

HCU

HafenCity University  
Hamburg

University of the Built Environment  
and Metropolitan Development

International Workshop  
24th - 25th October 2013

**Field-  
Configuring  
Events:  
Time, Space and Relations**



Foto: Martin Klimas

HCU

HafenCity University  
Hamburg

University of the Built Environment  
and Metropolitan Development

International Workshop  
24th - 25th October 2013

**Field-  
Configuring  
Events:  
Time, Space and Relations**

Prof. Dr. Gernot Grabher



Foto: Martin Klimas

HCU

HafenCity University  
Hamburg

University of the Built Environment  
and Metropolitan Development

International Workshop  
24th - 25th October 2013

**Field-  
Configuring  
Events:  
Time, Space and Relations**

Constanze Engelbrecht



Foto: Martin Klimas

HCU

HafenCity University  
Hamburg

University of the Built Environment  
and Metropolitan Development

International Workshop  
24th - 25th October 2013

**Field-  
Configuring  
Events:  
Time, Space and Relations**

Dr. Joachim Thiel



Foto: Martin Klimas



## Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

### Where are we?

The headquarter of an International Building Exhibition (IBA)

*IBAs are very peculiar events:*

- No exhibition
- Not (or not mainly) about building
- An open format, locally/regionally initiated (only recent establishment of national quality standards)
- Duration of several years
- Purposeful creations of finite exceptional circumstances



## Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

### A brief history of (International) Building Exhibitions

*First generation (1901 to 1957):*

*Showcases of modern urban architecture and urban planning*

- Darmstadt 1901: A colony of modern artists
- Stuttgart 1925: New housing realism
- West-Berlin 1957: An explicit counter model to the Stalinist transformation of the Eastern part



**Field-  
Configuring  
Events:**

**Time, Space and Relations**

## **A brief history of (International) Building Exhibitions**

*Second generation (1984 to date):*

*Laboratories of coping with urban and regional transformation*

- Berlin 1980s: Recovery of historical inner cities
- Ruhr 1990s: Tools for the regeneration of old industrial regions
- Lausitz and Saxony-Anhalt 2000s: Managing post-socialist transformation
- Hamburg 2007-2013: Strategies for a deprived urban area



## Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

### Field-configuring dynamics of International Building Exhibitions

*Local reasons but generalizable issues for planning and regeneration*

- General: turning problems into assets
- Berlin: “gentle urban renewal”
- Ruhr: “perspective incrementalism” as a new planning culture
- Saxony-Anhalt: “Shrinking cities”
- Hamburg?



**Field-  
Configuring  
Events:**

*Time, Space and Relations*

**International Building  
Exhibition Hamburg**

*The area*



**Field-  
Configuring  
Events:**

*Time, Space and Relations*

## **International Building Exhibition Hamburg**

### *Double objective*

- Opening of a stigmatized, but potentially attractive area for middle class
- Creation of regeneration paths for the local community



**Field-  
Configuring  
Events:**

**Time, Space and Relations**

## **International Building Exhibition Hamburg**

*The way: Uncovering the potentials*

- Suburban qualities in the heart of the city
- An internationalized urban society
- A historical victim of climate change

*Thematic fields of an urban laboratory for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*





**Field-  
Configuring  
Events:**

**Time, Space and Relations**

## **International Building Exhibition Hamburg**

### *The tools*

- Marketing!
- Events
- Projects



## Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

### International Building Exhibition Hamburg

#### *The conflicts*

- Soft policy vs. hard socio-economic problems
- Attraction of middle class vs. local communities
- Vicinity of port area and large industries
- Competition with other (more) prominent projects (e.g. HafenCity)



## Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

### IBA Hamburg as Field-Configuring Event?

Still open but

thematic fields are potential drivers of innovation in urban regeneration, e.g.:

- School education as a vehicle of neighbourhood renewal
- Cultural projects as openers of stigmatized areas
- ...



HCU

HafenCity University  
Hamburg

University of the Built Environment  
and Metropolitan Development

International Workshop  
24th - 25th October 2013

**Field-  
Configuring  
Events:  
Time, Space and Relations**

Prof. Dr. Elke Schüßler



Foto: Martin Klimas

# Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

## Aims of this research network

„Scientific Networks“ are a program of the German Research Foundation (DFG) with the aims to

- “offer young researchers the opportunity to engage in scientific exchange and cooperation on topics of common interest” and
- “strengthen the ties to the international research community”.

Specifically, using the concept of field-configuring events (FCE) as a hook, we aim to

- Develop the **conceptual** foundation of FCEs and their impact through interdisciplinary exchange, e.g. by comparing different types of events in different field contexts, discussing mechanisms of field configuration, exploring new event types
- Explore different (and new) ways of **researching** FCE
- Share, discuss and develop our **personal** research on FCE

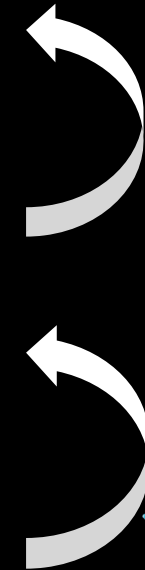


# Field-Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

## Guiding themes for our discussions

<b>Time</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Which temporal dimensions are relevant for distinguishing different types of FCE with different (short-term, long-term) outcomes or effects?</li></ul> <p>How can the temporality (temporal limitation, singular or periodic occurrence, etc.) of FCE be empirically examined and methodologically used?</p>
<b>Space</b>	<p>How are FCE spatially positioned and designed? Which spatial aspects influence the outcomes/effects of FCE?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How can the spatial boundedness of FCE be used methodologically and, at the same time, how can their „unbounded“ effects be empirically examined?</li></ul>
<b>Relations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the relational effects of single FCE and how do these outlive the events? How do different events interact in producing relational effects?</li><li>• How can social network analysis or similar research methods be applied to examine which relational effects of FCE?</li></ul>



# Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

## Time, temporality and FCE

### The temporality of FCE

- FCE are „temporally bounded“ – but how and how much?
- How is temporal boundedness used by different actors?
- FCE as temporary organizations

### The timing of FCE

- Scheduling decisions
- Singular vs. serial events

### The temporal effects of FCE

- Short-term vs. long-term effects on a field level
- Short-term vs. long-term effects for participants
- Ritual vs. disruption
- Temporal pacing/calibration/entrainment





## Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

### What do Lampel/Meyer (2008) say about time?

- "...unique methodological advantages that the study of FCEs offers to researchers who are interested in studying **dynamic field processes**."
- "Field-Configuring Events (FCEs) are **temporary social organizations**..."
- "...settings in which people from diverse organizations and with diverse purposes assemble **periodically, or on a one-time basis** ..."
- "...FCEs that were never intended to influence field evolution may trigger **emergent processes**..."
- "...current theory of field formation and development seems to focus almost exclusively on **global and continuous** processes that drive field evolution, while paying little attention to **discontinuous and localized processes** ..."



# Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

## What do Lampel/Meyer (2008) say about time?

- “The study of field configuring events should therefore be seen as part of a reorientation of research on field evolution towards mechanisms of institutional change that **lack temporal continuity!**”
- “In tractable **settings bounded by time** and space, they allow researchers to directly observe the sense-making and sensegiving processes that fuel field formation and transformation.”
- “...**realtime** collection of primary data...”
- “...they facilitate the study of emergence, transformation, and other dynamic processes that are difficult to capture with conventional methodologies...”



**FCE as discontinuous mechanisms that allow  
the study of (potentially long-term) processes**



# Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

## Arising conceptual issues (1)

### George/Jones (2000): six time dimensions

- Past, future, present and subjective experience of time
  - How can these be incorporated in the FCE construct?
- Time aggregations (bracketing in episodes)
  - How is the FCE construct meaningfully aggregated?
- Duration of steady states and rates of change
  - What is the duration/the rates of changes triggered by FCE?
- Incremental versus discontinuous change
  - When is change triggered by FCE incremental/discontinuous?
- Frequency, rhythms, and cycles
  - How does the frequency of FCE influence their effects?
- Spirals and intensity
  - Do FCE and their effects accelerate or decelerate?

What?  
How?  
Why?



# Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

## Arising conceptual issues (2)

### „Temporal work“ (Kaplan/Orlikowski 2013) and FCE

- Mobilizing time through events vs. mobilizing time during events
- Retrospective vs. prospective temporal work
- FCE as discontinuous mechanisms vs. “ongoing” temporal work (Schultz/Hernes 2013)

### Subjective interpretations of events

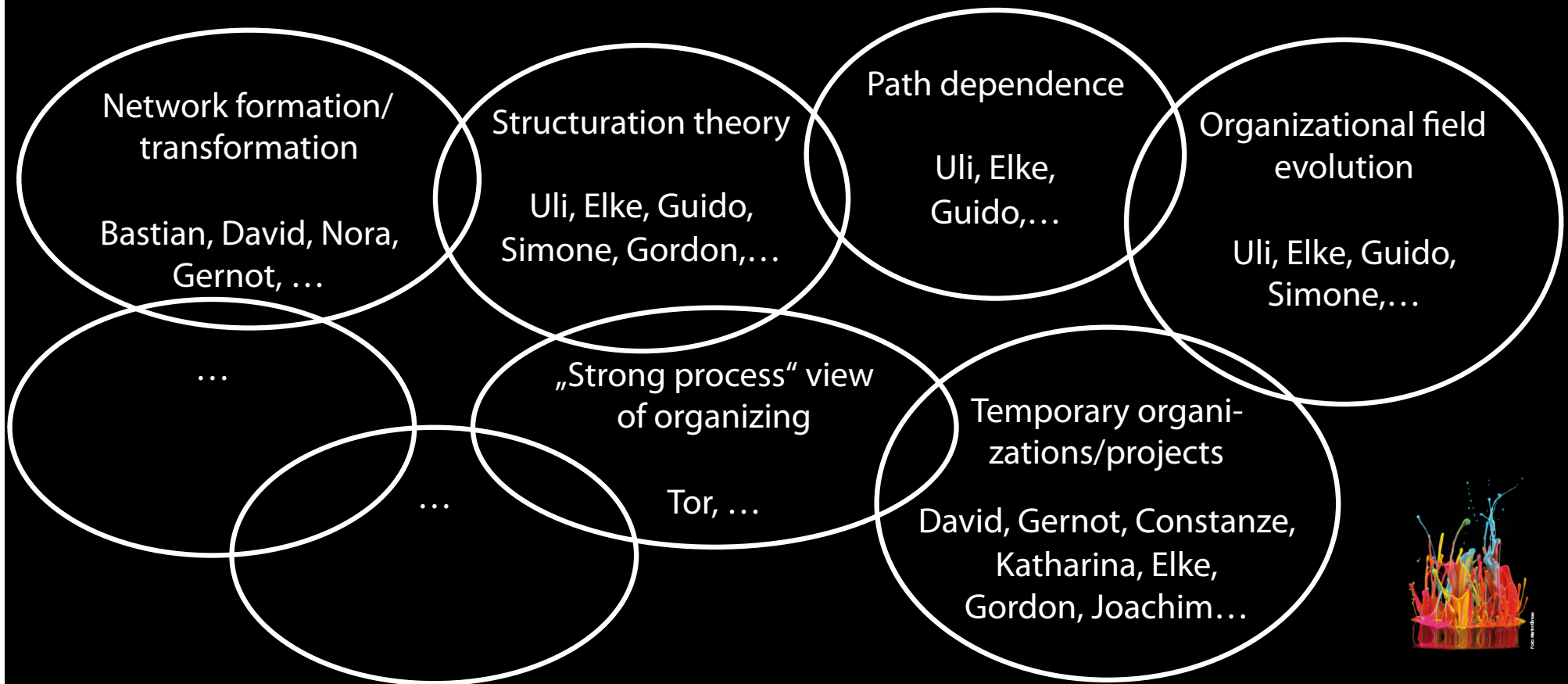
- Organized vs. unexpected events (Müller-Seitz/Schüßler 2013) – what kind of “event” are FCE?
- Events as routine or as “projects” (Obstfeld 2012)



# Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

## Networks members and their relation to time, temporality, process research



# Field- Configuring Events:

Time, Space and Relations

## Text discussion: Gryzmala-Busse

- How do aspects of temporality link to the causal mechanisms by which FCE configure organizational fields?
  - Duration: realtime causes, but long-term consequences? Boundaries of „event“?
  - Tempo: speed of change related to type of change?
  - Acceleration – or deceleration of specific dynamics
  - Timing: role of timing for inclusiveness/exclusiveness; timing of external events; path dependence in the unfolding of events
- Objective vs. subjective understandings of time regarding FCE and their causal impact?
- Mechanisms vs. processes related to FCE?



**Field-  
Configuring  
Events:**  
Time, Space and Relations

Vielen Dank.

