

2007 AAG-Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA, USA, 17-21 April 2007

Paper Session:

The Growth and Decline of Cities - Interpreting Contemporary Urban Development. A Transatlantic Perspective

4137 The Growth and Decline of Cities 1, scheduled on Friday, 4/20/07, 8:00-9:40 AM

4237 The Growth and Decline of Cities 2 scheduled on Friday, 4/20/07, 10:00-11:40 AM

Organizers:

Ludger Basten, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

Markus Hesse, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Session Description: While many of our traditional debates on urban development have dealt with issues of growth and related problems, the history of urban development has also been one of economic decline and population loss. More recently, significant economic changes and associated processes of population decline are being observed in many cities and regions, particularly those facing deindustrialization and transformation as well as a notably aging population. This session aims to explore related themes, trends and issues regarding the dichotomy of growth and decline. It is attempted to bring together experiences and perspectives from North America as well as from Europe (i.e. Germany). In the latter, the paradigm of "shrinking cities" has lately been overarching urban discourse to some extent. Judging from a more long-term perspective of demographic and economic changes, ups and downs can be considered an inherent characteristic of urban cycles. However, their consequences for urban development can be serious and need to be addressed by research, policy and planning. Issues and questions to be raised and debated are, e.g.: · What are the empirical foundations and experiences of growth and decline in North American and German cities? · How does scientific (geographical) discourse shape and deal with these problems? · What are the theoretical perspectives that may help us understand urban population loss and decline as well as growth (or the cycles behind them)? · What are the implications for or appropriate responses of urban politics/urban governance?

4137 The Growth and Decline of Cities 1

scheduled on Friday, 4/20/07, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM

Chair:

Ludger Basten

Abstracts:

8:00 AM Author: *Markus Hesse - Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Abstract Title: *Shrinking cities, demographic change, and the politics of urbanization. A discourse analysis*

8:20 AM Author: *Heinz Fassmann – University of Vienna, Department of Geography and Regional Research, Austria

Abstract Title: *Growth and Decline: two industrialized cities (Linz and Baton Rouge) in comparison*

8:40 AM Author: *Douglas Young – York University, Toronto, Canada

Abstract Title: *In-between Growth and Decline: Confronting uneven development in Toronto and Berlin*

9:00 AM Author: *Gerhard Hatz, Ass. Prof. Mag. Dr. - Department of Geography and Regional Research, University of Vienna, Austria

Abstract Title: *Growth and Decline in the City of Vienna*

9:20 AM Discussant: Thomas A. Hutton – University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

4237 The Growth and Decline of Cities 2

scheduled on Friday, 4/20/07, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM

Chair:

Markus Hesse

Abstracts:

10:00 AM Author: *Martin Pries -
Martin Pries - PD Dr., Germany

Abstract Title: *Against decline: The growing City of Hamburg.*

10:20 AM Author: *Ludger Basten - Ruhr-University Bochum, Department of Geography, Germany

Abstract Title: *Between Time and Place: Ups and Downs in Potsdam*

10:40 AM Author: *Heather M Hall - University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Abstract Title: *Being Realistic about Planning in No Growth Communities: Challenges, Opportunities and Foundations for a New Agenda*

11:00 AM Author: *Peter Dirksmeier, Dipl.-Geogr. - University of Bremen, Germany

Abstract Title: *Urbanization of rural areas as a perspective for the explanation of growth and shrinkage of cities*

11:20 AM Discussant: Ulrike Gerhard - University of Wuerzburg, Germany

Paper abstracts are available on the web (www.aag.org)