

Introducing RTG 2725 Urban future-making



Hannes Langguth

Hannes Langguth has been a doctoral researcher in the RTG “Urban future-making: Professional agency across time and scale” at HafenCity Universität Hamburg since May 2022. Hannes works at the intersection of critical urban theory, urban ethnography and urban-regional planning and governance. With a particular focus on small-town and rural contexts in Europe and China, he is interested in exploring the interrelation between the built environment and large-scale spatial and social transformation through research on global urban infrastructure investments, urban-regional sustainability policy and participatory approaches to urban and regional planning. Hannes studied Architecture and Urban Planning at the Technische Universität Braunschweig and the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. He then worked as a lecturer, researcher and project coordinator at the Habitat Unit, Department of International Urbanism and Design at Technische Universität Berlin. Besides teaching numerous BA and MA courses in the fields of architecture, urban design, urban and regional planning, he was co-initiator and part of the interdisciplinary research team in the BMBF-funded Sino-German project “Urban-Rural Assembly (URA)”. Hannes is an early career member at the Regional Studies Association (RSA) and a member of the international NYLON research network with counterparts based at New York University (NYU), the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. He is co-founder of studioetcetera, an office for urban research and practice based in Berlin

Hannes’ doctoral research examines the reflexive and transformative agency of local professionals from urban-regional planning, administration and politics in the context of increasing Chinese large-scale infrastructure investments in eastern Germany. Using the example of recent investments in the lithium-ion battery production and related urban infrastructure in small-town contexts in the federal states of Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt, the research aims at a multi-scalar and state-attuned analysis of urban-regional governance and its everyday negotiation, design and decision-making processes. Against the backdrop of an increasing shift in international relations from the national to the sub-national level, particularly in the context of China’s far-reaching “Go Out Policy”, the doctoral thesis creates a new understanding of transformative strategies and instruments local professionals have been developed to face the multiple local-global implications of extended capitalist urbanisation and to steer large-scale foreign investment towards future-oriented and socio-ecologically just developments.