

Urban restructuring, mobility biographies and sustainable transport in urban regions

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The design of an environmentally friendly or even sustainable transport system in urban regions is the objective of many local, national and international authorities. However, there is a gap between political aims and actual developments in most regions. Contrary to the political rhetoric, car use, travel distances and the negative environmental effects of transportation increase continuously. The working group "Sustainable transport" of the Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig-Halle aims to improve the understanding of individuals' and households' travel related decision-making processes and rationales. Ultimately, the research results should deliver information relevant for planners or policymakers striving towards a more sustainable transport system. A special focus is given to spatial patterns emerging from urban restructuring and demographic change.

The presentation will focus on three research directions currently of interest in our working group: first, the impact of spatial developments on travel behaviour with a focus on the concurrent shrinkage and growth phenomena in urban regions (especially, on the continuing transformation process in Eastern Germany); second, the mobility biographies approach as a theoretical framework for research focusing on the interaction of residential relocations with travel patterns; and finally, the first ideas about transportation – land use interaction modelling will be sketched.