

M47**CITIES AND THE COLD WAR**

Organisers: Marjatta Hietala (University of Tampere)
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Period: Contemporary

Date: Friday, 31 August 2012

Time: 14:00-17:30

Room: 116

Description

The Cold War did not only witness ideological rivalry and confrontation but transnational interaction across the Iron Curtain as well. Cities as centres for political, economic and cultural life came to play an important role in this interaction. In spite of the strict political divisions, a large number of cultural, economic, and political contacts between the urban centres in the East and the West were preserved, while new forms of cooperation were established as well. Thus transnational contacts between cities and different actors operating in cities enabled forms of cooperation and knowledge transfers that would not have been possible on a higher political level. This session focuses on the various roles that cities had in the Cold War context either as arenas or stages of East-West cultural, economic, and political interaction or as actors promoting it. In addition to cities or municipalities, various institutions, associations and other actors operating in cities are relevant topics. Moreover, Cold War cities can be discussed from the viewpoint of how they have been portrayed in art and culture. Both the perspectives of competition/rivalry and of cooperation/interaction are possible starting points. In both cases, a comparative approach is a natural and indispensable starting point for discussion. In order to shed light on these dimensions of the Cold War, this session aims to bring together scholars interested in the Cold War history, urban history, cultural and economic history and history of science and technology.

Potential themes:

- City as a stage for Cold War interactions, including politics and other kinds of transnational encounters e.g. in culture, science and economy.
- City as an arena where ideas, knowledge and best-practises were exchanged.
- City/municipality as an actor of the Cold War transnational interactions e.g. in politics, economy, culture and science.
- City representing the ideological rivalry of the Cold War, for example in festivals and official visits; in architecture, monuments and city planning; in art and cultural life.
- City representing cooperation between the blocks, being manifested for instance by international events and meetings, cultural activities and by educational, scientific and expert exchange.
- Culture and art portraying cities as arenas or actors of the Cold War, e.g. in visual arts, literature and films.

Scientific Programme

- 1568 COLLABORATE AND CONFORM OR RESIST AGAINST THE SOVIET REGIME IN LITHUANIA IN 1944–1990: A CASE STUDY ON RESISTANCE OF STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS**
Audronė Janužytė (Mykolo Romerio Universitetas, Vilnius, Lithuania)
- 1564 BLENDING THE COLD WAR DIFFERENCES: BELGRADE AS A STAGE OF ARCHITECTURAL EXCHANGE**
Aleksandra Stupar (Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, Serbia)
- 1473 BOLOGNA IN THE COLD WAR: A COMMUNIST CITY IN THE WEST BETWEEN INTERACTION AND IDEOLOGICAL RIVALRY**
Eloisa Betti (University of Bologna, History, Anthropology and Geography, Bologna, Italy)
- 1152 TOWN TWINNING DURING THE COLD WAR: COMPETITION FOR CULTURAL INFLUENCE OR INTERACTION CONNECTING PEOPLE?**
Kirsi Ahonen (University of Tampere, The School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Helsinki, Finland)
- 357 İZMIR AS A BATTLEFIELD OF COLD WAR 1950-1970**
Ozden Sezgi Durgun (Marmara, Political Science, Istanbul, Turkey)
- 1610 A ROOM WITH A VIEW: COLD WAR CAIRO**
Martha Langford (Concordia University, Montreal, Canada)