



Newsletter Oktober 2019

Georg-Simmel-Zentrum für Metropolenforschung / Georg-Simmel Center for Metropolitan Studies

Topics

- New Urban Research Podcast: Urban Political
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New Urban Research Podcast: Urban Political

The new podcast Urban Political explores the potential of using podcast in urban research and activism, tackling key topics, from theory to local politics, in an accessible style aimed at an audience on and beyond academia. The overall objective is to gain a better understanding of the "urban" and how we can make it more just and democratic. The podcast was launched on September 9 and is edited and produced by GSZ researcher Dr. Markus Kip and Dr. Ross Beveridge from the University of Glasgow. The Urban Political brings researches, activists and policymakers from diverse backgrounds and countries into dialogue.

Podcasting offers activist-scholars a new medium for developing ideas, with the approx. 30 minutes format offering more open and informal means of examining new topics than the journal article. Four episodes are already available. The two-parter "Reclaiming the Tourist City" addresses the on-going controversy of the development plans for Checkpoint Charlie and reflects on the wider issue of tourism in the city and the approach of the Red-Red-Green coalition government in Berlin. In the episode "Bridging Research and Action" notable scholar-activists reflect on their experiences of working across the fields of urban research, activism and formal politics. In the episode "Take Your Eyes of the City Centre" we interview Professor Roger Keil from the York University in Canada about his work on the political and spatial implications of global suburbanisation processes. In the most recent episode Keil's book, *Suburban Planet*, was reviewed by three urban researchers: Theresa Enright (Toronto), Berenice Bon (Paris) and Philippe Koch (Zurich).

The Urban Political welcomes feedback and invites ideas for co-produced episodes.
For more information: <https://urbanpolitical.podigee.io>

Ross Beveridge and Markus Kip

Think & Drink Series in October

October 21, 2019

Dr. Petr Vasat, Czech Academy of Sciences

From Exclusion to Expulsion: The Emergence and Development of homelessness in Post-Socialist Czechia

Homelessness is a relatively new phenomenon in post-socialist cities. Whereas it did exist under the communist regime, it fully manifested itself in Czech cities with the fall of the Iron Curtain, the democratisation of society and the early 90s integration in the global economy. Since then, the dominant narrative about homelessness has been that it represents a result of individual and/or societal causes and homeless people are socially (spatially) excluded. The goal of the paper is to explore the emergence and development of homelessness in post-socialist Czechia. In the paper, I argue that contemporary Czech homelessness is not a form of exclusion but – referencing Saskia Sassen – rather expulsion. In doing so, I first examine it in the framework of Peter Marcuse's political-economic analysis, as emerging at the intersection of unequal distribution of income, conservative (neoliberal) political reforms and gentrification. Then I move beyond the political-economic

approach and demonstrate how homelessness in post-socialist Czechia materialises through a complex assemblage of not only political-economic processes such as transformation or globalisation, but also the specific accompanying dynamics and logics based on the cultural, institutional or affective conditions typical of Czech cities and society in general. Taken together, the paper seeks to better understand the particularities of homelessness in the post-socialist context and beyond.

October 28, 2019

Stijn Oosterlynck, University of Antwerp

Exploring alternatives to neo-assimilation: looking for solidarity in diversity, here and now

National and to a lesser extent urban diversity policies in Europe have recently been taking a turn towards neo-assimilationism. This turn is often justified by referring to the perceived failure of multiculturalist policies and widespread concerns that formal and informal solidarity mechanisms are challenged by increasing ethnic and cultural diversity. In this lecture, I address the question of solidarity in diversity and explore how group loyalty and the sharing of resources can take place across ethnic-cultural lines. I briefly explain how, due to the intricate interweaving of nation-state building and welfare state construction in the 20th century, in our current understanding solidarity is grounded in the spatial boundedness of territorial state and the intergenerational continuity of supposedly culturally homogenous nations.

This leads me to the argument that our historically developed understanding of solidarity should be complemented and enriched with an in-depth knowledge of solidarities developing in an entirely different spatiotemporal frame, namely that of the everyday places and practices in which people engage across ethnic and cultural boundaries. I will support this argument for a place- and practice-based perspective on solidarities in diversity with a number of case studies in which people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds have nurtured solidarity in diversity by taking joint responsibility for the places in which they live, work, learn and play in super-diversity. The case studies will both highlight the potential of place-based practices of solidarity in diversity as well as some limitations, e.g. the importance of scale for redistribution.

Colloquium of European Ethnology in October

The context of the colloquium will be 30 years since the fall of Berlin Wall. It will be held in German by Prof. Dr. Urmila Goel and Ulrike Mausolf.

Dates for October:

15.10.2019, 2-4 pm

22.10.2019, 2-4 pm

29.10.2019, 2-4 pm

Institutsgebäude - 0007

Hausvogteiplatz 5-7

"Neukölln bleibt dreckig - und Zehlendorf sauber?"

The seminar will take place every tuesday from 4-6 pm. The first session will be on October 15th. It will be held in German.

Institutsgebäude - 415

Mohrenstraße 40/41

Besprechungsräume

Contact: Lisa Jöris

Register via AGNES!

[https://agnes.hu-](https://agnes.hu-berlin.de/lupo/rds?state=verpublish&status=init&vmfile=no&moduleCall=webInfo&publishConfFile=webInfo&publishSubDir=veranstaltung&veranstaltung.veranstid=163987&purge=y&topitem=lectures&subitem=editlecture&asi=2owSjriqPqoKLyVugxvU)

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Other events

BarCamp "Claiming Heritage!"

Your city is different. Which places make it special? Why should they be kept? Who stands up for them?

On October 5, 2019 the working group AG 2020 from ICOMOS Germany organizes a BarCamp under the topic »Claiming Heritage!«. We are inviting everyone, from experts to nonprofessionals, who are interested in topics such as recognition, significance and treatment of cultural heritage.

October 5, 2019
Werkstatt Der Kulturen
Wissmannstraße 32
12049 Berlin

For more information and to register visit the [website!](#)

Airport Tempelhof: European cultural heritage Value and Valorisation

Seventh Forum for industrial culture and society of Berlin

For more information visit the [website!](#)