

GLOSUS PROJECT

The project GLOSUS – “The Global Geographies of Sustainability: Local knowledge, everyday practices and non-professional forms of living and housing” is a DAAD and CAPES funded project, starting in January 2023 and standing for four years.

The project is a joint construction between the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism from University of São Paulo - FAUUSP and the Institute of Geography from University of Münster - UniMünster, with the support/assistance of the Brazilian Center of the University of Münster. The first dialogues were initiated in 2015 under the WWU’s and USP’s cooperative project ‘wwu.usp’ that aimed at establishing an innovative and sustainable strategic partnership between both universities. The project was funded by the DAAD between 2015 and 2021 and was organized by WWU’s Brazil Centre in collaboration with the International Office of USP. This proposal developed to a second phase, from 2019 to 2021, which had a specific focus on ‘Cities and Climate’. This focus on ‘Cities and Climate’ was originality associated with a scientific and socio-environmental relevance from a transnational perspective, with attention to international sustainable development agendas, such as the United Nations Agenda.

While “Cities and Climate” aimed at identifying and discussing the various policies, actors and materialities that determine climate policies in Germany and Brazil, GLOSUS proposes a debate questioning the global hegemonic conception of sustainability. It aims to situate the global language of sustainability within local settings and practices. GLOSUS focuses on the conflicts and debates on the term sustainability and its interpretations when it comes to questions of social justice and democratic decision-making at the local and municipal level.



The project, based on the research and practices developed in each of the two centres (UniMünster-Geography and FAUUSP-Labhab), questions major proposals that are poorly associated with instruments and forms of implementation, as well as projects and interventions that propose environmental qualification but risk being ineffective at best, and of producing (environmental) injustices which run deeper and are more perverse than the apparent ecological conflicts [...], at worst" (Alvarez/Coolsaet 2018: 2)

The project involves this theme as its main research horizon, and also encompasses a number of individual research projects by doctoral students and post-docs that are articulated around the theme, with this common perspective of questioning the formulations on sustainability, based on the practices experienced in Brazil and Germany.

Of course, these are very different cities and contexts, but precisely because of their differences, they provide an opportunity to reflect on the foundations from the perspective of the practices and impacts in each city and the tension between the notions of growth and development.

The project is developing through a progressive exchange, which has already produced a mission by the German team to São Paulo in August 2023 - Collaborative Workshop, with the participation of the Uni-Munster team: Prof. Samuel Mössner (coordinator), Christian Krajewski and doctoral candidates Le-Lina Kettner and Anne Kuppler.

The aim of the collaborative workshop was to "try to make connections between meanings, to promote understanding of the content of sustainability".

Fieldtrip 24 August 23 in São Paulo

- Ocupação Liberdade (DOM PAULO EVARISTO)
- Ocupacao Rio Branco-Campos Eliseos (RIO BRANCO)
- Conjunto Habitacional Elza Soares (MCMV-Entidades/Vila Buarque)



Fieldtrip 28 August 23 in São Paulo

- a. Diadema
- b. Vila Nascente
- c. Grajau

Questions that emerged and were often discussed during the field trips were "How are environmental and social issues linked and make problems visible?" and "Sustainability generates policies in general, but the issues are different in our countries".

Also in 2023, a working mission of FAUUSP professors Luciana Royer (coordinator) and Maria Lucia Refinetti Martins took place in Münster in November 2023. Further study missions are already planned and in preparation for the entire duration of the project. For 2024, two PhD students and one post-doctoral researcher have already been confirmed for a study mission to Münster.