

S05	PUBLIC GOODS VS ECONOMIC INTERESTS: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON SQUATTING
Organisers:	Alexander Sedlmaier (Bangor University) Dr. Freia Anders (Universität Bielefeld)
Period:	Modern
Date:	Thursday, 30 August, 2012
Time:	14:00-15:30
Room:	111

Description

Against the backdrop of an increasing marketisation of urban planning policy since the late 1960s, squatting has become a phenomenon of local resistance occurring throughout the industrialised world – more prominently in the metropolis, but also in medium-sized cities. At present, squats are mostly perceived as a form of youth protest. However, they have been by-products of industrial and urban development, and part of social struggles against housing shortages and misappropriations of urban space since the nineteenth century. Squatters materially appropriated buildings, which were often publicly owned, and questioned established structures of ownership. Thus issues of political economy lay at the heart of the conflicts between social movements, citizens' initiatives and squatters, on the one hand, and municipal authorities, police and judiciary, on the other. Sustained squatting movements often provoked far-reaching decisions by political and legal institutions concerning social and economic interests. Squatting can therefore not be reduced to a mere problem of legality, but has always been part of political debates over the legitimacy of certain means of political expression far beyond the context of local politics. Research on squatting is still in its infancy. Up to now, the phenomenon has not featured prominently in scholarship on social movements or urban sociology. Conceptual and comparative historical perspectives are equally lacking.

This session intends to pose and pursue the following questions:

- Which different forms of squatting can be discerned in historical and international perspectives?
- Who were the squatters in terms of their social, cultural and political background?
- How did municipal and governmental authorities respond to the phenomenon, and how did their strategies of containment, transformation or repression change?
- How did the different actors of the conflict constitute and legitimise their claims to urban space?
- What was the interrelation of urban planning and social protests?
- What was the role of debates on violence during the conflicts over squatting?

We especially welcome comparative approaches (both diachronic and synchronic), but also case studies and interdisciplinary analyses of the various constellations.

Scientific Programme

- 989 **STRUGGLE FOR URBAN LAND: SQUATTERS AND THE AUTHORITIES IN COLONIAL MANILA, 1898-1918**
Jely Galang (University of The Philippines, History, Quezon City, Philippines)
- 371 **BETWEEN NEED AND GREED: SQUATTING AS A SOCIAL PRACTICE IN IZMIR, TURKEY, 1922-1928**
Ellinor Morack (Freie Universität Berlin, Graduate School Muslim Culture and Societies (BGSMS), Berlin, Germany)
- 380 **"SOMMOS VECINOS, NO PROPIETARIOS" (WE ARE NEIGHBORS NOT LAND-OWNERS): THE CONCEPT OF "COMMUNITY OF NEIGHBORS" IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FORCED EVICTION**
Inbal Ofer (Open University of Israel, History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies, Raanana, Israel)