

INVITATION
International Conference

ISU TALKS #03

Ruralism: The Future of Villages and Small Towns in an Urbanizing World

Nov. 18, 2015

Registration

Please register by October 30, 2015 at <http://sustainableurbanism.de/isu-talks>
Registration fee is 80 euros. Free for TU Braunschweig students and faculty.

Organisation

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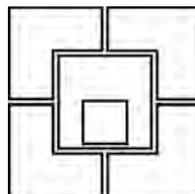
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INTRODUCTION

What future do villages and small towns have in a world in which the majority of the population lives in urban areas?

The arms of the city stretch wide and deep into the countryside, urbanising rural spaces and lifestyles. But if the world is urbanising, it must also be ruralising in response (Krause 2013).¹ Present ruralisation practices flip the urbanisation meme on its head: Rural life migrates to the megacities of the Global South; tired urbanites in the cities of the Global North seek authenticity, self-sufficiency and an exit from the rat-race of city life in rural living; urban gardening and designs reprogramming public space with landscapes and wildlife increase. Numerous contemporary spatial practices perforate the urban-rural divide, offering another view on urbanisation's socio-cultural effects.

Rural space is poised for a major change. According to Rem Koolhaas "the countryside is now the frontline of transformation. A world formerly dictated by the seasons and the organisation of agriculture is now a toxic mix of genetic experiment, science, industrial nostalgia, seasonal immigration, territorial buying sprees, massive subsidies, incidental inhabitation, tax incentives, investment, political turmoil, in other words more volatile than the most accelerated city" (2014).² In the last century, rural space experienced mass out-migration with the rise of mechanization and industrialization, and received waste and unwanted or out-dated infrastructures from cities. It fed the world's population and served as the scenery for movie plots or as a recreational landscape for temporary guests. But in the near future, rural space will step out of the shadow of the cities and become appreciated as an important actor in sustainable development in its own right – that's the hypothesis ISU Talks #03 wants to explore.

In the current city-centred discourse, rural spaces are often dismissed as declining or stagnating. However, rural spaces also play a critical role in sustainable development, as an inextricably linked counterpart and complement to the growing city, as extraction sites, natural reservoirs, providing for ecosystem services or leisure spaces. The city and the countryside are evermore increasingly mutually reliant. A closer look at the countryside unveils a set of dynamics overlaying and changing rural space, beyond trends of depopulation and shutdown of public facilities. The once remote and quiet countryside is now traversed by global and regional flows of people, goods, waste, energy and information, interrelating it with the larger urban system, even bringing it to the frontlines of regional transformation and sustainability. A new and broadened set of criteria for grasping the rural can bring much-needed nuance and depth to understanding urban-rural landscapes, currently in processes of transformation worldwide (Watson 2014).³

The conference proposes the following questions: How can the contemporary rural be conceived of and described? What new concepts for rural living currently exist? How are urbanisation and ruralisation processes connected? Can impulses for the design of urban space be drawn from the imagined and practiced connections between the urban and the rural? How can we formulate a (new) vision for 'ruralism'?

International researchers will illuminate the notion of ruralism from architectural, cultural, gender, ecological, and political perspectives.

The conference rounds off the Institute for Sustainable Urbanism's BMBF-funded project Academy of Rural Space (2014-15). The academy brings together students, city representatives, and citizens with experts in small cities and villages of Lower Saxony to formulate ideas for the development of those places. The conference takes place during the launch week of the TU Braunschweig's new central research theme "Future City" from 16 to 21 November.

¹ Krause, Monika. 2013. The Ruralization of the World. *Public Culture*, 25(2), pp. 233-248. [Article] : Goldsmiths Research Online.

² Koolhaas, Rem. 2014. Koolhaas in the country. *Icon Sep*. iconeye.

³ Watson, E. E. (2014). The Continuing Significance of Rural Landscapes in the Urban Century. *Rural Landscapes*, 1(1): 3, pp. 1-3, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.16993/rl.ab>.

SCHEDULE

10:00

INTRODUCTION

Prof. Dr. Susanne Robra-Bissantz

TU Braunschweig, Vice President of Studies & Cooperation, Institute of Computer Science

Prof. Dr. Vanessa Miriam Carlow

TU Braunschweig, Institute for Sustainable Urbanism

Kristien Ring (moderator)

University of South Florida, AA PROJECTS, Berlin

10:45

KEYNOTE 1: ECOSISTEMA URBANO

Madrid

Networked Urbanism

11:30

PANEL 1

IMAGINING URBANISATION/RURALISATION

Moderator: Kristien Ring

The urbanisation of the countryside – manifested as digitalised agriculture, mobile and networked populations, and globalised industry – is mirrored in the ruralisation of the city, revealed as green belts, farmer’s markets selling regional produce, the demand for access to nature and open spaces, extended green and blue networks, bio-architecture, and urban gardening and vertical farms in cities. However, in cultural representations, the urban-rural divide is often represented in stronger terms than in real settlement structures and everyday life, associating the countryside with nature and traditions, and the city with culture and progression. How do such discourses and images shape human experiences? As the world and our minds are being urbanised, how are they accordingly being ruralised?

Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Christiane Sörensen

HafenCity University, Department of Landscape Architecture, Hamburg

The Rural as an Autonomous Narrative within the Hierarchy of Global Urbanization or What Kind of Stories Can the Rural Tell within the City?

Prof. Dr. Eckart Voigts

TU Braunschweig, English Literature

“Ill fares the land...” – The Literature of Landflucht and the “Knowability” of Rural Exodus

Claudia Oltmanns

Universität Oldenburg, Study of Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology, Early Modern and Modern History

Rurality in a Society of Cities

Q&A and panel discussion

13:00

BREAK

13:45

PANEL 2

PARALLEL SESSION

REDISTRIBUTING RESOURCES OF URBAN-RURAL LANDSCAPES

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Boris Schröder-Esselbach

Rural landscapes have become the battleground between competing uses: food, energy and commodity production, leisure, biodiversity conservation, and as space for future urban expansion. The over-exploitation of natural resources has led to the deterioration of rural spaces worldwide. To counter this trend, redistribution strategies to revitalise villages through niche developments and to combine local-regional resources are being explored. How can urban-rural resources be linked, integrated and developed? How does the landscape act as a shaping factor for urban design? What relationship between society and environment do these new landscapes reveal?

Liliana Giraldo Arias

Politecnico di Milano, Urban Planning, Design and Policy / Universidad de La Salle, Bogotá

The Urbanization of the Rural Space in Latin America under the Pressure of the Exploitation of nature: The Case Study of Casanare in Colombia

Nils Björling

Chalmers University of Technology, Department of Architecture, Gothenburg
Activating Ecologies and Reframing Regional Imbalance

Michael Wagner

ETH Zurich, Institute for Urban Design
Kulturlandschaft Switzerland

Jonna Majgaard Krarup

The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Institute for Architecture, City and Landscape, Copenhagen
Rural land(scapes) - Lessons to be Learned(?)

Q&A and panel discussion

**13:45
PANEL 3****PARALLEL SESSION
SMALL TOWN LIFE WORLDS**

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Eckart Voigts

Socio-spatial development of villages and small towns in the shadow of urbanisation does not only produce polarisation and marginalisation, but also innovation and solutions in response to societal challenges, through the shaping of everyday practices. Distinctive local culture and regional identity is often declared to be the survival chance of rural space. Its current building culture, however, largely produces banal landscapes, of little architectural interest or value. What is rural life today? What makes it distinctive, and what are its particular potentials? What are the trends in its spatial development, and how can they be conceptualised?

Annett Steinführer

Thünen Institute for Rural Studies, German Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Braunschweig
Living in the Small Town: An Urban(ized) or a Rural(ized) Experience?

Prof. Jens Kvorning

The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Center for Urbanism, Copenhagen
Ruralism and Periphery

Ralph Richter

Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning, Erkner
Social Innovations in Rural Life Worlds

Ines Lüder

Leibniz University of Hanover, Regional Building and Urban Planning
The Ties of Identity and Architecture in the Territory

Q&A and panel discussion

**13:45
PANEL 4****PARALLEL SESSION
POSSIBLE URBAN-RURAL POLITICS**

Moderator: Kristien Ring

Rapid urbanisation and sprawl are a tool for and by-product of economic growth, but can also produce problematic developments. Many transformation processes result in uneven development, polarizing sites of (rural) production and (urban) accumulation, and threaten existing social dynamics, livelihoods and spatial specificity. As an alternative to such development are strategies to foster collaboration and sharing of competencies between regions and cities. Who shapes and benefits from urbanisation? What are the potentials for a critical and complementary urban-rural development?

Andy Westner

TU München, Department of Sustainable Urbanism
Landungsprozesse – Development Impulses, Spatial Effects and their Resilience

Andrea Sciascia

University of Palermo, Faculty of Architecture

From the Sprawl to the Extending Town, Between Isola delle Femmine and Partinico (Sicily)

Ruta Randelovic

Urbanizing Shanghai's Suburban Farmland. Case Study of Lingang Nicheng Community

Aurel von Richthofen

Future Cities Laboratory Singapore, Chair of Architecture and Construction

The 'Inverted' Rural-Urban Interface in Oman: Urbanization of the Production Landscape in Al Batinah

Q&A and panel discussion

15:15 BREAK

15:45 KEYNOTE 2: PATRICK LÜTH

Snøhetta, Innsbruck

Learning from Landscape – Snøhetta's Approach to Integrated Landscape (and) Architecture

16:30 RE-APPROPRIATING THE RURAL
PANEL 5

Moderator: Kristien Ring

The task of reconceptualising the city and ruralizing our thinking is one of questioning our preconceptions of both the urban and the rural, and of finding new ways to describe the urban-rural intertwinement through everyday practices, settlement variations, as well as to link reality to theory. Locating unrevealed but productive relations between city and countryside can raise awareness about the contribution of rural resources to contemporary urbanity, and to a more nuanced understanding of the dimensions of the rural. How are small towns and villages being experienced, re-appropriated, re-interpreted? How can rural emancipation be realised?

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Sigrun Langner

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning

(R)urban Landscapes - Navigating between the Urban and the Rural Perspective

Prof. Dr. Boris Schröder-Esselbach

TU Braunschweig, Institute of Geoecology

Ecosystem Services of Rural Areas

Prof. Jörg Schröder

Leibniz Universität Hanover, Regional Architecture and Urban Planning

Rural-Urban Dynamics

Q&A

17:30 BREAK

17:45 KEYNOTE 3: STEPHAN PETERMANN

OMA/AMO, Rotterdam

Hinterland

18:15 Discussion with Panel 5, keynote speakers and Prof. Dr. Vanessa Miriam Carlow

19:00 Drinks and snacks

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

LILIANA GIRALDO ARIAS is the Dean of the School of Habitat Sciences at the Universidad de La Salle in Bogota, Colombia. She is a PhD Candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at Politecnico di Milano, and holds a Masters degree in Architecture in Urban Design from Harvard University, as well as a certificate in Urban and Rural Studies for Developing Countries from Université Catholique de Louvain. She is an architect from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.

NILS BJÖRLING is an architect and partner at AIM - Architecture Is Made AB. He is a PhD candidate at the Department of Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. His current work focuses on planning strategies that A: assemble and question possibilities of fragile urban conditions; B: constitute bridges between planning and implementation that gather resources, competences and mandates. His interest in architecture and urban design stems from the notion that the urban landscape is one of our main tools to handle and develop human societies.

VANESSA MIRIAM CARLOW was appointed full professor at the TU Braunschweig in 2012, where she heads the Institute for Sustainable Urbanism (ISU). She received a PhD from the Center for Urbanism at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. She is a licensed architect and urban planner, and founder of COBE Berlin, a practice focusing on architecture, urban planning, public space design, and research. Carlow's research explores sustainable land use patterns, urban form and practices, urban-rural relations, and participatory planning. Her professional work has garnered prestigious prizes, including the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale (2006, Best National Pavilion), the MIPIM Award Cannes (2012), and the Golden Medal for the best of Copenhagen Buildings (2012).

JONNA MAJGAARD KRARUP, since her master thesis in 1988, worked for a period of 12 years in private offices before returning to academia. In 2003 she defended her PhD thesis, and since then she has been teaching and conducting research within landscape and urban studies. Krarup is an associate professor at KADK, Institute for Architecture, City and Landscape, in Copenhagen, DK, where she gives courses at bachelor, master and PhD levels. In 2014 she was a visiting professor at Changsha University, China, and at Sassari University, Sardinia, Italy. Currently her research focus is on climate change adaptation at the planning level.

JENS KVORNING, is Professor in Urbanism and the Head of Center for Urbanism at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation. His research themes include: history of urban planning, strategic planning strategies, sustainability and urban structure, urban transformation and restructuring in European countries. His recent projects include: strategies for sustainable urban restructuring, strategies for sustainable transformation of post WWII suburban districts, density and urban sustainability, the role and dynamics of creative districts in urban transformation processes, and transformation strategies for deprived areas.

SIGRUN LANGNER is a junior professor for landscape architecture and landscape planning at the Bauhaus-University Weimar. Her research interest is the potential of a design-oriented cartography for understanding and designing large-scale urban landscapes. Her current research focuses on „(r)urban landscapes“ as a result of the urbanisation of rural space and the ruralisation of urban space. She is a registered landscape architect and co-owner of Station C23 – architecture landscape urbanism in Leipzig.

INES LÜDER works as a researcher and lecturer at the Chair of Regional Building and Urban Planning at Leibniz University Hannover. She is involved in the research project Regiobranding, funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Lüder studied architecture in Braunschweig and at the University of the Arts in Berlin. She worked as an architect in Berlin for Weinmiller Architekten and ASP Schweger Assoziierte and has realized her own projects as well. She participated in the Bauhaus Dessau Kolleg - EU-Urbanism and has taught at the Technical University in Berlin.

PATRICK LÜTH, Managing Director and Partner of Snøhetta, has been with Snøhetta since 2005. He started off as an intern working on many international competitions due to his exceptional 3D-skills. He has been involved in many of the most spectacular design submissions for Snøhetta in the recent years, including the Swarovski Kristallwelten Evolution project (opening May 2015). Since 2011 he is leading the establishment of Snøhetta's studio in Innsbruck, Austria.

KRISTIAN RING is Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida, USA and heads the interdisciplinary studio AA PROJECTS in Berlin, working as an architect, urbanist, curator, designer and publicist. She was curator and designer of the URBAN LIVING exhibition, shown at the DAZ, Berlin and the CAOM, Madrid 2015, author and editor of „SELF MADE CITY. Berlin, Self-initiated Urban Living and Architectural Interventions“, 2013 and „URBAN LIVING, Strategies for the Future“ 2015, both JOVIS. She served as Founding Director of the DAZ German Architecture Center between 2004–2011, and is co-founder of the gallery suitcasearchitecture, Berlin.

CLAUDIA OLTMANN, is based at the Study of Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology, Early Modern and Modern History at the Georg-August-University Goettingen. Since Oct. 2013 she is a member of the DFG Research Training Group 1608/1, “Self-Making: Practices of Subjectivation in Historical and Interdisciplinary Perspective” at the Carl von Ossietzky-University Oldenburg. In her PhD project “Doing Rurality. Interdependencies between Rurality and Gender” she examines the relations of space and gender in two northern German villages. Her main areas of research are Gender and Rural Studies.

STEPHAN PETERMANN holds a Master’s degree in the History of Architecture and the Theory of Building Preservation and joined OMA in 2006 assisting OMA’s founder Rem Koolhaas with lectures, texts and research. He supported Rem Koolhaas at the EU Reflection Group and was one of the associates in charge of Koolhaas’ Fundamentals Architecture Biennale in Venice in 2014. His most recent project is the exhibition “What is the Netherlands” at Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam. He is currently preparing two research projects: one about the metabolism of workspaces, the other on the future of the countryside.

RUTA RANDELOVIC holds an international dual M.Sc. degree in Urban Design from TU Berlin and M.Arch. from Tongji University in Shanghai. During her studies she investigated the topic of new town development in Shanghai’s periphery. Her professional experience includes projects from architecture, building practices, and interior design in Croatia and Serbia, as well as landscape architecture in Germany.

RALPH RICHTER studied Sociology and Communication and Media Studies at the University of Leipzig and at the University Federico II in Naples/Italy. He was a scientific assistant at the Institute of Sociology, University of Leipzig, and at TU Darmstadt. In July 2011 Richter completed his doctoral thesis with the title “Nach dem Schrumpfen. Stadtbezogene Identität als Potenzial schrumpfender Städte” (2013, Frank & Timme, Berlin). Since June 2014 he is a research fellow at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS) in Erkner/Germany. He is one of the investigators in the IRS research project “Innovations in Rural Communities”.

AUREL VON RICHTHOFEN is the module coordinator at the Chair of Architecture and Construction at the Future Cities Laboratory in Singapore. He leads the Sand Lab, a research project on alternative uses of building waste as construction material. Richthofen is an architect trained in Switzerland and the USA. Prior to Singapore, he spent four years teaching and researching as an assistant professor at the German University of Technology in Oman, and two years as a visiting professor at The Ohio State University in the USA. He was a co-investigator on a research project on sustainable urbanization patterns in Oman. He continues his research with a PhD at the ISU, TU Braunschweig.

ANDREA SCIASCIA is a Professor of Architectural and Urban Composition at the Faculty of Architecture of Palermo. Since 2012 he is Coordinator of the Masters degree course in Architecture at University of Palermo. Since 1995 he has been carrying out research at the Department of Architecture: “Small museum of art in Italy” (PRIN 1999); “The project of urban planning, architecture and design archives” (PRIN 2002); “Upgrading and updating of the assets of public housing. Guidelines for innovative interventions in the neighborhoods IACP in south-central Italy” (PRIN 2007); “From the urbanized countryside to the extending town: the rules of composition of the architecture in the countryside and in the smaller towns” (PRIN 2009).

JÖRG SCHRÖDER is Professor and Chair for Regional Architecture and Urban Planning at the Faculty of Architecture and Landscape of LUH Leibniz Universität Hanover. He is also an architect and urban planner at studio Landraum, in Munich. His academic and professional works focus on: rural-urban relations, architecture and planning connected to regions and territories, sustainable development of peripheries, rural spaces and urban-rural phenomena.

BORIS SCHRÖDER-ESELBACH studied geoecology and philosophy at the TU Braunschweig. Between 2008-2011 he served as guest professor for Environmental Modelling in Potsdam. In 2011 he was awarded a professorship in Landscape Ecology at TU München. Since 2013 he has served as the Head of the Department Landscape Ecology and Environmental Systems Analysis at the Institute of Geoecology, TU Braunschweig. Schröder-Esselbach's research focuses on the understanding of the relationships between patterns, processes, and functions in dynamic landscapes as well as the development of models for the conservation and sustainable management of plant and animal species, landscapes, and related ecosystem functions and services.

ANNETT STEINFÜHRER (M.A. in Sociology and East European Studies, PhD in Sociology) is working as a social scientist at the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, the German Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Braunschweig. In her research she is interested in rural development in Germany with a specific focus on small-town development as well as socio-spatial consequences of demographic 'shrinkage' and ageing. Before dealing predominantly with rural areas, her research at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) in Leipzig rather focused on urban studies, particularly on socio-spatial inequalities and demographics, post-socialist urban transition in Central Europe, and methodological issues of housing research.

CHRISTIANE SÖRENSEN is a landscape architect and since 2006 a professor for landscape architecture at HafenCity University in Hamburg. Prior to her tenure at the HCU she taught at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Hamburg, where she founded the Studio for Topographical Thinking and Designing. In 2013 she organized and curated the ECLAS conference "Specifics." Her research interests range from the modern commons, borderlands, to the role of narrative in landscape architecture. Her most recent research project looks at the contribution manifestations of the rural can make to urban environments that are marked by rapid growth.

BELINDA TATO and **JOSE LUIS VALLEJO** are co-founders and co-directors of the firm *ecosistema urbano* established in 2000 in Madrid. *ecosistema urbano* is a group of architects and urban designers operating within the fields of urbanism, architecture, engineering and sociology. They define their approach as urban social design: the design of environments, spaces and dynamics in order to improve self-organization of citizens, social interaction within communities and their relationship with the environment. They have used this philosophy to design and implement projects in Norway, Denmark, Spain, Italy, France, Russia and China. *ecosistema* has received more than 40 awards in national and international architecture design competitions.

ECKART VOIGTS is Professor of English Literature at TU Braunschweig, Germany. He is President of the German Society for Theatre and Drama in English, co-editor of the journal *JCDE*, and on the Board of the Association of Adaptation Studies and the journals *Adaptation* (OUP) and *Adaptation in Film and Performance* (Intellect). He has published widely on transmedia storytelling and participatory culture, and is currently co-editing *Companion to Adaptation Studies* for Routledge. His 'spatial turn' was engendered by studies of 19th-century industrial novels and early science fiction in his postdoctoral ("Habilitation") work, as well as his research focus on heritage culture.

MICHAEL WAGNER, co-founder of Wagner Vanzella Architects, is an architect and urban designer based in Zurich, Switzerland. He lectures and researches at the Institute for Urban Design of the Swiss Federal Institute for Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich), where he is responsible for the research platform 'Kulturlandschaft.' At the University of Liechtenstein he teaches Regenerative Urban Design and in summer 2014 he held a guest professorship (Agenda Lehre) at the Technical University in Munich where he researched strategic approaches for a sustainable development of medium-dense territories.

ANDY WESTNER studied architecture in Munich and Urban Design at ETH Zurich. During his studies he worked for Christian Kerez, Zurich and BKK-3, Vienna. In 2011 he was one of the founders of the office VierZuEins in Munich. He worked as a registered architect and urban designer in the office of Prof. Andreas Meck in Munich, Hosoya Schaefer Architects in Zurich, and in the New York office OMA/AMO under the partner Shohei Shigematsu. Since 2012 he is associated with the Department of Sustainable Urbanism at TU München. He has given lectures at GSAPP Columbia University, New York and at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.