

Joachim Thiel, Monika Grubbauer, Lucas Pohl (eds.)
Contingencies in Urban Future-Making

Editorial

In the light of existing and looming crises, cities have become crucial sites where desired futures have to be developed, negotiated, and eventually implemented. The book series **Urban Future-Making** addresses the agency of built environment professionals – ‘urban future-makers’ – in the face of future requirements, present options, and past experiences. The series publishes timely research work related to the interdisciplinary research training group of the same name, jointly organized by the HafenCity University Hamburg, University of Hamburg, and Hamburg University of Technology. The different volumes are of interest for various disciplines linked to the urban built environment, in both the academic and the professional realms. The series is edited by Monika Grubbauer, Katharina Manderscheid, and Joachim Thiel.

Joachim Thiel is a professor in social-economic urban and regional research. He works at the Urban and Regional Economics research unit at the HafenCity University Hamburg. His current research focuses on large-scale urban development projects, urban smart city strategies, and urban testbeds in technological innovation trajectories. Until September 2025, he was one of the deputy spokespersons of the DFG research training group Urban Future-Making.

Monika Grubbauer is a professor in history and theory of the city at the HafenCity University Hamburg. She teaches historical and theoretical foundations in urban planning and urban design. Her research focuses on urban development politics, housing and urban policy, and knowledge practices in architecture and planning. She is the spokesperson of the DFG-funded research training group Urban Future-Making, established in 2022 and jointly organized by the three Hamburg universities.

Lucas Pohl is a geographer and urban researcher whose work focuses on social and spatial theories, the built environment, and urban political ecologies. He is a professor of human geography at the University of Innsbruck. Previously, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Humboldt University of Berlin and at the HafenCity University Hamburg, where he was part of the research training group Urban Future-Making.

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Pitfalls, Potentialities, and Transformative Practices

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