

OVERVIEW OF SPEAKERS & WORKSHOP INFOS

Practical Recognition in the City: Class, Urban Belonging, and Democratic Disaffection

Keynote: JULIA GREVE, Humboldt University Berlin

Julia Greve is a research associate at the Chair of Urban and Regional Sociology at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where her work focuses on urban sociology, social inequality, and urban transformation. In this keynote, she explores how class shapes urban belonging, social recognition, and democratic participation. Focusing on the idea of “practical recognition,” she examines how everyday experiences in the city influence whether people feel included, represented, and connected to urban life - and how inequality and exclusion can lead to democratic disaffection.

WORKSHOP INFOS (11:30 - 12:45 h)

Workshop 1 | Regenerative Tourism: Travelling Responsibly and Equitably

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This workshop explores regenerative tourism and the question of how travel can be shaped more responsibly and equitably. Drawing on the work of the Urban Leisure & Tourism Lab, participants will examine how tourism can move beyond extractive models and instead contribute positively to local communities, urban environments, and social wellbeing. Together, we will reflect on what responsible and equitable travel can look like in practice, how tourism can support regeneration rather than exploitation, and what role travellers, communities, and local actors play in creating more just and sustainable urban futures.

SPEAKER: JIMENA DIAMINT, Urban Leisure and Tourism Lab, inHolland University of Applied Sciences

Jimena Diamint is an early-career researcher working for ENSUT and the *Urban Leisure & Tourism Labs in Rotterdam and Amsterdam*. Her work focuses on driving systemic transformations in the tourism industry, always from a critical perspective. She is involved in applied research projects, conducts literature reviews, manages projects, and supports the writing and editing of academic texts. Through her research, she contributes to rethinking tourism’s role in sustainable urban development.

Workshop 2 | We share the street, but do we share the power? Workshop on mobility justice

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

This workshop explores mobility justice through the question: *We share the street, but do we share the power?* Drawing on the work of *Just Streets*, participants will examine who streets are designed for, who gets left out, and how mobility systems can become more just, inclusive, and people-centred. Together, we will reflect on how urban space is shaped by unequal access, power, and participation, and discuss what it takes to transform streets from car-dominated infrastructure into public spaces that are safer, more accessible, and fairer for everyone — especially for groups whose needs are often overlooked in urban planning.

SPEAKER: MARIE BOUTIN & POLINA MEDVEDEVA, Just Streets (Climate Alliance)

The workshop is hosted by Marie Boutin and Polina Medvedeva from *Climate Alliance Berlin*. Their project *Just Streets* is a Horizon Europe project and international network working to make urban streets more just, inclusive, and people-centered. Bringing together researchers, practitioners, and city actors from across Europe, it focuses on transforming car-dominated streets into safer and more accessible public spaces through active mobility, social inclusion, and participatory urban planning. Their work places particular emphasis on the needs of groups often underrepresented in mobility planning, including women, migrants, children, older adults, LGBTQI+ communities, and people with disabilities.

Workshop 3 | Climate Justice & Urban Development: Which steps to take?

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

This workshop explores the connections between climate justice and urban development, focusing on the question of which steps cities can take to become more sustainable, resilient, and socially just. Participants will examine how climate change affects urban life unevenly, who is most impacted, and how local policies can respond in fair and inclusive ways. Drawing on practical examples from urban governance and planning, the workshop invites participants to reflect on concrete strategies for shaping climate-just cities and the role local actors can play in driving this transformation.

SPEAKER: OLIVER PETERS, Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik (difu)

The workshop is hosted by Oliver Peters, a researcher and project lead at the *German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu)* in Berlin. His work focuses on sustainable urban development, climate adaptation, resource protection, and local sustainability governance. At Difu, he works on practical strategies and policy tools that support cities in becoming more sustainable, resilient, and socially just.

WORKSHOP INFOS (13:45 – 15:00 h)

Session 1 | Utopias in Practice: Collective Urban Future (Creative Session)

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

This workshop introduces participants to scenario building as a creative and collaborative method for exploring possible futures. Drawing on approaches from political analysis and futures studies, participants will work together to identify key values shaping societal development and use these to develop alternative future visions. In a structured but imaginative process, the workshop invites participants to think critically and creatively about possible developments, and reflect on what actions can help shape more desirable futures.

SPEAKER: DR. THOMAS MEHLHAUSEN, FUTURIA Berlin

The workshop is hosted by Dr. Thomas Mehlhausen, a political scientist and researcher with extensive experience in political theory, European politics, and participatory futures methodologies. Between 2008 and 2020, he worked as a research associate at the Chair of Political Theory at the University of Potsdam and held guest lectureships in Moscow, Wrocław, Padua, Saint-Denis, Lisbon, La Laguna, and Fort-de-France, as well as a research fellowship in Washington, D.C. Since 2019, he has been teaching at Fern-Universität Hagen, and since 2021 he has been leading the research project “Germany and Poland in a Differentiated European Union” at Leipzig University. In addition, he worked as Berlin editor-in-chief of the online magazine e-politik.de from 2003 to 2008. As a lecturer at the Institute for Prospective Analyses and Zeitgeist e.V., he has been working with scenario planning and simulation methods in a wide range of formats since 2004.

Session 2 | Climate Crisis Meets Housing Crisis: Fair Housing in a Hotter World

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

This workshop explores housing justice and the question of how cities can remain affordable, inclusive, and democratic — especially in a hotter world shaped by the climate crisis. Using the example of *Deutsche Wohnen & Co enteignen*, participants will examine how rising rents, speculation, and unequal access to housing shape urban life, and how these challenges are intensified by climate injustice. Together, participants will discuss housing as a public good, the connections between housing and climate justice, and the role civic initiatives can play in creating socially just, climate-resilient cities.

SPEAKER: MARINA MIRONICA, DEUTSCHE WOHNEN & CO. ENTEIGNEN

The workshop is hosted by Marina Mironica from *Deutsche Wohnen & Co Enteignen*, a Berlin-based grassroots initiative campaigning for housing justice and the socialization of large private housing companies. Founded in 2018, the initiative emerged in response to Berlin’s growing housing crisis and has since become one of the city’s most prominent movements for affordable housing and democratic urban policy. Driven by tenants, activists, and volunteers, the campaign combines grassroots organizing, legal expertise, and political advocacy to promote housing as a public good rather than a commodity.

Session 3 | Designing Cities with Care: Urban Planning Beyond Cars

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

This workshop explores how urban mobility can be reimagined to create safer, healthier, and more liveable cities for everyone. Using the example of Berlin's *Verkehrsentscheid*, participants will examine how transport policy can help make public space safer for children, improve air quality, reduce noise, and create more room for social interaction. The workshop will also address how mobility systems can contribute to climate protection, social justice, and greater accessibility, while still taking into account the needs of those who depend on cars. Together, participants will reflect on how urban spaces can be transformed through more sustainable and people-centred mobility, and what role civic engagement can play in shaping this change.

SPEAKER: OLIVER COLLMAN, VERKEHRSENTSCHEID BERLIN

The workshop is hosted by Oliver Collmann from *Verkehrsentscheid Berlin*, a civic initiative driven by volunteers from across the city who are committed to shaping a more sustainable, socially just, and future-oriented mobility policy. The initiative is supported by experienced legal experts, specialists in mobility and climate policy, and a broad network of activists advocating for a fair and liveable city. Founded in September 2019, *Verkehrsentscheid Berlin* was officially launched to the public in October 2020 and has since become a key voice in debates on urban mobility and transport justice in Berlin.

Session 4 | Decolonial city tour in Wedding (African Quarter)

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

In this workshop, we will explore the African Quarter and its fascinating history. Together, we will examine why streets in Wedding are named after African cities and countries such as Togo, Cameroon, or Windhoek, and how the African continent has shaped German history over the past 140 years. We will exchange perspectives on the topic of street renaming and learn more about resistance to German colonial rule through figures such as Rudolph and Emily Manga Bell, Anna Mungunda, and Cornelius Fredericks. The workshop invites participants to reflect on how the impact of the past continues to shape the present and to engage in a change of perspective-

SPEAKERS: DESTA – Decolonial City Tour

Despite some progress, many people in Germany and around the world continue to suffer from the effects of racism and other forms of discrimination. These inequalities are deeply rooted in centuries of colonialism, during which explicitly racist structures and systems were established whose consequences remain visible to this day and continue to shape areas such as culture, science, politics, and the economy. DESTA is committed to addressing these historical continuities, creating space for critical reflection, and contributing to lasting change.
