

NEW TOWNS EAST, WEST, AND IN-BETWEEN

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Period: Contemporary

This session aims to explore the similarities and differences in town planning, construction, habitation and everyday living in the new towns of Eastern and Western Europe from 1945 to the end of the 1980s, as well as the ideas, presentation, perceptions and adjustments to the new, modern environment. We aim to bring together researchers working on Urban and Cultural Studies, the History of Architecture, Utopianism, Modern History, the History of Socialism and Communism, the History of Everyday Life, etc. We welcome in particular papers dealing with the post-Second World War newly planned and constructed towns, grand ensembles and neighborhoods. We seek to discover the connections and transfers between ideology and practice in the visualization and formation of new spaces and lifestyles across geographic and political divides, and transnational approaches to the urban history of post-war Europe that move beyond the conventional focus on the exclusively Western (capitalist, democratic) and Eastern (communist, dictatorial) parts of the continent. Potential topics might include, amongst others, the relations between the planners and the decision-makers, the authorities and the inhabitants; the potential value and possibilities of utopianism; the social, cultural and political processes that contributed to the integration and everyday practices of the inhabitants in the post-war modern towns.