

Date

12 June 2015

Location

Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences
Nibelungenplatz 1
Gebäude 1, Hörsaal 601
60318 Frankfurt/Main
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www.frankfurt-university.de

Directions

<https://www.frankfurt-university.de/english/theuniversity/campus-location.html>

Conference Language

English

Supported by

the German Sociological Association, Section Urban and Regional Sociology (GSA; DGS)

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the Research Area "Region and City" at the University of Kaiserslautern



Frankfurter Forschungsinstitut
für Architektur • Bauingenieurwesen • Geomatik



Registration

The participation fee will be 20,00 €, payable at the registration desk, including conference participation as well as meals and coffee breaks listed in the program.

Travel and accommodation arrangements are to be organized by the participants.

Registration

Secretariat: Martina Adolph
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Registration deadline is June 01, 2015

Contact

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Urban Quality of Life at Risk

German British Conference

Program

- 10:30 Registration and coffee
- 11:00 Welcome and Opening
- 11:10 **The Role of housing for the well-being of low-income households**
Becky Tunstall – Director, Centre for Housing Policy, University of York
- 11:40 **Same, same, but different: Gentrification and Public Policy in Berlin and London**
Matthias Bernt – IRS Erkner
- 12:10 **Minimum city: Re-assessing London’s success, social justice and the impacts of the super-rich**
Rowland Atkinson – Chair in Inclusive Societies. Department of Town and Regional Planning/Faculty of Social Sciences. University of Sheffield
- 12:40 Lunch break
- 13:40 **Social Exclusion and Mobility**
Karen Lucas – University of Leeds, Social Exclusion Unit
- 14:10 **Transport infrastructure and its influences on urban life**
Maik Hömke – Lucerne University of Applied Science and Arts
- 14:40 **Living in the Inner City – Strategies to cope with its Specific Qualities, Challenges and Risks**
Markus Menzl – Hafen City Hamburg
- 15:10 Coffee break
- 15:40 **Living in large scale housing estates – perception, problems, quality of life**
Maren Harnack – University of Applied Sciences, Frankfurt
- 16:10 **Urban vulnerability and asylum seekers**
Simon Parker – Senior Lecturer in Politics; Director of the Centre for Urban Research (CURB) at the University of York
- 16:40 **Co-housing: utopia (lost)?**
Annette Spellerberg – University of Kaiserslautern
- 17:10 **Final discussion** with speakers and participants Urban Quality of Life at Risk

Conference Topic

Urban quality of life is currently conceptualized in principally economic terms. As the decline in manufacturing activities, the rise of the service and knowledge economy, the growing importance of accessibility and globalizing processes continue to reconfigure the economic competition between cities, quality of life enters the discourse primarily as a means to attract high-skilled workers and improve the city’s economic prospects. Local governments increasingly seek partnerships with local and foreign capital, reorganizing institutions and tasks to attract capital, including the “selling of place,” strengthening place promotion and marketing efforts. The rhetoric clearly welcomes wealthy, creative, high-skilled people, disadvantaged and low skilled groups receive less attention in the making of places. Especially with respect to inner city areas, high quality of life is promoted as spaces for ‘clean’ and convenient consumption with positive atmospheres and shiny images.

Yet, a plethora of theoretical engagements with urban everyday life reminds us that, while on the one hand, variety of jobs, quality of public spaces, range of shops and services, cultural facilities and public transport are important place characteristics, more subjective aspects such as safe neighborhoods, well-being, community prospects, social cohesion, happiness, satisfaction and social and spatial justice are equally crucial determinants of urban quality of life. These elements of urban quality of life – and how they are experienced by diverse formations of urban inhabitants – seem to be absent from, if not at odds with, the dominant discourse in rankings, policy and practice. Urban life, social cohesion and complexity are at risk in the dynamics of economy, technologies, modernization, and adaptation strategies of cities. Sociologists and geographers from the UK and Germany will present their insights and debate theoretical and empirical attempts to capture the dynamics of urban processes in shaping the quality of life.