

M04	CITIES AND RIVERS – LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIO-NATURAL SITES
Organisers:	Prof. Dieter Schott (History Department, TU Darmstadt, Germany) Dr. Martin Knoll (History Department, TU Darmstadt, Germany) Ass. Prof. Dr. Martin Schmid (Center for Environmental History, Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna, Alpen-Adria Universität)
Period:	All periods
Date:	Thursday, 30 August 2012
Time:	09:00-12:30
Room:	116

Description

What is the river's place in urban history? The historical co-evolution of cities and rivers is a research topic that needs a combined perspective of urban with environmental history. Rivers have been essential for the foundation, growth, prosperity and development of many major cities in Europe. Cities have considerably altered river stretches and hydraulic regimes. Rivers perform a variety of basal functions for the cities they touch: transport, energy, food, drinking water, leisure site, at the same time they are universal sinks for waste. Rivers protect and link cities to each other, via natural fords or bridges they attract traffic from far afield. Whereas cities tried to control and manage their rivers for centuries, these attempts have never been fully successful due to the natural dynamics of rivers. Enormous variations in water discharge with frequent floods could result in heavy damages of urban infrastructure, pathogens from riverine landscapes, diffused by contaminated drinking water heavily affected urban populations. Rivers are an essential part of Europe's urban history. This panel approaches city-river relations in a comparative perspective, both in chronological and regional respect.

The session's first part will focus on medieval and pre-modern cities. During this »Age of Water« – in André Guillerme's terms – the adaption of local watercourses played a crucial role for urban development and economy. Major manipulations of rivers already took place in this period but are still underestimated in current research. The session's second part will concentrate on the 19th and 20th century. Industrialization then offered new technologies to span hitherto unbridged rivers, to link 'new' rail transport to 'traditional' (but machine driven) river transport, to create artificial river beds on large spatial scales, to reshape the course of rivers to accommodate new functions such as extensive urban ports, industrial parks, hydro-power stations etc. With such a long-term approach from medieval to contemporary times, the panel aims to identify and discuss long term legacies as well as fundamental changes in city-river relations. As a common conceptual framework we suggest to approach cities and rivers as »socio-natural sites« (Winiwarter & Schmid 2008) and therefore as hybrids between nature, society and culture.

We seek for contributions re-thinking cities as elements of highly dynamic fluvial landscapes, and re-thinking urban rivers as perceived and manipulated parts of urban infrastructure. In particular we encourage proposals which follow a comparative perspective in time and space.

Scientific Programme

- 705 INTERACTIONS ENTRE PAYSAGES FLUVIAUX ET URBAINS DANS L'ESSOR DES VILLES RIVERAINES ENTRE GARONNE ET MEUSE, DU DÉBUT DU MOYEN ÂGE À LA FIN DU XVII^e S**
Marc Suttor (MCF HDR Université d'Artois, Arras, Belgium)
- 962 INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE TOPOGRAPHY OF TOWNS IN THE RANDSTAD (13TH-15TH CENTURY)**
Kim Zweerink (TU Delft, Delft, The Netherlands)
- 789 BECOMING AN 'IMPERIAL RIVER'. ENGINEERING AND DISPUTING THE VIENNESE DANUBE IN EARLY MODERN TIMES**
Severin Hohensinner (University of Natural Resources & Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), Institute of Hydrobiology & Aquatic Ecosystem Management, Dept. of Water, Atmosphere, Environment, Vienna, Austria)
Christoph Sonnlechner (City and Provincial Archives of Vienna, Austria)
- 690 THE SEINE, A PARISIAN RIVER? IMPRINTS, CONTROL AND DEPENDENCIES, 18th-20th CENTURIES**
Sabine Barles (Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, UMR Géographie Cités, Paris, France)
- 794 URBAN LIFE AT RIVER BANKS: CITY – RIVER SPATIAL INTERFERENCES AND EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES IN ST. PETERSBURG, 18 – 20 CC**
Alexey Kraikovski; Julia Lajus (European University at St. Petersburg, History, St. Petersburg, Russia)
- 446 THE TRANSFORMATION OF A SOCIO-NATURAL SITE: URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND RIVER TRANSPORT ON THE VIENNESE DANUBE (19TH, EARLY 20TH CENTURY)**
Sylvia Gierlinger; F. Krausmann; S. Gingrich (Alpen-Adria Universität, Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna, Austria)
G. Haidvogel (University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management, Vienna, Austria)
- 1044 PARIS, BRUSSELS, BERLIN, MILAN AND THEIR WATERS**
Lestel Laurence (CNRS/UPMC, Paris, France)
I. Parmentier (Facultés Universitaires de Namur, Brussels, Belgium)
K. Winklhoefer (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Germany)
P. Redondi (Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy)
- 695 RIVERS, INDUSTRIAL CITIES AND HINTERLAND PRODUCTION IN QUEBEC, 19TH-20TH**
Stephane Castonguay (CIEQ-UQTR, Dept of History, Trois-Rivieres, Canada)