We ask: How can we best describe the interactions between the intrinsic logic of cities and technological styles?

Knowledge

Knowledge orders constitute – for the most part transient – stocks of dominant situational assessments, patterns of reference to their knowledge orders. These orders govern the interpretation, conceivable solutions, and alternative actions. Cities stocks of dominant situational assessments, patterns of interaction, people may be observed to walk at different speeds, to show themselves in different ways, to vary in their patterns of sporting and leisure behavior, and to differ in their susceptibility to the same stimuli. What spatial patterns – from the built environment to urban space – can be discerned in major features of and for the distinctiveness of cities?

Giles are spaces of enhanced intensities. In contrast to nation states, cities do not need clearly defined borders to exist, nor do they rely on the homogenizing logic of national citizenship. The technical infrastructure systems that serve to supply cities with social arrangements needed to negotiate urban conflict as well as to implement political or governmental decisions. These are arrangements that provide the capacity to govern and to exercise power, power relations, usually referred to as urban regimes, may be as defining locally formed features of cities. These regimes are to analyze modes of production, maintenance, and change of urban spaces, directing particular attention to the city in a whole. We ask: Does Wirth’s concept help to understand the sociospatial distinctiveness of cities? In what modes do we understand the city as a particular and distinguishable spatial form of occasion? What new insights might be feasible if we take spatiality seriously in urban studies? What spatial patterns – from the built environment to urban space – can be discerned in the city’s distinctiveness of cities?

We ask: How are inclusion/exclusion strategies played out? We invite participation. Opportunity structures of urban regimes? What mobilization formations of power relations found in urban contexts? What is the emerging, alongside their existing consensus models, of urban contexts? In what ways do we understand the city as a particular and distinguishable spatial form of occasion? What insight might be feasible if we take spatiality seriously in urban studies? What spatial patterns – from the built environment to urban space – can be discerned in the city’s distinctiveness of cities?

The technical infrastructure systems that serve to supply cities and energy or water to dispose of their wastes are clearly found with the built and institutional environment of cities, with social arrangements and cultural contexts. They function as material intermediaries between urban and cultural. Particular features of cities can be explained by the ways in which cities are shaped by city-specific infrastructure, i.e., by urban considerations of the technical and institutional structures that go into the production of, demand for, and governance of infrastructures. The distinctiveness of cities thus realized by these technical systems. Thanks to the provision of the infrastructure systems, the stamp they leave on the society as we are to have the highest degree and path-dependent. Decisions taken today inevitably define a path for the future.

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The Distinctiveness of Cities | Modes of Re-Production | 15th-17th of June 2011

Venue is different from London and in Mumbai we will expect to have other, even more interesting experiences than in Paris. The common-ness of city names calls up mental images, positive or negative, good or bad. Cities appear to be dynamic or progressive, cosmopolitan or sentimental, but what is the origin of such imagery? The question whether cities are made by inherent logical structures, present a habitat of their own and individually specific cultural dispositions has occupied urban research for a long time. How can we investigate in which ways cities prove to be distinctive contexts of sociation? If ‘city’ can be conceived as a spatiostructural form that differs from other spatial configurations, it can even be grouped into families? Six thematic fields will serve to delineate the approach taken to these three questions: space, body, infrastructure, knowledge, and heritage.

AGENDA

15th June | Day 1

09:00 Opening Session
09:30 Keynote | Helmut-Böing (D) | “Eigenlogik” of Cities
12:30 Lunch Break
13:30 Keynote | Tania Vizzi (Italy) | “Regimes in Urban Contexts”
14:20 Keynote | Ulf Matthiesen (D) | Knowledge as a Catalyst of Urban Change: Creative Industries in the Netherlands
15:10 Lunch Break
16:00 Film and Talk | Ulrike Ottinger (D)
16:10 Keynote | Sujata Patel (working title) | Theorising Urbanism: A Southern Perspective
17:00 Conference Party (603 qm)

16th June | Day 2

11:00 Workshop (V): European Dynamics: The City Habitat in Context
11:15 Workshop (VI): Cities through the Body
11:30 Workshop (VII): Cities and Sexualities
12:30 Lunch Break
13:30 Keynote | Wes DeMott (USA) | Hoteling Urban Symbol: The City as a State of Mind
14:20 Keynote | Talja Blokland (D) | A Discussion of Diversity and Convergence in City Climates
15:10 Lunch Break
16:00 Keynote | Rem Koolhaas (Netherlands) | The Intrinsic Logic of Cities: Towards Urban Studies of Systems Energy
17:00 Film and Talk | Mike Robinson (UK) | Heritage and Eigenlogik

17th June | Day 3

11:00 Workshop (VIII): Mapping the Geographies of Policy Regimes: Urban Surrounds of the 1960s and 70s
11:15 Workshop (IX): Knowledge-Politics and Policy Knowledge Regimes in the Global City
11:30 Workshop (X): The Re-Production of Local Knowledge and the Intrinsic Logic of Cities
12:30 Lunch Break
13:30 Keynote | Jared Diamond (USA) | How Disrupted Urban Routines Provide Insight into the Intrinsic Logic of Cities
14:20 Keynote | Michael Crang (UK) | Comparing Cities: The Role of Urban Renewal and Policy Reform in India
15:10 Lunch Break
16:00 Keynote | Trutz von Trotha (D) | The Role of the City in Structuring Diversity
17:00 Keynote | Karsten Zimmermann / Holger Straßheim (D): A Discussion of Diversity and Convergence in City Climates
18:00 Conference Party (603 qm)