



## Workshop (Hybrid Format) for Young Researchers: Call for Presentation Proposals Transformative Research in Cities

Thursday, 29th November 2022, 12-17.30 (MESZ)

Venue: TU Dortmund (Campus South: Room 214 / Faculty of Spatial Planning)

Globally, cities are complex adaptive systems which could be the drivers of sustainability transformation but are instead considered the main contributors to, and their material and social processes most vulnerable to impacts of climate change. The pressure is on cities to counteract their detrimental impact and not only mitigate consequences of climate change. This is being dealt with in different ways around the world, depending on civil capacities, material, and experience. Transformation trajectories of cities are influenced by discourses deliberating how to deal with legacies of the past in present conditions to shape a desirable future based on sustainability. Still, restructuring cities towards sustainability remains highly challenging. It requires not only breaking up routine practices but also creating new forms of cooperation across all sectors.

Scientists and academic institutions such as universities are looking to directly engage these issues, no longer satisfied just to observe and diagnose, recognising their ability to actively influence necessary transitions. This is in form of urban transition management, transformative research, action research based on transdisciplinary, cross-sectoral work. The ambition is to lead the way as change agents, but are they? How does this intention affect the previous understanding of the freedom of research and the practice that goes with it? What challenges do researchers face in transformative science approaches and what are their strategies for dealing with them? The goal of the workshop is to develop a deeper understanding of **(1)** discourses of transformative research practice in sustainability transition cases from the Global South and North, **(2)** roles researchers have in transition processes and handling associated challenges, and **(3)** to discuss opportunities and challenges of methods like living labs, data modelling and scenario simulation in such projects.

We are looking for pre- and post-doc researchers from different disciplines to present their ideas and experiences on the following, and related topics: - Concepts and theories of transformative research and sustainability transitions

- The roles of researchers and scientific institutions in co-productive transition processes
- Tools and methods transforming research institutions and scientific policies for climate-positive research activities, like modelling or/and the experimental turn of living labs
- Materiality of transition discourse, e.g., how infrastructure, artefacts and objects affect transitions, and also how this is linked to immaterial heritages of norms, values, traditions, beliefs, etc. in transformation discourses (e.g., impact of risk perception).



### Submission:

Please submit a 300-word abstract of the proposed presentation, outlining the title, content, and link to the topic of the workshop. The presentation may be no more than 10 slides and 20 min long to allow time for discussion. Please send it till 31<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to: Bettina Pahlen, [bettina.pahlen@uni-due.de](mailto:bettina.pahlen@uni-due.de). All submitted presentation proposals will be evaluated after the submission deadline. You will receive feedback by November 15, 2022. Accepted submissions will lead to an invitation to present at the WORKSHOP (hybrid Format) (November 29, 2022).

### Organization:

The workshop is organized by the [Urban Systems Group, Germany](#), and is part of the 4<sup>th</sup> KoMet-Day, an annual conference hosted by the Competence Field Metropolitan Research which focuses on '[Urban complexity: Science Perspectives of Complexity and Transformation on Sustainable Urban Development](#)'. The Urban Systems Group is as a network of young researchers who work on sustainable urban development within their disciplines following transdisciplinary and transformative research approaches.