



# Urban Agglomerations

10 Years 2008-2018!

Fachbereich 1  
Architektur • Bauingenieurwesen • Geomatik

# Urban Agglomerations

10 Years 2008-2018!

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### Redaktion

Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences  
Fachbereich 1  
Masterstudiengang Urban Agglomerations  
Prof. Dr. Caroline Günther | Prof. Dr. Michael Peterek  
Nibelungenplatz 1  
D- 60318 Frankfurt am Main

### Layout

Carmen Rauber, B.A. Architektur  
Tutorin Masterstudiengang Urban Agglomerations

Coverfoto: Istanbul | CG



Building 1 | Lecture Hall 601

**14:00 – 16:00**

Searching for new polycentric Cracow Metropolis

Prof. Dr. Mateusz Gyurkovich, Cracow University of Technology, Poland

Planning and management challenges of the Metropolitan Region of Curitiba

Prof. Dr. Carlos Hardt, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil

Planning for Great Metropolitan Area 2013-2030. Costa Rica

Prof. Dr. Tomás Martínez Baladares, Tecnológico de Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica

City growth and the rising urban density as new challenges of mobility in Lima

Prof. Dr. Pablo Pablo Vega Centeno, Pontifícia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima, Peru

Urban environmental policy analysis to support political decision-making

Prof. Dr. Klaus Frey, Universidade Federal do ABC, Santo André, Brazil

Urban equity conflicts in pursuing a democratic city?

Prof. Dr. Ana Paula Rabello Lyra, Universidade Vila Velha, Brazil

**16:00 – 16:30**

**Coffee Break**

**16:30 – 18:30**

Natural disasters and risk of firewoods in metropolitan areas and global weather change

Prof. Dr. Iván Cartes, Universidad del Bío Bío, Concepción, Chile

Stråk – planning for connectivity in the segregated city

Prof. Dr. Karin Grundström, Malmö University, Sweden

Landscapes of Cities and Cities of Landscapes: cases in Brazil

Prof. Letícia Peret Antunes Hardt, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil

Approach to patterns of intervention for integrated revitalization of public space

Prof. Dr. Jorge Eduardo Valdés, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, Toluca, Mexico

Environmental impact of the construction of the metropolitan railway Mexico-Toluca

Prof. Adriana Irais Lugo Plata, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil

Tall buildings impact on the city skyline

Prof. Dr. Mehrdad Karimimoshaver, Bu-Ali Sina University, Hamedan, Iran

Fachbereich Architektur • Bauingenieurwesen • Geomatik  
Urban Agglomerations/Frankfurt UAS

Wissen durch Praxis stärkt

## Invitation to the Anniversary Ceremony of Urban Agglomerations Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> 2018, Room 109, Building 4

### Programme:

17:15 – 19:30 **Formal Anniversary Ceremony**  
Greetings of the president, presentations, video  
Keynote lecture:  
**Making Cities for People** by Henriette Vamberg,  
Partner of Gehl Architects, Copenhagen

accompanied by **Big Band Frankfurt University**

19:30 **Reception and get together**

Please register before May 22<sup>nd</sup> : ua-info@fb1.fra-uas.de

Wissen durch Praxis stärkt

# Urban Agglomerations

10 Years 2008-2018!

## Greetings

It is my pleasure to present this booklet to you which highlights our Master Program “Urban Agglomerations”, situated at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Faculty Architecture Civil Engineering Geomatics.

As one of the leading Universities of Applied Sciences in Germany, we in Frankfurt offer a broad range of study choices. At Faculty 1 programs include a set of bachelor and master courses in architecture, civil engineering, geomatics, real estate as well as urban planning.

We strive to supervise and coach all students individually and our foremost priority is to work to provide the best for our students in all aspects of university life.

In October 2008 we started the English master program Urban Agglomerations with a first group of 6 students. Today, after 10 years, we are proud to say that 120 students have been enrolled in our course, and partly still are, and 83 have successfully graduated. Most of our graduates have found challenging work positions, some have earned a doctorate degree and many have returned to their home countries with the knowledge acquired in our master program.

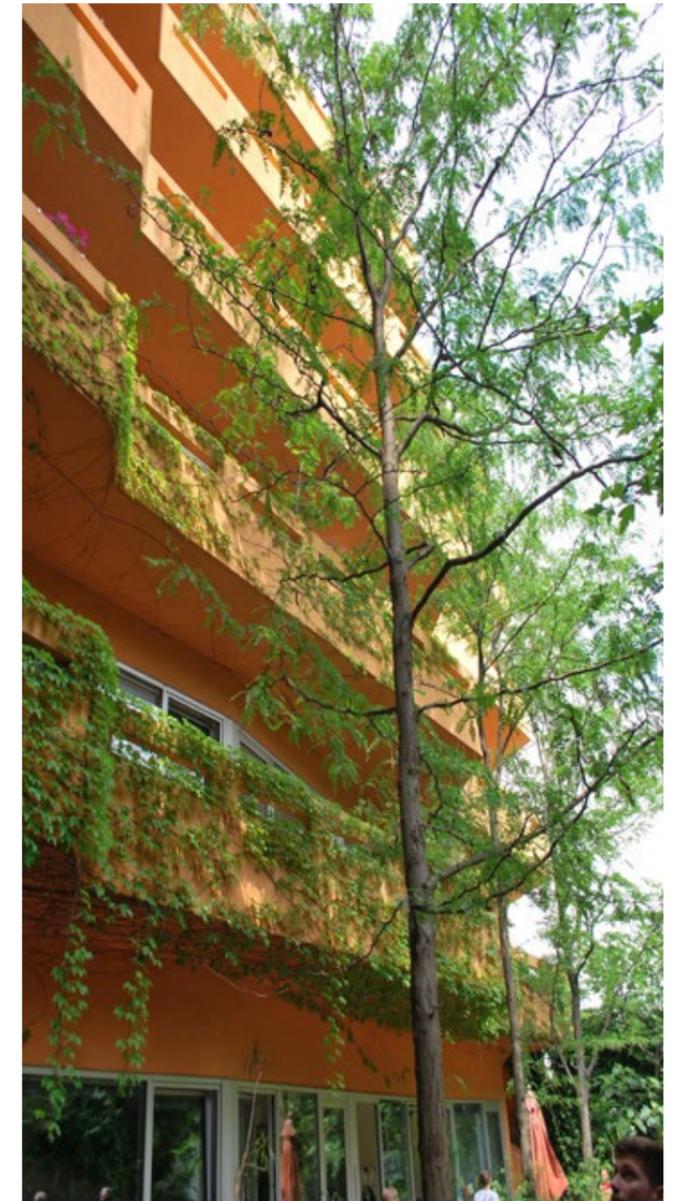
Over the last 10 years we have gradually consolidated a very good network with international partner universities. We have established the “Urban Knowledge Net”, a collaboration with partner universities from South and North America, which gets together once a year for an annual meeting. In the booklet we have a selection of some of the workshops. Many of our partners are participating in the international workshop held around the anniversary.

I warmly welcome you to our international workshop and to the formal anniversary ceremony.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr.- Ing. Michael Peterek,  
Program Director of Urban Agglomerations  
Faculty 1 Architecture Civil Engineering Geomatics



Miss Sargfabrik, Vienna 2017, Source CG

## Program



Rudolf-Beck-Park, Vienna 2017, Source CG

### Context of the Program

Worldwide, rapid urban change is an irreversible global process today, leading to new and highly integrated forms of large urban, metropolitan and regional networks and agglomerations. Globalisation and an increase in international migration lead to additional challenges for urban planning, management and development, meeting the demands of new groups in society with diversified national, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. These developments entail serious demographic, economic, environmental and social changes – applying both, though in different and manifold ways, to the agglomerations of the so-called developing world (still in a phase of continuous expansion) and those of the developed world (where extension and shrinking processes can be found all at once).

At the beginning of the 20th century, more than 15% of the people worldwide were living in cities. The number increased to over 50% in 2000 and is expected to rise to 70% in 2050. These developments lead to fundamental sustainability challenges. The proceeding globalisation, the growing complexity worldwide and an increase in international migration lead to additional challenges.

At the same time, the experience of the last decades has shown that the challenges and problems of rapid urban change cannot be coped with by the methods and the know-how of different single disciplines alone. The new developments of the 21<sup>st</sup> century's urbanisation make new and integrated approaches and solutions necessary that reach beyond the restrictive confines of separate technical fields.

The issues addressed in the course are related to the most pressing challenges of urban agglomerations today, including land management, environmental conditions, mobility and transportation, socio-economic differentiation, segregation and migration processes, urban and regional governance as well as territorial risk assessment and disaster prevention. They are dealt with in a global context and through intercultural perception, linking, comparing and exchanging experiences and practices of European urban agglomerations with recent developments in the highly dynamic extra-European city-regions and mega-cities.

### Profile of the Program

The Masters Program in “Urban Agglomerations” started in October 2008 at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and is completely taught in English. It runs over four semesters, leading to the internationally recognized “Master of Science (M.Sc.)” and opening the possibility of subsequent doctoral studies.

It is based on an interdisciplinary and international orientation, addressing graduates with a first academic degree in architecture, civil engineering, urban, regional, landscape or environmental planning, geo-informatics or other planning-related disciplines, as well as some professional experience.

Together with international partner universities, for example in Sweden, Australia, Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, Thailand, Turkey, Italy and Poland the course structure aims to impart a profile of knowledge in the domain of urban, regional or landscape planning, transport and mobility as well as GIS, data analysis, social and cultural connotations.

### Course Structure

The course structure offers different thematic modules and imparts solid and broad professional, technical, and social competencies and qualifications for working in city-regions and large agglomerations. In all courses and subjects, professors as well as students work on practical and professionally relevant issues, mostly in co-operation with local authorities, planning and management departments, city-regional corporations and institutions. These practical elements form a central component of the Masters Course.

During the first two semesters in Frankfurt the students acquire a broad range of basic and fundamental knowledge. In project work, conceptual outlines and presentations, students work together in small groups of three to six persons, thus developing teamwork experience and presentation skills. They are able to apply their knowledge in a multidisciplinary project in the second semester. Here they are supported by two members of the academic staff, each representing a different discipline in “Urban Agglomerations”.

In the third semester the students attend an international exchange semester. Here they choose one of the cooperating partner universities for the international exchange course. By studying agglomerations and city-regions in an international context, diverse approaches to other planning cultures, perceptions and contemporary developments become visible and offer the students new insights. During this international exchange semester the students take part in project studies at a Masters or postgraduate level with contents referring to urban agglomerations and depending on the lectures offered at the partner university. The modules taught at different places complement one another and are linked (E-learning platform, combined projects, excursions, guest lectures, conferences etc.).

In the fourth semester the students return to Frankfurt to write their Master Thesis and take part in the final colloquium.

The integrated structure offers the chance of studying and living in an international context.



Bogota, 2014, Source CG

## Modules

### First Semester



#### Module 1 URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- 1.1 Urbanisation and Housing in a Global Context
- 1.2 Urban and City-regional Development
- 1.3 Sustainable Cities
- 1.4 Inclusive Cities and Universal Design



#### Module 2 URBAN CULTURE AND GOVERNANCE

- 2.1 Social and Cultural Challenges of Cities
- 2.2 Urban and City-regional Governance
- 2.3 Practice and Instruments of Land Management



#### Module 3 GIS AND REMOTE SENSING

- 3.1 GIS
- 3.2 Remote Sensing



#### Modul 4 SCIENTIFIC METHODS AND ACADEMIC SKILLS

- 4.1 Methods of Scientific Research and Academic Writing
- 4.2 Presentation and Moderation Skill



#### Modul 5 DEUTSCHE SPRACHE UND KOMMUNIKATION

- 5.1 Deutsche Sprache und Kommunikation

### Second Semester



#### Modul 6 INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT WORK

- 6.1 Interdisciplinary Project Work



#### Modul 7 URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

- 7.1 Water Management
- 7.2 Waste-Water Management
- 7.3 Waste Management
- 7.4 Traffic Management



#### Modul 8 URBAN ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 Urban and Regional Open Spaces
- 8.2 Urban Climate and Environmental Management
- 8.3 Energy Efficiency and Supply for Cities

### Third Semester



#### Modul 9 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE COURSE

Studies at one of the international partner universities worldwide

### Fourth Semester



#### Modul 10 MASTER THESIS AND COLLOQUIUM

## Theses Topics

### 2010

Social Participation in Sustainable Urban Development: Innovation and Legitimacy  
Juan Carlos Dominguez Sandoval, Colombia

A Framework for the Spatial Planning of Aleppo, Syria  
An Examination of the Recently Proposed Master and Spatial Plans of Aleppo  
Yaman Hebbo, Syria

Conversion of Former Industrial Lands - With the Case study of North Sorgenfri, Malmö, Sweden  
Ahmet Levend Kalaç, Turkey

Perspectives for Inner City Residential Redevelopment in European Cities  
Case Studies from Newcastle, Malmö, Halle and Rotterdam  
Magdalena Schneider, Germany

Sustainable upgrading of informal settlements in developing countries Brazil, Indonesia and Thailand  
Susana Restrepo Rico, Colombia  
(p.16-17)

### 2011

Reinventing Rio Olympic Games and the spatial impacts on adequate housing  
Polyana da Silva Albergaria, Brazil

„Immigrant impact within small urban communities“.  
Case Study: Gislaved, Sweden  
Claudia Figueroa Muñoz, Chile

Shrinking Cities: Changing Perspectives with Art & Culture  
Erla Margrét Gunnarsdóttir, Island

Practice and legal framework for biomass used in cogeneration on a municipal level as a contribution to the local use of sustainable renewable energies  
Juan Ricardo Franco Herrera, Colombia

Urban Agriculture: Impacts and opportunities. Case Study: Caracas, Venezuela  
Erika Hönig Andrade, Venezuela

Examining the best practices of the world's premier bus rapid transit systems, Curitiba, Brazil and Bogota, Colombia  
Lam Ching Fu, Malaysia

Gentrification and Urban Redevelopment  
Pilar Maria Larque-Seeffeld, Spain

Reducing motorcycle and car dependence in New Taipei City  
A vision for a more sustainable transport system  
Ying-Han Liao, Taiwan

HafenCity: Globalization, Property Markets and Risk: Policies for Urban Planning  
John Parrish, USA

### 2012

Implementation of Bioclimatic Principles in the Design of Urban Open Space in Doha, Qatar  
Majd Abosamha, Qatar

Neighborhood Development in Mexicali - An assessment according to the Urban Planning Principles of Jane Jacobs and the New Urbanism.  
Nora Patricia Borboa Beltran, Mexico

Climate-sensitive Urban Design of the Podkumskiy District in Kislovodos  
Alexandra Dubovitskaya, Russia

Curitiba, still the Most Sustainable City of the World? A Review of the Actual Status  
Dominic Hofmann, Germany

The Right to the City: reflections on the concept to build for the citizens  
Cindy Lira García Mexico

Comparison of Waste Management Strategies in Germany and Ethiopia Emphasizing on Landfill Technology  
Sinidu Mamo, Ethiopia

The Impact of Tsunami 2004 to the Urban Setting of Banda Aceh  
Putra Rizkiya, Indonesia

Toward a More Sustainable Transport Network for the Urban Area of the City of Salamanca Guanajuato: Regenerating The Public Transport System  
Mariana Santomé Aguilar, Mexico

### 2013

Fahadan Renewal Plan  
Milad Abbasiharofteh, Iran

Urban Communal Food Gardens: emerging spaces for broader social and political chance?  
April Sabucco, Canada

Urban Development of Khartoum  
Analysis, Challenges and Possible Strategies  
Jasmin Abdelmoneim Attia, Sudan

Self-construction: A tool for slums upgrading in India. Integrating safe self-construction within slum upgrading practices  
Virginia Elena Patrone, Italy

Sustainable Water Supply in Sao Paulo under the Aspects of Population Growth and Climate Change  
Fabiano Sambatti, Brazil

Water and Sanitation in Kerala, India. Issues and Remedies  
Anish George, India

Violence Prevention through Urban Intervention. Optimizing Spatial Opportunities to Inhibit Insecurity in Caracas, Venezuela  
Nicholas Kasang, USA

Towards a Revolutionary Urban Drum Circle: Reflections on Social and Cultural Inclusion of Modern Aboriginal Peoples in Canadian Cities  
Philippe Rinn, Canada

Cycle Inclusive Planning in Bogota  
Alexandr Rodriguez Larin, Colombia

**2014**

An investigation of the anticipated spatial impacts of a high-speed train service in Chiangmai, Thailand  
Patchara Kanmuang, Thailand

Urban Safety. Food Production and Social Inclusion  
Alejandra Cid Patino, Mexico

Formal and Informal Transport in City Public Transport  
Carolina Zabas Roeland, Belgium/Spain

A Sustainability Assessment of the housing project Ciudad Verde in Soacha Colombia  
Jean Francisco Duque, Colombia

The implementation of sustainable development principles in Tianjin Eco-City  
Biyang Ding, China

Urban Community Gardening as a Social Movement for More Sustainable Neighborhoods  
Olga Korovina, Russia  
(p.18-19)

**2015**

Concept design of a sustainable Transit Oriented Development in cooperation with a smart urban electrical grid  
Maria Tsioutsia, Greece

Capturing Land Value Appreciations Generated by Public Transport Improvements  
Evgenia Marinaki, Greece

Housing Provision under the Effect of Current Development Strategies  
Öykü Ülgüner, Turkey  
(p.20-21)

Smart Cities as a New Model for Urbanism in India  
Rajiv Singh Irungbam, India

The Urban and Socio-Economical Resilience of Tourism Based Developments: The Case of Playa del Carmen, Mexico  
Allyson Murillo Ruiz, Mexico

Intergration of electromobility into the city of Ahmedabad, India  
Mittal Patel, India

An Analysis of Amman's Current Public Transport System and Future Plans: Do They Meet the Real Needs of the Community?  
Rola Sayaydeh, Jordan

**2016**

A sustainability analysis of harbour redevelopments in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Hamburg  
Shikha Salla Mohanraj, India

A Comparative Analysis of Eco-districts  
Shima Bouzari, Iran

Approaches Towards the Integration of Syrian Refugees in German Cities: the Cases of Frankfurt am Main and Neu-Isenburg  
Karam Al Hamo, Syria

Enhancing green modes accessibility to open spaces in San Jose, Costa Rica  
Natalia Thomas Wing Ching, Costa Rica

Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2016: The study of a temporary city in Ujjain, India  
Vishakha Thakor, India

Assessing the Polycentric Development in Gulf Cities  
Youssef Diri, Syria

A Comparative Study of Aerial Ropeway Transit (ART) Systems  
Hazem El-Jouzou, Libanon

The Location Advantage: The Power of Pedestrian Footfall  
Sandra Lohr, Germany

Urban Metabolism in Frankfurt - An utopian sketch of ecologically and socially fair modern cityscapes  
Paola Wechs, Germany

A Walk to Feel: Investigating the Relation between the Walkability and Individual Perception of Genius Loci in a Sustainable Urban Environment by Using Imageability as a Measurement  
E. Su Korkmaz, Turkey

A Comparison of Housing in Dhaka City  
Sefat Jesmine, Bangladesh

Rethinking the City of Haifa  
Karolin Jeriys, Israel

**2017:**

Developing More Sustainable Transport in Indian Cities through a Focus on Transit Oriented Development  
Heena Sanjay Bhatt, India

GIS- Based Analysis of Property Markets  
Bernardo Cueva, Ecuador

Towards Low Carbon Passenger Transport in Indian Cities  
Chandni Vaghasia, India

Understanding Urban Rail Usage  
Mina Mansourian, Iran

Systematic Selection of Urban Sites to Characterize the Influence of Different Road Deposited Sediments on the Removal Performances of Treatment Systems  
Jahangir Moradidlouei, Iran

Towards a Sustainable „Rio Hablador“  
Angela Daniela Alvarez Sussoni, Peru

High-Rise Development Regulations  
Carlos Eduardo Guerra Bustani, Mexico

The Un-Walkable City  
Ana Cecilia Jimenez Salinaz, Mexico

Yielding Sustainable Development through Urban Agriculture Re-Cultivating Singapore's Food Production  
Héctor Manuel Jr. Osuna Mondragón, USA

El Bajío, Mexico as a polycentric Industrial Corridor  
José Mauricio Calderón Rivas, Mexico

**2018**

Water Sensitive Urban Design for Bharatpur, Nepal  
Archana Khatiwada, Nepal

Developing a More Sustainable Transportation System for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Blake Norten, USA

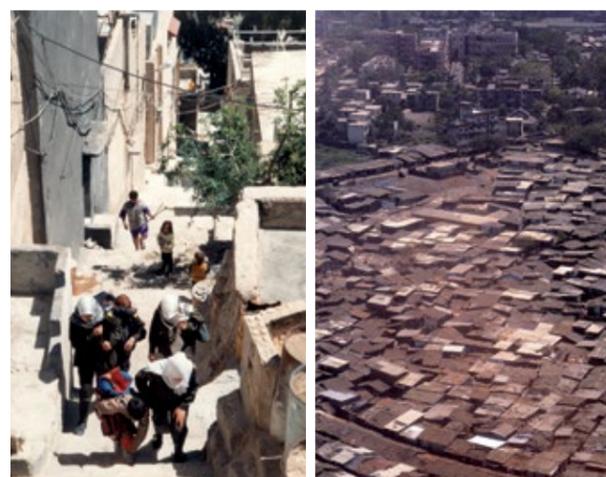
Realization of Smart Transportation Ideas: A Case Study of Chennai  
Naga Kumar Gangeswaran, India

## Sustainable upgrading of informal settlements in developing countries: Brazil, Indonesia and Thailand

Susana Restrepo Rico, Colombia

Supervisors: Prof. Jeff Kenworthy, Prof. Peter Newmann, Prof. Michael Peterek

Informal settlements generate new modes of perceiving the city's structure as they are consuming large areas, increasing densities and demanding more efficient urban infrastructure to improve the conditions of the urban dwellers. The research explores the growth and consequences of informal settlements in developing cities and the successful responses of governments to the challenges of urbanisation in the presence of poverty and inequality, where informality has been the response of low-income communities to the hostile conditions existing in the cities, the means to ensure survival in a society ruled by segregation, gentrification and proliferation of poverty and informality. Thus, the main question guiding this research was: Is sustainable development achievable in the upgrading of informal settlements in developing countries?



The review of literature explored the main aspects of informal settlements which sought to describe the situation of the slum problem in developing cities. The evidence reveals the importance of slums in the transformation of the urban form, redefining the relationship of the resident with the city, where informal settlements have become large clusters of poverty, isolated from the urban structures and stigmatised by the society. With the panorama of the situation of slums in the cities unveiled, the research aimed to understand and review the disadvantages, advantages and potentials for sustainable development of informal settlements. Low-income communities show several advantages which could be exploited in order to promote sustainable upgrading of the built environment. Self-help, community cohesion, new social structures, morphology, density and the willingness of the people to improve their livelihoods enhances the effects of regeneration schemes. Thus, small scale improvements could result in further physical and social development of the communities. The different strategies undertaken by the governments to tackle the problem of informal settlements studied in the case studies of Favela Bairro in Rio de Janeiro, the Kampung Improvement Programme in Indonesia and the Baan Mankong Programme in Bangkok expose several similarities in the approaches to improving informal settlements, despite the cultural, economic and social context of each country. The lessons learned from the analysis of successful upgrading programmes in diverse cultural contexts reveal the learning process experienced by the governments and the evolution of public policy which led to a better understanding of the dimensions of poverty, the needs of the low-income population as well as the potentials of these communities. The evolution from eviction to comprehensive upgrading programmes has been a gradual process of building institutional capacity, modifying government structures and acknowledgement of the rights along with capabilities of low-income communities to become active participants in the development of the city.

	FAVELA-BAIRRO	KIP	BAAN MANKONG
<b>Infrastructure &amp; Public Services</b>	Water, sanitation, lighting and garbage	Water, sanitation, drainage and waste collection	In-Situ upgrading: infrastructure & housing improvement
<b>Mobility &amp; Accessibility</b>	Paved roads and walkways, connection to the urban structure	Footpath construction and road improvement. Restricted access to automobile	Reblocking: layout adjustment, infrastructure & housing improvement
<b>Public Space</b>	Improvement of the open spaces and extension to the surrounding areas	The street as extension of the private space and stage for the social development	Reconstruction: urban renewal & housing construction
			Land Sharing: urban renewal & housing construction
<b>Environment</b>	Elimination of natural hazards, reforestation	Greenery and reforestation	Relocation: Infrastructure & housing construction in other location
	Housing: construction of new dwellings for essential resettlement	Soft approach to urban renewal: Walk-up Flats for essential relocation	

Physical Development Components

The appraisal of best practices point up the components which can be used to create a flexible basis, an integral structure to support the definition of upgrading programmes in developing countries as they tackle diverse dimensions of informal settlements, allowing the adaptation of the programme to the context-specific conditions of each culture. The similarities in the foundation of the programmes suggest the main factors that promote sustainable upgrading are similar in every context and can be classified in terms of physical development, legitimacy, social development and governance. Thus, the combination of these components can be the basis for comprehensive slum upgrading programmes. Nevertheless, the applicability and potential of these programmes rely on the capacities of governments to solve, and specially, to prevent the emergence of new slums by improving the opportunities of the low-income communities in the cities. Decentralisation of financial and human resources and the possibilities of formulating public policies consequential to the reality of the cities are essential factors to achieve sustainable development enhancing the feasibility of implementing sustainability in developing countries.



In synthesis, the implementation of slum upgrading programmes based on the combination of the components found in this research can indeed improve the livelihoods of the urban poor by improving the built environment, legitimising social and institutional structures, encouraging social development and implementing governance, defining the real necessities of the communities and understanding the importance of flexibility in order to adapt to the conditions of the settlement; but it is clear that the dynamic combination of these is rarely found in upgrading schemes. The recognition of the success and further replication of development initiatives engendered in the South is hindered by government structures and centralisation. The implementation and success of comprehensive upgrading programmes requires effective networks and partnerships between the government, civil society and the private sector. However, improving the quality of life of one sector of the population without a national and local vision towards inclusive sustainable development would result only in localised development, while the origins of the problem remain neglected. Thus, while it is clear that sustainable improvement of informal settlements can in fact be achieved through an integral approach to solve poverty, as evidenced by the case studies, the wider problem of burgeoning slum settlements remains a major issue which can be effectively tackled by the inclusion of sustainable development in the political as a holistic vision of the national and local governments where the urban poor are recognised as part of the society and their ability to improve their environment is legitimised.

	FAVELA-BAIRRO	KIP	BAAN MANKONG
<b>Institutional Development</b>	Local Initiative, flexibility and innovation	Decentralisation, innovation and reorganisation	Decentralisation and Institutional autonomy
<b>Inter-Institutional Cooperation</b>	Coordination between government agencies	Diversity of stakeholders: government, university, community	Inclusion of stakeholders: city, private sector, academics, community.
<b>Inclusive Decision-Making</b>	Encouraged through participation	The city as enabler and guide	City-wide Community Upgrading Plan
<b>Integral Planning</b>	Preventive strategies to control emergence of new informal settlements	Kampung Forum: renewed relationship between the city and the community	City-wide survey to identify conditions of the slums
	Mapping the city's favelas provides understanding about the situation of the urban poor	Projects as learning centres for other communities	Pilot Projects as learning centres

Governance Components

## Urban Community Gardening as a Social Movement for More Sustainable Neighborhoods

Olga Korovina, Russia

Supervisors: Prof. Jeffrey Kenworthy, Prof. Michael Peterek

### A Case Study of the Frankfurt Rhine-Main Region, Germany

During the last several decades public awareness of urban gardening, as a practice for greener and more productive cities, has raised significantly. Against the background of growing urbanization and its serious impact on the shape of a city, urban gardening presents an important contribution to city nature that improves ecology and human health, and in this way links urban populations and environmental responsibility more closely. As a result, urban gardening practice becomes a useful instrument for sustainable urban development that aims to meet local needs and to protect the environment for future generations.

However, along with mass representation of the sustainability concept, urban gardening began to be considered as a successful model for inclusion of different urban communities into a movement as an intentional social organization, which focuses on achieving common goals in community development. This means that gardening within a community implies predominantly new social initiatives for various positive changes in city neighborhoods and promotion of sustainable community development within mutual cooperation of collective empowerment and governmental support. Therefore, modern understanding of urban community gardening as a social movement requires broad comprehension of its manifestations, because otherwise the precise definition limits creativity of communal actions.

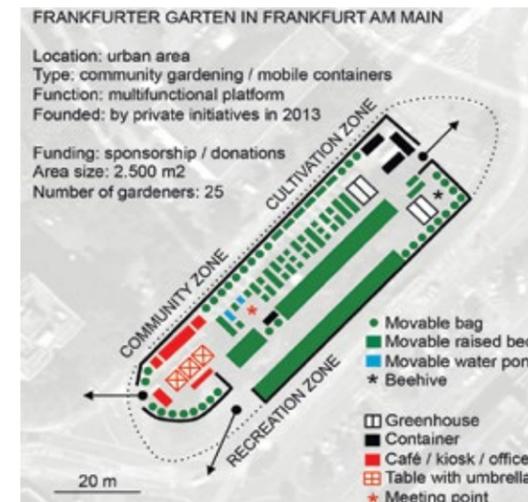
The research that was undertaken in the thesis focused on urban community gardening as a social initiative and democratic phenomenon in city neighborhoods and their self-organization. The work aimed to provide deeper understanding of this social movement and its impacts in local neighborhoods and community development based on a case study of the Frankfurt Rhine-Main Region, which actively promotes urban gardening at public and governmental levels. The core-guiding research question was:

Are urban community gardens in the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main Region an expression of citizen participation in sustainable community development or the result of some other imperatives?

The study has shown that the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main Region has a broad variation of urban community gardens, where each project arises as a response to the particular opportunities, needs, and missions of communities or organizations. It has allowed to present the types of gardening that are relevant for the research in case of manifestation of social movement, which must include social initiatives in case of project implementation.



Urban Community Garden Project: Ginnheimer Kirchplatzgärten in Frankfurt am Main (Source: Author, 2014).



Sample 1 (Source: Author, 2014).



Sample 2 (Source: Author, 2014).



Sample 3 (Source: Author, 2014).

The following three gardens, which represent different organizational structures and all together have approximately equal area sizes and number of gardeners, were chosen as samples of investigation:

Frankfurter Garten in Frankfurt am Main  
Internationale Gärten Kranichstein in Darmstadt  
Saisongarten – Dreieich-Götzenhain in Dreieich

The analysis of the projects was based on the concept of sustainable community development (the model of community capital increase), which originates from the increasing of four capitals through urban community gardening practice:

#### Economic capital

- Food industries
- Employment and income
- Greater productivity
- Investments and entrepreneurial options
- Financial community incentives

#### Social capital

- Strengthening of networks
- Stimulation of community ownership sense
- Integration between different social groups

#### Ecological capital

- Environmental management
- Environmental knowledge
- Greening of the urban environment
- Increasing of biodiversity

#### Human capital

- Education
- Skills practicing
- Contribution to health

The data were collected through a literature review, primary and secondary, semi-structured interviews with founders and gardeners, direct observations, and passive participation in the projects' activities.

Finally, the analysis of urban community gardening projects of the Frankfurt Rhine-Main Region has shown that all three projects contribute to a simultaneous increase of all components of sustainable community development. But the level of contribution varies due to different contexts. The study has concluded that the three chosen urban community gardens appear to be not only an expression of citizen participation in sustainable community development, but also a manifestation of personal and social needs. In all investigated samples, urban community gardens have had a positive impact on sustainable development regardless the primordial initiatives and interests of the creators of the projects. Thus, the study has confirmed that urban community gardening presents a multifunctional tool, which provides a variety of benefits for individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

## Housing Provision under the Effect of Current Development Strategies

Öykü Ülgüner, Turkey

Supervisors: Prof. Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, Prof. Fabian Thiel



Figure 1: Urban regeneration zones in Ankara

Source: Reproduced from Sargin, G., 2012, Urban Atlas of Ankara, Ankara: TMMOB

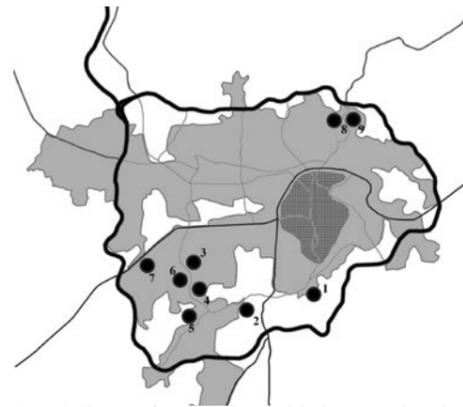


Figure 2: The map of central Ankara and the locations where the photographs were taken



Photo 1: Recently completed project in Incek, Ankara  
Own photograph, 2015



Photo 2: Incek, Ankara  
Own photograph, 2015



Photo 3: Incek, Ankara  
Own photograph, 2015



Photo 5: Altınoran Mahallesi, Cankaya, Ankara  
Own photograph, 2014



Photo 4: Incek, Ankara  
Own photograph, 2015

When the current discussions in the literature about the dynamics of housing and housing provision are reviewed, similar global tendencies can be traced in terms of further commodification and delocalization of housing. The shifts in the role of the public sector in housing provision and promotion of homeownership, together with the creation of new geographies in cities with regard to potential rent and speculative value are highly discussed features of current housing provision policies in the contemporary world. Studying two more capital cities, Madrid and Berlin, together with Ankara in the scope of the literature review analysis of this research has given the opportunity to trace the current trends in urban land and housing. Spanish growth model with its boom and burst in construction and real estate sector provides a necessary basis for understanding the dynamics and risks of the development and housing provision in Ankara. Berlin and Germany on the other hand, presents another view of perceiving housing with a higher focus on the quality and the use-value of housing, and provides the opportunity to separate the provision of housing than increasing homeownership and property titles. Still, one can trace the effects of global housing tendencies also in Berlin and the effects of the financialisation of housing in terms of unequal development in the urban areas, increasing rents and segregation in the city.

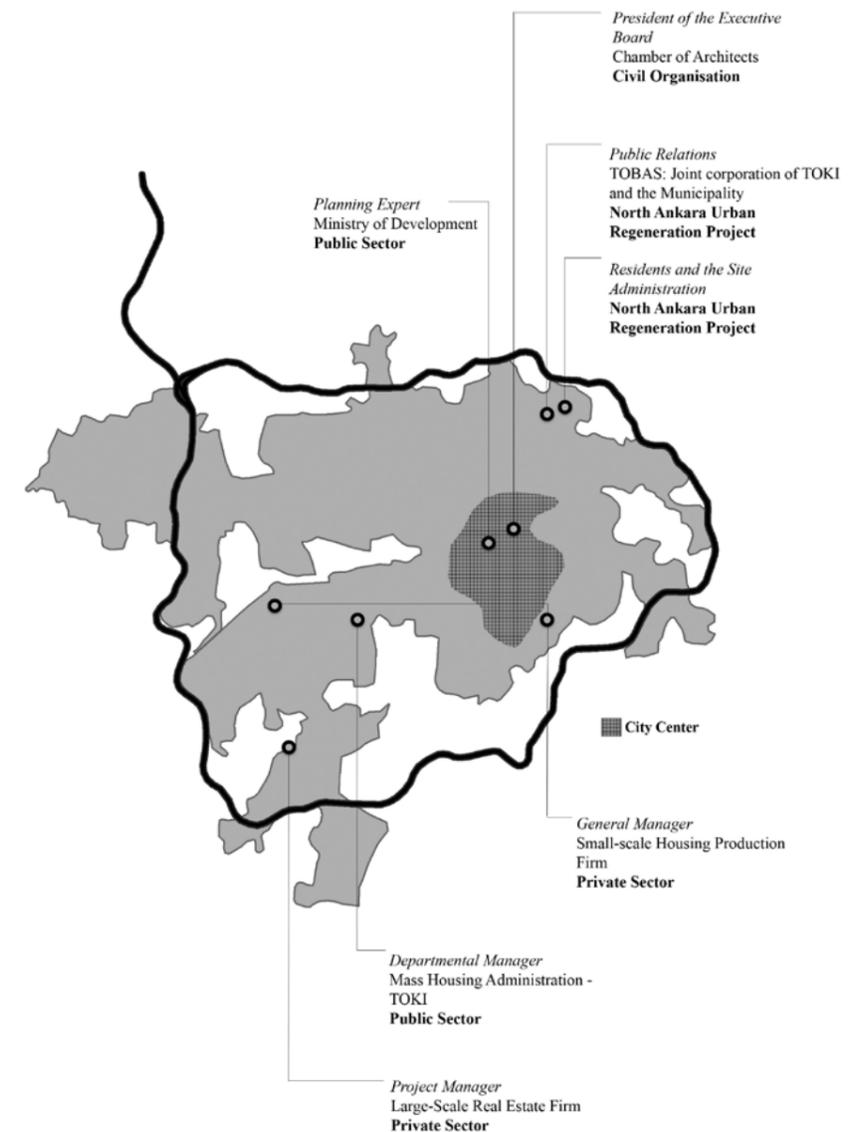


Figure 3: The interviews that are conducted in the scope of the research.

Note: For the private sector the places of housing production are marked, while for the public and civic institutions their respective headquarters are marked.

For the analysis of Ankara's housing provision scheme and access to housing, semi-structured interviews with professionals from different housing sectors are conducted and relative motivations, strategies and concerns of different sectors are analyzed. In addition to the interviews, the policy documents from different sectors are analyzed and the findings are supported by official statistics when available and appropriate. The results of this analysis indicate that housing provision in Ankara is highly perception-oriented and has mostly short-term concerns, which lead to commodification and delocalization of housing as well as forming particular drawbacks in terms of access to housing.

Results also indicate that the current housing provision in Ankara causes physical and socioeconomic segregation in the city. The increase in the investment value of housing causes a decline in the use value, so respectively in the quality and the affordability of housing. The public sector, and especially the Mass Housing Administration - TOKI, has a central role in promoting construction and housing production in the city, with a strong focus on property and homeownership in housing provision. In order to improve the housing provision in terms of access to housing, a fundamental change in the perception of economic growth with construction and property and the value of housing is recommended.

## Alumni's Voices

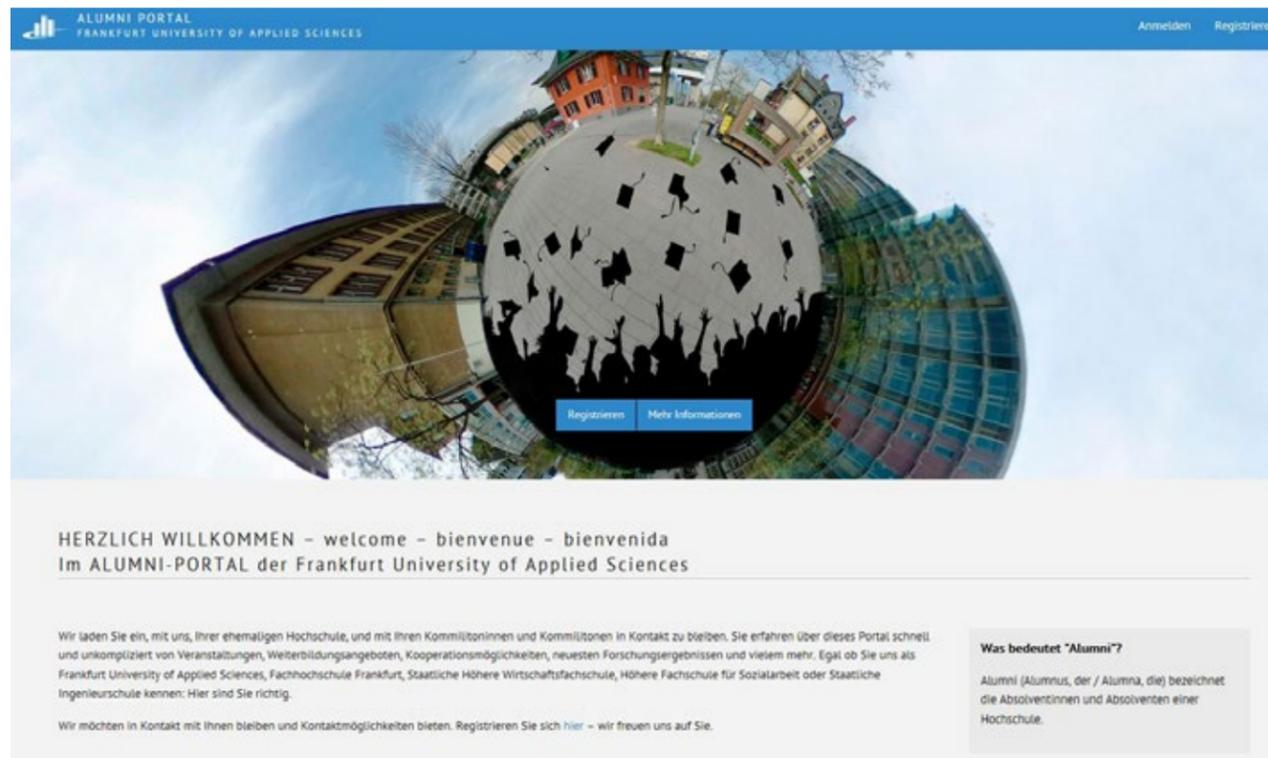
“Stay in the loop about events and seminars at your former university and register at our alumni platform.

Registered alumni do not only receive the latest news about university life but also receive great benefits - including discounts for our lifelong learning courses and exclusive access to university events or partner events. The platform also enables you to easily stay in touch with your former fellow students.“

Oda Vogel

Referentin Weiterbildung & Alumni-Arbeit

Link Alumni-Portal:  
<https://alumni.frankfurt-university.de/>



Sandra Schilling (geb. Lohr), Germany

“Since finishing the Master in Urban Agglomerations in 2016, I am working for the city of Frankfurt am Main in the department of real estate valuation. My main tasks are the valuation of properties as well as conducting different market analyses.“



Natalia Thomas W., Costa Rica

“After completing the master, I did an internship in the municipality of Mörfelden-Walldorf (Urban Planning-Mobility Department) where I’m still assigned for projects on a freelance basis. I also work as an architect in a civil engineer office in Bad Homburg.“

Youssef Diri, United Arab Emirates

“Currently I’m working at a real estate firm in Cologne as an architect and urban planner. Urban Agglomerations was a great program for us to learn about urban planning from different aspects and different cultures.“



Virginia Elena Patrone, Italy

“When I graduated from Urban Agglomerations in 2013, I was living in Istanbul and I stayed living in Turkey. I started to write for some Italian on-line and printed magazines about sustainable planning and architecture. Now I continue writing books on different topics including the field of architecture.“

Karam Al Hamo, Syria

“After having concluded my master thesis on the integration of refugees, I am now working as a social worker with refugees in Wetteraukreis, Hessen.“



Alexandr Rodriguez Larin, Colombia

“Being part of the Urban Agglomeration program was a unique experience. It gave me a solid foundation on different topics related to regional and urban planning and also the opportunity to specialise on subjects such as environmental and transport planning during the exchange semester and master thesis. The course helped me to develop skills as an urban planner, explore broader scientific views and build an international professional network. The program also gives knowledge about different institutional and practical abilities on interdisciplinary planning. These are skills which are highly valued in the current job market and further research projects. In addition, moving to Frankfurt and doing the exchange course in a third country, offers new ways of thinking and prepares you to global challenges about cities and the international agenda. Thanks to the experience through the master program at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, nowadays I work as an adviser in urban planning, sustainable building and housing at the Urban Development Direction at the National Planning Department (DNP) of Colombia. Based on my academic experience in Germany and Sweden I currently implement in consultancy on national planning levels, urban policies and environmental programs, data analysis and assessment on infrastructure, climate change and urbanisation.”



Öykü Ülgüner, Turkey

“I am from Turkey and graduated in 2015. Since then I have been living in Berlin. I am very happy that I joined the program, as it offers brilliant insights to urban planning and opens doors to many great relationships and opportunities. Since my graduation, I have been working as a consultant for strategic planning and sustainable development at Büro Happold. I am very thankful for all the academic and practical knowledge that I gained whilst studying Urban Agglomerations, which I can use in my professional life.”

Dominic Hofmann, Germany

“Urban Agglomerations provided me with the perfect foundation to continue working on this subject in my professional career. After completing my master course, I had the opportunity to practise my knowledge at a regional planning institution in Hannover. Since 2013 I have been working as a research assistant and lecturer at the Frankfurt UAS. In 2016 I began my PhD thesis at the Technical University of Darmstadt.”



Phil Rinn, Canada

“Hello, Bonjour, Guten Tag! I grew up in Canada, near the City of Edmonton in Alberta, although I have spent over a decade of my adult years living, working and studying in cities and exploring natural places across Canada and abroad. After completing the Urban Agglomerations program, I moved back to Edmonton to lead a growing Landscape Architecture and Urban Design team in the private sector for 3 years. In August 2016, it was time for a change of scenery and I was fortunate to find a new role at the Manager of Campus Planning and Development for the University of Alberta’s 5 campuses and Botanic Garden, where I work within multi-disciplinary teams that plan, design and build places that contribute to student life and well-being. I must admit that I often yearn for those carefree days and nights exploring the Frankfurt region and cities across Europe, especially by bicycle or by train, although the biggest thrill of this summer will undoubtedly be having a permanent travel companion after my wedding coming up in June!”



Nora Borboa, Mexico

“Before joining the Urban Agglomerations master program, I had already some experience in urban planning in the public sector, so when I went back to Mexico I decided to explore the private sector. I had the opportunity to work as project leader at a well known urban planning and architectural firm in Baja California where I collaborated with the urban renewal project of the city center of Tecate and with the strategic projects of the economic development of Ensenada. A few years later, I went back to the public sector, this time at the Metropolitan Institute of Urban Planning of Tijuana, where I participated in the realisation of some development programs, renewal and revitalization projects to include climatic change, mitigation and adaptation strategies, smart solutions to urban sustainability, boost economic development by preventing crime through environmental design and dealing with abandonment and urban decay. Today, I’m looking forward to enhance my career in urban planning in France and continue to do what I love: design better places, a better future.”

Rajiv Singh Irungbam, India

“I’m Rajiv Singh Irungbam from India, graduated in 2015 with the Master of Sciences degree in Urban Agglomerations. I am currently engaged with an architectural and planning team here in Frankfurt. The master program in Urban Agglomerations has given me better insight in dealing with urban contexts. Thanks to the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and their excellent faculty.”



Milad Abbasiharofteh, Iran

“I studied urban planning at Yazd University, Iran. In 2013, I graduated from Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences with a master degree in Urban Agglomerations. Currently I’m a research assistant at the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL). Since 2014, I have a position as a PhD candidate at the Institute of Economic and Cultural Geography, University of Hanover. While pursuing the international master’s program, I got the opportunity to study the fundamentals of urban sustainability and attend a number of workshops, focusing on several case studies in Europe and South America. This experience taught me that the key factors regarding prosperity and resilience is deeply rooted in the innovativeness of cities. Thus, I decided to develop my PhD project around the concept of the ‘geography of innovation’. For three years, I have been conducting research on combining the notions of industrial dynamics, the evolution of networks, and geography.”



Shikha Salla, India

“I am an Indian Architect, graduated out from the Urban Agglomerations program in March 2016. I am currently working as an intern at Radbonus UG in Köln. Here, my task is to analyze the bicycle infrastructure of different German cities and also to perform market research. Choosing Urban Agglomerations as a master’s degree is one of the best decisions I made as a student. This program has not only enhanced my research skills, but also enabled me to work in the field of sustainable urban development. It has provided me with adequate knowledge of the various urban challenges faced by today’s agglomerations around the world. I cherish every aspect of the course. My excursions to Barcelona and Amsterdam, the practical universal design exercises to understand disability, the student exchange program in Colombia and writing the master thesis under renowned professors are some of the many memories, I quiet often recollect. My student colleagues, coming from different cultural and professional backgrounds, made the journey truly special. Each had something extraordinary to offer, that has helped me grow both professionally and personally. I am very pleased to be alumni of the Urban Agglomerations program.”

Magdalena Müller, Germany

„Urban Agglomerations offers high-standard knowledge based on international experiences. Urban Agglomerations is the right place to put your practice in an international context, which gives you, as an urban planner, the strong background you need. If you are asking yourself about the key issues in urban planning fields, Urban Agglomerations will give you the answers.“



Carolina Zabas Roelandt, Belgium/Spain

“My name is Carolina Zabas Roelandt, and I am half Spanish and half Belgian. I graduated from the M.Sc. Urban Agglomerations in 2014 and have since worked for non-governmental organizations, as well as for the public and private sector. Currently, I work for the Government as a Senior Business Development Analyst, working for the Regional Transport Authority, Metrolinx, in the Toronto Region in Canada. I am leading the Voice of the Customer for our Fare Payment System, helping improve our customer experience and satisfaction; this is the same topic that I chose for my Master Thesis, which gave me the job position I have today. I found the Urban Agglomerations programme very complete, as it covers a wide range of today’s urban challenges and potentials. It is a Master that is accessible to people with different cultures and professional backgrounds, and that will make you aware of the responsibility and possibilities that citizens have in changing their cities. During the Master programme, you learn not only about our reality nowadays, but also how the past changed and re-shaped cities, social interaction, transportation, infrastructure and living patterns. All the lectures, discussions, excursions, the exchange semester, and the multicultural students’ personal experiences and various points of view, provide the tools to help the students „re-think“ the future of the globalized world we are living in. The exchange semester was key in shaping my future career path. I travelled to Mexico to start collecting data for my thesis on the Perceived Service Quality of Public Transit. The thesis helped me identify what I wanted to focus on professionally and definitely helped me get the fantastic job I have today. Thank you all for having made this experience unique and so valuable.“



Lam Ching Fu, Malaysia

“I am Lam Ching Fu, from Malaysia and was part of the second batch (2009 - 2011). After graduating I came back to Malaysia and started working in a government-linked company, in charge of the MRT project in Kuala Lumpur. I travelled around the peninsular of Malaysia until mid of 2016, and found out that the bus system in the country is unique, comparing with my travels I did during my exchange semester in Curitiba, Brazil, and other cities in South America. My thesis helped me to see the quality of our bus system. It has potential in local tourism and transportation. Hence, I decided to publish a book, sharing my journey by bus, introducing another way of travelling by public transportation, which people in Malaysia will rarely do. The first book is about the northern part. I am preparing a second book (east coast) now and hopefully next year can complete the southern part, in Mandarin and English. Meanwhile, I am doing exhibition, campaign and workshop to share my travels in Malaysia by bus to create an awareness. It is just the beginning and I hope to share with you all once everything is solid. Thank you.“



Juan Carlos Domínguez, Colombia

“My name is Juan Carlos Domínguez, I’m an architect from Bogota, Colombia. Proudly, I can say I was part of the first graduated class from the Urban Agglomerations’ master program. I finished my studies in 2010 with few colleagues - now friends - which have given me the best memories from those two years abroad, mostly in Germany but also in Sweden, during the exchange semester. What I liked the most about UA master was the holistic, multidisciplinary and critic approach to Urban development, balancing both theory and practice on all subjects. The Frankfurt University, but most of all its staff, played a key role to make me feel comfortable and motivated all the time. After graduation, I came back to Colombia and shifted my career from architectural design to real estate development. With a greater perspective on architecture and cities, it was a natural decision. Nowadays I’m working as Project Manager in a well known real estate development company back in my hometown.”



Nicholas Kasang, USA

“My name is Nicholas Kasang and I was a participant of the Urban Agglomerations class of 2013 from Chicago, USA. In the Master, I most appreciated the opportunity to define and pursue my own specific interests within the broad spectrum of urban planning. The multidisciplinary faculty of the program enabled my fellow students and I to develop distinct scholarship based on our own individual interests. Through their guidance, I was able to obtain integral insights on the topics I have used to define my early career. Since graduation, I have gone on to become an urban development consultant for projects across Latin America, Africa, Europe and North America. Currently based between Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, and Frankfurt am Main, Germany, I am grateful for the intercultural and interdisciplinary foundations the program helped to set.”

Carlos Eduardo Guerra, Mexico

“I’m Carlos Guerra from Monterrey, Mexico. I started the master program of urban agglomerations in 2015 and finished in 2017. One of the main things which I liked about this program is the multicultural experience it offers, both with the colleagues which came from different parts of the world and with the opportunity of an exchange semester abroad. Coming from Mexico I was also very surprised to see that some of the professors of the master not only spoke Spanish but also had research or applied projects in Latin America, with a very good understanding of the region’s situation. In this regard, exploring very relevant urban topics and challenges from an international perspective was truly a very enriching experience. After I graduated, I worked for a few months as a research assistant at an international applied research project in Frankfurt. Currently, I’m working at an urban planning and design firm based in Frankfurt.”



Yaman Hebbo, Syria

“I am Yaman Hebbo and I come from Syria. I consider myself lucky to be one of the pioneer urban agglomerations as I was among the very first group of students back in 2008. I achieved my degree in 2010 and so I moved to Berlin right after to work on my German. Meanwhile, I was introduced to the Centre for Technology and Society of the TU Berlin, where I engaged in an atmosphere of scientific research and continuous development of research proposals and also where I started my PhD. In 2014, I moved back to Frankfurt to work on the Rapid Planning Project as a member of the research team at the FRA-UAS. What I appreciate most about Urban Agglomerations is the interdisciplinarity as well as the applicability of its approach. The lectures, readings and assignments we had covered the key aspects of urban development. Also, the projects and presentations we were asked to deliver dealt with real cases either in Frankfurt or around the world. Being with a group of students that is international by nature helped us discuss our cities and cultures openly, widen our perspectives and enrich every lecture or activity we had or did together. For all of that, I am so thankful!”



Susana Restrepo Rico, Colombia

“My name is Susana Restrepo Rico. I am Colombian and was part of the first cohort of the UA Master programme in 2008. We were a very small group but a diverse and very competitive one, always pushing each other to give the best we could to our essays, project and lectures. We went together to Malmö and developed friendships with amazing beautiful people that have lasted until today. I enjoyed my studies very much; it never felt like a burden but more like a challenge in which I learned about urbanisation, sustainable development and different cultures through my professor and colleagues. In 2010 I went back to Colombia to work as an urban planner and architect, but always had in mind the idea of returning to Germany to continue my academic career. Thus I applied for a DAAD scholarship for my doctorate studies and in 2012 I was back in Germany doing research at the TU Darmstadt but always with a strong support from Prof. Michael Peterek. I returned to the FRA-UAS in 2015 but now as a research assistant in the Rapid Planning Project. I am now one of those people that who enjoy their work, colleagues, immersed in the challenges and theory that urban research presents.”



Shima Bouzari, Iran

“My name is Shima Bouzari and I am from Iran. I started my studies in 2013 and finished in 2016. My studies in Urban Agglomerations gave me the chance to know people and get to work, travel and live with them. Personally and professionally it helped me build my career, gain new skills and explore new opportunities. Altogether, that was a great experience.”



Hazem El Jouzou, Lebanon

“Hello Urban Agglomerations students, graduates and professors, My name is Hazem EL Jouzou, I am Lebanese, and I finished my studies in the Urban Agglomerations Program in the summer of 2016. What I love about the program is its international background and its wide scope. Through the program I learned about wonderful and interesting examples of relatively successful urban interventions from all over the world. The examples spread from Seoul to Medellin to Vancouver to Barcelona and many other eye-catching cities from Europe and from both the developing and developed world.

Urban agglomerations in many aspects changed my views and understanding completely. The understanding of transportation for a student coming from Lebanon or the gulf always implies bigger and wider roads, the word “public” is simply absent, and the word “greenhouse emissions” is irrelevant. It is precisely for that reason, and because of the valuable knowledge that I received in that field, that I chose a topic about green public transportation for my thesis.

After my studies, I found a beautiful job in Frankfurt am Main. I am thankful for the program and the professors for supplying me with the tools necessary to prove myself and my capabilities here in Germany. My greetings to my fellow graduates and professors, and my best wishes of success for the new comers.”

George Avetisyan, Armenia

“I was born in Armenia, in a family of architects (December 13, 1982). After receiving Master of Architecture from the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia, I worked first as a junior architect, and years later as a chief architect and a free-lancer. In 2015 I received my second master’s degree from the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences in the field of Sustainable Urban Planning/ Urban Agglomerations. During the program I enjoyed working closely with the faculty and other fellows on independent research projects on sustainability; contribute and learnt from other international fellows while sharing their professional and cultural experiences and research findings. The topic of my master thesis was “A Sustainable Vision for the City of Goris, Armenia: Revitalizing a shrinking city”, which was presented to the Goris Administration after my graduation and was partially included at the city’s Strategic Development Strategy. In 2016-2017 I worked as an architect at Deutsche Denk Mal AG & Konrath Architekturbüro in Wiesbaden, Germany, being responsible for architectural planning and project development. Since December 2017, I work as an architect at JO. FRANZKE Generalplaner GmbH in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.”



## Partner Universities



**KNUST**  
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology  
Kumasi, Ghana, Africa  
Architecture

**QUT**  
Queensland University of Technology  
Brisbane, Australia  
Urban Development



**Griffith University**  
Queensland, Australia  
Urban and Environmental Planning

**PUCPR**  
Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná  
Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil  
Gestão Urbana



**UFABC**  
Universidade Federal do ABC  
Santo André, Brazil  
Planejamento e Gestão do Território

**Universidade Vila Velha**  
Espírito Santo  
Vila Velha, Brazil  
Arquitetura e Cidade



**Universidad del Bío-Bío**  
Concepción, Chile  
Arquitectura

UAEM Universidad  
Autónoma del Estado de México  
Toluca, Mexico  
Estudios Sustentables  
Regionales y Metropolitanos



Politecnico di Milano  
Milano, Italy  
Urban Planning and Policy Design



Universidad Piloto de Colombia  
Bogotá, Colombia  
Gestión Urbana



Politechnika Poznańska  
Poznań, Poland  
Architecture

PUCP  
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú  
Lima, Peru  
Arquitectura, Urbanismo y Desarrollo  
Territorial Sostenible



Politechnika Krakowska  
Kraków, Poland  
Architecture



TEC  
Tecnológico de Costa Rica  
San José, Costa Rica  
Arquitectura y Urbanismo



Politechnika Warszawska  
Warsaw, Poland  
Architecture

King Mongkut's Institute of  
Technology Ladkrabang  
Bangkok, Thailand  
International College



IZTECH Izmir  
Institute of Technology  
Izmir, Turkey  
City and Regional Planning



Malmö Universitet  
Malmö, Sweden  
Urban Studies



ITÜ Istanbul  
Teknik Üniversitesi  
Istanbul, Turkey  
Urban and Regional Planning

## Workshops



### international network of teaching and research in urban agglomerations



#### Who are we? The International Network of Teaching and Research in "Urban Agglomerations"

We are a network of international universities working together on the higher level of education. We focus on teaching and researching in the fields of urban agglomerations.

Together our aim is to develop a network consisting of universities specifically from Europe and Latin America. Within this network we can offer our students a wide choice of possibilities to broaden their experience and knowledge during their master courses. Just to mention a few options, our students can go on an exchange semester to one of the partner universities, visit summer schools, take part in international combined excursions or even choose from English taught modules, which are specifically adapted to the courses offered by the network partners.

Urban development and its global significance are of joint interest within the network and the intention is to share knowledge and research ideas on the relevant topics. Apart from that we develop new research issues, in which our students are also involved.

#### What are our strengths? Our Excellence

Each participating university has a well-established faculty with an effective and successful master course in the field of urban agglomerations. Every single lecturer is dedicated to his or her topic and is very involved in research. The network offers a wide variety in ways of perception and operation methods, as each university and country has different approaches to the topic. By getting together and exchanging experiences, ideas and future perspectives, we can learn from one another directly and profit from each others methods. Students are included in research and development processes and can actively get involved and discover future fields of work within the colourful range of the participating countries.

#### Why we are important? The Relevance of our Network

It is important to be in contact and share ideas, thus all partner universities meet at least once a year at a workshop to discuss important issues and consistently continue to develop the network. Partly we have established exchange programmes between single universities, which evolve out of individual scholarship programmes. These additional actions allow deeper contact and more frequent meetings.

The distinctive character of our network offers a great opportunity for students to develop future perspectives for themselves and makes our network very different. Being confronted with extremely diverse problems of city planning worldwide, it is possible to dive into specific fields of interest and learn from the experts on-site.

#### Why should the students choose us? Our Offers

All students enrolled at a university within the network are free to choose from the offers made by the consortium, which include exchange semesters, specific modules all taught in English, summer schools, excursions, research work, etc. At each university the International Office is ready to help and assist the students when arriving and settling in. Apart from that, all programme directors and assistants are available and ready to cooperate and help the students. As the network will slowly expand, the list of universities involved will grow and with it the choice of actions and topics too.

## International Workshop Toluca, Mexico, 2013

Prof. Michael Peterek, M.Sc. Caroline Günther, International students from the Master Courses



Each year the master programme “Urban Agglomerations” and partner universities from South America organize an annual meeting. In September 2013 the meeting took place at the UAEM Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México in Toluca, Mexico. This fourth meeting was arranged as a workshop and for the first time students from each university were invited to participate. Apart from the UAEM as the hosting university and the master programme “Urban Agglomerations”, professors from the partner universities from PUCPR Curitiba, Brazil; UFABC, Santo André, Brazil; Uni Piloto, Bogotá, Colombia; attended the workshop, which took place from September 17th till 24th, 2013.



The topic was „Sustainable Development in Metropolitan Regions“ and the students had the possibility to study and discuss metropolitan regions by examining the city of Mexico. Excursions, lectures, round tables and project work were on the agenda. Five students from the master programme “Urban Agglomerations” participated.



Altogether it was a lively, international group of students. Active discussions among students and lecturers enriched the communication between the involved participants coming from different areas of research. All in all, it was an intensive and interesting week, in which, apart from the professional input, cultural aspects also gave new insights. The main focus was set on informal housing, as well as transportation and open spaces in the city. Mexico City is a good example to examine and do research on these topics, as the problems of a mega-city are visible and can easily be detected. The challenges of informal settlements, when spreading out along the borders of the city, become very obvious. Traffic, infrastructure, hygienic factors and crime are only a few aspects which lead to serious problems within a metropolis.



## International Workshop Bogotá, Colombia, 2014

Prof. Michael Peterek, M.Sc. Caroline Günther, International students from the Master Courses



Since 2010 the master programme “Urban Agglomerations” and partner universities from South America arrange an annual meeting of the international network „Urban Knowledge Net“. In 2014 it was organized by the Universidad Piloto de Colombia in Bogotá. “Urban Knowledge Net”, initiated by Prof. Michael Peterek and Caroline Günther, is an international cooperation between the master programme “Urban Agglomerations” and postgraduate programmes from partner universities from Latin America, where lecturers from the individual postgraduate courses and research projects deal with topics of sustainable metropolitan regions.



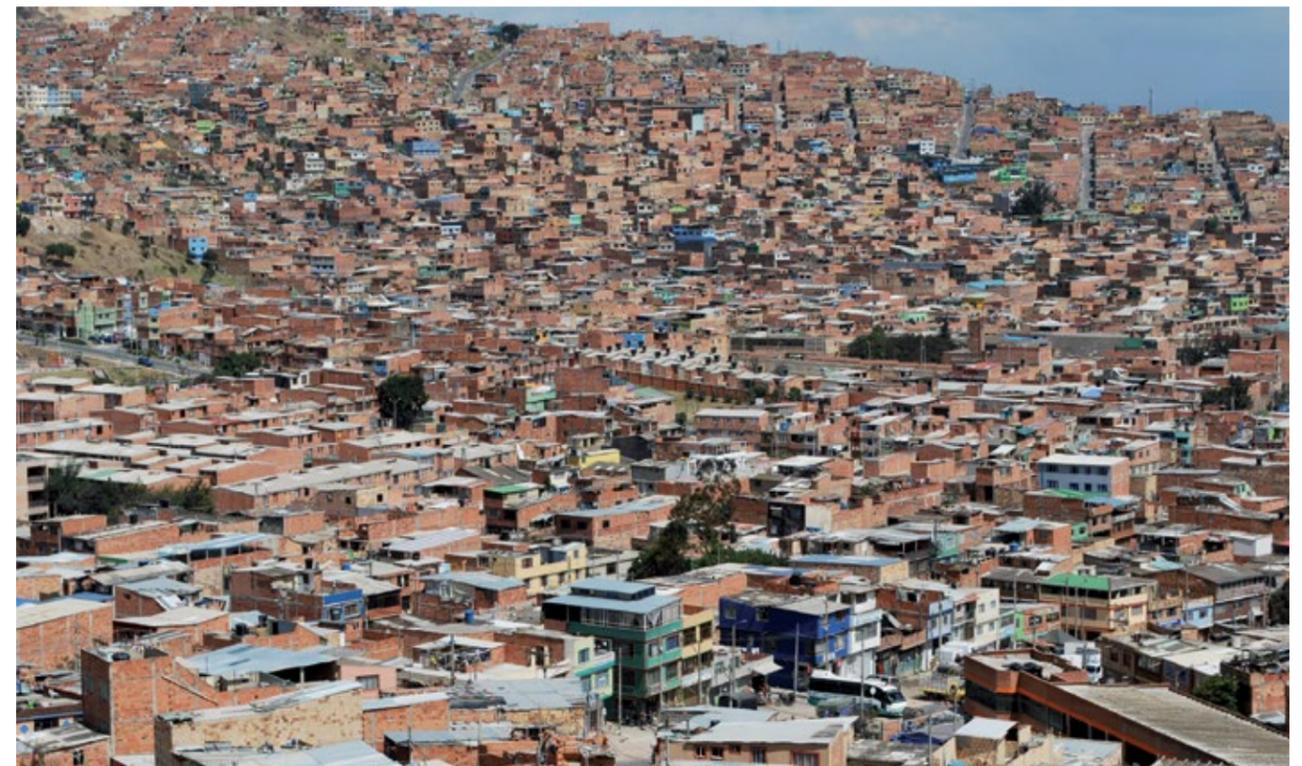
Universidad Piloto de Colombia, Bogota | ch

For the second time this meeting was arranged as a workshop. Students from all the participating master programmes were invited to join and learn. The topic of the workshop was “Integration of Metropolitan Regions” and it took place from September 22<sup>nd</sup> till 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Apart from participants from the Universidad Piloto de Colombia, as the hosting university, and the master programme “Urban Agglomerations”, professors from the partner universities from PUCPR Curitiba, Brazil, UFABC, Santo André, Brazil, UAEM, Toluca, Mexico, Universidad del Bío-Bío, Concepción, Chile, attended the workshop.



After the official opening of the international colloquium, which was organized as an accompanying event to the network meeting, various lectures were held by professors and students from the participating universities. The topics of the lectures dealt with the integration of metropolitan regions.

Apart from the theoretical discussions, different field trips were organized to give a practical connection to the topic. One field trip was a visit to the operator and system of Transmilenio, the public transportation system of Bogotá. A second field trip went to the outskirts of Bogotá to see an environmental project, as well as a housing quarter, established on the furthest border of the city. In both cases it was possible to get an intense insight of the problems such a mega city is confronted and has to deal with.



## Workshop Concepción, Chile, 2015

Prof. Michael Peterek | M.Sc. Caroline Günther



From 5th to 9th October, 2015, the annual meeting of the “Urban Knowledge Network” of the Master Programme “Urban Agglomerations (M.Sc.)” took place at the Universidad del Bío-Bío in Concepción, Chile. Most of the Latin American partner universities participated, as well as Michael Peterek and Caroline Günther from Frankfurt University.

In the past, Chile has been confronted with vast earthquakes and subsequently had to cope with many tsunamis. Dealing with such threats and defining strategies in order to adapt cities to such natural disasters, was the major topic to the country as well as all other affected countries. In this context a workshop took place at the Universidad del Bío-Bío, additionally to the network meeting. The topic of the workshop was „Global Climatic Change, Natural Disaster and Resilience“ and concentrated on strategies of future prevention as well as mitigation. The workshop concentrated on research approaches and projects that are testing to anticipate events, mitigate disaster effects and build local resilience, in order to prepare communities to major challenges like global warming and future events.



Thematically, the workshop invited all professionals interested and involved in neighbourhood projects, risk and vulnerability analysis, climate change adaptation, mitigation strategies, integrated design approach, reconstruction projects, case studies on urban planning that contribute to enhance the local resilience and concerning question local empowerment. The workshop took place over two days, with many internationally renowned speakers.



## International Summer School Urban Sustainability, Bangkok, Thailand, 2015

Frankfurt University: Prof. Michael Peterek, M.Eng. Dennis Knese, Prof. Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, M.Sc. Caroline Günther, Prof. Monika Horster, Prof. Fabian Thiel  
 KMITL Bangkok: Dr. Jochen Amrehn, Dr. Ronnachai Tiyaratannachai, Dr. Jaruwit Prabnasak



From July 13<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the master program “Urban Agglomerations” organized its first international Summer School with the partner university King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) in Bangkok. Sponsored by funding from the DAAD and the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), an interdisciplinary course on “Urban Sustainability” took place at the local International College.

Six professors from Frankfurt and three colleagues from Bangkok gave lectures in the fields of sustainable transport, urban theory, perception and culture, urban water supply and sanitation, land management, urban planning and universal design. The 18 students came from seven different countries and the diverse disciplines of architecture, landscape and urban planning, civil and energy engineering as well as environmental management.



Altogether 18 students from 7 countries took part in the summer school. They came from Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, Nepal, Turkey, Italy and Germany. The students were mainly studying in their third to fifth year in architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, civil engineering, traffic management, energy engineering and environmental management.

After the opening ceremony, conducted by the president of the KMITL, representatives of the German Embassy Bangkok and the DAAD German Academic Exchange Service, the course began.

The program was divided into six learning units, dealing with the different aspects of urban sustainability:

- Sustainable Transport  
M.Eng. Dennis Knese
- Urban Theory, Perception and Culture  
Prof. Kathrin Golda-Pongratz
- Urban Water Supply and Sanitation  
Prof. Monika Horster
- Land Management  
Prof. Fabian Thiel
- Urban Planning and Development  
Prof. Michael Peterek
- Universal Design  
M. Sc. Caroline Günther

Additionally, the group did four field trips together with colleagues from the KMITL. The aim was to intensify the specific contents of the units by investigating the real situation of the mega city Bangkok, its urban, traffic, infrastructural and socio-cultural challenges. The field trips were:

- a whole-day experience with the public transportation system (train, skytrain, metro, bus)
- an excursion in the evening through quarters and neighborhoods in the city centre
- a visit to the campus of the Mahidol University. This university follows principles of a sustainable development on campus as well as in the neighborhoods (for example with projects concerning bike mobility, urban farming, waste- and water recycling)
- a guided tour through the informal settlement Klong Toey, a traditional neighborhood in the centre of the metropolis.

During the summer school the students worked on various case studies in four interdisciplinary groups. They were supposed to map, analyse and validate according to the knowledge they attained in the units and finally develop first planning advises for a future sustainable development of the urban area they were working on.

Introspective, the summer school was a great success for the master program “Urban Agglomerations”. The intercultural and interdisciplinary exchange with all the participants was inspiring. Also the collaboration with the partner university KMITL was excellent.

## Excursions



Berlin 2009

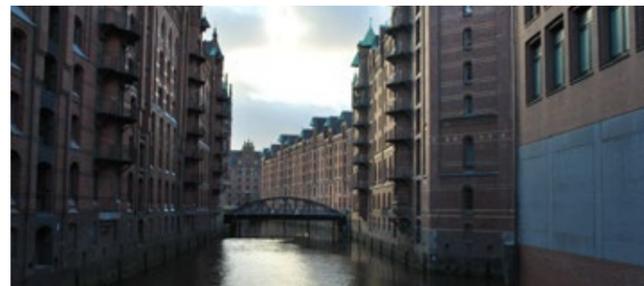
München 2008



Freiburg-Tübingen 2009



Hamburg 2010



Copenhagen 2010



Leipzig 2011



Istanbul 2011 (p. 48)

A group of students and lecturers from the two master programs Urban Agglomerations and UMSB jointly went on an excursion to Istanbul. The trip was scheduled for 5 days from February 25th till March 2nd, 2011.



Berlin 2012

A group of 15 students and 4 lecturers spent four days from November 18th until 21st in the city and discovered it by walking. The tour went through the city center and, to name a few highlights, passed Sir Norman Fosters' Reichstag, the Brandenburger Tor, the Holocaust Memorial designed by Peter Eisenmann and the Potsdamer Platz. Urban quarters within the city, for example the Quartier Schützenstrasse, an urban housing block, designed and built by Aldo Rossi, or the IBA, were on the agenda as well.



Barcelona 2012 (p. 50)

This excursion took us to Barcelona, where we spent four days from May 16th till 20th, 2012. The purpose was to study the urban developments and structures within and around the city. We travelled with a group of students and lecturers from the master programmes Urban Agglomerations and UMSB.



Munich 2013



Malmö - Copenhagen 2013



Marseille 2014 (p. 52)



Amsterdam 2015



Hamburg 2015



Berlin 2015



Madrid 2016 (p. 54)

The trip to Spain's capital city gave an insight into Madrid's architecture, culture and phases of urban development. Historic structures as well as newly created peripheries, emblematic architectures and public spaces, urban green and street scapes and Madrid's important museums were visited. The urban structures of the historic city and the contemporary PAU's were given a special focus.



Ruhr Region 2016



Vienna 2017 (p. 56)

In June 2017, students and lecturers from the masterprogram Urban Agglomerations, Barrier-Free-Systems and UMSB spent a prolonged weekend in Vienna and visited many urban developments and architectural projects. Each student prepared a short report to a project which they presented on tour. These were for instance the collective housing projects Wohnprojekt Wien at the Rudolf-Bednar Park, Miss Sargfabrik, the Seestadt Aspern or the University of Economy with Zaha Hadids library and learning center.



Freiburg 2018



## Istanbul 2011

Master Programs Urban Agglomerations | Umweltmanagement und Stadtplanung in Ballungsräumen  
 Prof. Michael Peterek / Prof. Thorsten Bürklin / Prof. Peter Kreisl / M.Sc. Caroline Günther  
 Participants: Students of the two Master Courses



Guided Tour with Orhan Esen

Orhan Esen, a sociologist and historian, researcher, writer and publisher, gave a guided tour of the housing development in Istanbul. The tour started with an introduction to urban quarters from the 18th century, then presented the urban structures until today, ending with a perspective view of the future urban developments. During the day we visited housing cooperatives, gated communities as well as informal settlements, looking at consequences of the urban sprawl in the city.



Gecekondu

A group of students and lecturers from the two master programs Urban Agglomerations and UMSB jointly went on an excursion to Istanbul. The trip was scheduled for 5 days from February 25th till March 2nd, 2011.

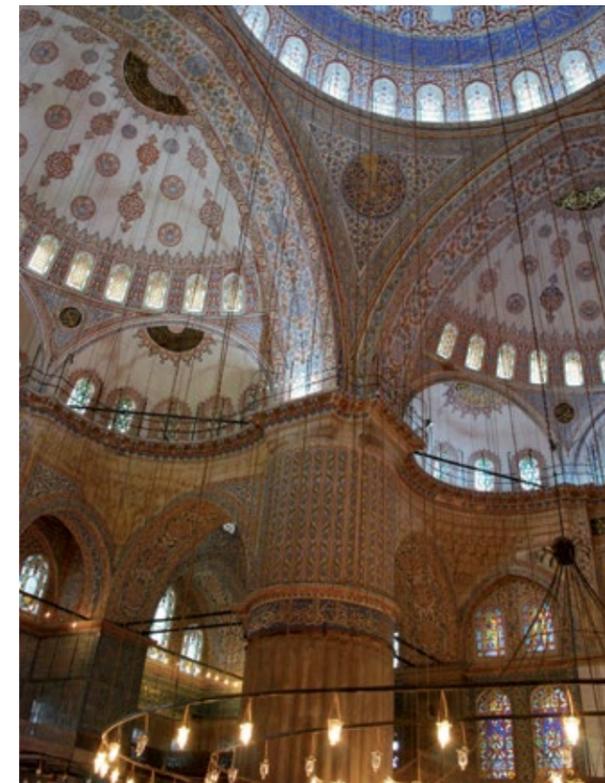


Hagia Sophia

### Visit to ITÜ Istanbul Technical University

The ITÜ is located very close to Taksim Square. The School of Architecture Taşkılla is established in one of the most renowned historical buildings in Istanbul. Together with professors and students from the master programme "Urban and Regional Planning", we held presentations, focusing on the urban development of Istanbul and Frankfurt. The subsequent discussion on urban situation led to an interesting comparison. Out of this meeting a good cooperation has developed and already there have been students doing their exchange semester at ITÜ and vice versa.

One day was dedicated to experiencing the city on a walking tour which started at the Sultan Ahmed mosque, following up a visit to Hagia Sophia and then to Fatif Cami Moschee. Winding thorough small paths and streets the tour continued through areas of the historic timber structures, which are on the list of the UNESCO.



Sultan Ahmed Mosque

### Students presentations

Preliminary to the excursion, each student prepared a presentation on a topic relevant to the city. These were held on site about the ancient city Constantinople, the urban development of Constantinople, current urban structures of the city, Gecekondu, Hagia Sophia, Topkape Sarayi palace, Sultan Ahmed mosque, public gardens, the modern movement, cistern reservoir and the socio-economic disparities and segregation.



historic timber structure



Basilica Cisterna

### Historical Istanbul

The accommodation was situated in the heart of old Istanbul. From here many historical buildings and mosques, such as the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, Hagia Irene and the Basilica Cisterna, were in walking distance.



historic timber structure

## Architecture and Urban Development in Barcelona, 2012

Master Programs Urban Agglomerations | Umweltmanagement und Stadtplanung in Ballungsräumen  
 Prof. Michael Peterek, M.Sc. Caroline Günther, Kathrin Golda-Pongratz  
 with students of the two Master Courses



This excursion took us to Barcelona, where we spent four days from May 16th till 20th, 2012. The purpose was to study the urban developments and structures within and around the city. We travelled with a group of students and lecturers from the master programs Urban Agglomerations and UMSB.

Dr. Kathrin Golda-Pongratz composed an inspiring programme and guided the group through the city during the stay.

The schedule contained a walking tour through the city center, looking at different neighbourhoods and buildings, as well as various guided tours and a bicycle tour of the northern part of the city.

One of the guided tours was a visit to Casa Bloc, a housing development of the Modern Movement, built in 1933 and designed by Josep Lluís Sert. It gave a good insight to the recently renovated worker's housing blocks.



Casa Bloc | cg



Olympic area and Torre Calatrava | cg



El gat del Raval | Fernando Botero | cg

Obviously the Olympic area from 1992 and Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona Pavillion, built in 1929 as the German National Pavillion for the International Exhibition, were on the agenda as well.



Mies van der Rohe | Barcelona Pavillion | cg



In preparation to the excursion, each student wrote a text to a specific topic. In Barcelona the students held their presentation on site. Topics were the World Exhibition 1888, the Olympic Games in 1992, public spaces in Barcelona, the development of the harbor, the project 22@Barcelona, the conversion of industrial buildings and Forum Barcelona 2004.

We looked at the Sagrera High Speed railway, a new intermodal hub, which is to become the second of two main stations in Barcelona.

And finally we visited Eixample, the vast urban extension area, beyond Barcelona's medieval walls at the end of the 19th and early 20th century.



Casa Milà | Antoni Gaudí | 1906 - 1910 | mp



Bon Pastor | mp



Llop Jornet Pastor arquitectes | cg

We visited the architectural office Llop, Jornet, Pastor arquitectes. The architects designed the masterplan for La Mina blocks, a neighbourhood in the north-eastern part of the city. We visited this urban housing settlement on our bicycle tour as well as the Bon Pastor neighborhood.

Bon Pastor is a residential area, mostly with housing for workers. Here the intention was to construct „cases barates“, low cost housing in the urban periphery, for the workers.

## Marseille 2014

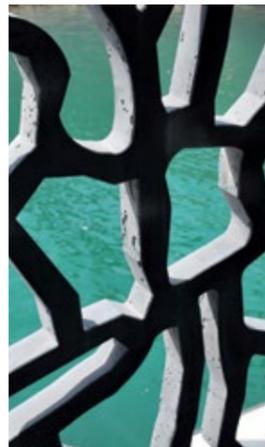
Master Programs Urban Agglomerations | Umweltmanagement und Stadtplanung in Ballungsräumen  
 Prof. Michael Peterek, M.Sc. Caroline Günther, Prof. Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, Prof. Maren Harnack  
 Prof. Therese Neuer-Miebach with students of the two Master Courses



Departing from Frankfurt on May 28th, we arrived at the central station of Marseille in the evening. Altogether we were a group of 17 students and lecturers, spending a few days exploring the architecture and urban planning of this vibrant city. With a tight schedule, we started on the next morning with a guided tour through MUCEM, built by the architectural office Cabinet RUDY RICOTTI ARCHITECTE. It is located between the historic Vieux Port and the new Joliette urban district and was built from 2002 till 2013. Alongside the MUCEM is the Villa Méditerranée, which was designed by Studio Stefano Boeri. It is a multipurpose building, housing space for research activities and documentation on the Mediterranean.



MUCEM and Villa Méditerranée | cg



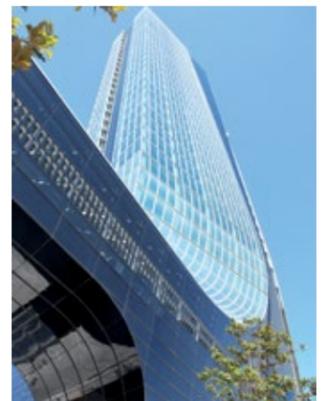
Günter Liehr, a journalist and author of the book „Marseille“ accompanied us on a walk through the Quartier du Panier. This quarter is the historical center of Marseille, built on the ancient Greek Massalia. It is a typical Mediterranean district with its color-washed facades.



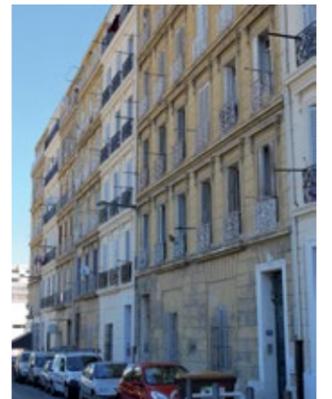
Part of the schedule was a visit to the Euroméditerranée urban development area, which was launched in 1995 by the combined efforts of the French government and the City of Marseille, the local and regional authorities and Marseille Provence Métropole Communauté Urbaine. This project aims to improve the quality of life, public spaces and facilities. It is the largest urban regeneration project in Europe with 480 hectares of urban regeneration zone. Many internationally renowned architects are involved in the planning of this area.



FRAC | cg



CMA-CGM Tower by Zaha Hadid | cg



Finally a visit to the Unité d'Habitation belonged to the agenda. Here too, a guided tour through the building had been arranged. The Unité was designed and built by Le Corbusier from 1947 till 1952. Here Corbusier's visions of modern housing and communal living with the needs and realities of post-war France, become visible. It was supposed to offer living space for up to 1600 people, designed as a 'vertical village' with a complete internal commercial street, recreation grounds and a kindergarden on the roof, and a surrounding area of park land.

## Madrid, 2016

Master Programmes Urban Agglomerations  
 Prof. Michael Peterek | Prof. Kathrin Golda-Pongratz | Prof. Therese Neuer-Miebach | Prof. Caroline Günther  
 with students of the Master Program



Plaza Mayor Madrid | cg

The trip to Madrid took place from May 5th till 8th, 2016. It was the second excursion with this group of Urban Agglomerations students. We spent the 4 days looking at Madrid's architecture, culture and phases of urban development. Together we visited historic buildings as well as newly created urban peripheries. We strolled over public spaces, such as the Plaza Mayor and walked through the old city and its squares, the Plaza de la Villa, Plaza San Andrés and Campo de Cebada. On the way we visited the mercado San Miguel and its surroundings.



Mirador, MVRDV architects | cg

In the afternoon we investigated the PAU (Plan de Actuación Urbanística – plan of urbanistic action) of Carabanchel and its contemporary housing:

the Morphosis building, the Casa Bambú (FOA), the Amann-Canovas-Maruri block and the Dosmasuno-Arquitectos building.

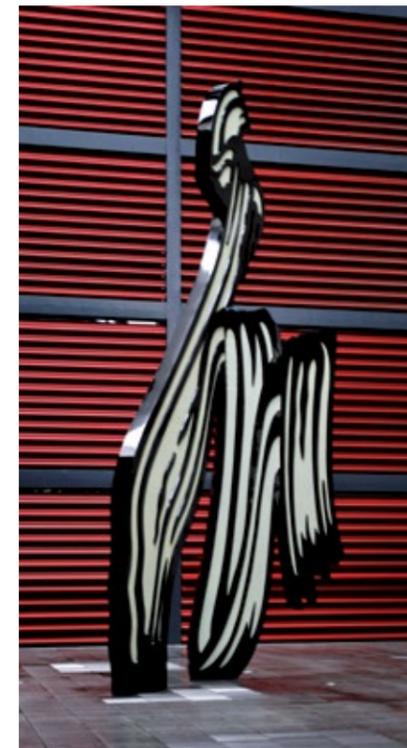
And finally, we ended this day with a visit to the Escuelas Pías de San Fernando Library of the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) in Lavapiés (J. I. Linazasoro).

An arranged meeting with sociologist Andres Walliser was very interesting. Together with him and a group of citizens, we visited the new urban interventions and participation projects in the Tetuán neighbourhood. We learnt a lot about the Ganando Metros Tetuán.

Later in the day we looked at further projects developed according to the urban development program (PAU). The PAU is the legal framework for urban development of complete neighborhoods in Spain.

Residential Projects such as Edificio Mirador planned and built by the dutch architectural office MVRDV show „...a collection of mini neighbourhoods stacked vertically around a semi-public sky-plaza...“ (MVRDV). Another building designed by this office in Sanchinarro is the Edificio Celosía. It is a social housing block in the same neighborhood as the Mirador building. It consists of 146 apartments and communal open spaces throughout the building. Finally, on Sunday we visited Reina Sofía Museum for Contemporary Art, planned and developed by Castro & de Onzono and Ian Ritchie with its new extension, which was designed by Jean Nouvel.

Herzog & De Meuron constructed the Museum and cultural center in Paseo del Prado 36, the Caixa Forum Madrid. This building combines an old abandoned electrical station with the construction of new floors enclosed by a curtain of oxidized cast iron. The building next to it has a green wall which was designed by the French botanist Patrick Blanc.



Reina Sofía Museum for Contemporary Art | cg



Torres Blancas housing tower | cg

Vienna, 2017

Master Programs Urban Agglomerations | Barrierefreie Systeme M.Sc. |  
 Umweltmanagement und Stadtplanung in Ballungsräumen  
 Prof. Peterek, Prof. Caroline Günther with students of the three Master Courses



New public Space in Rudolf-Bednar Park | cg



University of Economy by Zaha Hadid Architects | cg



Seestadt Aspern | cg



Karl-Marx-Hof | pe

In June 2017, students and lecturers from the master program Urban Agglomerations, Barrier-Free-Systems and UMSB spent a prolonged weekend in Vienna and visited many urban developments and architectural projects. Each student prepared a short report to a project which they presented on tour. These were for instance the collective housing projects Wohnprojekt Wien at the Rudolf-Bednar Park, Miss Sargfabrik, the Seestadt Aspern or the University of Economy with Zaha Hadids library and learning center.



Alt-Erlaa housing estate from 1970ties | cg

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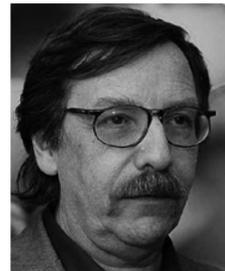
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## Urban Agglomerations will be 10!

Anniversary and International Workshop 2018  
with the Urban Agglomerations and the Urban Knowledge Net Partner Universities

May 28<sup>th</sup> till June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Programme of the International Week at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences  
in Frankfurt, Germany

### Schedule

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#### Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>

14:15 – 15:30 **Opening of the workshop** Building 1, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, room 607.1  
Introduction of the participating universities

**Education for the Future - Feasibility to Advance in Collaborative Contexts**  
Lecture by Prof. Dr. Sergio González López, UAEM Toluca Mexico

16:00 Guided tour of the **European Central Bank (ECB)**  
18:00 Opening **dinner**

#### Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

9:15 – 12:00 **Welcome** by the dean of the faculty, Prof. Karen Ehlers  
and the International Office  
Exchange on **post-graduate programmes, research topics, fields of interest and  
teaching concepts** in urban studies, planning and development

14:15 – 16:30 **Alumni event** Building 1, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, room 607.1  
Building 1, 3rd floor, gallery

17:15 – 19:30 **Formal Anniversary Ceremony** Building 4, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, room 109  
Greetings of the president, presentations, video  
Keynote lecture: **Making Cities for People** by Henriette Vamberg,  
Partner of Gehl Architects, Copenhagen

19:30 **Reception** and get together Building 4, gallery

#### Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

9:30 – 12:00 **Urban development in Frankfurt:** visit of the City Planning Department

14:00 – 18:30 **Guest lectures/workshop: Planning for Metropolitan Regions**  
Building 1, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, room 601

20:00 **Final Dinner**

#### Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

12:00 – 15:00 Guided city tours: **Riedberg district, Ernst May settlements**

15:00 **Network meeting** Urban Knowledge Net and informal dinner

#### Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>

9:15 – 12:45 **Interim presentation** interdisciplinary project “Urban development in emerging  
countries” by students of master program “Urban Agglomerations”  
Building 1, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, room 607.1

