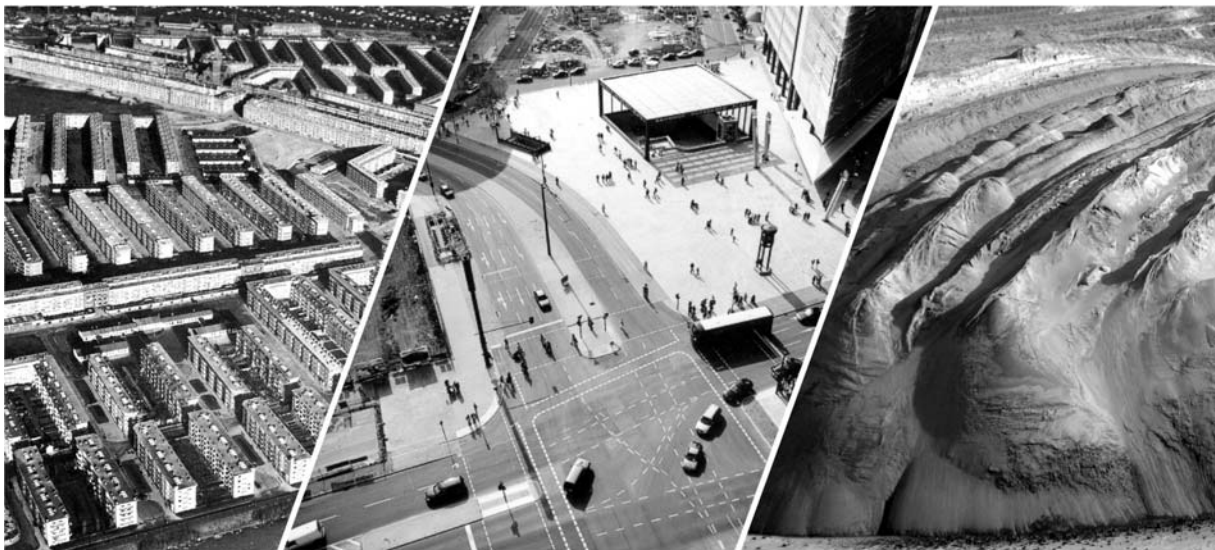




Societal Dynamics of Regional Development

On the Transformation and Governance of
Urban Quarters, Cities and Regions



Work Programme 2009–2011

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Foreword

The Work Programme of the IRS for 2009-2011 is entitled *Social Dynamics of Regional Development. On the Transformation and Governance of Urban Districts, Cities and Regions*. The Scientific Advisory Council completed its review of the new work programme on 24 October 2008 and submitted it to the Board of Trustees. On 4 November 2008 the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adopt the programme.

When the IRS management first sat down to discuss the basic elements of its Work Programme for 2009-2011, in the autumn of 2007, the Institute was in the final phase of a strategy building process that had begun earlier that year. This process was based on the balanced scorecard model. In it we were guided by two competent advisors and moderators. We learned that the strategic position of the Institute cannot be defined exclusively from within. A view of the IRS from the outside is also necessary in order to recognize the various requirements it must meet within its institutional context. Two results of this strategy building process were of particular significance for the Work Programme for 2009-2011: the overall research concept of the IRS and the unique feature of the IRS within the spatial sciences. Both are documented below.

The overall research concept and the unique feature of the IRS define its profile as a non-university research institution and a member of the Leibniz Community. They apply to the entire body of work of the four research departments, both within the individual departments and in cooperation with one another.

In the next three years the four research departments – some of them under slightly different names – will work on the following interdisciplinary key projects:

- In the key project *Proximity and distance in the knowledge economy. An analysis of innovation processes in selected regions of Germany* the research department “Regionalization and Economic Spaces” will continue its work on the knowledge economy. The focus is new. It is on the processes of creation, exchange, sharing and application of knowledge in the four subsystems of the knowledge economy identified by the department in its preceding project (high-tech companies, transformation-oriented service companies, transaction-oriented service companies, the information and media industry). One of the hypotheses is that both the handling of the knowledge dilemma and the various concepts of proximity (physical, cognitive, social, institutional, organizational), are highly relevant to the spread of knowledge and to corporate learning and innovation processes. Attention focuses on new spatial disparities in a “geography of innovations”.
- The research department “Institutional Change and Regional Public Goods” will continue its previous work on its basic research themes. Its key project is entitled *Public goods in Upheaval. Re-regulation and rescaling in regional comparison*. In it the analytical framework developed in the preceding project to investigate institutional arrangements and forms of governance for handling space bound public goods will be applied to a second region, the Rhineland. What is new here is that climate change is included in the analysis as an exacerbating factor. Especially because of the effects of the altered water balance,

this factor functions as a link between water infrastructure and cultural landscapes. Climate change makes existing problems more critical and increases the element of uncertainty in the institutional regulation of water infrastructure and cultural landscapes.

- For the research department “Dynamics of Communication, Knowledge and Spatial Development” the Work Programme for 2009-2011 signifies an entirely new orientation. In future its key project, *Spatial pioneers in urban neighbourhoods. Towards a communicative (re-) construction of spaces in transition*, will examine the mechanisms of the communicative construction of space. The main focus of investigation is on communicative processes in groups of actors, in networks and in public discourse that yield a certain kind of knowledge relevant to spatial development. Further, it is on how this knowledge is passed on, adapted, finds acceptance and, finally, has an impact on spatial structures. The factor “knowledge” remains the centrepiece of the department’s research. What is new is the simultaneous focus on communicative processes. The goal of the new key project is to introduce the dimension of communication as an analytical category into empirical social sciences-based spatial research.
- The research department “Urban Regeneration” will also address a new topic with its key project *City careers in peripheralized regions. Developmental dynamics and options for action*. The core objective is to develop the research heuristic inherent in the concept of the city career and to apply this to a comparative analysis of cities in peripheralized, i.e. weakly structured, regions in eastern and western Germany. The medium-term objective of the department is to formulate explanatory models for differing development processes in cities that will reflect historical processes and a variety of different development patterns, explain structural changes and upheavals in urban development, and define options for urban policies.

The Work Programme for 2009-2011 will also introduce a research project on the subject of “Open Space Planning in East Germany (GDR)” for the Scientific Collections on East German Planning History. We will apply for third party funds specifically for the purpose of expanding the research and indexing activities of the Scientific Collections in the coming three-year period.

The research strategy followed to date will be continued. In the key projects, which are financed by IRS institutional funding and have project periods identical to that of a Work Programme, we shall carry out basic spatial research with a particular emphasis on systematic empirical surveys. With third party funded and academic degree projects (doctoral theses and habilitation theses), we shall pursue deeper research into the individual subjects and issues within the purview of the research departments.

The organization of IRS research in interdisciplinary project teams assigned to the four research departments has proved effective and will be retained in the coming programme phase. We consider the clear organizational assignment of scientific staff to a specific research department to be an important precondition for continued, committed staff development, and thus for ensuring the quality of our research work. A particular focus is on interdepartmental cooperation as a way of both effectively counteracting the risk of “pillarization” inherent in this organiza-

tional model, and mobilizing and combining the knowledge available in the institute in an optimum manner. In the Work Programme for 2009-2011 the research departments have for the first time systematically defined themes from their key projects that will be investigated jointly by two or three research departments in shifting combinations.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank all those who have contributed to formulating and finalizing our Work Programme for 2009-2011: the four IRS department heads and all the scientific staff and department assistants who had a hand in its technical realization. As always, Gregor Prinzensing played a major role in coordinating and moderating the process and also in motivating the participants. My special thanks go to all of them.

I am particularly indebted to the members of the Scientific Advisory Council. With their constructive and critical proposals, they were indispensable and helpful partners in this process, both at the session of the Scientific Advisory Council on 25 April 2008 and in individual discussions conducted thereafter. The plan for the IRS is to present this Work Programme at the end of 2010 for external evaluation by the Senate of the Leibniz Association.

Erkner, January 2009

Prof. Dr. Heiderose Kilper
Director

IRS Mission Statement: Social Science-Based Spatial Research

Preamble:

The mission statement of the IRS defines its internal and external objectives.

- It is the guideline for further development of our specific scientific profile, taking into account the accelerated rate of change observed today in spatial relations and the context of social actions.
- It explains both our scientific course and the efficient organization of our research, which aims at optimizing work processes and increasing the validity and impact of our research results.
- It explains our *corporate identity* in terms of shared values and provides our staff with a reference for continuous self-assessment.
- At the same time, the mission statement serves the purpose of making the institute – with its perspectives for the future and its research – known to a broader public as a good address for information and competent approaches to *governance*.

Our objective: To contribute to the future viability of regions and cities

In our research, we concentrate on the increasingly complex reality of society, in particular on processes involving the social construction of space. We investigate new forms of societal disparity in their specific social and regional expressions as well as the effects of globalization and European unification on cities and regions.

We are aware that mastering new social and economic spatial problems will require innovative political thinking, strategies and methods, always keeping in mind the specific historical setting. Our task is to understand and systematically explain the spatial formative processes at work within a globally networked and locally anchored economy, society and political reality, to identify local and regional opportunities for development, and to make available information that will enable society to avoid, or deal with, the potentially negative consequences of those processes. Specifically, it is our objective to discover developmental directions with a solid future for cities and regions at both the national and European levels.

Our potential: Interdisciplinary orientation and scientific specialization

Our particular characteristic is the interdisciplinary orientation of our research. Highly qualified and motivated researchers from a variety of social science disciplines cooperate with one another at the institute. Working in interdisciplinary teams enables us to mobilize and combine previously non-integrated specialist knowledge. This in turn makes it possible to generate new knowledge on matters related to the future of societal and regional development and to focus on the development of our problem-solving competence. Successful interdisciplinary cooperation puts us in a position to look beyond the blinkers inherent in discipline-based approaches to spatial research, to enter new and innovative fields of inquiry, and to formulate recommendations for action in politics and society from a firm social scientific platform. As a research institution with an enhanced profile of this type, we are sought-after partners for other scientific organizations in our fields of research. We are embedded in extensive scientific networks, with cooperation

partners and contacts throughout the national and international scientific world. We work closely with leading European universities and non-university bodies in the field of social science-based spatial research and related areas.

Our approach: Excellent basic research and knowledge transfer

Our research work is designed to meet highly demanding methodological standards. Our spatial research is based on current top-level theories and careful inquiry into the subject of research using recognized empirical methods. Our research therefore contributes a steady stream of input to new theoretical knowledge. We combine excellent basic research with scientific advisory activities for societal institutions, thus enhancing the transfer of scientific knowledge to the relevant practical fields.

Our research organization: Transparency, openness and efficiency

We understand our basic research as a contribution to public research in the Federal Republic of Germany. Research at the IRS is not a private concern of the scientists involved, but rather a concern of society at large that is legitimized by the public. Our staff keep an open mind when dealing with our various contacts, thus widening and deepening the confidence placed in us. We are open to societal dialogue on the objectives of our research and disclose the procedures we use and the knowledge we gain in our research.

By its very nature, our organizational structure encourages the assumption of responsibility by the research teams, opens up new routes of scientific inquiry and coordinates cooperation among the scientists working at the institute. This provides a platform on which researcher creativity is maximized within the framework of the research programmes. It is our aim to give the IRS a high profile as an institution known for top-level scientific work, one that is proficient, reliable and flexible. We are constantly aware of the responsibility we bear to make wise use of the public resources allotted to the IRS. This is why we have established a transparent success monitoring system for all research units and the administration.

Unique Feature of the IRS

The IRS investigates the transformation and governance of cities and regions from a social science-based perspective on micro and macro levels in interdisciplinary teams and in long-term key research areas.

The following cross-cutting themes are distinctive of IRS research:

- institutional change and spatial governance, past and present
- spatial communication dynamics and interaction structures
- new spatial disparity patterns within the knowledge society.

The IRS also possesses an extensive collection of documents on the planning and building history of East Germany (GDR).

Strategy for Excellence Unit

Head: Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Bürkner

The IRS will continue to be the subject of the intensive evaluation process based on excellence criteria which is applied to all non-university and university-based research bodies in Germany. The Strategy for Excellence Unit was therefore created as an instrument for the targeted implementation of our research strategy. This includes positioning the institute within paradigmatic debates and excellence initiatives in the field of social science research as well as the development, supervision and acquisition of research projects for the German Research Council (DFG) and other major research-funding bodies. A further area of activity involves participation in excellence clusters and international graduate schools in the Berlin-Brandenburg area. Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Bürkner has been responsible for this since the early summer of 2007.

Overview

Abstract of the key project

Proximity and distance in the knowledge economy. An analysis of innovation processes in selected regions of Germany

The economic importance of knowledge has grown during the last decades – as a factor of production, an immaterial tradable good, a process-influencing factor, a service, and as a component of material goods. In contrast to previous periods of economic development, knowledge production is now strategically important, e.g. in research and development, the development of human capital via education and training, knowledge management in appropriate social networks, and the organization of markets for knowledge utilization. Economic developments in the direction of the knowledge-based economy, or knowledge economy, are further enhanced by continuing trends towards liberalization, deregulation and globalization. This change has enhanced competitive pressure on all industrial sectors, especially knowledge-based ones, and forced companies to produce a steady stream of *innovations* to maintain and expand their competitive strength.

Within the key project “*Proximity and distance in the knowledge economy*” three aspects of this change are investigated that influences and characterizes spatial structures. Firstly, innovations in the knowledge economy are investigated in a more inclusive sense as results of processes involving learning or a combination of different kinds of knowledge. Secondly – in relation to the innovation processes – the significance of proximity and distance is considered as cognitive, social, institutional, and organizational proximity determining the conditions of knowledge transfer and sharing. Thirdly, the economic ambivalence of knowledge as a public and private good, and thus the related knowledge dilemma, comes to the fore when considering the knowledge economy as a whole, including the attendant innovation processes.

In this context, the research questions of the key project are:

1. How do the different types of proximity and distance, and the handling of the knowledge dilemma, influence the innovation processes within the knowledge economy?
2. What geographic patterns are linked to these processes?
3. What characterizations and behavioural patterns can be identified in the different subsystems of the knowledge economy?

These fields of inquiry are linked to the findings of the two previous key projects and of the department’s third party funded projects that have addressed problems of knowledge creation and knowledge sharing in specific economic regions.

Abstract of the key project

Public Goods in upheaval. Re-regulation and rescaling in regional comparison

The key project of Research Department 2 brings the medium-term research programme concerned with the institutional regulation of infrastructure systems and

cultural landscapes to a preliminary conclusion. The objective of the key project is to compare the regional management of water infrastructures and cultural landscapes in two different areas (an urban-rural segment in Berlin-Brandenburg and one in North Rhine-Westphalia) to obtain solid factual data on the development, suitability and adaptability of the existing institutional arrangements against a background of changing demands and conditions. Investigations of the historical development of institutions are a central component of the research activities. A special feature is the inclusion of climate change as an exacerbating factor in the analysis. In addition, the key project also makes an independent contribution to spatial science theory by comparing theories of institutional and economic goods with spatial science debates on scale/rescaling and regional governance, and providing critical reflections on the results against the background of the empirical knowledge thus gained. Based on an analytical framework developed by Research Department 2, the initial investigation addresses the characteristics of the public goods problems, their historical roots and their perception by regional actors. Subsequently, the relevant concepts of the "commons" are investigated along with the institutional arrangements and forms of governance proposed, today and in the past, to solve these problems. Finally, conclusions are drawn for research and practice, in particular concerning the suitability and adaptability of the existing institutional arrangements.

Abstract of the key project

Spatial pioneers in urban neighbourhoods. Towards a communicative (re-) construction of spaces in transition

Among social scientists working in spatial research it is generally accepted that regions are to be understood as social structures characterized by specific cultural codes and types of knowledge. A consensus has also been reached that *knowledge* is a decisive factor in production and development and that it contributes significantly to regional development. It is also agreed that regional development cannot be planned from "above", but rather that a variety of groups of actors with their specific knowledge can make decisive contributions to regional development and must therefore be included and allowed to participate in planning processes. Concepts such as governance and networking, but also slogans like coordination, cooperation and communication, bear witness to this. Nevertheless, to date social scientists working on spatial research have not done many investigations into the *communicative mechanisms* at work within regional development processes. The objective of the key project is to pursue this neglected theme using the example of *spatial pioneers* who are active in *urban neighbourhoods undergoing structural change*. We understand spatial pioneers to be actors who introduce new factors into a spatial structure (even if they begin only by using unused space) and in so doing introduce new concepts of space and its use, possibly develop visions and communicate them or stimulate other citizens to communicate about them. With this they influence, or evoke, interpretations of spatial reality in other persons. The idea is to ask how, precisely, spatial pioneers contribute to the urban neighbourhood with their spatial use and ideas, how they communicate these among themselves and to others, how their interpretations of space are debated, contested, modified, realized or stymied within different groups of actors and networks and in the public discussion within the urban neighbourhood. In the process not only mechanisms of communication and inclusion, but also of non-communication and

exclusion will be considered. In this context, the project is intended as a contribution to application-oriented basic research. At the same time it should provide contextual information as a basis for communication-oriented spatial development, spatial planning and governance. The concept of relational space in combination with the recent developments in social constructivism form the theoretical basis of the project. The underlying assumption is that of a *communicative construction of space*, whereby space is conceived of as a negotiable good. To do justice to the complexity of these questions, various qualitative methods will be used and triangulated with one another (expert interviews, problem-centred interviews, focused ethnography, network analysis, and discursive analysis within the framework of the sociology of knowledge).

Abstract of the key project

City careers in peripheralized regions. Developmental dynamics and options for action

The key project of Research Department 4 is concerned with the developmental trajectories and strategic repositioning of cities in peripheralized regions in eastern and western Germany. Its medium-term objective is to create explanatory models for differing developmental trajectories that are suitable as tools with which to more accurately record historical processes and a variety of urban developmental patterns. Further objectives are to explain structural changes and upheavals during urban development and to define optional courses of action in city politics. The key project focuses on cities in peripheralized regions, i.e. regions characterized by a weakening of sociospatial developments or their dissociation from dominant centralization processes. In these regions in particular, highly disparate urban developments can be expected. The research focus is on explaining why cities take very different developmental trajectories despite comparable regional situations at their outset and how they can reposition themselves within ongoing processes of structural change. To facilitate this, the novel concept of the city career is introduced to social science-based spatial research. The concept combines three different starting-points. The first starting-point comprises the historical processes a city has gone through and their influence on the city's career ("*history matters*"). The second starting-point concerns local political actors, structures and processes that may initiate real or intended career steps or city careers ("*policy matters*"). The third starting-point involves a leap in scale from urban to regional and supraregional levels of action and structure ("*scale matters*"). Here it is assumed that the degree of local specificity expressed in a city career can only be recognized by constantly shifting one's perspective between the local and supralocal levels.

Abstract of the interdepartmental project

Vulnerability and resilience, a sociospatial perspective

The perception of phenomena as threats to humans, and the conclusion derived from this of the existence of a state of *vulnerability*, are the result of public discourse and hence of the social and discursive construction of the world – that is the first hypothesis. Active creation of *resilience* in spatial systems, institutions and organizations depends on the generation and application of suitable forms of governance, and on the institutional settings into which these are integrated so that a

kind of learning system can recognize conditions of *vulnerability* and react flexibly to them – that is the second hypothesis. Of the key project research themes in the Work Programme for 2009-2011 the following topics deal with phenomena that are threatening to humans and thus exemplify spatial vulnerability:

1. (negative) images in the sense of “no-go areas”, poverty-stricken neighbourhoods or cities and regions in decline;
2. the rapidly shortening half-life of knowledge within an economic area;
3. climate change in the form of catastrophic events or gradual changes.

In the interdepartmental project “Vulnerability and resilience, a sociospatial perspective”, two of the three interdisciplinary IRS themes can be approached in a new way, namely

- institutional change and spatial governance past and present, and
- communication dynamics and interaction structures in space.

Reference region Berlin-Brandenburg

Empirical research at the IRS is interregional and international in character. Special attention is paid to European integration processes, particularly those involving territorial cohesion within the framework of the extended EU. The region Berlin-Brandenburg functions as a reference region in this sense in IRS studies. The following overview lists the cities and areas in this reference region in which the IRS will carry out various studies during the period 2009 to 2011 in the form of key project research, third party funded research, habilitation theses and doctoral theses.

In the coming three years, six regional discussions and six lectures in the “urbi et orbi” series will take place, focusing on options for the development of a knowledge society within the reference region Berlin-Brandenburg, and providing actors in Brandenburg and Berlin from the fields of politics, science, culture, business and administration with an informal forum for learning and discussion.

Research contributions and other activities of the Scientific Collections also focus on this reference region. The collections of images and written sources on planning history are registered cultural property of Brandenburg; the collections are growing steadily and being made available for research and exhibition purposes in ongoing work.

Within the framework of the “Research Platform on Climate Change” of the Ministry of Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg, the IRS is contributing its expertise to make this a model region when it comes to dealing with the consequences of climate change.

Berlin-Brandenburg as reference region in IRS studies 2009-2011

No.	Research Department	Project title	Spatial relation to reference region
1	1	Key project "Proximity and distance in the knowledge economy. An analysis of innovation processes in selected regions of Germany"	Berlin-Brandenburg as part of Europe
2	1	Doctoral thesis "Regional worker pooling – a neglected element of regional production systems"	e.g. Air traffic cluster in the State of Brandenburg
3	1	Doctoral thesis "Cross-border regional networks as promoters of European integration"	Border area State of Brandenburg / Poland
4	1	Doctoral thesis "Universities of Applied Sciences as knowledge centres – Regional cooperation activities between universities and companies: Transfer forms, institutional framework, regional influential factors "	Brandenburg
5	1	Doctoral thesis "Metropolises as growth engines. On the role of knowledge spillovers in knowledge economies and their implications for the metropolis-hinterland relationship"	Brandenburg
6	2	Key project "Public Goods in upheaval. Re-regulation and rescaling in regional comparison"	Berlin-Brandenburg as a reference region
7	2	Habilitation project "Turbulent City – Resilient Infrastructure. Socio-technical change in Berlin between dictatorship and democracy"	Berlin
8	2	Doctoral thesis "Regional cultural landscaping policies – institutions and forms of governance for regional development of cultural landscapes"	e.g. Spreewald
9	2	Doctoral thesis "The transformation of the welfare state – the example of the partial privatization of the Berlin Water Utility"	Berlin
10	2	Doctoral thesis "Water privatization: experts, elites and democratic legitimacy in privatization debates"	Berlin
11	2	BMBF project "Sub-project regional development / regional planning within the framework of the SUBICON Research Consortium"	Niederlausitz
12	2	DFG project "The contribution of sectoral institutional systems to the constitution of cultural landscapes and coordination of interaction processes (KULAKon – Cultural Landscape Institutions)"	e.g. Spreewald
13	2	Departmental research (BMVBS) "FlussKult. Interactions between preventive flood protection and regional cultural landscaping in river landscapes"	At least one river landscape in the State of Brandenburg
14	3	Key project "Spatial pioneers in urban neighbourhoods. Towards a communicative (re-) construction of spaces in transition"	e.g. Berlin urban quarters
15	4	Key project "City careers in peripheralized regions. Developmental dynamics and options for action"	e.g. cities in Brandenburg

No.	Research Department	Project title	Spatial relation to reference region
16	4	Departmental research (BMVBS) Federal German Transfer Office Urban Reconstruction East	e.g. cities in Brandenburg
17	4	DFG project "Strategic urban planning – approaches to the regeneration of shrinking cities in eastern Germany"	e.g. Cottbus, Wittenberge
18	4	Doctoral thesis "Professional education strategies in and for the periphery? Development and forms of spatial integration of educational organizations in "shrinking" regions"	Uckermark region
19	4	Doctoral thesis "Civil society potentials in shrinking cities in eastern Germany – conditions for the involvement of civil society in times of crises"	e.g. cities in Brandenburg

Work Programme

2009–2011

Research Department 1: Regionalization and Economic Spaces

1 Departmental profile

Research Department 1 investigates the spatial effects and development policy challenges of structural change from an industrial economy to one characterized by the processing of knowledge and information - the knowledge economy. The particular focus is on the changed significance of the factor knowledge as an economic good on the one hand and as a process-influencing factor in production and transaction processes on the other. Another salient feature is the notable increase in activities specializing in knowledge processing, and in the production and distribution of knowledge-based products and services. In this connection, the main questions are (a) what are the main characteristics of knowledge as a good which bears features of both a private and a public good, and (b) what consequences does this have for the production, supply and distribution of knowledge as a tradable good. Knowledge is considered an economic growth engine – a characteristic which comes to bear in individual and collective learning processes, i.e. in the integration of fragmented knowledge and in its codification, and which is embodied in economically relevant innovations.

The department focuses on these processes, investigating the resulting varying local demands of firms and enterprises and their knowledge staff. It also focusses on the new institutional and organizational arrangements and their spatial effects, i.e. the dynamisms in which the knowledge actors see themselves embedded with their interaction and communication processes. It investigates the relational and institutional spaces of learning and the codification of knowledge as the key to the development of high-tech goods and immaterial goods and services. The knowledge economy, finally, is the core of a society that is increasingly characterized by knowledge. The effects of this are also reflected, for example, in spatial development policy and regional policy, the content, form and self-image of which are undergoing massive change. Research Department 1, with its focus on the knowledge economy, therefore understands its researches as contributions to the knowledge society-related discourse on the development and structuring of cities and regions.

In spatial terms, the work of the department concentrates on local and interactive systems of the knowledge economy on a regional scale, taking into account in particular the metropolitan regions and the relations between urban and rural areas as well as parallel regionalization and globalization processes. The analyses extend to both Germany and Europe and concentrate on the following topics:

- relational and institutional spatial structures in the knowledge economy,
- functionally differentiated regions and urban systems of the knowledge economy,
- spatial distribution patterns of the knowledge economy,
- knowledge generation, sharing and management in knowledge work,
- structuring of innovation processes in the knowledge economy,
- structuring of proximity and distance in the knowledge economy,

- cognitive, institutional and organizational path dependencies in the knowledge economy.

2 Key project:

Proximity and distance in the knowledge economy. An analysis of innovation processes in selected regions of Germany

Project team

Head of Project: H. J. Kujath (Regional Economy / Regional Sociology) from 01/2009 to 08/2009 / O. Ibert (Economic Geography) from 09/2009 to 12/2011

M. Arndt (Economics), K. Pflanz (Economic Geography), S. Schmidt (Human Geography), A. Stein (Regional Planning), M. Wolke (Mathematics), S. Zillmer (Economics)

Project period: 01/2009 to 12/2011

There can be no doubt that knowledge is becoming more and more economically relevant as a factor of production, as an immaterial, tradable good, as a process-influencing factor, as a service, and as a component of material goods (e.g. OECD 1996; Malecki 2000; Park 2000; Willke 2001; Cooke, Piccaluga 2004; Baethge 2006; Kahin, Foray 2006; Kujath, Schmidt 2007). In contrast to earlier periods of economic development, the production of knowledge, e.g. by research and development, the development of human capital through education and training, knowledge management in appropriate social networks and the organization of markets for the utilization of knowledge are now strategically significant. The economic transformation towards a knowledge-based economy, or *knowledge economy*, is further encouraged by the continuing trends towards liberalization, deregulation and globalization. This change is increasing the competitive pressure on all sectors of the economy, and on the knowledge-based ones in particular, and forcing *companies* to produce a steady flow of *innovations* so as to maintain, and expand, their competitiveness.

In the 1990s, spatial research began to take an interest in these processes. Since then, this research has concentrated on innovation as an influential factor characterizing space. A number of studies have been conducted in this field, but the knowledge economy as it is developing today still requires a broader and deeper understanding of innovation. First of all, innovations can no longer be seen as isolated technological phenomena. In the knowledge economy they are in a much broader sense the products of learning processes or processes of knowledge integration. Both the different knowledge systems within the subsystems of the knowledge economy, and the institutional arrangements and organizational solutions that are also potential components of learning and innovation processes, must be taken into consideration. Secondly, the significance of proximity and distance is changing in relation to the relevant innovation processes. In the knowledge economy, cognitive, social, institutional and organizational proximity are highly significant as conditions for the transfer and sharing of knowledge. However, how precisely these different forms of proximity foster innovation processes remains unexplained to a great extent. Thirdly, the economic ambivalence of knowledge as a public and private good, with the attendant *knowledge dilemma*, have been com-

ing to the fore both in the knowledge economy as a whole and in the innovation processes taking place there. Public debate on this dilemma has touched upon a broad spectrum of topics, for instance, the securing of intellectual property rights and the opening of access to knowledge. This is a source of numerous strains of information and argumentation yet to be appreciated and processed by innovation research in the context of the knowledge economy.

2.1 Focus

Against this background, the central questions of the key project are: 1. How do the different types of proximity and distance, and the way the knowledge dilemma is handled, influence innovation processes in the knowledge economy? 2. What geographic patterns characterize these processes? 3. What characteristics and behavioural patterns are recognizable in the four subsystems of the knowledge economy (see below)? These questions are linked to the results of the department's two previous key projects and third party funded projects on the problems of knowledge generation and sharing in the context of economic spaces. Consideration of these problems results in a threefold differentiation of this question complex:

- **Innovation processes in the four subsystems of the knowledge economy**
Research on innovation systems so far has concentrated mainly on product innovations in technology-oriented segments of the economy and their geographic patterns (e.g. Nelson, Rosenberg 1993; Audretsch, Feldman 1995; Freeman, Soete 1997). These studies provide the starting point for the key project. But how do the learning and innovation processes function within the various new subsystems of the knowledge economy (1) transaction-oriented service providers, (2) transformation-oriented service providers, (3) high-tech industries and (4) the information and media industry (for definitions see Kujath, Schmidt 2007)? How can different knowledge resources be generated and integrated within the subsystems in a useful manner so as to produce innovations? From our studies to date on the knowledge economy we know that specialized knowledge is applied in the specific subsystems, where it is combined and integrated to form an internalized knowledge system. Harvesting and sharing the fruits of this knowledge system may require specific forms of interaction reflected in a variety of location preferences and relations with customers, partners, suppliers and experts. Are innovation processes in the four subsystems of the knowledge economy characterized by specific patterns of knowledge creation and exploitation?
- **Proximity and distance in the generation of knowledge**
Of particular interest is the question as to which institutional, organizational and spatial arrangements are selected by companies to improve the exploitation of their innovative capacity. Proximity ranks high in the theoretical debates: *spaces* characterized by proximity (e.g. cooperation spaces, contact and observation spaces, alliances) present contexts for the stimulation of knowledge diffusion, learning and knowledge application processes. The differentiation of the idea of proximity gives us *cognitive, social, institutional* and *organizational proximity*, each of which also shows varied manifestations in the physical space. What is the significance of these different forms of proximity, inasmuch as they integrate different types of knowledge into innovation processes?

Again, in this context, what is the significance of physical proximity as a factor favouring knowledge sharing, learning and innovations? These matters must be clarified within the framework of a spatial analysis. Specifically, it will have to be determined whether each of the four subsystems of the knowledge economy utilizes specific combinations of proximity factors, e.g. in substitutional or complementary roles (Boschma 2005).

▪ **Innovations and the knowledge dilemma**

The problems characterized scientifically as the knowledge dilemma are of existential significance to knowledge economy-based companies. Since innovations are based mainly on learning processes and knowledge sharing, it is inevitable that “private knowledge will flow into the pool of social knowledge, since the uptake of knowledge by actors involved in knowledge production – individuals and organizations – is unavoidable” (Haase 2004). How do companies in the four subsystems come to grips with this special characteristic of knowledge? Do the subsystems feature different methods of securing knowledge? The dilemma for companies is that they must, on the one hand, exploit external knowledge in order to be innovative, but, on the other hand, must protect their own knowledge resource rights for as long as they can so as to profit from their innovations. Companies are thus constantly confronted with the problem of whether to secure their knowledge by applying a restrictive intellectual “*property rights regime*” or to obtain access to external knowledge resources in open interaction with external knowledge actors. Only as long as internal company knowledge retains the character of an exclusive club good, the security cover will be sufficient to ensure that the knowledge products so produced can be marketed. This results in the necessity of protecting one’s own knowledge resources for as long as possible. The question is: how do companies handle this special characteristic of knowledge? And are different routes taken within the subsystems?

It can be assumed that mastery of the knowledge dilemma and application of the different proximity concepts are highly relevant factors for the diffusion of knowledge and the processes involved in corporate learning and innovation. The physical space involved is an important condition. Cities, with their variety of characteristics and location-conditioned parameters, in many cases apparently offer better preconditions for knowledge sharing than less densely populated and less diverse locations. It can therefore be expected that the various forms of knowledge sharing and generation in the knowledge economy, and the special role played by certain proximity concepts, will facilitate descriptions and explanations of the emergence of new spatial patterns of economic activity and the new spatial disparities promoted by the knowledge economy.

2.2 Theoretical approaches

Research Department 1 has been investigating the special features of the knowledge economy for a number of years now, mainly applying institutional economic approaches. The expansion of the topic to include innovation processes in the knowledge economy entails a closer observation of corporate networks and of the dynamic aspects of innovations. The increasing networking and cooperation observed among companies is not only an expression of division of labour, but also of the sharing of knowledge (cf. Helmstädter 2000). These complex processes

cannot be explained sufficiently within the framework of a single theoretical model but, rather, demand a “mixed model design” (Creswell 2003), a combination of various different explanatory models.

Institutional theories

The creation of knowledge, learning and innovations are seldom individual achievements, but take place within knowledge arenas in which individuals share their personal knowledge and contribute to innovation processes. These processes demand shared mental models, shared interpretations of reality, shared social and cultural backgrounds (cognitive and social proximity), as well as shared rules and specific organizational forms which are reflected by the mental models (institutional and organizational proximity). Various institutional theories offer explanations of specific aspects of the significance of proximity for the innovation processes in the knowledge economy.

In institutional economics, the focus is on the transactional arrangements or governance structures of the actors – both individuals and organizations (North 1990; Williamson 1990). Efficient governance solutions for access to new knowledge are sought. An advanced transaction costs approach can elucidate both the *institutional and organizational arrangements* of knowledge sharing processes within and beyond the boundaries of the individual companies, e.g. among suppliers and customers or companies and universities (Nooteboom 1992; Williamson 1994; Lundvall 2006). This approach makes it possible to discuss the specific inter-organizational arrangements of the sharing, application and exploitation of knowledge, as well as the physical dimensions of knowledge spaces in relation to economic efficiency within a wider framework (Rotering 1993; Haase 2004; Lorenzen, Maskell 2004). Innovation processes and their transactional arrangements are further discussed with regards to property rights and power. In the case of a restrictive intellectual “property rights regime”, for instance, organizational power is utilized to restrict knowledge diffusion beyond the boundaries of the firm. This might be helpful for the monopolization of the acquired knowledge. At the same instance, however, it becomes more difficult to benefit from external knowledge sharing.

The observations of institutional economics are supported by institutional sociological approaches that perceive specific economic institutions as the results of social practices and cultural bonds (Scott 1994). From this point of view, institutions are characterized as “*meanings systems*” and cognitive processes. The analysis of the innovation processes in different transaction arrangements will address in particular the “common modes of interpretation and shared understanding of experience” discussed by the institutional sociological approaches and arising in the interactive and communicative processes. In this project we are interested primarily in cognitive explanations of transaction arrangements.

Evolutional approaches

In analysing an economy driven by learning and innovations, it is important to determine not only institutional arrangements and “property rights regimes”, but also the dynamics of processes of knowledge creation. The project will therefore utilize theories of evolutionary economies: the institutional and organizational arrangements within which the communication, harmonization, learning and innovation processes unfold are modelled as variable, i.e. as *capable of learning*. Organizational learning is coupled within companies and other arrangements (networks)

with individual learning, whereby learning effects ensure the generation of new knowledge resources at both individual and organizational levels (Nelson, Rosenberg 1993; Willke 2001; Lamboy, Boschma 2001; Schamp 2002; Lundvall 2006).

This leads to knowledge management models that utilize the ability of individual and organizational actors to select, share and process information and knowledge (cf. Nonaka, Takeuchi 1995; Schreyögg, Geiger 2002). The scientific discussion differentiates two models. One based on analytical, systematic knowledge and on the application of scientific principles and methods in the innovation process, the other one is based primarily on personal abilities, “learning by doing” and “learning by using” within the company and between company actors and customers (cf. Asheim, Gertler 2005). Individual and organizational learning is embedded in a given institutional context; it is also spatially organized in a specific manner that reflects the various different proximity concepts (cf. Bathelt, Glückler 2000).

2.3 Methods

With the 2009-2011 research project, the department will take a new direction in the field of innovation and learning in the knowledge economy. The objective is to clarify and sharpen the concepts of innovation, proximity, distance and the knowledge dilemma in the context of processes in the knowledge economy and, based on this, to formulate interrelational hypotheses. New indicators will be developed to facilitate further analysis of secondary statistical data, and they will be tested to determine their utility. Finally, exemplary case studies will determine how the innovation processes of the knowledge economy develop in various spatial settings. To achieve this, an explorative method mix will be used comprising three inter-linked approaches:

Integration of discipline-specific research results: In this phase of our research we develop the core notions of the project, define the research questions more precisely and formulate hypotheses. The relevant disciplinary approaches to innovation and learning, to the significance of proximity and distance and to the knowledge dilemma as related to the knowledge economy will be reviewed and interpreted from a spatial-science perspective. An interdisciplinary point of view will be achieved by assessing the literature in the form of a variable-based qualitative content analysis and in an interdisciplinary roundtable, both of which will expand and deepen our theoretical grasp of the spatial dimensions of innovation processes.

Spatial cluster analysis: As an empirical starting-point for the spatial analysis of innovation processes in the knowledge economy, a Germany-wide cluster analysis will be carried out based on secondary statistical data at the NUTS-3 level. This will unveil segregation patterns of the knowledge economy in terms of specific aspects of innovation corresponding to the subsystems of the knowledge economy. Using an explorative procedure, new indicators for measuring innovations will be developed and tested for meaningful information output with spatial relevance. Progression in the diffusion of innovations will be taken into account by collecting data at a minimum of two points in time.

Qualitative case studies: In selected spatial innovation clusters, qualitative case studies will be carried out based on semi-structured interviews with key actors from companies in the four subsystems of the knowledge economy. The formulated hypotheses will be tested. Moreover, conclusions and results of the interviews will inform the further development of quantitative indicators, which will be used subsequently in a *representative study* of the spatial diffusion of innovations in the knowledge economy.

2.4 Project phases

With some overlap, the realization of the key project will take place in the following phases.

Phase 1: Interdisciplinary roundtable

In a first step, preparations for an interdisciplinary roundtable will be finalized, followed by its realization and evaluation (March 2009). (An application for funding was submitted to the DFG in 2008.) We will invite about 30 scientists from German-speaking countries to discuss the questions, approaches and methods of the key project in an interdisciplinary atmosphere. The main objective of this phase is to obtain external impulses for the project work and to modify hypotheses derived from former department projects. The interdisciplinary plenum is focused on the common topics of innovation, proximity and distance as well as the knowledge dilemma. Moreover the roundtable comprises of a wide variety of different theoretical and methodic research modes. At the same time we hope to initiate an interdisciplinary discourse over the medium and longer terms.

Phase 2: Literature analysis

In the run-up phase to the roundtable, interdisciplinary literature analyses will be required to identify suitable teams of experienced scientists. The main focus of the literature analysis is a *variable-oriented* qualitative content analysis. The objective is to assess the current state of the research, and to contribute to a precise description, definition and implementation of the key project termini “proximity”, “distance”, “innovation” and “space” in preparation for the empirical stages. This includes discussion of both the theory and the methods of the research as well as an assessment of the existing indicators for innovation recognition, causally related indicators and different forms of proximity.

Phase 3: Formulation of hypotheses

In a step summarizing the first two phases, which will partially be realized in parallel, hypotheses are to be developed and presented for discussion in theoretical working papers.

The main steps in the formulation of hypotheses are:

- a) conclusions of the preceding key project on the knowledge economy,
- b) the development of working definitions of the terms innovation and proximity,
- c) the differentiation of statements concerning the four subsystems of the knowledge economy,
- d) statements on spatial implications.

Phase 4: Quantitative analysis of secondary statistical data

Analyses of secondary statistics will review existing and emerging indicators as to their ability to provide substantive information on corporate innovation and on specific spatial aspects of innovative activity within the knowledge economy and its subsystems. To this end, data culled from the previous projects will be carried forwards and expanded. Going beyond descriptive statistical analyses, the Germany-wide spatial cluster analysis developed in the preceding project will be further developed by taking into account variables that describe and explain innovations. At this point, the cluster analysis of the German region has two functions. Firstly, it serves as a basis for illustrating the spatial distributive structure and developing a spatial typology for the innovation processes in the German knowledge economy. Secondly, it furnishes the basis for the second empirical phase, the phase of qualitative case studies, by using spatial typology to identify suitable spatial structures for the case studies.

Phase 5: Qualitative case studies

The qualitative case studies, realized mainly in the form of semi-structured interviews with key actors from companies representing the four subsystems of the knowledge economy and its environs, will be based on both the insights provided by the preceding projects and, above all, those gained in the previous phases of this project. The case studies will address the spatial types particularly relevant to the knowledge economy and to innovations. This will facilitate assessment of the significance of the different types of proximity and how the knowledge dilemma is dealt with in the institutional and organizational arrangements for innovations in the knowledge economy. The insights gained in these explorative primary surveys will be used first of all to support the further formulation of hypotheses, secondly as a basis for the review of the indicators used previously in the cluster analysis, and thirdly as a basis for the formulation of additional proximity and innovation indicators to be reviewed in other, subsequent, research projects.

Cooperation with the other research departments

Especially in the theoretical working phases, but in some of the case-related working phases as well, our department will cooperate closely with the other research departments. Research Department 3 will contribute sociological insights to the DFG roundtable "Spatial structures in knowledge work – theoretical and methodic questions on the role of proximity and distance in a knowledge-based economy" in the 1st quarter of 2009, and will also contribute to the planned publication. A shared workshop on "The knowledge economy and spatial pioneers" is slated for the 1st quarter of 2011. Together with Research Department 2, questions related to the problem of collective goods / commons in private and public utilization, and on the formation of institutions, will be discussed in the 2nd quarter of 2011 (preliminary scheduling) under the title "*Boundary goods*". In cooperation with Research Department 4, the question is to be discussed whether, and if so how, knowledge economy networks arise, that promote "positive" careers for small and medium-sized cities in peripheralized regions. On this theme, a shared workshop will take place in the 2nd quarter of 2010 on the connections between city careers and economic evolution. As soon as the study regions have been defined for both key projects, a review will be done in mid-2009 to determine the extent to which the empirical surveys can be interlinked within the individual regions and whether shared case studies are feasible.

2.5 Products and transfers

The products and transfers in Work Programme 2009-2011 result from currently ongoing research and the continuation of earlier activities.

Events

The key project begins with the preparation and realization of an interdisciplinary roundtable in March 2009. The summary contributions and statements issued by the participating researchers, as well as a summary of the main results, will be processed for publication as online working papers and as an edited book. Two internal workshops will be held per annum to discuss interim results. The Scientific Advisory Council of the IRS will participate in one of them. Project results – from both preceding and third party funded projects – will be presented on national and international conferences (e.g. RSA "Understanding and Shaping Regions: Spatial, Social and Economic Futures" in April 2009 in Leuven, and the Bi-Annual Conference of German Geographers "Geography for a Changing World – Environment, Society and Geocommunication" in September 2009 in Vienna). Moreover, the department will organize a lecture in the IRS series "urbi et orbi" in the Federal Representative Offices of the State of Brandenburg in Berlin.

To conclude the Work Programme, a symposium will be held for the presentation of the results of the key project. The conference will address academic actors as well as representatives from politics, administration, and the business world, inviting them to discuss the conclusions of the key project concerning spatial development policies.

Continuously and parallel to their research work, the research staff will respond to external queries with information events for international delegations and the presentation of the results of key project and third party funded research to groups of specialists.

Publications

As practised in the preceding project, the project results will be published in the form of several working papers, each with a different focus: preliminary theoretical considerations and the formulation of hypotheses, methods, the results of the cluster analysis, the results of the empirical phase. The objective will be the publication of articles in international and German peer-reviewed journals.

Maps and indicators

Maps and other graphic illustrations represent further important media for the presentation of spatial development processes. Selected maps and graphic illustrations based on the analyses of secondary statistical data will be produced and presented to a wider public, together with brief interpretations, on a quarterly basis on the IRS homepage. Updated news will be published in our house-own quarterly magazine "IRS aktuell".

Another product of the key project will take the form of quantifiable indicators. These indicators will in some instances also serve as the basis for the maps and illustrations.

3 Cooperation activities

Existing national and international cooperation activities will be continued and expanded within the framework of both basic and applied research, applications for and the implementation of third party funded projects, and teaching obligations. Cooperation with the following partners is ongoing:

National

- Humboldt University of Berlin, Geographic Institute (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Geographisches Institut);
- Technical University of Berlin, Institute for Urban and Regional Planning (Technische Universität Berlin, Institut für Stadt- und Regionalplanung);
- University of Potsdam, Institute for Geography (Universität Potsdam, Institut für Geographie);
- ILS – Research Institute for Urban and Regional Development GmbH (ILS), Dortmund (Institut für Landes- und Stadtentwicklungsforschung GmbH (ILS), Dortmund);
- Technical University of Munich (TUM), Chair of Spatial Development (Technische Universität München (TUM), Lehrstuhl für Raumentwicklung);
- Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL), Hanover (Akademie für Raumforschung und Landesplanung (ARL), Hannover)
- Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig (Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde (IfL), Leipzig)
- Competence Centre City and Region in Berlin-Brandenburg (Kompetenzzentrum Stadt und Region in Berlin-Brandenburg)
- Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBR), Bonn (ESPO) (Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung (BBR), Bonn) (ESPO)

International

- EUROREG, The University of Warsaw (Centre for European Regional and Local Studies)
- Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Architecture
- Nordregio – Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, Stockholm
- NIBR - Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Oslo
- Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Institute for Regional Development and Environment
- UJOE – University of Joensuu, Finland

4 Third party funding strategy

The department's third party funded projects aim to deepen our understanding of specific questions and central departmental themes. Based on the key project for the period up to 2008, four areas are to be addressed by third party funded projects now in the application phase:

- spatial-functional dynamics in knowledge economies,
- organization and governance forms in knowledge economies and their spatial implications,
- national, European and global city systems in a knowledge society,
- third party funded projects that complement the basic research.

The aim of a project planned for the 7th EU Framework Programme is to consolidate the international network of the department. The working concept of this international research team seeks to develop a classification of European cities based on their specializations in the knowledge economy and their spatial-functional integration in the knowledge economy as tested in case studies. In a DFG project, a position for a doctoral candidate is to be established at the Geographic Institute of the Humboldt University in Berlin and a second position in the IRS department to address spatial proliferation strategies of knowledge-intensive service providers and the related organizational and governance forms. Finally, within the framework of an Interreg IV-C project, knowledge transfer between different institutional regimes (e.g. university and business) will be organized in European technology parks based on knowledge network management. The department has consolidated its position in the ESPON network and will continue to contribute actively to subject areas relevant to departmental research.

Ongoing third party funded projects at the beginning of 2009

City of Vienna and Technical University of the bfi Vienna:

Chances and perspectives of Viennese business within the context of the Central European region (Centrope)

Expert contribution by Hans Joachim Kujath.

Project period: 09/2006 to 12/2009.

The objective of the research project is to create concrete, feasible instruments for business and public utilities and services in the CENTROPE region.

Leibniz Association – Funds from the “Pact for Research and Innovation” (“SAW-Application 2007”):

Geography[-ies] at the borders of the European project.

Kristine Müller.

Project period: 01/2007 to 12/2009.

This project examines spatial orientation and peripheralization processes along the outer borders of the expanded European Union. The project will be realized in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) (Head of Project) and the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL). The objective is to investigate more closely the structuring effects of the EU at its outer borders in Eastern Europe based on the example of cross-border economic activities.

5 Doctoral theses

Jörn Krupa: Universities of Applied Sciences as knowledge centres – Regional cooperation activities between universities and companies: Transfer forms, institutional framework, regional influential factors

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietrich Henckel, Technical University of Berlin.

Project period: 2007 to 2009.

In this project, comparative case studies in the urban regions of Brandenburg an der Havel and Eberswalde will investigate how cooperation and knowledge transfer between Universities of Applied Sciences and companies can be supported by influencing the regional framework.

Kirsten Kunkel: Regional worker pooling – a neglected element of regional production systems

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Oßenbrügge, University of Hamburg / Prof. Dr. Hans Joachim Kujath, Technical University of Berlin.

Project period: 2006 to spring 2009.

Labour market dynamics in regional production systems will be investigated based on qualitative case studies. The theoretical framework is shaped by theories on regional innovation systems and clusters as well as institution theory approaches.

Kristine Müller: Inclusion despite exclusion? Cross-border activities at the outer borders of the European Union

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Bürkner, University of Potsdam

Project period: 2007 to 2010

This thesis looks at the example of the cross-border economic activities of small-scale traders and entrepreneurs along the Finnish-Russian and Polish-Ukrainian borders to investigate how these actors establish commercial trade spaces for themselves in various local contexts along the EU outer border.

Angelika Pauli: Cross-border regional networks as promoters of European integration

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Heiderose Kilper, BTU Cottbus.

Project period: 2007 to 2009.

The project investigates the extent to which cross-border cooperation contributes culturally to European integration. The work is based on sociological theories of integration and society, complemented by approaches to networking and governance. The empirical part of the investigation includes a number of regional case studies located along the German-Polish border.

Suntje Schmidt: Metropolises as growth engines. On the role of knowledge spillovers in knowledge economies and their implications for the metropolis-hinterland relationship

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Elmar Kulke, Humboldt University of Berlin / Prof. Dr. Hans Joachim Kujath, Technical University of Berlin.

Project period: 2007 to June 2009.

The MKRO (Ministerkonferenz für Raumordnung – Ministerial Conference for Spatial Development) assumes, indeed demands, that knowledge spillovers from metropolitan regions spread the growth effects of metropolises into their respective hinterlands. To date, knowledge spillovers have been considered local phenomena resulting mainly from the spatial proximity of various actors. The project therefore raises the question as to what type of spillovers can take place between metropolises and their hinterland and how these can generate growth effects.

6 Schedule for the key project of Research Department 1

Phases	2009				2010				2011			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1. Interdisciplinary roundtable												
FT				P TB								
2. Literature analysis												
3. Formulation of hypotheses												
4. Quantitative analysis of secondary statistical data												
5. Qualitative case studies												
6. Products and transfer												
Graph. evaluation	P GA	P GA	P GA	P GA	P GA	P GA	P GA	P GA	P GA	P GA	P GA	P GA
Publications				see 1.	P WP T			P WP S				PB
Events	see 1.							UeO			FT	
Workshops		WS		WS WB		WS StK		WS WB	WS WW	WS bG		WS WB
7. Preparation and realization of the evaluation												
8. Development of Work Programme 2012-2014												

FT – Symposium / Interdisciplinary DFG Roundtable (w/ RD 3)
WS – Internal Workshop
WS WB – Workshop with Scientific Advisory Council
WS StK – Workshop City Careers and Economic Evolution (w/ RD 4)
WS WW – Workshop The knowledge economy and Spatial Pioneers (w/ RD 3)
WS bG – Workshop on *Boundary Goods* (w/ RD 2)

UeO – Lecture in the 'urbi et orbi' series
P GA – Publication of graphic evaluation
P TB – Publication of conference volume on interdisciplinary roundtable
P WP T – Working paper on theory
P WP S – Working paper on evaluations of secondary statistical data
PB – Project volume

Research Department 2: Institutional Change and Regional Public Goods

1 Departmental profile

“If there is ever an example of the value of multidisciplinary research, it is at the intersection of technology and science studies, environmental history, geography, landscape studies, and the arts, as they combine to form a cable of inquiry into the origins and implications of the new human habitat”. (Rosalind Williams, Notes on the Underground, 2008, p. 267)

Research Department 2 investigates institutional change in the management of spatially bound regional commons, both past and present. The specific characteristics of commons such as infrastructure systems, landscapes and environmental resources, and the variety of regional policy aims they serve, make heavy demands on the institutional practices governing them. This is particularly true in view of the ongoing process of the Europeanization of legal structures, the liberalization and privatization of services (e.g. power supply, waste disposal), demographic and structural as well as climate change that call into question the forms of land use practised to date. Within the framework of these mega-trends, however, the spaces of the provision, use and regulation of these commons are also undergoing changes: cutting across the political and administrative boundaries of local municipalities, multifunctional spaces and their social construction are gaining significance – especially on a regional scale.

The institutional governance of these spatial challenges relating to public goods or “commons” – their significance in terms of regional politics, their rescaling between new local and global levels and the overlaps between their different spatial frameworks – provide the focus of the department's research. The theoretical work covers the conditions contingent upon institutional arrangements for various goods, path dependencies, the adaptability and resilience of existing institutions, the regional governance of public goods in a multi-scalar system and the rescaling of the governance of these goods. The empirical tasks focus on the various interests, problem definitions and ranges of influence of governmental and societal actors in their handling of selected public goods and the development, suitability and adaptation of the corresponding institutional arrangements in specific spatial and temporal contexts. The historical research of the department reflects current debates against the background of long-term processes of change and historical turning-points of path-dependent developments and alternatives now forgotten.

Research in the department – as suggested in the citation at the outset – focuses on combinations of the following disciplines and scientific specialities appropriate to the individual question in hand: urban, regional and environmental history, research in the fields of political institutions and governance, and social science research into cultural and industrial landscapes. In interdisciplinary cooperation, it follows a two-track research strategy: the sensitizing, *firstly*, of spatial research to the significance of commons and their institutional regulation (*institutional turn*) and *secondly* of institutional research to the significance of phenomena related to socially constructed spaces (*spatial turn*).

The following items characterize the focal points of research concerning both past and present:

- regional institutions at the nexus between national / European reform initiatives and local / regional self-administration initiatives;
- cultural landscapes as integrative and formative spaces for regional development;
- sociotechnical infrastructure systems as driving forces and mediums for urban and regional development;
- new forms of *regional governance* for managing infrastructure systems and cultural landscapes.

2 Key project: Public Goods in upheaval. Re-regulation and rescaling in regional comparison

Project team

Head of Project: C. Bernhardt (History) / A. Röhring (Economics)

L. Gailing (Regional Planning), U. Hasenöhrle (History), F. Huesker (Political Science), T. Moss (European Studies/History), H. Kilper (Political Science)

Project period: 01/2009 to 12/2011

The key project brings to a preliminary close a medium-term research programme covering the institutional regulation of infrastructure systems and cultural landscapes. The material covered in Work Programme 2003-2005 under the aspect of path dependencies and systematized in Work Programme 2006-2008 based on problems related to commons and public welfare is rounded off in Work Programme 2009-2011 in the form of a broadly inclusive regional comparison plus a contribution to spatial science theory and the elaboration of perspectives for future research efforts.

The scientific and political interest devoted to infrastructure systems and cultural landscapes – concurrently as mediums, symbols and engines of regional development – has continued unabated in recent years. Major political directives such as the Principles of Regional Planning in Germany (2006), the Territorial Agenda (2007), the amendment to the Regional Planning Act and other basic texts expressly demand the security of infrastructure services as a component of social welfare and the development of cultural landscapes as a major feature of the integrated development of rural and urban spaces (BMVBS 2006; BMVBS 2007; European Commission 2004). This reflects concerns that regulations established to date for public goods of such prominence for regional policy might not be able to accommodate shifting demands and conditions. With regard to infrastructure systems for water supply and wastewater disposal, the classic pattern of municipal supply and regulative supervision is proving increasingly inadequate in the face of privatization and commercialization, the effects of changes in regional structures, climate change and increasing competition from alternative technologies reaching market maturity (Kluge/Libbe 2006; Tietz 2007; Moss et al. 2008). The dilemma of

cultural landscapes is that, whereas the regional political expectations they foster due to their identity-giving and integrative effects are high, they themselves are mainly secondary products of various political agendas, making their institutional regulation difficult (Rodewald/Knoepfel 2005; Fürst et al. 2008).

The key project presented here addresses a basic problem related to public goods in each of the two areas, infrastructure systems and cultural landscapes, and compares the institutional responses to these problems in two regions of Germany. Knowledge gained in the previous project on the Berlin-Brandenburg region (within a broader thematic framework) is compared to new research on the reference region, the Rhineland (see below), where similar problems apply to public goods, but the regulations applied to them appear (at least superficially) to be quite different. This will provide a basis for the recognition of interrelationships between regional structures and institutional regulations so as to consolidate the knowledge gained in a general way and draw robust conclusions concerning the suitability of certain institutional arrangements and forms of governance in these different contexts.

One special feature of the key project presented here is the inclusion of climate change as an additional factor in the analysis. The institutional regulation of water infrastructures and cultural landscapes is particularly critical in view of the consequences of climate change (e.g. water shortages, extreme weather-related events, landscape changes), also revealing the vulnerability of these two kinds of public assets (Birkmann 2008). The dimension “climate change” is integrated into the research approach as an aggravation of existing problems, as a heightening of the uncertainty factor involved in institutional regulation and, thirdly, as an element shared by water infrastructures and cultural landscapes (especially regarding the effects of the altered hydrological balance).

Finally, the key project addresses a research concern integral to the spatial theory basis of these phenomena. The task here is to link the models for action and the explanatory models of both institutional and goods theory to spatial planning approaches about collective action at regional level and in multilevel systems, and to reflect critically on these models in an empirical framework with particular emphasis on the more recent scale debate in human geography and on political science literature on multilevel / regional governance (see 2.2 Theoretical approach).

2.1 Focus

The objective of the key project is to compare regional regulation of the public goods water infrastructures and cultural landscapes in two case study areas (the Berlin-Brandenburg and Rhineland regions) so as to obtain tenable insights into the development, suitability and adaptability of the existing institutional arrangements against the background of changed demands and conditions. Accordingly, the central question is: to what extent, why and with what effect do the institutional arrangements and forms of governance differ in these two case study areas in terms of their handling of characteristic problems related to public assets? This central question is further specified in five steps as follows – corresponding to the analytical framework of the key project (see 2.3 Methods):

1. Problem definition

Based on an analysis derived from theories of public goods and public welfare, the foregoing project formulated the following basic public goods-related infrastructure system problem: the tension between the provision of so-called network goods (using the example of water infrastructures) and the protection of environmental goods (using the example of water resources) as an institutional challenge. At present in Berlin-Brandenburg this can be observed in two parallel threads of discourse that have shown little interaction to date: the under-capacity problems of utility networks due to shrinkage processes on the one hand, and threatened resource shortages due to climate change on the other. In the Rhineland region used here for comparative purposes, both of these phenomena – infrastructural off-peak load levels and shortages resulting from climate change – also occur parallel to each other in some areas. The research question to be addressed here is how the basic problem of water shortage in the distribution networks *and* in the region as a whole is perceived and structured. Are the two dimensions of the problem discussed integrally or separately, and how is the climate debate changing the structure of the problem? Are the institutional regulations in force in the Rhineland, for historical reasons partly in the form of water-use associations called into being by special legislation, better suited to deal with this public goods problem?

The basic public goods problem for cultural landscapes resides in the tension between the widely varying modes of access to cultural landscapes on the one hand and the governance of their use as an integrated potential for regional development on the other. Our research to date in the Berlin-Brandenburg region has revealed a large gap between complex development-related demands at the regional level on the one hand and heterogeneous technopolitical approaches to these problems on the other. The question posed concerning the Rhineland is therefore how the problem of the integrated regulation of cultural landscapes is understood and discussed there in the different political arenas. The region contrasts sharply with Berlin and Brandenburg in that attempts are being made to integrate, as far as possible, policymaking in disparate sectors, in particular with the “REGIONALE” initiative as well as in the debates on the “State Development Plan 2025”, and in the concept for an umbrella brand “Eifel”. The idea is to reflect upon the basic problems of regional regulation against the backdrop of current and historical climate debates.

2. Target concepts

Infrastructure systems and cultural landscapes each serve a variety of different objectives in terms of regional policymaking. Our research to date has however characterized these objectives as subject to a continuous process of adaptation to changed problems and perceptions. The parameters of public welfare are not fixed elements, but are defined by negotiating processes. For the Rhineland region it must therefore be determined which regional policymaking goals are being, or have been, pursued with infrastructure systems and cultural landscapes by different actors and to what extent these approaches have recourse to the principle of public welfare. How do the target concepts and dominant public welfare concepts applied there differ from those observed in Berlin-Brandenburg? How can the differences be explained in terms of history?

3. Solutions (institutional arrangements and governance)

The institutional arrangements for the regulation of the two public goods – and thus for the solving of the above-mentioned public goods problems – range vertically over different spatial scales and horizontally over different policymaking fields. Both aspects – multilevel problems and inter-sector coordination – are at present overshadowed by new rescaling processes that render actions that traverse these levels and policymaking fields more dynamic, more permeable and more significant than before (Brenner 2004; Swyngedouw 2004). Against this background, the question must be asked: what institutional arrangements or approaches to governance are required at the different levels to solve (or at least address) the regional public goods problems? What are the prominent differences between these two regions and how did they come about?

4. Suitability of the approaches

Finally, the suitability of the institutional arrangements in place to manage the public goods problems and achieve the public welfare objectives is of decisive importance. To what extent are the existing regional institutions adequate to deal with the problems at hand? What roles are played by positive and negative path dependencies, social and material spatial structures and interactions that span different scales of action? What new impulses can be gained from historical examples such as abandoned alternatives for the regulation of water infrastructures or earlier climate debates (e.g. on “aridification” in the 1930s)? Here, regional comparisons can provide a reliable basis for robust statements.

5. Development of theory

The significance of public goods such as infrastructure systems and cultural landscapes for regional development is generally recognized, but the development of theory in this field is still rudimentary. The same applies to the effects of spatial changes on public goods and their provision. Conversely, models of institutional and goods theory address space merely as a site of action and not as a constitutive element of public goods and their institutions. What explanations are offered by both institutional theory and spatial research to aid in solving the questions and problems presented above? To what extent can they be placed in relationship to one another, linked, or expanded? What explanatory value is inherent, in particular, in the approaches characterized by the terms rescaling and regional and multi-level governance?

2.2 Theoretical approach

In the Work Programme 2009-2011, the theoretical work completed to date by Research Department 2 is to be further developed into an independent contribution to spatial research. This will bridge several Work Programmes, covering the formulation of theoretical principles of institutional change (WP 2001-2002), investigations of path dependencies as an essential phenomenon of this change (WP 2003-2005) and the conflicting priorities of public goods and public welfare (WP 2006-2008). In the present key project, the lessons from these institutional and goods theory approaches will be formulated for use in relevant debates in the field of spatial research.

Institutional theory

Within the broad field of neoinstitutionalism, the department, and thus the key project, are located within the strand of so-called *historical institutionalism* (Hall/Taylor 1996). This approach directs its attention to the path and context dependency of institutional arrangements, the defining effects of exogenic conditions on institutions, the factor of power involved in their makeup, and effects and interactions between formal and informal institutions.¹ In addition, the actor-centred institutionalism approach (Mayntz/Scharpf 1995) sharpens our view of the formative role played by actors in institutions and those addressed by institutions. We shall also draw upon research on the social construction of institutions (Vatn 2005) and informal arrangements (e.g. cultural landscape concepts, social standards of water use). The objective of governance research is to determine in which forms, and using what methods, the collective interests of a society characterized by institutions are governed. Of particular significance for the key project in this context are contributions on changes in statehood and altered actor and power constellations (Jessop 2002; Mayntz 2004). The conceptual link to public goods is established by both the theory of economic goods and institutional environmental policy research (Young 2002; Ostrom 2005). In particular, the focal interest of the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) in “problems of fit”, “problems of interplay” and “problems of scale” provide central analytical categories for our research activities.

Spatial theory

While the institutional theory approaches serve as the point of departure, new spatial theory insights provide the essential (theoretical) perspectives of this research. Most works of institutional theory either underestimate or ignore the formative effect of spatial structures on their construction, and the significance of scales and rescaling. Spatial theory approaches can offer an important broadening of perspectives in this respect. Particularly relevant to our work on public goods are areas of research concerned with the interplay between materially and socially constructed spaces as influential factors on institutional arrangements (Swyngedouw 2004). Parallels are readily apparent – to socio-historical infrastructure research (Hughes 1983), social landscape research (Kühne 2006; Head 2000) and to our own analyses of the action arenas of river landscape management and cultural landscape design, which cut across political and administrative spaces (cf. Moss 2003; Fürst et al. 2008). Also, the current debate on scale in human geography, on processes of the (re-)scaling of governance from local to global scales, provides a fruitful frame of reference (Brenner 2004; Wissen et al. 2008), which in turn is also to be enriched by our research on public goods including their material spatial dimensions. One important task within this framework will be to delineate links to the ongoing planning and policymaking debate on Multilevel Governance (Benz 2005).

Own theoretical contribution

Based on spatial theory, an independent contribution to the further development of concepts of institutional change and regional environmental governance will be formulated. The models of action and explanation used in the institutional and goods theories will be confronted with spatial approaches to collective action at the

¹ Institutions are – according to social scientific terminology – generally recognized and thus relatively stable systems of regulation that form the basis for reliable patterns of behaviour by individual and corporate actors. They include societal norms, legal regulations and systems of distribution (of power and/or resources), established processes and structures for actions and relations.

regional level and in multilevel systems, followed by critical reflections against an empirical background. Special attention will be accorded to the significance of scalar, material and socially constructed spatial dimensions as applied to the handling of public goods. The anticipated results include statements on space as a factor influencing the relevant institutions and the changes they undergo, as well as statements on institutional change as an engine and medium of spatial development.

2.3 Methods

The methodological approach taken in the key project is based on a specially developed analytical framework for research on institutional arrangements and forms of governance with regard to spatially bound public goods in a historical and present-day perspective (see Fig. 1 below). The investigation will therefore begin by addressing the nature and scope of the specific public goods problems, their historical roots and their perception by regional actors. This will be followed by research on both the corresponding public welfare concepts and the institutional arrangements and forms of governance for solving the public goods problems both past and present. Finally, conclusions for research and practice will be drawn, in particular concerning the suitability and adaptability of existing institutional arrangements.

The research within this analytical framework will be conducted using the following qualitative social research and social history research methods:

Case comparison: The main focus of the key project is a comparison of problem constellations and solutions (institutional arrangements, forms of governance) in the two case-study regions. The criteria for the selection of the second case-study region – for comparison with the reference region Berlin-Brandenburg – were on the one hand the highest possible level of similarity of public goods-related problems, spatial structures and dynamics (the combination of heavily and thinly populated, highly structured and weakly structured areas). On the other hand the institutional arrangements and approaches to governance should also contrast as much as possible in their handling of problems related to public goods. The case-study regions take the form of urban-rural transects so as to meet these criteria in an optimum manner. The case-study region designated as Berlin-Brandenburg includes the city of Berlin and the two regional planning regions Uckermark-Barnim and Lausitz-Spreewald. The second transect with the cities of Cologne and Bonn at its centre extends from the Eifel into the Bergisches Land and is designated the Rhineland region.

Analysis of literature, documents and sources: In addition to secondary and “grey” literature (working papers, expert opinions etc.), the documents evaluated include unpublished documents such as plans, strategy papers and memoranda. Qualitative methods of critical historical source interpretation are applied in the historical investigations to evaluate state, city and possibly company archive materials.

Interviews and participative observation: Semi-open, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with state and community authorities, associations, parties, research bodies and civil society groups, especially in the new case-study

region, primarily to determine the levels of problem awareness, target concepts and potential range of action there. Additional knowledge of the points of view of individual actors and their forms of interaction will be obtained by participating in important public and semi-public events (e.g. hearings) in both case-study regions.

Secondary evaluation of quantitative data, cartographic methods: To supplement the above sources, secondary evaluations of quantitative data (e.g. on water and land use) will be undertaken using simple descriptive statistical methods. Finally, we shall determine the applicability of cartographic methods of surveying, evaluation and presentation.

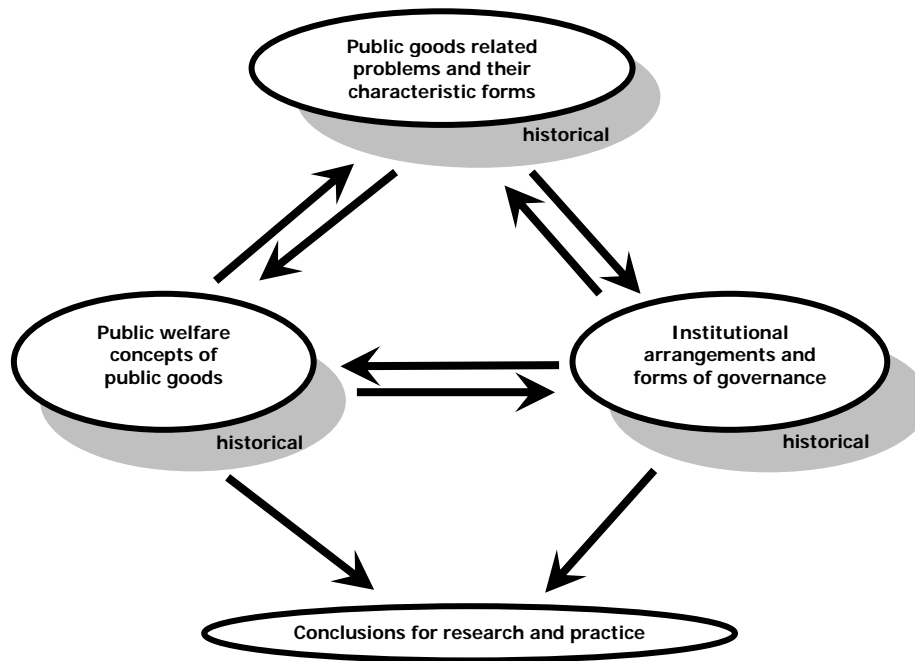


Fig. 1: Analytical framework of key project, Research Department 2

2.4 Project phases

The key project will be realized in the following, partially overlapping, phases:

Phase 1: Preparation and correlation

In closely linked steps, the knowledge gained from prior investigations of the Berlin-Brandenburg region will be processed for the comparative studies and an initial empirical stocktaking of the reference region Rhineland will be carried out. Working hypotheses will then be formulated on this basis, along with guidelines for the empirical studies (historical / present; infrastructure systems / cultural landscapes).

Phase 2: Case analyses

The contemporary and historical studies in the Rhineland region will be carried out within the framework of the four analytical steps described above (public goods problems, public welfare goals, institutions and forms of governance, conclusions for research and practice). This also requires a review of the socioeconomic profile of the region and its significance for the institutional arrangements. In addition, individual supplementary questions of particular relevance to this region will be formulated. On this basis – and in view of the expanded questions (e.g. concern-

ing climate change) – supplementary investigations (in particular interviews) will be carried out in the case-study region Berlin-Brandenburg.

At this point, cooperation is projected between the infrastructure researchers in the key project and the DFG research group on cross-border integration processes via infrastructures, which is chaired by (the then former) Advisory Council member Prof. A. Ambrosius (University of Siegen). Also, empirical examples will be collected and conceptual approaches to the field of infrastructure systems, cultural landscapes and climate change evaluated for the interdepartmental project “Vulnerability and Resilience, a Socio-Spatial Perspective” (see also Habilitation Moss). Initial results on this theme will be published in a working paper (see 2.5 Products and transfers).

Phase 3: Comparative evaluation

The comparative evaluation of the empirical results will refer primarily to the knowledge derived from the two case-study regions. The objective here is to determine to what extent, why and with what effect the problem constellations, target concepts, institutional arrangements and forms of governance differ from one another. Two additional comparative studies will precede this: the first comparing the historical and present-day research work on the individual public goods and the second comparing the knowledge gained on infrastructure systems and cultural landscapes.

Phase 4: Development of theory

First of all, the results of the empirical studies must be evaluated as to their significance for institutional theory approaches, then the value of these results for spatial research must be determined. Finally, theses will be formulated for the substantiation of institution theory and expansion of the existing relevant spatial research theories. The initial step in this assessment is intended to run parallel to the corresponding step in the project of the Scientific Collections and the results collated in a joint workshop.

Cooperation with the other research departments

Cooperation with other research departments is planned above all for the comparative evaluation of the third phase of the key project. In a joint workshop, which will also prepare a regional discussion on the subject of “The Formation of Spatial Identity” in the autumn of 2010, an exchange will take place between Research Department 3 (Spatial Images and Pioneers), Research Department 4 (Identity and City Careers) and Research Department 2 (Identity Function of Cultural Landscapes). During Phase 4 of the key project, in the 2nd quarter of 2011, a theoretical debate is planned with Research Department 1 on the provision of regional public goods under changed conditions of governance using the examples of knowledge, infrastructure systems and cultural landscapes. In connection with the guest visit of Prof. Erik Swyngedouw (University of Manchester) at the IRS in the 2nd quarter of 2009, a workshop on (re-)scaling concepts will take place in cooperation with Research Department 4 to discuss their potential for the research in the key projects of the other departments.

2.5 Products and transfers

The products and transfers result in part from the conclusions of the key project, and in part also (due to the logistical timeline inherent in academic publishing) from projects that have already been concluded.

Events

At the start of the Work Programme (May 2009), an evening event in the IRS series “urbi et orbi” will take place under the title “Mobilization of Research for Climate-friendly Spatial Development” with contributions by Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka (Minister for Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg) and Prof. Dr. Ortwin Renn (University of Stuttgart). About halfway through the project period, interim results will be discussed and further forms of cooperation considered in a workshop in the case-study region Rhineland with regional stakeholders from the fields of politics, administration and associations. Upon completion of the project, a larger conference will be organized to present the results to actors from research and practical fields, in particular from the two case-study regions. Additional plans include a meeting at the Geographers’ Convention 2011 on the subject “*Rescaling of Environmental Governance*”. Members of the key project team will accept invitations to present the project results at major conferences in Germany and abroad, and will contribute articles to refereed journals in order to receive such invitations.

Publications

Having published a number of edited volumes from past key projects, the publication strategy of the department in 2009-2011 is to concentrate on reaching a broad public by publishing its results mainly in refereed English (and French) language journals and with respected publishing houses. Further publications will come from a number of monographs based on theses by researchers employed in the department. Three such monographs are expected in the first half of the Work Programme and three more in the second half. A special issue of the journal *Environmental Management* on “Multi-level Water Governance – Coping with Problems of Scale” is being planned in cooperation with the University of Osnabrück. Interim results of the key project will also be published as working papers. The themes envisaged include climate change as reflected in the vulnerability of water infrastructures and cultural landscapes, also from a historical perspective, and re-scaling as an interpretive model for changes in spatial governance.

3 Cooperation activities

The department contributes actively to a number of national and international research networks and will in future consolidate and expand cooperation on joint projects, events and publications. The department’s most important national networks include: the DFG project association KULAKon, the Climate Research Platform Brandenburg, the East German Network for Institutional Research AIDANET, the interdisciplinary working group of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences “Global Change – Regional Development”, the ARL working groups “Water and Regional Planning” and “Infrastructure and Spatial Development for the Future” and the 4R working group “Suburban Spaces as Cultural Landscapes” (see p. 87). Among the historically oriented networks, the department cooperates in particular with the Society for Urban History and Urbanization Research (GSU) and the associations listed below under “Scientific Collections”. The department

will intensify its international cooperation, e.g. via the European Network for Social Science Research on Urban Infrastructural Systems INFRALAB, the European Association of Urban Historians (EAUH) and the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH). The most important cooperation partners are listed below.

National

- Technical University of Berlin, Institute for Urban and Regional Planning, Center for Metropolitan Studies, Institute for Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, Sociology Institute; (Technische Universität Berlin, Institut für Stadt- und Regionalplanung, Center for Metropolitan Studies, Institut für Landschaftsarchitektur und Umweltplanung, Institut für Soziologie)
- Technical University of Darmstadt, Institute of History; Centre for Urban Research; (Technische Universität Darmstadt, Institut für Geschichte; Forschungsschwerpunkt Stadtforschung)
- Humboldt University of Berlin, Division of Resource Economics; (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Fachgebiet Ressourcenökonomie)
- Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus, Chair of History of Technology, Chair of Preservation of Historical Monuments; (Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus, Lehrstuhl für Technikgeschichte, Lehrstuhl für Denkmalpflege)
- University of Siegen, History Faculty, Institute for European Regional Research; (Universität Siegen, Fachbereich Geschichte, Institut für Europäische Regionalforschungen)
- Leibniz Institute for Ecological and Regional Development (IÖR), Dresden; (Leibniz-Institut für ökologische Raumentwicklung (IÖR), Dresden)
- Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig; (Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde (IfL), Leipzig)
- Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL), Hanover; (Akademie für Raumforschung und Landesplanung (ARL), Hannover)
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Leipzig; (Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung (UFZ), Leipzig)
- Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Müncheberg; (Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung (ZALF), Müncheberg)
- Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR), Bonn; (Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung (BBR), Bonn)
- Berlin Historical Commission (Historische Kommission zu Berlin)

International

- University of Manchester (UK), School of Environment and Development;
- University of Salford (UK), Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF);
- University of Lancaster (UK), Centre for Sustainable Water Management;
- Laboratoire Techniques, Territoires et Sociétés (CNRS-LATTS), Marne-la-Vallée (FR);
- University of Vienna (AU), Institute of Political Science; (Universität Wien (AU), Institut für Politikwissenschaft)
- Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture (IFZ), Graz (AU) (Interuniversitäres Forschungszentrum für Technologie, Arbeit und Kultur (IFZ), Graz (AU));
- University of Houston, Texas (USA), Department of History;
- University of Leicester (UK), Centre for Urban History;

- Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers (CNAM), Centre d'histoire de technique et d'environnement (CDHT), Paris (FR);
- École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Centre des Recherches historiques, Paris (FR).

4 Third party funding strategy

The core objective of the third party funding strategy is to continue with the proven well-balanced mixture of basic research and theoretically oriented projects on the one hand and empirical and application-oriented projects on the other. In this spirit, contemporary and historical research on cultural landscapes will be flanked at the outset of 2009 by the DFG project *KULAKon*, the SUBICON project (Federal Ministry of Education and Research – BMBF) and the transnational project “Paysage du Rhin” (French Environmental Ministry). Additional third party funded projects will address the dividing lines between cultural landscape and water and infrastructure research, e.g. in the BBR (Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning) project “FlussKult”. Applications for third party funding serve the purpose of enhancing the theoretical basis of departmental research (e.g. with the DFG project proposal “Rescaling Environmental Governance in Europe”), and secondly of expanding the department's expertise to include climate and energy-related matters, as in the KLIMZUG project “Innovation Network Climatic Adaptation Region Berlin-Brandenburg” (BMBF), a BMBF project on the energy-efficient city and a BBR MORO project on regional energy concepts.

Third party funded projects ongoing at the beginning of 2009

DFG:

The contribution of sectoral institutional systems to the constitution of cultural landscapes and coordination of interaction processes (*KULAKon* Cultural Landscape Institutions)

H. Kilper (Head of Project), L. Gailing.

Project period: 06/2008 to 05/2011.

The project investigates the relevance of sectoral institutional systems for the constitution of cultural landscapes. The main research focus is on the internal logic of sectoral institutional systems with their specific formal and informal institutions, e.g. legal regulations and disciplinary viewpoints. Their contribution to the constitution of individual cultural landscapes and to the forms of cultural landscape regulation and governance will be investigated. The case-study regions are the Spree-wald, Eifel and Dessau-Wörlitzer cultural landscapes.

BBR (MORO):

FlussKult. Interactions between preventive flood protection and regional cultural landscaping in river landscapes – an analysis of the effects of extremely low water levels resulting from climate change

L. Gailing (Head of Project), A. Vetter, F. Sondershaus, T. Moss.

Project period: 06/2008 to 03/2009.

The objective of the research project is to demonstrate systematically how the target concepts of regional cultural landscaping and preventive flood protection in river landscapes can be interrelated when the consequences of climate change are taken into account. The examples empirically investigated here combine adap-

tation to flood events and low-water situations with processes of regional cultural landscaping.

Ministère de l'Écologie et du Développement Durable (France):

The emergence of sustainable development policies in a cross-border context: the example of the Upper Rhine (1914-2000)

[L'émergence des politiques de développement durable dans un contexte transfrontalier: L'exemple du Rhin supérieur (1914-2000)]

C. Bernhardt (Head of Project), E. Vonau.

Project period: 12/2006 to 06/2009

This historical project in cooperation with the CDHTE (Paris) aimed at the formulation of cross-border concepts for sustainable landscape policies along the Upper Rhine investigates the contexts and phases of water and landscape policies in the 20th century. The analysis covers the changes in patterns of spatial use and landscape awareness, selected historical projects in the areas of hydraulic engineering and landscape planning as well as the effects of the EU Water Framework Directive on river landscapes. The objective of the project, which is integrated into a broader research programme, is to reconstruct the history of regional sustainability concepts from a cross-border perspective.

BMBF (FONA):

Sub-project regional development / regional planning within the framework of the SUBICON Research Consortium

A. Röhring (Head of the Sub-project).

Project period: 09/2008 to 07/2010

Within the framework of the BMBF programme "Biodiversity and Global Change", the IRS is contributing to the third phase of the SUBICON (Successional Change and Biodiversity Conservation) Research Consortium under the direction of the BTU Cottbus. A regional development scenario is to be formulated for the Schlabendorfer historical mining fields in Niederlausitz in cooperation with relevant actors and on the basis of landscape workshops. Research results formulated by the SUBICON Consortium are to be integrated into the work and cultural landscaping potentials are to be realized with a view to biodiversity objectives in regional development.

5 Doctoral and post-doctoral theses

Habilitation thesis

Timothy Moss: Turbulent City – Resilient Infrastructure. Socio-technical change in Berlin between dictatorship and democracy

Supervisor: to be named, Technical University of Berlin / Prof. Dr. Heiderose Kilper, BTU Cottbus.

Project period: 09/2007 to 12/2009.

The aim of this thesis is to provide both theoretical / conceptual and empirical explanations of persistence and change in urban infrastructure systems during their so-called "post-stabilization" phases. Using the example of the turbulent recent history of the city of Berlin, the investigation asks what effects the political and societal upheavals between 1920 and today have had on public utilities in the city.

The systems covered include energy supply, water supply and sewage disposal networks.

Doctoral theses

Ludger Gailing: Regional cultural landscaping policies – institutions and forms of governance for regional development of cultural landscapes

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Heiderose Kilper, BTU Cottbus / Prof. Dr. Hans H. Blotevogel, Technical University of Dortmund.

Project period: 05/2006 to 10/2009.

New demands are being made in regional planning and spatial policy debates, which are increasingly addressing the development potential of cultural landscapes. There is therefore a need for social scientific analyses of our practices related to cultural landscapes. This project links knowledge gained from institutional social studies research with debates on regional governance and uses them for the analysis of regional cultural landscape policies.

Frank Huesker: The transformation of the welfare state – the example of the partial privatization of the Berlin Water Utility

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Ralf Rytlewski, Free University of Berlin / Prof. Dr. Barbara Riedmüller, Free University of Berlin.

Project period: 11/2005 to 06/2009.

What model of national governance results from the functional transformation (= privatization and commercialization) of the welfare state? Historically, trends towards liberalization in public service sectors have always alternated with phases of re-regulation. Why could the current transformation also be interpreted as a general transformation of the “democratic constitutional and interventionist state” by way of disconfigurations and reconfigurations? These questions are investigated using the example of the partially privatized Berlin Water Utility (BWB).

Ross Beveridge (Guest Scientist): Water privatization: Experts, elites and democratic legitimacy in privatization debates

Supervisors: Dr. Anthony Zito, Newcastle University (GB) / Prof. Esteban Castro, Newcastle University (GB).

Project period: 09/2006 to 09/2009.

Despite criticism and controversial discussion, the privatization of the water sector in Europe is a widespread phenomenon which is on the increase. This project analyses how this phenomenon emerged as a political option and how it is implemented within specific political contexts. In particular, it takes a critical look at the democratic decision-making processes involved in the privatization procedure and what this tells us about current governance practices. This is done based on a thorough analysis of the example of the partial privatization of the Berlin Water Utility (BWB) in 1999.

6 Schedule for the key project of Research Department 2

Phases	2009				2010				2011			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1. Preparation and correlation												
		KP										
2. Case analyses												
					A V&R							
3. Comparative evaluation												
4. Theoretization												
5. Products and transfer												
Publications						P Th				P WP R		P
Events						UeO					K	SGT
Workshops						WS Re				WS L/S	WS öG	
6. Preparation and realization of the evaluation												
7. Development of Work Programme 2012-2014												

UeO – Event in the ‘urbi et orbi’ series
 T R – Conference in reference region
 WS Re – Workshop (Re-)Scaling (w/ RD 4)
 WS Id – Workshop Development of Spatial Identity (w/ RD 3 and 4)
 WS L/S – Internal Theory Workshop key project/Collections project
 WS öG – Workshop Public Goods (w/ FRD1)
 RG – Regional Discussion
 SGT – Session at Geographers’ Convention
 K – Final Conference

KP – Concept Paper key project/Collections project
 A V&R – Evaluation Report Vulnerability and Resilience
 P Th – Publication of Theme Issue
 P WP K – Working Paper on Climate Change
 P WP R – Working Paper on Rescaling
 P Div – Submission of various papers to refereed publications

7 Scientific Collections on East German planning history

The Scientific Collections will continue to provide their well-proven services for the benefit of research and will expand on this with their own research project on the history of open space planning in East Germany (GDR). They will also, for the first time, submit bids for third party research funding. For 2009-2011, this means a Work Programme comprising four elements:

- services for research (user services, acquisition and cataloguing of collections);
- research project on East Germany (GDR) open space planning and third party funding applications;
- publications (including a biographical series) and contributions to exhibitions;
- networking and cooperation (including WG "Archives" of the WGL).

7.1 Services for research

The targeted acquisition of institutional and personal estates (1-3 collections per year), as well as user services and the processing of research queries (100-120 per year) will be continued. Indexing aids for partial collections, in particular estates (2-3 per year), will be created using the new program "Midosä", which meets current archiving standards. Cataloguing will be coordinated with research activities in the Collections (in particular the biographical series) and the key project of the department. It will be supplemented by cooperation, trainee hiring and applications for third party funding.

A significant boost to the active acquisition of advance bequest and estate materials will be achieved via participation in exhibition projects on the life's-work of important East German (GDR) planners and architects (especially in cooperation with the Chair of Preservation of Historical Monuments, BTU Cottbus), the creation of an image brochure, the expansion of the online resources and the conception and production of a biographical series. The same applies to the continuation of the research-oriented conference series "Workshops on East German Planning History" and other activities in the fields of publication, conferences and cooperation (see below).

7.2 Research project: Open space planning in East Germany (GDR)

Project team

Head of Project: H. Engler (History)

A. Obeth (History), A. Pienkny (Archiving), C. Bernhardt (History) (total of 20 person months)

Project period: 01/2009 to 12/2011

Subject, research objectives, methods

The project will examine the tension between the open space planner as an individual actor and the institutional setting comprising collective, party and state. Related to this is the relationship between the planning of open spaces in the design of individual localities and serial guidelines for open space planning. The objective of the pro-

ject is to provide an exemplary assessment of the transferability of actor-centred institutionalism to the GDR period. Both of the aspects actor-centring and concentration on the urban cultural landscape link this project closely to the key project of Department 2. Based mainly on key actors, the intention is to offer a biographical perspective on research into the widely discussed question of planner freedom of action in a field of practice that has received no focused research attention to date by applying a fresh theoretical framework.

Among other things, this will involve an empirical inquiry into the institutional arrangements that determined the interrelationships between individual planning, serial design directives and actual construction, and whether, over time, an increasing standardization took place similar to that observed in architecture and housing construction. Individual competence and determination, the adaptation of draft designs to the general specifications dictated by financing structures and public building organizations (e.g. the Integrated Collective for Green Spaces (Kombinat Grünanlagenbau)) and the establishment of the instrument of complex guidelines (TGL 113 – 0373) played a significant role in these interactions. Further investigations will examine which examples of urban cultural landscape planning and design were considered particularly successful and of high quality.

Methodologically, the principles of open space planning in the GDR will be researched using document analyses and the biographical perspective, in particular including the analysis of holdings of the Scientific Collections (e.g. estates donated by the leading East German landscape planners Lingner, Baeseler, Greiner, Matthes, Stefke and Gelbrich). Expert interviews with actors in East Germany's open space planning as well as a secondary evaluation of quantitative data will supplement the work.

Project phases, products and transfers

The project is divided into three working phases. In the first phase, "Principles", the basics of East Germany's open space planning are explained and the relevance of actor-centred institutionalism to those planning processes is reviewed. In the second phase, the above-mentioned tension between individual planners and their institutional environment is investigated, followed by an analysis of community design and serial planning in the third phase. The special nature of the Collection project will be reflected in the close connection between access of and research into estate materials, with creation of indexing aid catalogues and at least one biographical publication.

Additional products planned include a working paper and a workshop discussion (Werkstattgespräch) for the presentation and discussion of the results. The workshop discussion can draw on existing contacts with leading researchers in the field of East Germany's open space planning.

Third party funding strategy

Third party funding will be targeted for the intensification of the research and cataloguing activities of the Scientific Collections. In the research sector, the third party funding proposals listed below have been, or will be, submitted. In the services sector, at least one third party funding proposal is to be submitted for the cataloguing of materials with a focus on digitalization, if possible in cooperation with other institutions.

- “The GDR Districts – Empowered and Powerless Regional Actors. The Example of Construction and Planning Policies” (working title, application to DFG);
- “Home Country GDR? Valuing Landscape and Nature as a Strategy of Regional Identity Policy in the GDR“ (working title, application to the Volkswagen Foundation);
- cataloguing and digitalization of large formats (plans, drawings) and/or photographic collections (application to the Leibniz Association Senate Competition Committee 2010);
- accompaniment of the research project “Housing Construction in East Berlin” and preparation of a publication (dependent on third party funding).

7.3 Exhibitions, publications, conferences

The following forms of knowledge transfer are planned:

- establishment of a new biographical series including preliminary work (interviews, estate acquisition, exhibitions): life and work portraits of important East German (GDR) architects and planners based on archive material from the IRS Scientific Collections, combined in each case with an essay on basic problems or central institutions in East Germany’s (GDR) planning history;
- publication of the 10th and organization of the 11th “Workshop on Planning History”(“Werstattgespräch”);
- lectures and essays on the Scientific Collections;
- participation in exhibitions.

7.4 Cooperation activities and networking

The Scientific Collections are active in the Working Group “Archives” of the Leibniz Association, in the Federation of German Architectural Collections and in the International Building Academy. Project-related collaboration takes place with the Modernism Archive in Weimar, the Chair of Preservation of Historical Monuments of the BTU Cottbus, the University of Applied Science Potsdam (Faculty of Information Science, study course: archiv studies) and other regional and interregional collections.

Research Department 3: Dynamics of Communication, Knowledge and Spatial Development

1 Departmental profile

It has long been clear to practitioners involved in regional policy and planning that regional development and regional innovations cannot simply be planned unilaterally from above. There is a general consensus that *knowledge* is an important production and development factor and that a variety of different groups of actors can make a meaningful contribution to successful regional development with their interpretations of reality, their specific knowledge, their ideas and visions. It is therefore generally agreed that these different actors must be included and allowed to participate in planning processes. This is evident from the fact that concepts such as governance (Fürst/Benz 2003), networking (cf. e.g. Hellmer et al. 1999; Stahl/Schreiber 2003; Rudolph 2003) and project-oriented regional planning (Ibert 2003) are being discussed and implemented and that the use of such slogans as coordination, cooperation and communication has become commonplace.

It has become clear that cooperative processes require negotiations, persuasion and consensus-building and that these processes can best be understood by means of an analysis of *communication processes*. As early as 1996 Healey called for a “communicative turn” in planning sciences, and in the special issue “Discourse and Urban Change” of the journal “Urban Studies” Hastings (1999) also attempted to initiate a “linguistic turn” in the spatial sciences. In actual fact, however, these insights have so far hardly been reflected in research programmes. On the whole, there is an urgent need for information on where exactly the problems lie, considering the contradictory priorities of top-down planning and bottom-up development, and how these might be resolved.

Future research initiatives must address the communication processes within this area of tension. For example, we lack insights into the mechanisms of the communicative construction of space, i.e. of the particular communicative processes within groups of actors, networks and public discourses as a result of which a certain type of knowledge relevant to regional development (in the form of spatial interpretations, new and/or innovative ideas, visions) is generated, passed on, adapted, finds acceptance and, finally, has a palpable impact on spatial structures.

The Work Programme of Research Department 3 will approach these questions using the example of *sociospatial structural change* and *spatially effective social innovations*. Spatial disparities will also be considered. The objective is to introduce the dimension of communication as an analytical category into empirical spatial research in the social sciences. In this manner we hope to make a contribution to application-oriented basic research and to provide information for communication-oriented regional development, regional planning and governance.

Our investigations will focus on how regional development takes place in terms of communication, for instance how traditional interpretations of spatial reality are transformed and how, through communication, new or innovative interpretations of reality

are generated, negotiated and implemented, how the development of spatial identity and regional bonding occurs and how public branding processes work. The emphasis of the Work Programme for 2009-2011 will be on concepts such as *spatial pioneers* and *transculturality*. In this latter case, one of the things we wish to investigate is the impulses for sociospatial change or innovations initiated by *immigrants*. Milieu-specific and *sociospatial cultures* will be analysed with regard to the values, *achievement, education* and *innovation*. Also, the communicative transmission of these cultures will be examined in the context of public discourses.

The research premise of the Work Programme is the theoretical assumption of a *communicative construction of space* as derived from recent developments in social constructivist and applied to space. Since a wide variety of actors are always involved in the communicative construction of space, and these actors develop and communicate different interpretations of reality and different visions of a given space, we base our analyses on a *relational and dynamic space concept*. Space is considered a negotiable quantum.

2 Key project: Spatial pioneers in urban neighbourhoods. Towards a communicative (re-) construction of spaces in transition

Project team

Head of Project: G. Christmann (Sociology)

K. Büttner (Human Geography), P. Jähnke (Urban and Regional Planning, Human Geography), T. Knorr-Siedow (Sociology, Urban and Regional Planning), G. Mahnken (Historical Science)

Project period: 01/2009 to 12/2011

In point of fact, researchers in the spatial sciences have only rarely applied communication analysis in their work. A few examples would be Klüter (1986) using systems theory or – as mentioned above – Hastings (1999) with her proposal of a “linguistic turn”, with which she addresses the richly faceted complex “discourse analysis” (cf. also Richardson/Jensen 2003; Lees 2004). In human geography as well, in connection with the discussion of (“the new”) cultural geography (Gebhardt/Reuber/Wolkersdorfer 2003), it has been pointed out that the social construction of space can only be properly comprehended by taking a look at assignments of meaning that themselves must be understood as the product of actions, communication and discourses. Here we must also mention the spatial science-oriented sociologist Manuel Castells, who in his widely acclaimed trilogy on the information age (2001-2003) addresses the significance of networks, information technologies, communication and the power of identity. Be that as it may, Castells is not interested in concrete approaches based on communication theory or in the contribution of communication processes to spatial development.

Communication science is a discipline that directs its attention explicitly to communication and information. A number of discussions have also dealt with forms of communication on the internet and the consequences for social relationships and spatial experience (cf. above all Bott et al. 2000; Guggenberger 2000; Rötzer 2000). The

role of local media in spatial bonding is another object of inquiry. At the same time, this discipline provides insights into image-oriented and identity-oriented campaigns in the course of urban and regional marketing processes (cf. e.g. Meyer 1999; Schenkhoff 2003; Konken 2004; Schirmbeck 2007). On the other hand, these communication analyses are usually too limited for the needs of spatial research in the social sciences. First of all, they are restricted to communication in the mass media, i.e. they exclude communication within and between different groups of actors. Secondly, they have not developed a discursive analytical perspective and thus have difficulty focusing on communication dynamics that have begun to take on a life of their own. Thirdly, and above all, they show little interest in spatial developments, spatial interpretations influenced by cultural history and local communication cultures. In particular, analyses of urban and regional marketing campaigns are one-sided because they deal primarily with top-down and less with bottom-up processes. Nevertheless, these analyses do offer us certain starting-points. We shall, however, concentrate our attention on the question as to which communicative processes – especially among those initiated by civic actors – can allow ideas to have or prevent them from having an impact.

Research Department 3 will utilize its competence in the analysis of knowledge milieus and spatial structures. Questions of (relational) spatial bonding (Jähnke 2007), public branding (Mahnken 2006) and types of spatial knowledge (Matthiesen 2004) will continue to be pursued and will be associated with the investigation of space-oriented processes of identity-building. In this respect, preliminary work has been done on the communicative construction of urban culture and urban identity in Dresden (Christmann 2004). We already have substantial theoretical and methodological know-how in the field of communication analysis (Christmann 1997, 2004).

2.1 Focus

As was mentioned briefly above, there is a lack of knowledge of the actual processes taking place in the communicative construction of space. The key project will approach this question using the example of *neighbourhoods in large cities that are undergoing structural change*. The focus of attention is to be on a type of actor who “proposes” something new for the neighbourhood, possibly something highly unusual (i.e. innovative) or, to be more exact, who “practises” something new. We shall designate this type of actor a *spatial pioneer*.

The urban neighbourhoods that will be the subject of the empirical research should be as heterogeneously structured as possible, since the idea is to investigate the communicative genesis and negotiation of a wide variety of interpretations of space, including competing ones. Large cities offer the richest potentials in this regard. Urban neighbourhoods that are in transition are a suitable subject for investigating whether, and how, the past is used as a point of departure, i.e. how older interpretations of space are transformed, and above all how new, possibly innovative aspects are developed and under what conditions something new can potentially be established. Big city neighbourhoods are also suitable because they are integrated into the highly diverse media world of the city (e.g. local press, neighbourhood newspapers, advertisers etc.) that not only reflects the processes of upheaval as a forum for discourse but also participates as an independent actor in, and contributor to, the processes.

The concept of the spatial pioneer is not new to the department's research agenda (Matthiesen 2006; Lange/Matthiesen 2006). It has, however, tended to refer (albeit not exclusively) to actors in rural areas. As a matter of fact, spatial pioneers are also found in cities, more precisely in urban district neighbourhoods that are in transition, where they are referred to as "urban pioneers". We do not assume that spatial pioneers must be persons who have recently relocated to the relevant area. It is quite conceivable that some of them will already have been there for some time. It is also thinkable that the term spatial pioneer should be a broad concept, including not only types of actors who can contribute to the positive development of a neighbourhood, but others as well (e.g. youth gangs), whose activities can initiate a downward spiral. Thus the term spatial pioneer is not at all predefined and is meant to serve as a working concept. We do, however, consider an essential characteristic of spatial pioneers to be that they introduce something new in the self-perception or social perception of a given space – often initially utilizing only unoccupied spaces; they use or see the space differently, perhaps developing visions, communicating about them or stimulating other citizens to communicate about them. In so doing they influence, or evoke, interpretations of spatial reality by other people.

Since the subject here is the communicative construction of space, which occurs in *interaction with other actors and groups of actors*, the key project will not restrict itself to the investigation of spatial pioneers. Three "aggregated types" of participating spatial actors in different sectors of society will be investigated:

- individual actors with their spatial interpretations and their views of other actors
- groups of actors and networks with their internal communication
- the public, as the most abstract type of aggregation to which the external communication of groups of actors contributes and in which public discourses take place.

We are therefore interested in face-to-face communication within and between groups of actors (internal communication), in public communication (external communication of actors and discourses in the mass media) and not least in the interactions between internal communication and public discourse. We may also consider types of visual communication (cf. Christmann 2008, to be published shortly), if they play a role in spatial communication within our fields of research.

- **Aggregation level individual actors**

At the *aggregation level of individual actors* we wish to explain how spatial pioneers can be typified in concrete terms. In other words, who are the spatial pioneers in contrast to other actors, who are also to be typed; where do they come from, what is their sociocultural background, what are their starting-points and their goals? What is the background against which they develop something new; what is their spatial reference or what spatial bonds characterize them? How do they see themselves and other actors? And above all, how do they wish to contribute to the communicative construction of space? At the same time, we are interested in how other actors perceive the spatial pioneers.

- **Aggregation level groups of actors and networks**

At the *aggregation level of groups of actors and networks*, we shall investigate how spatial pioneers are integrated into heterogeneous constellations of groups of actors with their specific communication cultures. The focus will be on the following questions. How is space (in this case, the urban district) renegotiated in these constellations? What are the relationships among the groups, i.e. how do they act

together or against each other and how does the communication within and between the groups take place? What do the spatial interpretations communicated there imply; to what extent do they compete with alternative spatial interpretations; how are they argued over, their meaning changed and possibly adapted? Which spatial interpretations of which actors can influence decisions and what roles do the interpretations of spatial pioneers and those of other key actors play here? In this connection, governance patterns will be described, and not only mechanisms of inclusion, but also those of non-communication, exclusion and power relations between actors will be investigated.

- **Aggregation level the public**

The following questions will be asked at the *aggregation level of the public*. How and what (i.e. what spatial interpretations) do the actors communicate to the outer world; to what extent do visual communications (i.e. visual spatial images) play a role? What role do intermediaries (PR, spin doctors, mass media) play in the development and transmission of spatial interpretations? How do the media respond to and discuss the spatial interpretations? To what extent do discourse threads develop? What discursive themes take prominence? Can public discourses be controlled by certain actors, or is it impossible for actors to control them? To what extent do the discourses influence decisions?

The above makes it clear that the department continues to consider spatial knowledge a factor in spatial development. The new aspect of the inquiry is the theoretical perspective of “communicative spatial construction”. Also new is the focus on spatial pioneers and the attempt to establish this concept empirically. By way of spatial pioneers as potential trailblazers and innovators, our focus turns to sociospatial improvements and innovations.

2.2 Theoretical approaches

When we speak of a communicatively constructed space, we mean a space constructed in communicative processes by acting subjects that comprises two components:

- both the *interpretations of spatial reality* developed in the communication processes, which we designate as *knowledge* in the sense used in social constructionism, and which we wish to define or typify more precisely in an empirically substantiated manner in the course of the research process (*immaterial objectifications of space by humans*)
- and the *physical structures of space* developed in communication, decision-making and actions, e.g. in the form of buildings, infrastructure, cultural landscapes, of which we wish to investigate the development and modifications (*material objectification of space by humans*).

Sociology of space

The two components interact. In this respect, we refer to a classical urban sociologist, Robert Ezra Park, who noted in his early work “The City” (1915) that the city has, in his words, a “moral structure” (today we would say a “knowledge structure”) and a “physical structure”, and that the two interact.

From the point of view of the sociology of space, the *relational concept*, as proposed especially by Löw, is of importance. This approach will, however, be expanded in

terms of the sociology of communication and of knowledge (cf. Schütz/Luckmann 1979, 1984; Berger/Luckmann 1966).

Social constructionism and a discourse concept based on the sociology of knowledge

The *social constructionism* of Berger and Luckmann (1966) in its theoretical extension by Knoblauch (1995, 2001a) and Luckmann (2002) provides the basis. In this new version, communicative actions and their content are considered “elementary particles of the social construction of reality”. To date investigations have dealt mainly with individual social actors in face-to-face situations; less attention has been paid to collective actors and institutionalized processes of public communication. For this reason, the *discourse concept based on the sociology of knowledge* formulated by Keller (1997, 2001, 2007) and based on Foucault is also applied. Foucault’s approach is interesting in that he demonstrates how intersubjectively shared knowledge and power structures arise from discursive practices, though his interest focuses on the dissociated and unintentional dynamics of the genesis of knowledge. Inspired by Foucault, Keller pursues the goal of adding elements of structural and institutional theory to the more action theory-oriented approach of Berger and Luckmann. He does not, however, relinquish the basic action-theory perspective.

Identity theories

We shall also have recourse to *identity theories*. Among social scientists practising spatial research, the ideas of Weichhart (1990, 1994, 1996) are best known, although his communication theory constructs do not go as far as the various sociological identity theories. On the subject of collective identity building, and above all on the communicative construction of spatial identities, we have published a number of preliminary works (cf. Christmann 2004). These are to be expanded on in the key project to include a relational spatial concept and forms of *spatial bonding* (cf. Jähnke 2007). In the meantime, the spatial identity concept has been discovered for city and regional marketing (Werthmüller 1995); it is also being discussed as an instrument of regional development (cf. Weichhart 2000; Ebert 2004; Kranepuhl 2008). However, approaches to city and regional marketing will be of limited use to us. Our interest will tend more towards “bottom-up” processes and connections with *network theories* (Schenk 1995; Law/Hassard 1999; Willer 1999), and in particular qualitative network analysis (Hollstein/Straus 2006) as well as *concepts of multilevel governance* (Bache/Flinders 2004) and *public branding* (Mahnken 2006).

2.3 Methods

Case studies of two (or three) large city neighbourhoods are planned. We shall choose from among Germany’s largest cities, Berlin, Hamburg, Munich and Cologne, which are comparable in their population, heterogeneity, urbanity and media variety. A number of different studies have already been published on these cities (or individual neighbourhoods in them) that provide important structural data, reveal transformation processes or present detailed case analyses. These studies provide us with important background material that is needed to make an informed selection. As a further aid in selecting urban neighbourhoods, we include information gathered from our contact persons, who are familiar with spatial science, in these cities. The contact persons can provide information on the development of neighbourhoods in their cities, on current themes in urban discourse and on the presence of spatial pioneers

and their activities. We will choose the cities/neighbourhoods that promise the broadest constellations of groups of actors and the most interesting negotiation processes.

The following qualitative methods of social research will be used in the analyses:

Expert interviews beginning with the spatial pioneers and extending to persons from other participating groups of actors (from the areas of local politics, administration, business, education, culture and civil society). The objective is to obtain an overview of the actors and networks and to explore the complexities of this field of inquiry.

Problem-centred interviews with the spatial pioneers and other key actors in order to find out how they interpret the present spatial structure, what their personal relation to it is, whether they can relate to the existing cultural modes of coding the spatial structure, what their ideas for the future of the area are and how they would like to see them realized.

Ethnography with a focus on internal and network communications in selected groups of actors and networks, in order to investigate which interpretations of space are verbalized, how they are negotiated, the extent to which lines of conflict exist and how these conflicts are resolved, the circumstances under which decisions are made, who the leading participants in these processes are and what role is played by the spatial pioneers. Focused ethnography is not yet widely used in Germany (in contrast to the USA). It differs from classic ethnography in that it makes no claim to a holistic, dense description of the entire field, but rather aims to observe selected (in most cases communicative) actions (cf. especially the extrapolations of the method by Knoblauch 2001b).

Document analyses of the minutes of meetings, meeting agendas, statements and working papers in order to obtain information – as a supplement to focused ethnography (and for periods in the past) – on themes and their development as well as on the decisions taken.

(Qualitative) network analyses will be carried out during the course of the problem-centred interviews in a separate part of the investigation. The point is to get the actors to comment on their “proximity to knowledge” in relation to other actors (i.e. proximity regarding spatial interpretations and spatial identification potentials), on network strategies and on the roles of key actors and of spatial pioneers. What we will attempt here is to identify cohesion and division and examine their reciprocal effects on spatial decisions as a basis for identifying governance patterns.

Discourse analysis based on the sociology of knowledge will be used to analyse external communication (press releases, placards, flyers etc.) by spatial pioneers, groups of actors and networks as well as the public discourses in local/regional mass media. The objective is to investigate how, and what, these actors communicate to the outer world, how the subject matter is dealt with by the public, which discursive themes come into the spotlight and whether or not actors can control them; how the discourses influence decisions.

The use of the methods will vary from one aggregation level to another. One staff member will be assigned to work on one aggregation level using the appropriate methods. The aggregation level “individual actors” involves expert interviews and

problem-centred interviews (the latter including questions about networking and qualitative network analysis); the aggregation level “groups of actors and networks” will be investigated using the methods of focused ethnography and document analysis, and the aggregation level “the public” using discourse analysis based on the sociology of knowledge.

2.4 Project phases

The key project will be carried out in the following, to some extent overlapping, phases.

Phase 1: Run-up phase

In the *run-up phase* we will begin with the literature analysis, which will continue during the entire project, especially during the first year of the project period. In the first quarter of 2009, the selection of the urban neighbourhoods for the case analyses will be finalized. The research instruments will also be developed in the form of guidelines for the expert interviews, problem-centred interviews and qualitative network analysis. In the second quarter, the exploratory field work will be initiated with the expert interviews, the objective being to obtain an overview of the field and prepare for the actual field phase.

Phase 2: Field phase

The actual *field phase* is scheduled to take two years. Data collection and initial data analyses will be done in alternating cycles according to the grounded theory method. Basically, however, the empirical work will concentrate especially on data collection and processing during the first year of the field phase, followed in the second year by a more analytical and interpretive orientation. The data collection and analysis for the three levels of aggregation “individual actors” (oversight: Jähnke), “actor groups/networks” (oversight: Büttner/Knorr-Siedow) and “public” (oversight: Mahnken) will be done by different persons working separately and will thus run parallel. The fact that one staff member is assigned to one aggregation level will enable him/her to develop expertise for the specific aggregation level or data type and to obtain a clearer perception of shared and differentiating qualities among the cases.

Phase 3: Collation of research results

In the final quarter of the year 2010, the *collation phase* of the research results will begin. It will continue up to mid-2011 and end in the preparations for the publication of a book. In the collation phase, the analytical results for the individual aggregation levels (individual actors, actor groups/networks, the public) will first be combined, followed by systematic comparisons of cases from the urban neighbourhoods investigated. In a second step, collation and case comparisons will be extended across the individual levels of aggregation, and the processes of communicative construction of space observed during the field phase will be analysed and systematized in all their complexity and interaction.

Parallel to this process, in the year 2011 work on the development of the Work Programme for 2012-2014 will commence along with the preparations for the evaluation of the IRS.

Cooperation with the other research departments

Close cooperation with the other IRS research departments is a fundamental goal. There are connections with Research Department 1 on the basis of the knowledge concept. Research Department 3 will participate in the DFG roundtable organized by Department 1 on “Proximity and Distance” in the first quarter of 2009. In addition, a joint workshop with Research Department 1 is planned for the 1st quarter of 2011 on “The Knowledge Economy and Spatial Pioneers”. Spatial pioneers are also the subject of a cooperation with Research Department 4, which will culminate in a joint workshop “Spatial Pioneers and City Careers” in the 4th quarter of 2010. Questions concerning “Spatial Identity Building” will be discussed together with Research Departments 2 and 4 in a workshop followed by a Brandenburg Regional Discussion on this theme in the autumn of 2010.

2.5 Products and transfers

Events

The following conferences are planned, with third-party financing to be sought in each case: an international symposium on “Communicative Construction of Space” and – to establish the methods – an international workshop on “Discourse Analyses in Social Science-Based Spatial Research” (together with the Working Group on Discourse Analysis of the Sociology of Knowledge Section of the German Sociological Association).

Additional programme items we will organize are: a national workshop on “Social Entrepreneurs and their Spatial Impact”, a practice forum on “Urban Spatial Pioneers” a lecture in the IRS “urbi et orbi” series and twice a year the “Brandenburg Regional Discussions”, a discussion forum for actors from politics, administration, business, science, culture and civil society on development potentials in the reference region Berlin-Brandenburg.

Publications

In addition to working papers and a number of articles in German and English (especially in referenced journals), it is planned to publish the results of the key project in the form of a project report (at the end of the Work Programme period). The publication of at least two interdepartmental papers based on cooperative work on overlapping themes from their key projects is also planned.

3 Cooperation activities

National and international cooperation activities will be maintained and further expanded in the context of both basic and applied research, in applying for and conducting third party funded projects, and in the fulfilment of teaching responsibilities. Currently, cooperation is ongoing with the following partners:

National

- Technical University of Berlin, Department of Sociology (Technische Universität Berlin, Institut für Soziologie);

- Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus, Faculty of Architecture, Construction Engineering and Urban Planning (Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus, Fakultät für Architektur, Bauingenieurwesen und Stadtplanung);
- Zeppelin University, Friedrichshafen, Chair of Communication Science and Knowledge Anthropology (Zeppelin Universität Friedrichshafen, Lehrstuhl für Kommunikationswissenschaft und Wissensanthropologie);
- Central European Centre for Statecraft, Economics and Cultural Sciences at the Technical University of Dresden (Mittleuropazentrum für Staats-, Wirtschafts- und Kulturwissenschaften an der Technischen Universität Dresden).

International

- Department for Welfare, Democracy and Governance Research, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Oslo;
- Department for International Studies in Development, Transition and Migration, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Oslo;
- Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism, Roehampton University, London.

The department intends to strengthen its cooperation and networking with communication-oriented social scientists working in spatial research, especially at the international level.

4 Third party funding strategy

The new head of Research Department 3, Gabriela Christmann, took up her position as of 1 April 2008. The third party funded projects under the directorship of Ulf Matthiesen were therefore completed in the year 2007 and no new projects were applied for in order to give the new Director the opportunity to set new priorities in the department's research. Since then, the following project applications have been written up and submitted for approval, or are in preparation:

- "Communicative Spatial Constructions: Spatial Images – Spatial Markers – Spatial Bonding. Public Branding and Spatial Disparities in Metropolitan Regions (Reference Region Berlin-Brandenburg)" (DFG),
- "Social Entrepreneurs – Communication Strategies and Spatial Effectiveness" (Foundation),
- "Innovation via Migration" (NORFACE/DFG, in cooperation with national/international partners),
- "Sociospatial and Milieu-Specific Value Cultures – Views of the Values Achievement, Education and Innovation" (within the framework of the project "The Socialization of Values", VW Foundation),
- "Youth in Schools, Their Forms of Communication and Global/Local Orientations" (State Chancellery, State of Brandenburg).

We have also expressed our interest in:

- evaluative support for a research project applied for by the "German Association" on young people as spatial pioneers in rural regions of eastern Germany (BMAS, XENOS).

In fields in which the department already possesses an established level of expertise we will attempt to obtain DFG financing. In cases in which new fields of research are

to be developed (e.g. with the topic "Spatial Impact of Social Entrepreneurs"), the initial aim is to acquire funding from foundations for smaller projects of a more exploratory nature, after which theoretically and methodologically more advanced projects can be applied for.

5 Doctoral theses

Doctoral thesis

Kerstin Büttner: "Transcultural Competence" as an Opportunity for Innovation – Worldwide Knowledge Transfer, the Example of the Reference Customer System at Siemens Medical Solutions

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Marlies Schulz, Humboldt University of Berlin.

Project period: 2007 to 2009.

The research project follows Berking (1998) in thinking that "Processes of cultural globalization imply a radical shift in sociospatial scales and thus of the sociospatial forms of organization of social relations". The project investigates this thesis more closely using innovation initiated by a global player as an example. A paradigm shift has taken place in this instance in that the starting-point of the innovation strategy is now the context of application of the product, and hence the analysis of *local cultures*. The central questions looked at in this project are the types of knowledge and competence that become important in this transcultural translation process and the forms of organization and sociospatial scale shifts involved.

6 Schedule for the key project of Research Department 3

Phases	2009				2010				2011			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1. Run-up phase												
Literature analysis	WS 1											
Case selection, development of research instruments												
Initiation of field work												
2. Field phase												
Three parallel aggregations					WS 2	WS 3	WS 4					
3. Bundling of results / systematic comparisons												
Within aggregations												
Extending beyond aggregations												
4. Products and transfer												
Publications				P TB							PB	
Events	FT	RG	UeO	RG	Sy Kokon	RG				RG	P-F SIRP	RG
Workshops		WS SE				WS Id	WS RP	WS WW	WS DA			
5. Preparation and realization of the evaluation												
6. Development of Work Programme 2012-2014												

- FT** – Symposium/Interdisciplinary DFG Roundtable (w/ RD 1)
P-F SIRP – Practice Forum Urban Spatial Pioneers
Sy Kokon – Inter“nal symposium “Communicative Construction of Space”
WS Id – Workshop Development of Spatial Identity (w/ RD 2 and 4)
WS RP – Workshop Spatial Pioneers and City Careers (w/ RD 4)
WS WW – Workshop Knowledge Economy and Spatial Pioneers (w/FA1)
WS 1-4 – Internal Workshops

- WS SE** – Ext. Workshop “Social Entrepreneurs and Their Spatial Impact”
WS DA – International Workshop “Discourse Analysis in Social Science-Based Spatial Research”
UeO – Event in the ‘urbi et orbi’ series
RG – Regional Discussion
P TB – Publication Conf. Report on Interdisciplinary Roundtable
PB – Publication of Project Report

Research Department 4: Urban Regeneration

1 Departmental profile

The work carried out in Research Department 4 concentrates on the course and dynamics of development in cities undergoing structural change. The main focus is on strategies for action and on regeneration processes, such as renewal of the population and employment base and of urban structures. Specific local patterns of behaviour and activity as well as aspects related to political and planning administration and to the participation of civil society are considered in greater detail and related to each other. Also considered in this connection are the dependencies of local regeneration processes and strategies on both path development and the higher spatial levels of regional, national and European policies (multilevel governance). The department thus combines structural analyses of cities (e.g. population, employment and settlement structures) with the analysis of the activities of actors in city politics, the administration and civil society.

The medium-term objective is to formulate explanatory models for differing development processes in cities that will reflect historical processes and a variety of different development templates, explain structural changes and upheavals in urban development and define options for urban policies.

Particular emphasis is placed on questions pertaining to urban development policy in the face of the ambivalent developments concerning urban planning, housing management and social space in cities. Within Research Department 4, the Federal Transfer Office Urban Reconstruction East (Bundestransferstelle Stadtumbau Ost), which was established on behalf of the Federal Government, functions as a specific competence centre that is to provide a scientific basis for the federal-state development programme Urban Reconstruction East and offer political advice. By means of additional research projects that delve more deeply into individual issues (e.g. the role of private owners or participation in urban reconstruction), this field of research is expanded and enhanced on a regular basis. The department is also a highly competent political advisor in other areas such as the preservation of urban historical monuments.

A special feature of Research Department 4 is its combination of competence in the areas of planning, political science and social geography. In regional terms, the work of the department focuses mainly on the development of cities and urbanized regions in Germany and Europe. Its research concentrates on the following areas:

- the sociospatial peripheralization of cities and regions in Germany
- regeneration processes and strategies in cities undergoing structural change
- the potentials and limits of urban policy administration in the context of multilevel governance
- city careers and local path developments
- competition and cooperation in urban regions
- urban reconstruction.

2 Key project: City careers in peripheralized regions. Developmental dynamics and options for action

Project team

Head of Project: H. Liebmann (Urban Planning)

M. Bernt (Political Science), T. Bürk (Social and Cultural Geography), T. Kuder (Urban and Regional Planning), M. Kühn (Landscape Planning)

Project period: 01/2009 to 12/2011

Global restructuring processes are resulting in a shift in economic and growth centres all over the world. They are also leading to an increasing differentiation of types of urban development and a widening gap between growing and shrinking urban regions. As a result, cities and urban regions now face sharper economic competition and are jockeying for the best positions in the new hierarchy of cities (Krätke 1991). Also observed are increasing sociospatial disparities and growing differences in the developmental dynamics of cities. Growth, stagnation and shrinkage are often taking place at the same time and in the same region. The relationships between central and peripheral regions are also subject to dynamic processes of change and are no longer accurately explained by the old polarization theories. Economic and demographic growth processes in some regions are associated with new forms of peripheralization. As a result cities and regions have come less and less to fit the polarization pattern between high-growth metropolises and low-growth rural areas and also no longer clearly manifest the polarization between west German “winner” and east German “loser” regions.

A new sociospatial understanding of peripheralization as a process defines it as “... a gradual weakening and/or decoupling of sociospatial developments compared to the dominant processes of centralization. This definition takes into account the possibility that there may be developments with a centripetal effect even in thinly populated regions. By the same token, peripheralized conditions can also develop in agglomeration regions” (Keim 2006). The potential features of such peripheralization include: decoupling of outmoded regional economic structures from new knowledge-based dynamics, an exodus of qualified specialists, above-average ageing rates in the population due to a lack of fresh immigration and negative images of self and others among the population, which are also projected onto the region. Whereas some regions in eastern Germany show an accumulation of these economic, social and political problems, with a clear risk of downward spiralling, experience gained in western Germany has demonstrated that even thinly populated rural regions that until recently were considered economically underdeveloped can prosper again.

Even in peripheralized regions characterized by decline and shrinkage, however, especially medium-sized cities often have considerable socioeconomic, cultural or infrastructural potentials that can allow them to serve as multifaceted anchorage points that provide the surrounding region with a certain level of stabilization. For example, many public and private services are increasingly concentrated in these cities, services that at the same time can really only be maintained within a wider regional context. On the other hand, especially in several eastern German regions, civil society has developed local forms of urban culture, the causes of which lie in social stagna-

tion and in a collective experience of decline and exclusion as a result of deindustrialization and population exodus. In view of the fact that these phenomena are completely decoupled from the dominant political decision-making processes, they must be assessed as particularly problematical and accordingly deserving of special attention.

Little research has been done to date on the differing development and strategic repositioning of cities in peripheralized regions. The specific research objective is therefore to clarify why cities that started with comparable regional conditions follow widely different development paths and how they renew themselves in a process of structural change or reposition themselves in the sense of “rescaling” (Smith 1984; Brenner 2004). This effort demands not only increased attention to new forms of peripheralization, but also a differentiated view of potential modes and logic of action at the local and urban levels. Particularly in the ambivalence arising between the conditions of a globalized economy and the existing local potentials, i.e. the manner in which “global flows” encounter “local cultures” (Berking 1998), independent forms of differentiation can be expected. In this context, in terms of different city careers the key project investigates the exact nature of the mutual relationship between structural development on the one hand and localized actions with their inherent chances and obstacles on the other hand.

2.1 Focus

The key project extends the term career, which was previously used in the social sciences mainly in the context of biographical processes or to characterize social and geographic mobility, to include city careers. The term career, implying as it does both upwards and downwards movements, would appear to be particularly apt here in view of the fact that both individual and city careers must constantly be reinvented, developed and called into question. In the process they are highly dependent on personal or local actions. On the other hand, both individual and city careers are influenced by a variety of macrostructural conditions as well as sectoral and subsystem “intrinsic logic” that can both further or restrict their efforts, but also by accidental and unexpected events.

Our main concern is to develop the heuristic inherent in the idea of the city career and to apply it in a comparative analysis of cities in peripheralized regions. From a temporal perspective the topos of the city career includes both its historical course and its present character as well as contributing actions and interactions. A city career is both a process and a state. Accordingly, the questions asked address both the historical course and the characteristic features of a city's career.

The key project combines three different social science approaches to urban research. The first approach covers the historical processes that have formed a city and their influence on its career (“history matters”). The second approach addresses the actors, structures and processes resulting in real or intended career steps or entire careers (“policy matters”). The third level leaps over the barrier of scale from the city to other levels of action and structure (“scale matters”). This assumes that the specifically local aspects expressed in the city career are only rendered recognizable by a constant change of perspective between the local and regional, national and global planes. The research themes associated with these approaches are described in more detail below.

- **History matters! – The historical dimension of a city career**

The career of a city is of course always a function of its history, of temporal cycles and epochs, of the processual nature of structural development resulting from action and interaction that form and structure a city over the course of time. What plays an important role here is less the linear and chronological historical record than the question as to what formative impulses that are characteristic of the present are inherent in the historical structural developments and in the action and interaction scenarios that also determined phases of stagnation and decline of a city or of its renewal. Reference will be made to the research efforts carried out to date in the key project with regard to path developments and dependencies (Pier-son 2000). These will be extended by multi-perspective reconstructions of career logic as expressed in the course of urban history. Strübing's (2007) concept of urban trajectories will be applied here.

- **Policy matters! – The political configuration of city careers**

Besides the existing historical conditions, the main determinants of city careers, or certain steps within those careers, are urban policies geared to the present, which are themselves linked to specific political conditions, structures, processes and actor constellations. The focus is on the influence of the local action and interaction of various actors and actor constellations on the scope and configuration of city careers. Individual analyses of urban politics that serve to concretize this key question are investigated at the various levels of polity (institutions), policy (political matter) and political approaches (processes) (Häußermann/Läpple/Siebel 2007).

At the level of the *polity* the institutional aspects of local politics are considered. Can specific local modes of governance be identified in the actions of formal actors and institutions involved in local politics and administration or of informal institutions (actor networks, "urban regimes", civil society groups, etc.)? What influence do they have on the characteristics of city careers?

In the *policy* analyses, the *material content of the political process* is the focus of interest. Can specific ways in which urban political authorities handle peripheralization be identified, and what influence do they have on the characteristics of city careers?

When it comes to *politics*, on the other hand, the investigation turns to concrete political processes at the local level as well as at the interconnected higher levels (federal, state, EU). How do different modes of dealing with hierarchy versus networks or conflict versus consent influence the characteristics of city careers?

- **Scale matters! – The regionalization of cities**

The actions and interactions of actors at the local level cannot be assessed outside the context of supralocal societal networks and their reciprocal effects. In order to appreciate the specific character of a city career, it is therefore important to take a careful look at the multi-scalar and relational factors of urban development. In peripheralized areas, conflicts between local authorities over the distribution of resources as well as locational competition are necessarily exacerbated because there is hardly any excess growth available for distribution. At the same time, it is becoming less and less possible to solve the structural problems of cities in isola-

tion at the local level. Instead, a parametric change of scale from city to region is increasingly necessary.

The regionalization of cities can take place either via the further centralization of regional utility and infrastructure functions in competition with other cities and rural communities in the region (e.g. by means of incorporation into bigger municipalities or regional planning measures). Or new forms of intercommunity cooperation and city partnerships can develop, in which the centralized functions in the region are managed on the basis of an increased division of labour.

The key project therefore addresses the question as to what different types of city regionalization are emerging and what influence the different forms of regional competition and cooperation have on the course of city careers.

2.2 Theoretical approaches

Recent developments have shown a tendency to recognize cities more fully as independent subjects of social science research. Whereas until recently the *city* was conceived mainly as a subset of society, with research focused on the spatialization of social anomalies (migration and welfare housing, lifestyles, etc.), what is demanded today is a *reorientation of urban research* so that it pays greater attention to the local, idiosyncratic realities of cities (Läpple 2005; Berking/Löw 2005). The new standards are being set by research on the inherent logic of cities *per se*, as in the work of Löw/Berking. Inherent logic is taken to mean the social and discursive practices of inhabitants and institutional decision-makers, who institutionalize themselves within a temporal, material and spatial dimension and thus generate specific local paths of development. The extension of the habitus concept to include the idea of the city also addresses the differentiation of cities and the roles of specific local phenomena (Lindner 2003). Both the inherent logic approach and the habitus concept are understood as containing points of close contact with the city career approach.

Beyond this, the key project has a further basis in the theoretical and methodological interplay of complex viewpoints. Beginning with the new sociospatial process concept of peripheralization (Keim 2006), the city career research perspective combines three different approaches: those of historical, political and spatial science.

Institution-theory path approaches

In the context of the urban history approach, the previous discussion of institutional path concepts will be continued on the basis of historical neoinstitutionalism, which was originally derived for economic contexts (North 1992). The focus here is on historical city paths and path dependencies that strongly characterize the present city career. Special events, as a result of which path dependencies have been overcome or new paths initiated, i.e. in the sense of developmental turning points, are also addressed (Pierson 2000). The process of the generation of strategically supported urban development and regeneration paths, along with the subsequent selective processes, are also examined more closely (Garud/Karnøe 2001). In this manner, the approach based on urban history is significantly expanded to include aspects related to present and future actions.

Another approach comprises the multi-perspective reconstruction of the inherent logic of social processes as applied to city careers, in the sense of the interactionistic

theory of action (Strauss 1993). By examining the inherent logic of processes once they have been set in motion, which is also expressed in "trajectories", we direct our attention beyond the structural developments and related levels of action and interaction to developmental influences that are often concealed and at first not apparent at all but nevertheless continuous.

Political science approaches

The urban politics approach deals particularly with issues related to actor and action theory as well as process-oriented urban research. In the new governance debate (Benz 2004) and in urban sociology, three dimensions (polity, policy, politics) are proposed for analysis when dealing with theories of urban and community politics (Häussermann/Läpple/Siebel 2007).

In terms of actor-centred institutionalism (Mayntz/Scharpf 1995), the readily apparent link between the actor level and the level of institutions with long-term stability is extrapolated to the concept of the city career. Governance and multilevel governance research (e.g. Benz 2004, Mayntz 2004) as well as community power research, e.g. with growth machines and urban regimes (e.g. Logan/Molotch 1996; Stoker 1995), are used to investigate the concrete appearance and influence on city careers of a number of theoretically substantiated management and self-regulation constellations. Furthermore, strategically oriented forms of process management are also considered at the level of theoretical planning (e.g. Albrechts 2004).

Social geography approaches

In the third, sociogeographical, approach the main focus is on theoretical concepts of peripheralization and glocalization and on (re-)scaling concepts (Smith 1984). In this field, studies on competition for the best positions in the new global city hierarchy (Krätke 1991) can provide useful stimuli. Under the catchword "social challenges" in relation to these competitive city systems, other possible approaches include a comparison, for instance, of the manifest *organizing capacities* of different cities (van den Berg/van der Meer/Pol 2003). Regarding the specifics of how the challenges and potentials of global upheavals are handled locally ("glocalization"), reference is made above all to Swyngedouw (1997) and to the work of Brenner (2004) on political economy.

Stimulating ideas are also expected from theoretical work in the fields of corporate management and career research (Hermann 2004). The social theoretical foundations of Bourdieu's habitus and field theory applied there would appear to be suitable for at least a selective extrapolation to urban research.

2.3 Methods

It is planned to conduct a field analysis in the form of explorative research comprising essentially a mix of quantitative and qualitative empirical approaches. Methods of content and discourse analysis are to be employed within a framework of comparative case studies.

Comparative case studies: Three reference regions each will be selected in peripheralized regions in the pre-1990 FRG and GDR areas (i.e. western and eastern Germany), within each of which two reference cities will be selected for comparative case studies. The key project will thus concentrate on six cities as specific cases

within three reference regions. The decisive criterion for selection is that the cities must have undergone, or currently be undergoing, significant socioeconomic structural change, and have developed differently in the last 10-15 years despite their similar basic structures (contrasting case studies).

Evaluations based on secondary analyses and statistics: To determine which specific developments the cities have undergone, secondary analyses will be carried out on the basis of existing documents and statistics (e.g. on historical development, economic and employment structures, population and settlement development, functional administrative status within the region, the structure of political power and civil associations).

Depending on the specific research issues, sociogeographical imaging methods, e.g. thematic and cognitive mapping, may also be used.

Expert interviews: Expert interviews will be conducted with key persons in the reference cities and regions. The persons selected will include both the political, economic and cultural elite, defined by their administrative positions and political offices, and persons considered to be important informal actors in public life (“urban activists”).

Group interviews and ethnographic interviews: In order to investigate the social activities of different actors at the local level spatially and temporally, the methods should be expanded to include empirical cultural approaches. Using analytical discourse approaches and their contextualization in open group interviews and spontaneous on-site interviews, a field analysis based on “nosing around” (Park) can yield illuminating additional information on actor constellations, self-attributions and images of “others” and “foreigners”.

2.4 Project phases

The key project will be carried out in the following phases, with some temporal overlap.

Phase 1: Research heuristic

In the first project phase current urban research theories will be analysed and debated. The aim is to deepen the theoretical and conceptual foundations of the city career approach, including incorporating related, competitive or complementary concepts of urban research. The concepts considered in this context will mainly be closely related ideas to that of the city career: habitus of the city (Lee 1997; Lindner 2003), inherent logic of the city (Berking / Löw 2005) and genius loci (Neddens 1986). In addition to this, the discourse on careers and career trajectories carried out in management research will be considered more closely, since new stimuli can also be expected from this quarter. An initial objective is to clarify the terminological basis, in particular with a view to the concept of the city career.

On this basis the research heuristic will then be expanded and a more precisely defined research design for the comparative analysis of city careers will be developed. Parallel to this, the key questions will be formulated and hypotheses that will form the basis for the field research will be compiled. The selection criteria for the case studies will also be determined.

The first project phase will also be utilized to prepare applications for third party funded projects that are to flank the key project.

Phase 2: Qualitative case studies

Based on the criteria for the selection of case studies, the reference regions and reference cities will be determined and preparations will be made to carry out the case studies. The two case studies within each reference region will run parallel. Based on the evaluations from the secondary analyses and initial expert interviews, career phases will be selected for closer investigation.

Following the conclusion of the empirical phase in the individual reference regions, the results will be summarized in working papers as a basis for subsequent comparative evaluation of the case studies and systematization of the results.

Phase 3: Theoretical reflection

The cross-referenced evaluation and systematization of the empirical case study results will continue in the third project phase. Parallel to this the research heuristic developed previously as the basis for the empirical investigations will be collated with the systematized results of the case studies. To this end, the hypotheses formulated in the first project phase will be reviewed on the basis of the empirical results. The research heuristic will be subjected to continuous review and further development in the course of this project phase and developed into a model for the description of city careers and a corresponding explanatory approach.

Phase 4: Publications

The final project phase will serve mainly to bring together the research results at various analytical levels and to process their contents. The objective is to publish the results in a project report as well as in a number of articles in referenced journals. The results will also be presented for discussion at a scientific symposium in the autumn of 2011.

Cooperation with the other research departments

In the initial working phase, a lively exchange of specialist knowledge and data will be sought especially with Departments 2 and 3. The guest professorship of Erik Swyngedouw at the IRS in the early summer of 2009 will be exploited to discuss concepts of *(re-)scaling* with Research Department 2, among other things with a view to estimating their value for IRS research. Discussions with Research Department 3 are expected to provide new ideas, particularly on the subject of collective/regional identity. In the 3rd quarter of 2010, the discussion of the development of spatial identity will be intensified in a joint workshop with Departments 2 and 3. This workshop will also serve as a preparatory exercise for a regional discussion on the same subject. Close cooperation with Research Department 1 will characterize the second working phase. Beginning with a workshop in the 2nd quarter of 2010, it is planned for the two departments to carry out a joint case study. To this end, the two key projects will coordinate their case study selection. Interesting aspects include how knowledge-based companies can establish themselves in peripheralized regions and the role of knowledge-economy networks in the formation of city careers. In the phase of collation and evaluation of the empirical results, a joint workshop with Department 3 on the subject of "spatial pioneers and city careers" will take place at the end of 2010. The key question will be whether, and if so how, spatial pioneers develop into significant factors for city (or urban quarter) careers.

2.5 Products and transfers

Both the interim and the final results of the key project will be presented in a number of internal workshops, meetings and lectures and published as working papers, project reports and articles in referenced journals.

Events

The first expert workshop is scheduled for the autumn of 2009 with invitations going out to representatives of the Scientific Advisory Council and selected external experts. The objective of this workshop is to discuss the definition of the city career along with the relevant analytical concept, to discuss methods and procedures, and to win additional partners for project-related cooperation.

A second workshop will take place in the spring of 2011 at which the accumulated results of the empirical case studies will be presented and discussed. The invited guests will include members of the Scientific Advisory Council, external experts and representatives from the reference regions. This workshop will also serve as a preparatory platform for a larger scale symposium on "City Careers in Peripheralized Regions" which is to take place in the second half of 2011.

Publications

In 2009 an initial working paper will be written with the aim of underpinning the city career concept and developing the research heuristic. This working paper will also incorporate the results of the interdepartmental discussions and the external workshop. The individual case study results will be put into writing in the form of working papers throughout the course of the project.

The summarized results of the key project will be published in a project report in 2011. Publication of a number of essays in referenced journals in German and English is also planned.

3 Cooperation activities

National and international cooperative activities will be continued and further expanded in the context of both basic and applied research, in applying for and conducting third party funded projects, and in the fulfilment of teaching responsibilities. Our cooperation partners are, among others:

National

- Institute for State and City Development Research gGmbH (ILS), Dortmund; (Institut für Landes- und Stadtentwicklungsforschung gGmbH (ILS), Dortmund)
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, "Socioscientific Environmental Research" Department, Halle/Leipzig; (Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung, Abteilung „Sozialwissenschaftliche Umweltforschung“, Halle/Leipzig)
- Technical University of Darmstadt, Department of Sociology; (Technische Universität Darmstadt, Institut für Soziologie)
- University of Kassel, Faculty of Architecture, Urban Planning and Landscape Planning; (Universität Kassel, Fachbereich Architektur, Stadtplanung und Landschaftsplanung)

- Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim; (Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (ZEW), Mannheim)
- Humboldt University of Berlin, Institute for Social Sciences; (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institut für Sozialwissenschaften)
- Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus, Faculty of Architecture, Construction Engineering and Urban Planning; (Brandenburgisch-Technische Universität Cottbus, Fakultät für Architektur, Bauingenieurwesen und Stadtplanung)
- University of Potsdam, Department of Geography; (Universität Potsdam, Institut für Geographie)
- Berlin University of Technology, Department of Urban and Regional Planning (Technische Universität Berlin, Institut für Stadt- und Regionalplanung).

International

- University of Gdansk, Department of Economic Geography, Gdansk;
- Centre for Regional Studies, Pécs;
- University of Joensuu, Karelian Institute, Joensuu;
- University of Tartu, Tartu;
- Middle East Technical University, Center for Black Sea and Central Asia Studies, Ankara.

4 Third party funding strategy

The primary intention is to establish close relations between the third party funded projects and the subject matter investigated in the key project. To this end at least one DFG or EU application for a project derived from the context of the key project will be completed in 2009. One asset of these third party funding applications is that they expand the empirical basis of our research by including additional case studies in Europe outside of Germany. Another is that they address in-depth and supplemental research issues.

Third party funded projects ongoing at the beginning of 2009

BBR/BMVBS:

Federal German Transfer Office Urban Reconstruction East. Research accompanying the Federal-State Programme Urban Reconstruction East

Heike Liebmann (Head of Project), Ulrike Hagemeister.

Project period: 01/2004 to 01/2009.

The Federal Transfer Office Urban Reconstruction East plays a special role in the third party funded research of the department, which functions as a competence centre for expert counselling of the Urban Reconstruction East programme. The main responsibilities include knowledge transfer and political counselling. It is assumed that the funding of the work of the Federal Transfer Office will be continued in 2009 beyond the current contract term. The knowledge concentrated in the Transfer Office will allow it to serve in the future as the anchorage point for additional in-depth third party funded projects in the field of urban reconstruction.

DFG:

Strategic urban planning – approaches to the regeneration of shrinking cities in eastern Germany

Manfred Kühn (Head of Project), Susen Fischer, Roland Fröhlich.

Project period: 05/2007 to 4/2009.

In this project, strategic model processes, projects and cooperation between actors will be investigated in five shrinking medium-sized cities in eastern Germany (Cottbus, Dessau, Görlitz, Stralsund, Wittenberge). An application to extend the project will be submitted in 2008.

Leibniz Community – funding from the “Pact for Research and Innovation“:

Real estate and capital markets

Hanna Sommer (Project Director), Kristin Kaufmann.

Project period: 01/2009 to 12/2011.

The supervision of the project is in the hands of the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW). The project examines the consequences of the increasing capital market-based orientation of real estate markets. On the one hand, we will look at the growing influence of financial investors on the development of the housing and commercial real estate markets as well as on urban and regional development. On the other hand, the project will also investigate more closely the connections between the dynamics of real estate and capital markets. The IRS will address in particular the effects of demographic change on housing markets and land use.

5 Doctoral theses

Doctoral theses

Marina Haase: Strategies for professional education in and for the periphery? Development and forms of spatial integration of educational organizations in “shrinking” regions (working title)

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Bürkner, University of Potsdam.

Project period: 6/2006 to 12/2009.

Against a background of structural changes in the educational infrastructure – (including) changes of a demographic nature – this thesis addresses vocational education and private business strategies for initial training in peripheral areas. The focus of attention is on the dimensions of the spatial embedding of these forms of education and the conclusions that can be drawn in terms of the relation between qualification strategies and regional development.

Susen Fischer: Civil society potentials in shrinking cities in eastern Germany – conditions for the involvement of civil society in times of crisis (working title)

Supervisor: PD Dr. Christine Hannemann, Humboldt University of Berlin.

Project period: 6/2008 to 12/2010.

This project aims to construct empirical models of the conditions and characteristics of civil society potentials in shrinking cities. The questions to be clarified are whether civil society potentials exist in these cities and the extent to which any such potentials could influence the perception and management of urban shrinkage processes.

6 Schedule for the key project of Research Department 4

Phases	2009				2010				2011			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1. Research heuristic												
2. Qualitative case studies												
Reference region												
Reference region												
Reference region												
3. Theoretical reflection												
4. Products and transfer												
Publications			WP			WP		WP				PB
Events							RG					FT
Workshops		WS Re	WSe			WS StK	WS Id	WS RP	WSe			
5. Preparation and realization of the evaluation												
6. Development of Work Programme 2012-2014												

- FT** – Symposium
WS Re – Workshop (Re-)Scaling (w/ RD 2)
WS StK – Workshop City Careers and Economic Evolution (w/ RD 1)
WS Id – Workshop Development of Spatial Identity (w/ RD 2 and 3)
WS RP – Workshop Spatial Pioneers and City Careers (w/ RD 3)
- WSe** – Workshop with external experts, incl. Advisory Council
RG – Regional Discussion
WP – Working Paper
PB – Project Volume

Interdepartmental cooperation

1 Interdepartmental projects

The IRS defined and implemented its first interdepartmental project in the previous Work Programme. The idea behind this type of project is the identification of a subject which can be worked on jointly in the key projects of the four research departments, or of a subject to which all four research departments can contribute with their specific research results as well as their theoretical and methodic expertise. Analogous to the key projects, the interdepartmental project will also be financed by institute funding. This has proved to be an effective instrument for networking the knowledge existing within the institute.

The project *Spatial Governance in IRS Research*, implemented as an interdepartmental project in Work Programme 2006-2008, will be concluded in 2009 with a project book. The information collected to date on the breadth of the governance concepts applied in the four research departments of the IRS, as well as on the empirical results of individual research projects, has been condensed into a research design with its own hypotheses and central themes. The project book will provide a thorough and systematic presentation of the empirical results of the IRS research, reflecting the relations between governance and space in both theory and method.

Encouraged by a positive response from the Scientific Advisory Council, to which the subject of a follow-up project was first presented at the meeting of 25 April 2008, Work Programme 2009-2011 will include *Vulnerability and Resilience in a Sociospatial Perspective* (working title) as a new interdepartmental project. At present, only a sketch of the research project can be presented, which will then be developed into a research design in 2009 parallel to completion of the project book on the ongoing joint project.

An initial review of the status of the research on vulnerability and resilience revealed that studies dealing with society and spatial structures focus mainly on human-environment relations or risks to cities from terrorist attacks (Pelling 2003; Davidson-Hunt / Berkes 2003; Briguglio 2003; Walker et al. 2004; Medd / Marvin 2005; Coaffee / Wood 2006). There have been few contributions in German to the subject of *Vulnerability and Resilience in a Sociospatial Perspective* (e.g. Birkmann 2008).

In connection with the key projects in Work Programme 2009-2011, the following subjects are interesting in terms of a spatially related discourse on vulnerability and resilience.

1. *Society*: "The unknown" and "foreigners" or "strangers" are sometimes perceived as threats by local, regional and national societies and communities because inner-city quarters and national territorial borders are often overlapped by social, ethnic, cultural and language boundaries etc. Both individual and collective perceptions – conveyed by societal discourse – give birth to urban and regional images stigmatized politically as "no-go areas" or socially as "poverty

ghettos” or “regions in decline”. Within this spatial perspective, the concept of vulnerability and resilience opens up entirely new vistas of analysis and reflection: the vulnerability of spaces to images. Empirical research on this will be done in both the key and third party funded projects of Research Departments 3 and 4.

2. *Economy*: In periods of structural change from an industrial to a knowledge and information-processing economy, economic locations are indeed vulnerable. The problem is to perceive and recognize the (rapid) decay of knowledge within an economic region (and not: in individual companies). The institutional framework and actor constellations that prevent this in the form of *lock-in* effects deserve our attention, as do the character and quality of communication and interaction structures that favour this development in public discourse. Empirical research on these subjects will be done in both the key and third party funded projects of Research Departments 1 and 3.
3. *Technology / environment*: Spaces used by humans are threatened in varying ways by the consequences of climate change in the form of shock events (e.g. extreme weather events, flooding) or of gradual changes (e.g. water or other resource shortages; droughts, landscape changes). We can expect increasing levels of vulnerability of technical (hydrological) infrastructure systems, as well as of historically developed cultural landscapes. On the whole, there is a high level of uncertainty regarding the regional effects of climate change, since the systems involved are highly complex and non-linear. Empirical research on these themes will be carried out in both the key and third party funded projects of Research Department 2.

These three spatial topics will be interrelated by the following structural, actor and process analyses in a social science framework:

- *Public discourse*:
The perception and assessment of phenomena as threatening to humans, and the resulting assumption of a state of vulnerability, result from public discourse conveyed in many different ways and varying widely in duration. Vulnerability must be understood as the result of a social and discursive world image construct. Analytical work at this level can rely above all on the methodic competence of Research Department 3.
- *Institutional settings and how they change*:
Institutional settings can be understood as the structural ability and capacity inherent in a system that enable it to handle unforeseen events (shocks, crises, stress) adequately and to adapt in a flexible manner to new conditions and demands. Depending on the nature of the specific institutional setting, the level of vulnerability will be either high or low. Analytical work at this level can rely above all on the expertise of Research Departments 2 and 4.
- *Governance of transition and uncertainty*:
Forms of governance, understood as hybrid forms of control and coordination, manifested in specific combinations (arrangements) of hierarchy, markets and networks, represent, in the sense of a *governance of preparedness* (Medd/Marvin 2005), the active creation of resilience in spatial systems, institu-

tions and organizations. Analytical work at this level can rely on the methodological competences of all of the research departments, not least due to the results of the last inter-departmental project “Spatial Governance in IRS Research”.

In the new inter-departmental project, two of the three IRS cross-sectional themes can be worked on in a new way, namely:

- institutional transition and spatial governance past and present
- communication dynamics and interaction structures in space.

As was the case with the previous Work Programme, the new project will be realized under special conditions. It is established separately from the key and third party funded projects of the research departments and should be understood as an additional output of the contributing IRS scientists. In 2009, the thinking on this to date will be further developed into a research design incorporating statements on the forms and phases of the work as well as the expected products. The resulting research outline will then be submitted to the Scientific Advisory Council of the IRS at its autumn meeting in 2009 for consideration and improvement.

2 Key project cooperation

The following interdepartmental activities will supplement the key project research within the research departments:

No.	Cooperation	Contributing	Period
1.	DFG Roundtable and publication on proximity and distance	RD 1, RD 3	1 st quarter 2009
2.	Workshop on questions related to <i>scaling</i>	RD 2, RD 4	2 nd quarter 2009
3.	Workshop and joint case study on city careers and economic evolution	RD 1, RD 4	2 nd quarter 2010
4.	Workshop and regional discussion on development of spatial identity	RD 2, RD 3, RD 4	3 rd quarter 2010
5.	Workshop on spatial pioneers and city careers	RD 3, RD 4	4 th quarter 2010
6.	Workshop on the knowledge economy and spatial pioneers	RD 1, RD 3	1 st quarter 2011
7.	Workshop on <i>boundary goods</i>	RD 1, RD 2	2 nd quarter 2011

The purpose of the workshops is to provide impulses for the research in the four key projects, which are each bound to one of the research departments. The impulses will arise from the theoretical and empirical context of the other research departments. In addition to sharing experience and the preparation of joint public events (e.g. a Regional Discussion), opportunities will also be discussed concerning applications for joint third party funding and joint publications (e.g. contributions to project books, articles in refereed journals). Once the case-study regions have been defined for the key projects, a discussion in mid-2009 will explore the extent to which the empirical data collection in the individual areas can be combined as a basis for joint case studies.

3 WG Methods and Paradigms

Coordination: Prof. Dr. H.-J. Bürkner

The intention of this working group is to ensure continued self-reflection by the IRS researchers regarding the appropriateness, scope, and practical research results of the theoretical approaches and methods applied in the various different research contexts. Parallel to this, its work enhances both specialized internal and interdisciplinary communication at the IRS. Three specific objectives are pursued:

1. The paradigmatic shifts in the social sciences will be critically discussed based on selected theoretical approaches, with special attention given to the significance of the category “space” in each case.
2. Current discourses on method in the social sciences will be taken up and applied to the further development of the institute’s methodological approaches and their anchoring. The discussion covers both examples of “good” research practice and discursive methodological criticism.
3. The working group offers a forum for sharing experience and reviewing the methods used in various research contexts at the IRS.

In four regular annual meetings, the focal themes “Theory Building”, “Methodological Discourses” and “Self-Reflection” will be prepared alternately by different research departments. The main work will take the form of seminars, supplemented by external lecturers, whose presentations will provide additional insight.

4 Doctoral candidate colloquium

The *institutional funding and support* of the next generation of scientists is regulated at the IRS on the basis of a Staff Council Agreement.² The purpose of the agreement is to provide the conditions for successful conclusion of a thesis at the IRS within three years. The salient features are: the opportunity to conclude a doctoral (or habilitation) agreement with the Director, a mentor model with senior IRS scientists participating on a voluntary basis, the use of the technical and organizational infrastructure of the IRS without charge, a flexible time budget with optional work block and work exemption phases as well as opportunities for scientists in training to receive financial aid in the final thesis phase.

In 2008 this framework was supplemented by a highly effective addition. Following a recommendation by the Scientific Advisory Council, a strategically oriented *Advanced Education Concept* was integrated as a central element of next-generation support at the IRS:³ This innovation prescribes a modular curriculum covering the three competence areas, “Theories”, “Methods” and “Skills” with a total of eleven modules, reflecting advanced education activities practised to date in a strategic profile. The following modules characterize the cycle:

² “Staff Council Agreement on the Funding and Support of Junior Scientists at the Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (BV Junior Scientist Support)” dated 22.03.2006.

³ cf. Appendix to § 4 of Staff Council Agreement “Advanced Education” dated 01.02.2008.

1. Competence area “Theories”:
 - scientific theories
 - spatial theories
 - spatial planning and governance theories.

2. Competence area “Methods”:
 - investigative designs
 - data collection methods
 - data evaluation.

3. Competence area “Skills”:
 - writing workshop
 - argumentation in scientific dialogue
 - communication / social skills / team coaching
 - visualization and presentation
 - publication in refereed journals / publication strategies.

Two to three such advanced education modules are offered each year. The intention is to offer some of them in cooperation with universities from the Berlin-Brandenburg region and others in cooperation with the 4R institutes (see p. 85), including contributions from IRS senior scientists and external experts.

The highly regarded sessions of the *IRS Doctoral Candidate Colloquium*, which serves as a self-managed monthly discussion forum for doctoral candidates and a contact forum for those interested in a doctoral degree, will be continued. The Candidate Speakers elected by their peers for a one-year period contact the institute Directorate as needed to report on experiences and formulate proposals.

The annual *Summer School* provides an opportunity for in-depth discussion among IRS doctoral candidates. These closed study sessions, which last several days, are carried out with the financial and staff support of the institute, and take place in the environs of the IRS in Berlin-Brandenburg. Senior IRS scientists support the doctoral candidates as required in discussions of the status of their theses and method-related issues. In addition, the Summer Schools contribute to enhancing the networking of junior and senior scientists. They also fulfil an important function for the doctoral candidates regarding motivation and group dynamics.

The *4R Doctoral Candidate Meetings* also take place on an annual basis. They ensure the interinstitutional networking of the candidates within the network of spatial research institutes of Section B of the Leibniz Association. The junior scientists from the participating institutes get together in self-organized meetings, alternating between Erkner, Dresden, and Leipzig. Advanced training in methods is another aspect covered in addition to the exchange of ideas on the participants' theses, which takes various different organizational forms. These meetings cover a broader range of topics than the IRS Summer School. Research policy and institutional policy are among the subjects discussed, with scientific contacts and networking also on the agenda.

External cooperation activities and networking

1 Cooperation activities within the Leibniz Association

1.1 Institutional cooperation

The IRS is among the non-university research bodies organized in the Leibniz Association (WGL – Scientific Association Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz). The Leibniz Association is a cooperative union currently comprising 86 scientifically independent and, for the most part, legally and economically independent research institutes, research museums and scientific service providers in Germany. To accomplish its tasks, the Leibniz Association has created various organs, committees and working groups, supported by a liaison office.

Scientific and administrative personnel from the IRS contribute to the work of the following committees and working groups of the Leibniz Association:

- Members' Assembly (Director, Deputy Director, Press Spokesperson);
- Section B (Director, Deputy Director, Press Spokesperson);
- WG Political Advice (Director, Press Spokesperson);
- WG Strategy Development (Director);
- WG Press, WG Press Berlin-Brandenburg (Press Spokesperson);
- WG Knowledge Transfer (Press Spokesperson);
- WG Europe (Deputy Director, Member of the Director's Staff);
- WG Biodiversity (Head of RD 2);
- Administrative Committee (Head of Administration);
- Library WG (Head of the Library);
- WG Information and Communication (Administrator);
- Staff Council Members WG (Staff Council).

1.2 Project-related cooperation

Working Group "WGL Archives" (Heads: Dr. Michael Farrenkopf, German Mining Museum, Bochum; Dr. Wilhelm Füssel, German Museum, Munich)

The Working Group "WGL Archives" was initiated in 2004 by, among others, the Scientific Collections of the IRS and the Geographic Archive at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL). In this working group, the Scientific Collections of the IRS regularly share information with other collection organizations concerning current trends, e.g. in the digitalization and exploitation of collections, the potential inherent in a coordinated collection strategy, joint public relations work and event organization. Further important tasks of the Scientific Collections include the expansion of their own services within a cooperative including other collections, to sharpen their profile and enhance research on planning history with consultation and networking services.

Cooperation within the framework of the "Pact for Research and Innovation"

The IRS cooperates with other research bodies and universities within the framework of a number of research projects that receive support from the Leibniz Asso-

ciation from the funds of the “Pact for Research and Innovation”. Reference was made above (cf. p. 31) to the project “Geography[-ies] at the borders of the European project” that has been in place since 2007.

Leibniz Association – Funding from the “Pact for Research and Innovation” (“SAW Application 2009”):

Real estate and capital markets

Heike Liebmann (Project Director in the IRS), N. N.

Project period: 01/2009 to 12/2011.

Supervision of the project is in the hands of the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim. The project partners are the IRS and the IÖR. A large number of additional cooperation partners both foreign and domestic also contribute to the project. It considers the consequences of the increasing capital market-based orientation of real estate markets, examining the growing influence of financial investors on the development of the housing and commercial real estate markets, as well as urban and regional development. In addition, the project investigates more closely the connections between the dynamics of real estate and capital markets. The IRS will address in particular the effects of demographic change on housing markets and land use.

Application submitted:

Leibniz Association – Funding from the “Pact for Research and Innovation” (“SAW Application 2010”):

Pilot project “Digitalization of valuable maps and charts – spatial mapping and development in the 20th century”

Christoph Bernhardt (Head of Project, IRS), Alexander Obeth; N. N.

Project period: 01/2010 to 12/2012.

If the project application is approved, four major Leibniz Archives – the German Museum (Munich), the German Mining Museum (Bochum), the German Maritime Museum (Bremerhaven) and the IRS Scientific Collections (Erkner) – will be able to digitalize valuable items from their collections. This project would cover large-format charts, of great value in terms of technological and regional history, that have been neglected in digitalization projects to date. The project includes making the digitalized material available to the public, thus enhancing interdisciplinary spatial history research, which is in the initial stages of development. At the same time, it intensifies internal networking within the working group “WGL Archives”, enhances the “WGL brand-name” externally, and serves as a preparatory platform for follow-up activities, in particular a strategy for “shared collections”.

2 Activities within the network of the four spatial-science Leibniz Institutes (4R Network)

Stable, long-term cooperation characterizes relations between the four spatial-science institutes in Section B of the Leibniz Association. The members of this *4R Network* are the IRS, the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL) in Hanover, the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) in Leipzig and the Leibniz Institute for Ecological Regional Development (IÖR) in Dresden.

Common activities assume a variety of forms, in particular joint

- conferences,
- projects,
- publications, and
- working groups.

2.1 Conferences

Spatial Science 4R Colloquium 2009

The 4R Network has held a Spatial Science Colloquium in Berlin every two years since 2005 with the aim of sharpening the supraregional profile of spatial research in Germany. The event is intended for representatives from politics, science, and administration and offers a forum for the discussion of current themes related to regional development. The Colloquia to date covered the themes “Reconstruction East” (2005; coordination: IRS) and “Equality of Living Conditions” (2007; coordination: IÖR). The next Spatial Colloquium with the title “The Outer Border of the European Union – Security, Economy, Governance” will take place in February 2009, coordinated by the IfL. The decision on the theme of the Spatial Colloquium in 2011 will be taken jointly by the 4R Network.

Empty country and lively cities? Spatial Differentiation in the Face of Demographic Change

Within the framework of the Leibniz project “Demographic Transition – Complexity as a Challenge to Urban and Regional Development. On the Networking of Spatial Research” (“SAW Application 2006”, Project period: 01/2006 to 12/2008), the 4R Institutes will hold a concluding international conference together with the “Demographic Change Centre” of the Technical University of Dresden on 7 and 8 May 2009 in Berlin. The objective of this conference is to bring together current research results on the differentiation of urban and regional development and the resulting need for political governance against the background of demographic change in Germany and Europe. For international scientists the conference will offer a platform for the presentation of the current status of their theoretical and empirical research. Junior scientists in particular are encouraged to contribute. Actors from politics, administration, associations, and civil society are invited to report on the political challenges of increasing diversity in regional development and discuss possible strategies with representatives from the spatial sciences. The central questions to be addressed by the conference, along with other advanced study themes, arise from the confrontation of three different perspectives:

- comparison of international, and specifically European, perspectives
- analysis of effects from a sectoral perspective (effects on housing, technical infrastructure systems, the educational system, public spending etc.)
- perspectives of planners and politicians within the context of regional and local governance and the struggle for strategy development.

2.2 Projects

Geography[-ies] at the borders of the European project

This project, funded by the Leibniz Association within the framework of the “Pact for Research and Innovation” (“SAW Application 2007”, Project period: 01/2007 to

12/2009), will investigate spatial orientation and peripheralization processes along the outer borders of the expanded European Union. The establishment of the “outer border” is one of the most important political projects of the EU in terms of spatial and societal structuring. The project analyses the attendant effects using the example of cross-border economic practices as the subject of case studies on small-scale trade and manufacturing industry along the Finnish-Russian, Polish-White Russian, Polish-Ukrainian, and Romanian-Ukrainian border. The project is directed by the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) in Leipzig; cooperation partners are the Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS), the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL), the Universities of Münster and Oldenburg and seven institutions from other European countries.

DFG collaborative project on the constitution of cultural landscapes (KulaKon)

Four of the individual projects funded by the German Research Association (DFG) within the entire collaborative project “KULAKon – Constitution of Cultural Landscapes” (Project period: 06/2008 to 05/2011) examine which societal processes lead to the designation of spaces as cultural landscapes and how the varying estimations of landscapes come about, i.e. as “beautiful”, “worthy of protection”, or “disturbed”. Also investigated is the question of how cultural landscapes become points of departure for regional cooperation processes. This three-year project on the societal creation and understanding of cultural landscapes relies on the work of geographers, planners and political scientists from three spatial institutes of the Leibniz Association (IfL, IÖR, IRS) as well as the Landscape Planning Department of the Institute for Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning of the Technical University of Berlin. Dense networking of the project work is ensured by a shared organizational structure including regular project meetings and workshops.

2.3 Working groups

Suburban regions as cultural landscapes (Head: Prof. Dr. Winfried Schenk, ARL / University of Bonn)

Following the successful conclusion of the first 4R cooperation on the subject of cultural landscapes, a new 4R cooperation working group has been established working on a new topic since 2008: “Suburban regions as cultural landscapes”. The process of landscape transition is accelerated in urban environments: the contrast between city and countryside is rapidly disappearing; new spatial types are emerging that frequently do not fit into the traditional categories applied to landscapes due to their character and how they emerge. Changes in these areas are usually evaluated differently than in traditional cultural landscapes. To date, very little data has been collected on the active steering of the dynamics of landscape development in suburban regions, especially regarding cultural landscapes. The central question this working group will address therefore concerns the enhancement of the planning process resulting from the designation of suburban regions as cultural landscapes. The objective is to analyse the potential of spatial planning for a spatial category that has been neglected up to now, but which in fact contains highly significant features and rich developmental dynamism, then to confront this potential with theoretical and conceptual analysis and, finally, to develop concrete

recommendations for planning practice. The working group comprises representatives of the 4R institutions as well as external guests. The organization and financing of its work is shared by the 4R members.

Cooperation within the framework of the Academy for Spatial Research and Regional Planning (ARL)

Prof. Dr. Heiderose Kilper is a Full Member of the Academy for Spatial Research and Regional Planning (ARL); Prof. Dr. Hans Joachim Kujath, Dr. James Scott, Dr. Manfred Kühn and Dr. Timothy Moss are corresponding ARL Members.

2.4 Publications

German Annual of Spatial Research and Policy

Since 2006, the members of the 4R Network have cooperated with the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) to publish a spatial-science yearbook in English language with Springer-Verlag: the *German Annual of Spatial Research and Policy*. The chair of editorship rotates annually among the publishing group. The yearbook contains information, and documents discussions, on questions related to regional development, planning, research and politics in German-speaking Europe. Other subjects include the structural policies of the EU, themes related to urban development (preferably within an inter-municipal framework), and questions concerning sustainable regional development. The publication prepares these subjects particularly for an Anglo-American audience. The yearbook is addressed to spatial scientists, students, and planning experts in all European countries. Publications to date:

- Yearbook 2006: Restructuring Eastern Germany (Editor: IfL)
- Yearbook 2007: Territorial Cohesion (Editor: ARL)
- Yearbook 2008: Guiding Principles for Spatial Development (Editor: BBR)

The Yearbook for 2009, entitled “New Disparities in Spatial Development in Europe”, will be published under the editorship of the IRS. The Yearbook will be dedicated to the emergence and characteristics of new inequalities and temporal disparities inherent in regional development in Europe.

2.5 Promotion of young scientists

For reports on coordinated efforts within the 4R Network to support and encourage the next generation of scientists see the chapter on aid and support for doctoral candidates (above, p. 82).

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List of all staff

Name	Academic Title/ Education	Focus of work
<i>Director</i>		
Kilper, Heiderose	Univ. Professor, Dr. phil.	Governance and control theories, regional development and regional politics, cultural landscapes, governing in federalism, European multilevel system
<i>Director's office</i>		
Bürkner, Hans-Joachim	Univ. Professor, Dr. phil., Grad. Geographer	Regional development in border areas, urban development and transformation processes, migration and segregation
Dabrowski, Christina	Business Economist	Head of Finance and Performance Management, liquidity and finance planning, controlling, cost-performance balance, programme budgets
Koch, Petra	Engineering degree in Horticulture, Architectural Draftsman	Public relations, publication management
Prietzl, Petra	State-Examined Secretary	Director's secretary
Prinzensing, Gregor*	M.A. Philosophy	Public relations, cooperation management
Prömmel, Jan*	Dr. phil., Engineering de- gree in Urban and Re- gional Planning, M.A. European Cultural Heritage	Scientific management and organization
Westphal, Kathrin	Economist	Head of budget, finances / third-party funding
<i>Administration</i>		
Hoppe, Astrid	Accountant, Bookkeeper	Payroll bookkeeping, travel costs
Klitsche, Franz	Law degree	Administrative Manager
Kubsch, Uwe*	Gas and Water Installer	Janitor
Pilz, Katrin	Waitress	Purchasing, building management
Sachse, Angelika	Architectural Draftsman	Secretariat, travel costs
Uschmann, Gudrun	Economist	Personnel Manager, advanced training

Name	Academic Title/ Education	Focus of work
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Research Department 1: Regionalization and Economic Regions

Altenburg, Marc*	Engineering degree in Urban and Regional Plan- ning	Sustainable urban development, infrastructures, creative econ- omy, use of IT and communications system in urban planning, qualitative and quantitative analyses
Arndt, Michael	Dr. rer. pol., Political Economist, Commercial Teacher	Infrastructural policies, regional monetary policies, European regional development, indicator systems
Krupa, Jörn*	Engineering degree in Urban and Regional Plan- ning	European regional policies, innovation policies, knowledge transfer, rural regional development
Kujath, Hans Joachim	Honorary Prof. f. Urban and Regional Economics, Dr. phil. Engineering degree in Urban and Regional Plan- ning	Department Manager and Vice-Director , structural change in the knowledge economy, analyses of economic regions and economic integration, metropolitan research, European regional development, regional structural and regional development policies, teaching activities in urban and regional economics
Kunkel, Kirsten*	Geography degree	Regional innovation systems, regional labour market research, European regional development, regional structural policies (national, EU)
Müller, Kristine*	Geography degree	Border research, social geography, European integration
Pauli, Angelika*	Political Science degree	Cross-border cooperation, transnational regional development, governance, eastward EU expansion, regionalization
Pflanz, Kai*	M.A. Economic Geography	Regional economics, European regional development, the knowledge economy and knowledge society, regional planning, geostatistics
Pirk, Heike	Economist	Project assistance, secretariat
Schmidt, Suntje	M.A. Geography and Ame- rican Studies	Economic and social geography, integration of functional spaces, regional development, metropolitan research, EU re- gional policies
Schulze, Gottlieb	State Examination in Art Education, German Stud- ies	Technical Assistant for graphics, layout, cartography, design
Stein, Axel*	Dr. Eng. Regional Plan- ning	Development of the knowledge society, European regional de- velopment, mobility and traffic research, governance in spatial contexts
Wolke, Manuela	Mathematician	The knowledge economy, integration of functional spaces, met- ropolitan research, economic statistics, quantitative analyses
Zillmer, Sabine*	Dr. rer.-agr., Political Economist	New institutional economics, regional economics, European regional development, urban and metropolitan research, trans- formational economics, the knowledge economy and knowledge society

Name	Academic Title/ Education	Focus of work
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Research Department 2: Institutional Change and Regional Public Goods

Bernhardt, Christoph	Univ. lecturer (History) Dr. phil.	European urban and environmental history
Engler, Harald*	Dr. phil.	GDR history, planning and architectural history of the GDR, urban history, history of housing politics
Gailing, Ludger*	Engineering degree	Cultural landscape and open space policies, institutional change in urban and regional planning, planning law
Hasenöhr, Ute*	Dr. phil., M.A. History, Modern German Literature.	Historical development of cultural landscapes, environmental history, institutional change, conflict research, civil society
Hüesker, Frank*	Political Science degree	Sustainable network infrastructures (water and energy) in periods of Europeanization, liberalization, privatization, climate change
Leppler, Martina	Typist	Project assistance, secretariat
Moss, Timothy	Dr. phil., M.A. History, B.A. European Studies	Department Manager , institutional and spatial aspects of the transformation of technical infrastructural systems and management of water resources under changing framework conditions
Obeth, Alexander	Historian	Director of the Archive of the Scientific Collections, user services
Pienkny, Anja*	Archivist	Archivist in the Scientific Collections, user services
Röhring, Andreas	Economics Engineer	Institutional aspects of regional spatial policies, cultural landscape as a public good, development of rural cultural landscape
Vetter, Andreas *	Engineering degree in Landscape Planning, Land Maintenance Assessor	Regional cultural landscape and open space development, nature conservation and planning law
Vonau, Elsa*	Dr. histoire et civilisations	European urban history of city construction in the 20 th century, nature conservation movements

Name	Academic Title/ Education	Focus of work
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Research Department 3: Regional Communication and Knowledge Dynamics

Büttner, Kerstin*	Geography degree	Knowledge sociology-based spatial research, qualitative social research
Christmann, Gabriela B.	University lecturer (Sociology), Dr. rer. soc. et phil.	Department Manager , knowledge and regional development, milieus, urban and regional cultures, regional communication research, university research and human resources
Fichter-Wolf, Heidi	Dr. phil., Political Scientist	Knowledge-based urban developments, governance processes and structures, transcultural knowledge processes in cross-border cooperation
Jähne, Petra	Dr. rer. nat. (Human Geography), Engineering degree in Urban and Regional Planning	Knowledge-based urban and regional development, urban governance, knowledge, communication and spatial bonding, metropolitan region Berlin-Brandenburg
Knorr-Siedow, Thomas	M.A. Sociology, Urban and Regional Planning	Social urban development, social and spatial peripheralization, urban governance, EU urban policies, knowledge management, participation, policy research
Köppen, Monika	State Examined Secretary	Project assistance, secretariat
Mahnken, Gerhard	M.A. Historical Sciences and Germany Philology	Spatial communication research, public branding, space and knowledge, urban and regional cultures

Name	Academic Title/ Education	Focus of work
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Research Department 4: Urban Regeneration

Bernt, Matthias*	Dr. phil. Political Scientist	Urban renewal and reconstruction, governance, urban shrinkage processes, gentrification
Büchner, János Tibor*	Geography degree	Border area research, cross-border cooperation, civil societal cooperation processes, in particular along the outer borders of the EU
Bürk, Thomas*	M.A. Social Geography	Urban research, spatial theory, sociospatial inclusion and exclusion, civil society, critical geography
Fischer, Susen*	Social Scientist	urban development in eastern Germany, local strategies of adaptation to shrinkage processes, civil societal structures
Fröhlich, Roland*	Engineering degree in Urban and Regional Planning	Strategic urban planning, urban development in eastern Germany
Haase, Marina *	Social Scientist	(Professional) education and regional development
Hagemeister, Ulrike*	Social Scientist	Urban reconstruction, urban development under shrinkage conditions, empirical urban research
Haller, Christop*	Engineering degree in Urban and Regional Planning	Urban and regional development, demographic structural change, structural change in housing policies, urban reconstruction
Kuder, Thomas*	Dr. Engineering degree in Urban and Regional Planning	Urban planning, in particular planning theory, urban development, urban renewal, urban monument preservation
Kühn, Manfred	Dr. rer. pol., Engineering degree in Landscape Planning	Regeneration strategies, strategic planning, urban landscapes
Liebmann, Heike	Dr. Engineering Engineering degree in Urban Planning	Department Manager , urban development and urban policies under shrinkage conditions, approaches to regeneration for cities undergoing structural transition, urban reconstruction
Prömmel, Jan*	Dr. phil., Engineering degree in Urban and Regional Planning, M.A. European Cultural Heritage	Urban monument preservation, revitalization, integrated development of historic cities
Scott, James Wesley	University lecturer, Dr. rer. nat., Geography degree	European integration dynamics, knowledge-based urban region developments, governance, border area research, eastern Europe (currently on sabbatical leave as Guest Professor at the University of Joensuu, Finland)
Wegel, Kerstin	Typist	Project assistance, secretariat

Name	Academic Title/ Education	Focus of work
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System administration and information services

Christ, Barbara	Dr. rer. nat., Crystallographer	Information services, databases, information and communication technologies, network administration
Eisenblätter, Jana	Trainee	Library
Eisentraut, Johannes*	IT Technician	Planning, organization and maintenance of IT infrastructure
Geral, Petra	Architectural Draftsman	DTP, scanning and image processing, production of printed materials
Schierz, Petra	Librarian	Library Director
Vogler, Simone	Technical Assistant for Media and Information Services	Library Assistant