

## Title

### **Urban-Rural Socio-Spatial Practices (WP2)**

## Summary

In the light of rapid urbanisation processes in Huangyan-Taizhou region and beyond, an increasing amount of new socio-spatial practices have emerged, continuously challenging our traditional understanding of urban and rural livelihoods. Such heterogeneous, dynamic and trans-locally acting and impacting practices contribute to the formation of the urban-rural interface, characterised by new forms and linkages of material and non-material entities. The working package “Urban-Rural Socio-Spatial Practices (WP2)” investigates this phenomenon of contemporary rural-to-urban transformation focusing on the diverse socio-spatial mechanisms of urbanisation on the level of trans-local practice. The WP is especially interested in identifying and understanding the diverse emerging forms of interplay between the perennial urban-rural dual structures and the socio-spatial practices on the ground in the Huangyan-Taizhou region.

On the one hand, WP2 will explore the political-economic structures under which diverse city-making, town-making, and rural revitalisation processes across the case study region of Huangyan-Taizhou are shaped. Therefore, the WP looks into the dual-policy frameworks and fiscal resources imposed by relevant institutions, as well as to map out the geographical organisation of such productive rules, allocated resources, and accumulated infrastructures. On the other hand, WP2 will focus on investigating the intentional and unintentional everyday social-spatial practices initiated in the absence of, navigating or eluding existing rules and regulations. The goal is to empirically describe and read the fluid, context- and agency-based modus operandi at the urban-rural interface, and explain how patterns of action (joint-actions) and interpretation from various focus groups are shaped by the socio-cultural constraints and possibilities. Parallel, the WP also addresses how through such practices, the agents reproduce or reshape their lived socio-material space at the urban-rural interface.

The WP’s research during the definition phase will result, firstly, in the categorisation of 25-30 specific ‘practice profiles’ as part of an open database or archive helping to build and strengthen an actor-based and practice-oriented understanding of urban-rural interdependencies in the case study region and beyond (WP2.1). Verified during the definition phase by the interdisciplinary research team, here, the URA-specific nexus themes ‘cultural heritage’, ‘renewable resources’, and ‘food security’ will serve as thematic guidelines for the research, based on literature review, discourse analysis, observation and mapping approaches. Subsequently, with regard to the selection of Reallabore (WP8), the WP will conduct in-depth case studies focusing on three different urban-rural constellation forms in Huangyan-Taizhou region (e.g. the peri-urban area in Huangyan District; new ecological investments in agriculture around Beiyang town; the

rural hinterland area undergoing rural revitalisation) in order to provide an in-depth understanding of the diverse socio-spatial mechanisms behind the practices and their resultant spatial manifestations (WP 2.2). Through deeply engaging with three selected cases, the WP will not only build profound knowledge on state-of-art forms of actor-based practices in the research region, but also create an expanded network of local stakeholders going beyond academics. This would ensure, inter alia, the collection of qualified qualitative data and a target-oriented development and implementation of selected Reallabore (WP8) and strategic governance tools (WP9) throughout the R&D phase.

## **Contact**

Prof. Dr. Philipp Misselwitz (Principal Investigator and Lead of URA)  
misselwitz@tu-berlin.de

Dr. des. Xiaoxue GAO (Senior Researcher)  
xiaoxue.gao@tu-berlin.de

Dipl.-Ing. Hannes Langguth (Researcher)  
hannes.langguth@tu-berlin.de

MSc. Ava Lynam (Student Assistant)  
ava.lynam@campus.tu-berlin.de

Technische Universität Berlin  
Habitat Unit  
Department of International Urbanism and Design  
Institute for Architecture, Office A 53  
Strasse des 17. Juni 152  
10623 Berlin (Germany)