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Christian Schmid is geographer, sociologist and urban researcher. He is Titular Professor of Sociology at the Department of Architecture, ETH Zurich, and member of ETH Studio Basel / Contemporary City Institute.

I was born in Zurich in 1958 and studied Geography and Sociology at the University of Zurich. Since 1980, I have been active as video activist, organizer of cultural events and urban researcher. I worked for many years in the *Rote Fabrik* cultural centre in Zurich and I was a founder of the *Ssenter for Applied Urbanism (SAU)*, a group of young academics and activists that organized urban interventions and authored and edited numerous publications on Zurich's urban development. In 1991 I was one of the cofounders of the *International Network for Urban Research and Action (INURA)*. I was co-organizer of the two INURA conferences held in Zurich (in 1997 and 2010), co-editor of the INURA book *Possible Urban Worlds* (1998), and I'm actually also engaged in the comparative research and publication project *The New Metropolitan Mainstream*.

In 1993–94, I have been a fellow researcher at the Laboratoire de Géographie Urbaine, Université Paris X Nanterre, and in 1995–96 I was engaged in the interdisciplinary research project *La ville: villes de crise ou crise des villes*, Institut d'Architecture, Université de Genève. From 1997–2001 I was an assistant lecturer for economic geography and regional research at the Geography Department of the University of Bern.

In 2003, I received my Ph.D. from the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena (*summa cum laude*). The book with the title *Stadt, Raum und Gesellschaft – Henri Lefebvre und die Theorie der Produktion des Raumes* (City, space and society – Henri Lefebvre and the theory of the production of space) was published in 2005. In 2008, I published together with K. Goonewardena, S. Kipfer, and R. Milgrom the first edited volume in English debating Lefebvre's theoretical approach. In 2015 followed the book *Urban Revolution Now: Henri Lefebvre in Social Research and Architecture*, edited together with Ł. Stanek and A. Moravánszky, exploring the application and further development of Lefebvre's theory in today's empirical urban research and urban design.

In 1999, I became the scientific director of the project *Switzerland: An Urban Portrait* at the ETH Studio Basel. A book with the same title was published in 2006, authored by Roger Diener, Jacques Herzog, Marcel Meili, Pierre de Meuron and Christian Schmid. The core result of ETH Studio Basel has been the theoretical and empirical development of a novel territorial approach allowing the analysis of urban development as an encompassing process transforming entire landscapes. The research of ETH Studio Basel is summarized in the recently published book *The Inevitable Specificity of Cities*.

Since 2001, I have been lecturer in Sociology at the Department of Architecture of ETH Zurich, and in 2009 I became Titular Professor. My chair of Sociology explores the connection between the built environment and social development. It provides a wide range of expertise in urban and spatial theory as well as a broad palette of social science methods. Its theoretical and methodological approach is transdisciplinary and praxis oriented, and geared toward the requirements specific to architecture and urban design.

The chair's main research focus lies in the transdisciplinary exploration of urbanization processes in comparative perspective. A major comparative urban studies project is currently being carried out in the framework of the ETH Future Cities Laboratory in Singapore on urbanization processes in Tokyo, the Pearl River Delta, Singapore, Kolkata, Lagos, Istanbul, Paris, Mexico City, and Los Angeles. Using a bottom-up approach, the research starts with the analysis of specific urban processes on the ground and brings them conceptually in conversation with each other. This comparative procedure enables the grouping of specific processes that have common features and dynamics, allowing for the analysis of the mechanisms and differences of planetary urbanization, and the establishment of a new vocabulary of contemporary urbanization processes.

Since 2008 I work together with Neil Brenner (Harvard GSD) at the development of a new theory of planetary urbanization that aims understanding the urban as an increasingly worldwide condition in which social, economic, and political relations are enmeshed. This situation of planetary urbanization means that even spaces that lie well beyond the traditional urban regions have become integral parts of the worldwide urban fabric.

The problematic of extended urban territories implies a range of questions concerning urban planning and design in sub- and periurban areas. This is particularly important in the context of proposals for the densification of urban areas to cope with urban sprawl, and to bring urban qualities into these endless urbanized landscapes. This question was approached in a collaborative project in the framework of the NFP 65 New urban qualities. This research project *Urban Potentials and Strategies in Metropolitan Territories – at the Example of the Metropolitan Region of Zurich*, which brought together Architecture (Prof. Marc Angélil), urban design (Prof. Kees Christiaanse), landscape architecture (Prof. Günther Vogt), history of urban design (Prof. Vittori Lampugnani) and social sciences (Prof. Christian Schmid), sought to find answers through a transdisciplinary analysis of urban situations in the

metropolitan region of Zurich, especially focusing on urbanization processes in three areas of this region, the innercity area of Langstrasse, the urban periphery of Zurich North and the globalization of periurban spaces in Aussyrschwyz. This analysis resulted in a detailed analysis of practices and planning procedures, and linked this analysis to concrete design proposals. It resulted in a handbook that provides guidelines for the realization of urban qualities that found widespread interest among planners, urban designers, architects and various practitioners (Angélil et al. 2016).

Christian Schmid: curriculum vitae

01. 10. 1958 Born in Zurich.
- 1978 – 1989 Studies in Geography and Sociology at the *University of Zurich*.
- 1979 – 1981 Member of the project group *Community Media* at the department of cultural anthropology of the University of Zurich: production of video documentations and features on urban social movements in Zurich.
- 1981 – 1985 Founding member of the *Arbeitskreis Wissenschaftstheorie und Wissenschaftskritik (AK Wisskri)*, part of the “Deutsche Bundesfachtagung der Studierenden der Geographie”.
- 1981 – 1990 Founding member of the *Ssenter for Applied Urbanism*, a group of geographers producing urban interventions, events, articles and multimedia productions on urban development in Zurich.
- 1982 – 1986 Theory project *Theorien zur Stadtentwicklung* (theories of urban development) (with Roger Hartmann, Hansruedi Hitz, Richard Wolff).
- 1982 – 1993 Freelancer as urban researcher, journalist and organizer of cultural events.
- 1984 – 1985 *Zürich ohne Grenzen*: organisation of a two-term series of lectures on urban development at ETH Zurich. Co-editor of the book *Zürich ohne Grenzen* (with Theo Ginsburg, Hansruedi Hitz, Richard Wolff).
- 1985 – 1991 Collaborator of the cultural centre *Rote Fabrik* in Zurich.
- 1986 – 1989 Diploma thesis: *Der Urbanisierungsprozess in der Schweiz seit 1945* (urban development in Switzerland since 1945), Department of Geography, University of Zurich.
- 1990 – 1991 Project group INURA Zurich (with Hansruedi Hitz and Richard Wolff): Founding of the *International Network for Urban Research and Action (INURA)*. Organisation of the 1st INURA conference (Mai 7-12, 1991, Zurich and Salecina).
- 1991 – 1992 Research and planning project *Stadt- und Transportoptimierung* (optimizing urban development and public transport), *Zürcher Arbeitsgruppe für Städtebau (ZAS)* commissioned by the City of Zurich (with Giorgio Crespo and Richard Wolff).
- 1992 –1995 Comparative research on urban development in Frankfurt and Zurich. Publication of several papers. Co-editor of the book *Capitales Fatales – Urbanisierung und Politik in den Finanzmetropolen Frankfurt und Zürich* (urbanization and politics in the global cities Frankfurt and Zurich) (with Hansruedi Hitz, Roger Keil, Ute Lehrer, Klaus Ronneberger and Richard Wolff).
- 1993 Scientific consultant at the Schule für Gestaltung Zürich for the video and exhibition project *Inszenierte Städte – Villes mises en scène: Urbanistisches Theater rund um Paris – und anderswo* (project on the new towns in Paris). Exhibition: February 2 – April 10, 1994, in the Museum für Gestaltung, Zürich).
- 1993 – 1994 Fellowship at the *Laboratoire de Géographie Urbaine, Université Paris X Nanterre* (Prof. Guy Burgel), sponsored by Swiss National Science Foundation.
- 1995 –1996 Interdisciplinary research project *La ville: villes de crise ou crise des villes*, Institute of Architecture of the University of Geneva (Prof. Claude Raffestin, Daniel Marco), sponsored by Swiss National Science Foundation.

- 1996 – 1997 Scientific assistant at the chair of Natural and Social Science Interface (NSSI), Department of Environmental Sciences, ETH Zurich (Prof. Roland Scholz).
- 1996 – 1998 Organisation of the 7th INURA conference *Possible Urban Worlds* (June 16-19, 1997, Zurich. Co-editor of the book *Possible Urban Worlds*).
- 1997 – 2001 Scientific assistant at the *Institute of Geography*, Group of Economic Geography and Regional Studies, University of Berne (Prof. Paul Messerli).
- 1999 – 2005 Researcher at ETH Studio Basel, Department of Architecture, ETH Zurich. Scientific director of the research project *Switzerland: an Urban Portrait*. Co-author of the book with the same title (with Roger Diener, Jacques Herzog, Marcel Meili, Pierre de Meuron).
- 2001 – 2008 Lecturer of Sociology at the Department of Architecture, ETH Zurich.
- 2003 PhD at the Institute of Geography, University of Jena (Germany): *Stadt, Raum und Gesellschaft – Henri Lefebvre und die Theorie der Produktion des Raumes* (City, space and society – Henri Lefebvre and the theory of the production of space). Supervisor: Prof. Benno Werlen, University of Jena. Publication of the book with the same title (Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart, 2005, 2nd ed. 2010).
- 2004 – 2007 Co-director of the research project *SeDUT* (La Havanna – transport and sustainable urban development) (with Prof. Ruben Bancrofft, CUJAE, La Habana, and Peter Hotz, Metron, Brugg), supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research.
- Since 2007 Senior researcher at ETH Studio Basel / Contemporary City Institute, Department of Architecture, ETH Zurich.
- Since 2009 Titular Professor of Sociology at the Department of Architecture, ETH Zurich.
- 2008 – 2014 Project *Applying Henri Lefebvre in Architecture and Social Sciences* (with Prof. Ákos Moravánsky und Łukasz Stanek, ETH Zurich). Conferences in Delft (2008) und Zurich (2009). Publication of the book *Urban Revolution Now: Henri Lefebvre in Social Research and Architecture* (Ashgate, 2014).
- 2008 – 2015 Research project *Atlas Urbano de La Habana – Urban Atlas of Havana*, with Prof. Dr. Jorge Peña Díaz, CUJAE, La Habana. Publication of the book with the same title (Park Books, Zürich, forthcoming, 2016).
- 2008 – 2015 Project *New Metropolitan Mainstream*, International Network for Urban Research and Action (INURA). Co-organization of the 20th INURA conference *New Metropolitan Mainstream* (June 27 – July 3, 2010, Zurich). Work in progress, publication in preparation.
- 2009 – 2010 Co-director of the research project *Urban Systems and Urban Models (USUM)* (with Prof. Josep Acebillo, USI and Prof. Jacques Lévy, EPFL), in the framework of the Swiss Cooperation Program in Architecture. Publication of the book *Globalization of Urbanity* (Actar, Barcelona, 2012).
- 2010 – 2014 Research project at ETH Studio Basel on *Specificity* (together with the entire team). Publication of the book *The Inevitable Specificity of Cities* (Lars Müller Publishers, Zürich, 2015).

- 2010 – 2015 Leader of the research module *Urban Processes*, research project *Urban Potentials and Strategies in Metropolitan Territories – at the Example of the Metropolitan Region of Zurich* (National Research Program 65: *New Urban Quality* (with Prof. Marc Angélil, Prof. Kees Christiaanse, Prof. Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani, Prof. Günther Vogt). Publication of several papers and two books in preparation.
- 2010 – 2020 *Planetary Urbanization*: theory project with Prof. Neil Brenner, Harvard GSD. Organization of paper sessions on various conferences, publication of several papers and preparation of a book on the theory of urbanization.
- 2011 – 2019 Leader of the research module *Urban Sociology: Planetary Urbanization in Comparative Perspective*, Future Cities Laboratory (FCL), Singapore ETH Centre for Global Environmental Sustainability (SEC). Publication of several papers and a book in preparation.