

## About this book

The idea for this book arose from the collaboration of the editors and a number of the contributors in the working group ‘Post-Growth Economies’<sup>1</sup> of the Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association (*Akademie für Raumentwicklung in der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft*, ARL<sup>2</sup>). The working group involved more than a dozen geographers, economists and spatial and landscape planners from Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg. From mid-2017 to mid-2020, the group members met every six months at workshops in different locations and systematically tackled the topic of post-growth economies from the perspective of the spatial and planning sciences.

Exchanges with post-growth actors on the ground were always an integral part of the workshops and a source of inspiration for further work. In addition to this book, the working group has been involved in various other activities. Members of the group were instrumental in preparing the 2019 ARL annual congress on ‘Post-growth and Transformation’ in Kassel. In addition, they contributed to the conception and content of an issue of the journal *politische ökologie* entitled ‘*Möglichkeitsräume. Raumplanung im Zeichen des Postwachstums*’ (‘Spaces of opportunities. Spatial Planning and Post-growth’; also see <https://www.arl-net.de/de/postwachstum>, 28.02.2020).

All the chapters in this book are direct translations from the German original (Lange et al. 2020) and authorised by the respective authors. The introduction has been updated for an international audience. As the original work was sent to the publisher in early 2020, the implications of the Covid-19 pan-

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1 Goals, activities and membership of the ARL working group ‘Post-Growth Economies’: <https://www.arl-net.de/de/projekte/postwachstumsökonomien> (28.02.2020)

2 The ARL – Academy for Spatial Research and Planning, Leibniz Forum for Spatial Sciences, adopted a new name at the beginning of 2021: ARL – Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association. This new name has not been used in the articles of this volume.

demic had not yet been addressed. The revised introduction includes observations on the pandemic from a post-growth perspective.

The editors would like to thank all contributors and interviewees for their commitment and participation. Special thanks go to the ARL, the University of Luxembourg and the University of Leipzig for its financial support and to the staff of the ARL Headquarters for their all-round support of the working group and this publication. We would also like to thank the team at transcript for including us in the series Social and Cultural Geography and for their consistently professional support and encouragement of the project. We hope that this publication will inspire as many people as possible and look forward to further discussions, comments and reactions.

*Berlin/Hannover/Freiburg/Luxembourg, May 2021*

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## Illustrations

The cover design and the pages separating the main parts of the book are based on a graphic recording of the 2019 ARL Congress in Kassel, designed by Katrina Günther of ‘Thinking Visual’, Berlin.

The quotations on the rear sides of the dividing pages are taken from a video project with compiled interview sequences, produced in the run-up to the 2019 ARL Congress. Viola Schulze Dieckhoff and Joyce Gosemann drew the portrait sketches of the individuals quoted.