



TRANSITIONEN

42. KONGRESS

**DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR SOZIOLOGIE
UNIVERSITÄT DUISBURG-ESSEN | CAMPUS
DUISBURG 22 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Call for Papers

Of Time and the City

Researching and conceiving the entangled temporalities of urban transformation around the world

Ad-hoc-Gruppe auf dem 42. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie „Transitionen“ vom 22.-26.09.2025 an der Universität Duisburg-Essen

This ad-hoc session invites sociological researchers to explore how entangled temporalities reflect and structure social transformations within urban spaces around the world. As dynamic entities, cities are constantly reshaped by intersecting timeframes—historical narratives of different scope, development scenarios and visions of the future, rhythms of daily life, economic cycles, seasons and the waves of an intensifying climate catastrophe. Beyond rhythms and speeds, time acts as a medium of reflection, shaping how urban spaces are loaded with meaning, envisioned and experienced. As narratives of the past, they enable the construction of urban identities and heritage, including industrial cities, student hubs, bourgeois quarters, or “minority neighborhoods.” In parallel, imagined futures, such as climate change, diversification, shrinking, gentrification or infrastructural renewal, shape how urban dwellers and other urban actors encounter each other in time-space, contributing to the constant reconfiguration of cities in between imagined pasts, presents and futures. Temporal imaginations connect different layers of urban coexistence—from the personal biographies of residents to the temporalities of neighborhoods, cities, nation-states and empires. Temporal perspectives thus provide unique insights into micro-structures as well as macro-structures of urban transformation, revealing patterns such as construction and demolition, decay and growth, regeneration and degeneration, planning and improvisation, heritagization and erasure, as well as the collectivization and privatization of public spaces. Analyzing these processes through the optic of entangled temporalities offers a sociological lens through which the structures, predicaments, opportunities and challenges of urban life can be better understood.

This call aligns with the growing academic interest in examining urban spaces not just through spatial configurations but also through temporal dimensions. We invite contributions that approach city life from the side of entangled, multi-layered and sometimes conflicting timelines, ranging from long-term infrastructure projects and short-term processes of political mobilization over transformation of neighborhood identities to the enmeshed rhythms of daily life. This ad-hoc session shall examine urban transformation through the lenses of speed, rhythm, heritagization and imagination of the future, positioning cities and neighborhoods as both sites of nostalgia and laboratories of progress and innovation. We welcome empirical contributions exploring the situated temporalities of urban transformation.





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Key questions include:

- How do temporal structures shape processes of urban change within and across space?
- In what ways do temporal imaginaries influence urban politics and everyday practices?
- How do urban actors mediate tensions between the temporalities of the past, present, and future?
- What methodological implications are raised by deploying this lens to explore the urban?

**We ask for the submission of abstracts (maximum 1 page) until April 30, 2025.
All presentations will be in English.**

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