

IfGR Flash-News April



Dear Viennese Geographers,

I hope everyone recovered from the shock of opening the email account after the holidays and is enjoying the exceptionally sunny spring weather. As a news falcon who frequently visited the rooftop, I dreamed of raised beds and trees - a greenscape - on the roof of our NIG building, transforming it into an urban lab and adding new senses of place. Now is springtime, gardening time and news time - grab yourself a cup of tea or coffee and enjoy the Flash News!

If you find yourself on the rooftop of the NIG or in the outdoor area of the UZA II today, I brought along a quote from Rev. Jesse Jackson for you:

*"No one should negotiate their dreams. Dreams must be free to fly high.
No government, no legislature, has a right to limit your dreams.
You should never agree to surrender your dreams."*

If you have any announcements, please send them to: clara.winkler@univie.ac.at

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1. Staff and Guests

- **Philippa Kübler - student assistant**
Philippa Kübler joined the research group [Population Geography and Demography](#) as a student assistant in April 2025. She has a Bachelor's degree in "Geography" (University of Leipzig) and is now studying in the Master 'Geography: Global Change and Sustainability' at the University of Vienna.
- **Marlena Niedl - student assistant**
Marlena Niedl joined the research group [Population Geography and Demography](#) as a student assistant in April 2025. She has a B.A. degree in "Public Relations" (IU Internationale Hochschule) and a B.Sc. degree in "Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften" (WU Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien). Now she is studying in the Master 'Geography: Global Change and Sustainability' at the University of Vienna.
- **Sabrina Richter - student assistant**
Sabrina Richter will join the research group [Population Geography and Demography](#) as a student assistant in May 2025. She has a B.A. Degree in "Geography" and a B.Sc. degree in "Sociology" (both University of Vienna). She is currently studying for a Master's degree in "Religious Studies", "Political Science" and "Global Demography" at the University of Vienna.

Philippa Kübler, Marlena Niedl, and Sabrina Richter will support Prof. Sakdapolrak's working group with data entry for the project ClimMoHub (A Knowledge Hub on Environmental and Climate Migration) over the next few months.

- **Robin Abbing – project assistant**
Robin Abbing will join the research group [Population Geography and Demography](#) as a student assistant in May 2025. She has a Bachelor's degree in "Global Sustainability Science" (University of Utrecht) and is now studying in the Master 'Geography: Global Change and Sustainability' at the University of Vienna. Robin will support Harald Sterly with the submission of research proposals.

2. Congratulations

Rachael Diniega successfully completed her defensio on April 11. Her thesis on "Social remittances in the context of environmental change: An im/mobilities perspective from Skoura M'Daz, Morocco" was graded "Very Good" by the examiners [Ingrid Boas](#), [Etienne Piquet](#) and Patrick Sakdapolrak under the chairmanship of Karl Husa. Congratulation!

Coline Garcia has received the VISESS Completion Grant for her PhD project "Understanding immobility in the context of climatic and non-climatic stressors, a case study of Eastern Ethiopia". This means that her employment as a university assistant pre-doc can be extended until the end of September. Congratulation!

3. Publications

Sterly H., Borderon M., Sakdapolrak P. et al. (2025): Habitability for a connected, unequal and changing world. *Global Environmental Change*, 90, 102953.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2024.102953>

Tadee R., Sakdapolrak P., Sterly H. & Pagogna P. (2025): The Roles of Information Communication Technology in Translocal Embedding and Anchoring Among Thai Migrant Workers in South Korea. *Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/tesg.70008>

4. Project Updates

GRGreenSCape

James Vandenberg, working group Urban Studies, returned to the Philippines for the phase 2 of the Growing Resilience with Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Cities (GRGreenSCape) project throughout February and March. In addition to more inspiring field visits and interviews, he conducted 3 workshops, supported by Johannes Richter, that brought together a diverse range of actors passionate about Urban Agriculture. Workshop 1, at BGC Community Farm, focused on co-creating a holistic Impact Assessment Framework that captures Urban Agriculture's multifunctional benefits. Workshop 2 used a transdisciplinary systems mapping approach to co-develop strategies to scale Urban Agriculture. Workshop 3, conducted in Payatas, a peri-urban informal settlement, explored how their community farm became a vital strategy in their multi-year effort to secure land rights, ensure food and nutrition security, and gain access to essential services and infrastructure.

EUMA: FIFTH SPECIALISED EUMA WORKSHOP

On April 10-11, Dublin City University (DCU) hosted a specialised workshop entitled *Anticipate & Secure: Enhancing Resilience Through Effective Business Continuity Management*, aimed at practitioners in disaster and emergency management. The programme provided participants with vital frameworks for aligning Business Continuity Management (BCM) with organisational strategy, supporting the maintenance of essential services during and after emergencies. Delivered through a blend of lectures and interactive sessions, the workshop explored BCM processes, principles, and terminology, highlighting its benefits and implementation across projects, services, and organisations. The workshop was a great opportunity to test contents and teaching methods for the final postgraduate Master's programme launching in October 2026 at the Postgraduate Center of the University of Vienna. In advance of the event, two project meetings were held in a hybrid format. **Annika Fröwis** and **Sophia Sternath** attended from University of Vienna. More Information: UCPKN Web & [LinkedIn](#)

NoeDRILL

Following the completion of drilling, **Robert Kanta** and **Edoardo Carraro** were able to install a 40-metre-long chain inclinometer in the borehole on 21 March, marking another milestone in the NoeDRILL project. Since then, the inclinometer has been sending data on the deformation of the subsoil in Brandstatt to the server in Vienna every 5 minutes.

5. Viennese Geographers in the World

James Vandenberg, working group Urban Studies, while in Manila for fieldwork, conducted a 2 day workshop called: Unlocking Urban Resilience: Mapping Systems for a Sustainable Future, for the College of Social Sciences & Philosophy, and Geography Department, at the University of the Philippines. Throughout the workshop, students learned how to use a Complex Adaptive Systems lens to analyse a variety of urban challenges, from the climate crisis and socio-economic inequities, to mobility, tourism, and housing. Student's then bridged theory and practice, by constructing Causal Loop Diagrams (CLDs) to visualize the interconnectivity of social-ecological systems, the problems they face, and the drivers and constraints to implementing resilience and sustainability solutions. Finally, they used their CLDs to locate deep leverage points that have the potential to catalyse transformational change.

6. General News

„Urban Labs: Ansätze, Methoden, Skills" (Urban Labs: Approaches, Methods, Skills)

In the winter semester of 2024/2025, students of the *MA Spatial Research and Planning* and the *MA Geography: Global Change and Sustainability* conducted research on the

planned "Bildungscampus Althangrund" (Education Campus Althangrund), its current usage, its meaning for different actors, its state-of-the-art and the current perception on the situation. Supervised was the VU by **Julia Wesely**, **Anna Kajosaari** and **Kerstin Krellenberg**. The research questions differed according to the three themes/groups: Children and Teenagers, Free and Green spaces, Solidarity and Sharing; but they all were oriented on future participation processes within the planning process of the campus. Another central part of the research was the exploration of the mixed-methods approach. The results offer a valuable starting point for continuing the dialogue with the local actors and for a transparent, sustainable and participatory planning process. See more in [the following blog post](#).

CROATIA - SENSE OF PLACE: Vienna out of Vienna

In the second week of the Easter break, 16 students of the Master Cartography and Geoinformation visited three cities in Croatia, namely Zagreb, Rijeka, and Opatija. Guided by **Ivan Majic** and **Mina Karimi**, students investigated the sense of these places and their similarities to Vienna. They recorded over 900 survey responses during their fieldwork activities and will use these data in a subsequent analysis to compare the human reasoning and perception of place similarity to that of artificial intelligence. Students also visited the University of Zagreb, where AProf. Mario Miler presented the study and research activities of our peers at the Geoinformatics group of the Faculty of Geodesy. In Rijeka, students received a guided tour of the recently re-designed "Sugar Palace" museum, where the industrial history of the city and its ties to Vienna and the Habsburg empire were displayed, as well as a temporary exhibition of several of Gustav Klimt's early works called "Unknown Klimt".

"Die Ränder der Welt als Tourismus-Hotspots" (The edges of the world as tourism hotspots)

The ORF interviewed **Maximilian Benner**, working group Economic Geography, about the sustainability of such tourism to the world's edges. He pointed out that the arrival and departure are crucial and that the regions barely gain added value due to the big providers. The people's search for untouched nature ends in its exploitation and deformation. If everyday tourism to the edges reaches outer space, as planned by the US company Above Space, the environmental costs will be out of space. Read more about adventure tourism, its environmental impact, colonial narrative and fiction about escape routes and state of emergency in [the following article](#).

Geographieverband e.V.

The association representing the interests of Austrian scientific geography (Geographieverband e.V.) was dissolved in 2024 due to a lack of support. In order to preserve the website (geographieverband.at), which has been designed with great effort over many years, it is now available as an archive for interested parties. There you will find the various documents of the different activities. You are cordially invited to browse through the information. We would like to thank you for the many years of constructive cooperation and the many thought-provoking ideas.

Annual Report of the Institut

The Annual Report 2024 was finalised at the beginning of April and is now available on the website.

See more: <https://geographie.univie.ac.at/institut/jahresberichte/>

7. Past Events

On the 27th of April, **Barbara Lanthaler** and **Raphael Müller**, working group Geoecology, gave a family lecture about "Moore: Wunderwuzzis für Klima, Wasser und Artenvielfalt" (Peatlands: miracle wuzzis for climate, water and biodiversity) in the framework of the Planet Earth Day in the UZA 2. See more: [Planet Earth Day](#)

Furthermore, as **Raphael Müller** reports, the working group Geoecology gained insight into the work of archaeology in the Province of Burgenland. A Neolithic circular ditch ("Kreisgraben Carmen Lutzer") in Rechitz was visited and soil samples were taken. An

exchange with the experts and a visit to the excavation was possible on-site on the 24th of April. As preliminary investigations, future follow-up projects are feasible. See more: [LinkedIn](#)

8. Future Events

MAY

- **VISESS Big Picture Event: Mental Health**
13.05.2025, 15:00
- **Lunch & Latitude**
15.05.2025, 12:30-13:30, C520
- **Elections to the Senate of the University of Vienna**
15.05.2025, 08:30-12:30, 14:00-17:00
- **Gender & Diversity Networking Meeting**
19.05.2025, 13:15-15:30
- **Martin Heintel**, working group Economic Geography, will give a presentation on the topic "**Perspektive Stadtteil: Rahmenbedingungen, Governance und Transformation zu einer nachhaltigen Entwicklung am Beispiel Wien**" (Engl.: "*Perspective urban district: framework conditions, governance and transformation towards sustainable development with the example of Vienna*") within the framework of the Colloquium on Sustainable Spatial Development and its Center for Sustainable Spatial Development in Oldenburg ZENARiO. Therefore, he will represent the University of Vienna in the Colloquium series with the theme "Desire for tomorrow! Geographies of sustainable development" (SS2025) at the Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg. More information in the attachment.
19.05.2025, 16:15-17:45, Campus Haarentor

JUNE

- **Circle U. Climate Day**
05.06.2025, 10:00-18:00, Großer Festsaal
- **Faculty Conference**
12.06.2025
- **Talks & BBQ - Meet the Faculty for Exploration**
12.06.2025, 16:30 - please save the date!

Impressum

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| Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien | geographie.univie.ac.at | [Newsletter abbestellen](#)

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