

Call for Applications
ARL International Summer School 2021

“Urban and Regional Infrastructures”
WED 29 September - SAT 2 October 2021, Vienna



The event is jointly organized by:

ARL - Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association

University of Vienna, Department of Geography and Regional Research &
Interdisciplinary Research Platform “The Challenge of Urban Futures”

The ARL – Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association in cooperation with the University of Vienna is inviting applications for the ARL International Summer School 2021 on “Urban and Regional Infrastructures”, which will take place from Wed. 29 September to Sat. 2 October, 2021 in Vienna (the arrival is scheduled for 28 September 2021). Advanced master and doctoral students from all disciplines are invited to apply. The summer school will be held in English. The deadline for applications is 11th April 2021.

THE ISSUE

Infrastructure has regained interest in geography and planning studies in course of a global, interdisciplinary ‘infrastructural turn’ during the last two decades. The new systemic questions around infrastructure development and planning exceed well beyond engineering and technology issues of the former centuries and reach into social, political and economic spheres of debate. Global connectivity, mobility, digitalisation, urbanisation, energy demand, capitalist growth and crises attach their uneven trajectories to infrastructural networks and services. Through that, the development of urban and regional infrastructures may shape new geographies of inequality and re-negotiates standards of infrastructural provision – such as availability, accessibility, affordability, quality and variety. At the same time, normatively spoken, ‘good’ governance and development of infrastructure can be a key for sustainability oriented urban and regional planning as well as policy.

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The ARL realizes its International Summer School 2021 in cooperation with the Department of Geography and Regional Research at the University of Vienna as a member of the UNIVIE Research Platform “The Challenge of Urban Futures“. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss conceptual, methodological, and empirical contributions that explore urban and regional infrastructures with critical, spatial, as well as interdisciplinary perspectives. The presentations and discussions should deliver insight into selected facets of infrastructure planning and discourses, relate these to the role they may play in/for urban and regional development, and address their consequences for spatial planning and development strategies. Specifically, we invite – but do not limit – contributions from early career researchers who demonstrate a particular interest in:

- analysing social and technical infrastructure planning practices,
- governance and policy discourses, the politics of infrastructure,
- the role of public, private, and civic actors and their connections (public-private-partnerships),
- historical avenues, postcolonial and political economy perspectives,
- future trends, digitalisation, social, economic and technical innovations,
- collaborative practices as drivers for community-based economies/collaborative endeavours,
- arrival infrastructures,
- gender approaches to infrastructure provision and access,
- implications of the Covid-19 pandemic.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



The **ARL – Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association** (Akademie für Raumentwicklung in der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft) is an independent, non-partisan institution for the spatial sciences under public law and is based in Hanover. As a Leibniz institution, it is funded jointly by the Federal Government and the federal states due to its supraregional significance and its work in the interest of national science policy. The ARL offers knowledge-based analysis and advice on current

sustainable spatial development issues. Complex social challenges require integrative and thus interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives. The specific working method of the ARL, which is transdisciplinary and network-based, allows for close collaboration and a wide-ranging exchange of ideas and knowledge between members of the academic community and planning practitioners. The ARL's network of eminent experts from science and practice carries out research and knowledge transfer activities within the Academy's joint working committees, thus offering important insights and findings for the future-oriented development of spatial structures and the political and planning measures necessary for shaping them. At the same time, this knowledge transfer adds value on multiple fronts: the coproduction of knowledge expands specialist and sectoral perspectives, advances innovation and enlightens the work of the contributors in their principal professional activities. Moreover, the ARL makes these insights and findings available to all interested parties as well as to stakeholders in politics and public administrations on an ongoing basis.

The **University of Vienna** is the oldest university in the German-speaking countries and considers itself an internationally competitive “global university” with 15 faculties providing academic research and education for around 89,000 students and workplace for about 10,000 employees. The ARL International Summer School 2021 will be held in cooperation with the **Department**



of Geography and Regional Research at the Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy and the interdisciplinary **Research Platform “The Challenge of Urban Futures”** at the University of Vienna.

THE VENUE: University of Vienna

The ARL International Summer School 2021 takes place at the campus of the University of Vienna. Most of the meeting rooms are located close to the central main building at Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna. All meeting places are mostly within walking distance; during our field trip we will use public transport.

THE PROGRAMME

Our aim is to stimulate discussion, gain insight, and develop new research questions on the topics presented at the summer school. Participants will have the opportunity to present their research and receive individual feedback from international professors and experts. In addition, keynote speeches and plenary sessions offer the opportunity to intensify the debate and develop further research ideas. Field trips and shared social activities will help bring the topic of urban and regional infrastructures to life.

PARTICIPATION

The summer school takes a critical and interdisciplinary approach to the study of urban and regional infrastructures. We invite applications from advanced doctoral students with a background in geography, urban and European studies, political sciences, sociology, spatial planning, public administration, social design, and related fields. We admit up to seven participants in a competitive application process. The ARL sponsors the accommodation and travel costs of all participants. A participation fee will not be charged. As academic institutions, the organizers encourage scientific publications and aim to compile an edited volume in an international peer reviewed journal on the theme of the summer school. Participants should be willing and prepared to discuss their paper drafts during the summer school and to develop their papers afterwards.

CONTACT & APPLICATION

Your application should include a motivation letter (max. 1 page), a short CV, and a short description of the project that you are going to present (max. 1 page). Please submit your application **by 11th April 2021**.

Email applications are particularly welcome. Please send your application (compiled in one PDF file) to greinke@arl-net.de.

Postal address:

ARL - Akademie für Raumentwicklung in der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft
Dr. Lena Greinke
Vahrenwalder Straße 247
30179 Hannover, Germany

You will receive a notification of acceptance by the beginning of May 2021.

For further questions, please contact Dr. Lena Greinke, greinke@arl-net.de,
Phone +49 511 34842-34.

We look forward to receiving your application!