

Leibniz Institute for Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER) in Dresden is offering a Master Thesis at the research area Landscape, Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Title: Intercultural urban community gardens and socio-ecological resilience

Topic:

Urban community gardens are plots of land, managed by residents, to grow fruits and vegetables. Beyond their ecological function, community gardens play a critical social role in bringing diverse groups of people together. This contact builds social resilience, particularly in times of crises. During the COVID-19 pandemic community gardens became safe, open spaces where individuals could not only grow food but also engage with others, combatting the alienation and stress exacerbated by the pandemic. Intercultural community gardens are a special kind socio-ecological projects that aim to bring locals and immigrant in contact. This project investigates the role of intercultural community gardens in building socio-ecological resilience in times of growing social polarization.

Tasks:

The student will conduct a literature review on the social and ecological functions of intercultural community gardens. They will then develop an online survey (with both quantitative and qualitative questions). This will be sent out to intercultural gardens spread across Germany. The student will then use the data to identify the opportunities and challenges that arise by bringing diverse individuals in contact in urban community gardens. Finally, the student will draw recommendations for garden administrators and city governments.

Desired background:

A background and knowledge of urban green spaces, quantitative data analysis, an interest in the topic as well as proficiency in German, English and other foreign languages is desirable.

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References

1. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2022.104418>
2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2024.128206>