

THE PROGRAMME

Our aim is to stimulate discussion, gain insight, and develop new research questions on the topics of the summer school. Participants will get the chance 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 help the topic of SMC come to life.

PARTICIPATION

The summer school takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of small and medium-sized cities. 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 a maximum of twelve doctoral students to participate. We select six 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 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.

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 focusing on your approach towards small and medium-sized cities (max. 1 page).

Please submit your application by **8 April 2018** to:

ARL

Akademie für Raumforschung
und Landesplanung

Insa Thimm

Hohenzollernstraße 11

30161 Hannover

Germany

or via e-mail to: thimm@arl-net.de

Email applications are particularly welcome. You will receive a notification of acceptance end of April 2018.

CONTACT

For further questions, please contact

Insa Thimm

thimm@arl-net.de

Tel. +49 511 34842-61



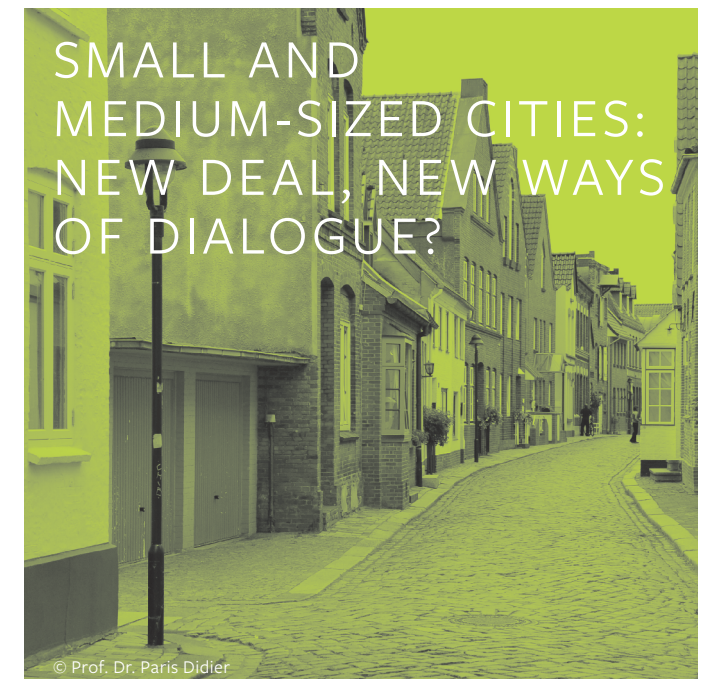
The ARL is a member of the Leibniz Association

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AKADEMIE FÜR
RAUMFORSCHUNG UND
LANDESPLANUNG



International Summer School 2018
5 September to 8 September 2018
in Lille (France)



THE ISSUE

Small and medium-sized cities have received only little systematic attention in academic discussions on spatial development. Over the past decade, discussions mainly focused on either metropolises and agglomerations, their economic growth, or on peripheral rural areas with economic decline, low population density and poor infrastructure.

Therefore, the question about the role of small and medium-sized cities in spatial planning and development remains open.

Small and medium-sized cities have to cope with several challenges. On the one hand, economic or demographic decline, often due to a poor connection to other cities and regions threatens the SMC. That is why they are described as less dynamic in many cases – which carries the implication that those cities lack value and are therefore unimportant to urban policy debates. On the other hand, new academic debates demonstrate, that small and medium-sized cities play a more significant role than policymakers acknowledge. Depending on country and region, small and medium-sized cities can be explored both in processes of metropolisation, or as “anchor points” in rural areas – providing employment opportunities and infrastructure thereby supporting prosperity in both cases. This shows that researchers and regional practitioners deal with new relationships between small and medium-sized cities and their surroundings.

Consequently, research on small and medium-sized cities offers different approaches, focusing for example on regional governance concepts, hegemonic (distribution) processes, and relationships between different actors across various scales.

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The German Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL) realizes the International Summer School 2018 in cooperation with the University of Lille. Participants will discuss conceptual, methodological, and empirical contributions that explore small and medium-sized cities in an innovative perspective, focusing on the relations between surrounding cities and regions, their impact on urban and regional development and consequences of/for spatial planning and development strategies. We invite contributions from young PhD students whose approaches and early-stage analyses demonstrate an interest in:

- > theoretical, conceptual, or methodological advances or comparative (cross-national/cross-regional) studies on small and medium-sized cities
- > reflecting the role of stakeholders, institutions and agency
- > studying the role of regional (or territorial) collective identities of small and medium-sized cities and their integration in spatial planning and governance
- > exploring relationships between small and medium-sized cities and metropolitan cities or regions
- > deploying the importance of small and medium-sized cities in rural areas,
- > examining a perspective on economic conditions, transportation issues or social aspects
- > focusing on the specific social coherence
- > focusing on the political system of small and medium-sized cities

ABOUT THE ARL

The ARL is an independent non-university institution and one of the prime addresses in Europe for research and advice on sustainable spatial development. It consists of a network of academics and practitioners who are voluntarily active in the Academy. The ARL provides a national and international platform for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary cooperation between research and practice on all important spatial issues. It is particularly committed to the exchange and dissemination of knowledge. Support for young researchers and practitioners is well-established at the Academy.

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THE VENUE

The ARL International Summer School 2018 will be held in cooperation with the Department of Geography and Regional Planning at the University of Lille, France. The University of Lille is currently the biggest university in France, with more than 68 000 students. The school of planning (I.A.U.L.) offers multiple curriculum in, amongst others, sustainable planning, urban planning, transportation, European studies. The school is a member of AESOP and APERAU networks and associated with the laboratory “Territoires, Villes, Environnement & Société” for the research and PhD programs.