

# Planning for transformation amidst populism: experiences from East-Germany

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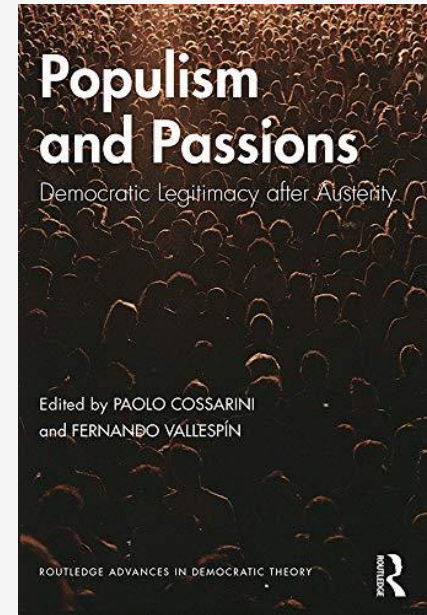


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2. Populism and local planning
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# 1. Populism as political mind-set

- Promise of protection
- Change as threat
- Paradoxical attitude towards knowledge



## 2. Populism and local planning

- Radical criticism of planning projects for social and ecological transformation
- Car oriented city
- Constitution of „alternative“ planning elites



### 3. The AFD as populist movement in East-Germany

- Cultivating localism
- „Flexible“ attitude towards knowledge, science, art and facts in general
- Predominance of meta-narratives (nationalism, anti-migration)
- Right wing extremism
- Infiltration of democratic institutions
- This year regional election: strongest party (above 30 %)



## 4. The Altenburg region





## 4. The Altenburg region



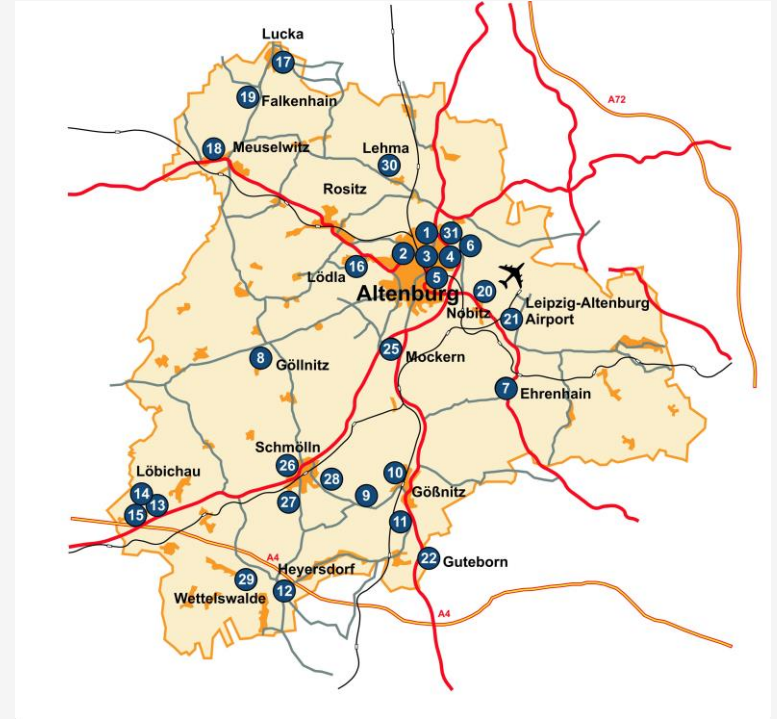
# 4. The Altenburg region

Main social transformation:

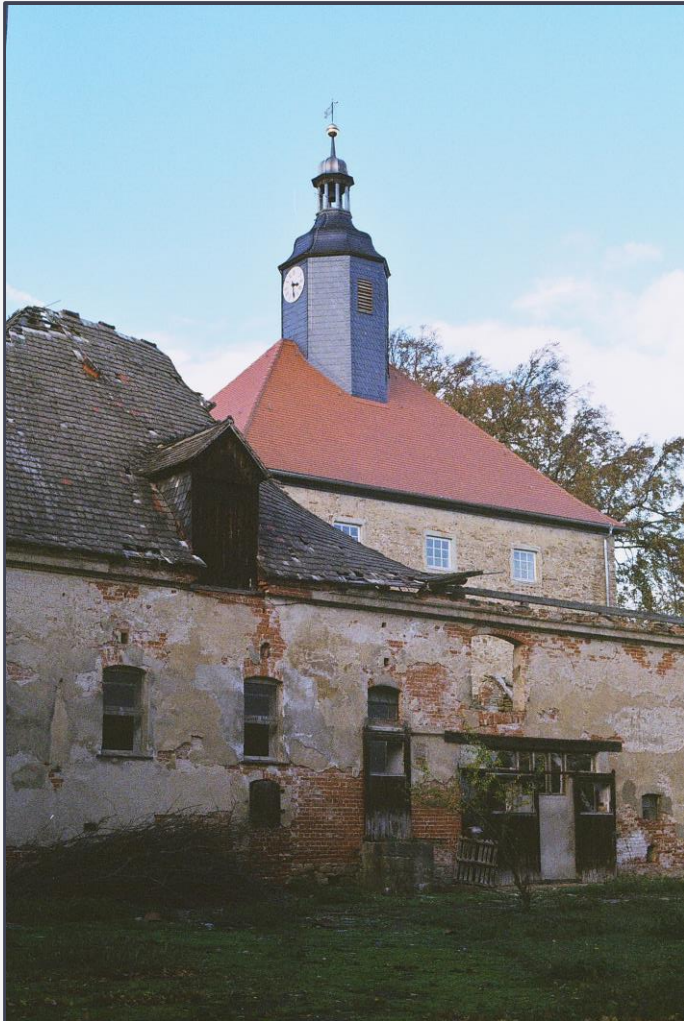
- Continuous loss of youth
- Demographic change
- Supply shortages
- Deficient health care
- Reduction of the mobility offer
- Growing loneliness
- Lack of community resources



# 5. Dobitschen village and castle



# Our study



Survey in the village about future use of the castle

Needs analysis regarding demographic change and care

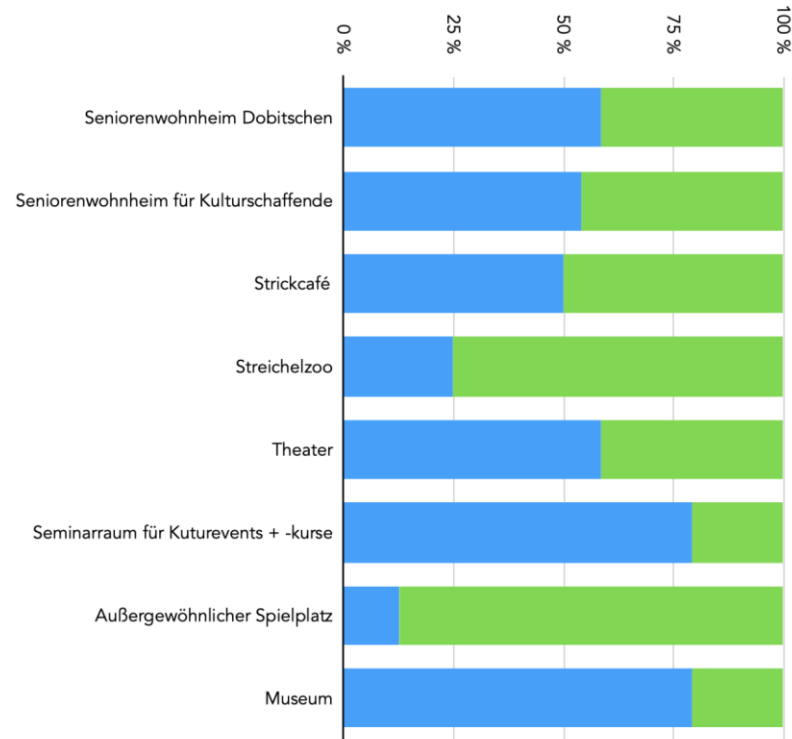
Reconstructing historical narratives

Public discussion about planning perspectives

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# Survey

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# Identification of Main issues



# Care needs

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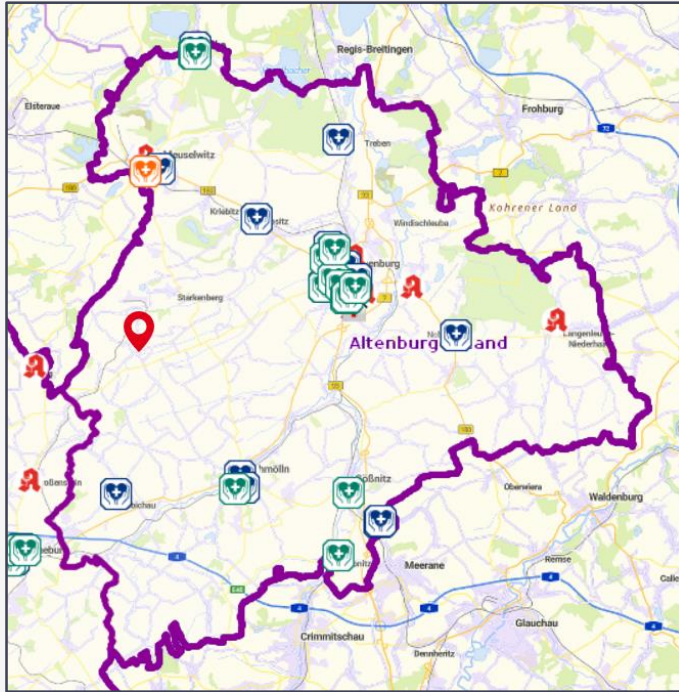


Workshop zum Thema Fürsorge in Dobitschen, 15.01.2024





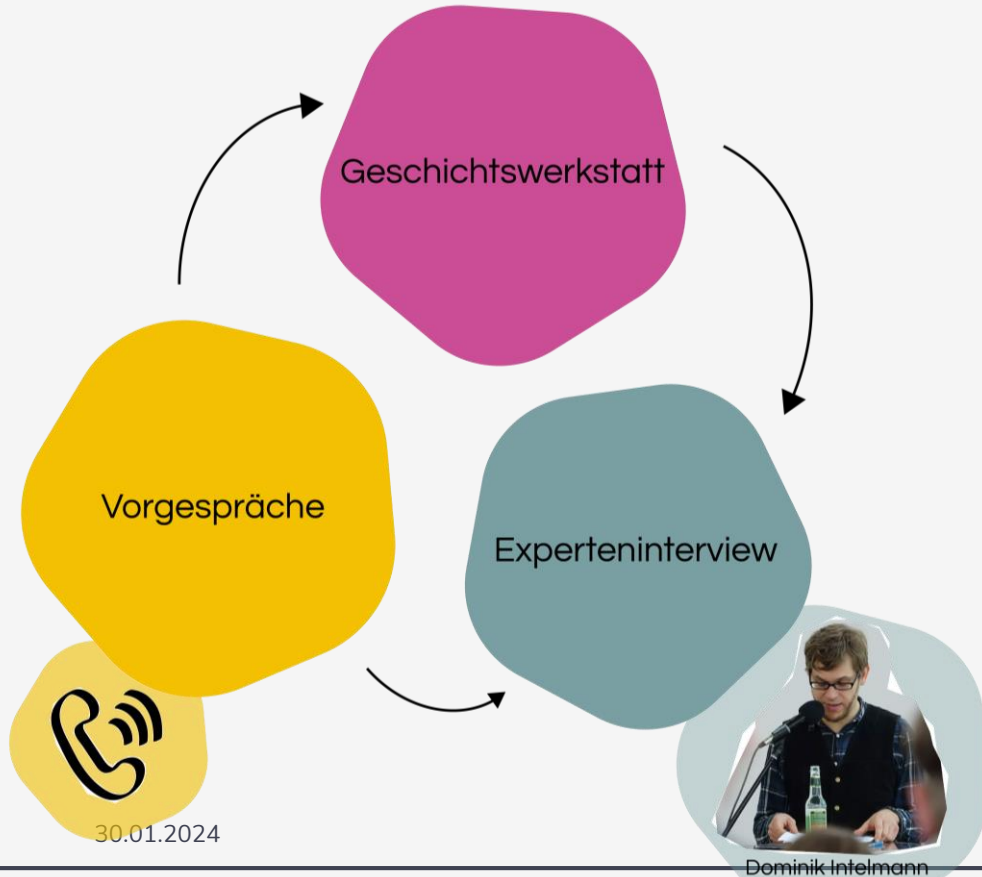
# Health care:



- In Thuringia: no holistic care planning and reporting
- In Altenburger Land: Care and health facilities are concentrated in the cities
- In Dobitschen: no on-site facilities and high need for care due to the age structure



# Reconstruction of narratives



## Geschichtswerkstatt

Öffentliche Gesprächsrunde mit geladenen Redner\*innen im Wasserschloss Dobitschen

19.12.23  
17 Uhr

LPG

neues Schweizer Eigentümer

Persönliche Erinnerungen

Privat-eigentum vs. Gemeinschaft

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Forschungsprojekt der Bauhaus-Universität Weimar



# Conclusion:



1. Predominant narratives of post-reunification trauma
2. Reinforced by recent feelings of being helpless

# Discussion of alternative planning options

- <https://www.ardmediathek.de/video/mdr-thueringen-journal/studierende-zeigen-zukunftsideen-fuer-dobitschener-wasserschloss/mdr-thueringen/Y3JpZDovL21kci5kZS9iZWl0cmFnL2Ntcy8zNDE4NDI5OC1hMThmLTQ0OWMtYTNlNC0wMWI5NzlkNmY3MWU>



# Short term

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- Awake kissing concerts
- Courses at the Altenburger Land Adult Education Center
- History workshops
- Temporary exhibitions
- Events (market)
- Readings for children
- Tent as a multifunctional space
- Free shop
- Campsite
- Art workshops
- Craft workshops (Techno Rebuild)
- Soli Café





# mid term

- Artist residencies
- Tiny houses
- Moped rally
- Vending machine farm shop
- Community garden
- Alpaca attitude
- Mushroom farm
- Mobile library
- Participatory art projects
- Cultural theme weeks
- Concerts and music workshops
- Art, culture and music festivals
- Simple space (multifunctional)





# long term

- Equipped space
- Cultural Center
- Museum of village and castle history
- Expanded educational partnerships
- Vending machine cafe
- Digital Cafe
- Bicycle hotel and gastronomy
- Youth rooms (bouldering and cinema)
- Age-appropriate apartments
- Multi-generational homes

# Lessons learnt to counter populism

- Reconstructing existing narratives
- Evaluating real needs
- Making proposals
- Discussing them seriously
- Being present
- Re-establishing trust