



PRESS RELEASE

Essen, 08.02.2024

Live from KWI Garden: How Green Became Good

Urbanized Nature from Garden Cities to Climate Justice

20 February 2024, 18:00 (CET)

**Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities Essen (KWI), Gartensaal,
Goethestraße 31, 45128 Essen**

From China to California, self-described “greening” efforts claiming to address inequality and the climate crisis proliferate. But why are such projects—undertaken in the name of sustainability, resilience, and quality of life—being carried out in such a wide range of places with very different histories, ecologies, and cultural repertoires for urban life?

Based on a historical study of Germany’s Ruhr Valley, sociologist Hillary Angelo offers a sociological explanation of urban greening as a global, contemporary phenomenon. She argues that greening is a social practice made possible by a social imaginary of nature as an indirect or moral good, called urbanized nature. Her talk highlights the same logics of urban nature at work in contemporary climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in the United States, and explores their consequences, particularly regarding conceptions of climate justice and equity.

Overall, this talk demonstrates that old ideas of nature shape contemporary visions of climate-friendly urbanism—despite often being ill-suited for the problems they purport to solve—and shows how these ideas affect the conception and pursuit of ecological goals and drive interventions in the built environment.

SPEAKER

Hillary Angelo, University of California, Santa Cruz

MODERATION

Stefan Höhne, KWI

PARTICIPATION

This is a public event and participation is free of charge. There is no registration necessary.

PRESS CONTACT

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ORGANISATION

An event organized by the [Institute for Social Movements](#) (Ruhr-University Bochum) in cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI).

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Event on the KWI website](#)

We would appreciate the circulation of this press release.

About the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI):

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen, Germany, is an interdisciplinary research centre following the tradition of international Institutes for Advanced Study. In its role as an inter-university institution connecting the Ruhr-University Bochum, the Technological University Dortmund and the University of Duisburg-Essen, the institute works together with researchers and scientists from its neighbouring universities as well as other partners from the federal state NRW and places in- and outside of Germany. Within the Ruhr area, the KWI is a place to share and discuss the questions and results of ambitious research with interested parties from the city and the greater region. Currently, work at the KWI focusses on the following areas: “cultural studies of science and science policy making”, “sociology of literature and culture”, “science communication”, “visual literacy” and a “teaching lab”. Projects in the established research field “culture of communication”, as well as individual projects, will be continued.

www.kulturwissenschaften.de

Stay up to date: The KWI Newsletter provides news about the institute twice a semester. Click [here](#) to register.

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