



**GLOBAL  
DEMOCRACITIES**  
BETWEEN TRIUMPH  
AND DECLINE

### **GLOBAL DEMOCRACITIES BETWEEN TRIUMPH AND DECLINE**

Since ancient times, mankind has dreamed of the ideal city, which was meant to be the expression of civilisation as a civic, democratic place of exchange and peace. An examination of the diverse situations of cities and their status in the global world today reveals how ambiguous urban realities are. On the one hand, an unprecedented triumph of quantitative and qualitative urban development can be observed historically, insofar as cities function as hubs for the flows of power, finance, and information, and now have a stronger impact on global events than ever before. On the other hand, the 'bad reputation' of cities has a long tradition: they are often characterised as unmanageable, dirty, unhealthy, poor, expensive, and harmful for the environment. Metropolises still seem to be far away from the ideal of a city that knows how to manage the challenges of global modernity. And yet: the city is still a magnet for the longings and dreams of many people who hope for a better life there.

An increasing urbanity is accompanied by enormous social, ecological, and political challenges. Primarily in Asia, Africa, and South America, the number of megacities has been increasing significantly. Therefore, modern city planning is becoming ever more important for solving emerging environmental problems as well as questions of energy supply, mobility, the management of resources, the educational infrastructure, and waste management. Processes of integration and segregation of the inhabitants with regard to income, ethnicity, and religion also pose major challenges. Thus, in the light of growing tendencies towards radicalisation, questions like the following are increasingly moving into focus: Will the vision of 'unity in diversity' remain a utopia? It becomes apparent that in the face of these questions and problems, more and more cities join forces in order to find common solutions and to exchange best practice models among themselves. As cities, compared to nations, can operate on a more informal level, they have the opportunity to work more directly and efficiently on finding solutions. Could these networks even have the potential to evolve into a new global governance paradigm, a "World



Parliament of Mayors”, as suggested by the political scientist Benjamin R. Barber?

The **19<sup>th</sup> Karlsruhe Dialogues** will examine ‘the triumph and decline of cities’ from different perspectives. Renowned researchers and scientists as well as experts with practical knowledge in the field will ask which impact cities have as centres for civic engagement and political innovation; what access they offer to minorities and parallel societies; and how cities can preserve their character, their self-image, and their specific appeal against the background of increasing globalisation and standardisation.

The three-day event features international participants and examines the subject from different perspectives for a broad audience in keynote addresses, discussions, and roundtables. The symposium will be accompanied by cultural events intended to contrast the impressions gained and to enrich them through additional aspects seen from an artistic perspective. Thus, a thematic film night in cooperation with the television channel ARTE and the movie theatre Schauburg Karlsruhe, a reading and a theatre play at Badisches

Staatstheater Karlsruhe (State Theatre of Baden, Karlsruhe) are also part of the programme.

The ZAK is honoured and appreciative to be partnered by the Stiftung Kunst und Kultur (Art and Culture Foundation) of the Sparda-Bank Baden-Württemberg that has been supporting the Karlsruhe Dialogues as the main supporter together with the city of Karlsruhe since 2005. The ZAK wishes to express its thanks for the generous support that makes this international symposium possible. We are looking forward to our continued partnership.

- MOST EVENTS WITHIN THE KARLSRUHE DIALOGUES CAN BE ATTENDED WITHOUT AN ENTRANCE FEE. WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU!
- CONFERENCE LANGUAGES: GERMAN, ENGLISH; SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETING
- SUBJECT TO ALTERATIONS

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#### **PRESENTED BY:**

ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General Studies  
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

Registration for the opening reception on Friday and the reading on Sunday necessary via: [www.zak.kit.edu](http://www.zak.kit.edu)  
Info line: +49 (0)7 21/608-4 43 84

#### **SCIENTIFIC CONVENORSHIP:**

Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha

#### **ORGANISATION:**

Christine Melcher Dipl.-Angl.

# FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2015

## OPENING EVENT OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> KARLSRUHE DIALOGUES

SPARDAEVENT-CENTER, BAUMEISTERSTRASSE 21

### WELCOME ADDRESSES

7.30 p.m.

**Martin Hettich**

Chairman of the Board of Sparda-Bank  
Baden-Württemberg eG

**Dr. Frank Mentrup**

Lord Mayor of the City of Karlsruhe

**Prof. Dr. Alexander Wanner**

Vice President of KIT for Higher Education and  
Academic Affairs

### INTRODUCTION

**Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha**

Director of the ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General  
Studies, KIT

### OPENING KEYNOTE LECTURES

— **The City:**

**Where the Powerless Make Histories**

**Prof. Dr. Saskia Sassen** (USA/Netherlands)

Prof. Dr. Saskia Sassen is the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and chairs the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. In her renowned book *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo* (1991) she coined the term 'global city'.



## SHORT PRESENTATION

### — **If Mayors Ruled the World**

**Prof. Dr. Benjamin R. Barber** (USA)

Prof. Dr. Benjamin R. Barber is senior research scholar at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, founder and president of the Interdependence Movement, and Walt Whitman Professor Emeritus at Rutgers University. His latest book *If Mayors Ruled the World: Dysfunctional Nations, Rising Cities* (2013) is the foundation for the Global Parliament of Mayors project.

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## MUSICAL PROGRAMME

### **Percussion duo BeatBop**

**(Jonas Völker and Timo Gerstner)**

- The percussion duo BeatBop combines classical and world music, pop and salsa: their creative arrangements and compositions are based on a wide variety of drum cultures, musical styles and influences. The result is a colourful mix of exciting rhythms and fascinating instruments, combined with the duo's wit and their joy of making music together.

→ NO ENTRANCE FEE

→ REGISTRATION NECESSARY VIA [WWW.ZAK.KIT.EDU](http://WWW.ZAK.KIT.EDU)

→ THE 'STEPHANUS-BUCHHANDLUNG' WILL BE OFFERING A SELECTION OF BOOKS FOR SALE.

# SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2015

## SYMPOSIUM OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> KARLSRUHE DIALOGUES

SAAL BADEN AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY KARLSRUHE, LAMMSTRASSE 13–17

### WELCOME ADDRESSES

9.30 a.m.

**Wolfgang Grenke**

President of the Chamber of Commerce and  
Industry Karlsruhe

**Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha**

Director of the ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General  
Studies, KIT

### OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

— **Global Civil Society: A New Kind of Citizenship in  
the Global Age**

**Prof. Dr. Martin Albrow** (United Kingdom)

Professor Emeritus of Sociological Theory,  
University of Wales, Senior Fellow at the Käthe  
Hamburger Center for Advanced Study in the  
Humanities “Law as Culture”, Bonn

— **World Parliament of Mayors – Theses**

**Prof. Dr. Benjamin R. Barber** (USA)

Founder and President of the Interdependence  
Movement, Senior Research Scholar,  
City University of New York

— **Urbanisation, Megacities and Informal  
Settlements**

**Prof. Dr. Janice E. Perlman** (USA)

President and Founder of the Mega-Cities Project,  
scholar, author, and policy advisor

— **Civil Society and Urban Change –  
Lessons from London**

**Peter Murray** (United Kingdom)

Chairman of New London Architecture,  
writer and curator

12.30 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

1.30 p.m.

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- **Democracy, Technology and City**  
**Evgeny Morozov** (Belarus/USA)  
Writer and Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin
  - **Big Data + Small Data = Smarter Cities & Citizens**  
**Priya Prakash** (United Kingdom/India)  
Designer and Founder of D4SC (Design for Social Change) – Changify
  - **Heritage at Risk: Construction Boom in London**  
**Dr. Nigel Barker** (United Kingdom)  
Planning and Conservation Director at English Heritage in London
  - **Istanbul 2010, a City of Culture...**  
**Esra Nilgün Mirze** (Turkey)  
Former International Relations Director for Istanbul 2010 – European Capital of Culture, Founder and Chairperson of the 41° 29° Istanbul Association for Art and Design
  - **Egypt 2011–2015: Failure of Democratic Change? – Voices from Cairo**  
**Prof. Dr. Amr Hamzawy** (Egypt/Germany)  
Political scientist and human rights activist, American University in Cairo and Cairo University
  - **What Is Pegida – in Dresden and Elsewhere?**  
**Prof. Dr. Werner J. Patzelt** (Germany)  
Chair of Political Systems and System Comparison, TU Dresden

→ NO ENTRANCE FEE

## ARTE FILM NIGHT

7.30 p.m.

Presentation of documentaries and feature films in cooperation with ARTE and the movie theatre Schauburg Karlsruhe

- The city of tomorrow: a completely digitalised, super-connected and ecologically perfect metropolis? Or an explosive megacity with unconstrained population growth, increasingly expensive housing, and growing slums? The ARTE film night is looking for answers to the question of what the urban living environment is going to look like.

### Visionary?

Half of the world's population today lives in cities. By 2020 this number might already have risen to 60 percent. Where and how do the megacities of tomorrow emerge? "Mit offenen Karten: Städte der Zukunft" (Cards on the Table: Cities of Tomorrow)

Ultra-modern megacities are shooting up all over South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Abu Dhabi. They are prototypes of urban living environments: modern, networked, ecologic – and totally surveilled? "Von Null auf Zukunft" (New Cities)

### Bottomless?

Affordable housing is becoming scarce. Investors focus on real estate rather than on stocks. As a consequence, tenants are often faced with termination of their leases and eviction. The story of a Berlin rental building caught up in the throes of the real-estate hype: "Betongold" (Concrete Gold).

### Degrading!

In Kibera, the biggest slum of Nairobi, the sanitary conditions are catastrophic. There are too few public restrooms for the number of people in the slum. Kibera is in danger of drowning in dirt: "Kein stilles Örtchen in Kibera" (No 'Smallest Room' in Kibera).

### Romantic?

Berlin has 25 square metres green space per resident, London has 45, Paris only 5. Insights into a city's plans to become greener: "Paris – Der Traum vom Grün" (Paris – Dream of Green).

### Shanghai!

Shanghai 1: As a 'global city', Shanghai has to master challenges such as demographic change, energy supply, and environmental protection: "Mit offenen Karten: Shanghai – Hauptstadt des 21. Jahrhunderts?" (Cards on the Table: Shanghai – Capital of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?)  
Shanghai 2: Architect Rémy is moving to the booming city Shanghai with his wife and son – a family's urban rollercoaster ride: "Shanghai, wir kommen!" (Shanghai, Here We Come!)



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### Visionary?

**7.30 p.m. MIT OFFENEN KARTEN: STÄDTE DER ZUKUNFT**  
(Cards on the Table: Cities of Tomorrow)  
Documentary by Jean-Christophe Victor  
*ARTE France 2013*

**VON NULL AUF ZUKUNFT** (New Cities)  
Documentary by Frédéric Castaignède  
*ARTE France 2014*

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### Bottomless?

**8.50 p.m. BETONGOLD** (Concrete Gold)  
Documentary by Katrin Rothe  
*ARTE/rbb 2013*

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### Degrading!

**9.50 p.m. KEIN STILLES ÖRTCHEN IN KIBERA**  
(No 'Smallest Room' in Kibera)  
Documentary by Jean Boué  
*ARTE/ZDF 2012*

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### Romantic?

**10.35 p.m. PARIS – DER TRAUM VOM GRÜN**  
(Paris – Dream of Green)  
Documentary by Isabelle Cottenceau  
*ARTE France 2013*

**11.30 p.m. MIDNIGHT SNACK**

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### Shanghai!

**0.00 a.m. MIT OFFENEN KARTEN: SHANGHAI –  
HAUPTSTADT DES 21. JAHRHUNDERTS?**  
(Cards on the Table: Shanghai –  
Capital of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?)  
Documentary by Jean-Christophe Victor  
*ARTE France 2011*

**SHANGHAI, WIR KOMMEN!** (Shanghai, Here We Come!)  
Feature film by Fred Garson  
*ARTE France 2012*

# SUNDAY 1 MARCH 2015

## MORNING PANEL DISCUSSION

11.00 a.m.

SPARDAEVENT-CENTER, BAUMEISTERSTRASSE 21

### If Mayors Ruled the World

**Moderation:** Markus Brock  
Moderator, SWR and 3sat

**Dr. h.c. Petra Roth** (Germany)  
Former Lord Mayor of Frankfurt am Main,  
Chairwoman of Stiftung Schloss Ettersburg

**Catherine Trautmann** (France)  
Former MEP and former Mayor of Strasbourg

as well as further discussion participants

### READING

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3.00 p.m.

STUDIO (BADISCHES STAATSTHEATER KARLSRUHE),  
BAUMEISTERSTRASSE 11

### Max Scharnigg

**Feldversuch:**

### Unser Stück Land vor den Toren der Stadt

- Max Scharnigg and his girlfriend are tilling a piece of land on the outskirts of Munich together. These two city dwellers with countryside access started their adventure in 2006, at a time when no one had even heard of urban gardening and seed balls. Scharnigg's book is an open, honest, and often times self-mocking account of their first steps as hobby farmers, of farming successes and crop failures. It is a good read for all those who toy with the idea of moving to the countryside, but who – truth be told – won't be leaving the city in the end.

- NO ENTRANCE FEE
- REGISTRATION NECESSARY VIA [WWW.ZAK.KIT.EDU](http://WWW.ZAK.KIT.EDU)
- THE READING IS IN GERMAN.



## THEATRE

7.00 p.m.

STUDIO (BADISCHES STAATSTHEATER KARLSRUHE),

BAUMEISTERSTRASSE 11

**Ich bereue nichts (I don't regret anything)**

**An NSA project about Edward Snowden**

**by Jan-Christoph Gockel,**

**Thomas Halle and Konstantin Küspert**

**Theatre play and discussion**

- Digital and social media – the Internet, Facebook, Twitter – play a crucial role in the development of global democracies. Computers and smartphones give us access to a parallel world where we can shape virtual communities and find a digital home. With the first revelations made by Edward Snowden in June 2013, however, most of us have become estranged from this digital home. What began as a war on terror has led to 'transparent' citizens and cities. The global media are abuzz with the scandal, politicians are outraged, citizens feel unsettled. Yet, how come this infringement of our basic rights is not met with a great public outcry? The answer is: we do not have a clear image of the situation – there are no burning towers, no 'Je suis Charlie' signs. The theatre project aims to shape such an image, which might finally trigger a revolution.

→ THE PERFORMANCE IS IN GERMAN.

→ ADMISSION: 14 € / DISCOUNTED ADMISSION: 7.50 €  
TICKETS AT THE BOX OFFICE (PHONE: 0721-933 333)  
OR VIA [WWW.STAATSTHEATER.KARLSRUHE.DE](http://WWW.STAATSTHEATER.KARLSRUHE.DE)