

USABLE PASTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUTURES: MEANINGS, METHODS, MANIFESTATIONS

Hybrid workshop discussing the findings, interactions and experiences of the DFG-funded research project “Past-proofing Infrastructure Futures: Usable Histories of Urban Technology Today” (<https://www.u-pasts.com/>)

Tuesday, 2 December 2025,
13:30 to 17:30 (Berlin time)

Location:	Hauptgebäude Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Unter den Linden 6, Room 2249A
	Online (link provided on registration)

OUTLINE

This final project workshop brings together researchers, project partners and practitioners interested in mobilising histories for liveable futures.

The project team will report on how the concept of usable pasts has been interpreted and applied to render Berlin's infrastructure histories usable for contemporary challenges over the past two years. This has drawn on a wide range of disciplines and taken place through various methods and formats with regional stakeholders. Some of these involved practitioners and researchers will provide their own reflections on the experience, providing critical-constructive context and insight. The workshop will conclude by exploring future action and mapping ways forward in the field.

We would be delighted if you could attend, in person or digitally, and ask you to register your preference under the following link:

Registration form

Feel free to circulate this message to interested colleagues and friends.

PROGRAMME

13.30 **Arrival – coffee & tea**

13:50 **Welcome and introduction**
(Tim Moss and Pauline Münch, IRI THESys, HU Berlin)

14:00 **Report: “Usable pasts” concept in research**

- Presentation by Tim Moss on meanings and applications of usable (infrastructure) pasts
- Responses by members of the scientific advisory board, featuring Ross Beveridge (University of Glasgow), Karena Kalmbach (Futurium) and Heike Weber (TU Berlin) on the value of “usable pasts” for their own research and practice
- Open discussion (hybrid)

15:00 **Report: Project process of activating usable infrastructure pasts in Berlin**

- Illustrated talk of the project’s trajectory, activities and outputs (Pauline Münch and Tim Moss)

15:30 – 16:00 **Tea/coffee break**

16:00 **Reflections: Making infrastructure pasts usable in Berlin**

- Short input on the results of the Berlin stakeholders’ questionnaire (Pauline Münch and Tim Moss)
- Panel discussion with practitioners about their experiences on the project, featuring Nicolas Caradot (Kompetenzzentrum Wasser Berlin), Michael Knoll (GASAG), Elke Plate (Senatsverwaltung für Stadtentwicklung, Bauen und Wohnen), Beate Witzel (Stadtmuseum Berlin)
- Open discussion (hybrid)

17:20 **Final remarks and ways forward**

17:30 **Wine and snacks**

Organizing team Tim Moss (timothy.moss@hu-berlin.de)
Pauline Münch (pauline.muench@hu-berlin.de)
Fernanda Franca (fernanda.de.castro.franca.1@hu-berlin.de)