



IRS Spring Academy 2019

Photo: Chlorophyll/Adobe Stock photo

Investigating Space(s): Current Theoretical and Methodological Approaches: Part 3 – Topologies

Call for Applications

Join us for the IRS Spring Academy for Doctoral Students and Junior Researchers

- ▶ 4-7 June 2019
- ▶ Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS) in Erkner, near Berlin

In the past two decades the interdisciplinary field between spatial and social sciences has undergone an extraordinarily dynamic development with a high potential for innovation. On the one hand, many social-scientific disciplines performed a "spatial turn" and became more interested in integrating spatial concepts and terminology. On the other hand, disciplines like human geography or spatial planning, understand space less as an exclusive object of analysis and instead emphasize a "spatial perspective" as a shared ontological ground. This has opened up a broad "trading zone" within which novel conceptualizations of space and spatiality are negotiated in an inter-disciplinary field. Against this background, the Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS) together with different academic partners and supported by the Volkswagen Foundation organizes a series of three successive Spring Academies entitled "Investigating Space(s): Current Theoretical and Methodological Approaches".

Each event focuses on different aspects of the emergent thriving field. The first two events already took place – 2017 on "Temporality and Procedurality"; 2018 on "Virtuality and Socio-Materiality". The final event on "Topologies" is addressed with this call for applications and will take place from 4 to 7 June 2019.

The Design Research Lab, Berlin University of the Arts will act as a local cooperation partner in 2019.

Part 3 on "Topologies"

The envisaged event is wrapped around the observation that, for many years, social-scientific spatial research has hardly made use of the classical geographic distinction between "space" and "place". The majority of human geographers and representatives from adjacent social sciences prefer spatial analyses (around concepts like territory, scale or relational approaches) while the term place is much less employed. Place is a cumbersome concept for scientific analysis as it highlights idiosyncratic qualities, rather than general features, subjective experiences rather than objective truths. Yet, place was never completely dismissed as a concept and has experienced several revivals. More recently, for instance, practices of scientific knowledge creation have received enhanced attention in how they are performed in particular local contexts. Paradoxically, practices that constitute the core of globalization can best be accessed empirically, if they are observed on the site where they are performed. Not only the individual places (or: topoi) have been of interest but increasingly also constellations of places

Locations

Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS)
Flakenstraße 29-31
15537 Erkner

Design Research Lab,
Berlin University of the Arts
Einsteinufer 43
10587 Berlin

Organizer

Prof. Dr. Oliver Ibert

Contact

For inquiries please contact
Dr. Karina Böhm

- ▶ phone: +49 3362 793-204
- ▶ springacademy@leibniz-irs.de
- ▶ leibniz-irs.de/springacademy2019

Design
Research
Lab



Universität der Künste Berlin



Leibniz Institute for
Research on Society and Space

Supported by



VolkswagenStiftung



(or: topologies), be it virtually inter-connected places of shared practices, social innovations that are more or less readily adopted by local stakeholders or mobile policies that are or are not transferred from place to place.

Places, or topoi, can be described in terms of their internal temporality, historical roots, symbolic representations or experiential qualities. Webs of interrelated places, or topologies, pose questions of dis-/similarities, accessibility and connectivity. The objective of this year's IRS Spring Academy is to explore the most recent revival of places, to discuss new conceptualizations of place and to develop further research methods for empirical studies of both, topoi and topologies.

Keynote Speakers (in alphabetical order)

▶ Prof Dr Merje Kuus | Department of Geography, The University of British Columbia, Canada

Merje Kuus is Professor of Geography at the University of British Columbia. She holds a PhD from Syracuse University. Prof Dr Kuus is a political geographer whose research investigates geopolitical imaginaries, qualitative research methods, and policy processes in national and transnational regulatory institutions. She is the author of *Geopolitics and Expertise: Knowledge and Authority in European Diplomacy* (Wiley Blackwell, 2014), and *Geopolitics Reframed: Security and Identity in Europe's Eastern Enlargement* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), and a co-editor of the *Ashgate Research Companion to Critical Geopolitics* (Ashgate, 2013), in addition to articles in geographic, international relations, and European studies journals.

▶ Prof Richard Rodger | School of History, Classics & Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, Great Britain

Richard Rodger is Professor of Economic and Social History at Edinburgh University. He holds a PhD in Economics and Economic History from the University of Edinburgh. He has published widely on the economic, business and urban history of Britain since 1800. His book *The Transformation of Edinburgh: Land, Property and Trust in the Nineteenth Century* was awarded the Frank Watson Prize for works on Scottish history. Since 2004 he has been a member of the Academy of Social Sciences in the UK.

▶ Roel Rutten, PhD | Department of Organization Studies, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

Roel Rutten is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Organization Studies at Tilburg University. He holds a PhD from Tilburg University. His disciplinary background is organization sociology and economic geography. His research focuses on knowledge creation and is applied in the context of networks, proximities and regional economic development. He investigates how characteristics of networks such as organizational structure, governance mechanisms, network composition, trust, communication, etc. affect the knowledge creation process in networks.

Design
Research
Lab

 Universität der Künste Berlin

 **IRS** Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space

Supported by

 VolkswagenStiftung



IRS Spring Academy 2019

Lecturers (in alphabetical order)

▶ Dr Harald Engler | IRS

Harald Engler is a Senior Researcher at the IRS and deputy head of the department for Historical Research. He is a member of the European Association for Urban History (EUAH), the European Architectural History Network (EAHN), of the Historische Kommission zu Berlin, the Brandenburgische Historische Kommission as well as the Gesellschaft für Stadtgeschichte und Urbanisierungsforschung (GSU). He has published and edited books, articles and special issues to urban and planning history.

▶ Dr Bianca Herlo | Berlin University of the Arts, Design Research Lab

Bianca Herlo is a postdoctoral researcher at the Design Research Lab of the Berlin University of the Arts. Over the last years, she has been working on participatory design projects, transdisciplinary and collaborative settings and on the conceptualization of socially oriented living labs, at the intersection of the three dimensions local actors, urban narratives and transformative tools. She is head of the research group Civic Infrastructures, where she experiments with design's agencies at the intersection of bottom up processes, public institutions and formalized politics. She studied communication in social and economic contexts, with focus on audio-visual communication, and experimental media design and did her PhD on the representation and aesthetic negotiations of memory in biographical documentaries. Since 2013, Bianca has been a lecturer in design research and theory at various universities, including the Design Department at Anhalt University Dessau, the Berlin University of the Arts and Weißensee Kunsthochschule Berlin. Since 2014, she has been a board member of the German Society for Design Theory and Research (DGTF).

▶ Prof Dr Oliver Ibert | IRS

Oliver Ibert is head of the IRS research department "Dynamics of Economic Spaces" at the IRS and Professor for Economic Geography at the Freie Universität Berlin. In 2014 Oliver Ibert was a visiting professor at the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Toronto. He is a member of the editorial board of Palgrave Communications and acts as a spokesperson of the project group "Experts in Crises" as a part of the Leibniz Research Alliance "Crises in a Globalized World".

▶ Prof Dr Gesche Joost | Berlin University of the Arts, Design Research Lab

Gesche Joost is Professor for Design Research at the Berlin University of the Arts and since 2005 heading the Design Research Lab. With international partners, she conducts research and development projects in the areas of human-computer-interaction, wearable computing, as well as user-centered design and participation. 2007 – 2010 she was Assistant Professor for Interaction Design & Media at the Technical University of Berlin building up the Design & Usability group at Telekom Innovation Laboratories. In 2009, she received the young talent award for science from the mayor of Berlin. In 2014, she was a distinguished research fellow at UTS Sydney. Since 2016, she is Research Director for Interactive Textiles at DFKI, the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence. She acts in various committees, amongst them on the board of the German Society for Design Theory and Research (DGTF) and on the board of the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes). She is a co-founder of the non-for-profit company Calliope engaging in digital education for school children in Germany. From 2014 to 2018, she was appointed by the Federal Government of Germany as Digital Champion for the EU commission. She acts as an expert advisor for the Federal Government of Germany, e.g. in the Advisory Council for Consumer Affairs (2015 – 2018). Since 2015, she has been a member of the Supervisory Board of SAP SE. Since 2018, she also has been a member of the Supervisory board of ING DiBa AG and Ottobock SE & Co. KGaA.

Design
Research
Lab



Universität der Künste Berlin



IRS Leibniz Institute for
Research on Society and Space

Supported by



VolkswagenStiftung



▶ Dr Jana M. Kleibert | IRS

Jana Kleibert is junior research group leader at the IRS and at the Humboldt-University of Berlin, where she heads the "Constructing Transnational Spaces of Higher Education" (TRANSEDU) research group. She holds a PhD in human geography from the University of Amsterdam and has worked as postdoctoral researcher in the research department "Dynamics of Economic Spaces" since July 2015. Her research interests connect economic, urban and development geography and focus on contemporary processes of globalization, global production networks and their socio-spatial expressions.

▶ Dr Monika Motylinska | IRS

Monika Motylinska is an architectural historian and a postdoctoral research fellow at IRS' department for Historical Research. Her ongoing research project investigates the GDR architecture abroad in the context of transnational networks and cultural transfer. In December 2016, she defended her PhD thesis at Technische Universität Berlin on handling the post-war heritage in Germany. Her main research interests lie in the field of architectural and urban history of the postwar period as well as in heritage protection of modern architecture.

▶ Prof Dr Jörg Niewöhner | IRI THESys, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Jörg Niewöhner is professor for the ethnology of urban spaces and cultures at the Department of European Ethnology at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the deputy director of the integrative research institute THESys (Transformations of Human-Environment Systems). He holds a PhD from the University of East Anglia. His research is primarily concerned with developing long-term social-ecological research from an anthropological perspective. He employs ethnographic and qualitative methods and works actively on comparative and inter/trans-disciplinary approaches. His main field of research is socio-ecological change in Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany. He is editor of the book series *matterRealities/Verkörperungen* and co-editor of the journals *Science and Technology Studies* and *BioSocieties*.

▶ Dr Cristina Temenos, PhD | Department of Geography and Manchester Urban Institute, University of Manchester, Great Britain

Cristina Temenos is a Lecturer in Urban Geography. She holds a PhD from Simon Fraser University (Canada). As an urban geographer she studies the relationships between social justice and the mobilization of social, health, and drug policies across cities in the Global North and Global South, as well as urban politics, social policy and economic restructuring under austerity. Cristina Temenos serves as an editorial board member for *Environment & Planning C: Politics and Space* and *Geography Compass*.

Design
Research
Lab

 Universität der Künste Berlin

 **IRS** Leibniz Institute for
Research on Society and Space

Supported by

 VolkswagenStiftung



Application

This call for applications addresses doctoral candidates and early post-doctoral researchers from the social sciences. The participants will be selected according to their academic qualification as well as the suitability of their current research project to the topic of the IRS Spring Academy 2019.

Applications must include:

- ▶ a motivational letter (1-2 pages),
- ▶ your CV, and
- ▶ a short description of your current research project, e.g. abstract of your dissertation incl. name and affiliation of your PhD advisor(s).

We can only accept applications in electronic form. Please send your application via email to springacademy@leibniz-irs.de.

This call for applications closes on 24 February 2019.

Selected candidates will be informed at the beginning of March 2019; enrolment for the IRS Spring Academy will take place until the end of March 2019.

Participation

In order to foster in-depth discussions and reflection as well as extensive opportunities for establishing and consolidating networks, both among each other and with leading international scholars, a maximum of 25 participants will be admitted to the IRS Spring Academy.

Thanks to funding by the Volkswagen Foundation we do not charge any tuition fees and are able to provide cost-free accommodation for all accepted participants. Additionally, travel expenses will be reimbursed (in accordance with the German Travel Expenses Act). Meals, snacks and drinks during the event are also included.

Goal and Program

The overarching goal of the IRS Spring Academy is to enable junior researchers from the social sciences to identify relevant research gaps, to encourage them to use a spatial perspective in their analyses and to learn from leading experts in the field about theoretical approaches and innovative methods for empirical work. Participants will have the opportunity to present their projects in paper pitch formats and to access leading experts for one-on-one consultancies. We therefore cordially invite doctoral and early postdoctoral researchers in the social sciences, geography and history to join us for an interesting program to discuss their own research with internationally leading scholars and their peers.

The IRS Spring Academy combines well-tried and proven formats such as lectures and seminars with less common formats such as doing-research workshops, paper pitches, or academic speed networking. It offers various possibilities to exchange ideas, to discuss current concepts and methodological approaches, as well as to getting feedback on one's own research projects from leading scholars in the field. An outline of the program can be found below.

Design
Research
Lab



Universität der Künste Berlin



Leibniz Institute for
Research on Society and Space

Supported by



VolkswagenStiftung

IRS Spring Academy 2019

	TUESDAY, 04.06.2019	WEDNESDAY, 05.06.2019	THURSDAY, 06.06.2019	FRIDAY, 07.06.2019
9:00		Design Research Lab & Berlin Open Lab at Berlin University of the Arts <i>Gesche Joost</i>	Public Keynote Lecture III Place in Bureaucratic Practice: The Spatial Textures of Regulatory Power <i>Merje Kuus</i>	Individual Consultations II
10:00		Coffee Break		
10:30		Public Keynote Lecture II <i>Does Historical Spatial Data Matter?</i> <i>Richard Rodger</i>	Co-Teaching Seminar Locally Situated Knowledge Practices in Different Domains" <i>Merje Kuus/Oliver Ibert</i>	Paper Pitch III
12:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00	Arrival and Registration	Doing-Research Workshops (parallel)	Paper Pitch II	Doing-Research Workshops (parallel)
14:00	Opening Welcome <i>Oliver Ibert</i>	a) Multi-sited Qualitative Research <i>Cristina Temenos Jana Kleibert</i>		a) Agencement of Space <i>Jörg Niewöhner</i>
14:30	Academic Speed Networking	b) Complex Biographies of Places <i>Monika Motylinska Harald Engler</i>	Coffee Break	b) Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) <i>Roel Rutten</i>
15:00		c) Participatory Design Methods. Cultural Probes, Digital Urban Probes <i>Bianca Herlo</i>		c) Multi-sited Qualitative Research <i>Cristina Temenos Jana Kleibert</i>
15:30		Coffee Break	Individual Consultations I	Coffee Break
16:00	Coffee Break	Paper Pitch I		Closing Panel <i>Oliver Ibert</i>
16:30	Public Keynote Lecture I <i>Regional Innovation and the Interaction between Space and Place</i> <i>Roel Rutten</i>			Farewell
17:00		Walk & Talk	Meet the Editors and Reviewers <i>Merje Kuus Jörg Niewöhner Richard Rodger Cristina Temenos</i>	
ab 18:00	Reception at IRS	Dinner in Berlin	Free Time for Participants Faculty Dinner	