

M39 **URBAN HISTORY POLITICS: RE-NEGOTIATING LOCAL PASTS IN THE FACE OF 20TH CENTURY TURNING POINTS**

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Period: Modern/Contemporary

Date: Saturday, 1 September 2012

Time: 09:00-12:30 and 14:00-15:30

Room: 301

Description

The 20th century witnessed major political and economic ruptures – such as 1918, 1945, the 1970s, 1989 – with sudden and long-lasting effects on the development of cities throughout Europe and beyond. These ruptures challenged the local political status quo, undermined the traditional economic bases of cities and frequently changed the demography of urban communities. Not least conspicuously, in the light of a new era with new imperatives and expectations there were major attempts to re-interpret urban history and memory. The aim of this session is to look more specifically at urban history politics in the aftermaths of "sea changes", of caesuras which were perceived as such even at the time. What kind of new opportunities and forums were created for references to the local past? Which episodes of history were highlighted and which were ignored and marginalized in the new situation? What kind of continuities and discontinuities were established between the present and the past? How were the relations between urban past and national past conceived? We would be especially interested in assembling evidence from various genres of "story-telling" (city government documents, published books, newspaper articles, performances in public space, visual material, built city environment etc.). So far, most research has focused on the interplay of national narratives and actual changes. It seems vital and a great opportunity to discuss possible patterns of "new histories" on the urban level in the Prague conference, assembling and comparing experiences from all over Europe and beyond. The "short 20th century" (1914/18-1989/91) with its numerous instances of massive ideological shifts should be an adequate time frame for assessing the role and potential of representations of city history: How were they negotiated, contested and renegotiated with regard to the respective city as a whole, in districts and neighbourhoods or in the context of local groups and organizations? How did these different histories converge, clash and struggle with each other? How much effort was put into creating a shared history for the city, bolstering a sense of collective belonging? How did the production of contested or shared histories reflect and reinforce the new power structures?

Scientific Programme

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Silja Laine (University Of Turku, Landscape Studies , Turku, Finland)
- 1510 MUSEUMS AND THE HISTORY AND IDENTITY OF SARAJEVO**
Emily Makas (University of North Carolina at Charlotte, School of Architecture, Charlotte, USA)
- 1198 L'USAGE POLITIQUE DE L'HISTOIRE: REPRÉSENTER VILLEURBANNE (FRANCE, RHÔNE) À TRAVERS DES RÉCITS HISTORIQUES DES ANNÉES 1905 À 1939**
Boris de Rogalski Landrot (ENS de Lyon, France)
- 1140 KAUNAS AS AN ALTERNATIVE CAPITAL OF INTERWAR LITHUANIA**
Silvija Aurylaite (Central European University (Budapest), Department of History, Vilnius, Lithuania)
- 971 ROMANIANS AND THE CITY: LOCAL POLITICS, HISTORICAL NARRATIVES AND PUBLIC SPACE IN CLUJ (1918-2000)**
Liliana Luga (Central European University, Department of History, Budapest, Hungary)
- 745 NO TURNING BACK: RE-NEGOTIATING THE PAST IN THE DUTCH CITIES OF NIJMEGEN AND ROTTERDAM AFTER WWII**
Lennert Savenije (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, Department of History, Nijmegen, The Netherlands)
- 563 'LOCAL PASTS' VS. 'NATIONAL HISTORY': A CASE OF KONTRAKTOVA SQUARE**
Svitlana Shlipchenko (National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Cultural Studies, Kyiv, Ukraine)
- 401 APOCALYPSE NOW? DEALING WITH DESTRUCTION AND DEFEAT IN GERMANY'S WILHELMSHAVEN IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR**
Gunnar Zamzow (Universität Oldenburg / Institut für Geschichte, Oldenburg, Germany)
- 227 THE WORK OF THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT IN EUROPE AFTER WORLD WAR I: THE LIBRARIES OF BELGRADE, LEUVEN, AND REIMS (1919-1928), A COMPARATIVE APPROACH**
Nadine Akhund (Association for the Study of Nations/Columbia University, New York, USA)
- 660 CONTINUITY OF THE NEW**
Scott Budzynski (Justus Liebig University, Savannah College of Art and Design, Gießen, Germany)