Research Group on Collaborative Spaces RGCS Symposium 2026

PROGRAM

RGCS
Research Group on Collaborative Spaces

'Bringing Work Back In': Coworking as Practices, Atmospheres, and Organizational Transformation

March 5th - 6th, 2026 + OWEE on March 4th, 2026
Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

Straße des 17. Juni 152, 10623 Berlin (Institute of Urban and Regional Planning, ISR)

The upcoming RGCS Symposium is organized by the Chair of Urban and Regional Economics at the Institute for Urban and Regional Planning (ISR) at Technische Universität Berlin and the project ZETT – Zentrum Digitale Transformation Thüringen (Centre for Digital Transformation Thuringia) in Jena.

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

ZeTT-Zentrum Digitale Transformation Thüringen

DAY 0: March 4th

All day – more information will follow.	### OWEE Berlin OWEE stands for Open Walked Event-based Experimentations. Organised by François-Xavier de Vaujany, the session will take participants on an exploratory walk through Berlin during the 4 March, offering a hands-on, immersive experience ahead of the conference. There will be a planned part in the morning and an improvised, co-produced part (with local participants) in the afternoon.

DAY 1: March 5th

10.30-11.00	☕ Welcome Guests

11.00-12.00	RGCS Community morning
	● Introduction to the event (Janet Merkel and Alexandra Bernhardt
	● Short Presentation of RGCS and its standing groups (SG) – (Gislene Feiten Haubrich)
	    o SG 1 - «The time-space of new ways of working & organizing»
	    o SG 2 - «Sustainability and new ways of working»
	    o SG 3 - «Collaboration and Leadership from the Human-Machine Interface»
	    o SG 4 - «Democratic organizing and new ways of working»
	● JOCO Journal (François-Xavier de Vaujany, Co-Editor in Chief)
	● Short Presentation of the Coworking Library (Alexandra Bernhardt)
	● General Assembly RGCS and election of the new board

12.00-13.00	🍴 Lunch (self paid in the cafeteria)
13.00-14.30	**Paper Session 1: Reconfiguring Time, Space and Organizational Work** 1. **Characterizing hybrid work in universities** (Amine Chihi) 2. **Hybrid work, organizational space and identity** (Alessandra Migliore, Cristina Rossi-Lamastra and Guang Zhu) 3. **Changing working practices and professional belonging: the case of academics moving to collaborative workspaces (**Louise Suckley and Teri-Lisa Griffiths) 4. **Time and Space: How Can They Be Reconciled in Organization Studies?** (François-Xavier de Vaujany) 5. **Multiple use of spaces: potential, challenges, and conditions** (Dariya Kryshen)
14.30-15.00	☕ Coffee Break
15.00-16.30	**Paper Session 2: Coworking, Community and Everyday Organizing**

	6. **Putting work at the centre of coWORKing: Values-in-Activity and the Democratic Potentials of Everyday Organizing** (Gislene Feiten Haubrich) 7. **"You're part of something" — the third place that becomes a de facto coworking space** (Maria Gratsova) 8. **It doesn't matter how often your desk chair is occupied: Serendipity in coworking spaces** (Sebastian Reh) 9. **From Work to Parties: The End of Dedicated Places?** (François-Xavier de Vaujany) 10. **From business centre to coworking space: a historical reconstruction of Regus** (Caroline Datchary, Séverine Marguin, Elea Lechevalier)
16.30-17.00	☕ Coffee Break
17.00-18.00	### Panel Discussion: Beyond Community? Coworking Between Ideals, Infrastructures and Everyday Constraints From Grassroots Spaces to Urban Infrastructure As coworking becomes mainstream and institutionalized, what remains of its alternative, democratic, and experimental promise? This panel brings together researchers and practitioners to discuss how coworking navigates the tension between its community-based ideals and its transformation into an urban and economic infrastructure shaped by everyday organizational constraints. Panelists: ● **Bernie J. Mitchell**, European Coworking Assembly ● **Katja Hellkötter, Jan Siefke**, C*Space in Berlin ● **More panelists: tba** Moderation: Alexandra Bernhardt & Janet Merkel
From 18:30	Evening Program

DAY 2: March 6th

9.30-11.00	**Paper Session 3: Visibility, Subjectivities and Affective Workspaces** 11. **Women (in)visibility. The role of significant alters in a non-territorial office** (Alessandra Migliore, Magdalena Dobrajska, Cristina Rossi-Lamastra, Arnaud Banoun, Lucas Dufour, Massimo Maoret) 12. **Women's Life as Professional Visual Artists, On Being (In)Visible** (Elen Riot) 13. **Towards a more nuanced understanding of coworker subjectivities: Insights from community-led collaborative workspaces** (Nikos Gatsinos) 14. **Posters, stickers, and the (affective) aesthetics of a social centre** (Anna de la Torre Fornell) 15. **The Emergence of Innovation in Places of Hospitality and the Play of Atmospheres** (Felix Hiemeyer)
11.00-11.30	☕ Coffee Break
11.30-13.00	**Paper Session 4: Coworking beyond the Space: Urban, Translocal and Political Economies** 16. **Tracing the evolution of coworking in Athens** (Antigoni Papageorgiou, Vasilis Avdikos) 17. **Hubs as translocal workspaces: Relational Labour and the Diffusion of Sustainability Initiatives** (Tamara Schoon) 18. **From Spaces to Systems: Coworking as Urban Resilience Infrastructure** (Katarzyna Wojnar) 19. **Remote Work, Infrastructure and Mobility in Coliving Spaces** (Laura Alves Scherer, Daniel Wheatley, Rafael Alcadipani) 20. **Community-Led Regeneration: Coworking Practices, Do-ocratic Governance, and Maintenance Labour in Aarhus' Institut for (X)** (Dimitris Manoukas)
13.00-13.30	🍴 Lunch (self paid, grab your lunch bag)

13.30-14.15	Keynote Speech (Brown Bag): tba
14.15-14.45	☕ Coffee Break
14.45-15.45	**Paper Session 5: Technology, Human–Machine Interaction and the Future of Collaborative Work** 21. **Internet of Everything (IoE) and the Future of Collaborative Work: Work: A Framework for Smart Coworking Environments** (Mohammad Mehdi Latifi and Mina Sadat Orooje) 22. **Collaborative spaces and environmental sustainability** (Stefano Rodighiero,Diego Landini, Fabrizio Montanari, Anna Chiara Scapolan) 23. **Changing Lawyering: Human–machine interaction implications** (Gislene Haubrich, Frida Pemer, Stefan Haefliger) 24. **Climate transition of healthcare organizations: boundaries and boundary-work in hospital. The case of eco-responsible care**. (Fabien Canolle, Annick Valette, Morgane Dejean)
15.45-16.00	Closing & Goodbye

DETAILS

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Conference Venue

The meeting takes place at room 813 at the Institute of Urban and Regional Planning at Technische Universität Berlin. We are on the 8th and 9th floor in the building of the Institute for Architecture at Straße des 17. Juni 152, 10623 Berlin.

Institute of Urban and Regional Planning: https://www.tu.berlin/en/isr

The nearest point of public transport is underground station (U2) Ernst-Reuter-Platz and station Zoologischer Garten (regional trains, S-Bahn, several underground lines).
Cafeteria

There are several cafeterias around, however only a few take cash (there is a card system for university staff and students). We will point to suitable options. There are also many small restaurants with lunch services, bakeries etc. close to the venue and one fantastic Kebab shop.

RGCS in a nutshell

The Research Group on Collaborative Spaces (RGCS) is both an alternative learned society, a think tank and an immaterial maker space about and for new work practices. Collaborative communities and collaborative movements (coworkers, makers, hackers, DIY) are both a research object and a lever to transform work practices.
Since late 2016, the network co-produces a new research method OWEE (Open Walked Event-Based Experimentations) aiming at transforming jointly academic and entrepreneurial work practices. This method aims at becoming a commons for academics and entrepreneurs involved in it (e.g. with a sharing of the symbolic capital of impact and citations).
For more details about RGCS: http://rgcs-owee.org

Local organizing committee
- **Janet Merkel** (Institute for Urban and Regional Planning (ISR), TU Berlin)

- **Alexandra Bernhardt** (ZeTT - Centre Digital Transformation Thuringia, Department of Sociology of Work and Economic Sociology, Institute of Sociology at Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

Scientific Committee

Adele Gruen (Paris Dauphine-PSL)

Albane Grandazzi (Grenoble Ecole de Management)

Alessandra Migliore (Politecnico di Milano)

Alexandra Bernhardt (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

Anna Glaser (ESCP Business School)

Camille Pfeffer (ESDES Business School)

David Vallat (Sciences-Po Lyon)

Emmanuel Costa (Bloom Consulting)

François-Xavier de Vaujany (PSL - Paris Dauphine)

Fiza Brakel-Ahmed (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Gislene Feiten Haubrich (Stockholm School of Economics)

Janet Merkel (TU Berlin)

Mickael Peiro (IUT Paul Sabatier)

Olivier Irrmann (Junia Lille)

Sabine Carton (Université Grenoble Alpes)

Stefan Haefliger (Stockholm School of Economics & Bayes Business School)

Contacts

For inquiries about the symposium in Milan
Email: rgcs.berlin@gmail.com

RGCS contacts:
Website: http://rgcs-owee.org/
LinkedIn: Research Group on Collaborative Spaces (RGCS)
Instagram: @rgcs_owee
Bluesky: 16rgcs.bsky.social