Comparing Apples and Oranges?
A Colloquium on International Comparative Urban Research

January 15th-16th 2015
Hospitalhof Stuttgart

Organisation / Registration

Host Institutions
ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development
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Registration deadline is 12/15/2014
Registration is necessary, but no fee is required to participate.

Conference language is English.

Venue
Hospitalhof Stuttgart
Büchsenstrasse 33
70174 Stuttgart
Germany

Public Transport Information
S-Bahn station „Stadtmittle“ and Stadtbahn station „Berliner Platz (Liederhalle)“ are in walkable distance to the conference venue.

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Comparing Apples and Oranges?

We live in an increasingly urbanized world. However, this simple and undisputable fact tells us little about how urbanization trends impact the form and functional patterns of cities. Scholars have attempted to categorize and problematize the evolving urban forms using an array of conceptual frameworks including post-suburbanization, polycentricty or – in recent times – reurbanization. But do these notions carry the same meaning when used in different cultural and political contexts? What can we learn from comparing demographic processes, policy environments, and urban morphologies across metropolitan areas of different countries?

Even though scholars agree that international comparisons are a powerful tool to analyze urbanization patterns and test theories, comparing cities and metropolitan areas in different world regions poses a multitude of methodological challenges. This colloquium will bring together urban researchers addressing the complexities of conducting systematic internationally comparative research utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods. The colloquium will embed in a research project on reurbanization patterns in Germany and the US funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). It will serve as a forum for an exchange of practical experience with a focus on both methodological standards and the results of cross-national comparative research.

Program

Thursday, 01/15/2015

13:00 Welcome and Reception

13:30 Introduction
Stefan Siedentop, ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development, Dortmund

13:45 Towards a Relational Comparative Approach to Cities
Kevin Ward, University of Manchester

14:30 Coffee break

Comparing Urban Patterns

Chair: Thorsten Wiechmann, TU Dortmund University

15:00 Comparative Urban Studies in Europe: an Introduction to the Euricur Method
Leo van den Berg, EURICUR Rotterdam

15:35 Analysis of Urban Land-Use Patterns and their Multiple Drivers across European Cities since 1990: Concepts, Models and Findings
Dagmar Haase, Humboldt-University Berlin

16:10 Patterns of Reurbanization in US and German Metro Regions
Stefan Siedentop/Philipp Zakrzewski, ILS, Dortmund

16:45 Discussion

17:25 Snacks and Drinks

Friday, 01/16/2015

Comparing Urban Policies

Chair: Karina Pallagst, University of Kaiserslautern

09:10 Lessons from International Comparative Research on Spatial Planning Systems in Europe
Vincent Nadin, TU Delft

09:45 Lessons from 10 Years of Comparative Research in Transport Policy and Travel Behavior in North America and Western Europe
Ralph Bühler, Metropolitan Institute Virginia Tech

10:20 Coffee break

10:50 Reurbanization in Stuttgart (Germany) and Portland (USA)
Karoline Brombach/Johann Jessen, University of Stuttgart

11:25 Discussion

11:55 All Cities are Unique: The Limits, Value and Methodologies of Comparative Urbanism
Philipp Rode, LSE London

12:30 Closing Remarks
Johann Jessen, University of Stuttgart