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Global Context

October 2025

TRIALOG 40+ Years

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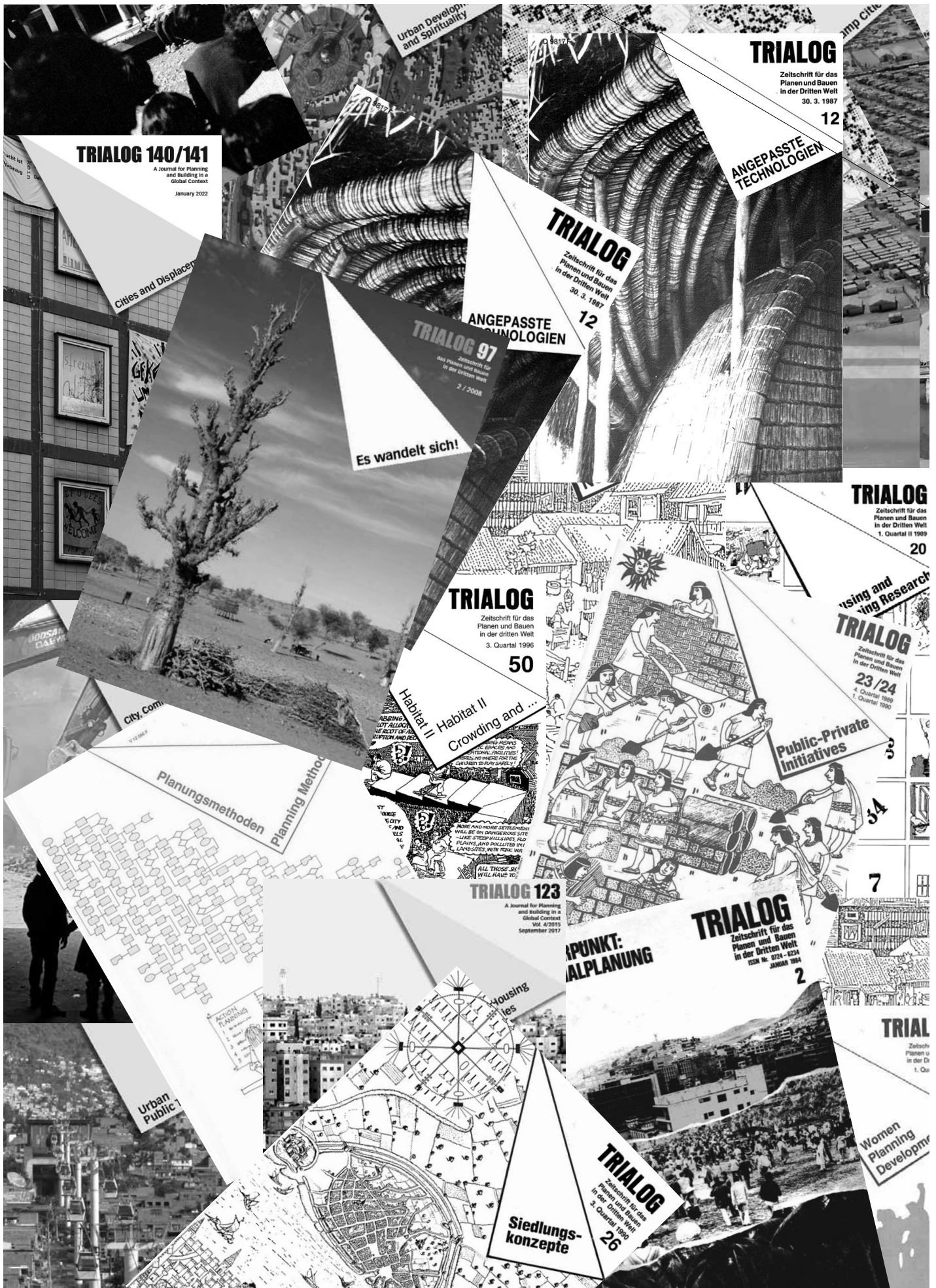
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Women Planning Development

TRIALOG 40+ Years

Editors: Dorcas Nthoki Nyamai, Franziska Laue, Nadine Appelhans, Katharina Frieling,
Jan Dieterle and Alejandro de Castro Mazarro

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A Word from the editorial board

As we commemorate more than 40 years since TRIALOG's foundation, we reflect on the incredible journey that began in 1983. Founded to accommodate research from academics, practitioners and those engaged in development cooperation, TRIALOG has focused on exploring and addressing the complexities of planning and building in a global context. Over the decades, change has been inevitable and TRIALOG has tried to keep up with the times. This has included shifts in terminology and focus of research, such as moving from the concept of "third world countries" to the "global south" and from "environmental conservation" to the urgent issue of "climate change". At the same time, some concepts have transcended time including social justice, gender issues or feminist approaches to city making.

TRIALOG has grown and evolved alongside these changes, expanding its reach to include research and practice reports not only from the global south but also from the global north. This expansion has enriched the content of the journal, bringing diverse perspectives and a broader understanding of global issues. Our unique approach remains being committed to integrating knowledge from practitioners and acting as a platform of exchange between the academic and the practice world, in which some of the members are also fluid between them. TRIALOG therefore continues to carve its niche and distinguish itself from classical academic publications. In this way, we remain a dynamic and relevant platform for sharing knowledge and promoting urban dialogues.

As the editorial board, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the almost 100 members who have supported TRIALOG steadfastly and continuously over time,

and also those engaged in more momentarily, but significant turning points for the association. We would like to thank those who have been with us long enough to witness the transformation of the association and we appreciate those that are just joining in recognition of TRIALOG as a valuable network for continuous engagement. Your dedication and trust have indeed shaped the journal's success. We also thank our subscribers, whose support has been crucial in receiving and multiplying TRIALOG's contents. To the numerous authors and readers worldwide, who continually contribute to and engage with TRIALOG we remain deeply grateful for making the journal what it is and pushing forward to explore where it can go. Your contributions and readership advance the relevance of TRIALOG and allow the association to make a meaningful impact in the field of architecture, urban planning and development.

As we look to the future, we hope to ensure TRIALOG remains committed to the mission of bridging the gap between academic research and practical experience. We envision TRIALOG continuing to serve as a platform for dialogues on emerging urban issues, for innovative ideas and for addressing contemporary urban challenges. As an association we will continue to work towards discourse between world regions, following the literal sense of the name TRIALOG. With your support, we are confident that TRIALOG will remain an alternative Journal that values practical knowledge alongside scholarly work.

Thank you for being a part of TRIALOG's journey. We look forward to many more years of impactful research, dialogues and contributions to the field of (transforming) architecture, urban planning and development.



Nadine Appelhans



Jan Dieterle



Katharina Frieling



Franziska Laue



Dorcas Nthoki Nyamai



Alejandro de Castro
Mazzaro

TRIALOG's Farewell letter to Kosta (Konstantin Gregor Mathéy)

It is with deep sorrow that we received the news of the passing of our friend, esteemed colleague and fellow member of TRIALOG, Kosta Mathéy. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all those who had the pleasure and opportunity of knowing and working alongside him.

We knew Kosta as a professional colleague, a founding member and driving force of TRIALOG e. V. – Association for Scientific Research into Planning and Building in the Developing World and the journal of the same name. Kosta's drive started early in his academic career, in which he traveled extensively throughout Latin America, India, and parts of Africa. Upon returning from his studies in London to his first academic post at the Technical University of Darmstadt around 1982, he saw a need to internationalize and renew the discourse on architecture and planning in German universities. At that time, several departments were engaged in work related to the global South—then commonly referred to as the Third World—and many still reflected colonial perspectives and concepts such as tropical architecture. This motivated Kosta to serve as a convener, attracting colleagues from institutions including Berlin, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Kassel, and Dortmund to join him in establishing a journal that would invite and facilitate international collaboration and local debate. Many others soon followed. Gradually, TRIALOG's initial focus on housing for low-income populations expanded to include topics such as regional planning, urban heritage, infrastructure, governance, and environmental issues. This broadened scope fostered a dynamic community of practice that spanned beyond academia and Germany, connecting professionals worldwide in pursuit of social justice alongside their local counterparts.

For nearly four decades, Kosta remained on TRIALOG's board and was among its most active contributors. He edited 25 volumes of the journal, authored approximately 50 articles, and reviewed many times that number. Along with his many fellow editors and contributors, he established a unique culture of independent publishing through direct communication with authors to allow for

sharing local experiences and practice, offering constructive guidance - especially to individuals less experienced in scientific publishing. Up until his final days, Kosta remained a motivating force, actively fostering international exchange between academics and practitioners in architecture and planning, and consistently engaging with newly emerging challenges—from climate change to post-conflict reconstruction.

Of course, Kosta's influence extended well beyond his foundational contributions to TRIALOG. While he liked unconventional thinking and frequently challenged established approaches, he inspired others to remain mindful of the human dimension in planning and architecture. His dedication, his openness to be uncomfortable, and commitment to meaningful dialogue, coupled with his warmth and integrity, have left an indelible mark on all who worked with him. We all have benefited greatly from Kosta in our very own ways, both professionally and through his unwavering efforts to bring people and institutions together. And to many he grew to become a true friend—generous with his time, knowledge, and encouragement.

Though he departed unexpectedly, leaving us deeply saddened, we recognize that his influence will persist, and as members of this association, we sincerely appreciate his legacy and are committed to upholding it with dedication.

We will fondly remember his presence, laughter, curiosity, critical eye, kindness, and vision. His work and spirit will continue to inspire and guide us, reflecting the values he upheld: solidarity, justice, and the power of dialogue.

May Kosta rest in peace.

Paola Alfaro d'Alençon, Wolfgang Dickhaut, Peter Gotsch, Gerhard Kienast, Franziska Laue, Dorcas Nthoki Nyamai, Rossana Poblet, Wolfgang Scholz, Klaus Teschner, members and board of TRIALOG e.V.

TRIALOGs Abschiedsbrief an Kosta (Konstantin Gregor Mathéry)

Mit tiefer Trauer haben wir die Nachricht vom Tod unseres Freundes, geschätzten Kollegen und TRIALOG-Mitglieds Kosta Mathéry erhalten. Wir sprechen seiner Familie, seinen Freunden und allen, die das Glück hatten, ihn kennenzulernen und mit ihm zusammenzuarbeiten, unser tiefstes Beileid aus.

Wir kannten Kosta als professionellen Kollegen, Gründungsmitglied und treibende Kraft von TRIALOG e.V. – Verein zur Erforschung des Planens und Bauens in Entwicklungsländern und der gleichnamigen Zeitschrift. Kostas Tatendrang zeigte sich schon früh in seiner akademischen Laufbahn, in der er ausgiebig durch Lateinamerika, Indien und Teile Afrikas reiste. Als er um 1982 von seinem Studium in London zurückkehrte und eine erste akademische Stelle an der Technischen Universität Darmstadt antrat, sah er die Notwendigkeit, den Diskurs über Architektur und Planung an deutschen Universitäten zu internationalisieren und zu erneuern. Zu dieser Zeit beschäftigten sich zwar mehrere Fachbereiche mit Themen rund um den globalen Süden – damals allgemein als Dritte Welt bezeichnet – viele spiegelten jedoch noch koloniale Perspektiven und Konzepte wie tropisches Bauen. Kosta fungierte als Initiator und gewann Kolleg:innen aus Institutionen in Berlin, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Kassel und Dortmund für die Gründung einer Zeitschrift, die internationale Zusammenarbeit und lokale Debatten anregen und erleichtern sollte. Viele andere folgten bald darauf. Nach und nach erweiterte sich der Schwerpunkt von TRIALOG, der ursprünglich auf Wohnraum für einkommensschwache Bevölkerungsgruppen lag, um Themen wie Regionalplanung, städtisches Kulturerbe, Infrastruktur, Regierungsführung und Umweltfragen. Dank dieses erweiterten Spektrums entstand eine dynamische Gemeinschaft, die über die akademische Welt und Deutschland hinausging und Fachleute aus aller Welt mit ihren lokalen Kolleg:innen im Streben nach sozialer Gerechtigkeit zusammenbrachte.

Fast vier Jahrzehnte lang blieb Kosta im Vorstand von TRIALOG und gehörte zu den aktivsten Mitwirkenden. Er gab 25 Ausgaben heraus, verfasste etwa 50 Artikel und lektorierte zudem ein Vielfaches mehr. Zusammen mit seinen Mitherausgeber:innen und Beitragenden etablierte er eine einzigartige Kultur des unabhängigen Publizierens mithilfe direkter Kommunikation mit den Autor:innen, um so den Austausch lokaler Erfahrungen und Praktiken zu

ermöglichen und konstruktive Anleitung zu bieten – insbesondere für Personen, die weniger Erfahrung mit wissenschaftlichen Publikationen hatten. Bis zu seinen letzten Tagen blieb Kosta eine motivierende Kraft, förderte aktiv den internationalen Austausch zwischen Wissenschaftler:innen und Praktiker:innen in Architektur und Planung und beschäftigte sich konsequent mit neu auftretenden Herausforderungen – vom Klimawandel bis zum Wiederaufbau nach Konflikten.

Natürlich reichte Kostas Einfluss weit über seine vielfältigen Beiträge zu TRIALOG hinaus. Er mochte unkonventionelles Denken und stellte etablierte Ansätze häufig in Frage, inspirierte aber auch andere dazu, die menschliche Dimension in Planung und Architektur nicht aus den Augen zu verlieren. Sein Engagement, seine Offenheit für Unbequemes und sein Einsatz für einen sinnvollen Dialog, gepaart mit seiner Herzlichkeit und Integrität, haben bei allen, die mit ihm zusammengearbeitet haben, einen unauslöschlichen Eindruck hinterlassen. Wir alle haben auf unsere ganz eigene Weise viel von Kosta gelernt, sowohl beruflich als auch durch seine unermüdlichen Bemühungen, Menschen und Institutionen zusammenzubringen. Für viele wurde er zu einem echten Freund – großzügig mit seiner Zeit, seinem Wissen und seiner Ermutigung.

Obwohl er uns so unerwartet verlassen hat und wir zutiefst betroffen sind, wissen wir, dass sein Wirken fortbestehen wird, und als Mitglieder dieses Vereins schätzen wir dieses Vermächtnis aufrichtig und sind entschlossen, es mit Engagement weiterzuführen.

Wir werden uns gerne stets an seine Präsenz, sein Lachen, seine Neugier, seinen kritischen Blick, seine Freundlichkeit und seine Vision erinnern. Seine Arbeit und sein Geist werden uns weiterhin inspirieren und leiten und die Werte widerspiegeln, für die er stand: Solidarität, Gerechtigkeit und die Kraft des Dialogs.

Möge Kosta in Frieden ruhen.

Paola Alfaro d'Alençon, Wolfgang Dickhaut, Peter Gotsch, Gerhard Kienast, Franziska Laue, Dorcas Nthoki Nyamai, Rossana Poblet, Wolfgang Scholz, Klaus Teschner, die Mitglieder und der Vorstand von TRIALOG e.V.

In Memoriam Kosta Mathéy 1946–2025

IN MEMORY OF KOSTA

With Kosta Mathéy, we have lost not only one of the international pioneers and most renowned experts in the field of sustainable planning and building in a global perspective, but also an extraordinary person and a close friend.

I had the privilege of working closely with him for many years on a wide variety of projects: from our common teaching at the University of Karlsruhe in the 1990ties, followed by 10 years of joint board engagement for the journal TRIALOG, a very rewarding time together in Cairo working on the Participatory Urban Upgrading Project in Telal Zeinhoum in 1999, and finally, from 2008 onwards, the mutual exchange of our two newly created international master's programs in urban development, Mundus Urbano at TU Darmstadt and Urban Agglomerations at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences.

Kosta was the ideal combination of scientific and theoretical reflection and practical application. This is evident in his countless publications, but also in his many practical projects. His goal has always been to make a direct contribution to creating a more sustainable environment and improving the living conditions of less privileged people.

Impressive in terms of his academic and professional achievements, but also personally engaging, open-minded, socially committed, and always approachable — this is how I will remember Kosta Mathéy.

From Michael Peterrek, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences



Dear Kosta,

Although our acquaintance began only a few years ago, I have greatly valued your dynamic initiatives and commitment to discursive innovation before that. Our collaboration in Gliwice and on other projects will remain fondly memorable.

May you rest in peace.

Franziska

Dear Kosta, it is with numerous colourful memories that I am recalling our years of journeying through the topic of urban development in the Global South – not always of the same opinion, but always with a common delight in observing, analyzing and discussing the world around us and our opportunities in shaping it. It is with a smile that I recall our exchanges on planning traffic roundabouts in Addis Abeba, environmental planning in Muscat or struggling on making the Trialog conference with Gliwice work – back to back with the World Urban Forum. Whenever there was a hand and mind needed, you made yourself available. Dein streitbarer Geist wird mir fehlen in der städtischen Debatte, in Trialog und darüber hinaus. Mein tiefes Mitgefühl für Deine Freunde und Familie, Alexandra

From Alexandra Linden



Konstantin Gregor Mathéy 1946–2025

It is with deep sorrow that we received the news of the passing of our dear friend and fellow TRIALOG member, Kosta Mathéy, who left us so unexpectedly.

We are heartbroken by this sudden loss and extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and to all who had the pleasure and opportunity of knowing and working with him.

Kosta was so much more than a founding member. His tireless energy, his openness to think beyond conventions, his unwavering dedication to a wide range of causes, his unique warmth, and his sincere belief in meaningful dialogue across all kinds of borders — these are the qualities that will keep him alive in our hearts and memories. He still had so much to give, and we loved him for that.

Kosta, may you rest in peace.

From Trialog e. V.

We were encouraged to read Kosta Mathéy while studying in the city planning and urban design masters at the University of Cape Town in the mid-1990s. I first met Kosta on a bus trip of a NAERUS conference in the early 2000s and was surprised that this big name belonged to such a casual, laid-back, friendly man. Its hard to come to terms with the fact that the writing now outlives Kosta, though seen differently, his voice lives on through the writing.

The news of Kosta's sudden and tragic passing hit me and my immediate colleagues in the School of Architecture and Planning at Wits University in Johannesburg hard, and I've been asked to pass on condolences to his family and close friends. In August, we had approached him with an invitation to examine a PhD, which he generously accepted. Receiving his acceptance e-mail, I knew he had written it with a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eyes, something I will always remember from my encounters with Kosta.

Thank you, Kosta, for humanising the human settlements sector and for a relentlessly progressive voice. May you rest in peace.

Marie Huchzermeyer

School of Architecture and Planning, Wits University

Dear Kosta,

Although brief and very intermittent, I was glad to have interacted with you and learnt about your many passions in the interview I did with you for the celebration of TRIALOG 40+ years on. Your legacy will live on. You are still very much with us in Spirit. Rest Well!

From Dorcas Nthoki Nyamai

TRIALOG was our baby – and it will continue to live

Dear Kosta, as you may recall in 1982, when we were young university lecturers in Berlin and Darmstadt, one day we got together and the idea of TRIALOG – a journal about planning and building in developing countries – was born. Ilona Zarypov helped with the design idea for the cover, with the iconic folded triangle at the right hand upper corner, and in October 1983 we were finally able to issue the first edition of TRIALOG, on Housing for the Urban Poor. Professor Hans Harms and Ulrike Zschaeblitz from Hamburg were most instrumental in this first issue back then. TRIALOG has been an amazing journey of voluntary work. By now (in 2025) it is beyond issue number 150, and it looks as if the new generation of editors are doing a good job, and TRIALOG may have a sustainable future. The baby will live and grow.

This baby of our has brought us together for these many years – in an unforgettable friendship. Like others, I will miss you. I wish you a good journey to wherever you go from here.

Florian Steinberg, Pereira/Colombia 22 September 2025

It is with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of our Kosta.

As a long-standing member of TRIALOG e.V., he contributed not only to the foundation of the journal but also to its continued growth and intellectual richness. Over the years, he authored and edited numerous articles and issues, always with great dedication, intellectual rigor, and a heartfelt commitment to fostering dialogue across regions of the Global South. His work embodied the spirit of TRIALOG: bringing together diverse perspectives to address the pressing challenges of planning and building in a global context.

Beyond his scholarly contributions, many of us will remember him as a mentor and an inspiring colleague. He encouraged younger generations to engage with complex topics, supported collaborative work, and led by example in his commitment to academic exchange.

His absence will leave a profound void to all affiliated with TRIALOG and know his tireless effort to keep dialog among architects, planners and other various range of experts in urban studies across the globe. Yet, his vision, his writings, and the community he helped to build will continue to inspire us. We owe him our gratitude and will honor his memory by carrying forward the work he so passionately devoted himself to.

My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones in this difficult time.

With deepest sympathy,
Genet

Möge die Erinnerung an Dich und Dein Wirken, Kosta, erhalten bleiben und Deine Ideen auch in Zukunft noch Früchte tragen.

Du und ich, wir haben einen Teil unseres professionellen Lebens recht ähnliche Zielen verfolgt. TRIALOG war dafür das gemeinsame Vehikel.

Wenn ich auch einige Jahre älter bin als Du, so könnten mir doch noch einige Jahre gegeben zu sein. Sollte mir in der Welt der Ideen noch einiges gelingen, so mag auch ein Stück von Dir darin sein.

Jürgen, TRIALOG-Mitstreiter von Beginn an.

I am still deeply shaken by the news of Kosta's sudden death. As others have said, we have lost a colleague who has contributed immensely to the theoretical debate on urbanisation and housing policies. But likewise, Kosta was able to come up with very practical planning proposals. I had the opportunity to work with him on two consultancy projects, namely the Telal Zeinhoum Urban Upgrading Study in Egypt in 1999, and a few years later the Khayelitsha Violence Prevention Project in South Africa. The task of the latter one was basically to make the violence-ridden former township of Khayelitsha into a safer place. An impossible task, given the enormous level of everyday violence, and at the same time operating within the constraints of a single financial cooperation project. But Kosta found a solution. He conceived the idea of creating so-called safe nodes in the township, to make maximum impact with the limited budget.

I had first met Kosta in the early 1980s, and as early as in 1982 he had muted the idea of launching a new journal focusing on planning and building in the Third World – which was to materialise just a few years later as TRIALOG.

But I also remember numerous conferences, workshops and symposia, which he organised in the 1980s and 1990s at his long-time home-base TH Darmstadt. Obviously, the academic side was well prepared: theme, topics, invited speakers. But in addition, Kosta had not just considered the academic output. He provided kind of a comprehensive package, to enable students and low-income attendees to attend the respective event. Many years before couch-surfing was invented, he had organised accommodation at his friends' and colleagues' living quarters for each and every attendee. Incidentally, the evening talks after the conference added immensely to the networking effect of such gatherings.

It has already been said by many colleagues that Kosta's academic contributions will live on. But I am sure, that Kosta's networking efforts across the globe will survive as well.

Einhard Schmidt-Kallert
Essen

An Kosta

Viel zu früh bist Du von uns gegangen, Kosta. Da waren noch so viele Projekte, so viele von Dir geprägten Initiativen, da war Dein bis zum Schluss brillanter Geist, der uns immer überrascht hat mit neuen Ideen und Vorhaben. Du warst nicht EINER der Gründer von TRIALOG, von Dir alleine kam die Idee damals und Du warst der EINZIGE von denen zu Beginn, der bis zum Schluss Verantwortung übernommen hat, mitgelitten hat. TRIALOG war Dein Baby, Kosta, auch wenn Du niemals Kinder und Familie wolltest, und ich weiß, wie Du gelitten hast, als jüngere Leute den Vorstand übernahmen und Dich als alten Weisen hinausdrängten. Besonders an Dir geschätzt – und manchmal auch gehasst – habe ich Deinen Widerspruchsgeist, Deine Beharrlichkeit, mit der Du Deine Standpunkte vertreten hast, mit der Du oftmals gegen vom Vorstand festgelegte Regeln verstoßen hast, die für Dich zu engstirnig waren, etwa in der Frage der TRIALOG-Zitiervorschriften. Dem mainstream in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit hast Du beständig und sehr konsequent Deine eigenen Überzeugungen entgegengesetzt, etwa Deine Wertschätzung für die Wohnbauprojekte Kubas und für die Unnachgiebigkeit dieses kleinen karibischen Landes gegen den imperialen Hegemon. Interessant ist, dass für die meisten Deiner Freunde und Mitstreitenden Deine Herkunft stets im Dunkeln blieb, ein Nebelschleier, den Du nicht so bereitwillig öffnen wolltest. Wir werden Dich, Deinen funkelnden Blick und Dein verschmitztes Lächeln stets im Gedächtnis behalten.

Klaus Teschner

Inception of TRIALOG

How did TRIALOG come about? We interviewed some founding members of TRIALOG Association to find out why and how TRIALOG was founded.

KM: Kosta Mathéy – founding member.

JK: Joanna Kotowski – founding member

ESK: Einhard Schmidt-Kallert – founding member

FS: Florian Steinberg – founding member

Q: Looking back at the inception of TRIALOG 40 years ago, what motivated you and your fellow founding members to establish a journal focused on planning and architecture in the global south?

KM: In fact, I just checked, it's more than 40 years ago: in November 1982 was the first meeting of TRIALOG's founding crowd. But until the first number was published, it took some time as well. My personal motivation or the journal was very simple: I had been studying and working in London, and got to know many international colleagues with experiences overseas. In that city, many famous authors, lecturers and experts related to architecture, housing and urban development issues people passed by every week. They offered lectures and socialized, which was good chance to get to know them in person. However, moving back to Germany in order to start teaching in a small city like Darmstadt, none of those celebrities came to visit and talked to us. Hence, in order to maintain some contact with those specialists, and remain updated in the international debate, I got attracted to the idea of founding a journal.

In Germany, there existed a few other university departments with a focus on building and planning in developing countries. My home university, TU Darmstadt, was one of them. In fact, the 'Arbeitsgruppe Tropenbau' already existed since the days when I was a student there some ten years before. But in those days, the focus was rather on construction techniques in tropical climate, and some renowned faculty staff, like Prof. Günter Behnisch, supported the initiative. At one point, in the late 1970's, the faculty decided that the former *Arbeitsgruppe Tropenbau* should become a faculty department (*Lehrstuhl* or Chair) on its own, to be led by Prof. Arnold Körte, who had been a professor of architecture at the 'Werkkunstschule', in Offenbach before. Himself, being better acquainted with Nordic countries like Alaska, was happy to engage me as an assistant, coming from a more International 'World City' like London, and having extensively travelled through South America before. Once installed in his department, I

was granted full flexibility to do whatever I wanted, which was a marvellous chance for me. [For a resumé about the activities of the department see: <https://tropenbauthd.hypotheses.org/#1991>]

There existed a few universities, besides Darmstadt, that had already begun addressing the topic of Planning and Building Overseas as well, like in Berlin (TU and UDK), Stuttgart (Frei Otto), Kassel (Gernot Minke) or Dortmund (FH and Uni). Kaiserslautern (Prof. Speer) came later, and my former Professor from the AA in London, Hans Harms, received a call for leading a new department at TU Hamburg-Harburg. For our Journal initiative, I got in contact with all of them, and they all supported the idea of the journal concept, whereas my colleague at TU Berlin, Florian Steinberg, invested at least as much time in the project as myself and deserves special mention. Jürgen Österreich, being a practitioner with experience in many countries in the Global South, contributed his experience in the field – which we considered as important as the academic background for our readers and students. Eventually, some 30 people actively supported the project and became founding members.

Although the Journal remained our central objective, like other small journals, there was a need for a formal base and status – typically under the structure of an association (Verein). With this, there came a series of meetings, like the founding assembly, the annual general meetings, the editorial board for each forthcoming issue, and occasionally also a small congress. In the first year, Florian and myself were on the lead, but with strong support from the other colleagues, who took responsibility for one or more volumes of the journal. Since in the past, I had already been co-published a small journal at high school (to which I had given the name 'KLEX' - see https://schularchiv.bbf.dipf.de/index.php/Klex:_Sch%C3%BClerzeitung_Rudolf-Koch-Schule), I benefitted from some previous publishing experience. For our first TRIALOG volume, I invented the flipped corner of the front page – initially implying physically cutting off an edge from the cover page. However, after the first nine issues (and a higher print run), the new print shop was less flexible and we had to simulate 'our trade mark' by just printing the flipped corner on the front page – as it remains there until present.

JK: It was essentially Kosta Mathéy who initiated this process. He went from university to university looking for people who were interested. In 1983 we had the founding

Liste der Mitglieder des Vereins zur wissenschaftlichen Erforschung von Planen und Bauen in Entwicklungsländern, e.V., Darmstadt			Stand
(Name, Adresse, Tel.)	1983 (finanzieller Beitrag)	1984 (Interesse an TRIALOG Mitarbeit)	
	50,-		60,-
	50,-	xxx	60,-
	50,-	100,-	xxx 60,-
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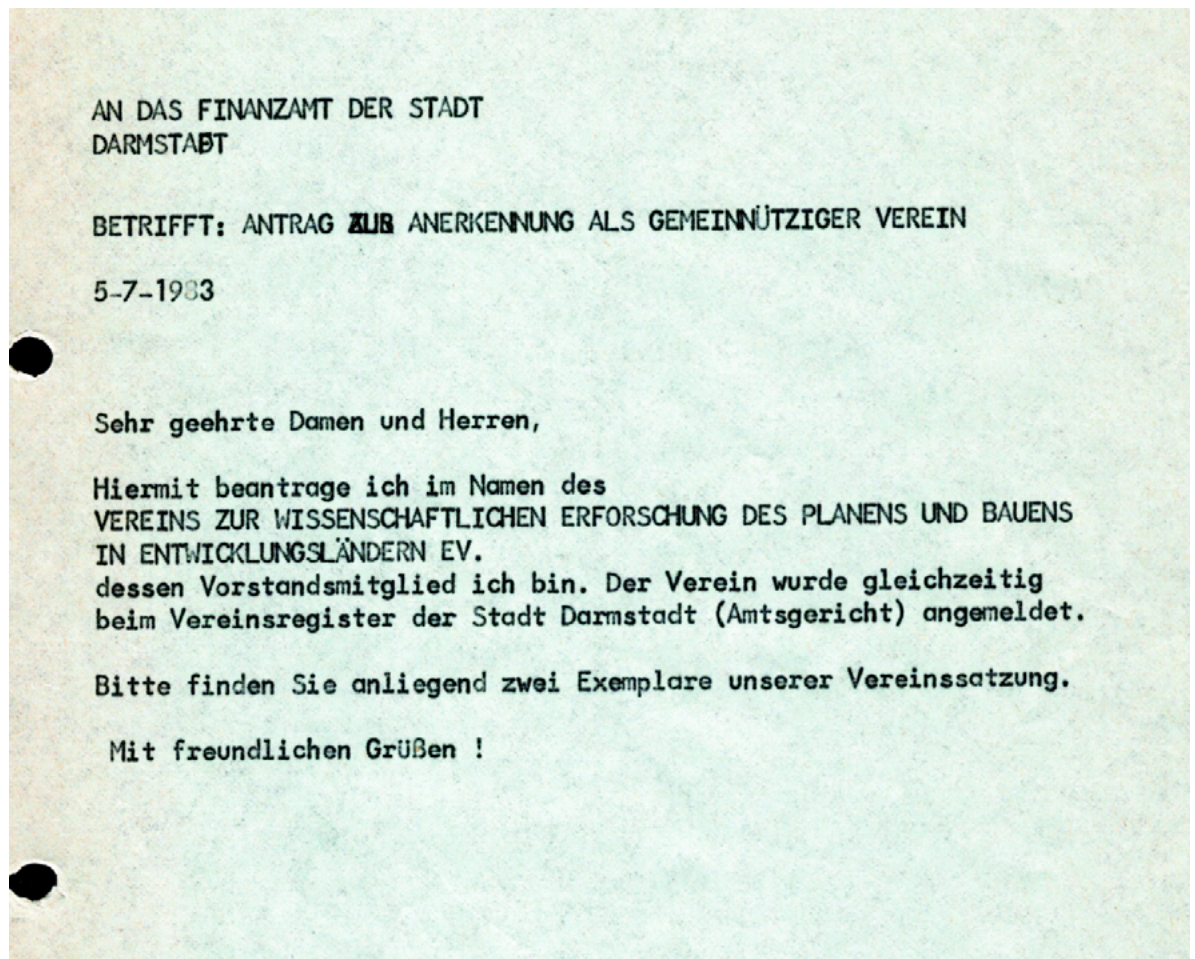
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Figure 1: The initial membership of TRIALOG in 1983

meeting in Darmstadt. That was together with Hans Harms, and Florian Steinberg may also have been there. Roland Ziss was there. And it's possible that another woman was there. You can read about it in the founding minutes. It's possible that it took a while to become official, i.e. all the documentation and registration as an association, but it wasn't until 1984. Kosta Mathéy and Hans Harms had prepared everything earlier. TRIALOG did not come about by chance. The idea was to strengthen the professional exchange between countries of the First World, the Second World and the Third World. The first starting point was the academic context, academic discussion and exchange. This dialogue did not exist in Germany at the time, and there were only few universities that offered the subject of 'planning and construction in developing countries. I think Darmstadt and Aachen offered it. Berlin (Habitat Unit) came in later, and also Hamburg-Harburg with Hans Harms. TRIALOG wanted to integrate this topic more strongly into the academic landscape in Germany. The founding members knew each other from the university context and shared Kosta's interest and intentions. Coming mainly from an urban research context, they focused on urban development or construction in a broader sense. Development cooperation is still very much focussed on rural areas. This was much more extreme in those years, and there were practically no urban projects in development cooperation. So this was one intention for TRIALOG to bring this urban perspective more to the fore. We focussed on informal settlements, participatory planning, self-building and the

integration of sub-urban and squatter settlements into the city. Later, topics such as the right to the city were added. On the other side, the intention was giving colleagues from the Global South a space to express themselves and present their views. Some of the contributing partners were students from the Global South, some were colleagues. But there were also other professionals who were working abroad and used TRIALOG as an exchange platform.

ESK: At that time, there existed some kind of working group of institutes and faculties in Germany in the field of urban planning, regional planning and architecture in developing countries. The name of the working group was „Arbeitskreis Planen und Bauen in Entwicklungsländern der deutschen Hochschulinstitute“. This working group was dominated by senior people, by the professors. Each of the professors used to invite some of his junior staff, and that's how we got to meet each other, like Florian Steinberg from Berlin and Kosta Mathey from Darmstadt, myself and Bernd Jenssen from Dortmund. And I think to some extent, also Roland Ziss and Joana Kotowski from Wuppertal. But that was exciting for us as the younger generation of architects and planners busy in the field of planning and architecture in developing countries. But of course, this working group was not very flexible at all. The conventional thing was that the professors decided on the theme and decided on the talks which were presented at each of these sessions. We thought there's need for a new medium, a different type of medium, to enhance

Figure 2: Registration of TRIALOG as a Non-Profit Association



communication among the members. That was the idea behind starting this journal. There was no journal of this kind in this field, in Germany, apart from established journals like *Stadtbauwelt* and in the field of geography, 'Raumforschung und Raumordnung' and some others, but no journal specifically addressing the situation in developing countries or in the Third World, as we used to call it in those days. Then we said, let's do something more flexible and enhance communication through TRIALOG. The name TRIALOG came about because we wanted to foster the dialogue between practitioners and university academics and of course, the dialogue between us in the developed world and people in the Global South, or Dritte Welt, as we called them, in those days, from Africa, Asia and Latin America. What we had in mind was not just presenting to each other finished products, but workshop kind of ideas, new ideas. That was the initial idea, and that's why we started this kind of thing. And then the interesting thing was also the interdisciplinary dialogue. We were not looking to confine this to architects. But well, even though the majority of those who were active in the beginning were architects but also spatial planners, economists and so on. Anybody busy in this field of urbanism, urban design, and down to the level of design of individual buildings, and including regional planning. That's why the first issue was more or less devoted to the theme of housing.

FS: At that time there existed no medium in Germany for publications on urban development of the Global South. Only *Bauwelt* or *Stadtbauwelt* would publish the

occasional article. There was a felt need for more exchange on developing countries issues.

Q: How did TRIALOG aim to bridge the gap between academic scholarship and knowledge from practitioners and development cooperation workers in its early days?

KM: When I studied, starting in the mid-60's, I unavoidably bumped into the waves of the '68 student revolution', although I was a bit late in fact. Certainly, I joined the student manifestations, but studying at a *Technical University*, I didn't fully understand the wider context. Of course, over the years, I got better informed and certainly agreed to the ideals of social justice by the left. I valued the responsibility of the individual to somehow contribute a personal share in the collective effort to build up a better world in the future. In this sense, being students of Architecture, our efforts in building adequate housing and healthy cities seemed to be a valid contribution towards that collective goal. However, in Germany and Europe we had plenty of well-educated architects, whereas the picture of slums and overcrowded settlements in the so-called 'Third World' suggested, that our individual efforts as professionals could result in bigger impact than at home. At the same time, studies in indigenous architecture overseas hinted at a certain plus value in respect to health, ecology and conviviality. Influential authors in that sense include Paul Oliver, Otto Königsberger, John Turner, Gernot Minke among many others. Luckily enough, in those years, travelling in countries connoted as the 'Third World' was not only much safer

'urban' centre of a low-income suburb of the capital city, known as Ciudad Sandino. A number of subsequent trips and initiatives between both cities followed. Even today, 40 years later, two different partnerships between Ciudad Sandino and Darmstadt based NGOs are still alive (<https://sandinodarmstadt.wordpress.com/> and <https://werkhof-darmstadt.de/nicaragua/ce-cim/>).

In those days, traveling to Nicaragua, the common trajectory involved several subsequent flights: (a) from Berlin to Moscow, (b) from there to Havana, and (c) from there to the Nicaraguan capital Managua. Personally, inspired by those mandatory stopovers in Havana, I felt more attracted to Cuba compared to Nicaragua, and decided to write my PhD dissertation about Self-Help housing in Cuba. Much later, in 2012, UN-HABITAT commissioned me to direct 'Cuba Housing Profile' [<https://zenodo.org/records/5801730#.Yo6XN6jP3MU>], of which an abridged English version was published as a special issue of TRIALOG (no. 115) [TRIALOG 115_CUBA Housing Policies [web]. pdf]. Once my dissertation had been accepted, I was nominated *Profesor Adjunto* at Havana University of Technology and occasionally still teach in Havana. A particular

highlight of TRIALOG's presence in Cuba was the joint international TRIALOG Conference organized in La Havana in 1998 [TRIALOG 58, Trialog 058 Urban Heritage and Cultural Tourism.pdf], entitled 'Urban Heritage and Cultural Tourism' and which attracted more than 100 participants from all over the world.

As academic positions – except for tenured professors – tend to be limited to a span of a few years, many faculty members often switch between academia and consultancy assignments. Those colleagues share the privilege of being able to enrich teaching with intimate project experience gained in the field, and vice versa, relating practice with insights from academic research and discussions with students (many of them originating from the countries of the South).

I valued the responsibility of the individual to somehow contribute a personal share in the collective effort to build up a better world in the future

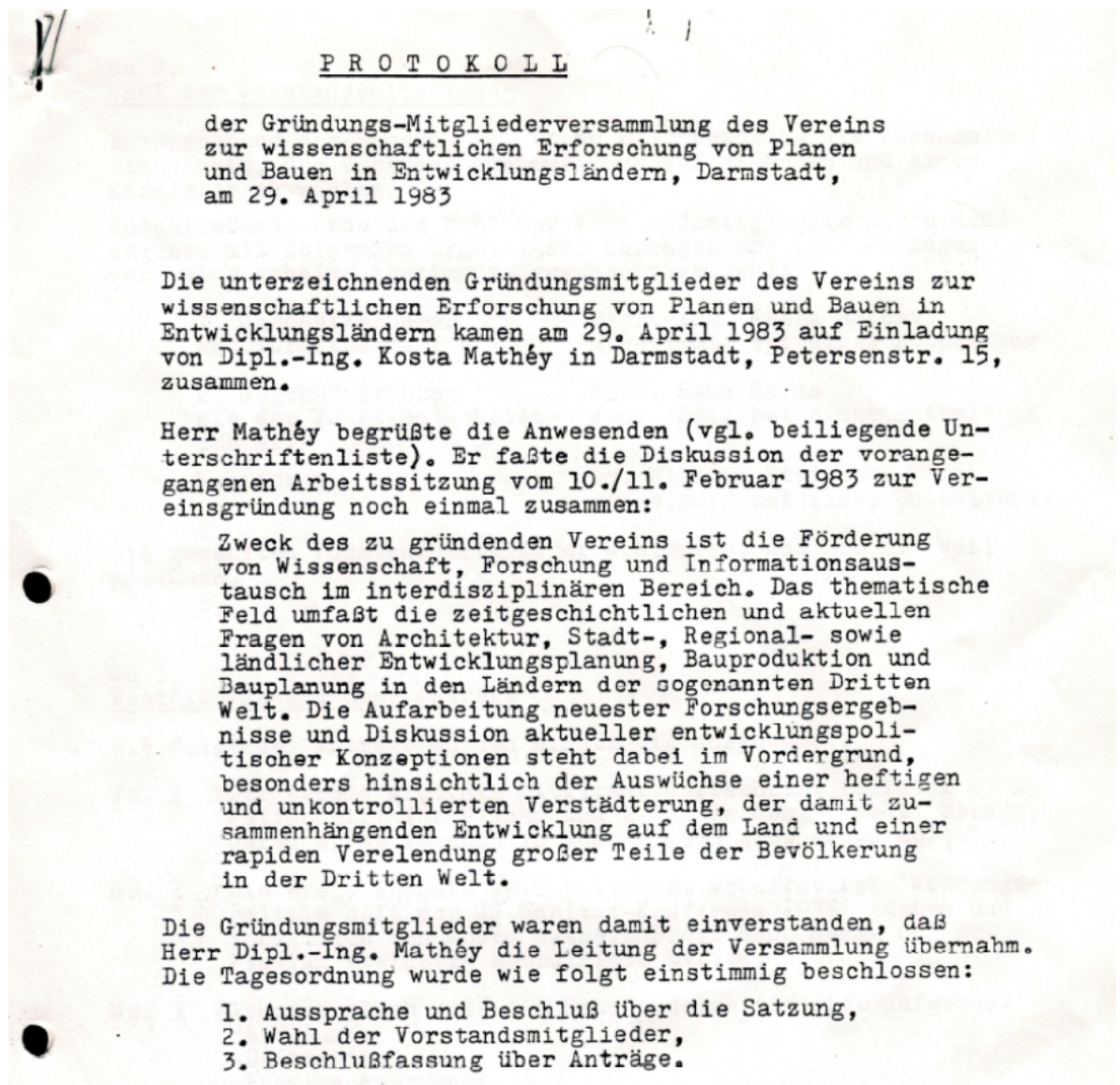


Figure 4: Minutes of the first TRIALOG General Assembly.

JK: The idea was to bridge this gap by reporting on concrete project experiences. Some researchers travelled to the field and analysed a topic or idea. Others went abroad to see what needs had to be researched, what problems actually existed on the ground and needed to be tackled. What approaches were there? What solutions were actually being offered - whether scientifically, but also practically - in the urban planning offices or in specific projects? One example: Some colleagues accompanied and supervised a GTZ supported neighbourhood upgrading project in El Caliche in the Dominican Republic. This started around 1981 or 1982 and was one of the first integrated settlement upgrading projects in Latin America. Important questions were: 'How can you manage the concrete experiences on the ground and with people's participation?'; 'What learning experience can you gain so that this flows back into the development cooperation projects?' Back then, there were essentially three approaches related to informal settlements: One was to simply eradicate or evict, the second was to offer 'sites and services', and the third was 'social housing'. The upgrading approach was still in an 'experimental stage' and the El Caliche project was one of the first examples. The opportunity to share these practical experiences in publications was an important issue. Today, if I would like to report on a project that we are involved in, I would have to ask the partner institution or the donor whether they agree. Back then, that was done without asking and there was great interest to read about these experiences.

ESK: Well, the idea was to invite practitioners as well to publish articles. Right from the beginning, we had this principle of rotation among the editors. We did not want a permanent editorial board like traditional journals, but there must be this kind of rotation. I think Florian and Kosta were responsible for the first issue. The editorial team for the second issue consisted of Roland Ziss and Joanna Kotowski from Wuppertal and of Bernd Jensen and me from Dortmund University (which is now TU Dortmund). We invited somebody from GTZ to contribute, and we also got in touch with Jürgen Oestereich to start contributing as an architect who worked as a private consultant in the field of development cooperation and had a lot of practical experience. That was one way of doing it, but I think it took us quite some time until we really got responses from colleagues in developing countries. When you look at the first nine issues or so, most of the articles were written by Europeans or by Germans, sometimes translated from English articles written by people who had first published in Britain or in the United States. But I think until we really received good contributions from people from developing countries, that took us quite some time.

FS: The issue of bridging gaps between academics and practitioners was initially not much perceived. TRIALOG emerged from the academia, but its readership was intended to be mostly practitioners. During the first years, TRIALOG registered interest from the world of practitioners but quite soon it became evident that it was challenging to reach them. Attempts to create a closer link with entities like the GIZ proved futile. TRIALOG sought sponsorship from GIZ, but GIZ did not consider this possible, or relevant for its staff.

Q: Can you share some significant challenges or obstacles TRIALOG faced during its formative years, and how you overcame them?

KM: As a general observation, since most of our readership outside universities work as practising architects and planners, or in development cooperation, they typically lack the time to sit down and write longer essays (except for their memories, like our colleague Prof. Eckhart Ribbeck did in his book 'Stadtläufer' [BoD Norderstedt, 2023]). Typical practitioners also are not used to writing articles instead of drawing plans or editing reports. Thus, particularly in the first years, TRIALOG really had problems in obtaining enough good and interesting manuscripts. Also, at least in the first years, my personal understanding of an editor was to not only performing a quality control and accept or refuse a manuscript. It was equally important also to support the authors - almost like acting as a co-author or critic, and to make sure that a draft article becomes a really good paper that fits a particular thematic volume. This effort refers to the prevailing literary culture in that period (20th century!), when the reputation of key journals was closely linked to the name of its editor in chief - who typically occupied a full-time position with a lot of responsibility. In the early years, many subscribers used who read each TRIALOG volume from beginning to end, because there was no other journal around with the same focus.

JK: The biggest challenge, especially in the early years, was to increase the number of issues produced - in other words, the print circulation. I think the first print run was around 700. And there were always discussions about how we could do better. And then of course there was the financial challenge. The journal was originally published in German, with a summary in English. Then we added editions in English and other languages. TRIALOG started with the intention of reaching a German audience. But this audience was very small. Later we decided to produce the journal in English, although there were already similar publications in the UK and the U.S. We argued that TRIALOG was the first of its kind in Germany and therefore had a competitive advantage. TRIALOG used English issues to reach more interested readers. I think there was also one TRIALOG issue in Spanish. We had the challenge of survival. Congratulations, by the way, on making it so old! One challenge was and still is, I think, to define 'what is TRIALOG'? In fact, there is not a real dialogue or a trialogue, you just produce a magazine. Although the journal was the central object from the beginning, the aim was also to organise events and conferences that could possibly be financed from magazine sales, and to strengthen the 'trialogue'. This was not fully reached. The journal exists, and there is an annual meeting of the members. There might also be an annual conference. But it's not a proactive promotion of exchange or dialogue between the academic institutions, with other institutions, colleagues or partner countries.

TRIALOG became a different type of journal. Luckily, I think we have always maintained this dialogue between practitioners and academics

ESK: I think when we look at the objective that we had, we said we want a lively dialogue among the contributors. I think this has never materialized to the extent we had anticipated, because, well, four issues a year, and we rarely received any letters to the editors or any critical words. Luckily, I think we have always maintained this dialogue between practitioners and academics. And I think it's good that up to the present day, it is possible that not all articles are peer reviewed. So, university-based people prefer to have peer reviewed articles, but I think it's good that spontaneous essays can be published or reports from case study reports which don't comply with the standards of a peer reviewed article. This is, I think, still possible. And this makes TRIALOG, in my view, look more interesting than some of the other journals, traditional journals, which exclusively publish peer reviewed articles. We also wanted to give a voice to the younger generation of planners, of architects who worked in the field of planning in developing countries, I think this has been possible, and after a few years, some of us established good contacts to government organizations. For instance, I think a few years later, 1987 was declared the 'International Year of Shelter for the Homeless' by the United Nations and our ministry, BMZ, wanted to do something about it. I think Roland Ziss and Joana Kotowski Ziss managed to convince the ministry to publish a special issue on that occasion. And in that case, if I remember correctly, the printed circulation of that issue was 10,000 and was distributed by BMZ. I think this was the best distribution TRIALOG has ever had. That happened in the early years. I remember I was in Ghana at that time, and then I received a letter from Joanna asking me to write some kind of the overarching article, Leitartikel for this issue which was number 10, TRIALOG 10.

FS: Funding and sustaining subscriptions was always challenging. In the 1980s there existed some funding support from the BMZ (German Ministry for Development and Cooperation) for the organization of events, and the TRIALOG association was able to obtain such funding support during several years. This funding helped to subsidize some of the TRIALOG expenses.

Q: Reflecting on the evolution of TRIALOG over the past four decades, what do you consider to be the journal's most notable achievements or contributions to the field of planning and architecture in the global south (or north)?

KM: In its beginning, TRIALOG created a community of people working and researching in the subject, and who usually knew each other for a longer period of time. Nowadays, most meetings or the conferences tend to be bigger, shorter, and have a tight schedule. Due to the pressure on young academics to publish at all cost, the papers tend to become shorter and more superficial. At the same time – with the exploding total number of journals and papers published, we experience de-valuation of each individual publication. I would not be surprised if in a not too far ahead future, an excessive number of publications (including the amount of bibliographic references attached to them) will turn into a negative qualification for selecting candidates to fill academic vacancies!

Still today, I believe that TRIALOG not only has a certain reputation because of its long tradition, but also because, to my knowledge, there is no other journal that could easily be mixed up with TRIALOG, given its tradition and inherited uniqueness, and its strong reference to field work and strong exchange with colleagues overseas. It is also true that TRIALOG still publishes a considerable share of original papers, or even entire volumes, with a common focus for each volume, and with original insights. In terms of relevance in the field, TRIALOG could fill a gap in reviewing of long term successes and good practises in International Cooperation, such as the VPUU (Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading) Project in Cape Town South Africa which still goes strong and expands after 25 years (including 15 years after termination of the initial German Funding).

JK: There are always issues that were and are very interesting. I only actively participated in very few of them. In the first 10 years, I was still more actively involved in TRIALOG, sometimes as a member of the board. That changed when we had to look after our own business and were constantly travelling. What I have noticed is that there are now many more colleagues from the Global South who are contributing to the issues. That TRIALOG has become so old! Well, we didn't expect it at all back then. Yes, we thought: OK, let's try 10 years and then it's over. But somehow it went on and on. It was passed on to the younger generation. There are still younger people interested and involved. I think that was very important. So 'congratulations' that we have existed for so long. It's a great achievement for such a small organisation that still manages to produce magazines. Every time I think, wow! Sometimes with a delay, but that doesn't matter. That's part of it and I'm glad that it's still a bit chaotic here and that you get the feeling that there are real people behind it and not AI. There are always interesting topics. As I said, it's amazing that TRIALOG has existed for so long and that it's being continued. That there is still this interest in producing the journal. I know that it's quite a lot of work, and especially voluntary work, people who put their heart and soul into it. I think it's great that TRIALOG still exists.

*That TRIALOG has become so old!
Well, we didn't expect it at all back then.*

ESK: Yeah, I think there's still this dialogue between practitioners and academics, which is very good. There are certain fields where there has been a continuous, evolving debate, especially on housing and housing policies. There are other fields, like regional planning, where I think there has not been the continuity in the debate which existed in the early years, for example, when there was an issue on medium sized cities. Every now and then there's an interesting issue. But I mean, this is due to the fact that TRIALOG depends on volunteers, people who volunteer to edit a particular issue. So this is also something where I have to ask myself whether I made all the efforts necessary to make TRIALOG into an organ which reflects the debate and the scientific progress in the field of regional planning. But as I said, we produced a few focal issues in this field,

**Zu 2.
Wahl der Vorstandsmitglieder**

Entsprechend der Satzung (§ 11, Nr. c) beschloß die Versammlung einstimmig, den Vorstand aus zwei Geschäftsführern und einem Kassierer zu wählen.

Anschließend wurde die Wahl der Vorstandsmitglieder durch Handzeichen mit folgenden Ergebnissen durchgeführt (auf Befragen war keine geheime Abstimmung gewünscht worden):

1. Geschäftsführer und Vorsitzender:	Dipl.-Ing. Kosta Mathéy einstimmig bei einer Enthaltung
2. Geschäftsführer mit der Funktion Schrift- führer:	Prof. Hans Harms einstimmig bei einer Enthaltung
Kassierer:	Dr. Florian Steinberg einstimmig bei einer Enthaltung.

Die gewählten Vorstandsmitglieder erklärten, daß sie die Wahl annehmen.

Figure 5: The initial board members voted during the first TRIALOG General Assembly.

especially on the rural-urban interface. I think when I look at the last few issues, in the last few years, there have always been some issues where, I think there's a predilection for academic excellence, in the sense of producing articles which comply with the accepted academic standards but do not necessarily represent frontiers of our discipline, or make a lot of contribution to the real challenges, the challenges in the real world. I mean, these days, well, I think now it's called the global context, which means that we shouldn't always differentiate between Global North and Global South. And I think whenever I was in charge of one of the issues, I made sure that there were also articles on the situation in Germany, in our own country, because structures may be comparable, may be similar, when you talk about housing plight. This exists all over the world, and of course, the phenomena are different. But this is also an advantage. There's very little of this comparison between the situation in our own country and Europe and in the Global South. This is, I think, one weakness up to the present day. When we look at fields like regional planning, what is the challenge we are facing? We and all countries of the world are facing the challenge of climate change. So we have to rebuild our spatial structure. And I think we need future scenarios, how can we reconstruct the spatial structure of a country like Germany or a country like France and, of course, all the countries in the Global South as well? And this is something which is still missing. This debate: how can planners play a role in climate change adaptation? Not only do we have to combat climate change, but there's need for climate change adaptation as well, and we have to change our architecture, we have to change our building standards, and we have to change our settlement patterns completely. And then maybe when you go deeper into this topic, you will find out that Germany as a fairly decentralized country, has certain advantages over countries which are dominated by a primate city or a mega city. But this is something which we should address in the future.

FS: Most valuable achievement was the creation of a group of professionals among urban experts working in development. The magazine was only a vehicle for this, the work of the association and the annual meetings & seminars were the most valuable achievement. Thematic contributions varied over the years, though, and over the years some of the topics covered were rather "pure academic" and were not met by much response by the practitioners.

Q: In your own assessment, how has the urban discourse in the global south changed since TRIALOG's inception, and how has the journal adapted to these changes?

KM: Maybe it is overdue to dismantle the fashion of program re-labelling. It reminds me of the fairy tale of the emperor's new clothings – do you know it? Like the Millennium Development Goals which were never reached but simply replaced with the New Urban Agenda. On the other hand, certain moves in re-labelling were over-due, like the metamorphosis of the 'Third World' concept, to 'Developing Countries' and finally the 'Global South' – just to name one example.

JK: The urban planning discourse is constantly changing. At the very beginning, the integration of informal settlements into the urban context was the central topic. In the meantime, and rightly so, climate change is playing a greater role. On the other hand, it is now more about the city as a whole – not just about suburban settlements, not just about poor settlements in cities; the right to the city has been added as an issue. The 'gender' topic plays a role in one TRIALOG issue or another – I think it could be even more prominent. At some point the TRIALOG issues were mainly about urban development problems of big cities, or rather from the point of view of the richer city dwellers. The discourse revolved around rapid urban transit, elevated railways and waste disposal from a very technical point of view. I felt there was a lack of an

Zu 3.
Beschlußfassung über Anträge

Die folgenden Anträge wurden einstimmig angenommen:

- Nr. 1 "Der Verein gibt die Mitgliederzeitschrift 'Trialog - Zeitschrift für Planen und Bauen in der 3. Welt' heraus, deren erste Ausgabe im Sommer 1983 erscheinen soll."
- Nr. 2 "Die erste Ausgabe soll unter dem Arbeitstitel 'Wohnungspolitik seit der UN-Habitat-Konferenz 1976' stehen und inhaltlich von Kosta Mathéy, Prof. Hans Harms und Dr. Florian Steinberg koordiniert werden."
- Nr. 3 "Grundsätzlich soll die Mitgliederzeitschrift aufgebaut sein aus:
-Leitartikel
-Themenschwerpunkt
-Theoriebeiträgen
-Praxisbeiträgen
-Beiträgen zur Lehre
-Buch- und Filmrezensionen
-Informationen und Terminkalender
-Hinweisen für Abonnenten."

Mit Dank an die Erschienenen schloß Herr Mathéy die Versammlung.

Darmstadt, den 29. April 1983

integrated approach. It is important that discourses in developing countries are not reduced to problems that could be solved technically only, especially against the backdrop of climate change.

ESK: I think it is good that the majority of the authors are now colleagues from the Global South. It is good that people with different insights and from different cultural backgrounds do contribute to TRIALOG. It is a positive development and obviously there are certain challenges which were not known 40 years ago. That was a time when nobody was talking about climate change, and this is definitely very different now. I think there have also been a lot of reports about practical experiences with participation over the years and of course lessons have been learned by people involved in such processes. This is something which has been discussed in many issues 20 years ago but also in recent issues.

FS: Initially there was strong emphasis on housing and policy issues. Today, many more 'soft' issues and rather academic topics have appeared. The emphasis today is more on urban development in general, and appropriately the theme of cities & climate change has come up.

Q: In what ways has TRIALOG responded to advancements in technology and shifts in communication and dissemination of knowledge throughout its history?

KM: When TRIALOG was founded, we already had an electric typewriter which we used to print column-wide paper strips, which we then glued on A4 sheets of paper, which the printer photographed and prepared an offset-printing sheet. From there, it took a couple of decades until we got PCs, where we could

store text for several pages, and insert illustrations. But for the preparation of the master copy for a full volume, we needed help from a professional layouter, who took care of composing digital files to be sent to a professional printer – which basically remained the standard until today. Since the cost of the print-run dropped disproportionately with the number of copies produced, the trend was to order many more copies than we were even able to distribute. However, the company that took care of storing and posting the volumes to our members and subscribers, not only charged for sending out the journals, but also for the shelves where the unsold copies were stored. At one point of time, we had to decentralise storing in the attics and basements of our members, which also filled up year-by-year - even after drastically reducing the normal print run. Also considering that mobility of younger academics increased, the rents went up, and academics got less time for reading the inflating amount of literature supposed to be read, our presidency (and also many subscribers) suggested to turn on exclusive digital dissemination in the future - but so far, no definitive decision has been taken.

Although being fully aware of the underlying logic, my view on the matter is more complex. For example, in the course of my lifetime, I have seen the storage of music passing from old vinyl disks, to LPs, then CDs, then portable music players, now all within a smartphone app - until most recently the old 30cm vinyl records turned in to a new fashion again! Written text underwent similar (but slightly less radical) transformation - but would be surprised if a PhD candidate would be very happy to see his or her dissertation - the result of several years of profound academic research - to end up in a smartphone app?

In this spirit, before downgrading our TRIALOG journal into a smartphone app only, my suggestion has been converting the conventional subscription of TRIALOG into a print-on-demand offer, in addition to the (already existing) online availability. The current technology allows the automatic printing, binding and delivery of individual copies overnight and no extra item cost. I am convinced that our authors will appreciate the availability of their publication in printed-&-bound format in a bund volume that you can take into your hands or give away as a present and souvenir.

Certainly, nobody can deny that digital text processing and access has many advantages compared to former decades when paper was the about the only practical means of storing wisdom, or at least information. But apart from the pleasure and comfort of quietly reading a book, or a journal, in my armchair, on train ride or breakfast table, I do not feel enthusiastic about restricting my access to wisdom and culture to the tunnel view of a monitor or smartphone display. Apart from that, I am not convinced at all that the billions of gigabytes used, and the valuable but short-lived hardware behind digital hardware and energy consumption is less damaging ecologically, compared to conventional printing the news up on a sheet of recyclable paper. On the other hand, I would be amused to meet a computer freak who will turn up and try to sell me a pack of digital toilet paper!

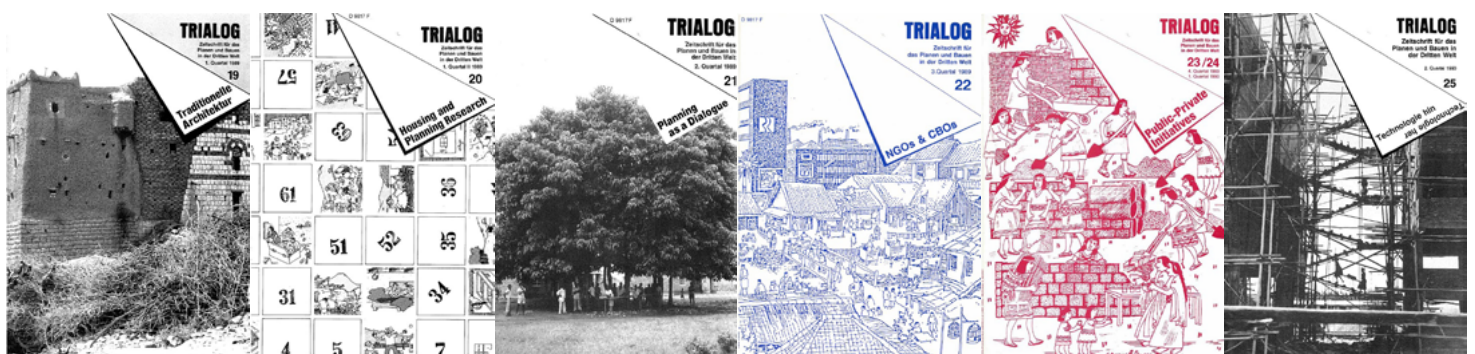
JK: TRIALOG had a cut-off corner at the top right at the beginning. That was an idea from Kosta. In the early years - the first two or three years - there was a big fight to keep this cut-off corner. At some point it fell through because of the production challenges. Because a publisher said: that costs money, the corner! The journal cover was printed in its entirety, but the corner had to be cut off. Cutting off the corner was so expensive because it had to be done by hand with scissors or with a machine. This was done separately from the actual printing and production process. This meant that the cut-off corner could no longer be retained. So in the early years, it was a hot debate in favour of or against the corner. In the digital version this doesn't matter; you can cut-off without any additional cost. If I remember well, the graphics for the first journal issues were still glued on and then photographed. That was a completely different process. But even back then there were already computers. In the beginning, the editors did the layout themselves. We used a specific design programme to produce the TRIALOG magazine. But very soon we started working digitally.

And at some point, the editors no longer sat at the computer and put the whole thing together themselves, but professional people were hired and the articles and photos were sent to them in digital way. I really welcome digitisation - especially the fact that the magazines are available online. Back then, it would have been handy to look up an article online, especially when travelling. At least this is now possible for members, and the old issues are now online. I think it's important that the journal is available digitally. I also think that readers and members should decide for themselves whether and how they want to read it. I like having paper in my hands when reading. Maybe it's mainly the older generation that likes to do that. The younger generation prefers digital reading. I mean, the association is financed by the sale of the printed version of the journal. You can justify that. The price of an online version is more difficult to justify. On the other hand, you reduce the production costs publishing online.

ESK: We started with typewriters but this is nothing special. That is, I mean these technologies have changed in all fields. In the early days more established journals looked more professional because they had different means of typesetting while ours was produced by a typewriter. But even today TRIALOG is basically a printed journal. I think most of the readers read the printed journal either on the computer or on paper. The options of the fast communication have not yet been fully utilised. I think this is something the association can pick up - that apart from the printed journal, other channels could be utilised. The benefit would be that it is easier for practitioners to be part of the community and that communication could be a bit more lively using other channels

Apart from the pleasure and comfort of quietly reading a book or journal, I do not feel enthusiastic about restricting access to wisdom to the tunnel view of a monitor or smartphone display

FS: There seems to be a rather slow process to adopt towards new developments. TRIALOG is still a printed medium. Is it still adequate, and could/ print costs not be saved through a fully digital journal? The associate and TRIALOG as such do not make use of other digital tools?

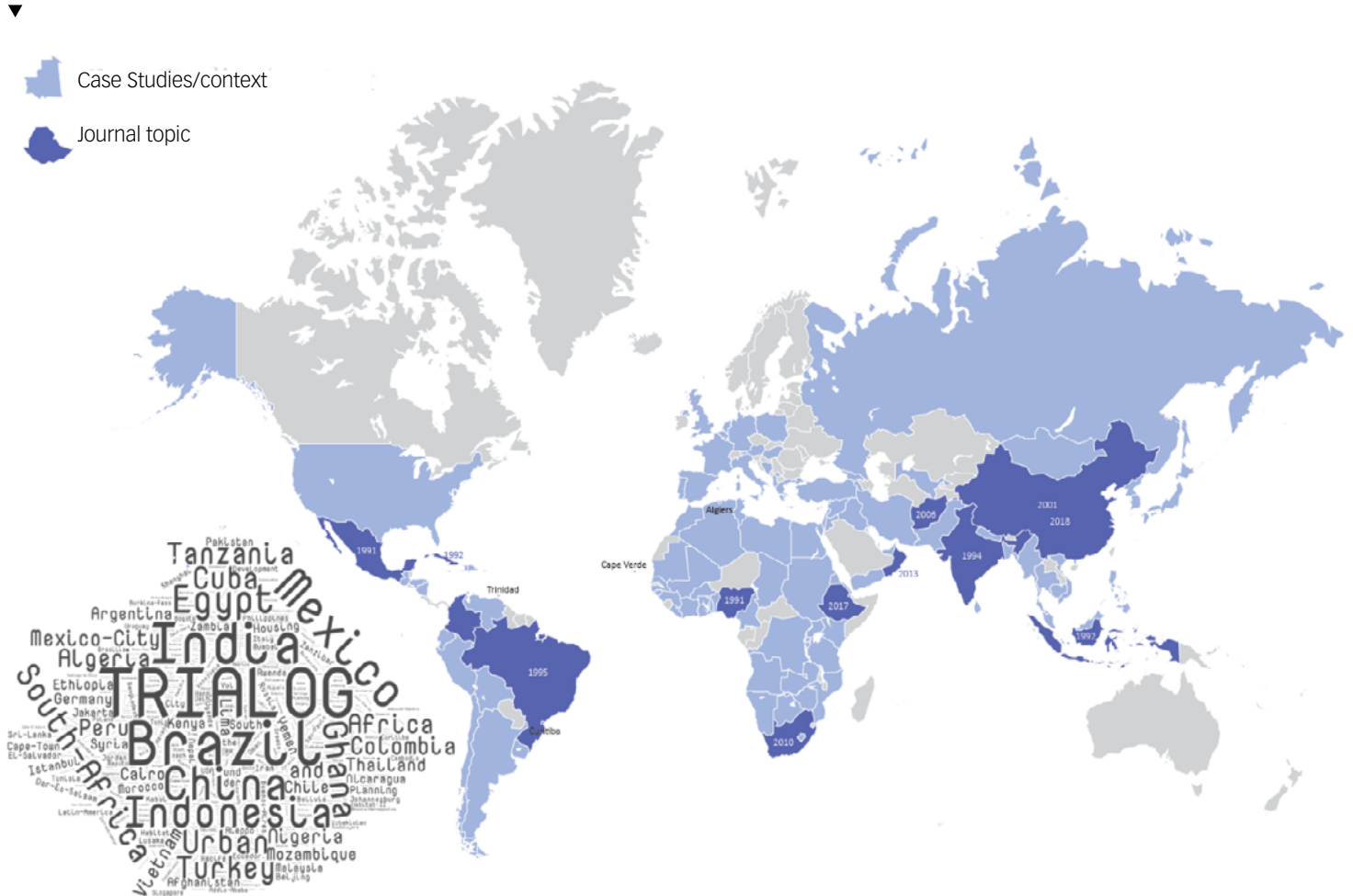


TRIALOG: Four Decades of Global Dialogue

Over the past 40 years, TRIALOG has been a vital platform for dialogue among practitioners and academics in the global North and South, publishing a wide array of issues that reflect the evolving urban landscape. As global challenges have shifted, so too has TRIALOG's focus, expanding from initial thematic focus on housing to encompass emerging issues like climate change, migration, and digital transformation. This rich history of publications traces the changing dynamics of international relations and highlights the enduring commitment of TRIALOG to address the most pressing issues. The following sections provide an index of TRIALOG's publications, illustrating how the themes have changed through the decades.

TRIALOG brought together a rich diversity of themes reflecting the evolving debates in urban and development studies since its founding in 1983. Core issues such as **urbanization, habitat, housing, and development** have been explored alongside critical reflections on **cities, social justice, and sustainability**. The journal has consistently engaged with **global and local perspectives**, addressing topics ranging from **climate change, migration, risk, and resilience to knowledge production, co-production, and networks**. Emerging discussions on **spirituality, culture, and identity** sit alongside long-standing concerns with **infrastructure, planning, and livelihoods**. The journal

TRIALOG Journal - Topics





has remained open to interdisciplinary inquiry and together, these contributions map the intellectual journey of more than forty years and TRIALOG's role as a platform for critical, inclusive, and forward-looking urban discourses.

TRIALOG Authors and Countries

Over the years, TRIALOG, has evolved into a global platform for dialogue on urban development, from across the world. Initially grounded in German authorship, the journal has grown in its scope and reach, representing contributions from scholars, practitioners, and policy-makers from both the Global North and the Global South. Each Special issue of the journal has benefited from the perspectives that these authors have brought.

Although initially focussed on the Global South, TRIALOG has also expanded to feature urbanisation, policies and practices in the Global North. In this way, TRIALOG has remained relevant in facilitating a cross-regional exchange of knowledge and ideas, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of urban issues globally.



1983-1990

In its formative years, TRIALOG placed a strong emphasis on the urgent challenges of developing nations, with early stories from Nicaragua, Tanzania, and Ghana painting vivid pictures of communities striving for better living conditions. Key debates centred on self-help strategies, squatter settlements, and slum upgrading and improvement that highlighted the realities of shelter crises and community-driven responses. The contributions were not just academic exercises. They were real stories of transformation, where families in informal settlements worked alongside architects and planners to create dignified homes.

The journal gave space to broader social dimensions, including the roles and voices of women, in recognition that

development without gender equality was incomplete development. By the late 1980s, the publication had established itself as a bridge between theory and practice, consistently featuring dialogue between communities, policymakers, and development professionals. The emphasis on "Entwicklungsländern" (developing countries) was not just geographical; it represented a philosophical commitment to amplifying voices from the Global South and challenging conventional top-down approaches to urban development. These foundational years emphasised the belief that sustainable development must begin with people, not just policies. The decade set the stage for what would become four decades of influential scholarship and established TRIALOG as a platform for critically engaging with both policy and practice.



Year	Issue #	Title	Editors/Authors
1983	TRIALOG 1	Wohnungsbau für die Armen	Hans Harms; Kosta Mathey; Florian Steinberg; Ullrike Zschaebitz
1984	TRIALOG 2	Regionalplanung	Einhard Schmidt
1984	TRIALOG 3	Ausbildung & Berufsbild	Abdullah Breshna; Margit Meßmer; Gisind Budnick
1984	TRIALOG 4	Die Häuser der Revolution	Otto Greger; Florian Steinberg; Ulrike Zschaebitz
1985	TRIALOG 5	Ausgrenzungen	Clemens Deilmann; Ingrid Hermannsdörfer; Margit Meßmer; Helen Peacock
1985	TRIALOG 6	Socialist Housing - Shelter Policies in socialist Third World Nations	
1985	TRIALOG 7	Raumordnungen	Annegret Nippa
1986	TRIALOG 8	Behutsame Erneuerung Historischer Stadtzentren	
1986	TRIALOG 9	Mittelstädte	Bernd Ciecior; Klaus R. Kunzmann
1986	TRIALOG 10	Internationales Jahr der Hilfe für Menschen in Wohnungsnot 1987	Johanna Kotowski-Ziss
1987	TRIALOG 11	Frauen als Betroffene der Planung	Gisind Budnick; Ingrid Hermannsdörfer; Margit Meßmer; Ulrike Zschaebitz
1987	TRIALOG 12	Angepasste Technologien	Kosta Mathéy; Rita Mrotzek-Sampat; Kiran Mukerji
1987	TRIALOG 13/14	Slum- and Squatter Upgrading	Kosta Mathéy; Florian Steinberg; Rita Mrotzek-Sampat
1987	TRIALOG 15	Partizipation and Habitat	Jürgen Oestereich; Hassan Ghaemi
1988	TRIALOG 16	Kooperativen	Joachim Baldermann; Joanna Kotowski-Ziss
1988	TRIALOG 17	Umwelt Dritte Welt	Clemens Deilmann; Hassan Ghaemi; Eckhart Ribbeck
1988	TRIALOG 18	Self-help Housing	Kosta Mathéy
1989	TRIALOG 19	Traditionelle Architektur	Wolfram Schneider; Khosrow Edalatian
1989	TRIALOG 20	Housing and Planning Research	Wim Blauw; Léon Deben; Kosta Mathéy; Rita Sampat
1989	TRIALOG 21	Planning as a Dialogue	Bernd Jennsen; Klaus R. Kunzmann; Emmanuel K.A. Tamakloe; Ingrid Schwoerer
1989	TRIALOG 22	NGOs & CBOs	Kosta Mathéy; Florian Steinberg
1990	TRIALOG 23/24	Public-Private Initiatives	Hassan Ghaemi; Thomas Heinrich; Rita Mrotzek-Sampat
1990	TRIALOG 25	Technologie hin Technologie her	Kosta Mathéy
1990	TRIALOG 26	Siedlungskonzepte (Nicaragua, Dakar Senegal, Caracas Venezuela, Africabat-1989)	Hassan Ghaemi; Jürgen Oestereich
1990	TRIALOG 27	Städtische Infrastruktur	Wolfram Schneider



1991-2000

As TRIALOG entered its second decade, the world was transforming rapidly. The fall of the Berlin Wall had reshaped global politics, and the journal's scope expanded to match these changing times. The 1990s marked a pivotal period where local experiences began informing global conversations about sustainable development. TRIALOG expanded its focus to wider questions of urban development, sustainability, and global change. Planning emerged as the dominant theme of this era, but not the top-down planning of previous decades. Instead, the journal championed participatory approaches where communities became co-authors of their own development stories. From the favelas of Brazil to the townships of Nigeria, case studies revealed how local knowledge could revolutionize urban management and housing strategies.

Themes such as habitat, cities, and social reflections became more prominent, influenced by major

international conferences that were reshaping development discourse. Architecture began to be understood not just as building design, but as a tool for social transformation and community empowerment. Local solutions were increasingly understood as having universal applications, while global frameworks needed local adaptation. Alongside debates on resilience, climate change, livelihoods, spirituality, and cultural identity, articles examined the ways in which policies, networks, and co-production of knowledge shaped urban futures. At the same time, the journal maintained its commitment to practical urban concerns, from infrastructure and design to community-based approaches, while situating them within broader political and ecological contexts. This decade marked a shift toward interdisciplinarity, positioning TRIALOG as a bridge between critical scholarship, professional practice, and advocacy for more inclusive cities.



Year	Issue #	Title	Editors/Authors
1991	TRIALOG 28	Urban Ecology	Kosta Mathéy; Jürgen Oestereich
1991	TRIALOG 29	Raumwandlungen	Andus Enge; Kosta Mathéy
1991	TRIALOG 30	Nigeria - Environment – Housing	Emmanuel Ede; Margit Meßmer; Jürgen Oestereich
1991	TRIALOG 31	México Stadt	Michael Peterek; Eckhart Ribbeck; Klaus Teschner; Antje Wemhöner
1992	TRIALOG 32	Urban Indonesia - New Developments	Florian Steinberg
1992	TRIALOG 33	Phänomen Cuba	Kosta Mathéy
1992	TRIALOG 34	Plan and Reality	Jürgen Oestereich; Eckhart Ribbeck
1992	TRIALOG 35	Denkmalpflege in Südostasien	Wolfram Schneider; Bernd Tyman
1993	TRIALOG 36	Informal Settlers in the First World	Kosta Mathéy; Florian Steinberg
1993	TRIALOG 37	Großsiedlungen	Joanna Kotowski-Ziss; Klaus Teschner
1993	TRIALOG 38	District Planning in Action	Karin Gaesing; Bernd Jenssen
1993	TRIALOG 39	Planungsmethoden - Planning Methods	Gislind Budnick; Antje Wemhöner
1994	TRIALOG 40	Orientalisch islamische Altstädte	Anette Gangler; Eckhart Ribbeck; Wolfram Schneider
1994	TRIALOG 41	Locating Positions – Positionsbestimmungen	Hassan Ghaemi; Birgit Laue; Jürgen Oestereich
1994	TRIALOG 42	Lokale Architekturen	Kosta Mathéy; Michael Peterek
1994	TRIALOG 43	Urban India	David J. Edelman; Jürgen Oestereich; Klaus Teschner
1995	TRIALOG 44	Women Planning Development - Frauen Planung Entwicklung	Gislind Budnick; Karin Gaesing; Joanna Kotowski-Ziss; Antje Wemhöner
1995	TRIALOG 45	Local Government - Kommunale Selbstbestimmung	Joanna Kotowski-Ziss; Jürgen Oestereich
1995	TRIALOG 46	Brasilien Brazil Brasil	Kosta Mathéy; Eckhart Ribbeck
1995	TRIALOG 47	Community-Based Housing Finance	Yves Cabannes; Kosta Mathéy
1996	TRIALOG 48	Infrastruktur für nachhaltige Entwicklung	Gislind Budnick; Nina Mapili; Horst Reichert
1996	TRIALOG 49	Istanbul Habitat	Klaus Teschner; Cihan Arin; Hans Harms
1996	TRIALOG 50	Habitat II - Crowding and Health	Jürgen Oestereich; André Dzikus; Kosta Mathéy; Jürgen Oestereich; Antje Wemhöner
1996	TRIALOG 51	Tailor made – Maßgeschneidert	Klaus Teschner; Joanna Kotowski-Ziss; Antje Wemhöner
1997	TRIALOG 52	Built in Latin America	Antje Wemhöner; Marco de la Torre
1997	TRIALOG 53	Hof Häuser - Courtyard Houses	Anette Gangler; Eckhart Ribbeck
1997	TRIALOG 54	Krieg - Zerstörung - Wiederaufbau	Rita Mrotzek-Sampat; Dietmar Wiegand
1997	TRIALOG 55	Planung kommunal - Planning Local Government	Jürgen Oestereich; Volker Kreibich
1998	TRIALOG 56	Urban Renewal in Southeast Asia	Arnold Körte; Martia Schnepf-Orth; Mai Lin Tjoa-Bonatz; Michael Toyka-Seid
1998	TRIALOG 57	Latin America - Building the City	Hans Harms; Klaus Teschner; Marco de la Torre
1998	TRIALOG 58	Urban Heritage and Cultural Tourism	Kosta Mathéy
1998	TRIALOG 59	ASA-Projekte	Michael Peterek; Stefan Thimmel
1999	TRIALOG 60	Gender and Sustainable Cities	Kerstin Zillmann; Bernd Decker
1999	TRIALOG 61	Curitiba - Towards the Sustainable City	Michael Peterek
1999	TRIALOG 62	Lehre und Forschung	Jürgen Oestereich; Klaus Teschner
1999	TRIALOG 63	Planning and Health	Antje Wemhöner
2000	TRIALOG 64	Algier - Stadt, Metropole, Region	Youcef Chennaoui; Anette Gangler; Seddik Hamache; Ulrike Langendörfer; Larbi Sidi Moussa; Eckhart Ribbeck
2000	TRIALOG 65	Urban Agriculture	Kosta Mathéy
2000	TRIALOG 66	Grassroot Urbanity - Local Heroes	Jürgen Oestereich; Klaus Teschner
2000	TRIALOG 67	Aneignungen und Transformationen	Michael Peterek



2000-2010

TRIALOG's third decade coincided with global urbanization. The 2000s became the era when cities moved to centre stage, reflecting a world where, for the first time in human history, more people lived in urban areas than rural ones. The concept of *sustainable* development evolved from an aspirational goal to an urgent necessity, as cities sought new models for growth that wouldn't compromise future generations.

The journal placed strong emphasis on themes of urban development, land management, and the changing dynamics of cities in the Global South, as urban sprawl and informal settlements challenged traditional planning approaches. TRIALOG documented innovative experiments in land policy, from community land trusts to participatory mapping projects that gave voice to previously

invisible populations. Agriculture found new relevance in urban contexts, while tourism began to be understood as both opportunity and challenge for sustainable city development. Key debates centered on the role of community participation, in shaping city growth, alongside challenges of informality, migration, and environmental change. The focus on global perspectives reflected an increasingly interconnected world where solutions developed in one context could be adapted and applied elsewhere.

Within this decade, Global South cities had been established not just as sites of problems, but as laboratories for innovation and places where challenges could be addressed through creative collaboration between communities, governments, and global networks.



Year	Issue #	Title	Editors/Authors
2001	TRIALOG 68	China	Jürgen Oestereich
2001	TRIALOG 69	South(ern) Africa	Antje Wemhöner
2001	TRIALOG 70	Peripheries	Michael Peterek; Klaus Teschner; Gerhard Paul Kienast
2001	TRIALOG 71	Eco-Technology	Jürgen Oestereich
2002	TRIALOG 72	Eco-community	Jürgen Oestereich
2002	TRIALOG 73	Disaster Relief	Thomas Kuder; Klaus Teschner
2002	TRIALOG 74	Urban Land Management	Babette Wehrmann
2002	TRIALOG 75	New Settlements	Peter Gotsch; Michael Peterek
2003	TRIALOG 76	Stadt und Wüste	Michael Peterek
2003	TRIALOG 77	Infrastruktur und Entsorgung	Antje Wemhöner
2003	TRIALOG 78	Social Production of Habitat in Latin America	Eike Jakob Schütz; Klaus Teschner
2003	TRIALOG 79	Tourism and Development	Wolfgang Scholz; Matthias Beyer
2004	TRIALOG 80	Neo Liberal Urbanity	Christopher Cripps; Alain Durand-Lasserve; Marc Gossé; Volker Kreibich; Jürgen Oestereich
2004	TRIALOG 81	Micro Governance	Kosta Mathéy; Karen Wanner
2004	TRIALOG 82	Urban Mobility	Antje Wemhöner; Klaus Teschner
2004	TRIALOG 83	Entlang der Seidenstraße	Sybille Jahn
2005	TRIALOG 84	Orte Bauen	Peter Gotsch; Michael Peterek
2005	TRIALOG 85	Regionalkultur - Cultural Diversity	Heinrich Pachner; Jürgen Oestereich
2005	TRIALOG 86	Lehre und Forschung	Kathrin Golda-Pongratz; Klaus Teschner
2005	TRIALOG 87	Violence and Insecurity in Cities	Susanne Frank; Kosta Mathéy; Jens Wurtzbacher
2006	TRIALOG 88	Afghanistan	Antje Wemhöner; Peter Gotsch
2006	TRIALOG 89	Controlling Urban Space - The Rise of New Actors	Elisabeth Peyroux; Claire Bénit-Gbaffou; Wolfram Schneider
2006	TRIALOG 90	Urban Coalition	Astrid Ley; Alexander Jachnow; Klaus Teschner
2006	TRIALOG 91	Building on Disasters	Christine Wamsler; Kosta Mathéy
2007	TRIALOG 92	Megacities	Sonja Nebel; Wolfgang Scholz
2007	TRIALOG 93	Imposing European Urban Structures	Renate Bornberg; Antje Wemhöner
2007	TRIALOG 94	Housing Policies	Daphne Frank; Klaus Teschner; Antje Wemhöner
2007	TRIALOG 95/96	Think Future	Andreas Hofer; Kosta Mathéy
2008	TRIALOG 97	Es wandelt sich!	Ulrike Gaube; Kosta Mathéy
2008	TRIALOG 98	Vertreibungen / Forced Evictions	Astrid Ley; Klaus Teschner
2008	TRIALOG 99	East Africa	Wolfgang Scholz; Antje Wemhöner
2009	TRIALOG 100	Urban Visions	Kosta Mathéy; Klaus Teschner
2009	TRIALOG 101	Borders and Migration	Kathrin Golda-Pongratz; Astrid Ley
2009	TRIALOG 102/103	Redefining the Urban	Jürgen Oestereich; Klaus Teschner
2010	TRIALOG 104	Perspectives on Urban South Africa	Umut Duyar-Kienast; Gerhard Kienast; Astrid Ley; Klaus Teschner
2010	TRIALOG 105	Wasser in der Stadt	Ulrich Boeschen; Sybille Jahn
2010	TRIALOG 106	Designing for People	Silvia Matuk; Kosta Mathéy
2010	TRIALOG 107	Urban Development and Spirituality	Christoph Woiwode; Wolfgang Scholz



2011-2020

Building on the focus of the 2000–2010 decade on land, governance, and sustainable urban development, the 2011–2020 period shifted more directly toward the lived realities of informal settlements, housing, and public space. The world grappled with the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, the Arab Spring, climate disasters, and massive displacement. The concept of ‘resilient’ communities and social justice became a growing concern. TRIALOG documented stories from refugee camps and informal settlements with new urgency. From Syrian camps to South African townships, publications explored how displaced populations created temporary communities that often became permanent, challenging conventional notions of planning and settlement.

The journal became a witness to adaptation and coping strategies in the face of crisis, showing how people built

homes, livelihoods, and hope in the most challenging circumstances. Housing emerged as both a human right and a complex spatial challenge. Case studies from Ethiopia to India revealed innovative approaches to public housing, while examining how rapid urbanization was reshaping entire continents. The focus on "neighbourhood" reflected a growing understanding that sustainable development happened at the most local level, where daily life intersected with policy.

Attention was given to transport and infrastructure as cities struggled with mobility challenges for growing populations. The journal critically examined the emergence of *eco-cities* asking hard questions about who benefits from environmental improvements and how to avoid creating new forms of spatial segregation.



Year	Issue #	Title	Editors/Authors
2011	TRIALOG 108	Public Space	Peter Gotsch; Michael Peterek
2011	TRIALOG 109	Urban Rural Linkages	Renate Bornberg; Eva Dick; Einhard Schmidt-Kallert
2012	TRIALOG 110	Urban Public Transport	Wolfgang Scholz; Dirk Heinrichs
2012	TRIALOG 111	Private Urbanisation	Peter Gotsch
2013	TRIALOG 112/113	Camp Cities	Julia Hartmann; Franziska Laue; Pia Lorenz; Philipp Misselwitz
2013	TRIALOG 114	Oman – Rapid Urbanisation	Sonja Nebel; Wolfgang Scholz
2013	TRIALOG 115	Cuba Housing Policies	Kosta Mathéy
2014	TRIALOG 116/117	Multi-locality	Renate Bornberg; Eva Dick; Einhard Schmidt-Kallert
2014	TRIALOG 118/119	Spaces of Memory - Lugares de memoria	Kathrin Golda-Pongratz; Klaus Teschner
2014	TRIALOG 120/121	Globaler Süden - Global South	Ronald Kunze; Klaus Teschner
2015	TRIALOG 122	Who Wins and Who Loses	Genet Alem; Paola Alfaro d'Alençon; Wolfgang Scholz
2015	TRIALOG 123	Other Housing Strategies	Kosta Mathéy
2016	TRIALOG 124/125	Habitat III - Quito 2016	Kathrin Golda-Pongratz; Klaus Teschner
2016	TRIALOG 126/127	Neighbourhood Development	Gerhard Kienast; Peter Gotsch
2017	TRIALOG 128	Urban Transitions in Africa	Alexander Jachnow; Carolina Lunetta; Klaus Teschner
2017	TRIALOG 129	MENA Urban Research	Astrid Ley; Mohamed Salheen; Antje Stokmann
2017	TRIALOG 130/131	Ethiopia - Äthiopien	Hans Harms; Klaus Teschner; Monika Wiebusch
2018	TRIALOG 132/133	China's Eco-Cities	Florian Steinberg; Dai Guowen; Kosta Mathéy
2018	TRIALOG 134	Resilient Urban Development vs. Right to the City	Genet Alem; Wolfgang Scholz
2018	TRIALOG 135	Housing and Urban Redevelopment in the Maghreb	Raffael Beier; Gerhard Kienast; Yassine Moustanjidi; Sonja Nebel
2018	TRIALOG 136	Open City	Nadine Appelhans; Grace Abou Jaoude; Vanessa Miriam Carlow; Olaf Mumm; Majd Murad; Boris Schröder; Jan Hendrik Trapp
2018	TRIALOG 137	Co-production of Knowledge in Urban Development	Josefine Fokdal; Astrid Ley; Yassine Moustanjidi
2019	TRIALOG 138	Cultural Space	Elettra Griesi
2019	TRIALOG 139	Just Cities	Alexander Jachnow; Els Keunen; Dorcas Nthoki Nyamai
2020	TRIALOG 140/141	Cities and Displacement	Eva Dick; Einhard Schmidt-Kallert; Benjamin Schraven
2020	TRIALOG 142	Decentralized Water Management in Rapidly Growing Cities	Wolfgang Dickhaut; Ajith Edathoot; Tim Fettback; Mahmoud Moursy
2020	TRIALOG 143	City, Community and Heritage – Egypt 2011 - 2021	Hebatalla Abouelfadl; Mirhan Damir; Mohamed ElGamal; Franziska Laue

2020...

As TRIALOG continues its journey, 40+ years on, it confronts a world fundamentally altered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The the urgent challenges of urban recovery, reconstruction, and governance in the face of the pandemic, conflict and climate change have brought new imaginaries of what cities could become. With case studies spanning from Ecuador to Ethiopia, India, Bangladesh, Germany and beyond, researchers explore how different neighbourhoods coped with the crisis and what lessons emerged about urban resilience and social solidarity.

Digital transformation has accelerated beyond anyone's expectations, fundamentally changing how we understand urban planning and governance. TRIALOG has featured studies on smart city technologies, digital

participation in planning processes, and how mobile connectivity is reshaping informal settlements while maintaining a critical view on who benefits from digitalization and who gets left behind. Climate change has evolved from future threat to present reality and TRIALOG has featured how heritage preservation intersects with climate resilience and adaptation strategies in vulnerable coastal cities. Case studies from Jordan to Quito reveal innovative approaches to managing water resources, while research from peri-urban areas shows how cities are expanding into previously rural territories. This period reflects a growing engagement with resilience and adaptation, emphasizing how urban futures are being negotiated amid overlapping social, environmental, and political disruptions.

TRIALOG Themes- 2020



Year	Issue #	Title	Editors/Authors
2021	TRIALOG 144	Ecuador: after Habitat III	Alexander Jachnow; Myriam Jacomé; Tannya Pico
2021	TRIALOG 145/146	The housing-health nexus and its links to livelihood aspects	Tania Berger; Javier Martinez; Peter Gotsch
2021	TRIALOG 147	TRIALOG 40+ Years	Dorcas Nthoki Nyamai, Franziska Laue, Nadine Appelhans, Katharina Frieling, Jan Dieterle, Alejandro de Castro Mazarro.
2022	TRIALOG 148/149	Post-war Cities: Planning Recovery and Reconstruction	Carol Ludwig; Seraphim Alvanides; Franziska Laue
2022	TRIALOG 150/151	Urban Technology & Collaboration in Informal Settlements in African Cities: Enhancing Livelihoods and Empowering Communities	Shilumbe Chivuno Kuria, Dora Hegyi, Sophie Naue and Gesa Ziemer
2023	TRIALOG 152/153	Subterranean solutions for climate resilient future	Mahak Agrawal

The articles published in each Special Issue since 1983 can be accessed here:



What is the future of TRIALOG going forward?

KM: Kosta Mathéy – founding member.

JK: Joanna Kotowsky – founding member

ESK: Einhard Schmidt-Kallert – founding member

FS: Florian Steinberg – founding member

Q: As TRIALOG celebrates its 40+ years, what do you envision for the future of the journal, and how do you see its role evolving in the coming years?

KM: Well, I am happy to see that - after so many years since its creation - TRIALOG is still being produced, read and maintains a positive reputation. Some of the Issues that were printed over the last years, I liked, and others less. I appreciate the open-minded attitude of the editors. Today, it's impossible to read all the stuff that's been published in your field of interest, and TRIALOG is not the only journal that covers my diverse fields of interest. Generally speaking, I prefer journals containing a stringent selection of seriously researched original research, rather than a compilation of shorter essays but expanded by a long and software-generated list of dozens of references – which seems to be a fashion today. But that might request a more critical assessment of manuscripts and feedback to the authors before they are accepted for publication. For sure, the editorial board cannot assume that responsibility alone, but should delegate that task to our members.

JK: Back then we were still talking about the first, second and third worlds and the blocs were still relatively clearly separated. This is no longer the case. So new questions are important today, including 'How do we come in dialogue with colleagues from Russia and the former Soviet countries?'; 'How do we get into a stronger TRIALOG with China, or representatives and colleagues from Africa and the Arab countries?'. This is more important now, especially as the initial focus was very much on Latin America, later also on Africa. The discussion with Asian colleagues and those from the former Eastern bloc countries was not as intensive back then and still doesn't seem to be as intensive. Personally, I would like to see a discussion on an equal footing, without political prejudice, for instance on planning concepts or on structural planning. To have initially a neutral area or approach. When it comes to reconstruction or upgrading, it's no longer quite so neutral. But how is urban planning understood in

Russia or China today? What are the advantages and disadvantages? I realise that the Chinese approaches are often ridiculed in some way - 'those with their big skyscrapers where people jump down and commit suicide'. But they don't have other problems - for example, the poverty divide is not as extreme as it still is in other countries. The discourse at TRIALOG on different approaches to urban planning or construction around the world should be taken more seriously. I can imagine, for example, Ukrainian and Polish colleagues working together, but the exchange with Russian or Chinese colleagues might be challenging, and with North Korean colleagues might be even more difficult. But maintaining contacts without judgement and creating mixed networks is important.

Back then we were still talking about the first, second and third worlds and the blocs were still relatively clearly separated. This is no longer the case. So new questions are important today

ESK: Basically what I said I would like to see a good mix of reports by practitioners and academic analysis, and then in addition maybe through other channels side by side with the printer and journal. In terms of themes topics I think there should be an effort to really come up with good visions for the future development of our cityscape and of our settlement systems and in our country and in other parts of the world. How can you ensure citizen participation in regional planning or spatial planning at the national level? Nobody knows that in Germany we have Raumordnung auf Bundesebene, spatial planning at the national level, but this is very necessary for the survival of mankind.

FS: I envision the need to continue with the orientation towards broader interdisciplinary themes of urban development, and in particular climate change. For many years I have been wondering why the TRIALOG association could not engage in research and documentation work, for DFG or Volkswagen Foundation, why could

can it not become an actor in knowledge development, beyond the TRIALOG journal.

Q: What are current challenges in architecture and planning in the Global context and research publishing that TRIALOG needs to respond to?

KM: Oh, good question. I think we got more and more problems every day. The difference between the Global North and the Global South still exists, but not necessarily geographical. The divide can be found within continents, or countries - but also within a single city, the same society. But the concrete composition of conflicts and opportunities is always specific - and an analysis free from biases must be the first step before we think about solutions. This is an important starting point for the required research.

JK: I see the journal as an organ of exchange between academic experts (i.e. from Germany and the Global South) who are in the early stages of their careers, and who are largely looking for a space to publish and write down their thoughts. What is actually missing, however, is the integration of practice. Moreover, what I personally find lacking is a discussion on the possible adoption or integration of certain experiences from the Global South countries into Germany. For instance, "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" (CPTED) should become a topic in the German urban planning landscape. In my observation, the focus here [in Germany] is still very much on "situational prevention" - i.e. cameras in public spaces and police-controlled measures in urban spaces. The CPTED approach is more than that. In many countries of the Global South, the approach is being implemented - especially in cities. And I don't really see that happening here, although there were attempts 10 or 20 years ago. In principle, CPTED combines different types of prevention. So it's not only about cameras, but about spatial planning that incorporates the entire (spatial and social) environment in order to prevent crime through specific planning principles. It's about visual control of the public space combined with social development measures, and participation and organisation of the inhabitants living around the public spaces. As I mentioned, it's about spatial planning and not environmental planning - this is often mistranslated or even mis-contextualised in Germany. My work is also particularly concerned with the integration of young people in the planning process. We understand planning from an integral point of view, where we try to incorporate structural and social or economic aspects with organisational and resident participation aspects. My impression is that none of this is happening here in Germany. I think this is also not really reflected in TRIALOG.

The challenge of the future is that exchange and dialogue should happen at eye level.

More attention should be paid to gender-sensitive planning. One important example is toilets, an age-old discussion: Why aren't there more toilets in public spaces for women, e.g. at events? Unfortunately, there is no re-thinking of how public toilets are actually used by men and by women or other genders and how they could be designed accordingly. This again touches on certain gender aspects that are implemented in development cooperation projects and are discussed more seriously there as compared to Germany. Often, there is still a top-down approach. Not really conscious or intentional, but we are still considered as 'the developed country' and the others are the countries that 'need to be developed'. Many administrations or urban planning offices that we deal with in development cooperation ask 'What do you actually want here?' It is a struggle to make them realise why it is important to work together, what can be improved. And some of the results are really great: a change in opinions and approaches. But little comes back to us. We are considered as the ones who already have the experience, which is not true. This top-down approach is also reflected in parts of the TRIALOG - the predominantly academic view from the global North. The challenge of the future is that exchange and dialogue should happen at eye level.

ESK: Another important field is transport planning, Verkehrswende in Germany and other parts of the world. There was one Issue about 10 years ago but this has been neglected by TRIALOG for many years. The entire transport sector is also closely linked to combating climate change.

FS: The challenge of TRIALOG will remain to be sustainable urban development in the context of a rapidly changing world. Poverty, SDGs & ESG, climate change, and funding of urban development will remain to be cross-cutting issues.

Q: Any other thoughts that come to mind?

KM: We have seen a growing competition between journals - often also in terms of ranking. Since the standard criteria are the same - which hinders diversity. TRIALOG cannot and must not enter into that race. Our strength lies in our identity - which has been shaped over our 40+ years of existence and shared experience. Our authors should publish in TRIALOG because they have a meaningful message to share.

FS: Digital networking and more pro-active relationships among members of the TRIALOG association should be promoted.

Our authors should publish in TRIALOG because they have a meaningful message to share.

The Making of Urban Planning and Building Lingua Franca

Contribution to the TRIALOG 40+ celebration

Steve Ouma Akoth*

TRIALOG Journal, one of the most original and interesting voices in contemporary urban planning and urbanism, is here examined by an anthropologist. Even though it is not systematic, it runs between the period 1983 and 2023. In loosely connected themes, the essays argue that the TRIALOG, through its numerous contributions, attempted to encompass the progressive sense of decent and inclusive urbanism. This essay explores how TRIALOG has developed diverse themes cumulatively over time. In this cumulative trajectory, the various published articles show that the neo-liberal language and practices of planning do not permit us to make sense of some of what the urban dwellers judge to be important in the context of what Richard Sennett calls the 'open city'. To shift from such incoherence, the TRIALOG editions weave together a language that enables coherence and intelligibility of stakeholders centred and participatory planning. This is what we call the 'lingua franca' of planning.

Introduction

The upsurge of the urban as the process and outcome in the 20th Century has become codified and gained expression through the magnificence of the built environment. This upsurge has gone hand in hand with numerous other coincidental or accompanying processes such as commercialization, increased migration, command, control, organizing of social movements as well as professionalization of the skill areas and academic teaching that relate to the built environments. These shifts have occurred within specific histories and temporalities of the urban that vary from country to country and more so one continent to another. However, this era that coincided with the establishment of TRIALOG, equally experienced unprecedented commercialization not only of the building and infrastructure, but the entire spectrum of urban.

Urban Housing

The early contributors such as founding members Kosta Mathéy and Jürgen Oestereich, Hans Harms, Ulrike Zschaebitz Gisliind Budnick, Joanna Kotowski-Ziss, Wolfgang Ziss, Margit Messmer knew and highlighted these urban changes in the context of their histories, be it in Africa or Latin America. The first mission of inaugural articles such as those of Volume 1's "Wohnungsbau für die Armen" (1983, English "Housing for the poor"), and Volume 4's "Häuser der Revolution" (1984, English "Houses of the Revolution") and Volume 5's "Ausgrenzungen" (1985, English: "Marginalization"), and

Volume 6's "Socialist Housing - Shelter Policies in socialist Third World Nations" (1985) Volume 10's "Internationales Jahr der Hilfe für Menschen in Wohnungsnot 1987 (1986, English: "International year of aid for people dealing with homelessness 1987") was to unmask the presumed innocence of the nice words such as clean, safe, efficient, planned and dynamic urban that accompany the fictitious idea of competitiveness. Being that this is not a systematic review, significant observations did not get their way into this essay. Yet, when it comes to urban housing, it is useful to note that the early (1980s mostly German) volumes of the TRIALOG were rather opinionated while problematizing certain concepts of marginality such as ghettos (i.e., Vol. 5), yet informed and deeply researched contributions. Later in late 1990s, and with more third party editors, the topics were discussed with more academic and neutral style.

Urban Transitions

The urban transition - 'to this era of mega and competitiveness' - is much critiqued by Marie Huchzermeyer in her article *The Policy Context for Informal Settlements: Competitiveness, Slum Eradication and a Right to the City?* In TRIALOG 104 ½010. Marie was amongst the first to warn that the globalization of African cities was causing much more harm to the ordinary citizens than making such cities competitive.

Her caution finds additional voice elsewhere, i.e. by Edgar Pieterse (2010) who argued that in exploring African cities, it is crucial to appreciate all the nuances. The

* Akoth is an urbanist based in Nairobi Kenya. This essay was written as part of the TRIALOG 40+ Panel Discussion on 13 September 2024 with significant contribution from Franziska Laue.

colonial era which featured violence and extraction and the inherited forms of governance simply manned and deepened the exploitative systems and structures created by the colonialists. Therefore, urban planning, land economics, 'modern' architecture and the resultant city establishment are not innocent, and carry within them roots of exploitation, marginalization, vulnerability and exclusion. The actual city is not only composed of infrastructure but social systems responding to the circumstances created by the State.

Professionalization of Urban Planning

That said, much of TRIALOG's publications' debates are more about the impact and trajectories taken in the professionalization of the 'Building of the Cities'. We know that professionalization more so in disciplines of build environments - be it planning, architecture, engineering, land economist and so on - comes with power and control. As explained Richard Sennett and Timothy Mitchel, avoiding the 'Rule of Experts' is a major call for a conscientious planner in that context of professionalization. In this regard, TRIALOG debates sort to explore an expanded set of skills, competencies and values necessary for planner and building professionals to be effective in their work in the context of urban transition of the 20th century and beyond.

From their own review, the contributors in numerous TRIALOG editions seem to suggest that the neo liberal urban planner and building professionals are largely off tangent. It is perhaps Richard Sennett (writing elsewhere) in his distinction between closed and open city (where he laments on the tendency towards closed cities) that has provided an account of the kind of cities that the contributors to TRIALOG's journals have been cautious about. These closed cities, as they started emerging 40 years ago are becoming increasingly masters of their own destiny; the cities aided by their in-house and commercial experts were increasingly becoming determinist over their virtual forms and social functions. The consequence has been the emergence of built environments that, rather than be social productions, look like industrially manufactured. As evident from entire volumes such as Volume 80 on "Neo Liberal Urbanity" (2004) and Volume 111 on "Private Urbanisation" (2012) or specifically from the articles by Alexander Jachnow on "Changing Realities. Neo-liberalism and the NGOs in the South" (Volume 78, 2003), these neo-liberalism experts, do not act alone. Rather, they are often in cohort with the public policy bureaucrats whose public policy culture see the 'competitive urban area' as that which demonstrates internal and external equilibrium and is adequately integrated into the national physique.

Social Production of the Urban Environment

In this context, the emergence and growth of TRIALOG journal, by all means, has been an attempt to 'return' the urban to sociality. The implication is that a socially

produced urban area cannot be one that is over-determined by the so-called experts. Rather, a socially produced urban environment is a people-centred urban that is heterogeneous in outlook and practice. This people-centred urban is the vision of the built environment, particularly visible in the early publications of TRIALOG with passionate contributors on revolutionary transformations as in "Häuser der Revolution" (Vol. 4, 1984, English: "Houses of the Revolution") and on life in marginalized neighbourhoods in "Ausgrenzungen" (Vol. 5, 1985 English: "Marginalization"), Slum- and Squatter Upgrading (Vol. 13/14, 1987), and later in 2015's Vol. 123 on "Other Housing Strategies" and 2016's Vol. 126/127 on "Neighbourhood Development". The TRIALOG contributors over the years have been aware that their intellectual discourse and practice can easily be labelled as 'dissonance'. If it is called 'dissonance', then the contributors to TRIALOG affirm that it is through and in this 'dissonance', that many city dwellers are able to take or claim ownership of the city and reverse their alienation and the potential decay of the city itself. It indeed true that many urban dwellers know the city through their actions of 'dissonance'. The 'knowability' (as Anthony Giddens would call it) by the city dwellers is attested by the lived experiences and emergence of cityness as attested by the use of words in TRIALOG's publications such as needs-oriented (Vol. 1, 1983 onwards), self-help (Vol. 6, 1985, and Vol. 18 onwards) and self-determined (Vol. 16, 1988) in the early years, and later "inclusive urban development" (i.e. in Vol. 128, 2017), "social inclusion" (i.e. Vol. 130/131, 2017), and "participation" throughout all decades. In the end, the kind of best practices for cities as described in TRIALOG are cities of dialogue - which Richard Sennett calls the 'open city'. While other scholars (more so the neoliberal ones that promote competitive urban) have described the best practices outlined in TRIALOG debates as amorphous, it is these conversations that have slowed the burgeoning of closed cities and associated alienating bureaucracy.

Policy Culture in Urban planning

Over the years, many of TRIALOG's members have become persons of influence in numerous positions in the planning and building of cities be it Steve Akoth in Nairobi, Astrid Ley at University of Stuttgart, Alexander Jachnow at IHS Rotterdam, Klaus Teschner and Eva Dick at Misereor in Aachen, Katja Schäfer at UN-Habitat. We see how their practical and scholarly work has largely contributed to slowing down the trend toward closed cities and its mountain of rules that often inflict horrors of brutality and exclusion. To develop this debate further, TRIALOG's contributors more so in the late 2000s (especially around 2006 - 2012, i.e. in Volumes 90, 101, 110 and 111), attracted significant contributions from either practitioners who are members or in support of the numerous movement that front for sociality of the cities. The movements that are highlighted over the years include very local "neighborhood movements" in article of the early years (i.e. Vol. 22 from 1989 on "NGOs and CBOs"), general "self-determination in housing" and the role of "cooperatives" (i.e. in Vol. 78, 2003 on "Social

Production of Habitat in Latin America”), “local coalitions” (i.e. in Vol. 90, 2006 on “Urban Coalition”) and later globally known networks such as SDI (in Vol. 104, 2010 by Bolnick and Bradlow: 35).

Through the years, the Journal got noticed and gained influence amongst practitioners and scholar alike. As the TRIALOG debates reached much more level of public influence, it started engaging the issues and areas which had been left out by professionals either out of convenience, resistance or lack of information. One such area relates to zoning. On this, the articles by Rose Musyoka on “Informal Urban Development in Africa” in Vol. 4, 2008, illustrates the double speak of the various actors who complain most loudly about zoning yet in their own professional works, they use same rules of zoning at the expense of the urban poor.

Special Interest Groups

To much credit, the TRIALOG debates have responded to this restrictive planning and building by proposing a social system for urban planning and building. This is what Richard Sennett has described as an approach that attempts to open the different voices who are in dialogue with one another rather than each in isolation. There is no doubt that TRIALOG has been the premier avenue for such dialogue. The accounts in Volumes such as Vol. 11 on “Women affected by planning” (1987) and Vol. 60 on “Gender and Sustainable Cities” (1999), for instance, illustrate how an urban planning and building, that is dialogic, can produce dense and diverse habitat.

Thus, we can conclude that the last 40 years of TRIALOG has fostered a language for urban diversity that we can rightfully call dissonance when expressed as a

departure from the neo-liberal urban systems. With the creative blend of theory and practice, an increasing number of authors originating from outside Europe, such as the Arab and North African context (i.e. Egypt, Maghreb), and Southern Africa, have provided case studies that make the TRIALOG publications to culminate into some for champions of social production of the urban. But one would be at fault to compare the multiple voices socially produced in urban areas with anarchy - It is not! Equally, TRIALOG has not been a project of separationists, rather what the various editions have done is to open room for urban dialogue that embraces the Jürgen Habermas’ idea of creating communicative space and moves further to fostering co-presence through what Richard Sennett calls ‘visual social creation’.

Conclusion

In the end, TRIALOG’s major contribution is the creation and circulation of a new language of planning and urban building through its journals and members’ network. The cumulative effect of the language in TRIALOG is that ultimate builders of the city are the people - in other words, the experts are reminded that their work is always provisional and incomplete. In doing this, the editions with transdisciplinary or interdisciplinary ambitions such as 2018’s Volumes 134 on “Resilient Urban Development vs. Right to the City” and 137 on “Co-production of Knowledge in Urban Development” 2021’s Vol. 145/146 issue on “The Housing-Health-Nexus and its linkages with Aspects of Livelihoods” explain why university-trained urban experts should allow for intellectual and even more important, practical dialogue in building our cities. The language presented in TRIALOG encourages situational, temporal and historical adaptiveness.

TRIALOG

40+

YEARS OF CONNECTION

Voices from our global community
celebrating four decades of urban
dialogue

When did you join TRIALOG?

2011

I don't remember since it is long ago. First, I was only a subscriber of the journal from mid 1980s as a student and then I joined the association in the 1990s with issue 41.

Good questions -- numerous changes in jobs and locations have made my archives a collection of gaps. I presume I joined Trialog still during my study times in the early 2000.

I joined TRIALOG as a member in 2019 after submitting an article for the co-production special issue and attending the annual conference in Stuttgart, Germany.

I joined TRIALOG after I started working as a research assistant and lecturer in the field of "Planning and Building in the Third World" (as it was then called) at Karlsruhe University in 1988.

My first interaction was editing a special issue in 2022.

I joined Trialog as a young researcher at KIT (Karlsruhe) it was around 2001

1989 or 1990

What is your professional background?

Architect and Urban Researcher. Prof. Dr. Ing. Architektin. Since 2022, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Chair International Urbanism and Urban Design.

I am an urban planner by profession and a registered member of the chamber of Architects, section urban planning.

Well, an architect, urban and regional planner. Leading urban development initiatives under the roof of German development cooperation.

I am an urban planner with experience working in government, private sector and community organisations in Australia and South East Asia.

I am an architect and urban planner and have been teaching and researching international urbanism since 1988.

I am a lecturer in the Department of Architecture at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Alexandria University

Architecture, Urban Planning, Urban Design

Architect and urban planner

How you came across TRIALOG

In 1999, as a student tutor at the Habitat Unit, I worked in the library that the Habitat Unit, initiated by Peter Herrle had at the time.

I think, I was introduced by an older colleague during my internship or by my Professor dealing with Tanzania. I was happy to join the conference to talk to the professors directly and without gate keepers.

Yes, Sonja Nebel led a University course on urban planning in developing countries during my study time at RWTH Aachen in the late 1990s.

While doing my PhD at The University of Queensland on informal settlements in Cambodia. I read an issue that had many interesting articles on this context.

This was during my time as an architect and German volunteer in Burkina Faso from 1984 to 1987. Through my experience in building health stations in rural areas, I came into contact with the editors of TRIALOG.

The first time I came across it was reading an article a friend of mine contributed to back in 2018.

First TRIALOG Journal you read

It started with TRIALOG 66 3/2000: Grassroot Urbanity – Local Heroes, then TRIALOG 82 3/2004: Urban Mobility and was amazed by TRIALOG 111 4/2011–2012: Private Urbanisation in particular by the cover to this topic, great!!!!

Number 24

During Sonja Nebel's University course I did review a TRIALOG Journal focusing on urban planning in Tanzania.

The issue on forced evictions

The first journal I read was TRIALOG 10, which was published at the end of 1986 to mark the United Nations' "International Year of Assistance to People in Need of Housing 1987".

I don't remember now as I am away from my library!

Don't remember any more

Probably No 1

What you appreciate about TRIALOG

I am always very happy to have it, it is always years ahead with the topics...

Reading about topics and research related to the Global South, esp. on housing and urban planning

Always been taken on a new unexpected journey around the world and into the intriguing depth of urban development and cities.

The fresh perspective from different and diverse audiences across the world including well known experts but also early career researchers and practitioners many of them women from the global south.

The specific quality of TRIALOG has always been the practical application of the published articles, the diversity of the authors from a wide range of contexts and disciplines.

It is an open window to the latest transnational issues in urban planning.

How TRIALOG topics relate personally

Some of the topics discussed at TRIALOG closely align with my research interests and areas of professional work. I am always eager to learn about the work of other colleagues.

It help me to understand urban planning in the Global South to build my career on that

Architecture, cities and different cultures are my passion -- and my daily (professional) bread and butter, too.

My expertise is in the issue of land security, urban planning, and socially just urban development and thus many of the topics of the Trial Journal are of my interest, I love it!

At a time when English-language scientific literature was barely established in Germany and TRIALOG was the only German-language medium dedicated to global urbanization.

It feeds my academic and general knowledge in the field of urban planning.

Most memorable experiences

🤗 The selection of the front page with the editorial body for TRIALOG 122 3/2015 Who Wins and Who Loses. It was a great discussion that lasted as long as the development of a couple of articles.

The celebration of Trialog in Darmstadt for issue number 100 in 2004

I really liked our TRIALOG cooperation effort with the University of Gliwice back to back to the 2022 World Urban Forum in Poland.

The conference in Stuttgart was a pleasure to attend and meet all the members of Trialog who are very passionate, genuine and open to collaborate.

The exchange and cooperation with many colleagues over 10 years of joint work on the Executive Board have been enormously enriching for me, both professionally and personally.

Co-editing the special issue on Egypt 2011–2021.

Special anecdotes with TRIALOG

The need to park the journals between conferences fostered a network of knowledge sharing, with journals strategically placed in offices across the nation, alongside chairs at universities, and even in a particular cellar in Berlin.

I particularly remember the long and laborious nights of finalizing the magazine design in the nineties, long before digital layout programs. The individual columns of text were pasted next to each other on A4 pages.

This was my first ever editing experience in my life and it was amazing and very fruitful.

I really like the idea that before computers the journal was assembled/copy pasted during one or several weekends by the editors. Trialog always felt like an extended family

Mai-Juni 1996 waren wir gemeinsam als TRIALOG bei der Habitat-Konferenz in Istanbul; April 1998 in Havanna einen internationalen Kongress zum Thema Revitalisierung von Altstadtzentren.

Looking forward to TRIALOG's future

Please, let's continue just as TRIALOG is. It's such a fantastic space, filled with enriching discussions and incredible colleagues who continually push the boundaries of our disciplines.

Regular publishing and not leaving the core of TRIALOG as an easy entry point to planning in the Global South for young scholars in Germany.

Never ending new impulses, perspectives and good discussions!

I would love to see inclusion of broader geographic contexts such as the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand.

The world has changed over the past four decades, and TRIALOG will have to continue to change: becoming even more internationally networked, entirely in English and hopefully also online.

I hope it can remain personal and about friendships and at the same time meet professional requirements.

Anniversary wishes for TRIALOG

Great to see you all!

Stay alive and independent for the next 20 or 40 years

Keep it going! You rock :)

Many congratulations on reaching 40 years TRIALOG, I wish the continuity of the journal for many years ahead!

I wish that the enthusiasm and commitment of those who today support and shape TRIALOG as the younger generation will be so long-lasting and effective that there will still be an anniversary to celebrate in another 40 years.

I wish I am still in touch to contribute to the 50+ anniversary, as well. Wishing the journal all the success!! Mabruk!

Good music

Happy Birthday, TRIALOG! You have survived 40 years now. I hope you will be able to adapt in a good way to changing conditions and continue for some more decades.

TRIALOG

A Journal for
Planning and Building
in a Global Context

A journal for professionals in the fields of architecture, urban and regional planning, geography, sociology, anthropology, and economics.

Dedicated to global issues and development cooperation, TRIALOG assists the assessment of research of relevance as well as the exchange of professional experiences in the fields of planning and building, with a focus on Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

TRIALOG: A magazine for the open, independent and interdisciplinary discussion and documentation of trendsetting and alternative approaches.

Contributions in TRIALOG are written in German or English, with a summary in the respective other language.

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152/153	Subterranean solutions for climate resilient future
150/151	Urban Technology & Collaboration in Informal Settlements in African Cities: Enhancing Livelihoods and Empowering Communities
148/149	Post-war Cities: Planning Recovery and Reconstruction
145/146	The Housing- Health-Nexus and its linkages with aspects of livelihood
144	Ecuador after Habitat III
143	City, Community and Heritage Egypt 2011-2021
142	Decentralized water management in rapidly growing cities
140/141	Cities and Displacement
139 (4/19)	Just Cities
138 (3/19)	Cultural Space
137 (2/19)	Co-production of Knowledge in Urban Development
136 (1/19)	Open City
135 (4/18)	Housing and Urban Redevelopment in the Maghreb
134 (3/18)	Resilient Urban Dev. vs. Right to the City
132/3 (1-2/18)	China's Eco-Cities
130/1 (3-4/17)	Ethiopia
129 (2/17)	MENA Urban Research
128 (1/17)	Urban Transitions in Africa
126/7 (3-4/16)	Neighbourhood Development
124/5 (1-2/16)	Hábitat III – Quito 2016
123 (4/15)	Other Housing Strategies
122 (3/15)	Who wins and who loses?
120/1 (1-2/15)	Global South
118/9 (3-4/14)	Spaces of Memory
116/7 (1-2/14)	Multi-locality
115 (4/13)	Housing in Cuba (soon available)
114 (3/13)	Oman – Rapid Urbanisation
112/3 (1-2/13)	Camp Cities
111 (4/11-12)	Private Urbanisation – Zoo Cities
110 (3/11-12)	Urban Public Transport

(Previous issues on request)

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Thank You

To all our members, contributors, and readers
who have made TRIALOG a vibrant space for
urban dialogue across continents and
generations

Here's to the next 40 years!



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TRIALOG 140/141
A Journal for Planning and Building in a Global Context
January 1995
Cities and Displacement

TRIALOG 97
Zeitschrift für das Planen und Bauen in der Dritten Welt
2/7/2008
Es wandelt sich!

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