

10.00 am – 10.30 am: *Coffee Break*

10.30 am – 12.00 pm

Paper Session 7: Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Agri-Food Systems

Chair: Oliver Klein

1) Contemporary transformations and the future of rural areas in Poland

Anna Kołodziejczak, Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań

2) Socio-spatial fixes and their role in EU Bioeconomy Development

Moritz Albrecht, University of Eastern Finland

3) Collectives of ecosystem revitalization: Negotiating (dis)connectedness in agricultural stream restoration experiments

Helena Valve, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE

12.00 pm – 1.00 pm

Panel Discussion & Closing Session

Chairs: Stefan Ewert, Alexander Drost

"Think Rural in the Baltic Sea Region: A multi-disciplinary perspective"

Panelists: Cluster Speakers of IFZO

1.00 pm

Farewell

Steffen FleBa

Scientific Chairs:

Professor Dr. Steffen FleBa

Dr. Alexander Drost

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DFG

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The Baltic Sea Region consists predominantly of rural spaces. However, current research on the area focuses strongly on centers and neglects the specific chances and challenges of rural regions. Most researchers (and politicians) address the rural areas from the perspective of the urban centers and see rural, peripheral regions as vulnerable. However, rurality is not primarily a deficit (e.g. poor infrastructure, ageing populations, migration), but a future potential for tourism, environmental health and innovation. Consequently, it is time to reflect on the chances, opportunities and challenges of rural regions in the respective countries and develop a new mind-set of "Think Rural".

Scientists from different academic fields (e.g. healthcare, law, economics, geography, theology, arts) will meet from 23rd to 25th of March 2023 in Greifswald to develop this new mind-set and analyze common structures and characteristics of rurality in their professions. The interdisciplinary working groups "Think Rural" and "Baltic Sea Research" (IFZO) of the University of Greifswald will meet with colleagues from all Baltic Sea countries in order to practice "Think Rural", gain new insights and start new research collaborations.

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Interdisziplinäres
Forschungszentrum
Ostseeraum – IFZO
Interdisciplinary Centre for
Baltic Sea Region Research

THINK RURAL in the Baltic Sea Region

International conference
23- 25 March 2023

Thursday, 23 March 2023

8.00 am – 9.00 am

Registration

9.00 am – 10.00 am

Welcoming

Consortium Think Rural (Steffen Fleßa),
Rector of the University (Katharina Riedel),
IFZO (Sebastian Van der Linden),
Ostseepolitik und -kooperation (Wolf Born)

10.00 am – 10.30 am: *Coffee Break*

10.30 am – 12.00 pm

Paper Session 1 : Rural Health Care

Chairs: Steffen Fleßa, Wolfgang Hoffmann

1) Governance of e-Health in Baltic States:
similarities and differences

Daiga Behmane, Latvia

2) How eHealth could support managing in-
tegrated healthcare programs in rural areas.

Insights from Poland

Iga Rudawska, Poland

3) Emergency Care in Rural Norway

Guttorm Brattebø, Norway

4) Bridging the Baltic: Insights into innova-
tion and e-health trends in the Baltic Sea
Region

Nils Hansson, Germany/Sweden

12.00 pm – 1.30 pm: *Lunch Break*

1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Paper Session 2: Church and Religion in Rural Areas

Chair: Tobias Braune-Krickau

1) Insights and perspectives on rural church
and religion in Denmark.

Kirstine Helboe Johansen, Denmark

2) Local identity, history and traditions sup-
porting churches in rural areas of Estonia

Riho Altnurme, Estonia

3) Structural changes of a church district
(1999–2025). Peripheralization dynamics by
decline in church membership and structural
reduction

Benjamin Stahl, Germany

3.00 pm – 3.30 pm: *Coffee Break*

3.30 pm – 5.00 pm

Paper Session 3: Policing, Victimization, Feel- ings of Safety and Extremism in Rural Areas

Chair: Stefan Harrendorf

1) Stability and Acceptance of the Demo-
cratic System in Rural Areas

Andreas Klärner, Larissa Deppisch, Germany

2) Rural Crime and Policing in Sweden

Vania Ceccato, Sweden

3) Farm Crime Victimization and Prevention
Decision Making: Insights from England and
Wales

Kreseda Smith, UK

4) Local safety and security in local com-
munities in Slovenia- rural perspectives: An
overview of research activities

Gorazd Meško, Slovenia

5.30 pm

Key Note Lecture

Peripheral Rural Regions in Europe

Michael Woods, UK

Moderation: Christine Tamásy (Greifswald)

*afterwards: Evening Reception (Alfried-
Krupp-Wissenschaftskolleg)*

Friday, 24 March 2023

8.30 am – 10.00 am

Paper Session 4: Rural Policies, Modes of Gov- ernance, Social Movements, Contradictions and Conflicts

Chair: Stefan Ewert

1) Potential for bottom-up, grassroots activi-
ties for an energy transition in the Baltic Sea
Region

Farid Karimi, Finland

2) Wetland-based Rural Development in the
Baltic Sea Region – Potentials and Current
Political Barriers

Franziska Tanneberger, Germany

3) Mapping the Rural-Urban Divide in Eu-
rope: The Role of socio-political clusters for
issue polarization and vote choice

Sigrid Roßteutscher, Germany

10.00 am – 10.30 am: *Coffee Break*

10.30 am – 12.00 pm

Paper Session 5: Representations of Rurality

Chairs: Christine Tamásy, Annika Schlitte

1) Discursive Construction of Rural Areas:
Policy Perspectives

Clemens Lisdat, Germany

2) Forest bioeconomy discourses in Finnish
peripheries

Majja Halonen, Finland

3) Loss, Arousal and Attunement. Ethno-
graphic Perspectives on Kashubian Rurality

Oliwia Murawska, Austria

4) From Space to Life. How Nature Deter-
mines Culture

Giovanna Caruso, Germany

12.00 pm – 12.30 pm: *Provision of lunch bags*

12.30 pm – 5.30 pm

Field Trips

6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Music & Arts Session

Chair: Gesa zur Nieden

*Doing art and/or culture in rural areas. Per-
spectives from Western Pomerania*

Henriette Sehmsdorf, OPERNALE; Judith
Siegmond, Zurich University of the Arts.

With songs by Luise Greger interpreted by
Joana Rueffer (vocals) and Benjamin Saupe
(piano)

venue: Aula of the University Greifswald

8.00 pm: *Speakers'/Facilitators' Dinner*

Saturday, 25 March 2023

8.30 am – 10.00 am

Paper Session 6: Rural Economies, Demography and Migration

Chair: Daniel Schiller

1) Spatio-temporal patterns of demographic
change in the Baltic Sea Region

Paula Prenzel, University of Greifswald

2) Infrastructure Matters – Challenge or
Possibility in Municipalities with Shrinking
Populations?

Ida Grundel, Linköping University

3) Social security of rural areas – areas of
exclusion in the perspective of social assis-
tance activities on the example of Poland

*Urszula Kaczmarek, Adam Mickiewicz Univer-
sity Poznań*