

IfGR - Flash News - November 2024



Dear Viennese Geographers,

In this edition, we're excited to share updates on recent events, introduce new team members, and highlight ongoing projects and much more... Have fun reading!

We encourage you to share and promote your research and activities through this platform. We are excited to hear from you!

Please send your announcements to: sarah.kristine.konieczka@univie.ac.at

1. Our Staff

- **Matthias Neumeister**, the previous organizational assistant of the Spatial Research and Planning working group, will support the working group as a study assistant from November 2024.
- The Spatial Research and Planning Working Group would like to thank **Michael Kloiber** for his support as a study assistant until the end of September 2024 and wishes him every success in his professional life!
- We are excited to welcome **Magdalena Berger** as the newest member of our team. Magdalena is currently pursuing her doctorate as part of the CuHeMo Project, where she brings her expertise and enthusiasm for innovative research. We look forward to the insights and energy she will contribute to our work!
- **Helena Schuch** joined the working group Spatial Research and Spatial Planning in the institute of Geography and Regional Research as a PhD student in September 2024. For her master's degrees, she studied Philosophy & Economics at the University of Vienna and Environment and Bio-Resources Management at BOKU University. Specialising in traffic and mobility management in the latter,

Helena wants to combine the concept of spatial justice with traffic planning in her doctoral research.

- **Philip Krassnitzer** joined the working group Spatial Research and Spatial Planning in September 2024 as a PhD student. He studied Spatial Planning at the Technical University of Vienna, where he then started to work as a project assistant. Before joining the PhD Program at the University of Vienna, he was part of the planning office "Stadtland" where he focused on dialogue-oriented planning and participation processes while still cooperating with the Technical University of Vienna as an external lecturer at both the Research Units of Local Planning and Regional Planning and Regional Development. Philip is currently investigating the interrelations between space and sustainability transition processes on local and regional levels.
- Our colleague, **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Norbert Weixlbaumer** has now started a new chapter of his life following a long and successful career (37 years!) as esteemed colleague and friend in the Department of Geography and Regional Research.

2. Congratulations

Congratulations on Best Paper Award at COSIT Conference!

Kszysztof Janowice has been honored with the **Best Paper Award** at this year's **COSIT (Conference on Spatial Information Theory)**.

This achievement highlights the innovative research and dedication that continues to thrive within our Institute. Congratulations!

"Pitch your thesis" Distinction for Helena Schuch

Helena Schuch (Geography and Regional Research, praedoc) was selected to present her Master's thesis as part of "Pitch your Thesis" and can look forward to the prize money of € 200. Good luck!

New Membership in the Network for Sustainability Real-World Laboratories

Meike Levin-Keitel is now a member of the **Network for Sustainability Real-World Laboratories**. This network connects interdisciplinary researchers focused on transformative sustainability projects, aiming to create real-world impact through collaborative, experimental approaches. Congrats!

The PARATUS poster "Critical Infrastructure at Risk: Analysing Geomorphic Hazards in the Wipptal, Tirol" won the poster-award at the 50th annual meeting of the German Society for Geomorphology. Congratulations!

Maximilian Benner, senior scientist at the Working Group Economic Geography, has successfully passed his habilitation procedure at the university of Klagenfurt. He now holds the *venia docendi* for human geography. Congrats!

3. Publications

- Baur, P. A., Maier, A., Buchsteiner, C., Zechmeister, T., & **Glatzel, S.** (2024). Consequences of intense drought on CO₂ and CH₄ fluxes of the reed ecosystem at Lake Neusiedl. *Environmental Research*, 262, 119907. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2024.119907>

- **Lemke, L. K.-G.,** Beier, J., & Hanger-Kopp, S. (2024). Exploring procedural justice in stakeholder identification using a systematic mapping approach. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 162, 103900. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2024.103900>.
- **Wenzel, T.,** Bell, R., Dietze, M., & Schrott, L. (2024). Persistent post-flood hillslope activity posing a potential landslide dam hazard in the Ahr valley, Germany. *Environmental Sciences Europe*, 36(1), 158.

4. Viennes Geographers in the world...

Simon Bunchuay-Peth recently returned from Bangkok, where he spend over a month as a Visiting Professor at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia (RILCA) at Mahidol University. During his stay, he led a workshop on participatory research methods, delivered a research talk, and engaged in fruitful exchanges with colleagues to foster future research collaborations.

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Lucas Barning is organizing a special session on 'Promoting Justice for Eco-social Transformations in Urban and Regional Development: Perspectives from Theory and Practice' with members of the ESPPRIT research network at the Regional Studies Association (RSA) Winter Conference, 7th-8th November 2024, in London.

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James Vandenberg recently returned from a 6-week trip to the Philippines, where he began his PhD fieldwork as part of the GReenSCape project, in collaboration with the University of the Philippines. In Metro Manila, he engaged with governmental stakeholders, urban farmers, and NGOs to explore the integration of urban agriculture. Driven by policies introduced during Covid-19, initiatives like demonstration farms, workshops, and education programs have empowered diverse civil society actors to harness urban agriculture's multifunctionality. This movement aims to boost food security, create jobs, strengthen communities, foster circular practices, and promote inclusive, collaborative institutions to enhance urban resilience.

Lukas Behrend spent August and September as a Visiting International Research Student at the University of British Columbia, School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) as part of his PhD project. He received a research grant from the DAAD for his stay at UBC.

5. News

Students Explore Industrial Transformation in Hirschbach

15 master's students from the Institute of Geography and Regional Research are using the former textile factory in Hirschbach as a learning case for industrial transformation during the winter semester 2024. Led by **Yvonne Franz** and **Martin Heintel**, they explore how vacant factories could be repurposed as housing. The results, developed with the Environment Agency, the municipality of Hirschbach, and the textile factory, will be presented in a webinar by January 2025. In October, they will share their initial insights at the Brownfield Dialogue in Salzburg.

Martin Heintel Interview: Urban Green Spaces in Vienna

Martin Heintel, recently discussed the importance of Grätzloasen (urban green spaces) in Vienna in an interview with Der Standard. Initially controversial, especially among car owners who saw parking spots replaced by parklets, these green spaces have gradually gained appreciation. Heintel notes that over time, many residents recognize the value of having greenery right outside their doors.

Associate Professor Thea Riofrancos at the University of Vienna

Associate Professor Thea Riofrancos (Providence College) has paid a visit to the University with a Lazarsfeld professorship based on the initiative of the Department of International Development studies and in cooperation with the Departments of Political Science, of History, and of Geography and Regional Research, and OeFSE. Thea offered a PhD course and a well-attended public lecture as an [ieTalk](#), followed by a discussion round to introduce her upcoming book *'Extraction: The frontiers of Green Capitalism'* on Monday 7th October.

6. Project Updates

From November 18 - 20, a deep drilling will take place in Brandstatt as part of the NoeDRILL project, in the course of which a 40 m long inclinometer chain will be installed, which transmits data to the NoeSLIDE server at 5-minute intervals. This allows a possible landslide to be observed in relative real time and provides information on shear depth and movement rates.

7. Events

CPT Seminar Eijkelkamp

The Royal Eijkelkamp Academy, in collaboration with the University of Vienna, is organizing this special seminar on CPT with live demonstration.

When: 30. October 2024, 9:00 - 16:00

Where: Hörsaal 1 im UZA2 Spange A (Josef-Holaubekplatz 2)

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"Pitch your thesis" Distinction for Helena Schuch

Organized by Uniport, the career service of the University of Vienna

When: 4. November 2024, 14:00 - 17:00

Where: Small Ballroom of the main building

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Promoting Justice for Eco-social Transformation in Urban and Regional Development:

Perspectives from Theory and Practice

When: 7th-8th November 2024

Where: London

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8. Past Events

ARL International Summer School "Spatial Transformation from a Planning Perspective", September 26--28, 2024.

From September 26-28, 2024, the Working Group Spatial Research and Planning welcomed twelve PhD students from all over the world. Among them were Dick Magnussen (Linköping University) Johannes Suitner (TU Vienna), Gesa Pflitsch (BOKU Vienna) and Richard Beecroft (KIT Karlsruhe). The Spatial Research and Planning Working Group is very pleased to continue this long-standing tradition with the Academy for Spatial Development in the Leibniz Association and is grateful for the excellent feedback from the participants.

UCPM Evidence for Policy in DRM Summer School 2024

On September 26 and 27, the third edition of the UCPM (Union Civil Protection Mechanism) Summer School was held at the University of Vienna, following successful previous editions at Scuola Sant'Anna in Pisa. Organised in collaboration with the Civitas Soteria Consortium and DG-ECHO, the event was hosted by the EUMA Project coordination team at the NIG, with academic contributions from Prof. Thomas Glade and logistical support from Annika Fröwis. Selected geography students had the unique opportunity to supervise one of the eight high-level masterclasses. Throughout the two-day event, academic experts, practitioners, and policymakers participated in three of the masterclasses, a tram tour around the Ringstraße, and two networking dinners.

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The StV kicked off this winter semester with the much-anticipated Ersti-Week, designed to welcome new students. This was followed by a Spritzerstand in October and the Ersti-Fahrt, a fun excursion to Lower Austria, offering first-year students a chance to bond. The semester continued with a Geostammtisch on the 16th of October at Café Concerto, providing another opportunity for community building. Looking ahead to November, the STV is preparing for the next big celebration—either a Geofest or Megafest—with details to be announced soon.

Impressum

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