Re-negotiating top-down and bottom-up? 
Learning from smart informality to approach global urbanization challenges.

28. Januar 2013, Mittwoch, 18-20 Uhr
TU Berlin, Hardenbergstraße 16-18, Raum HBS 005
The event will be in English.

Rainer Hehl is an architect and urban designer and is currently professor for the ‘Architecture Design Innovation Program’ at the TU Berlin. For the last seven years he was teaching at the ETH Zurich conducting research and design projects on urban developments in emerging territories with a focus on informal settlements and mass housing in Brazil.

Gautam Bhan teaches, researchers and writes on urban poverty and inequality at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore. His work both as an activist and academic has particularly focused on displacement, evictions and resettlement. He holds a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.

Marie Huchzermeyer is a professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Her research has spanned Brazil, South Africa and Kenya, where she has explored questions of policy and rights as they relate to informal settlements, large-scale private rental stock and housing more broadly. She recently published ‘Cities With ‘Slums’: From Informal Settlement Eradication to a Right to the City in Africa’ (UCT Press) and ‘Tene ment Cities: From 19th Century Berlin to 21st Century Nairobi’ (Africa World Press).

Grace Nyonyintono Lubale is currently Strategic Advisor in the UNH Regional Office for Africa. He is an Urban and Regional Planner and holds a PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in South Africa. He has wide experience in poverty and urban development in Africa.

The question of affordable housing for low-income groups has been recognized as one of the key challenges in the global discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals. Many states have already responded through new mass housing programmes, but due to bureaucratic, managerial, financial or contextual inadequacies the new housing packages, if delivered, so far often fail to build adequately diverse, adaptable live-work environments which match the demands and resources of the end-users. “Co-op City Network” believes that sustainable housing solutions are only possible (in quantity and quality) if government resources and delivery capacities are brought together with the resources, skills and expertise of the end-users themselves. COOP CITY NETWORK is a trans-disciplinary global initiative bringing together social science researchers, planning practitioners, NGOs and governmental bodies from India, Brazil, Africa and Europe with the aim to a) critically examine current housing delivery models, b) understand potentials of local user-driven practices and c) consider how residents can become more effective actors in the formal housing sector, and d) consider which potentials of user-driven practices public administrations can incorporate into their delivery schemes.

The event has been organised in cooperation with COOP CITY NETWORK – a trans-disciplinary initiative of TU Berlin promoting citizen-led approaches to global housing challenges. COOP CITY NETWORK is supported by the International Social Science Council ISSC.

TU Berlin Dialogplattform Smart People & Urban Commoning: Prof. Jörg Stollmann, FG Städtebau und Urbanisierung, Institut für Architektur | Prof. Dr. Sybille Frank, FG Stadt- und Regionalsoziologie, Institut für Soziologie | Prof. Dr. Angela Million / Andreas Brück, FG Städtebau und Siedlungswesen, Institut für Stadt- und Regionalplanung | Prof. Dr. Philipp Misselwitz, FG Entwerfen und internationale Urbanistik, Institut für Architektur | Dr. Johanna Schlöss, Center for Metropolitan Studies, Institut für Kunstwissenschaft und historische Urbanistik | Dr. Carolin Schröder, Bereich Partizipationsforschung, Zentrum Technik und Gesellschaft ZTG | Kontakt: Jörg Stollmann, joerg.stollmann@tu-berlin.de