

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Institutspartnerschaft: “Safe and Sustainable Cities”

Project Progress Report: 2016

This report reflects the activities and outputs of the Alexander von Humboldt Institutspartnerschaft project on “Safe and Sustainable Cities” headed by Prof. Dr. Helmut Aust (Faculty of Law, Free University, Berlin; formerly from the Humboldt University, Berlin) and Prof. Dr. Anél du Plessis (Faculty of Law, North-West University, South Africa). This report covers the period May 2016 to January 2017 which forms part of the first year of this three-year project.

Project participants

A total number of 14 academics actively participated in the project during the reported year:

South Africa

1. Prof. Dr. Anel du Plessis
2. Prof. Dr. Francois Venter
3. Dr. Oliver Fuo
4. Prof. Dr. Jaap de Visser
5. Ms. Angela van der Berg
6. Mr. Myrone Stoffels
7. Ms. Elsabe Roux
8. Mr. Jaco Karsten

Germany

1. Prof. Dr. Helmut Philipp Aust
2. Ms. Hannah Birkenkoetter
3. Mr. Michael Riegner
4. Prof. Dr. Philipp Dann
5. Dr. Cindy Wittke

Other

1. Prof. Dr. Alejandro Rodiles

Project activities

1. Start-up workshop, public lecture and fieldtrip, South Africa

The start-up workshop was held on 16 and 17 August 2016 at the Faculty of Law, North-West University, Potchefstroom. The main aim of the workshop was a) to introduce and discuss the project’s focus and scope to the project participants; b) to offer the opportunity for project participants to present on their research areas and how they see it fit into the focus of the Safe and Sustainable Cities Project; and c) to give the opportunity for project participants to network and to learn practically about some of the urban challenges in South Africa.

On 16 August 2016, a public lecture was held to introduce the project to a broader audience. The lecture attracted other scholarly disciplines and members from civil society.

The workshop was concluded with a one-day educational fieldtrip to the City of Johannesburg which included a meeting with officials of the City and visits to several of the City’s facilities including its

recently completed waste-to-energy site which is a registered CDM project under the United Nations Kyoto Protocol.

2. Joint participation in the Annual ICON-S Conference, Germany

The annual ICON-S (Society of International Constitutional Law) Conference was held in Berlin from 17-19 June 2016. Three of the project participants, Cindy Wittke, Anél du Plessis and Helmut Aust participated in a panel on 'The Right to the City' at this event. As a spin-off from this event, Anél du Plessis was invited to present a guest lecture on city governance in South Africa at the Tilburg School for Regional Law and Governance, Tilburg University in the Netherlands in 2017.

Helmut Aust gave a guest lecture on "The Good Urban Citizen" at ITAM in Mexico City on the invitation of Prof. Dr. Alejandro Rodiles in September 2016.

3. Short research stay: two South African project members visit Humboldt University

From 16 June to 28 July 2016, Anél du Plessis and Oliver Fuo paid a short-stay research visit to the Humboldt University in Berlin. During this period, these two project participants used the opportunity to conduct desktop research on aspects of the Safe and Sustainable Cities project (while having access to the *Staatsbibliothek* in Berlin and the Humboldt University libraries) and to engage with the project participants based in Berlin.

Outputs emanating from the project

1. Joint publications

Helmut Aust and Anél du Plessis completed drafts of two joint book chapters - one of which is the introduction to the international volume to be published as an output of the project. Angela van der Berg, Elsabé Roux and Anél du Plessis were invited to author a joint chapter on South Africa for an international volume dedicated to shared urban mobility.

2. Individual publications and conference presentations

Various of the project participants published scholarly articles and book chapters on matters of urban safety and sustainability during the report period (such as Helmut Aust's updated publication of his *Habilitation* "Das Recht der globalen Stadt" and his chapter "The Good Urban Citizen" for a volume entitled "International Law's Objects" (edited by Jessie Hohmann and Daniel Joyce)). The project participants presented on their research at various international and domestic conferences and workshops during the report period.

3. Research progress: post-graduate participants

Angela van der Berg and Myrone Stoffels, two of the PhD candidates working on this project, completed their research proposals during the report period. During the report period, Angela, who is a participant in the European Joint Doctorate in Law and Development (EDOLAD) programme, spent three months in Tartu for an extensive research methodology course. She will pay another three month research visit to Tilburg in the Netherlands from May – July 2017.

4. Design of and first steps towards a scholarly volume

During the workshop of August 2016, the project team decided on the structure and scope of a joint publication to be published in the third project year. Participants presented on their ideas for

individual chapters and submitted abstracts for their chapters that were subsequently reviewed by the project coordinators, Helmut Aust and Anél du Plessis.