

Introducing RTG 2725 Urban future-making



Thilo van der Haegen

Thilo van der Haegen has joined the RTG “Urban future-making: Professional agency across time and scale” as a doctoral student in April 2022. Before that, he studied Geography and History at the University of Basel for his bachelor’s degree and Human Geography at the University of Zurich for his master’s degree. During that time, he also worked as a research assistant in the research project “The Urbanization of Global Climate Finance: Power Shifts in the Municipal Restructuring of Mexican and Indian Cities”

Within the Research training group “Urban Future-Making”, Thilo aims at engaging with the financialization of green urban infrastructure and the narratives and imaginaries that are propagated in the course of their implementation. On one hand he is interested in better understanding the political economy of green urban infrastructure, inherent power relations, exclusion processes and socioecological fixes. On the other hand, he is also interested in the ways in which hegemonic understandings of urban natural space are being created through financialization processes, and how other spatial imaginaries are side-lined in the process. With an empirical focus on Canada, he is specifically interested in the ways in which Indigenous groups can offer alternative ways of understanding natural space, as well as improved ways of understanding the sustainability of “green” infrastructure.