

The role of cities in determining the world's future

Conference

About the topic

Urbanisation is a central trend of our time. Today, cities account for more than half of the global population, for 80% of global GDP and 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, and we will witness a rapid increase of those figures in the coming decades. Key challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, and social inequality have particularly critical consequences for cities.

There is a growing consensus that key decisions on reducing the carbon footprint and addressing social inequalities will be decided by and in cities. As urbanisation is most rapidly proceeding in the Global South, cities have come into the focus of global development agendas, such as the Agenda 2030 or the UN New Urban Agenda. Cities of the Global South provide experimental spaces for new development policies and financial instruments, and they allow implementation of a range of new technologies, such as digital money, big data and artificial intelligence within smart city strategies. Yet, cities also assume responsibility as political actors and seek to build networks to influence global policy-making such as C40, which connects mayors, and policy-makers of the world's leading cities. This public lecture will analyse these developments and their drivers, and assess opportunities and risks for sustainable development, equity, and democracy.

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March 19, 2020, 18.00-20.00

**C3 - Centre for International Development
Sensengasse 3, 1090 Vienna**

Speakers

Monika Grubbauer is a Professor in History and Theory of the City at HafenCity Universität Hamburg. Her research focuses on the interdependencies between economic, social, and material processes of urban change. Her recent work explores processes of financialisation in development, with research on housing microfinance, green municipal bonds, and the World Bank's city credit-worthiness initiative.

Monika Kuffer is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation of the University of Twente. Her main research focus is on urban remote sensing and modelling linked to the global development agenda. She is co-chairing a large international multi-disciplinary network on urban deprivation related research.

Verena Hagg is a Senior Expert and Deputy Director for International Financial Institutions at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance, with a focus on the Asian Development Bank and the Austrian cooperation with the IFC in urban development and infrastructure

Thomas Prorok is Deputy Managing Director of the Austrian based KDZ Centre for Public Administration Research with a focus on Public Administration Reform, Decentralisation and Local Governments as well as EU-Integration. He is Head of the "Austrian CAF-Center" the European system for quality management in the public sector.

Organizer:



Programme

18.00

Introduction and Welcome

Karin Küblböck, ÖFSE

18.15

Lecture: The role of cities in determining the world's future

Monika Grubbauer, HafenCity Universität Hamburg

18.50

Comments

Monika Kuffer, University of Twente
Verena Hagg, Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance
Thomas Prorok, Centre for Public Administration Research

19.10

Discussion

20.00

End of Conference

Drinks and Snacks

Facilitation: Karin Küblböck

Conference language: English