

Introducing RTG 2725 Urban future-making



Lucas Pohl

Dr. Lucas Pohl joined the Research Training Group “Urban future-making: Professional agency across time and scale” as a postdoctoral researcher in April 2022. Prior to that, he worked at the Department of Geography at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and conducted research at the Collaborative Research Centre “Re-figuration of Spaces” (CRC 1265). He received his PhD from the Department of Human Geography at the Goethe University Frankfurt. His dissertation engaged with ruined architectures and crisis-ridden urban development in Bangkok and Detroit. More generally, he works on the interstices between cultural geography, urban political ecology, and psychoanalytic theory with a focus on built environments, spatial imaginaries and political action.

His project in the Research Training Group addresses sea-level rise as a challenge for urban future-making. Stemming from the observation that sea-level rise will have a massive impact - especially on coastal cities - in the coming decades, he focuses on the political role of architecture in shaping urban futures. His project looks at cities already at risk of permanent flooding due to severe land subsidence, assuming that these are the first waves of sinking cities, where large parts of the built environment will undergo massive changes if no significant political measures are taken to control the water level. Addressing issues of preservation, construction, but also decay and loss of architecture, the project aims to investigate processes and phenomena in sinking cities that will most likely be observed in many other cities around the world in the coming decades.