Research focus

The transformation of a city into a smart city brings with it challenges but also possibilities such as greater inclusion of residents in decision-making processes. As part of the federal funding program "Model Project Smart Cities", prototypes for sustainable and participatory urban development are being developed together with the urban community in the Smart City of Potsdam in my dissertation project. The focus lies on analyzing the accessibility of digital applications in urban planning and participation processes. With a design-based research approach it is being investigated how digital participation formats can be made more inclusive using design methods and expanded by analogue formats in order to increase their reach and give more residents the opportunity to engage in the urban development process.

Interest in attending the workshop "Failed yet successful – Learning from discontinued civic tech initiatives" at CHI23 on April 28th in Hamburg

Working at the intersection of public administration and design research on digital participation processes, I am very interested in learning more about how design can contribute to the continuation or discontinuation of civic tech initiatives. Since I will be designing prototypes for participatory urban development within my dissertation project, a deeper knowledge on the surrounding context including the organizational ecosystem around civic tech will undoubtedly benefit the design process greatly. Within the questions that will be addressed in the workshop, I am especially interested in the sub-questions on matters of participation, power structures and biases.

Bio

After studying political science (B.A.) at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich and several years working in technology start-ups, Emilia completed the product design programme (B.A.) at the Berlin University of the Arts. She worked as a research associate at the Design Research Lab at the Berlin University of the Arts, the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society and the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence and successfully completed the Master's programme in Interface Design at the Potsdam University of Applied Sciences.