

Varieties of Refiguration?

On Multiple Spatialities, Spatial Arrangements & the Economy 1

Conference by the
Collaborative Research Centre “Re-Figuration of Spaces” (CRC 1265)

Date & Time	Thursday – Friday, 21. – 22.11.2024 (workshop only) – arrival by 20.11.2024, departure on 22.11, after 18.00 or Wednesday – Friday, 20. – Saturday, 23.11.2024 (including optional ethnographic city walks) – arrival by 19.11.2024, departure on 25.11.2024
Organizers:	Nina Baur and Stefan Kirchner
Venue	Technische Universität Berlin Ernst-Reuter-Platz 1, Berlin, 10587 Deutschland Room BH-N 230 (2 nd floor) https://maps.app.goo.gl/CbgWCSGLqPtGSA5p7 and https://www.static.tu.berlin/fileadmin/www/10000000/Studieren/Uni-Leben/Campusplaene/Plan_Campus_Charlottenburg_EN.pdf
Registration	Participation is free, and both CRC and non-CRC members are invited to participate in the discussion. In order to make reservations, we kindly ask to register by 14.11.2024 and indicate, if you are coming to the meals or not: https://terminplaner6.dfn.de/p/dd02add59a81e7d72c5829318bd55a80-811681
Meals	All meals are self-pay, that is everybody pays their meal themselves.
Accommodation	We kindly ask everyone to arrange their own travel and accommodation.

Topic

Using the spatial dimension of the economy as core case, the conference will bring together the various understandings and approaches to illuminate the relevance of space for economic activities. Here, we follow to proposition that the diversity and variety in the empirical material and conceptual thinking might indicate the existence of a varieties of refiguration. A perspective on the varieties of refiguration could allow us to bring together the various ways in which (economic) actors relate to space, have conflicts about it and develop institutional settlements. A debate on “Varieties of Refiguration?” will

discuss how various spatial arrangements are interlinked as multiple spatialities and how they change. In the processes of the refiguration of spaces, we can assume both convergent and divergent tendencies. We understand that this convergence and divergence could occur within and between spatial arrangements as well as within refiguration, in different societies, social groups, and regions/cities.

Program

Wednesday, 20.11.2024, 10.00 – 18.00: **Ethnographic City Walk on Spatial Arrangements and the Economy 1: Siemensstadt (optional)** & latest date of arrival for presenters

Organizers: Nina Baur, Berkant Ufakcan, Tom Ritschel and Franka Köppe (TU Berlin)

- 10.00 Meeting Point and Introduction:
Department of Sociology, TU Berlin, [Room F311 \(3rd floor\)](#), Fraunhoferstr. 33-36, 10405 Berlin, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/wwcwqHrSUgzN3g7K9>
- 18.00 Estimated end of tour
- 19.00 Joint Dinner

Berlin is a fine example of how spatial arrangements and the economy are entwined – and how innovations drive the refiguration of spaces. At the offset of the German industrial revolution, between the 1870s and 1930s, Berlin first underwent a major refiguration of urban space. In order to avoid pollution, housing and workplaces were separated and new industrial areas were introduced which then had to be linked to public transport, which in turn resulted in major infrastructure measures. As manufacturing needed access to water (for transport, cooling, energy production and production), plants were placed out of the historical town center, along the river Spree. More specifically, Berlin's industrialization and process of urban reconstruction was driven by two companies which are both linked to specific geographic locations: Siemens and AEG (Allgemeine Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft = General Electricity Company), resulting in two of the oldest industrial complexes in the world. While Siemens was located in Berlin's North-West, AEG (which was founded by Emil Rathenau in order to produce light bulbs) located its main industrial sights in Berlin's South-East.

In addition to refiguration of the whole spatial arrangement of the city Berlin, neighborhoods and building themselves had to be (re-)designed in order to accommodate for the economic and social changes. Accordingly, Berlin architects and urban designers not only pioneered in urban design for the population (e.g. housing) but also in industrial design – exploring what architecture for industrial manufacturing sites could look like and how this should be integrated into urban design as a whole, and they strongly influenced the rest of Europe, thus driving the refiguration of spatial arrangements in Europe as a whole. There are many historic sights of industrial design to explore (for a map, see: <https://industriekultur.berlin/entdecken/berliner-industriekultur/#>).

Today's excursion will explore the North-West of Berlin (closely linked to the history of Siemens), exploring Siemensstadt, the Berlin Harbour Area, a traditional working class area as well a plant tour to Germany's only motorcycle plant – at the BMW Group Plant Berlin. This will provide a basis for a discussion of how the economy, housing and transport infrastructure are linked and how Berlin was refigured due to economic changes

Thursday, 21.11.2024, 09.30 – 18.30, BH-N 230: Conference Day 1 (core session)

09.30		Registration and Coffee
10.00	Nina Baur (CRC 1265) & Stefan Kirchner (CRC 1265)	Welcome and Introduction
10.45		Break

Session 1: Geo-Political Rivalry, Spatial Regimes and Multiple Spatialities & Refiguration of Territorial Spaces (Part 1)

Moderation: Lara Espeter (CRC 1265) & **Berkant Ufakcan** (Sociology, TU Berlin)

11.15	Şahan Savaş Karataşlı (Sociology, University of North Carolina – Greensboro, USA)	Reorienting Capitalism? The Rise of East Asia and Spatial Re-figuration of Global Economy in the 21st Century
12.00	Seth Schindler (Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, UK)	The Relationship between Territories and Networks Concerning Geopolitical Rivalry between China and the US
12.45		Lunch

Session 2: Refiguration of Territorial Spaces (Part 2)

Moderation: Florence Eyok (Sociology, TU Berlin) & **Alexander Kohrs** (CRC 1265)

14.45	Klaus Kraemer (Universität Graz, Austria)	States and Economies in (Extra-)Normal Crises
15.30	Beatriz Bustos Gallardo (Department of Geography, University of Chile, Chile)	Spatial Refiguration in two Agroexporting Regions. The Cases of O'Higgins and Maule Regions in Chile
16.15		Break

Session 3: Refiguration of Spaces of Routes ("Bahnenraum")

Moderation: Christina Hecht (CRC 1265) & **Tom Ritschel** (Sociology, TU Berlin)

16.45	Rainer Diaz-Bone (Universität Luzern, Switzerland)	Convention Theory, Economy and Space
17.30	Kwee Hui Kian (National University of Singapore, Singapore)	Trade and Belt and Road Initiative
19.00		Dinner

Friday, 22.11.2024, 09.00 – 16.30, BH-N 230: **Conference Day 2 (core session)**

09.00

Coffee

Session 4: Refiguration of Space of Networks – Labour Migration

Moderation: Elettra Griesi (CRC 1265) & **Esteban Perez Gnavi** (Sociology, TU Berlin)

09.30

Pei-Chia Lan (Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University, Taiwan) **From Guest Workers to Future Immigrants? Compare Guest Worker Regimes in Post-World-War-II Germany and 21st Century Taiwan**

10.15

Anju Mary Paul (New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates) **Post-West Migrations. Migration Trajectories and Shifting Destination Hierarchies amongst both High- and Low-Wage Asian Migrants**

11.00

Break

Session 5: Retailer-Consumer-Linkages, Spatialities of the Local and Refiguration of Urban Space (Part 1)

Moderation: Linda Hering (CRC 1265) & **Maria Norkus** (Sociology, TU Berlin)

11.30

Priyasha Kaul (Sociology, Ambedkar University Delhi, Delhi, India) **Socio-Economic Struggles of Delivery Workers for Livelihood after the Pandemic**

12.15

Frédéric Lebaron (L'École normale supérieure Paris-Saclay, Paris, France) **Field Theory the Economy and Space**

13.00

Lunch

Session 6: Retailer-Consumer-Linkages, Spatialities of the Local and Refiguration of Urban Space (Part 2)

Moderation: Franka Köppe (Sociology, TU Berlin) & **Sezgin Sönmez** (CRC 1265)

15.00

Supriya Chaudhuri (Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India) **Space of the Bazaar**

15.45

Tatenda Mukwedeya (Sociology, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) **Peripheral Urbanisation in Harare: The Logics of Autoconstruction and Multiple Spatialities in Eastview**

16.30

End of Conference

18.00

Dinner

Saturday, 23.11.2024, 07.30 – 17.00: Ethnographic City Walk 2:
Spatial Arrangements and the Economy 2: Oberschöneeweide (optional)

Organizers: Elmar Kulke (HU Berlin), Berkant Ufakcan, Tom Ritschel, Franka Köppe and Nina Baur (TU Berlin)

07:33 – Trip from Ernst-Reuter-Platz to Meeting Point with Public transport

08.55 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/4r1JJsn9ix7aTs3D7>

09.00 Meeting Point and Introduction:

Department of Geography, Humboldt-University to Berlin, Room No. 1.206 “Glashaus der Geographie” Rudower Chaussee 16, 12489 Berlin,

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/zg7Da247go1yD6Z78>

17.00 Estimated end of tour

While the refiguration of Berlin’s North-West was dominated by Siemens and allows for analyzing how manufacturing, transport of good (harbor), transport of people (public transport) and housing were entangled, the refiguration of Berlin’s South-East was dominated by AEG which was founded by Emil Rathenau in order to produce light bulbs. This neighborhood especially allows for analyzing how manufacturing, energy production and water were entangled during industrialization and how they impacted urban space: Supplying the population and industrial sites with enough energy has been a challenge since early industrialization which is why many power plants were built in the last 120 years. For example, at the end of the 19th century, AEG first built the Oberspree power plant at the new industrial site in southeast Berlin. In 1897, Europe’s first three-phase power plant was a technical sensation: Architect Paul Tropp was inspired by the Palais des Beaux Arts (at the Paris World’s Fair in 1855) for the design of the power plant. Thanks to modern technology, electricity could be transmitted over long distances with low losses. The water for cooling came directly from the Spree River. The Oberspree power plant supplied the suburbs of Berlin with electricity, illuminating the city beyond its borders. It also had pull effect for the settlement of new businesses. Oberschöneeweide also allows to experience how earlier phases of urban designs influenced later ones. For example, AEG dissolved in 1996 and disappeared from the commercial register. This had impacts on urban space, as in the 2000s, art and culture settled in, and today, Oberschöneeweide is a major hub for hipster culture, and it has become a place for academic knowledge production. Likewise, neighbouring areas such as Adlershof have been recently developed to be knowledge hubs, linking academic knowledge production to innovation and economic activities.

Against this backdrop, we will start with learning about and exploring Technology Park Adlershof which is labeled as birthplace of German aviation and a site for research, film and television. Today, is one of the most successful high technology locations in Germany and Berlin’s largest media sites. We will continue with exploring Oberschöneeweide, including the Industriesalon (industrial saloon) which is an outstanding testimony to historical industrial architecture and provides an exhibition on the development of the Schöneeweide industrial area. We will continue with a tour on “Helden der Arbeit” (“Working Heroes”) which explores work and working conditions in large-scale industry in Germany over the past 120 years.