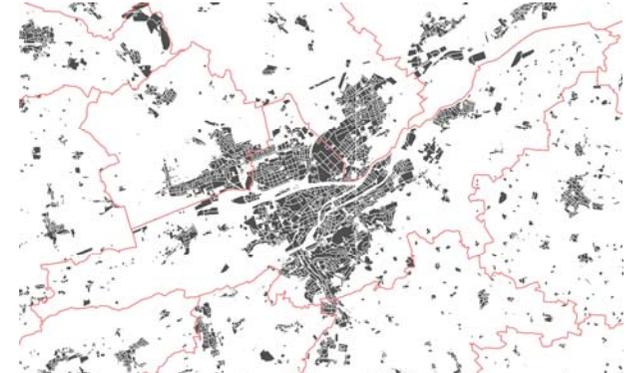
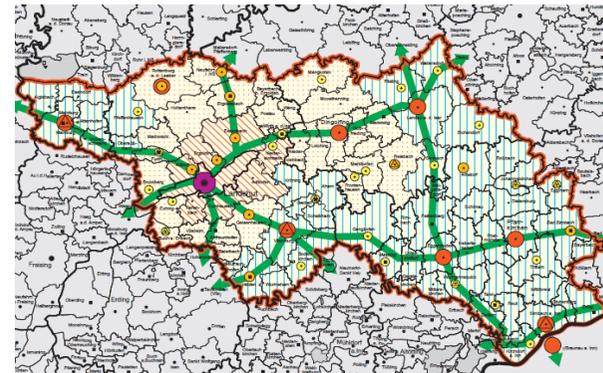
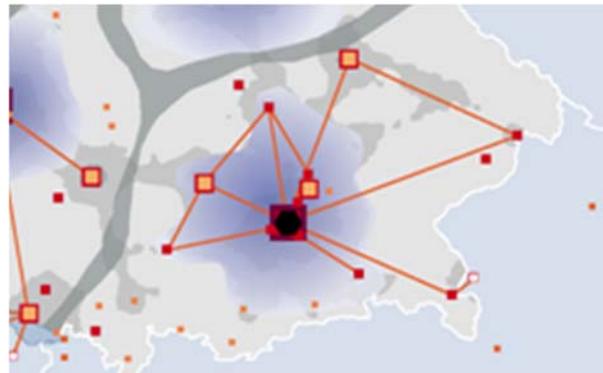
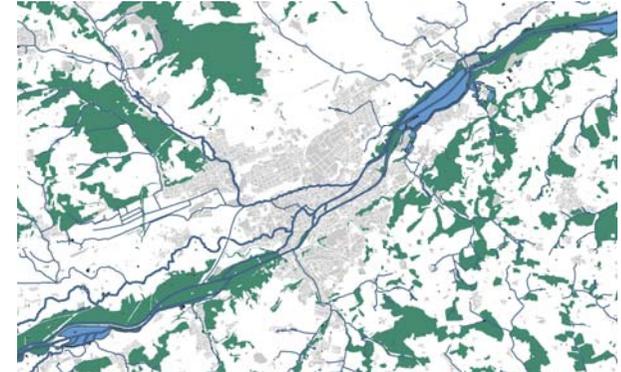
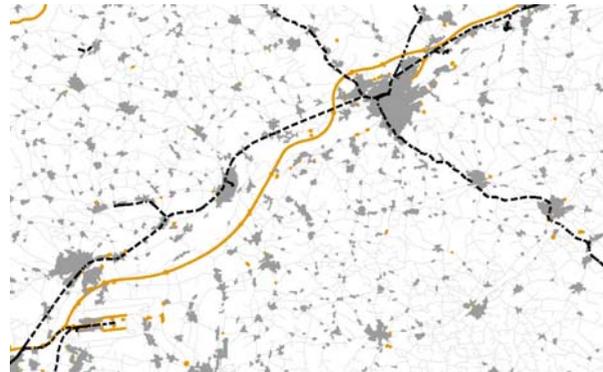
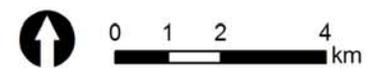
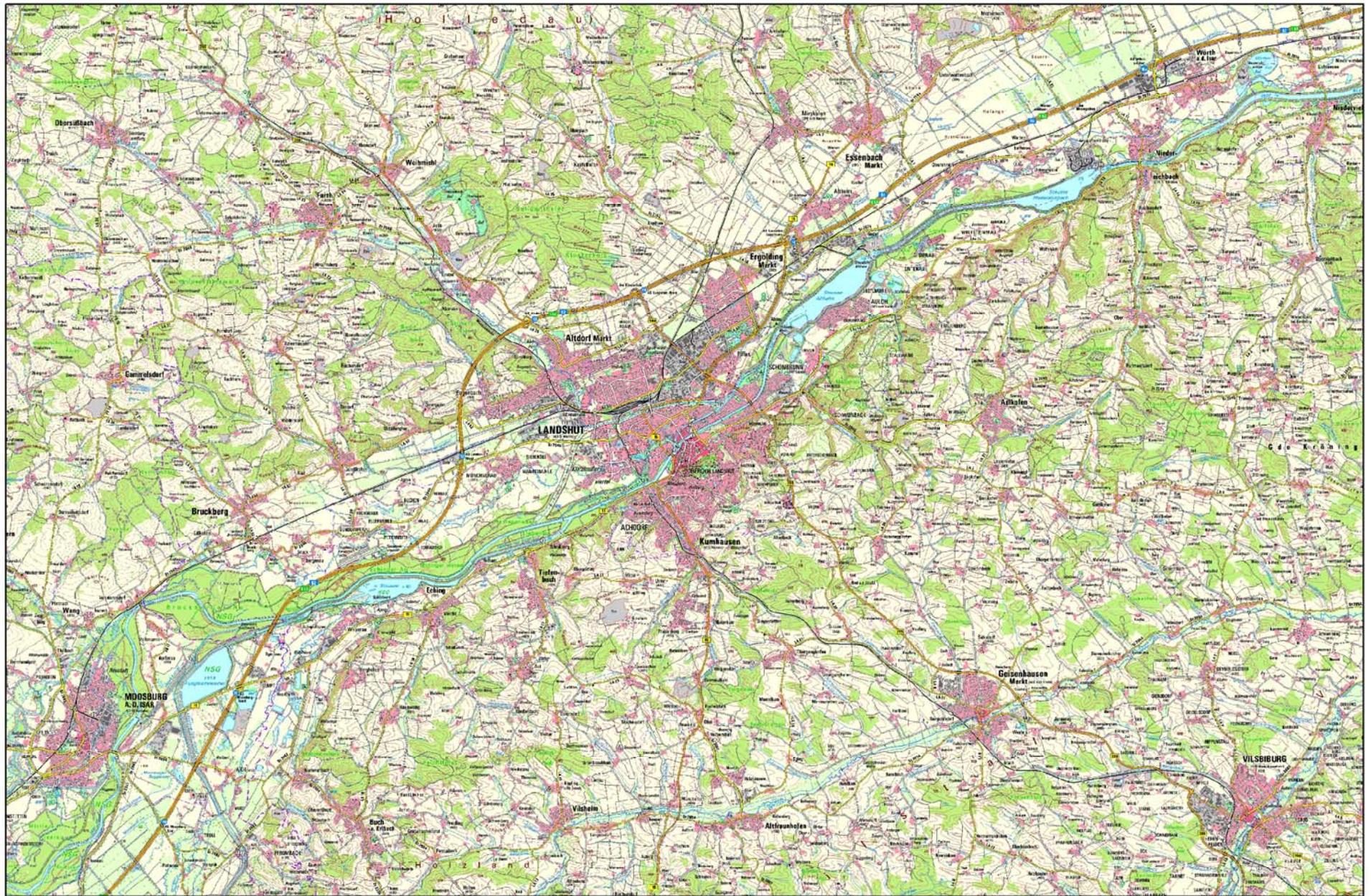


Landshut: What next?



Time: Tuesdays 9:00-18:15 & Wednesdays 13:00-18:15
Venue: Room 2349 & Grüner Saal

Course Syllabus



Background

Cities continue to exist as administrative entities. Cities, small and large, boast the historical span of their status as cities, celebrating founding days, asserting their ages as cities, explaining the etymology of their names and so on. Being a city instills, supposedly, a sense of pride to those who dwell within its boundaries, as they share local autonomy, identity and tradition. However, the normative logic of city boundaries, indeed the very logic of the concept of the city as a definite bounded entity, is at odds with the logic of contemporary urbanism. Lefebvre declared as early as 1970 that “to speak of the urban is to look beyond the “city”, to encompass an entire way of being, thinking and acting... In this sense, a vacation home, a highway and a rural supermarket are all part of the urban tissue” (Lefebvre, 1970/2003: 3–4).

With growing awareness that the urban extends beyond city limits, and that increasingly problems faced locally can neither be solved at the local city level nor at the national level, the regional scale gained importance towards the end of the last century. Storper’s (1996) now outmoded axiom of a “regional world” paved the way. Today polycentric urban regions are a hot topic of current research in the field of spatial sciences, signaling a shift from territorially embedded to relational conception of space (Harrison, 2013).

Within this context of an increasingly relational world amidst the territorial pervasiveness of cities, how do we understand the spatial reality at the crossroads of urban transition today? And what transformations in spatial organization do we envisage to guide the evolution of urban societies, whose quotidian habitats mess up our overtly neat conceptualizations of space? Lefebvre’s concept of “urban fabric” captures the logic of urban space being relationally interwoven across normatively defined city boundaries. As a selectively interwoven, territorially disruptive physical continuum, the urban fabric is a more nuanced description of the physical reality today than the idea of “metropolitan regions ... spreading out physically” (Storper, 2013: 3) or the notion of “endless cities” (Burdett and Sudjic, 2011) without clear boundaries. Yet how is the urban fabric constructed at the regional scale? How can we translate the analytical exercise “from places to flows” (Harrison and Growe,

2012; Harrison, 2012) into a planning exercise? How can planners and urban designers catch up with the analytical findings of urban geographers?

This course is concerned with this moment of creative tension between the urban as networks of multi-scalar connections and cities as bounded administrative territories. The idea is to contemplate the emerging spatial patterns of the urban beyond the category of the city. Towards this endeavor, medium-sized cities located at the periphery of metropolitan regions are particularly interesting. These cities are frequently sites of conflict where the needs to cater for both regional/metropolitan flows and local anchored specificities often clash. Such cities frequently contest growth, yet they simultaneously dread stagnation. In their struggle to remain competitive as a place, some cities adopt measures such as the commission of star architects to help them position themselves within global and regional circuits. Other cities remain focused on the management of conflicting demands for densities pertaining to rural and urban activities. Hence, medium-sized cities present an interesting opportunity to research how urban change can be proactively managed.

Course objectives

In this semester we zoom in to the city Landshut. With its approximately 67,000 inhabitants, the city of Landshut is one of 591 medium-sized cities in Germany. Located 60 km north east of the city of Munich and 40 km from Germany’s second largest hub airport Munich International Airport, Landshut is part of the Metropolitan Area of EMM (Europäische Metropolregion Munich). At +800 years, numerous historical landmarks dot the landscape of the city, attesting to the city’s rich history and tradition. As the capital of Lower Bavaria (Regierungsbezirk Niederbayern) and home to numerous firms and enterprises, Landshut is an administrative and economic center in Lower Bavaria. Throughout the last decade Landshut has been a growing city, with

an average population growth of 0,92 % per annum in the period of 2003-2012¹. The city's relatively low unemployment rates have been key in this regard. Landshut has the status of "Oberzentrum" that caters for the predominantly rural surrounding of Landkreis Landshut. The place where Europe's first farmers settled², Landkreis Landshut has an aging population and a decreasing youth base today. As per the LEADER report demography is one of the key challenges that the Landkreis Landshut is facing. Under the LEADER program, the Local Action Group (LAG) has already kick-started a number of local project initiatives in the Landkreis, such as "Bau einer Sternwarte in Stollnried" or "Radrunde Bayerisches Golf- und Thermenland", the search for more project ideas for effective rural development is under way.



Figure 1 source: <http://www.landshut.de/portal/wirtschaft/region-mit-zukunft/lage-in-der-region.html>

On the surface there is not much left to do for urban planners in Landshut. A seemingly idyllic medium-sized European town, its city plan is akin to prototype city plans as one can find them in German city planning text books. However, if we scratch beneath the surface, a different story appears. Land resources for housing development in the city of Landshut are limited, yet the city is growing. Landkreis Landshut has abundant land resources, but an aging population. Where will land for housing development be released in the future? Which densities and housing typologies are appropriate? What infrastructures are needed and who will provide these?

How can the successes of today's status quo be preserved into the future; how can failures be circumvented? How can Landshut proactively address challenges in order to sustain success and manage growth? What roles can the spatial arrangements of housing, services, landscape and transport and energy infrastructures play in this regard?

The objectives of this studio project are (1) to identify, based on multi-scalar analyses, the key opportunities and threats for the sustainable development of the city of Landshut and (2) to propose possible and desirable functional and spatial futures for the city set at the distant future of +30 years from today.

Towards this objective, it will be vital to strategically manage the interplay between metropolitan functionalities and local particularities and specificities. This can be done by steering density, landuse and mobility patterns of the urban-rural continuum while taking into account a regional perspective.

Course description

This course is organized into lectures and studio work. Lectures provide valuable source of information regarding the tasks at hand. Studio work is mandatory. Students are expected to be working in the studio Tuesdays from 9:00-18:15 and Wednesdays from 13.00-18.15, during which they will either be working together in groups or will be tutored.

The course work is divided into three main assignments, in which students will be working in assigned groups. Groups will be tutored during studio hours. Group work is vital for the success of this project. The exchange of background experience that each student brings, in addition to dialogue and negotiation, pushes the discussion forward and enriches the consensus that each group presents.

¹ Source: <http://www.landshut.de/portal/wirtschaft/region-mit-zukunft/zahlen-daten-fakten.html> (accessed, June 23, 2015)

² Source: <http://www.landkreis-landshut.de/Landkreis-Einrichtungen/DerLandkreisLandshut/Landkreis-Portraet.aspx> (accessed, June 23, 2015)

The first assignment is dedicated to analyzing the focus area, it will encompass (a) physical spatial analysis which all groups will carry out, (b) thematic analyses which will cover several inter-related themes and for which each student group will be assigned one theme according to its "expertise" and (c) a fieldtrip. The findings of these analyses will highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the focus area and spatialize these where possible. The idea of the first assignment is not to be all encompassing. Rather the objective is to identify the key issues at stake, and sieve through the particularly spatial components of these key issues. The objective is problem finding. A workshop on week 2 introduces students to the work with indicators that have relevance to spatial development. Emphasis is placed on the reading of statistical-based maps. What does the visualization of statistics tell us? Which statistics are of particular relevance?

At the end of this first part of the course, students will be able to organize and innovatively visualize their comprehension of thematic strengths/weaknesses of the area under study, categorize these at different scales and understand the linkages of different scales of analyses. On Tuesday, Nov. 10th, 2015, each group will present its findings on two A0 Sheets.

In the second assignment, new student groups are formed, in a way that each group is a mix of "experts" from the preceding assignment. These newly formed groups work together until the end of the semester. The second assignment brings the time dimension to the fore. Urban development is a dynamic process that projects into an unknown future. Users' requirements, tastes, values and lifestyles change over time. Population characteristics are dynamic. Demography today is certainly different than the one in the future. In this part of the course, the assignment will be to develop a concept for a possible and desirable alternative future for Landshut based on a systematic investigation of trends and the future opportunities and threats that our focus area faces. As part of the assignment, students also need to interview at least two local actors in Landshut. The purpose of these interviews is to assist students in elaborating their findings by incorporating local voices. These interviews present the opportunity of a reality-check to the students' identified alternative future(s). Findings of these interviews feed in to the assignment deliverables.

The objective of this assignment is to derive evidence-based, possible and desirable alternative futures for the focus area under investigation, based on the students' findings of the trends analyses. Each group proposes one alternative future set at the temporal distance of +30 years. With alternative future, we mean a narrative of future functionalities alongside schematic visualizations of the spatial dimension of this identified future. An alternative future is a selective depiction and condensation of the predominant characteristics of the possible and desirable future development of Landshut. A depiction of an alternative future does not attempt to describe the totality of what a future could be like. It is also liberated from today's administrative boundaries and constraints. On Tuesday, Dec. 1st, 2015, each group presents its findings of the trends analysis, alongside its alternative future concept on two A0 Sheets.

The third and final assignment is focused on the development and spatialization of a selected alternative future concept. By now the students will have identified the key issues that the focus area faces and developed a conceptual proposal of an alternative future that addresses these challenges in a desirable manner. The objective of this assignment is to move from a concept to a spatial development strategy. How can we make this future happen? The challenge in this assignment is to move from ideas conceived in numerical and narrative forms to images (diagramme/ map), and then from images to plans. This will entail thinking of the urban in terms of connections, networks, relationships and mobility, rather than only static land uses. Plans describe a path of actions for development. As a result plans must address the temporal scale of urban development. Impact orientation and multi-scalarity are key considerations. In a presentation with invited guests in Landshut on Tuesday, January 26th, 2016, students present their proposals of strategic urban development plans at various relevant scales on six A0 sheets.

Deliverables and due dates

For each assignment hard copies in the form of A0 sheets (landscape layout) and a 12-15 minutes presentation are expected as a deliverable. The presentation and the A0 sheets will contribute to the grade of each assignment. For Assignments 2 & 3 PowerPoint slides can be used as an aid for the presentation. The language of all outputs has to be German.

Deliverables are to be handed in person at the Chair for Urban Development on the due date by 16:00. The deliverables and due dates are as follows:

Assignment 1 “Thematic and physical spatial analyses”, Deliverables:

- 2 A0 sheets on Monday, 09/11/2015 at 16:00 at the chair
- Student presentations on Tuesday, 10/11/2015, 9:00-12:00, Room 2349

Assignment 2 “From trends analyses to alternative futures: Landshut 2046”, Deliverables:

- 2 A0 sheets on Monday, 30/11/2015 at 16:00 at the chair
- Student presentations on Tuesday 1/12/2015, 9:00-12:00, Vorhoelzer Forum

Assignment 3: “From concept to spatial development strategy”, Deliverables:

- 6 A0 sheets on Monday, 25/01/2016 at 16:00 at the chair
- Final verbal presentation on Tuesday, 26/01/2016 in Landshut
- 8 A4 pages for a brochure (text and visuals) on Tuesday, 02/02/2016

Grading

The grades for the individual assignments contribute to the final grade in the following manner:

- Assignment 1: 15%
- Assignment 2: 15%
- Assignment 3: 70%

Weekly semester schedule

01 | Tuesday, 13/10/2015 | Room 2349 | **Introductory session**

02 | Tuesday, 20/10/2015 | Studio | Tutoring sessions
Thursday, 22/10/2015 | **Fieldtrip**

03 | Tuesday, 27/10/2015 | Room 2349 | **Workshop: Indicators**

04 | Tuesday, 03/11/2015 | Studio | Tutoring sessions

05 | Tuesday, 10/11/2015 | Room 2349 | **Student Presentations 1** followed by Assignment 2 Handout and introduction to trends analysis

06 | Tuesday, 17/11/2015 | Room 2349 | 9:00-10:15 | **Workshop: Gephi** | Tutoring sessions

07 | Tuesday, 24/11/2015 | Room 2349 | **Input: Stefanie Seeholzer** | Tutoring sessions

08 | Tuesday, 1/12/2015 | Vorhoelzer Forum | **Student Presentations 2** followed by Assignment 3 Handout

09 | Tuesday, 08/12/2015 | Studio | **Input: Lukas Gilliard** | Tutoring sessions

10 | Tuesday, 15/12/2015 | Studio | Tutoring sessions

11 | Tuesday, 22/12/2015 | Room 2349 | **Pin-up**

Week 12-13 | X-mas break

14 | Tuesday, 12/01/2016 | Room 2349 | **Rhetorics exercise** | Tutoring sessions

15 | Tuesday, 19/01/2016 | Studio | Tutoring sessions

16 | Tuesday, 26/01/2016 | Landshut | **Final presentations**

17 | Tuesday, 02/02/2016 | Room 2349 | **Due-date brochure chapter**

Detailed Semester Schedule

Week 1	Tue.	13/10/2015	9:00- 18:15	Introductory session	Assignment 1	
	Wed.	14/10/2015	13.00-18.15	<i>Studio work (data collection, reading etc...)</i>		
Week 2	Tue.	20/10/2015	9:00- 12:00	Tutoring session/ <i>Studio work</i>		
	Thurs.	22/10/2010	8:00-18:15	Field trip		
Week 3	Tue.	27/10/2015	9:00-18:15	Michael Bentlage, Fabian Wenner: Workshop "Indikatoren der Raumentwicklung"		
	Wed.	28/10/2015	13:00-18:15	<i>Studio work</i>		
Week 4	Tue.	3/11/2015	9:00-18:15	Tutoring session/ <i>Studio work</i>		
	Wed.	4/11/2015	13:00-18:15	<i>Studio work</i>		
Week 5	Tue.	10/11/2015	11:30-14:30	Student presentations 1		Assignment 2
			16:00-18:15	Handout Assignment 2 and Introduction to trends analysis Alain Thierstein "Fürstentum Liechtenstein 2068"		
	Wed.	11/11/2015	13.00-18.15	<i>Studio work</i>		
Week 6	Tue.	17/11/2015	9:00- 10:15	Michael Bentlage "Introduction to Gephi"		
			10:30-18:15	Tutoring session/ <i>Studio work</i>		
	Wed.	18/11/2015	13.00-18.15	<i>Studio work</i>		
Week 7	Tue	24/11/2015	9:00-10:15	Stefanie Seeholzer „next stop Landshut - Konversion von Bahnarealen als Chance für innerstädtische Entwicklung“		
			10:30-18:15	Tutoring session/ <i>Studio work</i>		
	Wed.	25/11/2015	13.00-18.15	<i>Studio work</i>		

Week 8	Tue. 1/12/2015	9:00-12:00	Student presentations 2
		13:00-14:00	Handout Assignment 3
	Wed. 2/12/2015	13.00-18.15	<i>Studio work</i>
Week 9	Tue. 8/12/2015	9:00-10:15	Lukas Gilliard "Big Plans"
		10:30-18.15	Tutoring session/ <i>Studio work</i>
	Wed. 9/12/2015	13.00-18:15	<i>Studio work</i>
Week 10	Tue. 15/12/2015	9:00-18:15	Tutoring session/ <i>Studio work</i>
	Wed. 16/12/2015	13.00-18.15	<i>Studio work</i>
Week 11	Tue. 22/12/2015	9:00-12:00	Pin-up
<i>Week 12-13 Christmas Break</i>			
Week 14	Tue. 12/1/2016	9:00-12:00	Tutoring session/ <i>Studio work</i>
		16:00-18:15	Alain Thierstein "Rhetorics exercise"
	Wed. 13/1/2016	13.00-18.15	<i>Studio work</i>
Week 15	Tue. 19/1/2016	9:00-18:15	Tutoring session (upon request)/ <i>Studio work</i>
	Wed. 20/1/2016	13.00-18.15	<i>Studio work</i>
Week 16	Tue. 26/1/2016	8:00-12:00	Final student presentations with invited guests and external jurors in Landshut
Week 17	Tue. 2/2/2016	10:00-11:30	Due date brochure chapter and feedback students

Assignment 3

Reading List

Relevant Readings

- Alaily-Mattar, Nadia, Alain Thierstein and Agnes Förster (2014): "Alternative futures": A methodology for integrated sustainability considerations, the case of Nuremberg West, Germany. In: Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability 19(6), 677-701.
- Ernst Basler + Partner AG (2012): Trend-Report. CH - Zollikon: BaslerFonds Arbeitsgruppe Zukunftsforschung.
- Thierstein, Alain, Angelus Eisinger, Agnes Förster, David van Handel and Viktor Goebel (2008): Metamorphosis 100: Liechtenstein in the Year 2068. In: Prinz Michael von Liechtenstein and Kurt R. Leube (eds.): Twentysixtyeight. Vaduz: Industrie- und Finanzkontor, 92-148.
- Wiese, Anne, Agnes Förster, Lukas Gilliard and Alain Thierstein (2014): A spatial strategy for the production of place in two German cities - Urban design interventions as a driver for spatial transformation. In: City, Territory and Architecture 1(13), 1-9.

Relevant Websites

Stadt Landshut

<http://www.landshut.de/>

Landkreis Landshut

<http://www.landkreis-landshut.de/>

<https://www.statistik.bayern.de/medien/statistik/demwa/regionenuebersicht.pdf>

Europäische Metropolregion München e.V

<http://www.metropolregion-muenchen.eu/>

LEADER

http://www.stmelf.bayern.de/initiative_leader/

Statistik Bayern

<https://www.statistik.bayern.de/>

INKAR

<http://www.inkar.de/>