



**Coping with uneven development in Europe:
Socio-economic and Political Responses to Regional Polarisation**

27 – 29 September 2017, Leipzig/Germany

During the last years socio-spatial disparities have increased considerably in Europe. On the one hand metropolitan areas are growing economically as well as demographically whereas 'peripheralised' regions are facing a downward spiral of decline leading to out-migration, loss of enterprises and jobs, and a reduction of social services.

We are inviting scientists, policy consultants and policy makers from regional, national and European levels to discuss current issues of socio-spatial polarisation and peripheralisation and the limitations and negative impacts of current regional, social and economic policies across Europe.

To enable a lively exchange across sectoral and disciplinary boundaries there will be a variety of formats ranging from keynote lectures, via open stage interviews or fish bowl discussions and foto-/ video-presentations to paper sessions and group discussions. In this context 16 young researchers from the RegPol² project will present the empirical findings from their postdoc- and PhD-projects. We are also glad to announce that a range of leading scholars will contribute to the programme, such as Costis Hadjimichalis (Harokopio University), Ray Hudson (Durham University) and Merje Kuus (University of British Columbia).

The conference will include an excursion to a 'peripheral' region in Central Germany on Wednesday, 27 September 2017 and an official conference dinner on Thursday, 28 September 2017 as well as lunch on Thursday and Friday.

We welcome contributions related to the following topics and questions:

- Processes of polarisation and peripheralisation and/or centralisation in CEE and beyond;
- Evolution, Reproduction and Persistence of Centrality and Peripherality
 - o How are core and peripheral areas socially constructed in a multi-scalar way – with overlapping local/regional, national, European and global forms of polarisation?
 - o To what extent do the perception of location (dis-)advantages, migration and demographic development as well as particular policies, contribute to the evolution, reproduction and persistence of centrality and peripherality and regional polarisation?
- Governance of Core-Periphery Relations
 - o How are regional policies and the various forms of public intervention institutionalised and implemented?
 - o How can concepts of leadership and governance be applied in the context of polarisation and peripheralisation?
 - o What are the predominant discourses and paradigms of European, national and regional policies and what do they implicate for innovative responses to social and economic polarisation in a regional context?

- Adaptation, Strategies and Potentials
 - o Which role do peripheral regions play in political, social and economic innovation processes?
 - o Which innovative activities from civil society and businesses can be identified in peripheralised spatial settings and which potential do these activities bear for new forms of regional development and bottom-up social, economic and policy change?

Participating researchers will be invited to contribute to an edited volume “Socio-economic and Political Responses to Regional Polarisation in Central and Eastern Europe” which shall be published in the series “New Geographies of Europe” with Palgrave Macmillan (series editors: Sebastian Henn, Ray Hudson, Thilo Lang, Judit Timár).

Please send an abstract for contribution including the name(s) and affiliation(s) of contributor(s) and the type of session (plenary lecture, paper presentation, discussion session, interview, video presentation, poster) **until 08 January 2017** to Franziska Görmar (f_goermar@ifl-leipzig.de). We are particularly looking for contributions in alternative formats.

Date and venue:

27 – 29 September 2017
 University library – Albertina
 Beethovenstraße 6
 04107 Leipzig

Conference fee:

50 – 60 Euro (for Thursday and Friday)
 + 20 - 30 Euro (for excursion)

Organisers:

Thilo Lang, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig
 Martina Keilbach, Graduate School Global and Area Studies of the University of Leipzig

Scientific committee:

Jozsef Benedek (Babeş-Bolyai-University Cluj-Napoca), Maroš Finka (Slovak University of Technology Bratislava), Tomas Hanell (Eurofutures), Thilo Lang (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography), Judit Timár (Center for Economic and Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), Garri Raagmaa (University of Tartu)

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