

Creating Knowledge Hotspots: BISTUS V Studied Knowledge Locations and University-Industry Co-Creation

The fifth edition of the Bochum International Seminar on the Transformation of Urban Spaces (BISTUS V) took place on Tuesday and Friday last week. Deviating from the usual one-week format, this 'BISTUS light' combined two lectures and one field trip. The lectures were delivered by Prof Dr Willem van Winden and Dr Andrew Switzer, both from the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. In the first lecture, Prof van Winden provided an overview of knowledge locations in Europe, offering a typology and working out key trends. It became clear that although the shift to the knowledge economy favours multifunctional localities integrated into the urban fabric, this environment is more important to creative activities resting on a symbolic knowledge base than to industries and technologies based on analytical or synthetic knowledge.

In the second lecture, Dr Andrew Switzer focused on the co-creation of knowledge by academia and industry, drawing on research on Amsterdam Science Park and other innovation districts and campuses in the city. The event finished with a field trip to Dortmund, which compared the established greenfield technology park adjacent to the campus of the Technical University to the new technology Park Phoenix-West on a former steel factory site. From there, the group took a brisk walk along the revitalised Emscher River to the Phoenix Lake, another former steel mill location.

Bochum, 15 June 2019



The BISTUS field trip group in front of the industrial heritage of a former blast furnace on Phoenix-West, Dortmund's new technology park: Elena-Franziska Schlich, Prof Matthias Kiese, Simon Rohde, Christian Stehr, Prof Willem van Winden, Dr Andrew Switzer (from left to right)

Photo by a taxi driver