



Save the Date

Thinking Green Future Cities – Towards Just, Sustainable and Disaster-resilient Urban Environments

Final Conference of the BMBF/DAAD-funded project:
“AfriCity” – Adaptability, Food Security, Risk, and the Right to the City in Sub-Saharan Africa:
Towards Sustainable Livelihoods and Green Infrastructure.

May 5th (evening) – May 7th, 2022
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany

In the wake of climate change, exploitation of land and natural resources, and rapid social and economic transformation, peri-urban and urban dwellers (in societies of the so-called Global South in particular) are experiencing hitherto unprecedented challenges. While towns and cities are often growing at exorbitant speeds and in disorderly fashion, urban ecological footprints are becoming increasingly difficult to handle, and attempts to capture the city by means of urban governance are frequently spatially and socially selective, ineffective or non-existent due to a lack of institutional capacities, co-operation and resources. The combined effects of escalating demand for land, services and housing and a dwindling availability of spaces with sufficient access to safe food, water, mobility and income resources produce a multitude of detached or fragmented urban quarters and of life-worlds marked by uncertainty, insecurity, inequity, vulnerability and unsustainability.

These processes of socio-spatial division, together with an increasing probability and severity of environmental hazards, can be seen both as unfortunate elements of an idealised ‘city in the southern hemisphere’ and as manifestations of an ‘unjust city’ on the one hand, and a legitimisation for claims for the right to the city on the other. Obviously, the processes described are not at all confined to the Global South – they happen in many urbanised regions across the globe, and take many different forms.

As of late, Nature-based Solutions (NBS) and Urban Green Infrastructure (UGI) have attracted more wide-spread attention as promising entry-points and integrative concepts to address these issues beyond prevailing imaginations of ‘the city’, tackle urban challenges and foster more sustainable, responsive and socially inclusive urban environments.

Thinking Green Future Cities questions conventional framings of ‘the city’ and aims at exploring solution-oriented approaches that reach beyond mere functionalistic urban ecosystem services concepts and livelihoods models. The conference will shed light on cities in the Global South, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa, but will also be drawing from examples elsewhere (the conference’s host metropolitan area of Nuremberg, Erlangen and Fürth in particular). Irrespective of its regional foci, the conference attempts to foster inter- and transdisciplinary dialogue and to discuss pathways towards viable, green and just cities.

Topics include, but are not limited to,

- the potentials of NBS and UGI as core elements of an integrative and inclusive city
- linkages between environmental/climate change and the transformation of urban governance and citizenship
- the role of urban ecosystem services (ESS) and disservices for more sustainable urban livelihoods, including creative and innovative solutions for, e.g., alternative urban food networks, open space planning and usage, etc.
- cultural and social dimensions of UGI, including food security, health and wellbeing
- city infrastructures, systemic criticality and cascading effects on urban livelihoods and food security
- urban spatial design and architecture in the context of disaster and climate resilience
- (re)claiming the urban commons in the Global North and South
- the role of digital media, geospatial mapping, and satellite imagery for NBS-oriented adaptive urban land management and planning, and of new conceptual framings, reaching beyond current dominant imaginations, of the ‘urban’ and the ‘city’ in light of current and future environmental and societal challenges

To promote a lively, interactive and learning atmosphere, the conference will include

- a number of renowned keynote speakers (see below) addressing the fundamental current problems of urban development and NBS from a global/cross-regional perspective
- a forum for young researchers to report from ongoing research projects, additional brief oral presentations
- breakout groups for more focused discussions
- city excursion and visits to urban food producers
- ample time for discussions, tea / coffee breaks and a joint conference dinner

p.t.o.

Programme

(subject to slight amendments in the next weeks)

The programme is structured along five overarching themes (A - E).

Thursday, 5.5.2022

from 19:00 **Get-together** (facultative), Erlangen city centre (details t.b.a.)

Friday, 6.5.2022

9:00-9:30 **Welcome and Introduction: Linking the Green to the Just and Resilient City**

9:30-10:15 **(A) Green Future Cities: Nature-based Solutions and Green Infrastructure as entry points to sustainable and inclusive cities**

Keynote: **Stephan Pauleit**, Technical University of Munich, Strategic Landscape Planning and Management, and ZSK Centre for Urban Ecology and Climate Adaptation, Munich (Germany): ***Urban Green Infrastructure – Principles, Good Practice & Lessons Learned***

10:15-10:45 Coffee / Tea break

10:45-11:30 **(B1) Urban environmental (in)justice, vulnerability and disaster-resilient cities**

Keynote: **Matthias Garschagen**, Department of Geography, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich (LMU)(Germany): ***Social Vulnerability and Environmental Injustice in Cities: Known Problems and Unknown Solutions?***

11:30-11:45 Short break

11:45-12:30 **(C) Urban spatial design and planning, and green and climate-resilient cities**

Kick-off talk: **Wolfgang Scholz**, IRPUD, Faculty of Spatial Planning, TU Dortmund (Germany): ***Opportunities and Challenges for Green and Resilient Cities from Manila/The Philippines and Muscat/Oman***

12:30-12:45 Housekeeping

12:45-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-15:00 **Breakout sessions: Extended discussions in small groups on specified topics**

15:00-15:30 Panel: Exchange of breakout group findings

15.30-16.00 Coffee / Tea break

16:00-17:30 **Young Researchers Panel:** Ph.D. students and Post-Docs present their work

Hesekia Garekae (South Africa/Botswana): Socio-spatial Dynamics in Wild Plant Foraging Practices in Two Medium-sized South African Towns: How Do Foragers Adapt and Respond to Change?

Kirumirah Mubarack (Tanzania): t.b.a.

Patrick Likongwe (Malawi): Urban Community Power: Enhancing Urban Forest Diversity and Reversing Ecosystem Disservices in Zomba City, Malawi.

Willi Bauer (Germany): Reframing Urban Nature-based Solutions through Perspectives of Environmental Justice and Privilege.

17:45-19:00 Joint city walk Erlangen (facultative)

19:30 **Conference Dinner**

p.t.o.

Saturday, 7.5.2022

9:30-10:30 (D) Food in cities: Food-sensitive urban planning

Keynote: **Jane Battersby**, African Centre for Cities, Cape Town (South Africa): *Towards Food Sensitive Urban Planning for African Cities*

10:30-11:00 Coffee / Tea break

11:00-11:45 (B2) Urban environmental (in)justice, citizenship and the 'Right to the City'

Kick-off talk: **Klaus Geiselhart**, Institute of Geography, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany): *Urban Commons: A Promising Concept to Tackle Environmental (Micro)Segregation?*

11:45-12:30 **Panel: Take-home messages and outlook: What's next?**

12:30-13:15 Lunch snack

13:15-late afternoon (E) Urban Green Infrastructure and urban food production in practice

Half-day field trip to explore inner-urban green spaces, areas under planning, the "Knoblauchland" and other peri-urban areas in the Nuremberg-Erlangen metropolitan area. Including on-site visit of high-intensity greenhouse vegetable/herbs production enterprise and its role in the local urban food market.

Evening Dinner (facultative)

Photos: London (Dalston Eastern Curve Garden); Johannesburg (Brixton); F. Krüger



Registration

We are aiming at a maximum number of 40 to 50 participants from Germany and abroad to ensure an atmosphere of intense conversations and programmatic debate.

There is no conference fee. Catering will be provided at no extra cost throughout the conference. However, attendees will be responsible for making, and paying for, their own travel and accommodation arrangements (with the exception of keynote/kick-off speakers and members of the AfriCity project team).

However, if you would like to attend the conference, please **register** so we can plan ahead. For this, please complete the **registration form** (or send an informal email containing those data) and email to [Laura](mailto:laura.wimmer@fau.de) and [Martina](mailto:martina.wadenstorfer@fau.de):

laura.wimmer@fau.de and martina.wadenstorfer@fau.de (please copy both Laura and Martina in!).

Please do so **by 14th April 2022** latest, thank you.

Please find the registration form attached.

We look forward to welcoming you at the **Thinking Green Future Cities** conference.

Fred Krüger, Alexandra Titz, Axel Drescher and the AfriCity project team

attached: Registration form (fillable Word file and PDF; you can also send an 'informal' email but please provide all required details)

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Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Erlangen-Nürnberg

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Registration

Please fill in the form below and email to both

laura.wimmer@fau.de and martina.wadenstorfer@fau.de

by 14th April 2022 (or 30th April respectively for FAU colleagues and students).

You can also write a quick email (no form) but please provide all the required information. Thank you.

I would like to attend the [Thinking Green Future Cities](#) conference.

Name

Affiliation/Institution

E-mail address

I would like to attend (*please tick/click on all that apply*)

Thursday, 5th May

Thu 5th May get-together (from 19.00 hrs)

Friday, 6th May

Fri 6th May morning programme

Fri 6th May lunch

Fri 6th May afternoon programme

Fri 6th May conference dinner

Saturday, 7th May

Sat 7th May morning programme

Sat 7th May lunch snack

Sat 7th May afternoon field trip

Sat 7th May dinner (at your own expense if you are not an AfriCity project team member)

Comments

Now please save the form and send to both Laura and Martina (see above).

You will receive a confirmation email a few days after registration, and more detailed information about the venue and programme shortly before the conference. The conference will take place at the FAU campus in the city centre of Erlangen.