



Strategic Framework Paper

International Information and Initiative Group
(iIIG) Gender and Spatial Transformation

Preface

The international IIG *Gender and Spatial Transformation* focusses on the synergies of linking gender-related research and spatial planning practice. The main objective is to explore the innovative potential of the category gender as an "eye-opener" in the debates on spatial transformation towards sustainability – both conceptually and empirically. Linking gender-related sustainability research with approaches to gender-oriented planning to concepts and debates of spatial transformation represents a novelty.

Organisational Structure

The Transdisciplinary Network *Gender and Spatial Transformation* is an international Information and Initiative Group (iIIG) within the organisational structure of the ARL – Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association. For that, it follows the [Rules of Procedure for ARL IIGs](#). IIGs are dedicated to a selected field of tasks and research that has a continuing high scientific and practical relevance within spatial research and planning. The term of the international IIG is initially three years and will be extended by a further three years following submission and approval of an updated working programme by the ARL Executive Committee.

The international IIG consist of 12-15 members who are appointed by the ARL Executive Committee for a period of five years. Members are selected based on an open call for membership. Working in the IIG is based on a voluntary basis. The Steering Committee consists of the Chair, the Deputy Chair, the responsible Scientific Officer at the ARL Headquarters and the Organisational Assistant. The Chair and their deputies are appointed by the ARL Executive Committee for a period of five years. One subsequent reappointment to the same function is permitted. For their term of office, the Chair names the Organisational Assistant.



Conception

The illG *Gender and Spatial Transformation* recognizes that gender perspectives (in form of gender-differentiated data, consideration of structural inequalities between women and men, intersectional approaches, etc.) can make significant critical and visionary contributions to current debates on spatial transformation towards sustainability. With their innovative potential, they enable the conceptual and normative specification of the debates on transformation.

Following the ‘cross-cutting gender perspective’ formulated in the ARL Development Concept, the aim of the illG is to establish critical, feminist positions that consider the causes of socio-ecological crises ‘so that power imbalances and relations of domination can be made visible’.¹ To this end, the illG explicitly addresses intersectional gender perspectives in the context of spatial sustainability transformations. In order to achieve this goal, a mutual transfer between science and practice is encouraged. The illG equally promotes exchange and debate on scientific discourses and theoretical positions as well as discussion and systematic consideration of existing knowledge from planning practice.

The positions formulated within the illG are going to be incorporated into the strategic documentation of the Academy’s work, in particular the research concept ‘Spatial Development in Times of Multiple Crises’, which is to be updated in mid-2025. Thus, the gender perspectives laid out in the research concept are going to be further elaborated, as are the connections of gender dimensions with spatial implications of ‘multiple crises’ in the ARL research concept. To ensure that intersectional gender perspectives are considered in all newly established ARL working groups, coordination with the advisory group for new working bodies of the Executive Committee is necessary.

Development Perspectives

In order to ensure a balanced international membership, the illG aims on expanding the circle of members to include non-German-speaking countries. In the short term, suitable experts from non-German-speaking countries are invited e.g., for rounds of dialogue. Furthermore, the illG is going to increase the integration of knowledge from

¹ Entwicklungskonzept der ARL [ARL Development Concept], p. 4



planning praxis by specifically encouraging suitable practitioners to participate in the illG.

Working Programme 2023-2025

During the kick-off workshop on 16 February 2023 the following three topics were selected as the main focus of work for the next three years:

1. Terms and concepts in the context of *Gender and Spatial Transformation*,
2. Gender and climate-just planning,
3. The economy and the socio-ecological crisis of gender relations as a crisis of reproduction.

When considering the main topics, particular emphasis is placed on mutual transfers between science and practice and vice versa.

Working formats and products

Within the framework of the illG's work, first, different **event formats** are realized: *workshops* as internal meetings of the illG members, *rounds of dialogue* as meetings of illG members to which selected experts and discussion partners are invited as sources of advice and inspiration, and *symposia* to which the expert public from science and practice is going to be invited.

Second, different **publication formats** are planned, which will be largely realised in working groups. The formats include *contributions* to the international knowledge and communication platform (including podcasts and extensions of existing formats such as the Country Profiles) and *articles* in national and international journals or peer reviewed journals that are included in SCI rankings. The illG also strives to publish a *special issue* to position gender perspectives in the international debates on sustainability transformations as well as on spatial and planning research. Furthermore, *position papers* on 'emerging topics' are planned to promote the mutual transfer between science and practice as well as for policy advice.

Thirdly, the members of the illG intend to present and discuss their work in **sessions, panels, and presentations** at national and international conferences (e.g., Dortmund Conference on Spatial and Planning Research, AESOP).



Time schedule

- 2023: Two online workshops on key terms and concepts in the context of *Gender and Spatial Transformation* (including space, transformation, and intersectionality)
- 2024: Symposium on ‘Gender and Climate-Just Planning’ (in cooperation with the International Working Group *Gender- and Climate-just Cities and Urban Regions* and the German Research Foundation (DFG) project *Spatial Transformation Processes of Energy Transition – Analytical and Design Perspectives from Gender Studies in Spatial Planning*)
- 2025: Round of dialogue on ‘The Economy and the Crisis of Reproduction’ (with inputs on the social-ecological relations of reproduction and discussions on the categories of provisioning, caring and preparing)