

M03**SHRINKING CITIES****Organisers:** Lars Nilsson (Institute of Urban History, Stockholm University)
Sylvia Hahn (Department of History, University of Salzburg)**Period:** All periods**Date:** Saturday, 1 September 2012**Time:** 09:00-12:30**Room:** 18**Description**

This session address the issue of cities with declining populations. For a long time we have been used to imagine cities as more or less persistently expanding. The number of town residents has steadily increased over the years. There are countless of examples of such growth. But there are also numerous cities, and even large agglomerations, that have experienced substantial population decline with concomitant social, economic and political impact. The number and proportion of such shrinking cities seem to have increased significantly during the last decades of the twentieth century. No less than fifty agglomerations in Western Europe, or one of four, with more than 200,000 inhabitants faced population decline in the period 1970-2000. On national and regional levels this percentage can be still higher. The simultaneous trends and countertrends of urban growth and urban shrinking confront city councils with new challenges. We are especially interested to examine how city authorities have coped with decline, and the factors leading to shrinkage. Possible topics include population shifts and policy making during deindustrialisation and globalisation in Europe, America and the rest of the world. Other possible themes embrace urban decline in medieval times, in the early modern period or during industrial times. This cross-disciplinary session will examine both historical and contemporary cities with declining populations. We invite historians, geographers, economists, urban planners, political scientists as well as other scholars to participate in the session and submit a paper proposal.

Scientific Programme

- 1570 SHRINKING CITIES IN PERIPHERAL REGIONS**
Karel Schmeidler (REDECO, Brno, Czech Republic)
- 1489 SHRINKING CITIES AND URBAN-RURAL TERRITORIES. A METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR A SUSTAINABLE URBAN APPROACH**
Teresa Marat-Mendes (ISCTE - Lisbon University Institute, Architecture and Urbanism, Queijas, Portugal)
- 1319 INFRASTRUCTURE AS UMBILICAL CORD: WATER GOVERNANCE AND REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN DETROIT**
Dana Kornberg (University of Michigan, Sociology, Ann Arbor, MI, USA)
- 897 RESPONSES TO DECLINE IN 17TH-CENTURY ANTWERP. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY OF THE URBAN GOVERNMENT OF ANTWERP AFTER 1648**
Michael Limberger (Ghent University, History Department, Ghent, Belgium)
- 824 POST-SOCIALIST SHRINKING CITIES: GLOBAL CHALLENGES**
Jasna Stefanovska; D. Pencic (University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Department of Urbanism, Skopje, Macedonia)
- 257 RUINS AND NETWORKS :THE RISE AND DECAY OF ALCANTARA CITY IN MARANHÃO -BRASIL**
Grete Pflueger (Universidades Estadual do Maranhão, Arquitetura e Urbanismo, Sao Luis, Brazil)