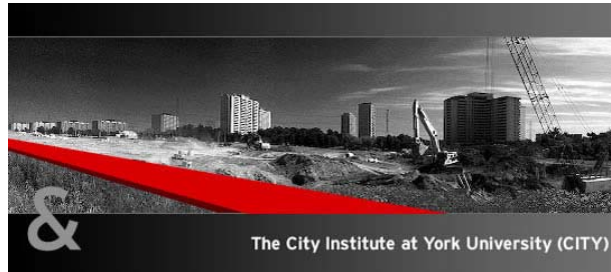


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**“Shrinking Cities: New Thinking About Urban Development”**  
**Dr. Sigrun Kabisch**  
(Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, UFZ, Leipzig Germany)

**Monday April 25, 2011**  
**11:00 am to 12:30 pm**  
**Room 305, York Lanes**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, urban development is facing new challenges caused by the parallel occurrence of both growing and shrinking cities. The development patterns and instruments of urban growth are well-known. However, the processes of shrinkage and its broad societal consequences, which affect an increasing number of cities, need intensive investigation.

Using the example of German urban development, Dr. Sigrun Kabisch describes the causes and consequences of urban shrinkage. The discussion of the “Urban restructuring program” as the political answer to urban shrinkage draws attention to the complex linkages in urban development. In particular, housing demolition as one reaction to shrinkage can bring about new urban land use patterns including more green and open spaces on the one hand, but also psychological stress situations for the affected inhabitants on the other.

Based on this finding, Dr. Kabisch argues, we need new thinking about urban development. A comprehensive approach with context sensitivity is necessary to discover and use the opportunities of urban shrinkage. In this vein, accepting shrinkage as an urban pathway can help to develop the affected cities in a more sustainable way.

**Sigrun Kabisch** is a Professor at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig, Germany, where she heads the Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology and is a Speaker of the Research Theme "Sustainable Urban Development and Quality of Life" as well as the Cluster "Impact of Urban Dynamics on Land Use Options 2009-2013". She has studied large housing estates over the last 30 years and is currently conducting a research project on "Polish and German large housing estates yesterday, today and tomorrow". Dr. Kabisch is at York on a Short Research Visit sponsored by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

**Everyone is welcome!**