

## 29th FRU Award for Spatial and Environmental Research 2020

- International tender -

The Association for Spatial and Environmental Research (FRU e. V.) has released a call for the FRU Award for Regional and Environmental Research 2020. This time, the call for tenders deals with the topic of the common good and justice in spatial planning. The competition topic is:

### ***Just spaces? – Justice and common good in the city and region***

Issues of common good and justice have received more attention in society in recent years. At the city level, inequities have long been evident as poverty and uneven access to education are reflected in the prosperity of different urban areas and neighbourhoods. For several years, this segregation has been further exacerbated by population growth in numerous large cities. Processes of gentrification clash with the fundamental right to housing, pushing people out of urban areas and undermining a common-good oriented urban development (Twickel 2010).

At the same time, the number of inhabitants in many rural areas is declining and service infrastructure (such as the local bank and post office branch or retail stores) has increasingly become “removed from space” in recent years. Here, too, questions arise about the general welfare orientation of this development, and a sense of "being left behind" appears to be felt onsite. Questions of justice also come into focus on a large scale if (particularly) southern European countries continue have to bear the additional burden of migration, while dealing with economic crisis.

There are various planning tasks that are linked to questions of spatial justice. Environmental justice refers to aspects such as the extent to which different urban areas are equally supplied with environmental qualities, or whether certain groups suffer disproportionately from environmental conditions such as noise and air pollution (UBA 2019). It deals with questions regarding the common good: how society can be organized sustainably from a social perspective.

With regard to public space in cities and municipalities, spatially-relevant questions of justice are under debate. For example, cars occupy a high proportion of urban space and thus impede the quality of life for people who want to be mobile without a car (MiD 2017, see numbers for modal split in cities; BUND Bremen 2019; VCD 2019). In addition, there are diverse questions pertaining to traffic-related health problems, accident

avoidance or the disadvantage of socio-economically disadvantaged population groups in terms of access to mobility.

Sustainability objectives also have a temporal dimension: Beyond the present, how can at all these aspects also be taken into account for future generations?

The FRU Award for Spatial and Environmental Research 2020 calls for contributions dealing with the topic of "Just Spaces" in relation to the city and/or the region. The contributions can deal with the topic from different technical perspectives: they can be theoretically and conceptually oriented or they can empirically relate to individual case studies or projects through scientific analysis. Possible questions could be, for example (only a selection, further topics are possible):

- Concept and history of concept: What can be understood by spatial justice and how has this understanding changed over the past decades?
- Spatial trends and justice: What influence do current spatial trends have on questions of spatial justice? (e.g. demographic change, internal migration, infrastructure locality, such as wind energy or nuclear waste repositories)
- Distributive justice: How can justice be achieved in the regional development, for example when it comes to infrastructure, life skills and locations? How can justice be spatially balanced? What are fair distributions of opportunities and burdens?
- Equal living conditions: What role does justice play in defining equivalent living conditions? How can corresponding approaches and strategies look like - in Germany, but also internationally in Europe (e.g. regional funding and EU cohesion policy)?
- Procedural and recognition equality: What role does fairness play in planning experience and approaches to strategic spatial development? Who is (not) involved, is (not) recognised as legitimate and is (not) perceived in their interests?
- Sustainability: How can central justice demands of sustainability and climate justice debates (inter- and intra-generational justice) flow into goals, strategies, instruments and procedures of urban and spatial development?
- Health: How can negative impacts on human health, such as the consequences of climate change or car traffic, be absorbed and how might fairer solutions look (climate mitigation or climate adaptation, mobility transition)?
- Basic discussion: How does the topic "Just Spaces" relate to international debates about "spatial justice", "energy justice", "environmental justice" or "just transitions"?
- Action: What political and planning courses of action can contribute to facilitate improved justice? Who develops the city and region and how can this action be aligned with the common good?
- Civil society: How do civil society and protest movements articulate questions of justice and the common good and what potentials, but also limitations, do they have?

The questions raised here should only serve as suggestions and inspiration. The topics of the competition entries can be individual questions related to these contextual contexts, but also other aspects of the subject area "Just Spaces? - common good and justice in planning and development of the city and region".

## **Expectations of the competition entries**

The call is open to young scientists (Master; PhD and Post Doc), as well as those who deal with issues of urban and space and development in their professional practice, such as city administrations or planning offices. It is open to all space-related disciplines. Scientifically-oriented contributions with a more theoretical approach are just as welcome as analytical work or reflected practical experience reports with a scientific foundation.

Interested researchers are welcome to first ask FRU whether an undefined topic is suitable for the competition. In addition to contributions created specifically for the FRU Award for Spatial and Environmental Research 2020, work can also be submitted based on more extensive, existing or work-in-progress research projects or on thesis work and dissertations.

## **Prizes and awards ceremony**

The FRU Award for Spatial and Environmental Research 2020 is endowed with a total of €4,500. It is planned to award a first prize (€2,500), a second prize (€2,000) and a third prize (€1,500). At the suggestion of the jury, the number of prizes can be reduced and the prize money divided differently. Special prizes are possible to recognize exceptional contributions. The prizes are within the scope of the ARL congress presented on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 in Leipzig. The author/s awarded with the first prize will get the opportunity to present the awarded work.

## **Conditions of participation**

Participation is open to students, graduates and employees in teaching, research and practice of all relevant departments. The maximum age is 35 years (on the cut-off date of March 15, 2020). Work in teams of up to three authors is also permitted.

The submitted works must be written in German or English and must not have been published elsewhere or offered for publication. The works must be submitted by the **15<sup>th</sup> March 2020** (date of the postmark) in a fourfold print version and in an electronic version - preferably on CD - together with the completed application form (to be downloaded from the FRU website at [www.FRU-online.de](http://www.FRU-online.de)) submitted to the office of the funding group. The print versions and the electronic version must be identical and must not contain any reference to the authors. Only one submission is allowed per author. An independent jury, whose members are determined by the FRU, will decide on the winners. The judges' decision is final. Unfortunately, the submitted works cannot be returned.

Winners will be invited to participate in the ARL Congress on 25-26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 in Leipzig. If necessary, accommodation and reimbursement of travel expenses in accordance with the Federal Travel Expenses Act will be provided.

The award winners commit to transfer the right to publish their submitted work or parts thereof to the FRU or to the ARL free of charge, provided the publisher publishes it.

The work must be submitted to the following address:

Förderkreis für Raum- und Umweltforschung e. V.  
FRU Award for Spatial and Environmental Research 2020  
c/o ARL  
Vahrenwalder Str. 247  
30179 Hanover

For further information:

Kathrin Kube  
ARL / Office of the FRU E-Mail: [kube@arl-net.de](mailto:kube@arl-net.de)

Prof. Dr. Jörg Knieling (Deputy Chairman of the FRU)  
HafenCity Universität Hamburg  
email: [joerg.knieling@hcu-hamburg.de](mailto:joerg.knieling@hcu-hamburg.de)

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#### Literature

**BUND Bremen** (2019): Flächenverbrauch. <https://www.bund-bremen.net/themen/mensch-und-umwelt/mobilitaet/autoverkehr/strassenbau/flaechenverbrauch/> (11.12.2019).

**MiD** (2017): Mobilität in Deutschland 2017.  
[http://www.mobilitaet-in-deutschland.de/pdf/MiD2017\\_Ergebnisbericht.pdf](http://www.mobilitaet-in-deutschland.de/pdf/MiD2017_Ergebnisbericht.pdf) (11.12.2019).

**Twickel, Christoph** (2010): Gentrifidingsbums oder Eine Stadt für alle. Hamburg.

**UBA** – Umweltbundesamt (2019): Umweltgerechtigkeit – Umwelt, Gesundheit und soziale Lage. <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/themen/gesundheit/umwelteinfluesse-auf-den-menschen/umweltgerechtigkeit-umwelt-gesundheit-soziale-lage#textpart-1> (11.12.2019).

**VCD** – Verkehrsclub Deutschland e. V. (2019): Flächengerechtigkeit  
(<https://www.vcd.org/themen/strasse-zurueckerobern-neu/flaechengerechtigkeit/>)  
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