

Background

The shrinking city phenomenon is a multidimensional process, comprising cities, parts of cities or metropolitan areas that have experienced dramatic decline in their economic and social bases. Common denominator of shrinking cities all over the world is the fact that they are embedded in the context of globalization leading to societal changes. Urban decline and the loss of employment opportunities are closely linked in a downwards spiral, triggering an out-migration of population. This process of decline is often due to the post-industrial transformation of cities and to the shift from manufacturing activities to services, a process that has left industrial and working-class cities with very few resources in terms of employment and fiscal base.

Aims

Aim of the symposium is to discuss shrinking cities from three different angles: the international comparative approach, the German discourse, and the social sciences perspective. Linking these three windows of exploration to shrinking cities research in order to widen the debate is both unique and innovative. The international comparative viewpoint is essential to the discussion since the urban phenomenon of shrinking can be perceived all over the world, albeit within different cultural and socio-economic settings. An equally important point of reference for the investigation is the German discourse about shrinking cities, since in other areas – in particular the US – urban growth is persistent as the dominant paradigm in urban planning and development. Moreover, the symposium is setting the context for in-depth reflections from the point of view of social sciences considering specific social, demographic, economic, political and cultural issues.

Key questions and Structure

The symposium addresses the issue of strategic answers to urban shrinkage: How to maintain respectively restore quality of life in shrinking cities? How are different components of comprehensive strategies like land-use planning, economic development, culture-based issues, and environmental aspects considered in practice? Can we learn from other shrinking cities around the globe? These questions will be embedded in five sessions featuring an interdisciplinary range of renowned experts from Germany and an interdisciplinary group of scholars from five continents (North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia). This "Shrinking Cities Group" was initiated by the visiting scholars' roundtable at the Institute of Urban and Regional Development, University of California, Berkeley, in 2004. Demographic change and shrinking cities are as well one thematic focus of the Dresden Center for Demographic Change.

International Symposium

New (!) Venue:

Sächsische Landesbibliothek – SLUB
Vortragssaal
Zellescher Weg 18, 01069 Dresden

Language:

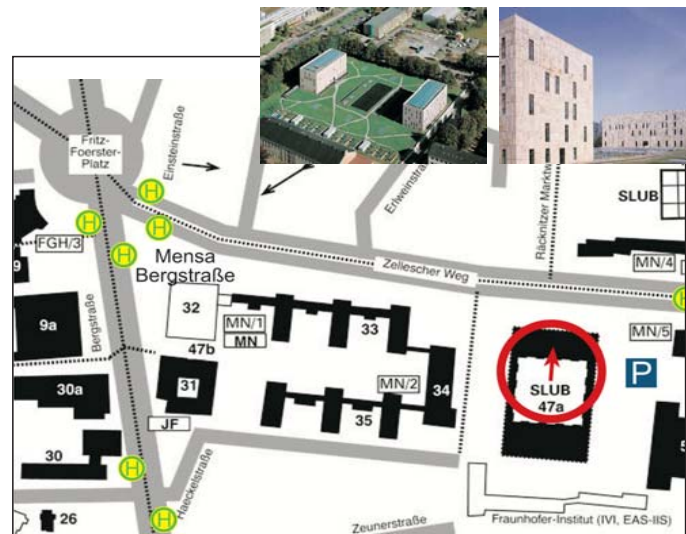
The symposium language is English.

Registration:

Please use the enclosed registration form to register to the International Symposium. Early registration is recommended due to space constraints. There will be no symposium fee.

Further Informations:

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Dr. Thorsten Wiechmann, Tel.: +49 (0)351-4679-261, www.ioer.de



How to get there:

From Dresden Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) take bus 72 in direction „Coschütz“ or bus 76 in direction „Mockritz“; get off at second stop "Fritz-Förster-Platz". Turn left into "Zellescher Weg". SLUB is located at a three minutes walking distance on the right side.



Leibniz-Institut für ökologische
Raumentwicklung e. V.
Dresden

in cooperation with
Dresden Center for Demographic Change
of the Dresden University of Technology
and the
"Shrinking Cities Project"
of the Institute of Urban and Regional Development,
University of California, Berkeley

International Symposium Coping with City Shrinkage and Demographic Change - Lessons from around the Globe



March, 30th to 31st 2006
in Dresden, Germany

Thursday, March 30

- 12:00 Registration and snacks
- 13:00 Welcome addresses and introduction
- Winfried Killisch, Director of the Dresden Center for Demographic Change and Vice Rector of Dresden University of Technology (TUD)
- Karl-Dieter Keim, Schader Foundation, Vice Chairman of the Board
- Bernhard Müller, Director of Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (IOER)
- 13:30 **Panel I "City shrinkage in a changing world: differences and similarities"**
- Types of shrinking cities - Introductory Notes on a Global Issue
Thorsten Wiechmann, IOER (Germany)
- Shrinking cities in Western Europe: Case Studies from France and Great Britain
Sylvie Fol, Paris X - Nanterre University (France)
Emmanuele Cunningham-Sabot, Université Rennes II - Haute Bretagne (France)
- Shrinking cities in Central and Eastern Europe
Maros Finka / Dagmar Petrikova, University of Bratislava (Slovakia)
- Shrinking cities in the United States of America
Karina Pallagst, Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (IOER) and University of California, Berkeley (USA)
- Discussion (Chair: Helen Mulligan)
- 15:00 Coffee Break
- 15:30 Shrinking cities in Australia: Shrinking Cities; Communities in Transformation in Australia
Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, University of Western Sydney (Australia)
- Shrinking cities in Latin America: Inequality and Shrinking Cities - a close relationship in Latin America
Sergio Moraes, Itajaí Valley University (Brazil)

Co-operation and Conflict between Firms, Communities, New Social Movements and the Role of Government in Revitalizing a Mining Town in Mexico
José G. Vargas-Hernández, Technological Institute of Ciudad Guzman (Mexico)

Discussion (Chair: Karl-Dieter Keim)

17:00 End of day 1

Friday, March 31

- 09:00 **Panel II "Demographic change and city shrinkage: taking a broader view"**
Demographic change in Germany – the role of municipalities and local initiatives
Andreas Esche / Kerstin Schmidt, Bertelsmann Foundation (Germany)
- Demographic crisis, demand crisis, residential market crisis in the Free State of Saxony - what does that mean?
Stefan Weber, Chairman, Sächsische Aufbaubank (Germany)
- Demographic change, segregation and social urban renewal from a North Rhine-Westphalian perspective
Evelyn Sucato, ILS, Dortmund (Germany)
- Discussion (Chair: Bernhard Müller)
- 10:30 Coffee Break
- 11:00 **Panel III "Coping with city shrinkage: tackling urban decline with creative approaches"**
Economic Regeneration Strategies for Shrinking Cities in the context of The New Economy – Architecture, Culture-led Regeneration and the Creative Community
Jasmin Aber, University of California, Berkeley (USA)
- Tackling Urban Decline through Innovation Activities
Cristina Martinez-Fernandez / Chung-Tong Wu, University of Western Sydney (Australia)
- "Environment and the shrinking city"
Helen Mulligan, Cambridge Architectural Research (UK)

Shrinking Coal Mining Cities in Asia: A Comparative Study
Dong-Chun Shin, Ministry of Construction and Transport, Seoul (Republic of Korea)

Discussion (Chair: Karina Pallagst)

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 **Panel IV "City shrinkage and demographic change: lessons from Germany – lessons for Germany"**

Demographic change in Europe – in search of new strategies
Bernhard Müller, IOER / Dresden University of Technology (Germany)

Regeneration of shrinking cities - the case of East Germany
Heike Liebmann, IRS Erkner (Germany) / Tobias Robischon, Schader Foundation (Germany)

Buried infrastructure in shrinking cities
Raimund K. Herz, Dresden University of Technology (Germany)

Discussion (Chair: Thorsten Wiechmann)

15:15 Round table discussion

Panelists:

Sylvie Fol, Paris X - Nanterre University (France)

Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, University of Western Sydney (Australia)

Dong-Chun Shin, Ministry of Construction and Transport, Seoul (Republic of Korea)

Clemens Deilmann, IOER Dresden (Germany)

(Chairs: Karl-Dieter Keim, Bernhard Müller)

16:00 Closing remarks
(Bernhard Müller)

After conference tour (Saturday, April 1) (optional):
City shrinkage and strategies of urban regeneration to Dresden