Room 3005

Chair: Martina Löw

Discussants:

Matthias Middell (Leipzig)

Ilse Helbrecht (SFB 1265)

Séverine Marguin (SFB 1265)

Steffen Mau (SFB 1265)

Barbara Pfetsch (SFB 1265)

Jörg Stollmann (SFB 1265)



## Session Abstracts

### Plenary Sessions

---

#### **Plenary Session 1: Spatializing Contemporary Modernities and the Postcolonial Challenge**

Intensifying global connectedness produces new financial and material flows, new patterns of migration, and new translocal practices. Yet, the euphoria around an open and connected world is clouded by the increasing awareness that the flip side of the opportunities linked to uninhibited flows is the production of uneven urban geographies - an increase in inequity, discrimination and exclusion which manifest on multiple scales and reinforce (post-) colonial divisions. The session reflects on contemporary theorisations of urbanity, citizenship and urban politics in the context of an increasingly globalising world. How can academic research contribute to build knowledge of emerging practices and agencies that circumvent the pitfalls of postcolonial divisions? How can we build a global theory of urbanity in face of and grounded in the diversity of emerging translocal realities?

#### **Plenary Session 2: Visualization and Space**

Spaces are mediated through visualizations, marketed and made tangible in a specific way. In the session we discuss how spatial changes translate into images. It is important to discuss when spatial images change and thus suggest new spatial experiences and when a re-figuration of spaces becomes solidified in new visual expressions.

#### **Plenary session 3: Space, Labor and Economy**

Since Adam Smith's "The Wealth of Nations", it is a well-known fact that economic growth is rooted in the increasing division of labor. This division of labor had manifold spatial consequences from concentration of labor in Victorian factories, dispersion of labor in industrial districts towards a currently-created individual organization of work in an almost borderless world where anything seems to be possible. At the same time, labor is divided globally into certain patterns between the Global North and South. The panel contributes to this debate by asking: How is this relationship (space, labor and economy) currently re-figured? Did the mobility of labor really increased in this realm, making labor less sticky? How is space re-figured in labour economies or economics of labour? What do we know about the patterns of re-figuration in novel work environments (e.g. co-working spaces, labs etc.)?

### Parallel Sessions

---

#### **Session 1: Spatiality and Public Spheres**

The session focuses on the role space plays in the formation of public spheres. To what degree are actors and topics locally bounded vs. translocally distributed? Does online communication influence the constitution of spaces offline? In what ways do actors push certain perceptions of spaces to advance their strategic goals?

#### **Session 2: Security, Control and Power**

Since the 1970s, security has increasingly come to the fore in legitimising political, economical and technical procedures effectuated in certain spaces, for example, the surveillance of dangerous zones in cities. By the same token, subjective uncertainty has been progressively gaining significance, thereby permeating identity politics. Similarly, security, in the social sciences, is discussed as a specifically late modern mode of power. The session, against this backdrop, addresses the change towards (in) security - both on a subjective level and in relation to communicative structures - and traces its concomitants spatial transformations. To that end, the session is structured around the following questions: How is the term (in)security conceptualised in social theory and how can it be useful for empirical research? How do spatial rearrangements affect (the perception of) (in)security? What kind of spatial (trans)formations does the notion of (in)security prompt and require? How do feelings of (in)security relate to structural changes and the reorganisation of social order? While seeking possible open-ended answers, special heed will be paid to cultural difference.

#### **Session 3: Translocal Planning**

What is the role of planning practices within new spatialities emerging with the circulation people and things and with digitalization? How are planning practices driving and how are they affected by the ongoing re-figuration of spaces from national-territorial registers to multidimensional-relational registers? A particular concern for this session is in which ways planning practices themselves become translocalized. How does the doing of planning change with (a) locally distributed and digitally mediated work processes, (b) increasing circulation of know-how and certain centrally composed models, tools and procedures, (c) multiplication of contexts within which planning practices are situated, from the local place to shaped, via political-administrative contexts of regulation, the context of specific issues such as gentrification, migration, sustainability, surveillance, participation, all the

way to (d) contexts of expert knowledge on planning itself, where specific approaches and professional standards are developed and cultivated.

#### **Session 4: Materiality, Affordance, Re-figuration: Planning and Appropriation of Urban Space**

This session is designed to investigate new relationships between humans and urban space in the context of contemporary social changes. In order to examine the scope and specificity of these shifting relations, the session looks at applications of a series of intertwined concepts: materiality, affordance, re-figuration. In particular, we would like to tackle the following question: What are the emerging practices of planning, appropriation, collaboration and conflict in these new relations? The significance of this question will be assessed especially in the contexts of increasing mediatization of social life, presence of translocal networks, global dynamics in the production of local space, and changing constellations of actors.

#### **Session 5: Spatial In-/Exclusion: Global and Local Perspectives on Spatial Inequality**

This session brings together scholars that analyze in-/exclusionary practices in the re-figuration of space. The re-figuration of space is strongly related to material but also symbolic in- and exclusion with significant repercussions for the structure of social inequality. To shed light on these developments, the session aims at a juxtaposition of local and global perspectives on spatial in-/exclusion. Which practices and categories are utilized to achieve in- or exclusion? Are they working on a specific scale such as the local/global or are they bridging such a conceptualization? What are implications for the structure of social inequality and space? We invite scholars to present empirical findings that come from a range of areas and scales.

#### **Session 6: Entanglement of Space and Time**

It has been long-known that space and time are entwined. For example, spatial constructions change over time, humans interact in space and time, it takes time to cross space, people's way of thinking about space and time are systematically linked, and so on. The panel contributes to this debate by asking e.g.: How are constructions of space and time related? How are these relationships currently re-figured? How is space re-figured over time? What do we know about the patterns of re-figuration?

#### **Session 7: Urbanity, Migration, Mobility**

The session asks how new forms of migration challenges our understanding of urbanity. Papers will focus on the

every day urban practices of neighbourhood residents, commuters and also marginalized actors such as villagers of rural hinterlands and refugees. What tools and strategies do these actors mobilise to navigate translocality? How does multidirectional migration and new patterns of mobility reconfigure urban space and materialities, forge new spatial knowledge and urban practices and build new translocal alliances?

## CALL FOR APPLICATION

### BIGSSS Computational Social Science Summer School on Migration

June 10-21, 2019 @ Sardinia, Italy

*We invite junior researchers to apply for participation in the CSS summer school on data-driven modeling of migration.*

*Women are especially encouraged to apply!*

The CSS summer schools serve as a research incubator aimed at fostering the use of data-driven methods in the social sciences and developing a contribution to the research fields of conflict, migration, and social cohesion. The 2019 summer school focuses on migration research.

During the summer school, eight teams of five people will work on a specific research project. Each team consists of three junior researchers and two senior experts/supervisors, with strong methodological expertise in CSS and in the field of migration research. Each team will work through the whole research process with the aim to prepare a manuscript for scientific publication.

Each project combines CSS methods with a research focus on migration. This involves data-driven modeling of migration and making use of simulation or prediction techniques. The projects may look, for example, into the consequences of migration and its relation to conflicts and social cohesion.

#### Keynote Speakers

Marta C. González | University of California Berkeley, USA

Emilio Zagheni | Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (Germany)

George Barnett | University of California, Davis (USA)

Dirk Brockmann | Humboldt University Berlin (Germany)

#### Projects and Experts

Social Integration and the Urban Form: Measuring Immigrants' Integration through Urban Mobility Patterns | Marta C. González & Luis E. Olmos (both University of California Berkeley, USA)

Analyzing the Social Integration of Refugees through Text Analysis of Online Social Media | Claire Kelling (Penn State University, USA) & Mohsen Mosleh (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA)

Behavioral Consequences of Group Threat – Ethnic Derogation on YouTube in the Aftermath of Threatening Events | Christoph Spörlein & Stephan Dochow (both University of Bamberg, Germany)

A Test of the Schelling model of Spatial Segregation | Carolina Zuccotti (European University Institute, Italy) & Jan Lorenz (Jacobs University, Bremen)

Digital and Computational Approaches to Study Migration | Ingmar Weber (Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar), Emilio Zagheni & André Grow (both Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany) & Kiran Garimella (Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Switzerland)

Global Migration Modelling with MIDAS | Stefano Balbi (Basque Centre for Climate Change, Spain) & Helen Adams (King's College London, UK)

Migration Data Innovation for Evidence-Informed Policy-making | Michele Vespe (European Commission – Joint Research Centre, Italy) & Lorenzo Gabrielli (National Research Council, Italy)

#### Venue and accommodation

The summer school will take place from June 10-21, 2019 on Sardinia, Italy. The exact location will be announced later.

We offer accommodation in shared double rooms including half board. The hotel will be announced later.

#### Travel grant

Applicants may apply for a travel grant within the limits regulated by the Volkswagen Foundation.

#### Fee

We charge a registration fee of 250 Euro. The fee can be waived for participants from low-income countries.

#### Application

Please submit the following material in one pdf file by **February 17, 2019**:

- A letter of motivation for participation (1 page max),
- your CV,
- a preference ranking of at least three projects you would like to participate in,
- a brief explanation of your need of a travel grant if applicable.

Instructions for submission:

<https://bigsss-css.jacobs-university.de/calls/application/>

#### Contact

Arline Rave (BIGSSS)  
Organizational management

✉ [css@bigsss-bremen.de](mailto:css@bigsss-bremen.de)

Jan Lorenz (BIGSSS)  
Scientific management

🐦 @BIGSSS\_summer

Check our website for more information:

<https://bigsss-css.jacobs-university.de>