22.10  1. Introduction / Overview of the seminar: Programme, requirements, presentation of participants (16:00-18:00)

29.10  2. I_Input: Introduction to the field of urban and regional research in Germany
       II_Input: Elements of research epistemology, methodology and design: an introduction

05.11  3. I_Input: Research funding institutions: e.g. the DFG (German Research Foundation)

12.11  4. I_Presentations: chosen topics
       II_Colloquium: Elements of research epistemology, methodology and design, 2

19.11  5. I_Presentations: chosen topics
       II_Colloquium: Elements of research epistemology, methodology and design, 3

26.11  6. I_Presentations: chosen topics
       III_Colloquium: Research areas, themes and traditions in urban and regional research, 1

03.12  7. Presentations of draft research project: proposals and discussion, 1
       I/II_Input: Design of research projects: e.g. the case of DFG (German Research Foundation)

10.12  8. Presentations of draft research project: proposals and discussion, 2
       Presentations III: chosen topics, 1

17.12  9. Presentations III: chosen topics, 2
       I_Input: Urban-regional research policy of the EU

07.01 10. Presentations III: chosen topics, 3
         II_Colloquium: Elements of research epistemology, methodology and design, 4

14.01 11. II_Colloquium: Elements of research epistemology, methodology and design, 5

21.01 12. III_Colloquium: Research areas, themes and traditions in urban and regional research, 2

28.01 13. Presentations of draft research projects, 1

04.02 14. Presentations of draft research projects, 2

11.02 15. Presentations of draft research projects, 3
Literature

notes:
- specific texts will be assigned to specific dates in the course of the seminar;
- a selection of articles and chapters is made available as PDF on ISIS;
- additional readings will be suggested and/or provided in the course of the seminar in connection with specific topics.


selected readings from:


General course information

Topic

Specialisation Area V ‘Urban and Regional Research’ introduces students to the working field of urban and regional research. The thematic focus of the degree programme is enhanced by a focus on research. Students shall gain fundamental qualifications to work in basic or applied research.

The thematic focus of Specialisation Area V is on the different aspects of research in urban and regional planning. Diverse physical-geographical, politico-economic, socio-cultural, institutional and legal-administrative conditions on different spatial scales can play a role. Specialisation Area V teaches students to deal with a wide range of aspects in urban and regional planning from a scientific research perspective.

The core module Urban and Regional Research consists of an introduction to diverse dimensions of the field (such as problems of research policy and financing) and different conceptions and paradigms of urban and regional research. The most important steps of the research process are discussed, such as:
- generation/definition of a research issue,
- research design,
- methodological approach,
- writing a research proposal,
- organising the research process,
- project execution,
- reporting and presenting research findings.

Contents

The seminar addresses issues of planning research articulated in three focus areas:
- the field of urban and regional planning research;
- elements of research epistemology, methodology and design;
- research areas, themes and traditions in urban and regional research.

I. the field of urban and regional planning research

This focus offers explorations of the field of practice represented by urban and regional planning research in its various articulations (institutions, forms of research, forms of funding, forms of dissemination, forms of societal appraisal, etc.), with exemplary reference mainly to the specific context of Germany.

II. elements of research epistemology, methodology and design

This focus is a reflection on choices and dilemmas connected with the practice of urban and regional planning research in its social, political and cultural context. Rather than a course in research methods, this focus is an invitation to discuss and to reflect upon issues of research epistemology, design and ethics and connected responsibilities for the researcher, and also offers elements for their reflective application in the own research work.

III. research areas, themes and traditions in urban and regional research

This focus addresses the contingent specificity of research practice in urban and regional planning research in connection with social, political and cultural conjunctures, and reflects upon the way research issues and priorities are constructed in a interplay between demand and supply and between autonomy and dependence in specific contexts.

The three focus areas form the basic structure of the seminar, although overlappings are possible in the course of the seminar.
Activities

The seminar consists of three basic activities:

- *inputs* by the teacher on specific topic areas and/or examples in all three focus areas;

- *colloquia*, consisting of jointly reading and commenting/discussing selected literature, with reference mainly to focus area II *research epistemology, methodology and design*;

- *presentations* on chosen and/or assigned topics, with reference mainly to focus areas I *the field of urban and regional planning research* and III *research areas, themes and traditions in urban and regional research*.

In addition, interim and final presentations concerning students’ main assignment (draft of research project) will be scheduled during the seminar.

Learning resources

All seminar resources including this syllabus, (selected) literature sources and comments/communications are made available on a dedicated ISIS2 course from the start of the semester (password-protected).

Grading and evaluation

Students are required to actively participate in the activities of the seminar.

Individual students’ assessment is based on active participation in discussions and colloquia during the seminar as well as on the presentation of an essay / written report at the end of the seminar; both examination elements are required for passing the seminar.

Assessment is in the form of a portfolio-examination.

Examination elements of final assessment and their weighting (in %) are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination element</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral contribution to seminar (colloquia, presentations etc.)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft of research project (presentation with written report)</td>
<td>75%</td>
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Examination requirements

- *draft of a research project (presentation with written report)*:
  
  students (individually) develop a draft research project (intended as a simulation of a research proposal) on a topic of their own choice.

  The draft must not be fully worked out in all details, but:
  a. it must be complete and comprehensive in complying with all relevant elements of a research proposal according to models recognized by the scientific community),
  b. it must take reflectively into account issues of research epistemology, methodology, design and ethics as discussed in particular in focus III of the seminar.

  It is recommended that the topic is chosen in connection with and in preparation of the Specialisation Thesis, such as to serve as a preliminary work for it.

  The final result is presented orally at the end of the seminar and submitted as a written report after the end of the seminar (deadline t.b.d.).

- *oral contributions to the seminar*:
as part of their active engagement, students are required to contribute to colloquia and presentations during the seminar.

**Deadlines**

- End of semester (March 31, 2020): submission of written reports (digital/Pdf format).

**Consultation hour**

Tuesday, 9:00-10:00h, ISR, Room B 219.
Please sign in at the notice board or contact the chair’s secretariat for a timeslot.