

Background

The shrinking city phenomenon is a multidimensional process, comprising cities, parts of cities or metropolitan areas that have experienced dramatic decline in their economic and social bases. Common denominator of shrinking cities all over the world is the fact that they are embedded in the context of globalization leading to societal changes. Urban decline and the loss of employment opportunities are closely linked in a downwards spiral, triggering an out-migration of population. This process of decline is often due to the post-industrial transformation of cities and to the shift from manufacturing activities to services, a process that has left industrial and working-class cities with very few resources in terms of employment and fiscal base.

Aims

Aim of the symposium is to discuss shrinking cities from three different angles: the international comparative approach, the German discourse, and the social sciences perspective. Linking these three windows of exploration to shrinking cities research in order to widen the debate is both unique and innovative. The international comparative viewpoint is essential to the discussion since the urban phenomenon of shrinking can be perceived all over the world, albeit within different cultural and socio-economic settings. An equally important point of reference for the investigation is the German discourse about shrinking cities, since in other areas – in particular the US – urban growth is persistent as the dominant paradigm in urban planning and development. Moreover, the symposium is setting the context for in-depth reflections from the point of view of social sciences considering specific social, demographic, economic, political and cultural issues.

Key questions and Structure

The symposium addresses the issue of strategic answers to urban shrinkage: How to maintain respectively restore quality of life in shrinking cities? How are different components of comprehensive strategies like land-use planning, economic development, culture-based issues, and environmental aspects considered in practice? Can we learn from other shrinking cities around the globe? These questions will be embedded in five sessions featuring an interdisciplinary range of renowned experts from Germany and an interdisciplinary group of scholars from five continents (North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia). This “Shrinking Cities Group” was initiated by the visiting scholars’ roundtable at the Institute of Urban and Regional Development, University of California, Berkeley, in 2004. Demographic change and shrinking cities are as well one thematic focus of the Dresden Center for Demographic Change.

International Symposium

Venue:

Festsaal des Rektorates
Dresden University of Technology
MommSENstraße 11, 01069 Dresden

Language:

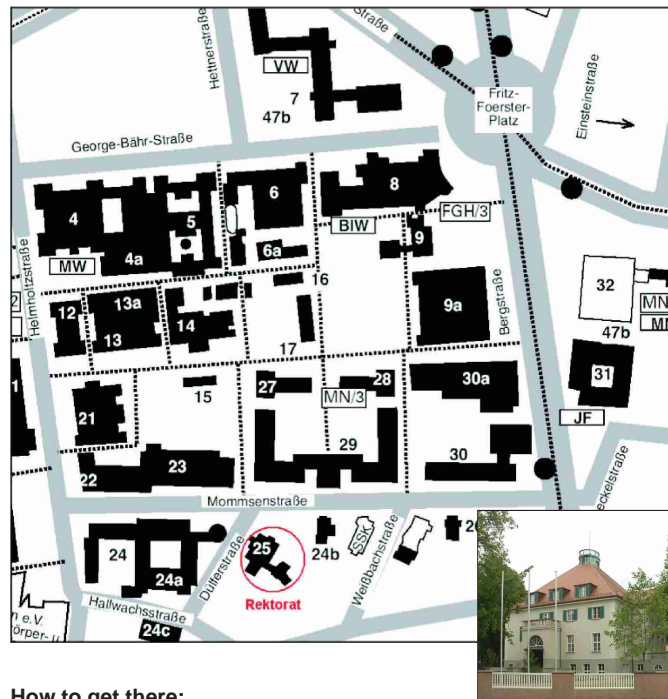
The symposium language is English.

Registration:

Please use the enclosed registration form to register to the International Symposium. Early registration is recommended due to space constraints. There will be no symposium fee.

Further Informations:

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How to get there:

From Dresden Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) take bus 72 in direction „Coschütz“ or bus 76 in direction „Mockritz“; get off at third stop „MommSENstraße“. Turn right into „MommSENstraße“. Rectorate is located at a two minutes walking distance on the left side.



Leibniz-Institut für ökologische
Raumentwicklung e. V.
Dresden

in cooperation with
Dresden Center for Demographic Change
of the Dresden University of Technology
and the
“Shrinking Cities Project”
of the Institute of Urban and Regional Development,
University of California, Berkeley

International Symposium Coping with City Shrinkage and Demographic Change - Lessons from around the Globe



March, 30th to 31st 2006
in Dresden, Germany

Thursday, March 30

- 12:00 Registration and snacks
- 13:00 Welcome addresses and introduction
- Winfried Killisch, Director of the Dresden Center for Demographic Change and Vice Rector of Dresden University of Technology (TUD)
- Karl-Dieter Keim, Schader Foundation, Vice Chairman of the Board
- Bernhard Müller, Director of Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (IOER)
- 13:30 Panel I "City shrinkage in a changing world: differences and similarities"
- Types of shrinking cities
Thorsten Wiechmann, IOER (Germany)
- Shrinking cities in Western Europe
Sylvie Fol, Paris X - Nanterre University (France)
Emmanuele Cunningham-Sabot, Université Rennes 2 - Haute Bretagne (France)
- Shrinking cities in Central and Eastern Europe
Maros Finka / Dagmar Petrikova, University of Bratislava (Slovakia)
- Shrinking cities in the United States of America
Karina Pallagst, Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (IOER) and University of California, Berkeley (USA)
- Discussion (Chair: David Dowall)
- 15:00 Coffee Break
- 15:30 Shrinking cities in Latin America
Sergio Moraes, Itajaí Valley University (Brasil)
- Shrinking cities in Australia
Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, University of Western Sydney (Australia)
- Shrinking cities in Asia
Dong-Shun Shin, Ministry of Transportation, Seoul (Republic of Korea)
- Discussion (Chair: Karl-Dieter Keim)
- 17:00 End of day 1

Friday, March 31

- 09:00 Panel II "Demographic change and city shrinkage: taking a broader view"
- Demographic change and city shrinkage – the role of public programmes
Stefan Weber, Chairman, Sächsische Aufbaubank (Germany)
- Regeneration of shrinking cities - the case of East Germany
Heike Liebmann, IRS Erkner (Germany) / Tobias Robischon, Schader Foundation (Germany)
- Demographic decline, segregation, and social urban renewal in old industrial metropolitan areas
Ralf Zimmer-Hegmann, ILS, Dortmund (Germany)
- The feasibility of urban restructuring in East Germany from a political science perspective
Dieter Rink, Matthias Bernt, UFZ Leipzig (Germany)
- Discussion (Chair: Bernhard Müller)
- 10:30 Coffee Break
- 11:00 Panel III "Coping with city shrinkage: tackling urban decline with creative approaches"
- Culture-led regeneration
Jasmin Aber, University of California, Berkeley (USA)
- Urban decline and environment
Helen Mulligan, Cambridge Architectural Research (UK)
- Tackling urban decline through innovation
Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, University of Western Sydney (Australia)
- Grassroots movements and their role in urban regeneration
Jose Vargas, Technological Institute of Ciudad Guzman (Mexico)
- Discussion (Chair: Karina Pallagst)
- 13:00 Lunch Break

- 14:00 Panel IV "City shrinkage and demographic change: lessons from Germany – lessons for Germany"
- Buried infrastructure in shrinking cities
Raimund Herz, Dresden University of Technology (Germany)
- Demographic change in Germany – the role of municipalities and local initiatives
Andreas Esche / Kerstin Schmidt, Bertelsmann Foundation (Germany)
- Demographic change in Europe – in search of new strategies
Bernhard Müller, IOER / Dresden University of Technology (Germany)
- City shrinkage – what can we learn?
David Dowall (USA)
- Discussion (Chair: Thorsten Wiechmann)
- 15:15 Round table discussion
- Panelists:
- Sylvie Fol, Paris X - Nanterre University (France)
- Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, University of Western Sydney (Australia)
- Dong-Shun Shin, Ministry of Transportation, Seoul (Republic of Korea)
- Maros Finka, University of Bratislava (Slovakia)
- Clemens Deilmann, IOER Dresden (Germany)
(Chair: Karl-Dieter Keim, Bernhard Müller)
- 16:00 Closing remarks
(Bernhard Müller, David Dowall)
- After conference tour (Saturday, April 1) (optional):
City shrinkage and strategies of urban regeneration to Dresden