

CONFERENCE OF THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE SOCIAL COHESION (RISC)
12 to 13 October 2023 in Hanover, Germany

Bridging the Divide: Exploring the Local in Social Cohesion

While social cohesion is often conceptualized at a macro level, it is rooted in subjective feelings of belonging that are mainly experienced and established in individuals' locally-oriented social environments. Social cohesion encompasses the ties that exist between and within local communities, extending beyond bonds in particular groups.



Research Institute
Social Cohesion

Agenda of the Conference

Bridging the Divide: Exploring the Local in Social Cohesion

Thursday, 12 October 2023

- 12:00–12:30 **Arrival/Registration**
- 12:30–12:45 **Opening of the Conference**
- 12:45–13:30 **Keynote**
Alan Latham, University College London
- 13:30–14:00 **Break (with finger food)**
- 14:00–15:30 **Parallel sessions**
SESSION 1: Local Social Cohesion in Cross-Border Contexts
SESSION 2: Local Cohesion, Living Conditions, and Social Infrastructure
- 15:30–16:00 **Coffee break**
- 16:00–17:30 **Parallel sessions**
SESSION 3: Relational Perspectives on Local Social Cohesion
SESSION 4: Local Social Cohesion in the Neighborhood
- 18:00–19:00 **Walking tour through the historical city center**
- 19:30 **Conference Dinner**
Dinner Keynote: Maarten Hupkes, De Buurt Foundation, Amsterdam

Friday, 13 October 2023

- 09:00–10:30 **Parallel sessions**
SESSION 5: Outgroup Dynamics and Local Social Cohesion
SESSION 6: Local Social Cohesion and Governance
- 10:30–11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00–12.30 **Parallel sessions**
SESSION 7: Contextualizing Social Cohesion: a Comparative Perspective from Africa
SESSION 8: Social Cohesion and Resilience through Citizen Engagement: A Place-based Approach
- 12:35–13:05 **Conference reflection**
Taylan Yildiz, Research Institute Social Cohesion
Mariana Morais, German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment
- 13:05–13:35 **Farewell and final get-together (with finger food)**

Thursday, 12 October 2023

Arrival/Registration

12:00–12:30

Opening of the Conference

12:30–12:45, Room 1

Keynote

12:45–13:30, Room 1

[Alan Latham, University College London](#): Social infrastructure and neighbourhood: Why it matters

Break (with finger food)

13:30–14:00, Break Room

SESSION 1: Local Social Cohesion in Cross-Border Contexts

14:00–15:30, Room 1

Chair: Eva Ruffing, Osnabrück University

[Bruno Šimac, University of Zagreb](#): Rooted in Local Rural Communities: Understanding the Role of Social Cohesion in Shaping Youth's Intent to Stay in Rural Croatia

[Julia Dittel, Saarland University](#): Key factors of cross-border resilience: The role of local social cohesion during the Covid-19 pandemic in the SaarLorLux border region

[Monika Metyková, University of Sussex & Lenka Waschková Čisářová, Masaryk University](#): Rebuilding Local Cross-Border Belonging: The Cases of the Bridge Guard (Slovak-Hungarian border) and the Reconciliation March (Czech-Austrian border)

SESSION 2: Local Cohesion, Living Conditions, and Social Infrastructure

14:00–15:30, Room 2

Chair: Yann Rees, Bielefeld University

[Mario Hesse, Leipzig University; Maike Reinhold, SOFI Göttingen & Katharina Kolb, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg](#): The influence of local infrastructures on the perception of living conditions

[Astrid Lorenz & Luisa Pischtschan, Leipzig University](#): How place matters for social cohesion: The relevance of the place of residence for views and policies regarding living conditions in Germany

[Matilda Alfengård; Lina Berglund-Snodgrass, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences & Ebba Högström Blekinge Institute of Technology](#): The municipality's role in creating social infrastructure - challenges and opportunities

Coffee Break

15:30–16:00, Break Room

SESSION 3: Relational Perspectives on Local Social Cohesion

16:00–17:30, Room 1

Chair: Julio Iturra-Sanhueza, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences

[Fabian Rasem, Goethe University Frankfurt](#): 'Social Cohesion' and 'Political Polarization'. Related Concepts or False Friends? Insights from Conflictual Settings in Six German Municipalities.

[Francis Finkler, Nuremberg Institute of Technology Georg Simon Ohm](#): Exploring social cohesion in rural Bavaria

[Tetiana Kostiuchenko, National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy"/Free University of Berlin](#): Measuring Social Cohesion with the Network Approach

SESSION 4: Local Social Cohesion in the Neighborhood

16:00–17:30, Room 2

Chair: Angelina Göb, Leibniz University Hannover

[Angelina Göb, Leibniz University Hannover](#): On the normativity of neighbourhoods and the complexity of cohesion

[Madeleine Wagner & Christoph Mager, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology](#): Social cohesion in a new neighborhood – re-evaluating social infrastructures and community work in Heidelberg-Südstadt

[Leonie Tuitjer, University of Bremen, Gesine Tuitjer, Thünen Institute of Rural Economics](#): Of solidarity and social cohesion: Re-visiting the pandemic neighbourhood

Walking tour through the historical city center

18:00–19:00, meeting point: In front of the New Town Hall (Trammplatz 2, 30169 Hannover)

Conference Dinner

19:30, MERCURE Hotel Hannover City (Willy-Brandt-Allee 3, 30169 Hannover)

Dinner Keynote

[Maarten Hupkes, De Buurt Foundation, Amsterdam](#)

Friday, 13 October 2023

SESSION 5: Outgroup Dynamics and Local Social Cohesion

09:00–10:30, Room 1

Chair: Peter Dirksmeier, Leibniz University Hannover

[Yann Rees, Bielefeld University](#): Public places as places of conflict? – Public perception, negative stigmatizing, and utilization of public places by ‘undesirables’ in an urban context

[Julio Iturra-Sanhueza, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences](#): Network Homogeneity, Social Isolation and Preferences for Redistribution across Societies

[Prisca Jöst, University of Konstanz](#): Who is your out-group? Perceptions of Community Outsiders and the Importance of Ethnic Diversity and Economic Inequality

SESSION 6: Local Social Cohesion and Governance

09:00–10:30, Room 2

Chair: Fabian Rasem, Goethe University Frankfurt

[Eva Ruffing; Viktoria Brendler & Luisa Maschlanka, Osnabrück University](#): Between national conflicts and local specifics – How ‘local’ is participation in energy transition projects?

[David Féé, Sorbonne Nouvelle University](#): BAME housing associations and local social cohesion in Greater London: Can they make a difference?

[Reinhold Sackmann & Ina Mayer, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg](#): The Effects of Social Cohesion on Local Societies

Coffee Break

10:30–11:00, Break Room

SESSION 7: Contextualizing Social Cohesion: a Comparative Perspective from Africa

11:00–12.30, Room 1

Chair: Julia Leininger, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Discussant: Constanze Blum, Leipzig University

[Eli Wortmann-Kolundžija, German Institute of Development and Sustainability \(IDOS\)](#): African Concepts of Social Cohesion: Exploring Perspectives beyond Western Paradigms
[Julia Leininger & Ghadafi Saibu, German Institute of Development and Sustainability \(IDOS\)](#): Contextualizing Social cohesion in comparative perspective from Africa

[Yitagesu Zewdu Zergawu, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs](#): Examining the Role of civic engagement in fostering local social cohesion: The Case of Ethiopia

[Fundiswa T. Khaile, University of the Western Cape](#): Exploring the Conceptualisation of Social Cohesion in South Africa

SESSION 8: Social Cohesion and Resilience through Citizen Engagement: A Place-based Approach

11:00–12.30, Room 2

Chair: Sylvia Herrmann, Leibniz University Hannover

[Laura Saija; Giulia Li Destri Nicosia & Carla Barbanti, University of Catania](#): Whose responsibility and for whom? The challenge of civic care in the rationalist town of Librino, Catania

[Roberto Falanga, Lisbon University](#): Urban regeneration in social housing neighborhoods in Lisbon: Does community engagement make any difference
[Frank Othengrafen; Eva Reinecke; Nicole Reiswich & David O’Neill, Technical University of Dortmund](#): Citizens as urban pioneers: Setting impulses for public spaces in German cities

Conference Reflection

12:35–13:05, Room 1

[Taylan Yildiz, Research Institute Social Cohesion](#)

[Mariana Morais, German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment](#)

Farewell and final get-together (with finger food)

13:05–13:35, Break Room

Registration

The conference "Bridging the Divide: Exploring the Local in Social Cohesion" is organized by the Hanover Section of the Research Institute Social Cohesion (RISC) in cooperation with the RISC Subsections "Space and Region" and "Institutional Structures and Public Goods".

The conference is free of charge but to estimate the number of participants, we kindly ask you to register by September 30, 2023, by sending an email with your name and affiliation to fgz@uni-hannover.de.

For any questions regarding the conference, please feel free to contact Johannes Crückeberg, fgz@uni-hannover.de.

All current information about the conference can be found here:
<https://www.fgz-risc.de/veranstaltungen/details/bridging-the-divide-exploring-the-local-in-social-cohesion>

Venue & Accommodation

The conference will be held in the Leibnizhaus located in the city center at Holzmarkt 5, 30159 Hannover. The venue is conveniently situated just a short stroll away from the central railway station.

We have arranged a call-off contingent at the MERCURE Hotel Hannover City (Willy-Brandt-Allee 3, 30169 Hannover). You can secure your room from this contingent by sending an email to h1016@accor.com before the deadline of **September 13, 2023**, using the keyword 'Cohesion'.

For queries regarding the hotel, you can contact the MERCURE Hotel Hannover City by telephone at +49 511 8008 -0 or -117.

