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.
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 Císařová, 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 Fée, 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
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

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