Syllabus |WiSe 2020/2021 | Projekt-Seminar Auftragsprojekt | Bachelor

Is Berlin a Walkable City?

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Concept

In the course of the XX century, high speed transport and the quest for efficiency degraded the walkable city. Hazardous high-speed traffic broke up the fine-grained pedestrian network and imposed barriers to free movement on foot. In forgoing the pedestrian experience, the street lost its intimate scale and transparency, and became a mere service road, devoid of public life (Southworth 2006). In the 1960s and 1970s, people started reclaiming the streets, demanding more public space, as was the emblematic case in the Village, NYC. More recently, in the past few decades, the knowledge of the social, environmental, economic and political benefits associated to walking (ARUP 2016) has motivated European policy-makers and municipal planners to employ different policies and design interventions for the creation of pedestrian-friendly environments. Such efforts have ranged from complete pedestrianisation and closure of streets to traffic permanently or temporarily, to taming vehicular traffic through traffic calming, to encouraging a symbiotic relationship of multiple transportation modes. In Berlin, such as in Paris, Barcelona, Oslo, Vienna and other European cities, soft mobility is gaining momentum. Specifically, the Municipality of Berlin has taken action to create pedestrian-friendly environments by implementing a planning strategy grounded on 4 Pillars: 1) The Mobility Act, with a new branch focusing on foot traffic; 2) The "pedestrian-friendly neighbourhoods" concept (that includes the "Temporary Play Streets" and the "Pedestrian-friendly Shopping Streets" concepts); 3) The creation of safe crossing; 4) The improvement of accessibility for pedestrians.

Within the context of this Projekt-Seminar the Municipality of Berlin will act as **Project Partner** and propose the following as **potential case studies for investigation**:

- Assessment and street redesign of the crossing Steglitzer Damm /Bismarckstrasse to reorganise the traffic light system and create a safe crossing for pedestrians.
- Assessment and redesign of the area Uhlandstr./Mecklenburgische Str. to favour the walkable connection between the two sections of the Volkspark Wilmersdorf.
- Assessment of the "Pedestrian-friendly Shopping Street" concept implemented in Mitte Friedrichstr.
- Identification and design proposal of new "Pedestrian-friendly Areas" in Berlin, in line with the pilots already implemented in Berlin and in other European cities.

A broad range of **research methods** can be applied for the investigation of the case studies, such as: literature and policy documents review, press scanning, interviews with stakeholders and local residents, spatial and statistical analysis, case study analysis, behavioural mapping, ethnographic and auto-ethnographic methods.

For the investigation, the students will be invited to select the case studies they would like to investigate among the options proposed, and the research methods. They will be expected to organise themselves in small working groups, manage the work flow and elucidate the results of their study work in the final outputs of the project, with the support of the instructor.

By attending this Projekt-Seminar, the following **learning objectives** should be achieved: a) Knowledge acquisition about international policies and best practices regarding "walkable cities", with a focus on the city of Berlin; b) Learning of and experimentation with research methods, data collection and analysis; c) Development of soft skills, such as: work and time management, critical thinking, oral and written communication, event planning, leadership, team building, conflict management.

Schedule

Day	Hours	On site / Online Live Sessions (to be defined according to the C-19 situation)
09.11.2020	14-18	**Introduction by the Instructor** - Presentation of the topic, intro to research methods, proposed readings - Group Discussion with the students
16.11.2020	14-18	**Presentations by the Project Partners** - Presentation of the case studies - Group Discussion with the Project Partners
23.11.2020	14-18	**Follow-up on the Project Partners' Presentations** - Selection of the case studies and research methods, organisation of the working groups
30.11.2020	14-18	**Working group activities** - E.g.: Visit of the study areas, data collection, literature review
07.12.2020	14-18	**Working group activities** - E.g.: Visit of the study areas, data collection, literature review
14.12.2020	14-18	**Student Presentation no. 1** - Each working group presents the data collected and illustrates the work plan identified for preparing the Outputs
19.12.2020 to 2.01.2021	tbc	**Holiday Break** - Assignments (to be defined according to the progress work made by each working group)
04.01.2021	14-18	**Working group activities** - Students work in groups and prepare the draft Outputs for the Student Presentation no. 2
11.01.2021	14-18	**Student Presentation no. 2** - Each Working Group presents the draft Outputs
18.01.2021	14-18	**Working group activities** - Students work in groups and revise the Outputs according to the feedback received during the Student Presentation no. 2
25.01.2021	14-18	**Working group activities** - Students work in groups preparing the Presentation for the Project Partners
01.02.2021	14-18	**Student Presentation to the Project Partners** - Students present the Project's Outputs to the Project Partners
08.02.2021	14-18	**Working group activities** - Students work in groups and revise the Outputs according to the feedback from the Project Partners
15.02.2021	14-18	**Rehearsal of the Public Presentation** - Students rehearse the Public Presentation
27.02.2021	tbd	**Public Presentation of the Project's Outputs and Poster Exhibition** - Students give a Public Presentation and present at the Poster Exhibition

Project Outputs

- A written report;
- A poster;
- A public presentation.

The Project Outputs will be publicly presented at the final presentation and submitted to the Project Partner.

Practical Information

- Teaching mode: online/offline (to be defined according to the C-19 situation)
- Language: English
- Maximum number of students accepted: 14
- Readings will be available in ISIS.
- Mondays: 2-6 PM
- Room: EB 223

Your Instructor

I am an interdisciplinary researcher, experienced in working internationally with different stakeholders. Since 2016, I have been the inventor and principal Investigator of Hush City.
My research is applied to real-world problems and focuses on the immaterial and sensorial components of the urban environment, which I study through a context-sensitive participatory approach, characterised by ethnographic methods and the use of mobile technology.
My research has impacted on policy-making, it is featured in documents issued by the City Council of Berlin and the European Commission, and it was funded by a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship, a Marie Curie Fellowship (Ipodi Program - TU Berlin) and a HEAD-Genuit Foundation Research Grant. Since 2010, I have been teaching internationally in the area of urban design and planning, using creative methods and constantly updating my teaching profile. I am a registered architect (IT) and I hold a Ph.D. in Urban Design and Territorial Planning from the University of Florence (IT, 2010) with doctoral studies conducted at MIT (Cambridge, USA).
Say hello at: antonellaradicchi.it

Project Partners (in alphabetical order)

- Jörg Kaptain Senatsverwaltung für Umwelt, Verkehr und Klimaschutz
Brückenstraße 6 | 10179 Berlin
- Saskia Leckel, Senatsverwaltung für Umwelt, Verkehr und Klimaschutz, Arbeitsgruppe Fußverkehrsinfrastruktur | Am Köllnischen Park 3 | 10179 Berlin
- Dan Orbeck Senatsverwaltung für Umwelt, Verkehr und Klimaschutz, Gruppenleiter „Fußverkehrsinfrastruktur“ | IV B 4 Am Köllnischen Park 3 | 10179 Berlin

Useful Resources

- TUB ISR Project Handbook (only in German)
  “The Project-Seminars are the core of the training for planning tasks in urban and regional planning at the ISR. As a rule, they are site-specific or topic-related and require interdisciplinary approaches, different methods and working methods that depend on the respective topic and orientation of the study project. In this way, the study projects link facts of different types and origins, compare different points of view and understandings. They promote the implementation of analytical skills in a communicable product as well as the

development of problem- and implementation-oriented concepts. The manual is intended to provide support for the implementation of these demanding tasks."

- TUB ISR K-Lab Work Aids Handbook (only in German). Specifically addressing: Scientific ethics and scientific practice (scientific work, criteria and responsibility); Choice of topic and question (finding, narrowing down, questions and exposé); Literature research (search, procurement, libraries and databases); Citation methods and references (citations and references); Copyright and CC licenses (principles, use, rights and licensing model); Written scientific work (basics, procedure, structure and style); Presentations and lectures (preparation, use of media and source work); Posters (content, layout and programs); Directories (general and directory types).