

20th Symposium on Knowledge and Space

Placing the Future

Heidelberg, 28-30 September 2022

The 20th and thereby last interdisciplinary Knowledge and Space symposium on „Placing the Future“ will take place from September 28th to 30th 2022 in Heidelberg. It is organized by the Institute of Geography at Heidelberg University and funded by the Klaus Tschira Foundation. The symposium will explore the challenges we face as we step into tomorrow. It will discuss how we can assess what is to come, build resilience regarding multiple threats, and create novel governance structures that enable us to shape the future. In their talks, the participants will cover pressing practical topics such as climate change and global food security as well as address theoretical reflections on different scenarios from catastrophes to utopia.

Please find a general outline and list of speakers online: www.knowledgeandspace.uni-hd.de/symposia/future/index.html

Preliminary Program

Wednesday, 28.09.2022

Session 1: Creating understandings of the future

Welcome address

Johannes Glückler and Natalie Koch, Institute of Geography, Heidelberg University

Using judgemental forecasting and scenario thinking for anticipating the future: What are the differences, the similarities, and the advantages of each?

George Wright, University of Strathclyde Glasgow, Scotland

Imagining after capitalism

Andy Hines, University of Houston, USA

Nationalism and the future: Place, identity, and aspirational futures

Natalie Koch, Heidelberg University, Germany

Between low orbit and small islands: The space for negotiating what counts as knowledge in preparing for environmental catastrophe

Jessica Bland, University of Cambridge, England

Awakening to catastrophe: Spatial multiplicity in knowing, resisting, and surviving catastrophic futures

Kezia Barker, University of London, England

Thursday, 29.09.2022

Session 2: Conceptualizing visions of the futures

Utopias of Extinction

Zoltán Simon, University of Bielefeld, Germany

The space between futures

Richard Tutton, University of New York, England

Economic geographies of postgrowth

Christian Schulz, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Envisioning alternative economic futures through the lens of food

José Luis Sánchez-Hernández, University of Salamanca, Spain

Friday, 30.09.2022

Session 3: Controlling journeys into the future

Futures all around: What the social sciences can learn from a fieldsite with 'no future'

Felix Ringel, University of Durham, England

Techniques of futuring: On how imagined futures become socially performative

Maarten Hajer, University of Utrecht, Netherlands

The turn to KIBS

Ian Miles, University of Manchester, England

Design and other ways of knowing (and governing) the future

Ramia Mazé, London College of Communication, England

Shaping Urban Futures: Generating city engagement to create place research, innovation, and change

Mark Tewdwr-Jones, University College, England

Guests

Although the symposium is not a public event, we cordially invite interested students and young researchers to attend. Graduate as well as postgraduate students can apply for a limited number of travel grants (up to 300€). To apply, please send an E-Mail to Klara Jungkunz (klara.jungkunz@stud.uni-heidelberg.de) including your name, affiliation and a brief statement of your motivation in which you may explain how the symposium relates to your own research. The number of participants must be limited due to the current Covid-19 regulations and to allow for intensive exchange.

Contact and registration

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Symposia on „Knowledge and Space“ – <http://www.knowledgeandspace.uni-hd.de/>

Book series “Knowledge and Space” –

<http://www.knowledgeandspace.uni-hd.de/publications/index.html>