

## COMING TO TERMS WITH THE BUILT HERITAGE OF THE POSTCOLONIAL CITY

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Cities are disputed places with regard to questions of urban development, architectural design and the future shape of the city. Who has the power to define the city's image, who decides, what the city is, what do decision makers, political activists, inhabitants and visitors see in the city and want her to be? In the different ways, in which cities (re)construct, remember and (re)invent their historical heritage cities gain cultural and social sustainability in times of rapid urban and social change. Of great significance in the ways how cities negotiate about their self-image and their vision for the future is the built heritage of cities. In this section we want to learn more about a specific aspect of this urban heritage, the physical remains of colonial times in the post-colonial town. This heritage is still visible in the former centers of colonial rule in the South, but also in the cities which acted as starting points of colonial government in the West. Physical records of the past like representative and government buildings, places of worship or of leisure and recreation like Hill Stations and Cricket Grounds are prominent reminders of a painful past in the postcolonial cities of the Americas, Asia and Africa; Colonial Offices or harbor buildings for slave trade act like by contrast as memories of an embarrassing past in the West. We want to know, how this physical heritage, which strongly influences the images of cities worldwide, is dealt with in various cities and cultural and historical contexts: How does colonial heritage get appropriated, used and re-used? Which changes have happened in the years after the end of colonialism and how does the post-colonial heritage get integrated in the modern representation of those cities? We want to learn about different stories of appropriation and the changes of perspectives and urban strategies of material and cultural self-description. What we expect is that comparative studies of cities like Calcutta and Singapore, Hanoi, Lagos, Sao Paulo etc. will tell us more about patterns and decision making processes in Cities and about their attempts to become sustainable and livable surroundings for their inhabitants. Papers can deal with a singular city and her specific ways of remembering coming to terms with the built legacy of her past or with comparisons between two or more cities.