

Megacities – Megachallenge (1): Borders and Urban Governance, China

Megacities are more than just cities: they are both results and drivers of global change processes. At the same time, we globally witness a loss of urban governability – processes are taking place unregulated, self-organized, informally. The Priority Program “Megacities – Megachallenge. Informal Dynamics of Global Change” focuses on investigating these aspects of global change and informal processes in megaurban areas.

All in all the Megacities – Megachallenge programme by the German Research Foundation comprises seven research projects in the Pearl River Delta (China) and four projects in Dhaka (Bangladesh) in which around 100 Chinese, Bengali and German academics and researchers from 15 different disciplines are currently working.

Four individual projects in the Pearl River Delta are described on these three boards. The Pearl River Delta is one of the most active economic regions in China, comprising mega-urban growth nodes such as Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Dongguan and Hong Kong.

The project "Borders and Urban Governance" project operates according to the hypothesis that border-drawing and the selective differentiation of the governance of urban subareas (“governance modes”) are used to ensure the governability of megaurban regions.



Jörg Böhling / agenda

Objectives of the research project:

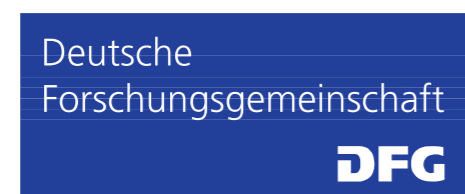
- Compilation of a typology of governance modes
- Recognition of the connections between governance modes and the delimitation of spatial units
- Identification of related processes of inclusion and exclusion and of socio-spatial consequences of intra-urban boundaries
- Understanding of the role of self-organisation and informal processes

Outcomes and results:

- Findings on the governability of mega-urban regions
- Implications for coordination and participation in processes of urban development

Duration: since 2006

www.megacities-megachallenge.org/projects/china/1-borders-and-governance



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