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Research Project

Space, Agency, and Climate Change in a Contested Urban Landscape: Exploring Environmental Futures in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

Project funded by own resources

Project title Space, Agency, and Climate Change in a Contested Urban Landscape: Exploring Environmental Futures in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

Principal Investigator(s) [Oldenburg, Silke](#) ;

Organisation / Research unit

Departement Gesellschaftswissenschaften / Fachbereich Ethnologie

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Climate change and the rising sea level have become pressing environmental challenges for Latin American cities. In Cartagena de Indias, a Colombian port and world heritage city, climatic threat forces the city government to develop policies to mitigate flooding risk, preserve urban infrastructure and prepare for the future. These policies have been gathered in the city's Plan 4C, which provides a framework for planning and action to become climate compatible development by 2040. However, from the perspective of the residents, flooding risk is not new in a city where several neighbourhoods are built directly on wetlands. Imagining and anticipating possible future scenarios are crucial for urban planning, but also for ordinary citizens dealing with increasing urban complexities in their everyday lives.

The project explores the nexus between environmental space, agency and competing versions of the future, aiming to shed light on how urban environmental futures are designed, imagined, made and contested by different social actors (local residents, city officials, NGOs) in the coastal city of Cartagena de Indias.

Keywords future, climate change, Colombia, sea level rise, Latin America, environment

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Add publication

Add documents

Specify cooperation partners