



Mai 2019

Georg-Simmel-Zentrum für Metropolenforschung / Georg-Simmel Center for Metropolitan Studies

**Themen:**

- Lead-Text Mai 2019
- Georg-Simmel-Zentrumstage
- Think & Drink Kolloquium im Mai
- Institutskolloquium der Europäischen Ethnologie der HU im Mai
- Interdisziplinäres Kolloquium „Wohnen in Berlin“ am Georg-Simmel-Zentrum für Metropolenforschung (Sommersemester 2019)

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## Lead-Text Mai 2019

Dear GSZ-Friends,

I am delighted to greet you as incoming director of the Georg Simmel Center, a role I have taken over from Ilse Helbrecht, who had served as director for the last six years. Under her leadership and with input of all of us on the Board, the center has successfully applied for the Humboldt University's status of an interdisciplinary center. We are now embarking on an exciting 3 years of extension and consolidation of the good things the Center has achieved and the development of new initiatives. I am looking forward to working with Heike Oevermann, who continues to serve as deputy director, and our Board, now including Ignacio Farias, who was recently appointed professor in urban anthropology at Humboldt. His ethnographic interest in materiality and infrastructures of cities will provide excellent new opportunities. This will limit the loss now that Jörg Niewöhner has stepped down from the Board to fully focus on other commitments. Thank you, Jörg, for all your input! In the coming years, I hope that we strengthen an urban studies agenda in and for Berlin, in cooperation with other local key centers of urban research, like CMS and other parts of TU Berlin, and IRS, and international partners. New initiatives will focus especially on questions

of seeing the City like a state, as set of principles of ruling, in interface with all those everyday practices of seeing 'the city through', or the many ways in which urban residents find ways to make lives and livelihoods in the city. We conceptualize this within the institutional frameworks of the City-as-state (most relevant for urban policies in our Berlin) as well as outside of the state's immediate eye, in the domestic field of everyday relations and interactions. As Board, we have worked hard to develop this intellectual profile. It is a honour to guide the center into its next stage and its exciting projects.

Prof. Talja Blokland (Director of the Georg Simmel Center)

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## Georg-Simmel-Zentrumstage

On April 10th/11th, we had our first GSZentrum Days. We look back on 1.5 days of excellent student presentations. Bachelor and Master students who had applied competitively presented their final theses at the students' conference sessions. It was the 8th anniversary of the students' conference. As in other years, we listened to high quality presentations on a wide variety of topics, showing the many research gaps which urban studies still has. From sex in public space as vehicle to appropriate space by lesbian women in the thesis by Sara Guadagnini, to whether carrying pepper spray is a sign of feeling unsafe (in the MA thesis of Anna Mantel, it was not) to why we cannot talk about institutional racism of the police without the appropriate data in the study of drugs and spatial location (in Max Rüttsche's MA), innovative angles were presented. The conference proved once more the value of our students' work for a broader audience. The Board's decision to combine the students' conference with the Häußermann Lecture and the Häußermann Prize Ceremony into the GSZentrum Days reflected this idea. The Häußermann Prize went to Christian Haid (see below), the Georg Simmel Prize for Best BA and Best MA to Sophia Wiedergrün and Hannah Göppert respectively. Sophia Wiedergrün investigated the production of space of a busy inner city square in Sao Paulo in her BA; Hannah Göppert researched the ways in which digital media may (or not) affect the proliferation of right wing orientations and other aspects of community life in small town Germany. Mario Small (Harvard University) delivered this year's Häußermann Lecture. A big thank you to all involved in organizing this event, and to Ruth Jakob, Hartmut Häußermann's late wife, for sponsorship of this event. While the Häußermann prize will continue to be awarded bi-annually, we hope to make the GSZ-Zentrum Days an annual event.

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## Das Think & Drink Kolloquium im Mai:

**Prof. Tommaso Vitale, SciencesPo Paris: From Romanian autochtonies to French slums: Regional migration network, homophilia and integration skills**

May 6, 2019 | Universitätsstraße 3b; 10117 Berlin; R002 | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Recent literature shows that Roma from different regions of Romania have major exchange relationships with people randomly met from settlements in the same slums. Based on the example of Romanian and Bulgarian Roma living in slums, we propose to explore a mixed model combining the effects of selection by relevant territories of trade/social exchange relations and the broader effects of socialisation through cohabitation during migration. This global objective raises several questions:

- Is there a regionalized difference in the socio-professional backgrounds of the population studied?
- How are the effects of selection and socialization balanced in the relations between Romanian and Bulgarian migrants?
- Are slums homogeneous or heterogeneous spaces in terms of regions of origin?
- Is there an effect of selection of exchange relationships on criteria of social integration skills (vocational training, schooling...)?

Empirical data are coming from a database of slum-dwellers in Paris, collected by social workers to respect French regulation and prefecture directives. The existence of data produced for the State for the purpose of social intervention allows us to take up these questions by giving them a more systemic overview: how are regional migration chains and sociability in migration articulated within migration networks?

**Dr. Anders Blok, University of Copenhagen: Civic Modes of Greening the City? Urban Natures In-between Familiar Engagement and Green Critique**

May 13, 2019 | Universitätsstraße 3b; 10117 Berlin; R002 | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

In this presentation, we deploy the loosely bounded phenomenon of 'urban green communities' – in the shape of urban gardening, beekeeping, food collectives, biodiversity enhancement, tree planting and kindred citizen-based group practices towards urban greening – in order to probe the wide variations in modes of civic engagement with urban sustainability politics. The work of Laurent The´venot on regimes of engagement, in particular, allow us to trace translations in-between the familiar attachments and the public critiques undertaken by urban green communities. Empirically, we leverage this re-conceptualization as part of a comprehensive digital mapping exercise set in Denmark, in which we trace core patterns and differences in modes of urban-green politics at the level of everyday citizen practices. Having identified six such civic modes of urban greening and specified their group styles of engagement, we end by discussing the implications of our findings for questions of care, justice and democracy in sustainable city-making.

**Dr. Elena Fontanari, University of Milan / Visiting fellow at the Institute of European Ethnology, Humboldt-Universität; Dr. Laura Colini, Urbact; Nihad El-Kayed, BIM/ Humboldt-Universität; Chair: Dr. Christine Barwick, Centre Marc Bloch; further speaker tba.**

May 20, 2019 | Universitätsstraße 3b; 10117 Berlin; R002 | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

In this roundtable discussion, we want to start from the notion of arrival cities / neighborhoods and discuss what facilitates or inhibits the incorporation of refugees. Large cities with a long history of immigration and the corresponding infrastructure are often seen as places where the incorporation of newcomers can occur without much conflict, in contrast to, for example, more rural areas with little experience of immigration. Based on the example of Berlin, we want to discuss the experience of refugee incorporation and thereby analyze the factors that make up an 'arrival city' (or neighborhood). Concurrently, we also look at the factors that inhibit the smooth incorporation of newcomers. We thereby want to discuss a variety of actors, including among others the city administration, civil society, and migrant organizations.

**Prof. Fraya Frehse, Universidade de Sao Paulo: Everyday Patterns of Social Inequality in São Paulo's Public Places**

May 27, 2019 | Universitätsstraße 3b; 10117 Berlin; R002 | 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

The social sciences on social inequality in Brazil emphasize the role that residential places play in the production and/or reproduction of asymmetries of social positioning therein, with the acceleration of economic globalization as of the 1990s. My purpose here is to address what may be said about social disparities in urban space in Brazil by contemplating public places so absolutely receptive to social diversity as the squares of downtown São Paulo during workday afternoons.

By tackling ethnographic data about the everyday patterns of bodily use of five of these public places in the city's historical core between March 2013 and August 2014 from a peculiar dialectical and phenomenological perspective, a Lefebvrian and Goffmanian one, peculiarly long-standing body-behavioural and moral inequalities come to the fore.

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## **Das Institutskolloquium der Europäischen Ethnologie der HU im Mai:**

**Ina Säumel (IRI THESys, HU Berlin): Integrating edible city solutions for socially resilient and sustainably productive cities**

May 7, 2019 | Hausvogteiplatz 5-7; 10117 Berlin; R0007 | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm (c.t.)

**Anders Blok (University of Copenhagen) / Regina Römhild (HU Berlin) / Jörg Niewöhner (HU Berlin): Quer-denken – A cosmo-politics of urbanthropocene?**

May 14, 2019 | Hausvogteiplatz 5-7; 10117 Berlin; R0007 | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm (c.t.)

**Bettina Stoetzer (MIT): Ruderal City**

May 21, 2019 | Hausvogteiplatz 5-7; 10117 Berlin; R0007 | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm (c.t.)

**Robert Desjarlais (Sarah Lawrence, NY): Violence and vigilance: on militarized sentience and phantasms of terror in Paris, France**

May 28, 2019 | Hausvogteiplatz 5-7; 10117 Berlin; R0007 | Sondertermin: 6-8pm c.t.

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## **Das interdisziplinäres Kolloquium „Wohnen in Berlin“ am Georg-Simmel-Zentrum für Metropolenforschung**

Studierende von Berliner Universitäten und Fachhochschulen, die ihre Abschluss- und Qualifikationsarbeiten (BA, MA, PhD) zu einem wohnungspolitischen Thema schreiben,

können sich jetzt für eine Teilnahme am Interdisziplinäre Kolloquium „Wohnen in Berlin“ am Georg-Simmel-Zentrum für Metropolenforschung im Sommersemester 2019 bewerben.

Anmeldungen bitte bis zum **25.04.2019** an: [wohnenberlin-gsz@hu-berlin.de](mailto:wohnenberlin-gsz@hu-berlin.de)

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## **46. Brandenburger Regionalgespräch im IRS**

Das Leibniz-Institut für Raumbezogene Sozialforschung (IRS) in Erkner veranstaltet am 22. Mai 2019, 14-17 Uhr das 46. Brandenburger Regionalgespräch zum Thema: "Was heißt hier Strukturwandel in der Lausitz?". Weiter Informationen finden Sie unter:

<https://leibniz-irs.de/aktuelles/veranstaltungen/2019/05/was-heisst-hier-strukturwandel-in-der-lausitz/>

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# Konferenz

## "We, the City. Plurality and Resistance in Berlin and Istanbul"

**Date:** 23-25 May 2019 | **Venues:** Movimiento Kino, Humboldt Graduate School, Tieranatomisches Theater, Aquarium (Südblock)

Who are we, the city? Can we find a non-hegemonic conception of 'we' by thinking the instances of resistance in Berlin and Istanbul together?

The conference invites to examine how residents of Berlin and Istanbul experience, express and resist the physical, political and normative re-ordering of their cities.

For the course of three days we invite practitioners and theorists of the urban – activists, cultural producers and scholars alike to explore various forms of knowledge-production, including workshops, panels and installations.

Stay tuned for the full conference program including panels, workshops, film screenings and exhibitions.

More information will be soon available here: [www.wethecity.de](http://www.wethecity.de)