

Quentin Rihoux

PhD student in urban geography

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Education

2023 - present PhD student in Urban Geography, University of Lausanne, CH

- **Supervisor:** Prof. Martin Müller, University of Lausanne.
- **Title:** “Urban Projectification” and the politics of spatialising urbanisation through projects.
- **Cases:** Urban development projects in Paris and Johannesburg.
- **Stage:** 3rd year.
- **Advisory committee:** Prof. René Véron (University of Lausanne, CH); Prof. Alberto Vanolo (University of Turin, IT); Prof. Mfaniseni Fana Sihlongonyane (University of the Witwatersrand, ZA); Prof. Sophie Oldfield (Cornell University, USA).

2022 - 2023 Master in Urban Policy, SciencesPo Paris, FR

- **Summa Cum Laude**
- **Project:** “Which future for low density urban areas in middle size cities?”, Controversy mapping of the urban sprawl regulation for Action Logement and PUCA (federal state agency).
- **Principal subjects:** Project theory, urban development economy, urban policies, urban and regional planning strategies, organisation studies, history of land ownership, law.

2017 - 2018 Master in Town and Country Planning, Tongji University Shanghai, CN

- **Master thesis:** Integration or Segregation? “Creative clusters” in Post-Industrial Global Cities peripheries. Comparative research Paris-Shanghai, Actor-Network Theory. (Accepted without revisions)
- **Principal subjects:** Urban planning, urban sociology, urban history, urban economics, urban mobilities.

2016 - 2019 Master in Architecture, ENSA Versailles, FR

- **Thesis project:** “Digital knowledge materialities”, digital territories, networks, and information theory.
- **Principal subjects:** Urban design theory, water cities, urban history, urban project, bioclimatic urbanism.

2014 - 2015 Exchange year at TU Munich, DE

2012 - 2015 Bachelor in Architecture, ENSA Strasbourg, FR

Graduate training

2024 RC21-IJURR Doctoral School, Santiago de Chile, CL

- 7th Doctoral School in *Comparative Urban Studies*

2024 Python for human and social sciences, SciencesPo Paris, Online

2024 CUSO Winter School, Sainte-Croix, CH

Work experience (selection)

2024 - 2025 Volunteer urban policy advisor, FR

- **Main roles:** Provide critical advice and strategic guidance on urban policy city council deliberations to a senior politician.

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| 2023 - present | Researcher and teaching assistant at University of Lausanne, CH |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research group: Urban Studies research collective M³ – Materialities Multiplicities Metropolis https://wp.unil.ch/m3-lausanne/, Institute of Geography and Sustainability. • Main roles: Researcher on common research projects, bachelor thesis supervision and teaching assistant for courses at the Institute. |
| 2020 - 2022 | Urbanist project leader at MVRDV, Rotterdam, NL |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main roles: Planning and design lead, Research by design projects, Team management up to ten people, Coordination of large urban projects in France, Luxembourg, and Portugal. • Main projects: Caen Nouveau Bassin, renewal of a 25ha industrial wasteland; Bastide Niel Bordeaux, renewal of a 35ha industrial wasteland; Luxembourg in transition, Competition Phase 1, 1st Price. |
| 2019 - 7m | Architect at Lambert Lenack architects, Paris, FR |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main roles: Architect. • Main projects: Competition phase for the Paris 2024 Olympic village, 1st Price. |
| 2016 - 6m | Architect intern at MVRDV, Rotterdam, NL |
| 2015 - 5m | Architect intern at TCA, Istanbul, TR |

Research mobility

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| 2025 - 3m | Research intern, Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies (CUBES), School of Architecture and Planning, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, ZA |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main roles: Visiting researcher within the City Studio under the supervision of Prof. Marie Huchzermeyer; contributing to collaborative research on project-led urban development in the Alexandra–Frankenwald area; participating in field-based research activities, seminars, and research dissemination. |

Fieldwork experience (selection)

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| Fall 2025 | Doctoral fieldwork on project-led urban development, 2,5 months, Paris, FR |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: Case study of major urban renewal projects in La Courneuve, examining project-led governance, state intervention, and processes of restructuring in peripheral metropolitan contexts. • Methods/data: Archival research, document analysis, and semi-structured interviews; data include planning archives, internal project documents, development plans, governance schemes, press materials, and recorded interviews with planners, developers, public officials, academics, and community actors. |
| Spring 2025 | Doctoral fieldwork on project-led urban development, 3 months, Johannesburg, ZA |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: Case study of the Frankenwald Development Project, analysing its longue durée production, power relations, and contestations. • Methods/data: Archival research, document analysis, and semi-structured interviews; data include planning archives, internal project documents, development plans, governance schemes, press materials, and recorded interviews with planners, developers, public officials, academics, and community actors. |

Research interests

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| Concepts | Projectification Assemblages Materialities |
| Topics | Urban politics Urbanisation Planning Urban Development Projects |
| Methods | Qualitative (Interviews, Ethnography) Quantitative (Descriptive, Regression) Mapping |
| Regions | Western Europe South Africa East Asia |

Lectures and guest lectures

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| Spring 2025 | Introduction to Marxist geography, Bachelor, University of Lausanne, CH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: This 2h course introduces the key objectives and concepts of Marxist geography. It focuses on the link between uneven development and capitalism and aims to familiarise students with alternatives for promoting spatial justice. |
| Spring 2025 | Fieldwork spotlight at City Studio, Bachelor, Wits University, Johannesburg, ZA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: Guest presentation of research findings on the history, power and contestation of project-led urban development, followed by participation in a guided site visit of the Alexandra–Frankenwald area with students. |

Teaching assistantship

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| 2025 - ongoing | Gouvernance, planification et aménagement, Master, University of Lausanne, CH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: This course introduces key theories and approaches in spatial planning and territorial governance, situating their evolution in relation to the modern state and contemporary multi-actor governance. It develops a critical understanding of planning and governance across diverse territorial and environmental contexts. |
| 2024 - present | Geographical thought, Bachelor, University of Lausanne, CH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: The course presents and analyses the history of the discipline and the origins of the term Geography from Greek antiquity to the present day. Thus, it introduces students to the core elements that distinguish geographical thought. |
| 2024 - 2025 | Urban planning, Bachelor, University of Lausanne, CH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: The aim of this course is to raise students' awareness of planning 'in the making'. While offering conceptual frameworks and historical insights, it also draws heavily on current developments in public policy. |
| 2023 - 2025 | Thinking cities, Master, University of Lausanne, CH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: The course discusses major theories of cities and urban processes, with a particular focus on cities and capital, cities and postmodernism, cities and the world, cities from elsewhere, cities and difference, cities as assemblage. |

Supervision and mentoring

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| 2025 - ongoing | Quentin Jeanbourquin, MA Student, University of Lausanne, CH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master thesis in Urban Geography, Co-supervising w/ Prof. Martin Müller. |
| 2023 - 2024 | Mathieu Nerfin, BA Student, University of Lausanne, CH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's thesis in Urban Geography: "Affects and politics of Yverdon urban colors", Co-supervising w/ Prof. Martin Müller. |
| 2023 - 2024 | Emilie Vilalmanzo, MA Student, University of Lausanne, CH |

- **Student assistant** on the research project “Uneven geographies of Urban Knowledge”, Supervision and task management.

Jury membership

Spring 2025 Emilie Imhof, Master thesis final defense, University of Lausanne, CH

- **Master thesis** in Urban Geography: “La Fernsehturm, un simple bâtiment vendeur de Berlin? Perceptions contemporaines de la Fernsehturm sous le prisme de la stratégie de city branding”, Supervised by Prof. Martin Müller.

Institutional service

2024 - present Scientific Committee member, Master's programme Urban Development and Territorial Action (UDAT), University of Lausanne, CH

- **Role:** Representative of the *corps intermédiaire*, contributing to academic governance, programme development, and strategic discussions within the Master's programme.

Published papers

2025 Müller, M., **Rihoux, Q.**, Neville, L. “Uneven Geographies of Urban Knowledge: Status Quo and Agenda”. *Nature Cities* 2, 234–245 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44284-025-00202-4>

Working papers

2024 Trivin, C., Gogishvili, D., Grieshaber, J., Neville, L., **Rihoux, Q.**, Torre, V., Müller, M. “Flagship heterotopia: towards a different agenda for major cultural spaces”.

2024 **Rihoux, Q.** “The project as Urban Policy instrument: Genesis, Limits and Perspectives”.

2023 **Rihoux, Q.** “Urban Project Tools: The Parisian Metropolis since 2000”.

Policy briefs

2022 **Rihoux, Q.** “Energy retrofit public policy for Chicago in the context of the 2022 energy crisis”.

Talks and presentations

2025 Faces of the City Seminar Series, Johannesburg, ZA

- **Contribution 1:** “Spatial Relations: The Reproduction of the Apartheid City and Its Contestations” w/ Paul Devenish; discussants: Prof Pushpa Arabindoo (UCL) and Dr Christopher Gevers (Wits University).
- **Contribution 2:** “Introducing the City Studio through Critical Lenses: Spatial Injustice, Precarity, Favelisation and Disciplining the Periphery” w/ Marie Huchzermeyer; discussants: Dr Evance Mwathunga (University of Malawi) and Prof Noor Nieftagodien (Wits University).
- **Contribution 3:** “Spatial Imaginaries: Lived Alternatives, Reimagined Housing Futures vs Planned Projects” w/ Nomonde Gwebu and Marie Huchzermeyer; discussants: Prof Irene Molina (Uppsala University) and Msizi Khuhlane (City of Johannesburg).

2025 RGS-IBG, Birmingham, UK

- **Contribution 1:** “Projecting Order, Contesting Time: The Time–Space Politics of Urban Development Projects in Johannesburg and Paris.” Panel: *Time, Temporality, and Timescapes* (2), organised by Sophie Cranston and Azmeary Ferdoush (Political Geography Research Group).
- **Contribution 2:** “Tightening Interstices: Contesting the Spatial Reproduction of the Apartheid City” (with Paul Devenish). Panel: *Thriving on Ambiguity – Interstices as Urban Emergence* (2): *Negotiating Power*, organised by Richard Muller and Varvara Karipidou.
- **Contribution 3:** “Starchitecture for Star Culture: The Involvement of Star Architects in Cultural Flagship Buildings” (presented by David Gogishvili). Panel: *Creative Urban Geographies and Urban Geographies of Creativity* (2), organised by Basak Tanulku, David Adams, and Calvin Chung (Urban Geography Research Group).

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| 2024 | <p>RGS-IBG, London, UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution: “Urban Projectification and the performativity of framing urban planning through (mega) projects”. <p>RC21, Santiago de Chile, CL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution: “Language and the decolonisation of urban studies and planning”. <p>AESOP, Paris, FR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution: “Uneven geographies of urban knowledge: status quo and agenda”. <p>Journée de la recherche, Lausanne, CH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution: “Urban Projectification and the politics of spatialising urbanization through projects”. |
| 2023 | <p>Language and urban knowledge Symposium, Lausanne, CH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution: “Language and the decolonisation of knowledge production in urban studies and planning: status quo and agenda” w/ Prof. Martin Müller. <p>Decolonial imaginaries Symposium, Basel, CH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution: “Uneven geographies of Urban Knowledge” w/ Prof. Martin Müller. |
| 2022 | <p>City/Cité, Villa Albertine, Chicago, USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution: Paris x Chicago: Affordable housing paths. |

Organisational roles in Conferences

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| 2025 | <p>Faces of the City Seminar Series, Johannesburg, ZA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role: Co-organiser of the seminar series “<i>Faces of the city. An Engaged Response to the Lived and Contested Spatiality of Johannesburg’s Wealthiest Quarter</i>”, Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies, University of the Witwatersrand. |
| 2024 | <p>AESOP, Paris, FR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role: Chair for Track 17: RISKS. |
| 2017 | <p>Design modelling symposium, Versailles, FR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role: Event design and organising. |

Scientific outreach and knowledge dissemination

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| Jan. 2025 | <p>Vers un urbanisme anti-colonial, Popular education training, Bordeaux, FR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: Four-hour research dissemination training structured in two parts: (1) anti-colonial urban theory, from the limits of postcolonialism to the urban dimensions of (de)colonisation in Algeria and contemporary |
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metropolitan contexts; and (2) a legal focus on project-based urban development, covering ZAC procedures and related legal disputes.

Jan. 2024

Vers un urbanisme anticapitaliste, Popular education training, Bordeaux, FR

- **Content:** Four-hour research dissemination training structured in three parts: (1) Marxist urban theory (spatial fix, land rent and gentrification, urban entrepreneurialism, right to the city); (2) project-led urbanism and the neoliberal turn in urban public action; and (3) a strategic discussion on collective responses to urban development projects.

Language skills

French, native

English, fluent

German, fluent

Chinese, beginner