Project:
BORDER-DRAWING AND SPATIAL DIFFERENTIATION OF URBAN GOVERNANCE MODES IN THE PEARL RIVER DELTA WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO INFORMAL DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-ORGANIZATION

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Introduction
Our project on borders and urban governance is part of the DFG 1233 programme “Megacities - Megachallenge: Informal Dynamics of Global Change”. It is a co-operation of the University of Kassel, the University of Hamburg (both Germany) and the Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou (China).

Study Region
We focus on the spatially differentiated use of governance modes in the Pearl River Delta mega-urban region, in particular: Guangzhou, Dongguan, Shenzhen, Zhongshan and Zhuhai. Our research will also consider Hong Kong and Macau.

Project Duration
The first research phase from January 2007 until December 2008 is currently being implemented. In total, three two-year phases are envisaged.

Intermediation of political actors and their context

Overall Objective:
To identify different governance modes, to understand the role of self-organisation and informal processes for these modes and to link the practice of differentiated governance with the creation of bounded space.

Important Hypotheses:
1) Distinct governance modes co-exist simultaneously in separated spatial units within the Pearl River Delta Region.
2) Differentiated urban governance and the creation of borders can facilitate the governability of mega-urban regions.
3) The drawing of borders establishes patterns of inclusion and exclusion, which have significant social impacts.
4) Informal processes and self-organisation interact in different ways with the different governance modes.

Expected Contributions to Theory Building
Identification and explanation of spatially-related governance modes
Analysis of structural power of borders
Explanation of changing formal-informal relationships and economic, political as well as urban development background.

Project Team Members

More Information: http://www.bordersandgovernance.gwdg.de