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Faculty of Earth Sciences,  
Geography and Astronomy

# Invitation to the inaugural lectures Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy

Thursday, 11 January 2024, 18:00

University of Vienna, Main Ceremonial Hall, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna





# Krzysztof Janowicz

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Professor of Cartography and Geoinformation Science

Krzysztof Janowicz is a professor in the field of Spatial Data Science (Geoinformatics) at the University of Vienna. Before, he was an Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), the director of UCSB's Center for Spatial Studies and program chair of UCSB's Cognitive Science Program. He is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of the Semantic Web journal. Before moving to California, Krzysztof was an Assistant Professor at the GeoVISTA Center of the Pennsylvania State University. Before moving to the US, Krzysztof was a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Geoinformatics, University of Münster in Germany. He got his PhD in geoinformatics from the same university in 2008 and a diploma in Ecology in 2003.

## Research interests

Most of Krzysztof Janowicz's research focuses on how humans conceptualize the spaces and places around them based on their behavior, focusing particularly on regional and cultural differences with the ultimate goal of assisting machines to better understand the information needs of an increasingly diverse user base. More recently, Krzysztof became interested in representing multi-perspective data and in conflict graphing. Methodologically, his niche combines theory-driven (e.g., semantics) and data-driven (e.g., data mining) GeoAI (Geographic Artificial Intelligence) techniques and particularly knowledge graphs. Given the potential ethical implications of Krzysztof's work on data integration, representation, and retrieval, he is also interested in the sociotechnical foundations of Spatial Data Science.



# Kerstin Krellenberg

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Professor of Urban Studies

Kerstin Krellenberg studied Environmental Sciences at University of Vechta in Germany. After obtaining her PhD in Geography at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin in Germany in 2007, she was a postdoctoral researcher at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. From 2007 through 2017, she was senior researcher at the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) in Leipzig, Germany, and from 2018-2020 senior researcher at the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER) in Dresden, Germany. She did her habilitation at the University of Leipzig (Germany) in 2019. In October 2020 she started as full professor at the University of Vienna in the Department of Geography and Regional Research. At University of Vienna she is, among others, Circle.U Academic Climate Chair and member of the Environment and Climate Research Hub.

## Research interests

Kerstin Krellenberg's research focuses on cities, with a special interest in urban sustainability transformations. Global environmental change and the impacts on, as well as the challenges and opportunities for cities, are central to her work. Through inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation, she aims to develop integrative approaches for sustainable urban societies. To this end, the [Urban Sustainability Living Lab \(USLL\)](#) of her working group serves as an inclusive exchange and communication platform which unites civil society, researchers, policymakers, and more, in a mission to shape and support urban sustainability transformations.



# Glenn van de Ven

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Professor of Theoretical Extragalactic Astrophysics

Glenn van de Ven studied both Astronomy and Mathematics at Leiden University in the Netherlands. After obtaining his PhD in Astronomy at Leiden University end 2005, he was a postdoctoral researcher in Princeton University and Hubble Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at the USA. From 2009 through 2017, he was a research group leader and tenured staff member at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Heidelberg, Germany. He then won an ERC Consolidator Grant which brought him to the European Southern Observatory (ESO) near Munich, before starting in March 2019 as full professor at the University of Vienna in the Department of Astrophysics which he is currently leading. In 2020 he co-funded the doctoral school VISESS (Vienna International School of Earth and Space Sciences) of which he is currently also director.

## Research interests

Glenn van de Ven's research focuses on understanding the dynamical structure and evolution of stellar systems, ranging from stellar clusters in our Milky Way to nearby elliptical and spiral galaxies. By constructing advanced dynamical models, his [research group](#) is able to infer the luminous and dark matter distribution in these stellar systems, as well as to uncover the 'fossil record' of their formation history.

# Programme

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**Thursday, 11 January 2024, 18:00**

Main Ceremonial Hall  
Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna

**18:00**

**Welcome by**

Sebastian Schütze  
(Rector of the University of Vienna)

**Welcome address**

Rainer Abart  
(Dean of the Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy)

**Inaugural lectures**

## Why Spatial is Special in Artificial Intelligence Research

Krzysztof Janowicz

## Cities worth living in and for – adapt, transform to become resilient and sustainable

Kerstin Krellenberg

## The colourful past and dark side of galaxies

Glenn van de Ven

With live music by the Holz und Stahl quartet  
The lectures will be recorded.

**After the lectures, we would like to invite you to a reception in the Small Ceremonial Hall.**

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**Registration:**

[geographie.univie.ac.at/arbeitsgruppen/kartographie-und-geoinformation/veranstaltungen/inaugural-lectures/](https://geographie.univie.ac.at/arbeitsgruppen/kartographie-und-geoinformation/veranstaltungen/inaugural-lectures/)

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Stair-free access: Left-side entrance, lift to the 1st floor

**University of Vienna**

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