

Transatlantic Graduate Research Program | *Graduiertenkolleg Berlin – New York*  
,History and Culture of the Metropolis in the 20th Century‘

3rd International TDP Workshop – Toronto  
September 29, 2007, 2.00 p.m.– 3.30 p.m.

Dr. Oliver Schmidt (Ph.D.), Center for Metropolitan Studies, Berlin (CMS)

## A | HARD FACTS

- I Organizational Framework: Set-up, Goals,
- II Selection Process
- III Graduate Fellows and Projects

## B | PROGRAM

## C | EVALUATION

## D | POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## A | ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK

### **In the initial phase, the Transatlantic Graduate Research Program took its time:**

- **2002/03**      Conceptualization and application, at the outset a co-operation of 5 universities: TU Berlin, Humboldt Univ., Freie Universität, Columbia, New York University (today including Fordham)
- **2/2004**      Finally granted and funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)
- **7/2004**      Organisational set-up:
  - academical leadership: 2 councils (Berlin/NYC), 2 spokespersons, 4 lieutenants
  - steering committee: spokesperson – executive director – coordinator
- **7-9/2004**      Careful selection process of 3-year fellows
- **1/2005**      The program starts. Weekly colloquium, shared working space at the TU Berlin

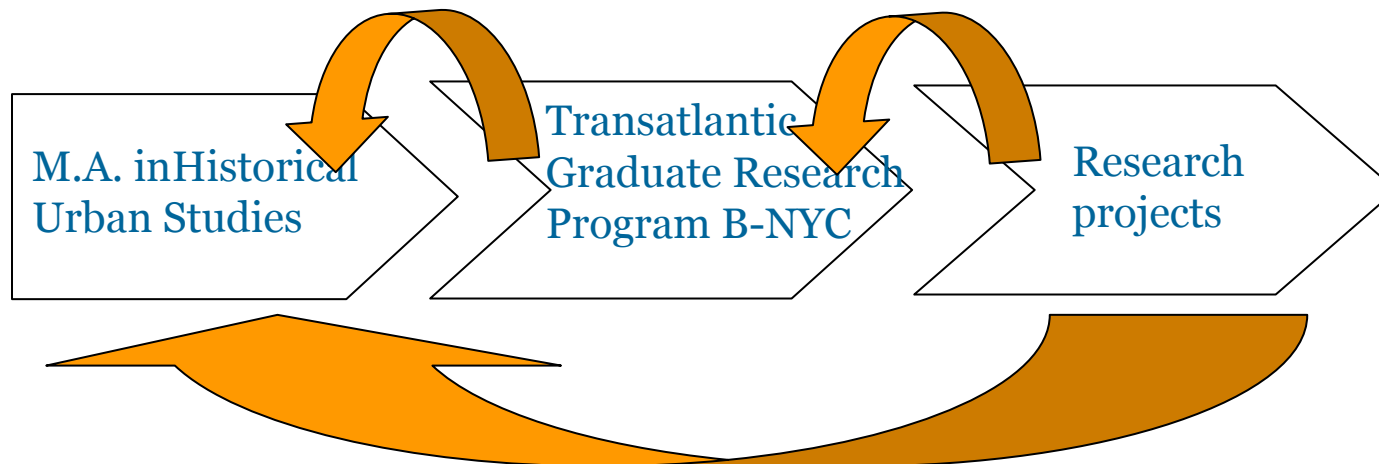
## A | ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK

**Conceived as a six-university consortium, the graduate research program Berlin-NYC is housed at the Center for Metropolitan Studies (CMS) in Berlin.** Founded in 2004,

—► **the CMS strives to accomplish three objectives:**

- to promote interdisciplinary and comparative research
- to provide high-quality and innovative academic support to young researchers
- to help build sustainable co-operation between actors in our field, striving to foster transfer of knowledge between academia, practitioners & the public

—► **To this end, the CMS pursues a three-pillar strategy:**



## A | SELECTION PROCESS

**We took pains to attract a diverse cohorte of fellows in an international environment**



160 applications → 12 Fellows from six countries:

- Bulgaria
- Chile
- Germany
- Norway
- Austria
- USA

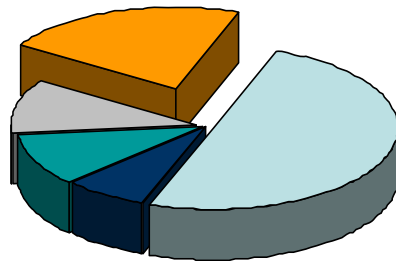


Additional Guest Scholars from:

- Australia
- Canada
- Sweden
- USA

## A | SELECTION PROCESS

**The current program 2005–07 groomed a young international, interdisciplinary research group from nine disciplines** - integrating 10 doctoral fellows, 2 post-docs, 3 associate scholars, plus 6 doctoral fellows from NYC.



- Doctoral Fellows
- Post-Docs
- Research Asistants
- Guest Scientists
- Doctoral Fellows from NY



**In January '08, the next, crescent 3-year cohorte will be inaugurated.**

## A | GRADUATE FELLOWS AND THEIR PROJECTS

**The research projects concentrate on historical, socio-scientific and cultural analyses of urban and metropolitan life.** Among the themes covered are:



**Dr. Deike Peters**

***The Restructuring of Urban Mobility in the Postmodern Metropolis - Los Angeles & Berlin Compared***



**Dr. Florian Urban**

***The Invention of the Historic City - Building the Past in East Berlin***



**Dr. Susanne Stemmler**

***Urban Culture Hip-Hop. New York & Berlin***

## A | GRADUATE FELLOWS AND THEIR PROJECTS

**Thorsten Dame**

*Electropolis Berlin. The Energy of the Metropolis (1884-2004)*



**Synnove Bendixsen**  
*Being Muslim in Berlin. Identity Work and Feelings of Belonging in the City.*



**Laura Frahm**

*Topologies. Configurations of Space, Metropolis and Film in the 20th Century*

**Ignacio Farias Hurtado**  
*Following the Footprints of Tourism Communication: Touring Berlin*



**Doreen Jakob**  
*The Development of Urban Creative Milieus*

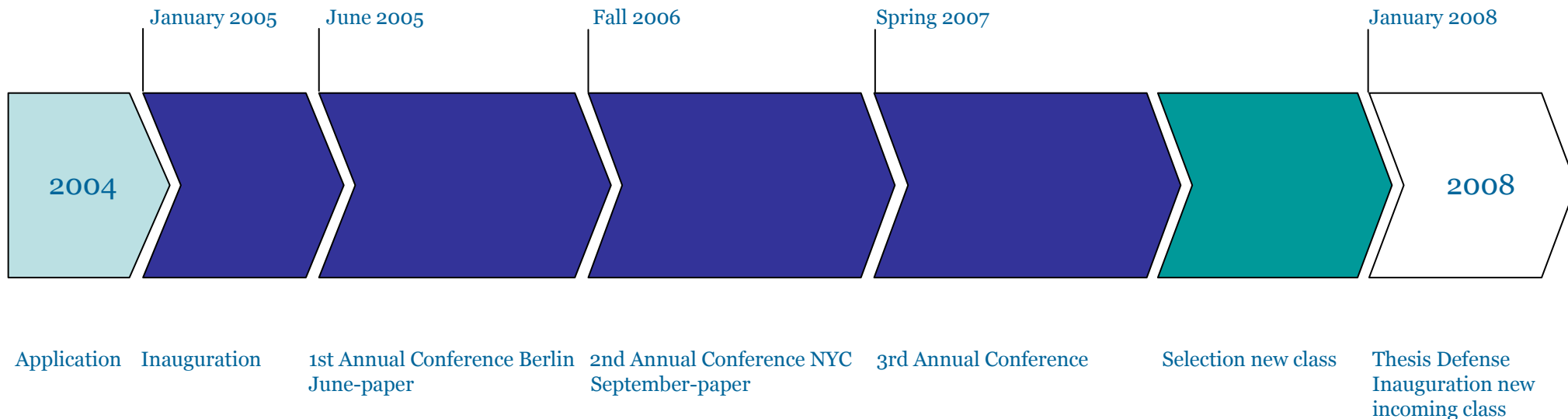




# B | PROGRAM

## B | PROGRAM SCHEDULE

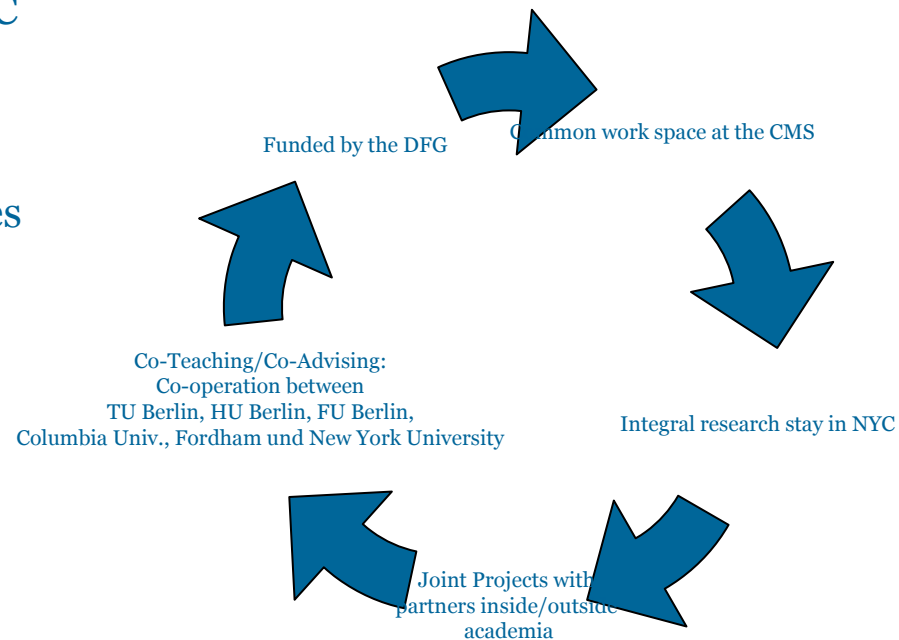
**The structured Ph.D. program is based on a 3-year-(funding)-cycle:**



## B | JOINT PROGRAM FORMATS BERLIN – NEW YORK

### From Co-Teaching to Co-Advising: Co-operation is at the heart of the program

- ▶ **Co-Teaching:** Joint seminar in B/NYC
- ▶ **Co-Advising:** Joint thesis defenses
- ▶ Joint Workshops & annual conferences



# C | EVALUATION

## C | OVERALL EVALUATION AFTER THREE YEARS

**Big investments start to pay off, but the challenges remain serious.**

### **The benefits for junior scholars:**

- Enlarged labor market: Internat. networks, symbolic capital (language, habitus)
- Enriched thesis: International orientation
- Exciting experience: study abroad

### **The potential draw backs for junior scholars:**

- inter-universitary/national cooperation vs. competitive environment (3rd party can be helpful)
- unproductive disconcern of research focus (intervention before, during and after helps)
- inter-disciplinary cooperation – questions of language

### **Further challenges: legal – administrative – political - academic**

- **Administration:** complex project management
- **Funding:** overhead – matching funds
- **Matching interests:** flow of students, joint research among senior scholars

## D | 10 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Project management:
  - ▶ Soft factors matter!
  - ▶ Continuous systematic evaluation through diverse channels: soliciting feedback from students and senior scholars, questionnaire, external review, DFG on-site-visit.
- 2) Universities:
  - ▶ Common interest, collegial affinity more important than big names.
- 3) Funding organisations:
  - ▶ Lobby abroad for more systematic support-students, matching fund
  - ▶ Appropriate financial planning (overhead, incubation funds)
  - ▶ Adequate org. infrastructure (secretary, manager, teaching relief)
  - ▶ Self-help support information for academic management
  - ▶ Dual degree arrangements
- 4) To scholars, and all:
  - ▶ Respect the differences.
  - ▶ Develop a good intellectual agenda: Think of ideas the time of which may come in 3-5 years.

**Thank you very much for your attention!**

For more answers, feel free to contact:

Center for Metropolitan Studies (CMS)  
Ernst-Reuter-Platz 7 | TEL 3-0  
10587 Berlin, Germany

Tel: 030 314-28400

Fax: 030 314-28403

[info@metropolitanstudies.de](mailto:info@metropolitanstudies.de)

[www.metropolitanstudies.de](http://www.metropolitanstudies.de)