

PD Dr. Anna-Lisa Müller

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

Professional Biography

- currently **Senior Researcher**, Institute for interdisciplinary Research on Conflict and Violence (IKG), Bielefeld University (Germany)
- 2022–2024 **Project leader**, “Räume der Migrationsgesellschaft (RäuMig)” (with Prof. Dr. Andreas Pott (IMIS) & Prof. Dr. Andreas Zick (IKG)), collaborative research project within DeZIM (Deutsches Zentrum für Integrations- und Migrationsforschung)
- 4–7/2021 **Fellow**, residency program of the Schader-Stiftung, Darmstadt (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

- 2023 “Boycotting to save the neighbourhood? exploring the altered meaning of social infrastructures of consumption during the Covid-19 crisis in Linden, Hannover, Germany”. In: *Social & Cultural Geography* 24(3-4), pp. 640-660 (with Leonie Tuitjer and Gesine Tuitjer).
- 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)

- 2023 “Constructing Migration and Otherness. Understanding the Social Power of Classifications and Statistics“
European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC) 2023, Göteborg, Sweden
- 2022 “Thinking migration through its materiality: what science and technology studies can teach us about understanding migration”
18th IMISCOE Annual Conference, Oslo, Norway
- 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)
- 2020 “Der Virtual Urban Walk 3D”
Workshop “Mehr als Worte”, *Neuen Kulturgeographie XVII | Technocultures & Technospaces*, Bonn, Germany
- 2019 “Wie sehen wir Migration? Epistemologische Überlegungen zur Darstellung von räumlicher Mobilität”
Deutscher Kongress für Geographie, Kiel, Germany

Research Topics

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

Research Projects

My current research project focusses on social and spatial transformations in migration societies and asks for the effects of racist attacks on the formation and (re)production of spaces in cities.

During the past years, my research also addressed urban transformations that occurred due to the pandemic related to the global spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and the interrelation of migration, materiality and modes of belonging. The research on the societal effects of Covid-19 analysed the effects of the measures taken to combat the global spread of the virus. I particularly focused 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 the research project for my 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*.