

**Dr. Anna-Lisa Müller**

Department of Geography | University of Bremen  
P.O. Box 330 440 | D-28334 Bremen | Germany  
phone: +49.(0)421.218.67141 | e-mail: anna-lisa.mueller@uni-bremen.de

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I am a social geographer and cultural sociologists working in the fields of urban development and international migration. My research focusses amongst others on the interdependencies of society, space and (material) culture and on advancing qualitative research methods.

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**Professional Biography**

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- currently **Senior Researcher**, Institut für interdisziplinäre Konflikt- und Gewaltforschung (IKG), Bielefeld University (Germany)
- 2020–2021 **Deputy Professor**, Department of Geography, University of Heidelberg (Germany)
- 2019–2020 **Senior Researcher**, Institute for Intercultural Research and Migration Studies (IMIS), Osnabrück University (Germany)
- 2013–2019 **Senior Researcher**, Department of Geography, University of Bremen (Germany)  
**Habilitation** (major research project): International Migration, Place-Attachment and Materiality. On Socio-spatial Belongings of International Transmigrants
- 2–4/2017 **Visiting Academic**, Department of Geography, Durham University (UK)
- 2012–2013 **Research Assistant**, Research Group *Urban Metamorphoses*, HafenCity University Hamburg (Germany)
- 2013 **PhD**, Bielefeld University (Germany) | grade: “summa cum laude”
- 2012–2013 **Fellow**, residency program *Scholars in Residence*, Goethe-Institut with Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) (Germany & Egypt)
- 2010–2012 **Scholarship Holder & PhD candidate**, *Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology*, Bielefeld University (Germany)  
PhD thesis: “Green Creative Cities. Zur Gestaltung eines Stadttypus des 21. Jahrhunderts”
- 2007–2010 **Research Assistant**, Cluster of Excellence 16 *Cultural Foundations of Integration*, Department of Sociology, chair of Prof. Dr. Andreas Reckwitz, University of Constance (Germany)
- 2000–2007 **M.A.**, sociology, German literature and philosophy, University of Constance (Germany) and University of Växjö (Sweden)  
Master’s thesis: “Subjekt, Sprache und Macht bei Judith Butler” (published in 2009)

**Key Publications**

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- 2020 “Re-thinking urban infrastructures as spaces of learning”. In: *Geography Compass* 15(1), pp. e12552 (with Leonie Tuitjer).
- 2019b “Arbeitsbezogene Migration von Hochqualifizierten – ein Plädoyer für eine geographische Perspektive”. In: *Geographische Zeitschrift* 107(4), Vol. 91, pp. 305-327 (with Jörg Plöger).
- 2019a *Migration, Materialität und Identität. Verortungen zwischen Hier und Dort*. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag.
- 2018b “Architecture, Sociality and the Production of Locality”. In: *Societas/Communitas* 26(2), pp. 27-46 (with Werner Reichmann).
- 2018a “Voices in the city. On the role of arts, artists and urban space for a just city”. In: *CITIES* 91, pp. 49-57.
- 2017b “Der Virtual Urban Walk 3D – Eine integrative Methode zur Analyse kontextbezogener Raumwahrnehmung”. In: *Europa Regional*, pp. 49–64 (with Andreas Müller).
- 2015 *Architecture, Materiality and Society. Connecting the Sociology of Architecture with Science and Technology Studies*. ed. with Werner Reichmann. Houndsmill et al.: Palgrave Macmillan.

## Recent Presentations (selection)

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- 2021 “Feeling at Home with Objects? On beloved clothes and alienating face masks” workshop Oscillating Objects, organized by Yara Kurimilian (Biladi NGO, Lebanon), Dr Nina Vollenbroker (The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, UK) & Dr Marjorie Gehrhardt (University of Reading, UK)
- 2020b “Covid-19 und das (neu) Lernen von sozialen Infrastrukturen. Ergebnisse aus einem (auto-)ethnographischen Projekt in Krisenzeiten” (with Gesine Tuitjer and Leonie Tuitjer)  
Online Symposium *COVID-19 als Zäsur? Geographische Perspektiven auf Räume, Gesellschaften und Technologien in der Pandemie*
- 2020a “Der Virtual Urban Walk 3D”  
Workshop “Mehr als Worte”, *Neuen Kulturgeographie XVII | Technocultures & Technospaces*, Bonn, Germany
- 2019c “Wie sehen wir Migration? Epistemologische Überlegungen zur Darstellung von räumlicher Mobilität”  
*Deutscher Kongress für Geographie*, Kiel, Germany
- 2019 “Living (in) the In-between. A Relational Perspective on Migrants’ Lives between Place Attachment and Mobility”  
*16<sup>th</sup> IMISCOE Annual Conference*, Malmö, Sweden

## Research Topics

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- international Migration
- urban infrastructures & public space
- urban planning & development

## Research Projects

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My current research addresses urban transformations that occur due to the pandemic related to the global spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. I address the effects of the measures taken to combat the global spread of the virus. Here, I particularly focus on the usage of urban public spaces, social infrastructures and the modified forms of social interaction due to the obligation to use face masks and keep physical distance to one another.

In my recent research project (“Habilitation”), *International Migration, Place-Attachment and Materiality. On Socio-spatial Belongings of International Transmigrants*, I worked at the intersection of urban studies and migration studies. My empirical research asked for the ways in which international migrants establish senses of belonging to urban places despite frequently changing locations. Especially in focus were high-skilled migrants, that is those who – presumably – migrate voluntarily. Special attention was on the role of (material) objects for the creation of senses of belonging and attachment to places. For the analysis of my qualitative research data, I thus gained additional insights from the social studies of space, material culture studies and works on globalization.

Additional research circles around the interrelation of materiality and sociality in contemporary societies, that is on the mutual interdependencies of architecture and society. Here, I am very much influenced by contemporary sociology of space and science and technology studies. This focus is part of my general and long-lasting research interest in contemporary urban development and planning that started with the research on my PhD thesis on *Green Creative Cities*.