

pnd 1/2022

Call for Abstracts

Transformative Research Meets Urban Development

A field of innovation and tension

Researchers are increasingly entering the field of local, urban and regional development. They want to initiate research-based changes and shape them on an equal basis with practical partners. The reasons and goals are manifold. Numerous transfer- and impact-oriented research and funding programs have initiated a wide variety of transformative research projects. Municipalities, districts and regions are also demanding the contribution of researchers to actively shape the future – not only as accompanying research, but increasingly in direct contact and co-production with local residents and users or actors from politics and administration. The desired transformation relates to a wide range of topics and spaces: mobility, food, climate, work, housing, living together, education, integration in city centers, neighborhoods, villages, small, medium-sized and large cities, and even regions. The Great Transformation offers researchers a normative framework for developing contributions to the transformation towards sustainability.

Especially at the intersection of research and urban development, innovations are to be expected. Whether through the transfer of knowledge, technologies, methods and procedures or through the stimulating intermediary role of universities and research institutions as well as through the shaping of new, innovation-friendly actor constellations and networks. At the same time, this relationship is not without tensions. Researchers from disciplines far from planning and administration are entering the municipal arena of urban development. Familiar roles and processes are in motion. In addition to standard tasks and established procedures, transformative research processes are special formats of urban development. They trigger a high need for communication and coordination especially in the administration. The inherent openness of research and development meets sovereign structures and processes. Research can fail, urban development must not. Official planning processes in the municipalities are democratically legitimized on site, research institutions and their funding are established at the state, federal and EU levels. However, the interplay of research and (urban) development provides opportunities for experimentation and testing with pioneering impulses for socio-spatial change.

Contributions for pnd 1/2022 edition

The aim of this edition of pnd is to discuss experiences and reflections, empirical findings and theoretical approaches about the intersection between transformative research and processes of local, urban and regional development. Transformative research means the transdisciplinary work of scholars in dialogue and at the same level with other actors from different disciplines in projects and processes of urban development. The aim is to work together on socially relevant issues and actively initiate change. At the same time, *doing on the spot* is part of a research process that generates learning effects for science.

We are looking for articles with a focus on:

- Case reports and case studies on transformative research approaches in places, neighborhoods, small, medium and large cities and regions,
- Process design approaches at the intersection of transformative research and urban development and their specific challenges and lines of tension from a research and practice perspective,
- novel research and collaboration formats from real and innovation labs or urban living labs to makerspaces and other forms of co-design and co-production – with a special focus on the interplay of researching and (co-)operating,
- change of actors and their roles at the intersection of research, administration, politics, market, civil society and other intermediary actors,
- research approaches, reflexive observations and research results on preconditions, process characteristics and effects of transformative research in the context of local, urban and regional development,
- changes in research and planning cultures under the influence of transformative research activities, and
- critical reflections on the possibilities and limits of the interaction between research and planning practice.

Authors and submissions

The call for this edition of pnd is addressed to:

- Researchers who conduct and reflect on transformative research in urban and regional contexts or who theoretically or empirically accompany and research such approaches,
- teachers at universities, in further and continuing education institutions who influence transformative research processes with their teaching,
- practitioners who are involved in transformative research processes in places, neighborhoods, cities and regions as partners, supporters or observers, who reflect on their experiences,
- intermediary actors who are involved in transformative research processes and want to share their experiences and reflections.

About the time frame

- Submission of an abstract with approximately 2,000 characters (including spaces) by Wednesday, 06.10.2021.
- Review of abstracts and feedback until Friday, 22.10.2021.
- Submission of contributions by Friday, 14.01.2022.
- Editorial revision, layout and correction will take place by March 2022.
- The pnd 01/2022 edition will be published in spring 2022.

About the texts

Contributions from research and practice should not exceed 45,000 characters and should adhere a minimum of 12,000 characters.

Publisher and editors

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