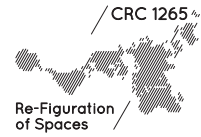




SMUS



Spatial Arrangements and Multiple Spatialities

Joint Workshop by
the Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (SMUS) &
the Collaborative Research Center “Re-Figuration of Spaces” (CRC 1265)

Date & Time: Wednesday, 26.06.2024, 08.30 – 21.00

Place: Technische Universität Berlin
Ernst-Reuter-Platz 1, Berlin, 10587 Deutschland
Room BH-N 230 (2nd floor)
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CbgWCSGLqPtGSA5p7>

Organizers: Nina Baur and Stefan Kirchner

Participation (Please register until 15.06.2024)

Participation is free, and both CRC and non-CRC members are invited to participate in the discussion. We kindly ask you to register until 15.06.2024, and to make reservations, please indicate whether you are joining us for lunch and/or dinner here:

<https://sfb1265.de/veranstaltungen/workshop-spatial-arrangements-and-multiple-spatialities/>

Topic

Building on and theoretically integrating Norbert Elias’ (1978) figuration sociology, Hubert Knoblauch’s (2019) theory of communicative constructionism and Martina Löw’s (2016) sociology of space, the Collaborative Research Center (CRC) 1265 investigates current processes of spatial reordering and restructuring of society as “refiguration of spaces” (Löw 2022). Knoblauch and Löw (2020, p.267) suggest that “refiguration refers to a process that

- is based on the simultaneity of various changes which can be discerned both in international comparison and as juxtaposition of different dynamics in one and the same place;
- articulates this juxtaposition as tensions that are indicative of binary polarizations without reducing them to these polarizations;
- includes effects both on a subjective as well as institutional level;
- is not only expressed by changing spatial figures, it also unfolds through them.”

By using the concept of “refiguration of spaces”, the CRC 1265 understands sociality as a spatial phenomenon and aims to develop “an empirically grounded theory of contemporary social change as processual, spatial-communicative refiguration” (CRC 1265, 2023

p.3), thus addressing “the reorganization and rearrangement of this spatial figuration and its relationality in a globally entangled postcolonial context” (CRC 1265, 2023, p.6). Refiguration enables researchers “to analyze spatial changes across various social dimensions as a consequence of tensions between different spatial figurations. This conception allows for a systematic consideration of the diversity and contradictory character of spatial developments” (CRC 1265, 2023, p.3).

In their joint empirical efforts, scholars within the CRC 1265 have shown thus far that the refiguration of spaces is expressed by three intertwined processes: translocalization, mediatization and polycontexturalization (Million et al., 2021), which – among other things – result in new “spatial arrangements” (Baur & Kulke, 2023; Baur, 2023). In turn, specific spatial arrangements are characterized by the interplay or conflict of different “spatial figures”, namely territorial space, network space, space of pathways (also referred to as: trajectory space), and place (Knoblauch & Löw, 2020, pp. 273-276; Baur, 2023; CRC 1265, 2023, pp. 13-16). These spatial figures are ideal types and shape subjective knowledge and guide actions and social practices, which are then objectified in symbols, institutions and material infrastructures (Baur, 2023). In the same situation, several spatial logics might be relevant simultaneously, which might result in “spatial conflicts”. For example,

The Corona crisis clearly shows how tensions between an increasingly dense global network of circulations of goods, people, and knowledge, the transnationalization of politics, and the digitalization of communication, on the one hand, and the reaffirmation of nation states, the increase in fortified borders and re-territorializations, as well as the increasingly dense, digitalized social control of local spaces, on the other, set in motion a dynamic that the CRC calls refiguration (CRC 1265, 2023, p. 4).

As a result of conflicts between these spatial logics, spatial arrangements might change, or new spatial arrangements might arise.

Based on these earlier findings, in 2024, the discussion in the CRC 1265 focuses on the dynamics of stability and change. The debate will be structured by a series of workshops, the first being this workshop, “Spatial Arrangements and Multiple Spatialities”, which will focus on what stabilizes figurations and decelerates change. By focusing on stability, this workshop emphasizes spatial arrangements and spatialities. In different contexts, different spatial logics might be relevant. As the conflicts between spatial logics might be resolved differently, spatial arrangements will likely differ in different contexts, resulting in “multiple spatialities” (Knoblauch & Löw, 2021; Knoblauch, 2022)¹. The concept of “multiple spatialities” stresses that “various spaces studied cannot be regarded as isolatable units. Rather, they are interrelated and interwoven in multiple ways” (CRC 1265, 2023, p.27). Multiple spatialities then emphasize relational interconnectedness, focusing on the differences, divergences, and distributions taking place in space simultaneously, as asynchronous social and cultural developments (Knoblauch, 2022; CRC 1265, 2023, p.29).

Methodologically, multiple spatialities allow us to ask about the cultural and societal convergences and divergences of spatial refiguration on different scales without presupposing spaces as separate and independent units. With the concept of multiple spatialities, we instead assume their relational interdependence but also take into account the potentially conflictual diversity of spatial knowledge, spatial action,

¹ for an example, see Baur & Kulke, 2023

and spatial regimes, in order to adequately describe and ultimately understand them (CRC 1265, 2023, p.4).

However, as the concept of “multiple spatialities” is still new, it needs to be fleshed out both theoretically and empirically and linked to other theories and research traditions. Therefore, during the workshop, scholars from diverse world regions, disciplinary backgrounds, theoretical traditions and research fields will link their own research to the CRC debate on spatial arrangements and multiple spatialities. Papers could address one of more of the following questions:

- What are “multiple spatialities”, and how does the concept relate to, resemble, or differ from other theoretical concepts?
- How do the concepts of multiple spatialities and spatial arrangements relate to each other, and how can they be linked?
- How are spatial arrangements stabilized in different social contexts, and how does this result on multiple spatialities?
- Traditionally, social scientists theorize social process as territorial phenomena (e.g., neighborhoods, cities, regions, nation states, world regions). If one considers the CRC findings that there are other spatial logics (e.g., network space, space of pathways, place), what does this mean for our conceptualization of spatial arrangements and spatialities? What are the methodological implications?
- If one considers the conceptions of interconnectedness and entanglements of different spatial arrangements, what do they imply conceptually and methodologically?
 - Where can we locate critical zones, and what forms do they take?
- What spatial logics do different spatialities follow, and how do they regulate circulations?
- How can we compare spatialities?
 - What connects or differentiates various research sites?
 - How can similarities and differences be observed, and which overarching clusters can be identified?
 - What regimes order spatial formation, what governance structures are involved, and what conflicts occur?
 - When comparing spatialities, what are similarities, differences and variations in spatial forms of knowledge, action and practice?
- What are the theoretical consequences of these reflections?

Building upon the initial debate in this workshop, we will continue the conversation late this year with a conference followed by two workshops.

1. This workshop questions what stabilizes figurations and decelerates change.
2. The international conference “Conflicts in Space – Spatial Conflicts. Current Research Perspectives” (10. – 12.10.2024) will focus on drivers of social change in the sense of conflicts and power struggles between actors interested in stabilizing, and those interested in changing spatial arrangements.
3. The two workshops, “Varieties of Refiguration? On Multiple Spatialities, Spatial Arrangements & the Economy 1 & 2” (20. – 22.11.2024 and 06.-07.02.2025) will focus on the interplay between stability and change and the resulting varieties of refiguration.

Program

08.30 *Meet & Greet*

09.00 – 09.45	Martina Löw	TU Berlin	Spatial Arrangements and Multiple Spatialities. An Introduction (Working Title)
10.00 – 10.45	Gabriel Faimau	University of Botswana, Botswana	Spatial Arrangements and the Production of Religious Knowledge Systems among Prophetic Ministries in Botswana
11.15 – 12.00	Mihye Cho	Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore	Spatial Arrangement and Valuation in Itaewon, Seoul: ‘Play’, ‘Death’, ‘Work’, ‘Itaewon’, and ‘Us’
12.15 – 13.00	Nina Baur & Stefan Kirchner	TU Berlin & TU Cottbus	Spatial Arrangements and the Economy
13.00 – 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Location: Dave B. Taste Five</i> <i>Address: Otto-Suhr-Allee 6-16, 10585 Berlin</i> <i>Website: http://dave-b.com</i> <i>(Individual payment: participants cover the costs of their own meals)</i>	
14.30 – 15.15	Jakkrit Sangkhamanee	Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	Rewilding Bangkok and the Politics of Spatial Cosmoecology
15.30 – 16.15	Ingo Schulz-Schaeffer	TU Berlin	Spatial Arrangements and Socio-Technical Constellations (Working Title)
16.45 – 17.30	Jacques du Toit	University of Pretoria, South Africa	Spatial Arrangements, Housing and Transport (Working Title)
17.30 – 18.30	Concluding Discussion		
19.00 – 21.00	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Location: Pratio</i> <i>Address: Knesebeckstraße 22, 10623 Berlin</i> <i>Website: https://pratio.de/</i> <i>(Individual payment: participants cover the costs of their own meals)</i>	

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