



FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ORGANISED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SINO-GERMAN RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT 'URBAN-RURAL ASSEMBLY (URA)'  
(BMBF 01LE1804A-D, 2019-2024)

# Integrated Urban- Rural Planning and Governance: A Global Perspective

*September 23, 2020*

*ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory, Berlin*

*September 24, 2020*

*Eiermannbau, Apolda*

*Full conference livestream at*

*[www.urbanruralassembly.com](http://www.urbanruralassembly.com)*

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In China, and many other countries across the world, rapid urbanisation processes have produced unevenly developed landscapes made up of urban growth centres along infrastructural corridors, as well as disadvantaged (formerly rural) hinterlands.

Emerging socio-spatial polarisations — marked by demographic, socio-cultural, economic, and environmental disparities — become most strikingly visible at the urban-rural interface. Furthermore, dysfunctional urban-rural linkages have been increasingly recognised as one of the major obstacles in the path towards a more future-oriented and sustainable urbanisation model.

A first step towards addressing such challenges should be the acknowledgment of the trans-local and multi-dimensional conditions of urban-rural regions and the metabolic relationships of natural resource flows, ecosystemic infrastructures, and multi-directional mobilities. These emerging and complex urban-rural constellations require new analytical models, integrated planning approaches, and policy frameworks that can assist in reading, revealing, and steering inherent urban-rural potentials and challenges, and that include relevant actors, institutions and processes acting across administrative and sector boundaries.

The first international conference within the framework of the Sino-German research and development project 'Urban-Rural Assembly (URA)' takes this as a starting point towards a global exploration of the political, ecological and social relevance of integrated approaches in urban-rural planning and governance. The conference will bring together international researchers, practitioners, city and regional representatives, policy makers, and global networks such as ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and UN-Habitat to discuss diverse cases from China, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. This two day conference will shed light on current development challenges, new experimental approaches towards integrated urban-rural development, and the possibility of knowledge transfer and transnational learning.

The digital conference has been organised by the URA research consortium led by Habitat Unit at TU Berlin and CAUP at Tongji University Shanghai, and will be hosted by AEDES Berlin (September 23) and IBA Thuringia (September 24). This marks the kick-off of a series of conferences co-hosted with UN-Habitat, which aim to promote a global urban-rural guiding framework for further research and action. URA is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) as part of the FONA programme Sustainable Development of Urban Regions (NUR).

Detailed project information can be viewed at [www.urbanruralassembly.com](http://www.urbanruralassembly.com)

# DAY 1

## Wednesday, September 23

**Venue:** ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory, Christinenstraße 18, 10119 Berlin (German consortium members)

**Livestream** of public sessions on [www.urbanruralassembly.com](http://www.urbanruralassembly.com)

The first day of the digital conference will assess urban-rural linkages as a key challenge in steering global urbanisation processes towards sustainability. Based on the transformation experiences and challenges faced in urban-rural regions of China, Europe and Latin America, contributions will discuss how context-specific research, policies and implementation strategies can offer insights and learnings to enrich a global debate. What research tools and interdisciplinary research alliances are needed to build a better knowledge base on urban-rural transformation challenges? How can we overcome the gap between research, policy and practice? How can transdisciplinary science-policy interfaces lead to more effective action?

## Internal Session: Science Policy Dialogue

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**10:00 - 12:00 (GER)**  
16:00 - 18:00 (CHN)

Moderation: Merlin Lao / ICLEI EA Beijing

The Science-Policy Dialogue is one of the main research methodologies to ensure research recommendations are practical for policy makers to adopt. This session thus creates a shared exchange platform between officials, scientists and other stakeholders from China and other international contexts, to discuss current issues and approaches of integrated urban-rural development. The session will be made up of a series of short presentations with a Q&A session and a panel-discussion focusing on the URA project and urban-rural interface at Taizhou-Huangyan.

**Closed session limited to invited participants**

# Public Session #1: Integrated Urban-Rural Development: Global Challenges and Opportunities

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13:00 - 13:15 (GER)

19:00 - 19:15 (CHN)

Public livestream at [www.urbanruralassembly.com](http://www.urbanruralassembly.com)

## **Welcome**

Hans-Jürgen Commerell / AEDES

Prof. Dr. Philipp Misselwitz / Habitat Unit, TU Berlin

Prof. Dr. Guiqing Yang / CAUP, Tongji University Shanghai

## **Official Statement - China**

TBC / Chinese Official from Local Government: Taizhou Municipality, Zhejiang Province

## **Official Statement - Germany**

Susanna Karawanskij / Secretary of State, Ministry of Infrastructure and Agriculture, Free State of Thuringia

13:15 - 15:30 (GER)

19: 15 - 21:30 (CHN)

## **KEYNOTE LECTURE**

### **Urban-Rural Linkages (URL) to Advance Integrated Territorial Development: Policy, Legislation and Governance**

Dr. Remy Sietchiping / UN Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya

### **Response #1: Rural – Urban Linkages as an Opportunity for Reducing Territorial Inequality: a Colombian case**

Angela Penagos / Centro Latino Americano para el Desarrollo Rural, RIMISP Colombia

### **Response #2: A Brief Discussion on the History and Trends of Urban-Rural Development in China**

Prof. Dr. Min Zhao / Honorary Professor at CAUP, Tongji University Shanghai

### **Response #3: Welcome to 'StadtLand' Thuringia**

Dr. Martina Döhler-Behzadi / International Building Exhibition (IBA) Thuringia

### **Urban-Rural Assembly (URA): Strategic Tools for Integrated Territorial Planning to Enhance Urban-Rural Integration and Circular Economies in the Huangyan-Taizhou region**

Hannes Langguth / Habitat Unit, TU Berlin

## **Roundtable Discussion** with all session speakers

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Philipp Misselwitz / Habitat Unit, TU Berlin & Prof. Dr. Guiqing Yang / CAUP, Tongji University Shanghai

# DAY 2

## Thursday, September 24

**Venue:** Eiermannbau, Auenstraße 11, 99510 Apolda  
(German consortium members)

**Livestream** of public sessions on  
[www.urbanruralassembly.com](http://www.urbanruralassembly.com)

The second conference day will focus on learning from implementation. The first session will reflect on new strategic tools for the transformation of urban-rural regions, testing new approaches and tools encouraging participative and actor-based planning, co-design, speculative scenario building or visioning across a regional scale. The second session will focus on design projects and their potential to act as catalysts to translate visions into concrete transformation processes. The sessions will include diverse positions from architects and design practitioners, academic researchers or governmental representatives from diverse global regions including China, Latin America and Europe.

## Internal Session: URA Consortium Workshop

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**09:00 - 10:30 (GER)**  
15:00 - 16:30 (CHN)

This internal workshop session brings the Chinese and German URA Consortium partners together with invited experts. After short statements by all German and Chinese PIs, the aim of the workshop will be to discuss the upcoming R&D Phase of the project.

**Closed session limited to invited participants**

# Public Session #2: Strategic Tools for Planning and Governance

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11:00 - 13:00 (GER)  
17:00 - 19:00 (CHN)

Public livestream at [www.urbanruralassembly.com](http://www.urbanruralassembly.com)

**Raumbild Vorarlberg 2030: Rethinking Strategic Tools for Planning and Participation in an Urban-Rural Region**

Dr. Stefan Obkircher / State Government Vorarlberg

**Shaping Urban Regions through Strategic Planning - Examples from Berlin-Brandenburg and the Zurich Agglomeration**

Dr. Cordelia Polinna / Urban Catalyst GmbH, Berlin

**Building Resilience from the Ground Up in Indonesian Coastal Cities**

Barry Beagen / Kota Kita, Surakarta

**Regional Design as a Complementary Tool to Territorial Planning: Pilot Projects in Zhejiang Province, China**

Dr. Yuting Xie / Zhejiang University, Hangzhou

**Roundtable Discussion** with all session speakers

Moderation: Dr. Xiaoxue Gao & Hannes Langguth / Habitat Unit, TU Berlin

# Public Session #3: (Trans-)Local Spatial Interventions and Techniques

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14:00 - 16:00 (GER)  
20:00 - 22:00 (CHN)

Public livestream at [www.urbanruralassembly.com](http://www.urbanruralassembly.com)

**Shifting Ground: Experiences with the Living Lab Methodology in the Barrios of Medellin**

Prof. Christian Werthmann / Leibniz Universität Hannover

**Thinking of Multiple Paths in Urban-Rural Assembly: The Case of the Huangyan Orange Garden**

Prof. Dr. Guiqing Yang / CAUP, Tongji University Shanghai

**Participatory Development Between Urban and Rural Spaces Guided by a Community Economies Approach: The Case of Vallgarina, Italy**

Dr. Bianca Elzenbaumer / EURAC Bozen & Brave New Alps

**Integrated Urban-Rural Development in Schwarzatal, Thuringia**

Dr. Martina Döhler-Behzadi / International Building Exhibition (IBA) Thuringia

**Roundtable Discussion** with all session speakers

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wende / Leibniz Institute for Ecological Urban and Regional Development, Dresden

# Internal Session: URA German Consortium Workshop

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**16:00 - 18:00 (GER)**  
22:00 - 00:00 (CHN)

This internal workshop session brings together the German URA Consortium members with the principle aim of discussing collaborations, shared tasks, and milestones for the subsequent URA R&D Phase.

**Closed session limited to invited participants**

# Invited Speakers

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## **KOTA KITA, SURAKARTA**

### Barry Beagen

Barry Beagen is an architect and urban designer focusing on sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure and urban development. He is currently the program director of Kota Kita Foundation where he develops methodologies for collaborative planning processes with citizens and governments. Prior to Kota Kita, Barry worked as a designer at Diller Scofidio + Renfro (NYC) on a range of cultural buildings and urban public projects internationally. He has also previously taught at the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and has been a Tata Center for Technology and Design fellow and an affiliate at the MIT Urban Risk Lab.

## **INTERNATIONAL BUILDING EXHIBITION (IBA) THURINGIA**

### Dr. Martina Döhler-Behzadi

Martina Doehler-Behzadi took over as Director of the IBA Thuringia in May 2014. After studying Urban Planning at the Hochschule für Architektur und Bauwesen (HAB) Weimar (then the Weimar University of Architecture and Civil Engineering) and her subsequent doctoral studies, from 1984 she worked for several years at the Planning Office of the City of Leipzig. She later worked as a freelance urban planner in Leipzig. From 2007 to 2014 she headed the Division of Baukultur (Building Culture) and Protection of Urban Architectural Heritage at the Federal Ministry of Construction, where she organised the national network of IBA Partners and is therefore very familiar with the IBA processes in Germany.

## **EURAC BOZEN / BRAVE NEW ALPS / ALPINE COMMONS LAB**

### Dr. Bianca Elzenbaumer

Dr. Bianca Elzenbaumer is a design researcher based at the Institute for Regional Development of Eurac Research (Bozen-Bolzano, Italy), where she works as an Individual Marie Curie Fellow at the Alpine Community Economies Lab to envision and co-create bottom-up eco-social initiatives. She is also a member of Brave New Alps, a design collective engaged in a 40-year project focused on the creation of a commons in the Italian Alps. Currently, she is co-developing a community academy at the local train station. Elzenbaumer is also a member of the Sounding Board of CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps.

## **HABITAT UNIT, TU BERLIN**

### Dr. Xiaoxue Gao

Xiaoxue Gao is a senior researcher in the Urban Rural Assembly project. She studied Urban Planning and Human Geography at Tianjin University and Peking University, and completed her PhD study in the Chair of Urban and Architectural Sociology at TU Berlin, which focused on trans-cultural social-spatial research methodology. In addition, she has practiced in the field of urban planning and art criticism in China, with work focused on historic urban areas, villages-in-the-city, and artworks embedded in the Chinese urbanisation context.



#### **ICLEI EAST ASIA SECRETARIAT, BEIJING**

## **Merlin Lao**

Merlin Lao is Program Manager of the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat (EAS) and researcher in the Urban Rural Assembly project. As Program Manager, he supervises four pillar program areas in East Asia: air quality, low carbon development, urban resilience, and green economy and growth. Before joining ICLEI, he worked as an independent consultant on carbon accounting and management and as a senior officer at the Environmental Protection Bureau of Macau where he focused on urban environmental planning and air pollution. He studied Chemistry at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Sustainable Energy Systems at the University of Edinburgh.

#### **HABITAT UNIT, TU BERLIN**

## **Hannes Langguth**

Hannes Langguth has been a researcher at Habitat Unit since 2014, working in the fields of critical urban-regional theory, planning and sociology. Currently, as part of the Urban Rural Assembly research team, he is working on his Doctoral Thesis with a focus on a comparative study of new socio-spatial practices emerging at the urban-rural interface across Germany and China. He is a member of NYLON Berlin – a self-organised PhD network between Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, NYU New York University and LSE London. He is also co-founder of studioetccetera, a cooperative practice in architecture and urban research based in Berlin. He studied architecture at the Technical University Braunschweig and the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna.

#### **HABITAT UNIT, TU BERLIN**

## **Prof. Dr. Philipp Misselwitz**

Philipp Misselwitz is the lead Principal Investigator of the Urban Rural Assembly project and Chair of the Habitat Unit at Technische Universität Berlin since 2013. He is an architect and urban planner educated at Cambridge University and the Architectural Association London, and received his PhD from Universität Stuttgart in 2009. His current research focuses on user-driven urban development processes, co-productive urban governance, translocal urbanisation dynamics, and tools for the localisation of global sustainability agendas in urbanised regions. He is a member of the DFG-funded Special Research Area (Sonderforschungsbereich) 1265 'Re-figuration of Space' at TU Berlin and partner at the Berlin-based planning consultancy Urban Catalyst, where he regularly advises development cooperation partners such as German Ministries, GIZ, or UN agencies on sustainable urbanisation challenges.

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT VORARLBERG**

## **Dr. Stefan Obkircher**

Stefan Obkircher is a geographer and has worked in the spatial planning department of the Federal State of Vorarlberg in Austria since 2009. Prior to this, Stefan was a research associate at the University of Innsbruck in Austria and at the University of Applied Sciences Rapperswil in Switzerland. His main areas of work are integrated territorial planning in urban-rural and cross-border regions, regional governance, as well as participatory planning processes. Current projects in this regard are Agglomerationsprogramm Rheintal and Raumbild Vorarlberg 2030.

## **CENTRO LATINO AMERICANO PARA EL DESARROLLO RURAL, RIMISP COLOMBIA**

### **Angela Penagos**

Angela Penagos is an economist with a Master in Environmental Economics and Natural Resources from Andes University and Maryland University. She has extensive experience linking research findings to policy design in territorial and rural development, agriculture, and poverty reduction. She directed the Rural Development Unit at the National Planning Department in Colombia (2012-2015), incorporating rurality and territory in public policy design. As director of RIMSIP, she leads the agricultural and territorial agenda, supporting national and regional governments, including implementing rural transformation in a post conflict context, technical inputs for territorial public budget allocation considering functional territories, and incorporating urban rural linkages in planning processes.

## **URBAN CATALYST, BERLIN**

### **Dr. Cordelia Polinna**

Cordelia Polinna studied Town and Country Planning and Urban Design in Berlin and Edinburgh. From 2008-2010 she was Postdoc-Fellow with the Transatlantic Graduate Research Program in Berlin and New York entitled 'History and Culture of the Metropolis in the 20th century', funded by the DFG. She established Polinna Hauck Landscape + Urbanism in 2008 and between 2011 and 2013 was Visiting Professor of Sociology of Architecture and Planning, TU Berlin. From 2012-2014 she was a member of the academic steering committee for Berlin's spatial development strategy 2030. Since 2014 she has worked with Urban Catalyst, and is an elected member of the German Academy for Urban and Regional Spatial Planning DASL and advisor to public housing society Degewo. Her current work focuses on strategic urban planning, sustainable mobility and participatory planning processes.

## **UN-HABITAT, NAIROBI**

### **Dr. Remy Sietchiping**

Remy Sietchiping holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Melbourne, Australia. He is currently the chief of the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section at UN-Habitat where he oversees strategic programs of national urban policy, urban-rural linkages, metropolitan governance, legislation, among others. He has also previously worked on land and urban issues, particularly with the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII). He has over 25 years of experience working in UN systems, academia, private sector, public sector and NGOs. He has authored various publications including books, peer-reviewed articles, papers in proceedings and reports.

## **LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGICAL URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, IOER DRESDEN**

### **Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wende**

Wolfgang Wende is a landscape planner who studied at TU Berlin. Following this, he graduated with a Diploma of Planning Engineering, and later a doctorate fellowship of the State of Berlin for young scientists analysing the effectiveness of the German Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system. Between 2008 – 2009, he changed his position to the Federal Environment Agency Germany. Since 2010 he has been a Professor for Urban Development at the Technical University of Dresden and head of Landscape Research Area at the Leibniz Institute, Dresden. He also has a broad international experience, for example his position as visiting professor at the National University of Singapore since 2009.

**LEIBNIZ UNIVERSITÄT HANNOVER**

## Prof. Dr. Christian Werthmann

Christian Werthmann is a Professor at the Institute of Landscape Architecture, Leibniz University Hannover. In his academic work, he develops strategies for landscape and public space in self-constructed neighborhoods. He currently heads the transdisciplinary research project 'Inform@Risk' (BMBF) that seeks to develop integrative strategies for disaster risk management in the informal barrios of Medellín, Colombia.

**ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY, HANGZHOU**

## Dr. Yuting Xie

Yuting Xie is a lecturer at the Institute of Landscape Architecture, Zhejiang University in China. She is the director of the China Urban Landscape Lab at Technical University of Munich, which is dedicated to managing landscape changes and developing historical landscape structures as a fundamental qualitative framework for China's rapidly transforming urban environment. In 2019, she co-founded a collaborative research platform called Jiangnan Lab, using Regional Design as a tool for bringing cross-sectoral spatial planning, landscape architecture and urban design, and multi-level governance together in the YRD Integration process.

**CAUP, TONGJI UNIVERSITY, SHANGHAI**

## Prof. Dr. Guiqing Yang

Guiqing Yang is Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Principal Investigator of the 'Urban and Rural Development and Rural Planning' research team in Tongji University, as well as the vice chairman of the Academic Committee of Mountainous Urban and Rural Planning in UPSC. His current research concentrates on Chinese 'rural vitalization', with a interdisciplinary perspective of sociology and urban planning. He established the 'Tongji-Huangyan Rural Vitalization College' in 2018 after 8 years of planning practice in Huangyan District, Taizhou, and has worked as the executive president. He received his PhD at Tongji University.

**CAUP, TONGJI UNIVERSITY, SHANGHAI**

## Prof. Dr. Min Zhao

Min Zhao is a Professor of Urban Planning at Tongji University, and former Director of the Department of Urban Planning (1999-2006). He is a member of the editorial board of several academic journals such as Urban Planning Review, Urban Planning Forum, Urban Planning International and Journal of Tongji University (Natural Science Edition). He is the Vice Director of the Foreign Planning Academic Committee of the China Urban Planning Society. He was a visiting scholar (1988-1989) at the University of Melbourne, and has worked or made academic visits to many European and Asian countries, North America, South Africa, as well as Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. He has undertaken a number of research projects of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other international institutions, as well as many domestic planning project.

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