

Contributors

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Katrin Großmann (katrin.grossmann@ufz.de) studied sociology and cultural studies in Marburg, Germany. In her PhD thesis she examined discourse on urban shrinkage in Chemnitz, Germany, asking what changes in patterns of perceptions occur, and to what extent the growth paradigm is challenged by urban shrinkage. At present she researches the possible future trajectories of large housing estates in Brno in the Czech Republic, focusing on the triangle of demographic change, urban restructuring, and image development, in the Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) in Leipzig, Germany. Theoretically, she is concerned with the symbolic differentiation of cities, cultural change, housing, and urban development. Methodologically her expertise is in qualitative research; recently she has been examining the possibilities of integrating visual methods into urban research, as well as questions of combined qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Annegret Haase (annegret.haase@ufz.de) holds an MA in cultural studies, sociology, and ethnology, and currently works as a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) in Leipzig, Germany. She received her PhD in 2000 for her work examining the postsocialist transition and its regional pathways and peculiarities in southeastern Poland. During recent years, she has dealt with the development of border regions, transborder cooperation, and national minority issues in East Central Europe, as well as with European urban development in a comparative perspective. Her current research looks at the impact of demographic and social change on Eastern European cities, focusing on Poland and the Czech Republic. She has published a number of books, papers, and book chapters on these issues.

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