



university of
groningen

faculty of spatial sciences

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Graduate Research Day
25 June 2026

During the Graduate Research Day pictures will be made.
If you have any objections, please send an e-mail to the organization (grd@rug.nl).

Programme

- 12:00 - 12:30 Walk-in with coffee/tea (*Duisenberg Plaza*)
- 12:30 - 12:40 Welcome and opening by **Dr Ward Rauws** (5419.0015)
- 12:40 - 12:55 Keynote by **Yara Khan** (5419.0015)
- 12:55 - 13:10 Keynote by **Warner Herrema** (5419.0015)
- 13:20 - 14:30 Thematic presentation sessions - round 1:
1. **5419.0003 The Impact of Local Shocks on Housing Markets and Property Values**
Wouter Smit / Nikolaos Tasioulas / Dongjoon Kim / Daniel Prins
 2. **5419.0005 Spatial Dimensions of (a Just?) Energy Transition**
Emma Croes / Emily Lawless-Greene / Thijn Kroeze / Thijs van Dellen
 3. **5419.0007 Inclusive Mobility and Lived Urban Accessibility**
Ruben Haadsma / Myroslav Dvornyk / Kate Lehane / Sabine Kliss /
 4. **5419.0008 Sustainable Energy and Climate Adaptation**
Johanna Minrath / Haya Alrantisi / Paula Münnich / Karl Schünemann
 5. **5419.0009 Housing, Tenure and Spatial Planning Dynamics**
Júlia López Font / Caroline Womack / A.M. Klimkiewicz / Jan Friso van der Werf
 6. **5419.0011 Housing Development, Planning Decisions and Neighbourhood Outcomes**
Stijn Brinksma / Zachary Potter / Jerom Kooistra / Jiska Post
 7. **5419.0103 Water Governance and Spatial Planning under Climate and Marine Pressures**
Amber van der Vliet / Natascha Bürks-Arndt / Oline Delhez / Santiago Pantoja
 8. **5419.0105 Infrastructure Planning in Transition: Governance Tensions**
Isa Dols / Bas Oostinga / Julian Santbergen / Hein Pols
 9. **5419.0107 Innovation in EIP research**
Femke de Smet / Luuk ten Berge / Manon Voss / Simon Boonstra
 10. **5419.0109 Community and Governance**
Sybren Nieuwenhuis / Nils Müller / Lotte Manenschijn / Ning Wu
- 14:40 - 15:20 Poster presentations + break with coffee/tea (*Duisenberg Plaza*)

- 15:30 - 16:30 Thematic presentation sessions - round 2:
11. **5419.0003 Urban Transformations and Housing Prices**
Jules Bourquin / Lucas Lammers / Jop Verhagen
 12. **5419.0005 Urban Redevelopment, Amenities, and Housing Prices**
Jurre Meijles / Jonathan Baguma / Ole Voorn
 13. **5419.0007 Gendered Perceptions and Policy Across Contexts**
Richard Hirsch / Jule Becker / Yasmin Prins
 14. **5419.0008 Urban Renaissance: Art, Music and Urban Experience**
Myron Steenstra / Birgitte Rienstra / Bart Scholtens
 15. **5419.0009 Artistic Engagement in Place-Based Development**
Eve Smyth / Jarno Thone / Karstian Oudman
 16. **5419.0011 Water Governance Across Hydrosocial Territories**
Lena Evert / Feiyang Weng / Quint Kuitert
 17. **5419.0103 Child friendly Planning**
Renske de Vries / Frank Bonting / Paula Krück
 18. **5419.0105 Climate and Youth**
Harmen van der Haak / Michiel Fransen / Stian Terra
 19. **5419.0107 European Cohesion and Regional Policy**
Anne Beekhof / Simeon Ueberbach / Marion Stoffers
 20. **5419.0109 Public Space**
Jonne Pietersma / Mak Wrzosek / Paul Risse
 21. **5419.0111 Latest developments in Economic Geography**
Mads Baris / Rutger Sloots / Marit Berning
- 16:40 - 16:55 Keynote by **Morris Klumperbeek** (5419.0015)
- 16:55 - 17:10 Keynote by **Sina Trispel** (5419.0015)
- 17:10 - 17:20 Award ceremony and closing by **Prof. Sierdjan Koster, dean** (5419.0015)
- 17:20 - 18:00 Festive closure with drinks and snacks (*Duisenberg Plaza*)

Keynotes

Yara Khan

Learning to Care: Gender-sensitive Urban Design and the Reclaiming of Care for Women A Case Study of Public Space in Assen

This research will specifically explore how the spatial configuration of public spaces in Assen influences women's perceived and actual safety, using a combination of qualitative interviews, spatial analysis, and research by design. The problem definition centers on the question: how can urban design be adapted to create safe, inclusive, and comfortable public spaces for women while remaining feasible for planners and designers?

Warner Herrema

The Climate Mortgage Illusion

Climate-exposed US counties appear safer on standard credit metrics not because physical risk is absent, but because institutional forbearance intercepts distressed borrowers before terminal default, the Climate Mortgage Illusion. Using Fannie Mae loans and FEMA hazard scores, a multi-state framework treating forbearance as a transient intermediate state reveals that climate exposure elevates prepayment and forbearance while suppressing observed default. Post-forgiveness, climate risk persists through intervention. Removing the buffer shift portfolio default rates upwards.

Morris Klumperbeek

From Policy Ambition to Local Implementation: Stakeholder Perspectives on Wonen Eerst in Groningen

This thesis examines how different stakeholders perceive the implementation of Wonen Eerst in Groningen. The study frames Wonen Eerst as both a policy ambition and a practical design challenge. Using Q methodology with stakeholders from municipality, housing, care, welfare and lived-experience backgrounds, the research identifies shared viewpoints on housing access, support, responsibility, matching and neighbourhood embedding. The thesis contributes to understanding how housing-led principles can be translated into feasible, locally grounded implementation arrangements.

Sina Trispel

Who moves, who stays - Residential Mobility Dynamics in the disadvantaged neighbourhoods of Groningen

This study analyses how selective moving behaviour shapes population composition in the disadvantaged neighbourhoods of Groningen, and how differences in mobility relate to neighbourhood characteristics. A quantitative research design combines net migration rates, net population change, and a negative binomial regression.

The results show clear patterns of selective moving behaviour alongside an overall stable population. Certain neighbourhood indicators (e.g., % homeownership) are associated with fewer out-moves, while others (e.g. % low-income households) are associated with more out-moves.

Thematic presentation sessions

Round 1

13:20 - 14:30

1. The Impact of Local Shocks on Housing Markets and Property Values Moderated by Mark van Duijn - University of Groningen Room 5419.0003

Wouter Smit

The impact of general practitioner (GP) practice closures on residential property values in England and Wales

This thesis examines whether closures of General Practitioner (GP) practices affect residential property values in England and Wales. GP practices can be seen as local healthcare amenities, so their closure may reduce neighbourhood desirability and be reflected in house prices. Using a Difference-in-Differences design, the study compares price changes in postcode sectors with and without closures. The results provide little evidence that GP practice closures systematically affect transaction prices.

Nikolaos Tasioulas

Energy Price Shocks and Regional Housing Market Dynamics: Evidence from England Following the 2022 Energy Crisis

This thesis examines how the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 affected regional housing prices across English regions with varying energy dependence. Using 7.2 million Land Registry transactions (2018-2025), a DiD framework is applied. Results show no statistically significant differential price adjustments across regions, consistent across all specifications. The UK's EPG, which capped household energy costs from October 2022, likely equalized the shock across regions. These findings highlight the critical role policy can have in mediating housing market responses to energy shocks.

Dongjoon Kim

Pricing the Amenity Shock: How Premier League Relegation Depreciates Local Property Values

This study examines the localized impact of Premier League relegation on surrounding residential property values. Using a spatial Difference-in-Differences model, we identify a significant 4.43% price depreciation within a 0.45km radius, exhibiting a sharp non-linear spatial decay. Furthermore, a 60-day dynamic analysis reveals this amenity shock is capitalized prior to official relegation. Secondary analyses demonstrate the penalty is amplified for larger clubs and initially driven by pre-shock demand collapse within highly mobile rental submarkets.

Daniel Prins

Anticipation, disruption and Operation, the different stages of transit development in a multicity analysis

This study analyzes the dynamic capitalization of rail transit investments in residential property values across three US cities (Boston, Seattle, Denver). Using the CSDID estimator, this research evaluates the economic impact throughout the project lifecycle. The results reveal that transit capitalization is a 'slow burner': initial market disruptions following station openings are gradually succeeded by significant, long-term price appreciation. This highlights that infrastructure impact is a gradual process intertwined with broader urban transformation.

2. Spatial Dimensions of (a Just?) Energy Transition

Moderated by Rozanne Spijkerboer - University of Groningen
Room 5419.0005

Emma Croes

Mapping Solar Justice: Understanding Socio-Spatial Dimensions of Access to Solar Energy

The benefits of solar energy remain unevenly distributed, raising concerns about the inequalities of the solar energy transition. The study aims to provide a more direct understanding of how socio-economic and built environment characteristics shape household participation in this transition. Following a GIS-based analysis, the study finds that access to residential solar energy exhibits pronounced spatial variation across neighborhoods in Amsterdam, and is significantly influenced by socio-spatial characteristics. Furthermore, these relationships vary across space and spatial scales.

Emily Lawless-Greene

Incorporating More-Than-Human Planning Principles into European Marine Spatial Planning: Implications for Non-Humans in Relation to the Just Energy Transition

As offshore wind development accelerates across Europe, marine spatial planning (MSP) must balance renewable energy expansion with environmental protection. This thesis examines how MSP frameworks in Ireland and the Netherlands incorporate more-than-human planning principles within a just energy transition. Through policy analysis and stakeholder interviews, the research finds that while current frameworks recognize ecological interdependence and the need to protect non-humans, they remain largely human-centred.

Thijn Kroeze

Too hot to switch: Overcoming path dependency in Dutch district heating

This thesis examines how infrastructural lock-ins influence the forward-looking capacity of Dutch district heating networks within the heat transition. The study focuses on forward-looking capacity: the extent to which existing networks can adapt to future energy system requirements and integrate renewable heat sources despite structural constraints. Using fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA), eight Dutch district heating networks are compared to analyze how technical, institutional and economic conditions shape differences in adaptability of the networks.

Thijs van Dellen

From initiatives to institutions: How local energy initiatives influence the integration of renewable energy into municipal spatial policies of Groningen

This research examines how local energy initiatives (LEIs) influence the integration of renewable energy into municipal spatial policies and strategies in Groningen. Using semi-structured interviews and document analysis, it explores direct and indirect governance mechanisms, the role of intermediary actors and the institutional embedding of LEIs in local energy planning. The study contributes to understanding participatory energy governance in the context of the Dutch energy transition.

3. Inclusive Mobility and Lived Urban Accessibility

Moderated by Rens Waagmeester - Witteveen+Bos
Room 5419.0007

Ruben Haadsma

Designing the Soft City within Local Context: A Research-by-Design Approach for Strategic Implementation

As cities continue to densify, balancing density and livability is a challenge. A research-by-design approach, including focus group testing, in Groningen tests how livable urban density can be achieved using soft city principles. Findings highlight the importance of integrated designs, while also revealing a gap between the planner and public; especially regarding car-free areas. Urban greening, ground floor engagement, consistent outdoor quality, active mobility, a small water stream, resting spaces and ecological refuges were deemed as effective strategies to create livable urban density.

Kate Lehane

"Graag Gebracht," Zelden Meegenomen: Wheelchair Users, Bus Drivers, and the Making of (In)Accessible Public Transport

Access to mobility underpins education, healthcare, employment & many other fundamental human rights. Yet, wheelchair users face substantial barriers to public transport in the Netherlands. Using a mixed-methods qualitative approach - including interviews, job shadowing, journey accompaniment, & expert meetings - this study explores how (in)accessibility is produced in the public bus system from the perspectives of wheelchair users & bus drivers. Preliminary results reveal a significant implementation gap between policy & practice, leaving users & providers in uncomfortable & unfair situations.

Sabine Kliss

Color Walks - an Intervention into Everyday Walking Experiences

This thesis explores how Color Walks can function as a methodological intervention for reflecting on routine walking experiences. Drawing on theories of the everyday, familiarity and backgrounding, it argues that routine walking often becomes taken for granted and difficult to articulate. Using Color Walks to temporarily redirect attention within familiar environments, the study investigates how participants experience and interpret everyday walking. It examines how Color Walks make routine walking available for reflection and contribute to understanding meaning-making in everyday mobility.

Myroslav Dvornyk

Mobility Lifestyles and Residential Mismatch: Implications for Perceived Accessibility and Well-being

This study examines how mobility lifestyles and residential mismatch shape perceived accessibility and well-being in Groningen. Using survey data from 710 residents, three lifestyle groups were crossed with urbanity and analyzed with logistic regression and structural equation modelling. Perceived accessibility strongly predicted health and life satisfaction and almost fully mediated the lifestyle-location effect. Alignment raised perceived accessibility most for sustainable urbanites, and mismatch meant a foregone benefit, pronounced for sustainable but not car-oriented residents.

4. Sustainable Energy and Climate Adaptation **Moderated by Ferry Van Kann - University of Groningen** **Room 5419.0008**

Johanna Minrath

Learning the Twin Transition: A Stylized ABM of Lifelong Learning and Regional Divergence in the EU

This thesis develops a stylized two-region agent-based model to explore how regional lifelong learning ecosystems shape the twin transition in the EU. Grounded in evolutionary economics, absorptive-capacity theory, regional innovation systems, and sustainability transition literature, the co-evolution of firms, workers, and regional conditions is modeled. Firms transition with sufficient motivation and capability present, while workers accumulate skills through regionally moderated learning processes. The focus is on uneven regional adaptation, transition inertia and divergence dynamics.

Haya Alrantisi

Greening the "Hotspot": Barriers to Community-Driven Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience in Historic Brunnepe

This research evaluates Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in Brunnepe, a high-density "hotspot of vulnerability" in Kampen. Using the 3P Framework and Environmental Justice lenses, it analyzes how historical and industrial legacies with rigid urban forms constrain climate adaptation. Results reveal an "implementation gap" driven by technocratic planning, "epistemic violence" in participatory processes. The study argues for Recognition and Distributive Justice to bridge strategic visions with the material needs of residents.

Paula Münnich

Local community-based flood resilience governance. Practices in Bremen and in the UK

Climate change leads to more frequent and intense floods, requiring a community-based flood governance to build resilience. Focusing on Bremen, Germany, a city where up to 90% of land is vulnerable to flooding, the research identifies critical local management structures and evaluates the types of local involvement before, during, and after floods, using a qualitative document analysis and interviews. Also, UK practices relying on residents getting actively involved in local flood risk measures are investigated to provide a basis for comparison with Bremen as well as recommendations.

Karl Schünemann

Hydrogen from offshore wind as a solution for hard-to-abate industries: a case study of the German Ruhr region

While the rise of renewable electricity can reduce emissions in various areas, sectors such as the steel industry still rely heavily on fossil fuels and have limited potential for electrification. Low-emission hydrogen could replace natural gas, but raises new questions. The technology already exists but its development is slow, indicating potential institutional mismatches. This case study examines the German Ruhr region, an area with a long history of steel production, aiming to identify the barriers and opportunities of linking it to renewable energy development such as offshore wind.

5. Housing, Tenure and Spatial Planning Dynamics **Moderated by Steven Kema - University of Groningen** **Room 5419.0009**

Júlia López Font

The Role of Housing Tenure Status and Housing Satisfaction in Shaping Fertility Intentions and Realizations Fertility Intentions and Realizations

This study examines the relationship between housing conditions and fertility in Norway, focusing on housing tenure status, housing satisfaction, fertility intentions, and their realization. Drawing on the Theory of Planned Behaviour and the Life Course Perspective, housing is conceptualized as a key factor shaping family formation decisions. Using longitudinal data from the Norwegian GGS, the study investigates whether homeowners are more likely than renters to intend to have children and to realize those intentions. It also explores whether housing satisfaction mediates this relationship.

Caroline Womack

Spatial Planning Considerations for Strategic Innovation Management of Floating Housing Developments in the Netherlands' Green Heart Region

Floating housing developments are a niche innovation addressing systemic pressures, including housing shortages and sea-level rise. In the Netherlands' Green Heart region, land subsidence due to building on soft soil is a costly issue that has municipalities considering floating housing. Strategic niche management outlines processes for guiding sustainable innovations from ideation to cultural acceptance. This research explores the question: how do actors involved in floating housing developments engage in strategic niche innovation management in the Netherlands' Green Heart region?

A.M. Klimkiewicz

Social Medicine Housing as an Alternate Housing Solution

As Housing First approaches are becoming more prevalent in the conversation around homelessness the need to develop versions for different demographics is vital. This thesis focuses on one such housing solution that combines living and care needs. Social medicine housing is a novel housing solution that addresses complex individuals experiencing homelessness developed in Toronto. A case study analysis of Dunn House in Toronto was conducted to examine the social aspects, health aspects, and pragmatic design of social medicine housing to demonstrate a viable alternate housing solution.

Jan Friso van der Werf

The invisible hand in housing: How land ownership steers greenfield development

Housing is the top priority, we need more of it, and it should provide everyone with a home, regardless of income or family size. But what if the choice in type of spatial development and housing is not entirely

influenced by us, the people, or the local authorities? This research looks at the hidden influence of landowners on large scale developments in the Netherlands and how the choices they made, sometimes over 20 years ago, still impacts our spatial planning decisions today.

6. Housing Development, Planning Decisions and Neighbourhood Outcomes **Moderated by Frenk van Stipriaan - PASbv** **Room 5419.0011**

Stijn Brinksma

The effects of cohousing on satisfaction and social cohesion

This thesis researches the effects of cohousing on social cohesion and residential satisfaction in 'Achter de Reitsdijk', a cohousing project in Groningen, 16 years after completion. Cohousing serves as a promising alternative for urban housing development and is said to contribute to more suitable housing and can combat social isolation. However, there is little longitudinal research on this topic. Through semi-structured interview, this research reveals that ... (still in data collection phase at time of signing up).

Zachary Potter

Approving Sprawl: Planning decision-making and the reproduction of peripheral housing development in the Greater Dublin Area

This thesis examines how Ireland's planning decision-making framework enables the continued approval of large-scale peripheral housing developments, despite policy commitments to compact, sustainable and community-oriented growth. Focusing on the Greater Dublin Area, the research combines policy and document analysis, semi-structured interviews, actor mapping and thematic analysis. It argues that peripheral development is not simply a failure of policy, but is reproduced through the way policy ambitions are translated through Ireland's housing delivery system.

Jerom Kooistra

The role of compulsory purchase in municipal land policy: a study of municipal considerations regarding compulsory purchase and its impact on housing development

The Dutch housing crisis has led to a strong political call for greater control over housing development, influencing land policy and bringing renewed attention to expropriation. This thesis examines the role of expropriation within municipal land policy in the Netherlands and its relationship with housing construction (2015–2025), using interviews and housing completion data to analyze how municipalities position this instrument. Preliminary results show that expropriation is perceived differently across municipalities, is rarely used, and mainly functions as a strategic tool in negotiations.

Jiska Post

Neighbourhood Liveability and Housing Prices: The Moderating Role of Housing Market Tightness

This thesis examines how neighbourhood liveability is capitalized into housing prices in Dutch cities and whether this changes under tighter housing market conditions. Using neighbourhood-level data for 2016–2024, the results show that more liveable neighbourhoods tend to have higher housing prices. Tighter housing markets are also associated with higher prices, but they weaken the positive effect of liveability. This suggests that households have less room to act on preferences for neighbourhood quality when market pressure increases.

7. Water Governance and Spatial Planning under Climate and Marine Pressures Moderated by Casper van Mastrigt – Witteveen+Bos Room 5419.0103

Amber van der Vliet

Power and the Institutional Prioritization of Freshwater Uses in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta: A Comparative Study of the Cities of Bến Tre and Cà Mau

The Vietnamese Mekong Delta faces increasing pressure on freshwater resources due to salinization, climate change, and increasing water demand. This thesis examines how power is reflected in the institutional prioritization of freshwater uses in Bến Tre and Cà Mau through comparative document analysis. Results show a shift towards climate-adaptive governance have reshaped freshwater allocation priorities across sectors and regions. Institutionalizing new priorities through governance arrangements and infrastructure solutions while changing access to freshwater and associated power relations.

Natascha Bürks-Arndt

Never Catch'em All - For a More Viable Marine Spatial Planning Approach: The Governance of Bottom Trawling in the German North Sea

The issue and consequences of bottom trawling are well researched and widely known. The German North Sea is highly impacted by it, but it does not reflect consequently in current regulations and implementations. I am analyzing how political and planning instruments function and aim to identify the main drivers and barriers shaping the governance of bottom trawling. Through the lens of power relations, institutional frameworks and blue growth narratives in marine spatial planning and the more-than-human planning approach, stakeholder interview and policy document analysis are being conducted.

Oline Delhez

The Black Box of the North Sea: Analyzing the institutional influence of the Ministry of Defence on Marine Spatial Planning in the North Sea.

As geopolitical tensions rise, the strategic importance of the Dutch North Sea increases. This thesis explores how the prioritization of national security impacts the democratic processes of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). By applying Securitization Theory, this research investigates the governance interactions between the Ministry of Defence and civilian maritime actors. The findings indicate that overarching political power dictates maritime governance, even within planning systems that are theoretically based on collective stakeholder groups.

Santiago Pantoja

Hybrid Stormwater Management and Combined Sewer Overflows under Climate Pressure: Governance and Planning in Groningen and Ibarra

This thesis examines how governance and planning arrangements shape the implementation of hybrid green-grey stormwater systems to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows in Groningen and Ibarra. Comparing a highly institutionalized Dutch context with a more fragmented Ecuadorian context, it shows that technical solutions depend on coordination, regulation, funding, maintenance responsibilities and local capacity. The study highlights which implementation conditions are transferable and which are context-specific.

8. Infrastructure Planning in Transition: Governance Tensions Moderated by Ade Arsani - University of Groningen Room 5419.0105

Isa Dols

Twee werelden, één asset

Nederlandse infrastructuurorganisaties verschuiven hun werkzaamheden van aanleg naar het vernieuwen van verouderde assets. Hierdoor komen projectmanagementlogica, gericht op het realiseren van overeengekomen doelen binnen scope, tijd en budget, en assetmanagementlogica, gericht op optimale waarde over een gehele levensduur, steeds vaker met elkaar in spanning. Dit

kwalitatieve onderzoek, kijkt aan de hand van de casus van Rijkswaterstaat naar de spanningen tussen deze logica's aan de hand van institutionele regels actief rondom projectuitvoering.

Bas Oostinga

An area-oriented lens on critical infrastructures and the influence on the planning of road redevelopment projects: A comparison between The Netherlands, Sweden, and Belgium (Flanders)

This master thesis strives to identify barriers, success factors and conditions of an area-oriented planning approach in the context of road infrastructure renewal projects, which can help address challenges in implementing an area-oriented perspective in future infrastructure renewal projects. In short, the overall aim is to explore how applying an area-oriented lens on critical infrastructures may influence the planning of road infrastructure renewal projects. This research is done through an internship at the Dutch National Road Administration, called Rijkswaterstaat.

Julian Santbergen

Physical road design and network topology as predictors of unsafe driving behaviour on GOW30 roads

Implementing 30 km/h limits on Amsterdam distributor roads (GOW30) aims to enhance safety, but a "credibility gap" emerges. Using Floating Car Data, physical road design, and network topology, the study finds that despite less unsafe driving (-85% harsh braking), systemic non-compliance remains. Wide asphalt roads on highly integrated corridors create a "configurational mismatch" that invites unsafe driving behaviour (e.g., speeding). Lowering limits without physical adaptation yields only "paper safety". Planners must target self-explaining retrofits where design and topology conflict.

Hein Pols

Making Decisions Without Clear Winners: The Future Accessibility of Ameland

This thesis investigates decision-making in the planning process surrounding the future accessibility of Ameland through document analysis and interviews. The findings show competing stakeholder interests, vulnerable nature protected by strict laws, and tensions throughout the process. Questions remain about what accessibility means for Ameland, how impacts on nature should be managed, and what constitutes fair participation. Rather than identifying an optimal solution, the process develops and assesses alternatives to provide advice for the Minister, who ultimately decides on the outcome.

9. Innovation in EIP research **Moderated by Ward Rauws - University of Groningen** **Room 5419.0107**

Femke de Smet

Consulting participation, the role of stakeholder participation on process outcomes of spatial projects

Stakeholder participation is increasingly central to spatial planning in the Netherlands, yet how consultants design participation processes remains underexplored. This study describes how participation is currently designed in spatial development projects and examines how three dimensions (Width, Depth, and Frequency) influence process outcomes, from the consultant's perspective. A multiple-method approach combined a survey with a focus group. Contrary to expectations, none of the three dimensions significantly predicted process outcomes. Instead, contextual factors proved more influential.

Luuk ten Berge

Mapping Neighbourhood Mismatch: Explaining Divergence Between Perceived and Administrative Neighbourhoods Across the Urban, Semi-Urban and Rural Contexts

Neighbourhood boundaries do not always match how residents see the area around their home. Based on a PPGIS survey (n=926), this thesis examines mismatch between administrative- (ANBs) and perceived neighbourhood boundaries (PNBs) across different urbanity levels. It defines expansion beyond the ANB from contraction within it, linking this to socio-demographics, facilities, land use, infrastructure and accessibility. The findings show that expansion and contraction are distinct

processes, urbanity matters, and that both individual characteristics and facilities help explain mismatch.

Manon Voss

The Invisible Citizen - The perception of Pigeons as inhabitants of the city and how to foster a peaceful co-existence between humans and non-humans

My thesis is about the pigeon as a "problem animal" in the city, a non-human entity that exists in between the man-made categories of wild nature and domesticated pets. As such, they spark controversies by existing in a space that is not designed with them in mind. This thesis is searching the intersection of human-animal relations, perceptions of the "other", and the increasingly complicated relationship with nature in the urban context for explanations of what shapes how and to what extent the voices of pigeons are being heard.

Simon Boonstra

Narrating an Uncertain Future in Strategic Spatial Planning: A Comparative Analysis of Groningen's Omgevingsvisie and Koersdocument

This thesis explores how future narratives are constructed in strategic spatial planning by comparing the provincial Omgevingsvisie and municipal Koersdocument for the Groningen region. A qualitative coding analysis and interviews are conducted on both the visions to see how the priorities and ambitions differ between the two levels of government. This is particularly relevant as both levels create a spatial vision at the same moment in time, but have varying perspectives to which they apply this vision.

10. Community and Governance **Moderated by Louise Meijering - University of Groningen** **Room 5419.0109**

Sybrein Nieuwenhuis

Understanding preferences for loneliness interventions among older migrants: A qualitative exploration of motivations, experiences and group differences

Older migrants face a higher risk of loneliness than their non-migrant counterparts, yet little research has explored what interventions older migrants themselves consider helpful. This study investigates the loneliness interventions desired by older migrants and explores how and why intervention preferences vary across groups. This study uses qualitative interview data from the PROMISE project: semi-structured interviews with 56 older migrants living in the Netherlands with origins in Turkey, Suriname, Iran, and the former Dutch East Indies. Interviews covered experiences of loneliness, preferred interventions, motivations, and individual characteristics. Inductive thematic analysis was used to identify and categorize intervention preferences, followed by a comparative analysis of how preferences and underlying motivations differed by levels of emotional and social loneliness, religion, gender, country of origin, and experiences of loneliness. Preliminary findings indicate that intervention preferences vary across country of origin, religion, gender, and levels of social and emotional loneliness. Participants differed not only in the types of interventions they preferred, but also in the motivations underlying these preferences. This suggests that a one-size-fits-all approach may not adequately address loneliness among older migrants and highlights the need for more tailored approaches.

Nils Müller

Political Struggle in Peripheralization

The aim of this ethnographic research is to explore how democratic forces can counter a process of far-right appropriation that is taking place in many rural areas in Germany. I conceptualize these regions in the framework of peripheralization and focus on the role of political infrastructure in this struggle. Results indicate that large parts of this struggle concentrate on an immaterial level of meaning creation. For democratic actors, continuity in political work and establishing a support network horizontally, vertically and in the villages prove to be of crucial importance.

Lotte Manenschijn

Samen verduurzamen, samen verbinden: de relatie tussen sociale cohesie en duurzaamheidsmaatregelen in Overijssel

Deze thesis onderzoekt de relatie tussen sociale cohesie en duurzaamheidsmaatregelen in de provincie Overijssel. Hierbij staat centraal hoe vertrouwen, participatie en sociale relaties bijdragen aan duurzaamheidsprojecten met burgerparticipatie. Door een literatuurstudie, kwalitatieve meta-analyse en focusgroep wordt onderzocht hoe sociale cohesie duurzaamheidsmaatregelen beïnvloedt en hoe duurzaamheidsinitiatieven sociale cohesie kunnen versterken. De resultaten tonen aan dat collectief gedrag, gemeenschapsgevoel en vertrouwen belangrijke voorwaarden zijn voor duurzaamheidsmaatregelen.

Ning Wu

Analyzing Urban Renewal Policy Narratives in China (1990–2025): A Narrative Policy Framework Approach Supported by Large Language Models

This thesis examines how urban renewal policy narratives in China evolved between 1990 and 2025. Drawing on the Narrative Policy Framework and a corpus of 242 local policy documents, it analyzes how policy texts construct narratives across three governance stages. An LLM-assisted, human-in-the-loop content analysis is used to identify narrative patterns and interpret their underlying policy orientations. The findings reveal a shift from market-oriented redevelopment to people-centered regeneration and demonstrate the value of LLMs for large-scale policy research.

Thematic presentation sessions

Round 2

15:30 - 16:30 hours

11. Urban Transformations and Housing Prices **Moderated by Michiel Daams - University of Groningen** **Room 5419.0003**

Jules Bourquin

Biodiversity and housing value: A hedonic analysis of Biodiversity in relation to housing values in England and Wales

Due to continuing urbanization and intensive land use, the accessibility to and quality of green space is under ongoing pressure. Yet, biodiverse greenspace provides essential societal and ecosystem services. This study examines whether biodiversity command a housing price premium using hedonic analysis of transactions in England and Wales (2015–2023). Preliminary estimates show a biodiversity premium of 1.8% in a 1 km radius going up to 4.9% when that radius increases to 7 km around each property. The premium appears to diminish post-COVID and declines gradually over the study period.

Lucas Lammers

Mapping Unfinished Residential Structures in Southern European Coastal Settlements

Jop Verhagen

Religious Infrastructure and Housing Markets Heterogeneous Price Effects of Mosque Planning and Opening in England and Wales, 2000 - 2022

Religious buildings often spark public debate, yet their effect on local housing markets remains poorly understood, particularly for mosques and outside the US. This study offers a first UK-wide assessment of how the planning and opening of mosques relate to nearby house prices, using a multi-ring difference-in-differences design on 100 mosques and around one million transactions in England (2000-2022). Preliminary results indicate small average effects but substantial variation by mosque type, pointing to opposing mechanisms rather than a uniform impact.

12. Urban Redevelopment, Amenities, and Housing Prices **Moderated by Mark van Duijn - University of Groningen** **Room 5419.0005**

Jurre Meijles

Herontwikkeling van bestaand vastgoed: een studie naar effecten op de directe leefomgeving. Hoe de transformatie van bestaand vastgoed de leefbaarheid en huizenprijzen in de omgeving beïnvloedt.

Deze studie onderzoekt de effecten van herontwikkelingen met een openbare functie op de directe omgeving. Er wordt geanalyseerd of herontwikkeling met openbaar toegankelijke functies leefbaarheid en huizenprijzen beïnvloedt. Om effecten te identificeren, worden beide afzonderlijk onderzocht. De resultaten tonen geen eenduidig effect op leefbaarheid, al wijzen robuustheidsanalyses op ruimtelijke variatie afhankelijk van meetafstand. Voor huizenprijzen wordt sterke heterogeniteit tussen projecten waargenomen, wat suggereert dat herontwikkeling contextafhankelijke effecten kan hebben.

Jonathan Baguma

Are Cultural Heritage Amenities Capitalised into Housing Markets? A Spatial Hedonic Comparison of Short-Term Rental and Long-Term Residential Prices in Paris.

This thesis examines whether legally protected cultural heritage amenities are capitalized into short-term rental (STR) and long-term residential (LTR) prices in Paris. Combining Rosen's (1974) hedonic framework with spatial econometrics, it applies an OLS baseline and a Spatial Lag of X (SLX) model across Paris' arrondissements, using DVF, InsideAirbnb, Mérimée, and INSEE Filosofi data. Findings reveal clear market differences: STR visitors pay a premium for nearby heritage, whereas the LTR effect weakens once spatial structure is modelled.

Ole Voorn

From traffic to trees: The capitalization of Paris School Streets into house prices

European cities are converting streets around schools into greened, car-free spaces. The Paris School Streets program has fully pedestrianized and greened around 100 streets since 2021. This thesis asks whether these transformations are capitalized into house prices. A difference-in-differences design with 58 verified transformations and 180,000 DVF+ transactions compare properties within 300 m of a treated street with those 300-600 m away. The analysis finds a premium of about 1.6% within 150 m, fading to zero with distance. The effect is broad-based rather than family-specific.

13. Gendered Perceptions and Policy Across Contexts Moderated by Steven Kema - University of Groningen Room 5419.0007

Richard Hirsch

How do founder and firm characteristics influence founders' perceived importance of startup grant dimensions? Quantitative evidence from the Lower Saxony Startup Grant.

While startup grants bundle diverse support elements such as financial aid, coaching, network access, workspace and public visibility to foster entrepreneurship, little is known about how founder, firm and institutional characteristics impact their perceived importance. Using survey data from recipients of the Lower Saxony Startup Grant, this thesis examines how age, gender, product type, team size and type of supporting institution shape these perceptions. Systematic effects are expected, with findings aimed at contributing to startup grant evaluation literature and informing program design.

Jule Becker

Singlehood Satisfaction Across the Life Course: Age and Gender Differences

Singlehood is growing across Europe, yet research rarely examines variation within the single population. This study investigates how satisfaction with being single varies across the life course and whether this differs between men and women, using data from 2,617 singles in four European countries (GGs-II Wave 2). Sequential OLS regression models show that singlehood satisfaction follows a curvilinear trajectory, lowest in young adulthood and midlife and rising from midlife onwards. Women report consistently higher satisfaction than men and this gender gap widens with age.

Yasmin Prins

Translating Policy Ambitions on Women's Perceived Safety in Public Space into Spatial Planning Measures

This thesis examines how policy ambitions regarding women's perceived safety in public space can be translated into spatial planning measures. The research explores the relationship between gendered experiences of public space, perceived safety, and urban planning practices. The study focusses on Assen and Groningen and combines policy analysis and semi-structured interviews. In addition, lessons are drawn from international frontrunner cities, including Vienna, Umeå, and Barcelona, to explore how gender-inclusive approaches can contribute to safer and more inclusive public spaces.

14. Urban Renaissance: Art, Music and Urban Experience Moderated by Ferry Van Kann - University of Groningen Room 5419.0008

Myron Steenstra

Towards an Urban Renaissance: Public Art interventions and the conditions to the shaping and experience of inner-city spaces

This thesis explores the conditions under which public art interventions contribute to the shaping and experience of inner-city spaces. Using site visits, policy document analysis and semi-structured interviews in five Dutch cities, the research examines how public art functions within urban environments. The findings show that public art can strengthen local identity, reinforce place-based narratives and enhance the experience of public space. However, these effects depend on long-term institutional support, political commitment, meaningful participation and contextual relevance. The impact of public art emerges through the interaction between governance, symbolic and socio-spatial mechanisms rather than from the artwork itself.

Birgitte Rienstra

Exploring a Sense of Belonging Among Asylum Seekers Through Arts-Based Methods

This research explores how arts-based methods contribute to expressing feelings of belonging among asylum seekers in the COA location in Winsum. While integration is often measured through structural indicators, less attention is given to how belonging is experienced during prolonged waiting periods in AZCs. Drawing on theories of belonging and arts-based research, this study examines how participatory visual methods can help asylum seekers express experiences of inclusion, exclusion and attachment that may remain difficult to articulate through spoken language alone.

Bart Scholtens

The geography of music

This study examines the extent to which the Dutch music industry remains dependent on geographic agglomeration in the era of digitalization. Despite the increasing digitalization of music production, distribution, and consumption, music-related firms and artists remain strongly concentrated in urban regions such as Amsterdam and the Randstad. Furthermore, I do not have any main results yet.

15. Artistic Engagement in Place-Based Development Moderated by Ina Horlings - University of Groningen Room 5419.0009

Eve Smyth

Community Engagement using Co-Creative Methods: using arts-based methods to formulate joint narratives of sustainable place-based development.

Within the field of participatory planning, the concept of Co-Creation as a method to engage with communities through arts-based methods has garnered interest, both for its theoretical and methodological applications. The research will test Co-Creative methods and their effectiveness in coming up with joint narratives of sustainable place-based development, by tapping into individual's affective views of place, or place attachment. The research context is Ballymun, Co. Dublin, and the research question will be tested through workshops, interviews, as well as a comparative case study analysis.

Jarno Thone

Activating rural participation through artistic engagement: A case study of Gronings Vuur's methodology in Westerkwartier

The thesis researches if the approach of Gronings Vuur's project stimulates citizens to participate in their area, using the case of Westerkwartier; exploring how it may lower participation barriers and strengthen residents' sense of place and future thinking, and how people experience it. Often participation is seen as always being inclusive, but this might not be the case in some (rural) contexts. This thesis provides insight into how arts-based engagement processes contribute to making more meaningful forms of local participation through an analysis of Gronings Vuur as an activation process

Karstian Oudman

Igniting the fire

This thesis is a case study of Gronings Vuur, a participatory art project that invites inhabitants to tell and perform the story of their region/municipality. Using interviews with stakeholders from three of the regions involved (Ten Boer, Veenkoloniën and Eemsdelta), the thesis specifically focuses on the influence of rural spatial context on the design and implementation of the project.

16. Water Governance Across Hydrosocial Territories **Moderated by Casper van Mastrigt - Witteveen+Bos** **Room 5419.0011**

Lena Evert

Implementation Challenges of Watercourse Development Plans in the Hohe Tauern National Park, Austria

The Hohe Tauern National Park in Austria is home to ecologically valuable mountain streams and a centuries-old alpine cultural landscape. However, efforts to protect and restore the area's mountain streams can lead to conflicts over land-use with traditional agricultural practices. This thesis explores how such conflicts and governance processes influence the implementation of Watercourse Development Plans and considers how protected areas can reconcile ecological restoration with the preservation of traditional cultural landscapes.

Feiyang Weng

Assessing the Alignment between Drinking Water Source Pressures and Policy-Planning Responses in the Netherlands: National Policy Analysis and a Provincial Case Study of Groningen

This thesis explores the protection of drinking water sources in the Netherlands under increasing environmental and spatial pressures. By linking national risk identification with a provincial case study, it assesses how well policy and planning responses address key threats to water quality and availability. The expected contribution is to clarify gaps between risk assessment, policy measures and spatial planning in source protection.

Quint Kuitert

Ground for Concern: Hydrosocial Territories, Peat Oxidation Policy and Multispecies Justice in Friesland.

This thesis explores how groundwater policy is shaped through hydrosocial territories in the peatland region of Friesland. The Frisian waterboard aims to raise groundwater levels to reduce the effects of peat oxidation. This policy produces winners and losers among human and non-human actors. This thesis investigates how different interests, knowledge, and experiences are prioritized the effects of climate adaptation and mitigation.

17. Child friendly Planning **Moderated by Louise Meijering - University of Groningen** **Room 5419.0103**

Renske de Vries

Let's Play: Exploring Children's Outdoor Play in Groningen Through Policies, Spatial Design, and Stakeholder Perspectives

Why do only 13% of Dutch children play outside daily? This thesis explores outdoor play in Groningen, developments affecting outdoor play, opportunities and barriers to further stimulate outdoor play, and how this all relates to the concept of the child-friendly city. It explores spatial design, policies and perceptions of stakeholders. It shows that outdoor play is not 'child's play': it is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon, touching on key urban challenges such as social cohesion, climate change, physical safety, the obesity epidemic, and urban design more generally.

Frank Bonting

The Timing of Leaving the Parental Home and Its Association with Parent-Child Relationship Satisfaction: Differences by Migration Background in the Netherlands

Paula Krück

From Short-Term Fertility Intentions to Births: Second and Third Children and the Role of Social Support in Germany

Lower childbearing intentions can stem from a lack of social resources. This study examines the role of perceived childcare and advisory support in the formation and realization of short-term fertility intentions for a second or third child in Germany. Using pairfam panel data (2010–20), random-effects logistic regressions are conducted for parents aged 18–45 (N = 2,341). Positive intentions strongly predict births, but perceived support loses significance once sociodemographic controls are added. Partnership status, parity, and age of the youngest child dominate as predictors at both stages.

18. Climate and Youth

**Moderated by Rens Waagmeester - Witteveen+Bos
Room 5419.0105**

Harmen van der Haak

Redesigning Inner-City Environments to Enhance Everyday Green Accessibility for Young Adults: A Research-by-Design Study in Groningen

This thesis examines how inner-city environments can be redesigned to enhance everyday green accessibility for young adults. Spatial interventions are developed for the historic inner city of Groningen using a research-by-design methodology and evaluated through interviews with young adult residents. Findings inform transferable design principles for dense Dutch inner cities.

Michiel Fransen

Resilience in Crisis Governance -Exploring resilience framings within Dutch veiligheidsregio's under conditions of climate uncertainty

As climate change exacerbates extreme weather events, crisis planning institutions have to manage increasing levels of uncertainty. A concept that has become increasingly prominent within crisis planning is resilience. However, this concept is interpreted and applied in different ways. This thesis analyses how veiligheidsregio's, which are responsible for most Dutch crisis planning in practice, engage with these different understandings of resilience, and explores the assumptions and governance approaches underlying these framings and their implications for crisis governance practice.

Stian Terra

How young people envision climate-adapted neighbourhoods and the emotional values behind their visions

This thesis explores how young people envision climate-adapted neighbourhoods and the emotional values shaping these visions. While climate adaptation research often focuses on technical and governance solutions, less attention has been paid to youth perspectives and emotional meaning-making. Using a qualitative, constructivist approach, data are collected through semi-structured interviews and visual elicitation with young adults in Groningen, the Netherlands.

19. European Cohesion and Regional Policy

**Moderated by Conor O'Driscoll - University of Groningen
Room 5419.0107**

Anne Beekhof

Political Discontent in the EU: Through Finance and Funding

Rising political discontent across EU regions threatens European cohesion at a critical moment. This study examines whether the cost of capital and EU Cohesion Policy receipts are associated with

citizens' satisfaction with national governments across EU member states and regions in 2010 and 2018. Findings suggest that higher cost of capital is negatively associated with government satisfaction, particularly where Cohesion Policy receipts are low.

Simeon Ueberbach

The impact of Institutional Quality on the Efficiency of the European Unions Cohesion Funding on a Regional Level

This thesis examines whether institutional quality moderates the effectiveness of European Union cohesion expenditure at the regional level. Using panel data on 226 NUTS-2 regions over the 2014-2020 spending period, a two-way fixed-effects regression with controls is estimated. Effectiveness is measured as conditional beta-convergence, with cohesion spending interacted with the European Quality of Government Index. Conditional convergence is confirmed, cohesion spending carries the expected positive sign, but the institutional interaction does not reach statistical significance.

Marion Stoffers

Political Ideology and Green Innovation Across European Union Regions

Due to increasing concerns about global warming, the EU aims to become climate neutral. Green innovation is considered as a possible solution for achieving this goal. However, green innovation may be influenced by regional political ideology. This study examines the relationship between regional political ideology and green innovation across EU regions. The findings may give valuable insights for policymakers aiming to improve the effectiveness of regional green innovation policies, particularly as the EU's increases emphasis on place-based approaches to innovation policies.

20. Public Space **Moderated by Ade Arsani - University of Groningen** **Room 5419.0109**

Jonne Pietersma

Side Openings and Pedestrian Visual Attention in Narrow Urban Streets

Urban streets are increasingly being understood as perceptual environments, though there is still little known about how micro scale elements influence the pedestrian experience. This study focuses on side openings, and how they influence pedestrian visual attention and perceived interpretations in narrow urban streets. The research combines observations with interviews across two historical streets in Groningen to connect street morphology, visual engagement and perceived spatial interpretations. The findings aim to create insights into guidelines for human scale street design.

Mak Wrzosek

Patterns of stickering in public places across time

Stickers are some of the smallest forms of signage in public spaces. They are a type of illicit marking of public space, which can be seen as a form of individual expression or marking of a space. They are present in public spaces, usually placed on "dirty" objects like bins, streetlamp posts, electric boxes and others. This research aims to analyze the patterns of such stickers and how they change through time. Collected data showed that there is not much change of spatial patterns, however on a small scale there are "sticker wars", especially in the case of sport or political stickers.

Paul Risse

Spatial Justice in Public Spaces

With my research I assessed the dynamics between everyday practices and public space policies. I analyzed how this dynamic creates inequalities between central and peripheral public spaces in mid-sized European cities. Finally, I looked at how these inequality translate into injustice. I discovered that: Attention and resources mainly flow towards central public spaces, further marginalizing peripheral users, peripheral spaces serve the fulfillment of daily needs while central ones serve recreation and are used for events and that conflicts are more prevalent in peripheral spaces.

21. Latest developments in Economic Geography

Moderated by Viktor Venhorst - University of Groningen
Room 5419.0111

Mads Baris

The role of cross-border facilities in perceived accessibility in the Dutch-German rural border region

In both the Netherlands and Germany, there is a growing concern about the loss of facilities in rural areas. Yet, academic research has shown that accessibility in rural areas is perceived as adequate. However, little remains known about the role of cross-border facilities in how people in rural border regions experience accessibility. Cross-border facilities can provide opportunities, but border barriers potentially limit the use of these facilities.

Rutger Sloots

From Concrete to Canopy: The Sustainability of Green Business Parks

This thesis investigates in what ways a small-scale green business park allows firms to make their business processes more sustainable, and how effective these ways are. More businesses are moving towards sustainable processes and green business parks offer opportunities such as lower CO2 emissions or an increase in biodiversity. There is a development towards a sustainable economy and an increase in demand for business plots. In addition, small-scale business parks operate differently compared to large-scale business parks, and small-scale business parks are abundant globally.

Marit Berning

The effect of living with a partner on the intention to move for people in education in the Netherlands

This research examines the intention to move among people in education in the Netherlands, compared to the general population. Using a cross-sectional approach with data from the LISS panel, the study analyses whether living with a partner influences the intention to move within two years and whether this relationship is moderated by the degree of urbanization of the current living region. There are no significant results for people in education, however there are some significant results for the general population.

Poster presentations

Ake Jol van Benthem

The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on regional employment across EU regions

AI seems to increasingly automates non-routine cognitive tasks, historically performed by high-skilled workers, deviating from previous waves of technological advancements. Therefore, this study employs a linear regression, on 168 EU NUTS-2 regions between 2016 and 2024, in order to assess the relationship between regional AI exposure and employment change. Preliminary findings suggest regions more exposed to AI experienced about 2.6 percentage points lower employment growth per standard deviation of exposure. This study contributes to the limited European regional evidence base.

Aldo Garaj

Soil as Infrastructure: A More-Than-Human Approach to Urban Planning

Urban planning treats soil as an inert substrate to be shaped according to human spatial needs. Drawing on more-than-human theory, new materialism, and the idea of (bio)infrastructure, this thesis argues that soil is a living, self-organizing system that actively participates in the production of urban space. Through material and non-representational methods, it examines how biological processes exceed, resist, or reshape the order spatial planning imposes. In doing so, it contends this reframing has concrete implications for how planning practice conceptualizes and designs with living ground.

Amé Hulleman

Co-Designing Green Streets: Testing a Low-Threshold Participation Method for Urban Greening

Urban areas increasingly face challenges such as flooding, heat stress, and biodiversity loss. Green infrastructure can help address these issues, but its success depends on resident support. This study explores how a low-threshold co-design method can contribute to street greening. Through a participatory event in a Groningen neighbourhood, residents shared priorities, preferences, and ideas for future interventions. The findings show that co-design generated valuable design input while strengthening engagement and ownership.

Anne Frouke Geerdink

De implementatie van de Omgevingswet in de gemeentelijke praktijk: Percepties op de omgevingsvisie en het programma

De Nederlandse ruimtelijke ordening staat de afgelopen jaren voor grote opgaven, zoals de aanpak van de woningcrisis of de klimaatcrisis. Met de intreding van de Omgevingswet op 1 januari 2024 is het gehele omgevingsrecht opnieuw ingedeeld. De wet beoogt besluitvorming te vereenvoudigen, meer lokaal maatwerk mogelijk te maken, participatie te versterken en integrale afwegingen te bevorderen. Dit onderzoek richt zich op de perceptie van gemeenten op de implementatie van de beleidsinstrumenten, de omgevingsvisie en het programma. De percepties leiden tot een advies voor de gemeente Leeuwarden.

Antonia-Maria Moisescu

The Potential of Leftover Spaces: A Research-through-Design Inquiry in Popești-Leordeni

This thesis uses Popești-Leordeni, Romania, as a case study for analyzing the value of leftover spaces and their potential for identity-making. Through research-through-design and resident perspectives, it reveals alternative, non-commercial roles for these spaces. The research contributes to debates on peri-urban transformation and livability, and develops a set of transferable design principles for safeguarding social and spatial value in rapidly densifying suburban environments.

Arthur Lobeek

Bridging Mobility Gaps? Accessibility through the Meedoen Pas in the Northern Netherlands

This thesis examines how the Meedoen Pas, a subsidized public transport scheme for low-income residents, affects access to essential services in the Northern Netherlands. Using public transport transaction data from 2024–2025, spatial mobility patterns are analyzed and linked to destination characteristics. Preliminary results show a strong concentration of trips around urban centers,

particularly Groningen, alongside connections between rural municipalities and regional centers. The study contributes to research on mobility poverty, accessibility, and transport equity.

Bauke Zijsling

Stakeholder participation in large infrastructure projects: The Groningen hydrogen network

This thesis looks at why participation around the Groningen hydrogen network sometimes runs smoothly and sometimes leads to friction. It focuses on how Gasunie/Hynetwork, farmers, governments and nature organizations are involved, how they are informed and heard, and where things go wrong. The study shows that early contact, clear information and consistent and fair compensation help build trust and keep the project moving. Late involvement and historic encounters make people feel sidelined. The findings offer concrete lessons for organizing participation in future energy projects.

Beier Kan

Youth-Oriented Scene Formation in Temple Areas: The Case of Yonghe Temple, Beijing

Drawing on scene theory, this thesis examines how historical-cultural religious spaces in urban China become attractive to young people. Taking Yonghe Temple in Beijing as the main case, it argues that recent temple popularity is not simply a return to religion or a form of heritage tourism. Rather, it emerges through the interaction of spatial settings, surrounding amenities, activities and value. The study highlights the planning relevance of recognizing the spatial conditions and everyday practices that allow historical-cultural resources to gain renewed urban vitality.

Bouwe van Leeuwen

Small-Scale Lessons for Large-Scale Spaces: A Spatial Blueprint for Repurposing Rural Industrial Heritage

Abandoned industrial buildings are spaces full of potential, but hard to repurpose successfully in rural landscapes. In this study, smaller abandoned buildings are researched in order to seek out if characteristics of these buildings could be successfully translated into design principles for abandoned industrial buildings within Northern Netherlands in a rural landscape. The expected result of this research intends to contribute to the understanding of the redevelopment of industrial buildings and how to integrate them into today's society.

Britt Rodijk

How the spatial design of freeway cap parks can contribute to social and spatial connectedness between neighbourhoods previously divided by infrastructure

This thesis explores how the spatial design of freeway cap parks can help reconnect neighbourhoods that were previously separated by infrastructure. The Zuiderplantsoen in Groningen is used as a case study. The research combines case comparisons, field observations, a survey, and design exploration. The results show that reconnecting neighbourhoods depends not only on covering the road, but also on clear routes, good links to the surroundings, comfort, and places to stay ect. The wider aim is to identify design principles that can also inform the design of freeway cap parks more broadly.

Chantal Wendel

Designing Safer Urban Nightscapes: Spatial Design Strategies for Women's Perceived Safety and Participation in Public Life

This study explores how women experience safety in Groningen at night and how spatial design strategies can contribute to this. Using participatory mapping, spatial analysis, field observations, and a co-design workshop, patterns of (un)safe places were examined. The results show that factors such as lighting, visibility, activity, and social control influence perceived safety. In addition, the research demonstrates how women adapt their routes and behavior in nighttime public spaces. The workshop resulted in design ideas for more inclusive and safer urban nightscapes in Groningen.

David Louis

Transformation or Dissolution. Probing the 'Culture' in Electronic Club Culture. A Comparative Dutch Urban Case Study

In this research work I am analyzing the impact of urban gentrification on Dutch night time economies and the social and political functions of niche Dutch electronic music clubs in particular. This will be done through a qualitative approach, focused on relevant actors in the scenes of Amsterdam and Groningen. The theoretical frame work is grounded on seminal perspectives on urban space and the

right to the city, as well as more specific works on club spaces, night time economies and urban gentrification in relation to cultural spaces.

Dominiks Liopa

Translating EIA Outputs into Permit Conditions in Dutch Offshore Wind Authorization: A RIU-Based Case Study of Formal Mechanisms

This thesis investigates how Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) findings are translated into permit conditions in Dutch offshore wind authorization. Using the Research-Integration-Utilization (RIU) framework, the study analyses environmental assessments, permit documents, and expert interviews. Preliminary findings indicate that EIA findings are primarily translated through mitigation measures, operational restrictions, monitoring obligations, and reporting requirements. Legal requirements, evidentiary standards, and uncertainty management play an important role in shaping this process.

Dóra Gyórfy

Reducing Recreational User Conflicts Through Spatial Design in Peri-Urban Riverside Landscape

Peri-urban riverside areas are often shared by multiple recreational user groups whose activities can lead to conflicts. This thesis explores how spatial design can help reduce such conflicts along the Danube riverside in Dunakeszi, Hungary. Through field observations, spatial analysis, and precedent studies from Dutch recreational landscapes, the research identifies conflict hotspots and examines how spatial organization influences user interactions. The findings are translated into transferable spatial design principles that can support a more balanced and inclusive recreational environment.

Elvira Ooms

The Impact of the Affordable Rent Act (Wet Betaalbare Huur) on New Housing Development in the Netherlands

The 2024 Dutch Affordable Rent Act extended rent regulation to the mid-rent segment, raising concerns about new housing development. Using CBS pipeline data and interviews with investors and developers, this thesis finds that while permit figures remain stable, pipeline indicators suggest development is stalling. Feasibility calculations have been restructured and strategic adaptations observed. The Act's impact cannot be separated from rising construction costs, higher interest rates, and stricter local housing regulations.

Esmee Huisjes

Brand vs. Home: Place Branding in Groningen

This study explores the Place Branding in Groningen in relation to the inner story of its residents.

Esther Oostveen

Actors perspectives on barriers to Nature-Based Solutions

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) offer multiple benefits that can be used for climate adaptation. However, their implementation faces various barriers, which could lead to fuzziness between actors. Therefore, this research focuses on actor perspectives on barriers to NBS. This research first examines these barriers through a literature review. Thereafter, a case study of the Hunze river restoration is used to learn about how actors perceive these barriers. Interview results reveal that there are some barriers present, however actors are largely content with the process of the project.

Eva van Pelt

Gamified Places: The case of the Urban Dance Grounds in The Hague

Gamification has gained attention over the past two decades, yet its application in physical urban environments and its contribution to social cohesion remains underexplored. This study examines how gamification functions as a form of social infrastructure and influences community engagement. Using the Urban Dance Ground in Vermeerpark, The Hague, an initiative encouraging girls aged 12–16 to reclaim public space through dance, the research combines field observations with exploratory interviews with the initiative's founders.

Finn-Henrik Mueller

Thin routes but thick value? Assessing the economic and regional returns of on-demand and electric aviation at Groningen Airport Eelde?

Until 2020, Groningen Airport connected the north to Copenhagen, London and Munich. Today, hub links are gone, leaving only seasonal holiday flights, while demand leaks to Schiphol. This thesis asks under what conditions on-demand (electric) air services could restore connectivity and pay off for the airport and the region. Drawing on a case study of Groningen Airport, insights into on-demand operators, and learnings of the collapse of failed airlines, it argues that catalytic regional value, not airport profit, makes the strongest case, and that public support is justified.

Floor Hamers

Road Connectivity and Housing Prices Revisited: Evidence from Hedonic and Spatial Econometric Models

This study examines how road connectivity relates to residential property prices in North West England and whether this relationship changes after accounting for spatial dependence. Using 114,799 transactions across 915 MSOAs, connectivity is measured through road link length density, node density and link density. Hedonic OLS models show that all three indicators are negatively associated with log prices. Moran's I confirms residual spatial dependence, but SEM results show only modest coefficient changes. Denser local road networks are therefore linked to lower residential values.

Gerjanne Bergsma

Increasing perceived safety and traffic flow in shared spaces near urban transit hubs; case study of Stationsplein, Leeuwarden

This thesis examines the shared space at Stationsplein in Leeuwarden, where safety and congestion issues emerged after a redesign in 2017. Using empirical observations, international case studies, and research-by-design, the thesis analyses how spatial design influences conflicts between different user groups. The findings show that unclear hierarchy, limited visibility, mixed speeds, and high traffic intensity reduce the effectiveness of shared space principles in transit hubs. The thesis concludes that implementing shared spaces in such contexts requires careful contextual adaptation.

Gijs Tervooren

Towards a National Automated Valuation Model for Dutch Office Rents A Machine Learning Approach

This thesis builds a national AVM for Dutch office rents from 51,390 NVM leases (331 municipalities, 2000–2025). Four tree-based models; Random Forest, XGBoost, LightGBM and CatBoost are benchmarked against fixed-effects OLS under random, temporal, spatial and spatio-temporal cross-validation. CatBoost reaches out-of-sample R^2 of 0.58 vs 0.40 for OLS under k-fold. Mean R^2 falls from 0.56 to 0.21 under spatio-temporal CV, a 62% drop reflecting optimism bias. Spatial-block MAPE near 25% places the AVM in decision support, not as a substitute for individual valuation.

Hidde Jonker

Integrating disaster risk reduction into national spatial planning frameworks: A comparative analysis of Indonesia and the Philippines

This thesis compares how Indonesia and Philippines integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into national spatial planning strategies. Using qualitative content analysis of laws and policy documents, the study examines how disaster risks are incorporated into land-use planning. The research is relevant because both countries face frequent natural hazards and rapid urbanization. Findings show that DRR is formally included in planning frameworks, but implementation is limited by weak coordination, unequal local capacity and governance fragmentation.

Hugo Meerman

Does Elderly Residential Immobility Crowd Out Starter Households?

This study empirically tests whether elderly residential immobility crowds out the residential mobility of starter households at the COROP regional level in the Netherlands between 2002 and 2024. Using eight waves of the Dutch Housing Survey (WBO/WoON) with 504,602 individual observations across 40 COROP regions, the analysis employs two-way fixed effects panel regression, serial cross-sectional logit models with average marginal effects, first-differences estimation, and a lagged fixed effects specification. Contemporaneous models yield a consistent null result: the share of elderly households not intending to move has no statistically significant effect on starter mobility after controlling for regional

fixed effects and national time trends. However, lagged fixed effects models reveal a significant negative association between elderly immobility in the preceding survey wave and starter mobility in the current wave, consistent with the temporal logic of vacancy chain theory. The most substantive finding is the significant negative association between the regional concentration of elderly owner-occupiers and starter mobility, pointing to institutional lock-in as a key mechanism suppressing housing turnover. Policy implications favor national instruments that reduce transaction costs for elderly downsizing over regionally targeted interventions, as the crowding-out effect operates as a uniform national trend rather than a regionally differentiated phenomenon.

Husein Muhammad

Governing Public Food Provision: Institutional Power and Policy Design in Indonesia's Makan Bergizi Gratis Programme

This thesis examines Indonesia's Makan Bergizi Gratis (MBG) programme as a system of public food provisioning and spatial governance. Rather than assessing nutrition outcomes, it analyses how authority, rules, and responsibilities are structured from national agencies to local service units. Using document analysis and Yogyakarta as an urban case, it finds that MBG's centralized design supports rapid coordination but creates governance-space frictions around local capacity, food safety, infrastructure, and accountability. It argues for more spatially sensitive food governance.

Ids Janssen

Beyond Inflow Numbers: Partner Reunification Timing Across Dutch Migration Policy Contexts

In 2024, the European Union adopted the Migration and Asylum Pact, which will come into force in June 2026. In the Netherlands, the government has also proposed stricter national rules for family reunification. These proposals would reintroduce a dual-status system (tweestatus-stelsel), meaning that people with different types of asylum protection would receive different rights to bring family members to the Netherlands. People with a weaker status would have to wait two years before applying for family reunification and would also need to meet extra income and housing requirements. It is unclear whether such rules would reduce family reunification or mainly delay it. This distinction matters because policy does not only affect how many people arrive, but also when families are able to live together. This thesis studies the timing of partner reunification in the Netherlands using retrospective migration histories from the Survey Integratie Minderheden 2006 and 2011. The analysis focuses on cases where the respondent arrived in the Netherlands before their partner. It estimates how long it took before the partner arrived, using Kaplan-Meier estimates and Cox proportional hazards models. The results do not show a simple pattern of longer waiting times in the 1990s. Later cohorts were less often observed in situations where the respondent arrived first and the partner arrived later. However, among the respondents included in the survival analysis, those who arrived in 1990–1999 reunited with their partner faster than earlier cohorts. These findings suggest that the effects of family reunification policy may not only concern whether reunification happens, but also when it happens. The thesis therefore contributes to debates on family reunification policy by looking beyond annual arrival numbers and studying partner reunification as a process that unfolds over time.

Janne Pingel

Stakeholder Engagement in Water Governance: Challenges, Opportunities, and Institutional Integration in two German Siedlungen

Due to increasing pressures on water resources, the demand for integrated and participatory water management approaches is high. This research investigates the role of stakeholder engagement in water governance within two Siedlungen in north-west Germany. Through a planning document analysis and stakeholder interviews, the degree on how local perspectives are reflected in water management processes is investigated. Preliminary findings suggest that collaboration, knowledge exchange, and inclusion of local actors is needed for effective water governance.

Jasper Dijkema

Onderzoek naar de institutionele barrières provinciaal warmtenet in Groningen

Voor mijn scriptie onderzoek ik waarom een provinciaal warmtenet in Groningen, gebaseerd op het gebruik van industriële restwarmte uit de Eemshaven, momenteel nog niet van de grond komt. Daarbij richt ik mij specifiek op de institutionele condities die de ontwikkeling en realisatie van dergelijke warmteverbindingen beïnvloeden.

In het onderzoek staat centraal hoe factoren zoals beleid en regelgeving, governance-structuren, samenwerking tussen betrokken partijen en bestaande energiesystemen van invloed zijn op de haalbaarheid van een provinciaal warmtenet.

Jasper Vogt

Unlocking Urban Heat: Operationalizing fifth-generation heating and cooling systems for urban functions in the Netherlands

This research explores how fifth-generation district heating and cooling (5GDHC) systems can be operationalized within development projects in the Netherlands. A transition to these systems is especially interesting in the Dutch context, due dependency on natural gas for urban heating combined with the social urge to find alternatives for the domestic gas from Groningen. 5GDHC systems, characterized by ultra-low temperature networks, bi-directional flow, and decentralized production and consumption of energy, offer significant potential to reuse residual heat and support the energy transition.

Jochem Ledegang

Do Place-Based Public Investments Stimulate Local House Prices? Evidence from the UK Levelling Up Fund

This research investigates the effect of the Levelling Up Fund, as a place-based public investment, on the local house prices in England. Using different difference-in-difference specifications and transaction data from 2016 to 2026, the study compares local authorities that received the fund with those that did not. The results show that local authorities that received the Leveling Up Fund are associated with approximately 6.3% lower house prices. However further analysis suggest that this does not reflect the causal effect of the fund on local house prices.

Jules Eefting

From Blight to Benefit: Property Value Capitalization of the Eastrail Rail-to-Trail Conversion

This thesis examines how the conversion of the Eastrail, an abandoned railway corridor in King County, Washington, into a multi-use greenway affects nearby residential property values. Using a staggered Difference-in-Differences approach, the study estimates the causal impact of phased trail openings. Results indicate an increase of nearby property values by an average of 10.8%, with the strongest effects occurring 250–500 meters from the trail. The findings suggest that rail-to-trail projects generate substantial economic benefits by transforming urban blight into public amenities.

Just Schrooten

A study on optimal transfer times within the public transport network of Groningen-Drenthe

This research concerns the public transport networks of Groningen and Drenthe. A survey was conducted to find out what the optimal transfer time would be for respondents across different contexts. This research helps public transport bodies plan their transfers better within their public transport network.

Juul Hegeman

Illuminating Governance: Stakeholder Perceptions of Light Pollution in the Port of Lauwersoog

Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) is an emerging environmental issue affecting biodiversity, ecosystems, and human health. In the Netherlands, limited regulation makes local initiatives crucial. This study examines stakeholder perceptions of adaptive lighting in the port of Lauwersoog using a qualitative case study with interviews, actor mapping, and thematic analysis. Drawing on Ostrom's IAD and SES frameworks, it shows how safety perceptions, environmental awareness, leadership, and institutional capacity shape collective action on light pollution.

Karoline Jobst

You should not just be thinking about your own butt: Exploring Solidarity as Collective Action in the village of Krölpa, Germany

How, why, and where do rural communities practice solidarity today? At a time when many people perceive solidarity as declining, this thesis explores collective action and mutual support in the village of Krölpa, Eastern Germany. Interviews with groups of engaged residents reveal that solidarity grows through getting to know one another, sharing experiences, working on projects, and achieving goals together. Currently, responsibilities tend to fall on a decreasing number of engaged people. Growing anonymity, isolation, and consumerist mentalities hamper the potential for solidarity networks.

Kees Weening

The local embeddedness of care farms

This research focuses on the local embeddedness of care farms in the Northern Netherlands and how they use this in their daily activities. Practices of local embeddedness are divided into spatial, social, or cultural-historical embeddedness. Care farms are often well connected to local nature and communities and use their spatial, social, and cultural-historic embeddedness in providing their participants with daily activities, this makes local embeddedness important for the care farms. They work directly in and with their local surroundings and draw social ties from different places.

Kjeld Brinkman

Stay, adapt or go? Dark Stores - from uninvited guest, to good neighbour, ultimately planning misfit

Flash delivery from dark stores boomed as the newest e-commerce phenomenon, but caused nuisance in neighbourhoods and left the planning system in the dark. In response, municipality came up with novel (adaptive planning) strategies, while dark stores tried to gain acceptance of the neighbourhood. This thesis shows that finding a balance between regulation and allowing innovation to happen is an ongoing challenge in an increasingly complex world.

Lars Kistemaker

Living on Water: Designing and Evaluating Floating Futures

This thesis examines how young adults evaluate floating neighbourhood designs. Four alternatives are developed and visualized in 2D and 3D: compact urban, ecological sustainable, collective alternative and individual waterfront. Through a survey, the research analyses how hedonic, egoistic, biospheric and altruistic values relate to design preferences. The thesis contributes to debates on climate-adaptive housing, spatial planning and the social acceptance of living on water.

Lennart van der Velde

From Congo to Consumer: The Unseen Impacts of Digitalization and Low-Carbon Energy Systems on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a country with vast mineral wealth, yet it is one of the poorest countries in the world. Minerals such as cobalt, tin, tungsten and tantalum are crucial for modern technology and renewable energy systems, and the DRC has these minerals in abundance. This mineral wealth is not translated into financial fortune; the extraction of minerals is a highly controversial practice in the DRC, where extraction is linked to conflict, human rights abuses, inappropriate foreign influence, and environmental harm; consequences which Western consumers don't see.

Leon von Breska

The impacts of Knowledge Intensive Industries on frontier ICT usage in EU regions

The thesis aims to study the interrelation between contextual variables, i.e. the size of the KIS sector, and frontier ICT usage. By linking a macro- (EU LFS) to a micro-level survey (ESJS), the thesis tries to isolate the effects of contextual variables, i.e. the regional context the individuals find themselves in, on their use of complex technologies as part of their job. This approach to understanding worker ICT use seems to be relatively understudied. The thesis is therefore able to illuminate the flow of causality through the means of statistical analysis a bit more clearly.

Leone Amici

From Waste Management to Resource Recovery: A Socio-Technical Transition Analysis of Mycelium-Based Materials within Dutch Spatial Governance

This thesis examines the integration of Mycelium-Based Composites within the Dutch construction sector. The study uses semi-structured interviews with expert planning stakeholders to evaluate how technical performance and institutional frameworks shape adoption of new materials. The findings reveal that while MBCs offer significant environmental advantages, diffusion is hindered by rigid regulations, inert waste path-dependencies, and certification gaps. The research highlights the need for regulatory sandboxes to shift planning toward organic resource recovery.

Linda van der Duim

Living on Water: Community, Design, and Governance in Houseboat Neighborhoods

Houseboat neighborhoods present a unique urban context where residents share resources and responsibilities, yet differ in their spatial layouts and management structures. Using a comparative case

study approach, the study focuses on three contrasting communities. A qualitative, place-based methodology is done to capture residents' experiences, and use of shared spaces. The research examines how design features and governance models influence residents' sense of community, participation, responsibility, and attachment to place.

Lude van den Top

Institutional Re-design to Overcome Barriers in Hydrogen Infrastructure Development: The Case of Chemie Park Delfzijl

This thesis examines institutional barriers hindering hydrogen development in the Netherlands, using the Chemie Park Delfzijl as an example. Applying Ostrom's IAD framework and the rule-direction typology of Neef et al, the study analyzes the rule types across regulations and stakeholder practices. Through interviews and document analysis, it identifies barriers in the IAD rules, then proposes institutional re-design solutions. The study reveals a market with rules contrasting market-coordination rules, with actors discussing outcomes despite consensus on binding constraints.

Luise Stertenbrink

Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments as a means of enhancing water justice by promoting Nature-based Solutions for water safety in river basins and marine and coastal areas – a cross-case analysis

Water-related challenges, including floods, scarcity, and pollution, are intensifying globally. This thesis examines how Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESA) influence the identification and assessment of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and contribute to enhance social justice. Analyzing three case studies, the research shows that SESA can support NbS and social justice through a strategic approach, community participation, and long-term focus. However, participation often remains tokenistic and implementation depends on political will and influence of donor organizations.

Maaïke de Jong

Reinterpreting the Fivel river as a solution for contemporary problems

This research explores how historical landscape structures of the former Fivel river system can contribute to climate adaptation strategies. Using a research-by-design approach, the study analyses the historical development, current landscape structure, and climate-related challenges of the Fivelboezem in Groningen. Based on these analyses, design scenarios are developed to investigate how remaining river structures can support responses to flooding, drought, and salinization.

Marco Winkler

Designing for Perceived Safety: A Participatory Co-Design Approach to Understanding Women's Safety in Urban Public Spaces

Perceived safety influences how people experience and use urban public spaces, yet women consistently report lower levels of perceived safety, creating barriers to mobility and participation in urban life. This study explores how women's lived experiences of safety can be translated into urban street design principles through a participatory co design process. Women in Groningen participated in a workshop to evaluate and prioritize perceived safety dimensions, resulting in a co defined Perceived Safety Index (PSI) and urban street design principles.

Marit ten Have

Between Industry and City: Exploring Human-Scale Design in Post-Industrial Transformation Areas

This research investigates how human-scale design principles can be applied in post-industrial transformation areas, using the Suikerterrein in Groningen as the main case study. Through field observations, spatial analysis and a research-by-design approach, this study examines which spatial qualities support everyday public life. A precedent study of the Westergasfabriek in Amsterdam provides a reference point. The findings reveal a gap between the current informal vitality of the Suikerterrein and its spatial conditions, informing design scenarios for its permanent transformation after 2030.

Marjolein Elders

Justly accepting to float in space: exploring social acceptance and environmental justice of floating developments

The effects of climate change, such as increasing flooding, stress the need for climate resilient living areas. Floating houses adjust to changing water levels, making them a promising solution. Social acceptance determines the adoption and effectiveness of initiatives and can therefore act as a constraining factor. Social acceptance exists out of socio-political, community and market acceptance, and can be influenced by environmental justice. This research uncovered that the delayed development in the market and socio-political acceptance hinder large-scale floating developments.

Mark Koops

The Language of Maps in spatial visions: Cartographic Communication across Governance Scales through Spatial Visions for the Region of Groningen

This research examines how maps in national, provincial, and municipal spatial visions for Groningen function as a language to communicate ideas and shape policy understanding. The study analyses the relationship between what is shown on maps through symbols and how people perceive those symbols. The study clarifies how maps influence perceptions and policy communication, and bridges spatial planning theory, communicative planning, and critical cartography in a cross-level analysis.

Marten Schaapman

Hydrogen storage in Groningen: how to implement it justly

This thesis examines how, and to what extent, energy justice is reflected in the planning of underground hydrogen storage in Groningen. Using an energy justice framework (distributional, recognition, procedural) operationalized into eleven factors, it analyses national, regional, and project-level policy documents and interviews with planning experts and local actors. The review reveals that national policy reduces justice to acceptance management, and limits participation to downstream route decisions, while regional documents suggest stronger but non-binding justice claims.

Máté Juhász

Every Field Is More Than Just One Field: Integrative Landscape Design and Social Acceptance in the Case of Battery Giga factories in Hungary

Rapid industrial development linked to battery giga factories has sparked public debate in Hungary over environmental risks, spatial change and community well-being. Focusing on the CATL factory in Debrecen, the study examines local perceptions of large-scale industrial investments through integrative landscape design. The research combines a review of existing surveys with the development of a locally tailored survey. A research-by-design approach then explores how landscape-based strategies could address conflicts related to industrialization, environmental risk and place attachment.

Milou Daemen

Beyond the individual building: Assessing the Social Sustainability Impacts of Adaptive Reuse in Groningen

This research analysis how adaptive reuse shapes social sustainability in Groningen. While current studies prioritize environmental and economic benefits, social impact such as community tensions between developer and locals are often overlooked. By addressing this gap, this study aims to inform more inclusive, context-sensitive urban planning.

Nick Postma

Designing an Adaptive Roadmap Towards Natural Gas-Free Neighbourhoods

This thesis explores how adaptive transition pathways can support neighbourhood heat transitions towards natural gas-free futures. Using a Research by Design approach, an adaptive roadmap is developed that combines neighbourhood analysis, multi-criteria assessment, scenario selection, and adaptive pathways. The framework helps identify technically suitable heat solutions, as well as socially and institutionally feasible transition strategies. The roadmap is tested through the case study of Zuiderburen to evaluate its applicability for flexible and context-sensitive heat transition planning.

Noah Gortz

Evaluating Renewal Capacity in Rijkswaterstaat's Vervanging & Renovatie Programme

The thesis evaluates how Rijkswaterstaat's Vervanging & Renovatie programme supported the timely, coordinated and adaptive renewal of ageing national infrastructure. The topic is relevant because

ageing assets and increasing societal pressures make renewal not only a technical challenge, but also a governance issue. Based on document analysis and interviews, the study finds that the programme improved coordination, standardization, monitoring and organizational learning, while long-term continuity remained vulnerable due to incomplete organizational embedding.

Nore van der Veur

Climate adaptation in existing urban areas, negotiating the trade-off between public and private space for climate adaptation

Climate change is increasing heat stress and pluvial flooding in existing urban areas. This research examines how compact pre-war neighbourhoods can become more climate-resilient, with specific attention to the trade-off between public and private space. The Oosterpoort neighbourhood in Groningen is used as a case study because of its narrow streets, limited greenery and high level of paving. By combining literature review, spatial analysis, survey responses and research by design, this study explores how different measures can be spatially integrated into a coherent adaptation strategy.

Paul Brouwer

Explaining Variations in Transit Accessibility through Residential Density and Land-Use Diversity in the Netherlands

This study aimed to examine how resident density and land-use diversity relate to transit accessibility across Dutch cities between 2014 and 2023, and whether these relationships are non-linear and moderated by employment density.

Peter Renkema

Ageing after Migration: Health Inequalities Among Older First-Generation Immigrants Across European Welfare Regimes

This thesis examines health differences between older immigrants and native-born populations across 26 European countries using SHARE data. Migrants report worse health than natives, varying by region of origin. Eastern European migrants fare worst, while Western European migrants show a small health advantage. Welfare state context moderates the health gap, with Mediterranean states showing virtually no migrant-native difference, highlighting the importance of both origin and destination for migrant health.

Pieter de Vries

The Capitalization of Light Rail Accessibility into Residential Property Values: Evidence from Pittsburgh's "T" in Allegheny County

This thesis examines whether proximity to Pittsburgh's light rail system, "The T", is associated with residential property values in Allegheny County. Using parcel-level transaction data, GIS-based distance measures, and hedonic regression models with neighbourhood and year fixed effects, the analysis estimates price differences across distance bands to the nearest station. Preliminary results suggest that the relationship is not uniformly positive and varies by distance and geographic context.

Rebekka de Witte

Sense of belonging through rural third places

Het Hogeland, a rural municipality in Groningen, faces intersecting challenges affecting local youth: amenity loss, low socioeconomic status, high unemployment, and earthquake stress. Literature on third places for youth in peripheral rural contexts remains limited. This qualitative study addresses both, investigating how third places shape the sense of belonging of young adults in Het Hogeland through eight in-depth or walking interviews, exploring what physical and social characteristics make these places favourable, how these contribute to sense of belonging, and the experienced rurality.

Remon Hovingh

Making places better together: The inclusion of local knowledge through co-design

This research aims to discover how the adoption of co-design can improve spatial planning through the inclusion of local knowledge. Making use of a co-design session focused on the Stationsplein in Leeuwarden, organized for the purpose of this study. The researcher discovers how local knowledge can interact with professional knowledge through the analysis of participant interactions. By interviewing the participants, the researcher further studies the role of different participants in co-design.

Renee Box

The Impact of Mixed-Use Redevelopment on Nearby Housing Prices: Evidence from Greater London

This thesis examines how mixed-use redevelopment affects nearby house prices in Greater London. Although redevelopment is central to UK urban policy, rigorous evidence on its local effects is scarce. Using HM Land Registry transaction data and a spatial difference-in-differences design, the study compares homes near redevelopment projects with those slightly further away, before and after completion. It finds that redevelopment raises surrounding house prices, but that the effect is localized and concentrated close to the project, with implications for regeneration and affordability policy.

Sietze Visser

Designing the Process Behind Inclusive and Safe Public Spaces: Toward a Process Blueprint Based on the Raadhuisplein Redevelopment in Drachten

This thesis examines how planning and design processes can contribute to inclusive and safe public spaces. Using the redevelopment of the Raadhuisplein in Drachten as a case study, it analyses how participation, representation, decision-making, safety concerns and local knowledge are addressed during the design process. Rather than focusing only on the final spatial outcome, the research explores the process conditions that shape public space design. The aim is to develop a process blueprint for fairer and more inclusive public space planning.

Simon Dijkstra

Designing Transition Zones Between Floating Neighborhoods and the Existing Urban Fabric: A Case Study of Nassauhaven

This thesis examines how transition zones between floating neighborhoods and the existing urban fabric can improve public accessibility and social integration. Using Nassauhaven in Rotterdam as a case study, the research combines spatial observations, street interviews, and a Research-by-Design approach. The findings show that while the surrounding park functions as an active public space, the waterfront edge remains socially detached. Based on these insights, spatial design strategies are proposed for more integrated floating neighborhoods.

Stijn van Gelderen

Entry Conditions for Foreign Maritime Technology Firms in the Indian Shipbuilding Sector: An Economic Geography Analysis Illustrated Through a Dutch Case

India is constructing a maritime industrial sector through an active programme of state-led upgrading at the same time as European maritime technology suppliers are increasingly drawn into it. This thesis examines how the institutional, industrial and spatial characteristics of the Indian shipbuilding sector shape the conditions under which foreign suppliers enter, operate and build market positions, using a Dutch maritime technology firm as an illustrative case rather than as the object of analysis. The study is grounded in Economic Geography and develops a four-pillar conceptual framework that integrates institutional theory and industrial policy, sectoral innovation systems and industrial ecosystems, global production networks and strategic coupling, and firm embeddedness and the liability of foreignness. The empirical material consists of eleven semi-structured interviews with policy, demand-side, supply-side, partner and external-expert respondents, triangulated against a corpus of primary policy documents including the Maritime India Vision 2030, the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme of 2025 to 2026, the Right of First Refusal mechanism and the Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster guidelines. The findings indicate that entry conditions are segmental-spatial rather than national: they differ sharply between public and private yards and between regional clusters, and they are governed by an interaction of ambiguous formal rules and powerful informal norms. Foreign suppliers typically enter through what the thesis terms secondary coupling, an indirect, client-mediated form of network entry that secures access while constraining autonomous positioning, and they become spatially anchored in project geographies they do not choose. The principal liability of foreignness identified is unfamiliarity rather than discrimination, reducible through sustained presence, patience and locally held relational knowledge. The Domestic Content threshold introduced under the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme operates as a graduated incentive that links a foreign supplier's organizational choices directly to its client yard's subsidy eligibility, giving the segmental-spatial geography a quantifiable institutional mechanism. The thesis contributes to Economic Geography by refining institutional theory at the sub-national scale, by introducing secondary coupling as a supplier-level analytical concept, and by showing how customer-following converts network dependence into spatial lock-in.

Sytse de Hoop

Perceptions from practice: sustainable farmers' experiences with Dutch agricultural policy

Industrialized farming systems no longer operate locally and are able to surpass the carrying capacity of their lands, leaving grave impacts on climate and environment. This puts the agricultural sector, and those that earn their living in these systems in an important position within climate debates. In the context of agricultural transitioning, the farmer is a key actor that translates societal, environmental and economic demands into practice. Though their central position within the agricultural value chain and by extension the climate debate at large suggests relevancy and perhaps even authority, Dutch farmers at large feel unheard and powerless within ongoing environmental debates. Societal transitions require coordinated action across multiple actors; however, the perceived division of roles within this process may differ between those implementing change on the ground and those shaping policy frameworks from a distance. This research aims to examine how responsibilities, agency and capacities are perceived and articulated by regenerative farmers in the context of agricultural transition, and how these same concepts are framed within written agricultural policy. Preliminary findings indicate that regenerative farmers feel strong internal responsibilities to improve soil health, produce food and inspire others with future-proof solutions. While new policies occasionally steer towards sustainable ideals, constraining markets are left unchanged and a lack of clear alternatives still forces external responsibilities on farmers towards status-quo farming. Interestingly, while scale-oriented regulations and strict bureaucracy commonly obstruct farmers' capacities – this occasionally leads to increased agency as sustainable farmers are exempt from rules or small-scale farmers fly under the radar. Significant improvements can be made by shifting more responsibilities towards market actors between farmer and consumer. In addition to this, agricultural policy should increasingly gear towards rewarding conventional farmers who do well as opposed to punishing those who do not, while providing substantial alternatives and future perspectives.

Tim Welten

Does Location Matter? Explaining leasing speed of retail units in the province Utrecht

This thesis examines whether location quality explains the leasing speed of retail units in the province of Utrecht. Using retail lease transactions from 2010 to 2025 and Cox proportional hazards models, the study analyses transaction duration in relation to retail density, submarket type, station proximity, unit characteristics, and neighbourhood context. The results show that moderate retail density and smaller unit size are associated with faster leasing, while station proximity and broad submarket categories show weaker independent effects.

Vince Broshuis

Determinants of New Mobility Service Adoption: The Role of Mobility Lifestyles, Residential Location, and Perceived Accessibility

This thesis looks at what drives people to use new mobility services, like micromobility, shared modes, and public transport, in urban, suburban, and rural areas. It builds on existing research to explore how factors such as demographics, mobility lifestyles, residential location, and perceived accessibility, affect their decision to use these services. A key focus is whether peoples' travel preferences fit their living situations or not. This research aims to spot which groups are quicker to adopt these services, to guide policies that could make mobility more inclusive and more sustainable.

Valentino Mandaku

Age Gap in Marriage: Does It matter? (An Analysis of Family Decision Making in Indonesia)

This study examines the effect of spousal age gaps on women's participation in household decision-making in Indonesia using 2017 Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) data. It also explores the role of socio-economic factors, marital duration, and place of residence. Using logistic regression, the study expects to find that larger age gaps reduce women's involvement in family decisions, especially in rural areas, while longer marital duration may increase women's participation over time.

During the Graduate Research Day pictures will be made.
If you have any objections, please send an e-mail to the organization (grd@rug.nl).