

Introducing RTG 2725 Urban future-making



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Investigating scalar and temporal tensions in socio-ecological infrastructures' experiments. A comparative analysis across urban areas.

Over the last few decades, urban areas have emerged as critical sites of responses and solutions targeted to effect the Paris Agreement of keeping global warming below 1.5°C or 2°C. In many urban contexts around the world, initiatives such as urban climate experiments have proliferated with the purpose to foster more just and sustainable socio-environmental futures. This project deals with fundamental challenges in the governance of climate change experiments and - in particular - of so-called „socio-ecological infrastructures“. These infrastructures provide critical goods and services to citizens and people. Examples of urban experiments in socio-ecological infrastructures are initiatives such as community energy, productive rooftops, alternative water and food supply systems and so on. The project aims to understand the role of key scalar and temporal tensions in fostering these experiments, scaling them out in the materiality of the urban fabric, enabling them with supportive organisational networks and policy institutions. The project engages in a comparative analysis of experimental initiatives in European cities in order to draw empirical lessons for research and practices.

Dr. Alessandra Manganelli is an urban scholar with a background in urban planning and governance. Her previous research focused on the hybrid governance of urban food movements (KULeuven, VUB, Belgium). Among other positions, she has been a consultant for the Committee of the Regions of the European Farm to Fork Strategy (Brussels). She currently works as a senior research associate in the Research Training School “Urban Future-Making” (HafenCity University, Hamburg), funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). Besides urban food governance, she carries out research related to urban environmental governance and socio-ecological transformations.