

# Curriculum Vitae

Laura Kemmer

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Interdisciplinary Urban Studies; Cultural Studies; Urban Anthropology; Infrastructural Research; Affect Theory; New Materialism; Latin American Cities; Qualitative and Ethnographic Methods

## EDUCATION

- 01/2015 – 10/2020 **Doctorate in Urban Studies** (Dr. Phil.), Dpt. for Metropolitan Culture, HafenCity University Hamburg (Public Defense 19/08/2020; prel. Grade: Summa Cum Laude. Supervisors: Prof. Alexa Färber, Prof. AbdouMaliq Simone)
- 10/2010 – 11/2013 **Master of Arts**, Master International Relations (MAIB), Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität Berlin and Universität Potsdam, Berlin, Germany, Specialization: Urban Studies (Final Grade 1,2)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 05/2016 – present **Associate Fellow**, Center for Metropolitan Studies, Institute for Art History and Historical Urbanism, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany
- 01/2020 – 06/2020 **Visiting Fellow**, PUTSPACE – “Public Transport as Public Space” project, funded by the HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) Joint Research Programme, based at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Germany.
- 11/2018 – 01/2019 **Scientific Research Assistance**, Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies, Institute for European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria
- 03/2018 – 08/2018 **Visiting Fellow**, Sociology Department, University of São Paulo, Brazil (Prof. Fraya Frehse)
- 01/2015 – 01/2018 **PhD Fellow**, Graduate School ‘Loose Connections. Collectivity in Digital and Urban Space’, Sociology Department, University of Hamburg, Germany
- 03/2014 – 08/2014 **Research Assistant**, Preparation of the ‘New Urban Agenda’ (Habitat III conference), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 04/2011 – 03/2014 **University Research Assistant and Editor (Working Paper Series)**, desiguALdades.net (BMBF) – research network on interdependent inequalities in Latin America, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- 11/2011 – 12/2011 **Research Assistant**, Sociology Department, Mexico City, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico (Conference Organization: Urban Growth. The Limits to Legality)
- 12/2009 – 02/2010 **Research Assistant**, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL), Population Division, Santiago de Chile, Chile

- 04/2008 –07/2008     **Research Internship**, Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IfSH), Hamburg, Germany
- 07/2007 –08/2007     **Research Internship**, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), Rome, Italy

#### **AWARDED GRANTS**

- 08/2020               **Conference Travel Grant**, Annual Meeting of the Society Social Studies of Science (4S) and the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST), awarded by 4S
- 11/2019               **Conference Travel Grant**, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association/Vancouver, awarded by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- 03/2018 – 08/2018     **Research Grant**, Fieldwork in Brazil, awarded by DAAD
- 01/2015 – 01/2018     **Research Grant**, PhD research, awarded by Sociology Department, University of Hamburg
- 03/2014 – 08/2014     **Research Grant**, Research at UN-Habitat/Brazil, awarded by DAAD (Carlo-Schmid programme)
- 11/2011 – 12/2011     **Research Grant**, Fieldwork in Mexico, awarded by DAAD
- 12/2009 – 02/2010     **Research Grant**, Fieldwork in Chile, awarded by DAAD
- 10/2008 – 03/2009     **Research Grant**, Stay at Universidad Complutense de Madrid/Spain, awarded by University of Hamburg, Germany

#### **FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE**

- 01/2019 – 04/2019     **Research Stay**, Fieldwork (PhD) and explorative research for postdoc project (LRT concessionaires and urban stakeholders), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 03/2018 – 08/2018     **Research Stay**, Fieldwork (Archival Ethnography), São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 08/2015 – 04/2016     **Research Stay**, Fieldwork (PhD), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 09/2014 – 01/2015     **Research Stay**, Fieldwork (PhD), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 11/2011 – 12/2011     **Research Stay**, Sociology Department, Mexico City, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico (Conference Organization: Urban Growth. The Limits to Legality)
- 12/2009 – 02/2010     **Research Stay**, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL), Population Division, Santiago de Chile, Chile

#### **INVITED TALKS (Selection)**

- 10/2020               **Key Note**, “New forms of collectivity in urban Latin America”, conference ‘Latin American Urban Research in Dialogue’, Hochschule Bremen, Architecture/Urban Theory, Prof. Dr. Christian v. Wissel (org.) (virtual meeting)
- 11/2019               **Original Paper**, “Material Promises: Railways as condition for sustainable urban societies”, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA), Vancouver, Canada
- 06/2017               **Original Paper**, “Public Transport and Political Collectivity in Post-Olympic Rio de Janeiro“, Annual Meeting of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) and the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA), Ottawa, Canada

- 04/2017 **Original Paper**, “‘Ficou na Promessa’. Infrastructural Promises on Standby” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Boston, USA
- 07/2016 **Original Paper**, “Promising Infrastructures: What a tram tells about a city”, International Summer School “Affective and Sensory Methodologies in Cultural Studies”, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark
- 03/2014 and 04/2014 Original Paper “Streetworks - Street Networks and Designing Diversity in Berlin”, Joint Conference of the *UN-Habitat* and the *Future of Places* Group, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Subsequent Participation in UN-Habitat “World Urban Forum” (WUF7), Medellín, Colombia.

#### **ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS (Selection)**

- 08/2020 **Panel Organizer** “Standby. Socio-material modes of organizing”, Annual Conference of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) and the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST), Prague, Czech Republic
- 11/2019 **Roundtable Organizer**, “The promise of the city: Conditions of urban change and collective endurance”, with Alexa Färber, joint conference of the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) and American Anthropological Association (AAA), Vancouver, Canada
- 04/2017 **Panel Organizer** “Standby Infrastructures“, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), USA
- 01/2017 – 01/2017 **Conference Co-Organizer** “Loose Connections. Modes of Un/Relating”, Annual Meeting of the Graduate School “Loose Connections. Collectivity in Urban and Digital Space”, Hamburg, Germany
- 03/2016 – 03/2016 **Conference Co-Organizer** “Berlin.Global.City”, with Julia Roth and Saskia Sassen, sponsored by the German Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung), Germany
- 02/2015 **Roundtable Organizer** “(Un)learning IR beyond the classroom”, with Ingo Peters and Wiebke Wemheuer, Annual Meeting of the International Sociology Association (ISA), USA
- 03/2014 – 03/2014 **Co-Organizer of an Initial Meeting for building a "Global Platform for the Right to the City"**, with members of the Polis institute for Studies, Training and Consultancy in Social Policies, NGOs and Researchers, Brazil
- 08/2013 **Roundtable Organizer** “Berlin-Buenos Aires. Memory, Crisis, Resistance”, with Anne Huffs Schmid, sponsored by the German Federal Agency for Civic Education, Germany

#### **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

- 10/2020 – 01/2021 **Guest Lecturer (Seminar)** – “Transportation Research. Case studies in Berlin”, Geography Department, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany
- 01/2020 – 01/2020 **Lecturer (Methods Workshop)** – “Afraid of Things. Confronting the challenges of technology research”, Leibniz Institute Leipzig, Germany
- 10/2019 – 04/2020 **Guest Lecturer** – “Ethnographies of Urban Railway Transport”, Institute for European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria
- 03/2019 – 09/2020 **Guest Lecturer (Block Seminar)** – “Affect Theory”, Institute for European Ethnology, University of Vienna, Austria
- 09/2018 **Invited Lecturer (Podcast and Shortfilm/Graphic Recording produced by Hamburg Open University)** – “The City as Assemblage”, HafenCity University Hamburg, available at <http://stadtkulturen.net>

- 06/2017 **Invited Lecturer and Student's Project Discussant (Block Seminar)** – “Crossroads. On Street Ethnography”, HafenCity University Hamburg
- 04/2010 – 07/2010 **Lecturer (Seminar)** – “Introduction to Political Science”, Sociology Department, Universität Hamburg, Germany

#### LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Italian (proficient user, C2)  
Portuguese (proficient user, C2)  
English (proficient user, C2)  
Spanish (proficient user, B2)  
French (proficient user, B2)

#### MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

*Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)*  
*American Anthropological Association (AAA)*  
*Association of American Geographers (AAG)*  
*International Union of Ethnological Sciences (IUAES)*  
*International Network for Urban Research and Action (INURA)*

#### ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND COURSES

**Qualitative Methods:** Ethnographic field research, Expert Interviews, Sensory Ethnography, Affective Methods, Audiovisual Methods, Archival Research, Mobile Methods

**Publication Editing and Layout:** Trained for work as editor of the *designALdades.net Working Paper Series*, incl. attendance of two courses in Adobe InDesign C4 (Freie Universität Berlin);

**Work as editor and peer-reviewer** for various international journals incl. *Environment and Planning Series*, *CITY*, *IJURR*, *Distinktion*, *Ephemera*, *CROLAR*

#### KEY PUBLICATIONS (peer reviewed)

1. **Monograph (forthcoming)** “Bonding. Infrastructure, affect, and the emergence of urban collectivity”, Oxford, New York: Berghahn Books.
2. **Original Article (accepted)** (co-authored with AbdouMaliq Simone) “Standing by the promise. Acts of endurance in Rio and Jakarta”, in: *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* – Special Issue on “Minor Futures: Pluralizing the Arts of Anticipation”, Eds. Martin Savransky and Sébastien Nobert
3. **Special Issue (forthcoming 01/2021)** (co-edited with Annika Kühn and Vanessa Weber) “Standby as Mode of Organization”, in: *Ephemera. Theory and Politics in Organization*
4. **Original Article (2020)** “Free Riding Rio: Protest, Public Transport and the Politics of a Footboard”, in: *City and Society*, 32:1 – Special Issue on “The Political Materiality of Cities”, Eds. Rivke Jaffe and Francesca Pilo’, available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ciso.12245>
5. **Book chapter (published, 2020)** (co-authored with Wiebke Wemheuer-Vogelaar et al.): “The Global IR debate in the classroom”, in: Tickner, A. B. and Smith, K. (eds.) *International Relations from the Global South: Worlds of Difference*. Routledge.

6. **Special Issue (published, 2019)** (co-edited with Steffen Krämer et al.): “Locating Affect. On the Ambivalence of Affective Situatedness”, in: *Distinktion. Journal of Social Theory*, 20:1, available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/1600910X.2019.1579744>
7. **Original Article (published, 2019)** “Promissory things: how affective bonds stretch along a tramline”, in: *Distinktion: Journal of Social Theory*, 20:1, 58-76, available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/1600910X.2019.1580595>
8. **Book Chapter (published, 2019)** (with Malte Bergmann) ”Streetworks’ – Street Networks and Designing Diversity in Berlin Neukölln”, in: Mameli, F. et al. (Eds.) “Urban Appropriation Strategies. Exploring Space-making Practices in Contemporary European Cityscapes”, Transcript Verlag, pp. 113-134.
9. **Special Issue (published, 2016)** (with Raquel Velho) “Science, Technology, Society – and the Americas?” *CROLAR. Critical Reviews on Latin American Research*, 5.1
10. **Book Chapter (published, 2016)** “Diversity as a Challenge? Decolonizing Democratization from Latin America”, in: Peters, I. & Wemheuer, W. (Eds.) “Globalizing International Relations: Scholarship Amidst Divides and Diversity”, Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 265-287.
11. **Book chapter (published, 2016)** “Place-making. Representation and Participation of Diversity in Berlin-Neukölln”, in: Eckard, F. and Seyfarth, R. (Eds.) “Urban Minorities”, Bauhaus Urban Studies.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. **Interview (published, 2019)** (co-authored with Christian-Helge Peters and Vanessa Weber): “On Right-Wing Movements, Spheres, and Resonances. An interview with Rainer Mühlhoff and Ben Anderson”, in: *Distinktion. Journal of Social Theory*, 20:1, 25- 41, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1600910X.2018.1544577>
2. **Book Review (published, 2019)** “Nikhil Anand, Akhil Gupta and Hannah Appel (eds.) 2018: The Promise of Infrastructure. Durham, NC and London: Duke University Press.” In: *IJURR International Journal for Urban and Regional Research*, 43: 606-608. doi:10.1111/1468-2427.12802
3. **Book Review (published, 2017)** “Farías, Ignacio and Blok, Anders (Hrsg.) „Revisiting the urban cosmos—an intervention into the politics of urban assemblages“ In: *City*, 21:5, 685-689
4. **Conference Report (published, 2017)** “UrbanTopias. Discussing the Challenges of Changing Cities” (with Hannah Schilling und Aljoscha Hofmann), in: *HSozKult*, 01/2017
5. **Book Review (published, 2016)** “Ureta, Sebastián. 2015. Assembling Policy. Transantiago, Human Devices, and the Dream of a World-Class Society”, in: *CROLAR* 5.1