

# Symposium 2026 (un)learning urbanity

(re)searching  
urbanity

## OPEN CALL

After two successful symposia in 2022 and 2023 and several smaller events in the years since, we are happy to announce the 3rd edition of the (re)searching urbanity symposium in June 2026. Under the title of "(un)learning urbanity", we want to continue to explore various urban issues from critical and interdisciplinary perspectives, such as queer-feminism, postcolonialism and ecology.

### QUICK INFO

**When and Where:** June 19-21, at **floating university, Berlin, Germany**

**What:** We are looking for contributions (in English or German) on the topic of (un)learning urbanity — all backgrounds (whether practice, research, art, or activism) and formats are welcome.

**How:** Applications are open **until February 22**. You can find the submission form following this link: <https://tally.so/r/rjOW7p>

**Open questions?** Join one of our **Online Info Events: Friday, Jan 30. - 12pm, English/ German & Wednesday, Feb 11 - 7pm English/German, link via [researching-urbanity.org](http://researching-urbanity.org)**

### (UN)LEARNING:

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In its 3rd edition, the symposium turns to the theme "(un)learning urbanity." (Un)learning is not simply forgetting. Neither does it represent the erasure of knowledge. By (un)learning, we understand the deliberate challenging and questioning of normalised assumptions, frameworks and behaviours that may limit our ability to imagine alternative futures.

When applied to urbanity, (un)learning becomes a way of questioning the familiar city: the 'urban' models, practices, and everyday habits that we live by and research through.

We invite you to join us in exploring (un)learning as a critical method and a collective process towards a more inclusive, plural and just urban knowledge and practice: to actively question the knowledge, 'norms', frameworks and urban imaginaries we take for granted; to unsettle the familiar; to inhabit the uncomfortable spaces of critique and possibility.

### (RE)SEARCHING URBANITY:

#### WHO WE ARE

We are a collective of scholars, practitioners, and curious minds from different disciplines. Our roots trace back to a group of students in Berlin, now working across academic, urban, architectural, social, political, and philosophical practices and beyond. What brought us together is our mutual wish to envision a more just city for all from interdisciplinary and intersectional perspectives.

Guided by the values of joyful exchange and co-learning, we seek to dissolve strict hierarchies between "researcher" and "practitioner," "academic", and "activist." Our aim is to explore, question, and (re)imagine how urban life is produced, lived, and understood by bringing a broad spectrum of voices into conversation.

## EXEMPLARY THEMES AND QUESTIONS

We want to invite a wide range of young and not-yet-established urban scholars, artists, and activists to share their perspectives with each other and a public audience.

We welcome contributions – presentation of research papers, practice-based reflections, visual or performative works, etc. – that engage with (un)learning and urbanity in relation to any of the following (non-exhaustive) questions:

// How can (un)learning the "normal" urban subject, the standardized urban form, the taken-for-granted "city" help to produce more inclusive knowledge about the city?

// What alternative practices, methods, ethics, positions of urban living, research and design emerge from un-/re-learning processes?

// How can we challenge hierarchies and unlearn urban imaginaries rooted in colonial, patriarchal, capitalist or normative regimes?

// How can (un)learning be put into practice during the symposium? E.g. by involving the surrounding neighbourhood.

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**Disclaimer:** We are a self-organised, volunteer group of young people without external funding. Our time, space, and financial resources are limited. Therefore, we are unfortunately unable to implement all submitted proposals and cannot currently offer honoraria. However, we continue to seek funding and, whenever possible, provide support such as accommodation, or networking opportunities.

**We look forward to your contributions!**