

Lunch Colloquium Series

Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation

Wednesday, Oct. 21

12:30-1:30pm CT

Register here:

<http://bit.ly/HannesTaubenbock>

Is urbanization good for humankind? New perspectives from space.

The largest migration movement that humankind has ever undertaken is in full swing: from the countryside to cities. New cities are emerging. Existing cities are merging into megaregions with more than 70 million inhabitants. Slums grow into the remaining open spaces. Although mankind is in the information age, there are large gaps in knowledge regarding these urban phenomena. In this lunch time seminar Hannes Taubenböck of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) will make the physical transformation of urban landscapes tangible by looking from above - with remote sensing data from space. Through the analysis of satellite data, it is possible to document the sprawling urban growth in a global comparison and thus identify the emergence and dimensions of megaregions or even localise areas of urban poverty. The lecture will also show how existing gaps in knowledge can be closed with Big Earth Data in order to make the effects of urbanisation processes on the planet tangible. And finally, it will be discussed whether these dynamic global processes of urbanization are ultimately good for humankind.

Dr. Hannes Taubenböck heads a working group at the Earth Observation Center (EOC) of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) that deals with the global city and its society. He also teaches at the Institute of Geography at the University of Würzburg in Germany. He holds a master degree in geography from the Ludwig-Maximilian's-University of Munich, and a PhD degree from the University of Würzburg, where he finished his habilitation. Fascinated by the view from space - which can create a distanced view of clarity - he deals with documenting and understanding the increasingly dynamic urban transformation processes on our planet.

