EORC TALK – Talk at the Earth Observation Research Cluster

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Population and Geography

In their talk, Sebastian Klüsener and Tamilwai Kolowa will provide an overview of their interdisciplinary research focusing demography, geography, and spatial analysis leveraging Earth observation (EO) data at the Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB).

Sebastian Klüsener will first provide a general overview of the activities at BiB. He will then present research on spatial aspects of population structures and processes, with a special emphasis on how social status is relevant for understanding population dynamics in space and time. His talk will cover regional projections of urban–rural disparities in population aging, as well as fertility and mortality studies that investigate systematic relationships between social status and spatial context.

In his current thesis project, Tamilwai Kolowa seeks to understand the patterns of small-area urban and suburban population change in Germany. Such analysis is often constrained by the limited spatial resolution of available administrative data. The question "Is Germany experiencing urban or suburban growth?" will be explored using multiple classification choices of urban and rural areas, comparing EO-informed approaches with those typically derived from administrative units. Leveraging a higher spatial resolution further drives the project's internal migration analysis. This analysis shows, for the first time, how internal migration flows span the urban-suburban spectrum across all German metropolitan regions between 2011 and 2022.

Picture adapted from Kolowa, T.J. et al., 2025. Is Germany experiencing urban or suburban growth? Contrasting long-standing and novel urban gradient classifications. Applied Geography, 185, 103779.

Wednesday, 11th of March 2026, 03 p.m. | Seminar room 2, Earth Observation Research Cluster, John-Skilton-Str. 4a

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