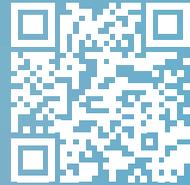


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## Studies

The Dortmund Department of Spatial Planning is one of the largest higher education facilities for planners in Europe. It brings together a wide range of topics related to modern spatial development, including urban and regional planning, climate adaptation, mobility research and international transformation processes.

The Department offers an eight-semester undergraduate program in Spatial Planning (B.Sc.) and a consecutive two-semester program in Spatial Planning (M.Sc.). The Master's program comprises eight specializations, all taught in German.

Additionally, the Department runs the English-language Master's program Urban Transformation (M.Sc.) and Spatial Planning for Regions in Growing Economies (SPRING). SPRING is taught in collaboration with partner universities in Brazil, Chile, Ghana, the Philippines, and Tanzania. The Urban Transformation program focuses on skills in process design and bureaucracy navigation, as well as (spatial) analytical skills, creative action, and strategic management of urban transformation processes.

Graduates of the Department are in high demand as experts in the design and management of spatial development processes. They work in public administration, research institutes, consulting firms, and international organizations – wherever future spaces are planned and realized.



## Research

Since its founding in 1968, the Department of Spatial Planning has stood for openness, diversity, and interdisciplinary cooperation across disciplinary boundaries. It considers spaces from urban neighborhoods to national and international contexts and explores the spatial dimensions and explores the spatial dimensions of social transformation processes.

Its research focuses on questions about the future of our living spaces – such as how cities are changing under the conditions of climate change. What spatial strategies are needed for the energy and transport transition? And how can regional development be made sustainable? To this end, the department develops theoretical foundations, analytical methods, and new approaches for assessing and forecasting spatial changes.

Existing methods are critically reflected upon, and alternative approaches are tested – always with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of spatial relationships and providing innovative impetus for their responsible design. In this way, the department combines scientific knowledge with concrete applications and a commitment to the sustainable development of our shared living environment.

The research agenda of the school is oriented along four thematic fields:

- » Transformation and design of polycentric city regions
- » Land use planning and urban development in the global south
- » Climate change, energy transition and spatial planning
- » Mobility, migration and socio-demographic change

# Department of Spatial Planning



## Contact

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Status: March 2026

# Research Groups



## European Planning Cultures

**Prof. Dr. Karsten Zimmermann**

European spatial planning and spatial development policies; europeanization of domestic planning systems; comparative research on European planning systems and planning cultures

## International Planning Studies

**Prof. Dr. Sophie Schramm**

Urbanization and social transformations (urban-rural relations, multi-locality, globalization); urban, regional and global resource flows and their role in urban development; planning systems and planning practices in international comparison



## Land Policy, Land Management, Municipal Geoinformation

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Hartmann**

Strategies and instruments of land policy and their impact on the relation between spatial planning and property rights; land management; land valuation; cartography

## Landscape Ecology and Landscape Planning

**Prof. Dr. Dietwald Gruehn**

Landscape ecological principles as basis for a sustainable spatial development; assessment of ecosystem services and soundscapes; adaptation to climate change; blue and green infrastructure; instruments and methods of landscape, environmental and open space planning



## Landscape Planning

**Jun.-Prof. Dr. Aude Zingraff-Hamed**

Nature-based solutions for sustainable spatial planning within the frame of strategic planning for adaptation to climate change; transformative multi-species landscape planning for equitable, sustainable, and long-term governance change; innovative methods in socio-ecological planning

## Mobility and Transport

**Prof. Dr. Sascha von Behren**

Integrated transport planning; characteristics of transport supply; travel demand analysis and forecasting; travel demand modeling; travel behavior and transport psychology; empirical mobility research methods; societal and environmental impacts of transport



## Real Estate Development

**Prof. Dr. Michael Nadler**

Management of integrated real estate and district developments; urban investment projects and financial instruments; Smartification of real estate development processes

## Regional Development and Risk Management

**Prof. Dr. Stefan Greiving**

Climate impact analyses; risk analyses; climate protection and climate adaptation strategies; Risk management through spatial planning; urban, regional and European spatial development; Services of general interest



## Resource and Energy Systems

**Prof. Dr. Lars-Peter Lauven**

Models and scenarios for the energy transition; techno-economic analysis, spatial impacts, and planning options in resource and energy systems

## Spatial Information Management and Modelling

**Prof. Dr. Nguyen Xuan Thinh**

Processing of spatial data; geographic information systems; remote sensing; geostatistics; system analysis and models in the context of spatial planning



## Spatial Modelling Lab

**Prof. Dr. René Westerholt**

Spatial statistics; representations of space and place; user-generated geographic information; quantitative geography; computational social science

## Spatial Planning and Environmental Law

**Prof. Dr. Klaus Joachim Grigoleit**

Theory and practice of German and European planning; construction; environmental and regulation law; grid planning



## Spatial Planning and Planning Theory

**Prof. Dr. Thorsten Wiechmann**

Strategic spatial planning; metropolitan research; urban regeneration in old industrial regions in Europe, North America and East Asia; planning theories

## Urban development, land-use planning and urban design processes

**Prof. Dr. Renée Tribble**

Design of the city and the built environment, taking into account the processes and actors involved: urban planning, urban land use planning, urban design, urban development, urban regeneration, urban history, heritage management, participatory, informal, and cooperative planning processes and urban practice



## Urban Development

**Prof. Dr. Stefan Siedentop**

**Prof. Dr. Joachim Scheiner**

Urban and regional development; interactions between urban form, infrastructure and mobility; determinants of travel behavior; impacts and efficacy of transformative planning



## Urban and Regional Planning

**Prof. Dr. Frank Othengrafen**

Development and implementation of plans and programs at municipal and regional level with particular focus on methods and instruments; land-use planning; governance procedures in urban and regional planning



## Urban and Regional Sociology

**Prof. Dr. Susanne Frank**

Sociology of housing and settlement structures; interactions of social and spatial transformations; qualitative methodologies in social and planning research



## Urban, Regional and International Economics (Department of Business and Economics)

**Prof. Dr. Christiane Hellmanzik**

Basic economics in spatial planning; spatial and economic restructuring; municipal and regional economic policy

# Department of Spatial Planning

The Department of Spatial Planning at TU Dortmund University, with its 18 professorships, around 1,300 students, and approximately 150 employees, covers the entire spectrum of spatial planning, including basic principles, specialized planning, and different spatial levels.

**More information:**

[raumplanung.tu-dortmund.de/en/](http://raumplanung.tu-dortmund.de/en/)