

urbanHIST Newsletter

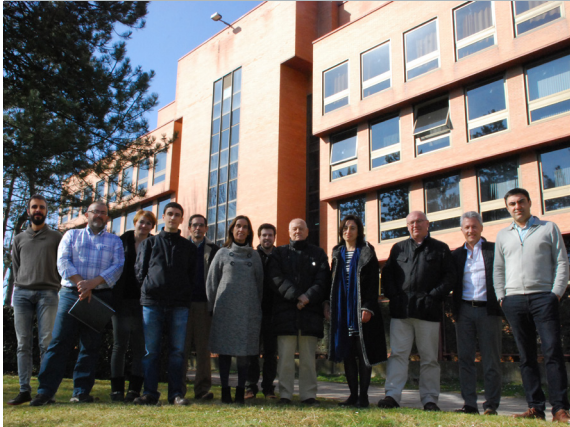
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12 PAGES

NOT FOR SALE



urbanHIST at Universidad de Valladolid

Universidad de Valladolid (Spain) - Instituto Universitario de Urbanística - One of four beneficiaries of urbanHIST

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Profile Interview with María A. Castrillo Romón

Do not miss our exclusive interview with UVa local director María A. Castrillo Romón who has told us more about her career and urbanHIST

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Network-Wide Workshop Week II Meeting - The Swedish School of Planning

Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden

October 2017

"Dear colleagues and friends, I really appreciated the days together with you in Karlskrona, so many interesting projects and people." Monica Sand, Arkdes. I really agree with Monica and I hope you do, too.

We had the great pleasure of welcoming you to our beautiful city Karlskrona and Campus Gräsvik where Blekinge Tekniska Högskola is located. And of course to our Department of Spatial Planning, The Swedish School of Planning as we know it. Karlskrona is or at least used to be a naval city and the buildings here at Campus Gräsvik once formed a military camp called KA2, Karlskrona coast artillery. But that was back in the days, since 1989 we are a campus for higher education. We also had the pleasure to say a special welcome to our new Early Stage Researchers who joined for the first time, the team is now complete. From Advisory board we were happy to have Eliana Perotti from ETH Zürich and Peter Larkham from Birmingham City University, who also gave the interesting open lecture "Disasters: Recovery, Replanning, Reconstruction and Resilience".

I had some concerns when preparing for NWWW II, I was wondering how to manage the Swedish "fika" which is very important to us and you can't skip it. "Fika" at our department is sharp 10.00 am and means that the whole staff meets in the "fika" room and drink coffee together. At special occasions, like NWWW II we added some cookies as well, mostly "kanelbullar" - that is the buns with cinnamon and they are very delicious, according to us. The weather in Sweden is another concern, it's quite windy in Karlskrona and the weather can change from rain to sun to snow within a minute, well maybe not snow during summer but you know what I mean. During the week here we experienced some of the weather

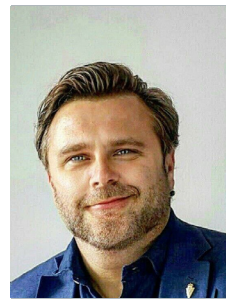
mentioned above, but despite that we were able to give you the opportunity to experience Karlskrona from the sea side, that is, the best side. So, on the

sunny Tuesday afternoon we could all enjoy a boat trip in the eastern archipelago, with the boat Wittus, named after Wittus Andersson, the farmer who once owned the island Trossö and refused to sell it to the king, Karl XI, somewhere around 1679. It ended with the king imprisoning him and taking the island - and Trossö later on became the city centre, and still is.

We also wanted to do something that showed how each and everyone of us are connected to each other in

this project, something visual. After some thinking we decided to do a kind of "family tree". And the result became a poster that showed the connection between us. Please note that when I say we I mean Andrea, Andreea and Susanna. Great thanks to you! So, many thanks to all of you for participating in Network-wide workshop week II and see you at NWWW III.

Annica Johansson
BTH local coordinator



Urban History is not a Past

The major problem of the "past" or historical research is based on the common temporal mistake. We can / want to hardly deal with the "past" or "history", since, as William Faulkner said "It's not even past". What we do, we always deal with the present - our ongoing hopes and dreams, fears and plans. The so called "past" is a socially constructed interpretation and narration, constantly changing according to our changeable expectations, goals and beliefs. The past or history can be seen as a sense making dialogue with the facts or collection of signs speaking about the past, but always for the present-day use. Contemporary historical interpretations produce meanings and construct reality. Memory, as representation of the past, is an important political resource: "if one controls people's memories, one controls their dynamism... It is vital to have the position of this memory, to control it, administer it, tell it what it must contain" (Foucault 1975, 25-26). The urban history, both "recent" and "ancient" is not really a past - it is historically conditioned temporality; it is a social, architectural, functional, infrastructural and legal memory management practices and objectives. The city is always a palimpsest of former structures, contemporary activities and future needs. To understand urban history we shall focus on contemporary cultures, politics, relations and moralities to find out patterns, rehearses and positions that shape our understanding and attitude towards past / present / future urbanity.

Mariusz Czepczyński
Advisory Board Member

urbanHIST Calendar

PAST ACTIVITIES

JULY 2017

- Publication of the second issue of urbanHIST newsletter
- Individual training and conference participations

SEPTEMBER 2017

- urbanHIST ESRs recruited in 2nd call starting their urbanHIST research activities
- Drafting the Career Development Plans and Cotutelle Agreements
- Preparation of the internal consortium reports
- ESRs progress reports
- Participation at local Researchers' Night Event – teams UVa and UPJŠ

OCTOBER 2017

- 12 months of urbanHIST implementation
- NWWW II meeting (Network-Wide Workshop Week II), Karlskrona, Sweden
- urbanHIST annual and progress report

PRESENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 2017

- Publication of the third issue of urbanHIST newsletter
- Submitting paper proposals for International Conference on Urban History EAUH 2018 in Rome

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2017

- urbanHIST lecture series and training events BUW:
- Internal doctoral Colloquium
- urbanHIST lecture series and training events UVa:
- Seminar "La ciudad y su centro histórico: dinámicas urbanas" (lecturer – Óscar Yesid Fonseca Roa)
- Doctoral training seminar "Producir conocimiento espacial" (lecturer – Dr. Mario Paris)
- urbanHIST lecture series and training events UPJŠ:
- Workshop "Memory in Urban Space: Possibilities and Limits of Comparative Research"
- Open lecture "Understanding the morphological changes in postsocialistic cities using 3-D virtual models. Case study Košice" (lecturer – Mgr. Adam Górká)
- Open lecture "GIS as a tool, a technology and science" (lecturer Dr. Ján Kaňuk)
- urbanHIST lecture series and training events BTH

JANUARY 2017

- urbanHIST webinar #2

JANUARY - MARCH 2017

- Secondments with Partner Organisations for first ESRs

Communication? Why?

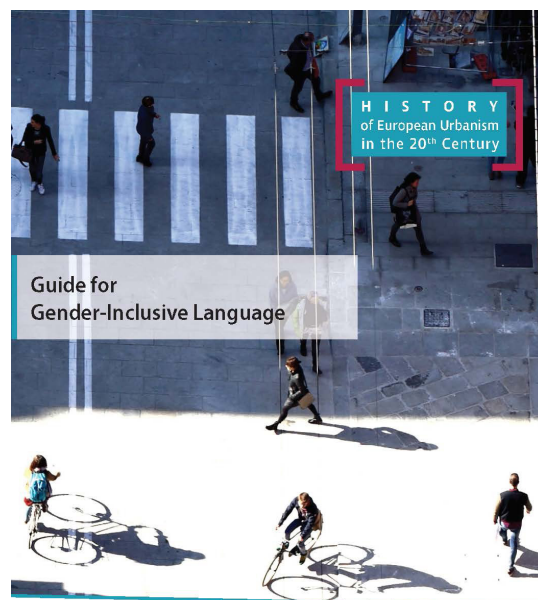
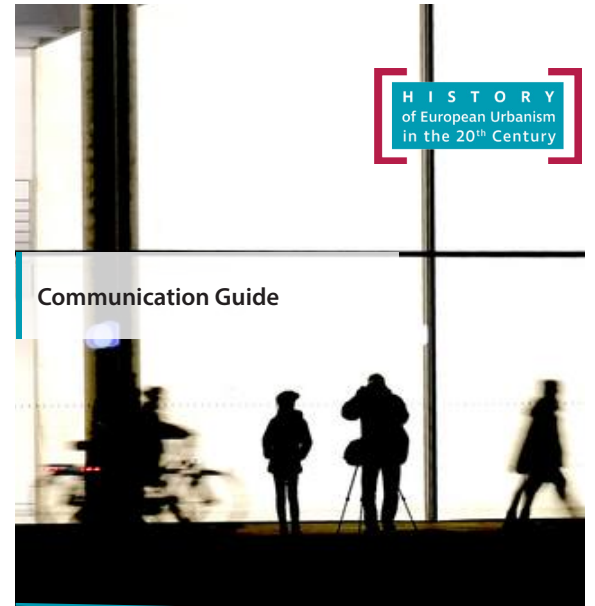
Communication, dissemination, exploitation – a team working on H2020 project is called upon to take part in various activities that will bring their research to the attention of as many relevant people as possible. What we call here "communication" is more than just an additional reporting burden. Communication about European research projects should aim to demonstrate the ways in which research and innovation contribute to European collaboration, notably in achieving scientific excellence, competitiveness and societal challenges, it should show how the outcomes are relevant to our everyday lives and last but not least, it should aim at making better use of the results to ensure follow-up.

In urbanHIST project, communication is strategically planned with these objectives in mind and as such, it is not only a contractual obligation. Objectives are clearly defined, targets, audience and message is clarified before deciding on the media. Different ways to communicate are taken into account, among these one could find interpersonal, two-way communication (such as dialogues, face-to-face conversation, group discussions, conferences, school visits, tours, round tables, exhibitions, meetings, workshops, open days etc.) and also mass media, one-way communication (such as newspapers, magazines, press releases, manuals, brochures, booklets, flyers, letters, radio, television, video, posters, stickers, banners, website etc.).

It is only understandable that urbanHIST project, being a multi-beneficiary project, with 13 more partner organisations on board, creates demanding challenge for the communication and dissemination teams at individual universities, but also for the UPJŠ in Košice, Slovakia, who is the corresponding WP leader. The project website with the blog section, urbanHIST Newsletter and project social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) belong among the primary communication and dissemination tools and as such, they are operated and administered centrally at UPJŠ, with the assistance and support of urbanHIST consortium members. Furthermore, on the project website, in the section "Resources", and in a close collaboration with the PM of the consortium, urbanHIST manual section is published (containing also a separate Communication Guide with downloadable formats of the EU emblem, and other obligatory information on EU funding.) Upon request, urbanHIST design manual containing the project logos can be provided by the UPJŠ local coordinator (katarina.hajdukova@upjs.sk) for potential use.

Whether reaching a smaller, local audience or operating towards potentially larger audiences on a mass media basis, we hope your communication goals and objectives will be reached and we offer our assistance in spreading the word about urbanHIST.

Katarína Hajduková
UPJŠ local coordinator



Guide for Gender-Inclusive Language



Guide on Gender - Inclusive Language

Language matters: it influences the way we think and how we act. Therefore, it should be used deliberately. Avoiding gender-based discrimination also comprises the way we are expressing ourselves. Word choices often unconsciously (re)produce notions about gender roles. Thus, a careful use of language and images which does not stereotype, constrain or exclude others can influence attitudes and expectations of the audience or readership. This can positively affect people's consciousness over time.

For this reason, urbanHIST in cooperation with the Equal Opportunities Office at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar has set up a guide for gender-inclusive language as part of the overall approach towards gender equality. As there is not the one and only way how to talk and write gender-inclusively, this guide provides a glimpse some suggestions how gender-inclusive language can look like. It intends to sensitise each of us for the way we are talking and on how in a conscious effort we may change it. The exclusionary expression of

"man" for something related to all genders can simply be avoided by substitutions such as "human" or "person". "Man's achievements" may become "Human achievements", instead of using gender-specific pronouns such as "his" or "her", "they" or "their" may be an alternative without changing the contents.

The guide is available in the urbanHIST manual which can be found in the urbanHIST website's resources section.

Britta Trostorff
urbanHIST project manager



Photo by Lukáš Katriňák

Memory in Urban Space: Possibilities and Limits of Comparative Research

The workshop "Memory in Urban Space: Possibilities and Limits of Comparative Research" took place on October 24, 2017 at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. The event was organized as a core activity of the project "Memory in urban space: Possibilities and limits of comparative research", No. BFN16-CLT-006, in frame of the EEA Grants scheme of the Bilateral fund Slovakia – Norway, supported by the Slovak Government Office. The main organizers of the event were the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and the Department of History, Faculty of Social Sciences, Nord University in Bodø, Norway. From an internal point of view, it was an informative presentation, contact meeting, with the main goal in opening discussion and defining the possibilities for cooperation in future on multiple levels (bilateral agreement, preparation of future projects in frame of the EEA Scheme and

expanding the research network through local research activities on the basis of the ongoing urbanHIST project). Especially this interconnection is also a special indicator of cooperation and an added value beyond the defined objectives of the implemented activity. In terms of the content, the workshop was divided into two parts. Within the first part, both departments presented papers, introduced their research focus, academic staff structure and study plans. In particular, the city of Bodø as a case study within memory and urban history studies and the operation mode of the urbanHIST project were introduced. The second part of the event was led as open discussion focused on possibilities for cooperation, research topics, common cross-sectional themes and covering by project schemes.

Mikuláš Jančura
Department of History, Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ in Košice

Boards and Committees in urbanHIST - A Tool of Quality Management

The urbanHIST project is lasting for four years and brings together 15 researchers with different scientific and cultural backgrounds at the four universities, supervisors from different disciplines and academic systems, partner organisations from the academic and the non-academic field. The project provides a wide range of research and training activities, as well as measures to their perception. In order to assure and manage the quality of the project, a joint governing structure was set up:

The SUPERVISORY BOARD (SB) is the general assembly of the project. It thus is the main monitoring body overseeing the overall progression of urbanHIST. It is chaired by the board of managers, which is formed by the four local directors.

Besides, 7 thematic boards and committees, each one led by one of the beneficiaries, are responsible for the monitoring and quality control of integral parts of the project:

The ETHICS COMMITTEE monitors compliance

with ethics related mutual standards, negotiates cases of scientific misconduct or misbehavior. Members have signed a confidentiality statement.

The SUPERVISION STEERING COMMITTEE monitors ESRs' progress, mediates between parties in dispute and evaluates the biannual quality assessment questionnaire (QAQ).

The TRAINING COMMITTEE monitors the quality of and the compliance with training activities (local and network wide). It is in constant exchange with the ESRs about their necessities.

The EVENTS COMMITTEE organises and initiates major network-wide training and events and monitors local events at each beneficiary (e.g. open lecture series).

The DISSEMINATION COMMITTEE monitors the quality and progress of agreed dissemination activities of the consortium and the ESRs. It establishes contact to the press / publishers.

The EDITORS' BOARD monitors, prepares and surveys project website's contents (incl. blog

contributions). Also, it disseminates information related to the project via Facebook and Twitter accounts. Therefore, one of the ESR members of this board is appointed as SOCIAL MEDIA COMMISSIONER.

The BUDGETING COMMITTEE decides about and monitors budget allocations. It supports PM in writing the Annual Financial Reports.

The boards and committees are composed in different proportions by beneficiaries, partner organisations and ESR.

Besides, the boards and committees are completed by four special competencies persons, which have key-functions in ensuring the quality management:

The ESR REPRESENTATIVE is elected by the ESRs for one year as a spokesperson for ESR's concerns and requests and officially represents the ESR in the Supervisory Board. The ESR representative gives regular reports to the Supervisory Board about ESR's satisfaction with the project and mediates between parties in dispute.

The CONFIDENTIAL PERSON is a contact person for ESRs' concerns and problems and is elected by the ESRs for one year out of the female members of the consortium. The Confidential Person should mediate between parties in dispute and gives anonymous reports. She is an associated member of the Ethics and the Supervision Steering Committees. Therefore, a confidentiality statement is signed by the Confidential Person.

An EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER is a consulting member of the Supervisory Board and monitors compliance with urbanHIST Gender Equality Guide and any other equal opportunities related concerns.

An ONLINE COMMISSIONER creates, launches and maintains the project website. The Online Commissioner establishes the blog section and closely cooperates with the Editors' Board.

Britta Trostorff
urbanHIST project manager

Committee	Chair	Members	
Budgeting Committee (BC)	Max Welch Guerra	4 Local Directors, 1 Project manager	Max Welch Guerra; Martin Pekár; María Castrillo; Abdellah Abarkan; Britta Trostorff
Supervision Steering Committee (SCC)	Britta Trostorff	2 Local Directors, 1 Academic Partner Organization, 2 Non-academic Partner Organizations, ESR representative	Abdellah Abarkan; Max Welch Guerra; Université Paris-Est – École D'Urbanisme de Paris, France (APO); Boverket – Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, Sweden (NAPO); Susanna Weddige
Events Committee (EvC)	Abdellah Abarkan	1 Local Director, 2 Academic Partner Organizations, 2 Non-academic Partner Organizations, ESR representative	Abdellah Abarkan; Politecnico di Milano – Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Italy (APO); ArkDes Arkitektur - och Designcentrum Skeppsholmen - Architecture and Design Centre, Sweden (NAPO); Klassik-Stiftung Weimar - Classic Foundation Weimar, Germany (NAPO); Andreea Cristiana Blaga
Ethics Committee (EC)	Max Welch Guerra	1 Local Director, 1 Non-academic Partner Organization, 2 Academic Partner Organizations, ESR representative, equal opportunity representative	Max Welch Guerra; Stadtmuseum Dresden, Germany (NAPO); Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain (APO); Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences at Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Social Sciences, Slovakia (APO); Azmah Arzmi
Dissemination Committee (DC)	Martin Pekár	2 Local Directors, 2 Non-academic Partner Organizations, 1 Academic Partner Organization	Martin Pekár; Max Welch Guerra; Boverket – Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, Sweden (NAPO); Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic (APO)
Training Committee (TC)	María Castrillo	2 Local Directors, 2 Non-academic Partner Organizations, 2 Academic Partner Organizations, ESR representative	María Castrillo; Abdellah Abarkan; Fondation CIVA Stichting - The Civa Foundation, Belgium (NAPO); Atrium Association - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century in Urban Management, Italy (NAPO); Université Paris-Est – École D'Urbanisme de Paris, France (APO); University of Leicester – Center for Urban History, United Kingdom (APO); Elvira Khairullina
Editor's Board	Martin Pekár	4 ESRs (incl. 1 Social Media Commissioner among the ESR), 2 senior researchers	Ksenija Krsmanović; Andrea Gimeno Sánchez; Azmah Arzmi; Agnès Dudych (SMC); Zuzana Tokárová; Martin Pekár

Eliana Perotti (Advisory Board Member) Elected as urbanHIST Confidential Person



Photo by Max Welch Guerra

During the second network-wide workshop-week, the 15 urbanHIST Early Stage Researchers elected Eliana Perotti, Member of our Advisory Board, as the Confidential Person. Congratulations to Eliana and thank you very much for accepting this position!

The urbanHIST Confidential Person acts as a spokesperson for the ESRs on an anonymous basis and thus is supporting the ESR representative. Also, the Confidential Person functions as

a mediator in cases of controversies between ESRs and consortium members (e.g. violations of the Supervision Contract) and is the main contact person for all other sensitive concerns (e.g. report of scientific misconduct/misbehaviour, discrimination etc.). Thus, the Confidential Person is an associated member of the Ethics Committee as well as of the Supervision Steering Committee.

Britta Trostorff
urbanHIST project manager

A City As You Do Not Know It - urbanHIST at the European Researchers Night 2017 in Košice

A modern city is a phenomenon encountered by ordinary people in everyday life but also one which attracts the attention of

scientists from various fields. Even if each city is unique, it is possible for scientists to identify mutual connections, to discover patterns

and to explain the specifics of city development. At our stand, the visitors were able to find fascinating information about the urban or architectural history of Košice as well as various European urban centres. Individual activities focused on discovering the different dominants of a city and understanding the internal structure of a city by using different research methods. We also presented the results of our own research in the field of urban history. Each visitor received a small souvenir.



Photo by Martin Pekár

Martin Pekár
UPJŠ local director

urbanHIST at Universidad de Valladolid

The University of Valladolid (UVa) is one of the oldest European universities and one of the most important centres of higher education in Spain. It comprises 4 campuses - Valladolid, Palencia, Segovia and Soria, from autonomous region of Castilla y Leon-, over 100 degrees, 80 doctoral programmes and 68 postgraduate degrees, accredited international relations and prestigious research centers. On average, nearly 20,000 students enrol each year.

The Instituto Universitario de Urbanística (IUU) as University Research Institute is a centre of the UVa whose specific purpose is to develop research and consulting, postgraduate teaching and lifelong education in the area of Urban and Regional Planning, from an interdisciplinary perspective, which involves fields of knowledge such as Architecture, Geography, Law, History, Economics

and all those are related to the analysis, territorial planning, designing, urban planning and construction of cities and territories. It was promoted by a group of professors from the School of Architecture of the UVa (where its headquarters are until now), in collaboration with people from other disciplines and universities, thinking in an interdisciplinary perspective from the outset. Its founder, in

1991, and the first director was the professor Alfonso Álvarez Mora. Currently the IUU director is the professor Maria Castrillo Romón. The IUU is made up of around 30 professors from different faculties of UVa plus a large number of professionals and academics from other universities in Europe and America as collaborative, associate and honorary members. In fact, one of IUU's strengths is this vast network of researchers around Spain, Europe and America, an essential interdisciplinary net in their origins and aims.

Increasingly, the consideration of the city and the territory as research purposes and objects of the project is acquiring higher importance, especially in order to ensure the overall objectives of quality of life, sustainable development and social cohesion that arise in every advanced society. In this connection, the formation of specialized university researchers and technicians in the discipline of the Urban and Regional Planning field is also essential. The IUU is proposed as a research centre associated with these interests, at the service of the society and the region in which it lies, at the institutional framework of the UVa.

Thus, the activities developed at the IUU can be summarized as follows:

1. RESEARCH PROJECTS in the field of urban and regional planning, integrating views from all those disciplinary fields that address urban and territorial issues.

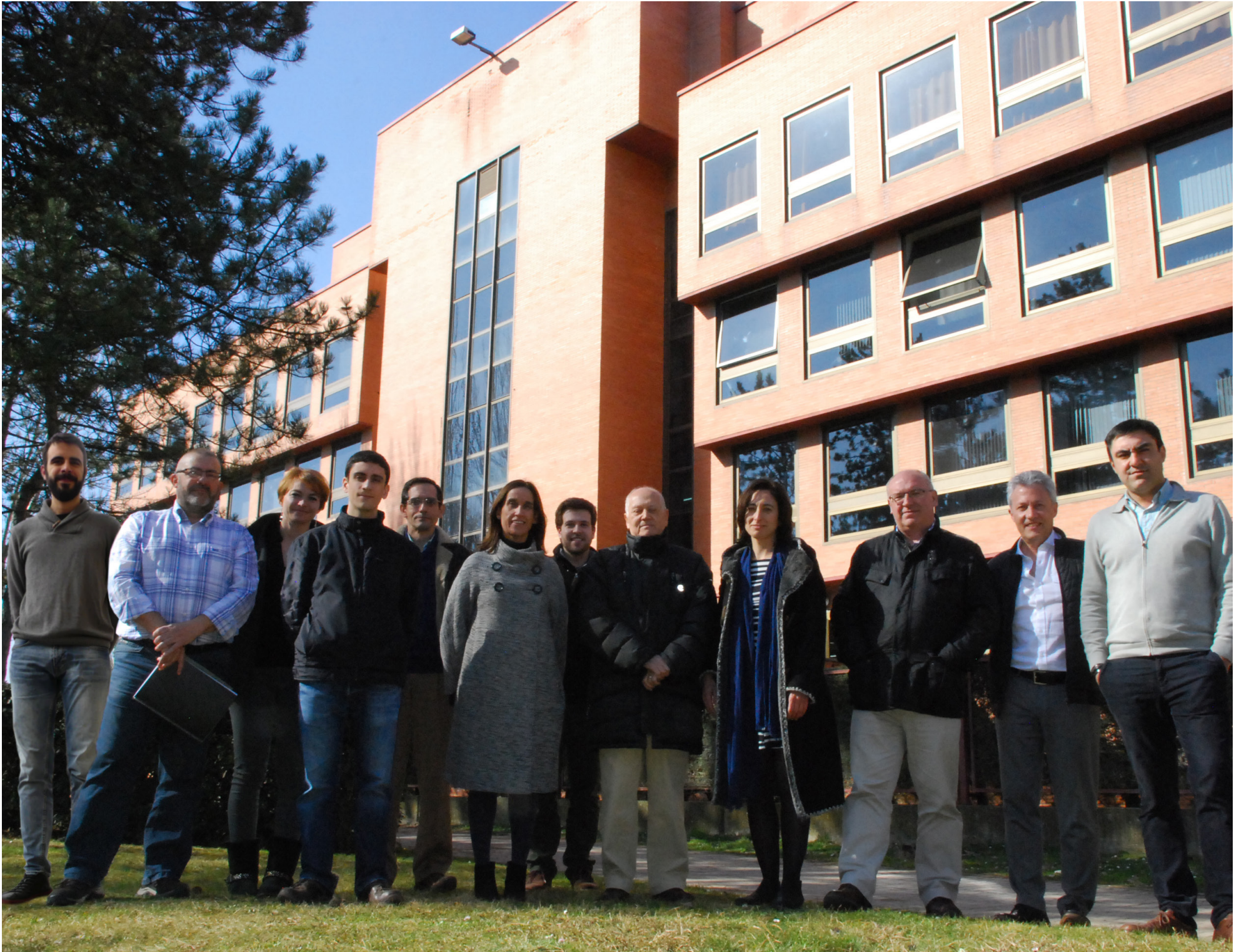
2. SPECIALIZED TEACHING, part of postgraduate studies, aimed at the training of university researchers and specialized technicians in the area of Urban and Regional Planning, as well as the development of courses, seminars and conferences with LIFELONG LEARNING character open to the public.

3. SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL AND/OR ARTISTIC WORKS, own from the practice of urban and regional planning, always with a reflective orientation, facing the introduction of methods and of improvement factors that encourage its qualitative development.

In the field of research, the IUU has competed in various competitive calls at European, national or regional level. For example, the IUU currently participates, besides urbanHIST, in other European project H2020: INTENSSS-PA (A systematic approach for InSpiring and Training Energy-Socioeconomic Sustainability to Public Authorities).



Façade of the de Santa Cruz Palace (Early-Renaissance palace, 1491). Today, University of Valladolid Rectorate | Photo by Carlos Barrera (Archives UVa)



The IUU team of the School of Architecture in front of the headquarters. University of Valladolid | Photo by Raquel Gil Vallejo

In addition to the development of research projects, the IUU also has among its aims the carrying out of scientific, technical and artistic works specific to the practice of urban planning, through contracts or agreements signed with both public and private entities. For example, in recent years work has been carried out for the Institute of Cultural Heritage of Spain for the Junta de Castilla y León or for different municipalities.

The IUU has also signed agreements with other research groups, both Spanish and foreign, to carry out regular research activities. There are currently agreements in force with the Groupe Transversal "Usages de l'histoire et devenirs urbains" of LABEX Futurs Urbains (France) and with the Entretantos Foundation (Spain), between others.

Some of the work done from the IUU have received awards and recognitions, among which are the 4th European Urbanization Prize (2002), in the category of "general plans", or the "Good Practice" (2012) qualification granted by UN-HABITAT.

In the field of specialized teaching, the post-graduate training taught from the IUU has been carried out through various doctoral programs organized jointly with other departments of UVa or with other universities such as Iberoamericana de Puebla (Mexico) and Escola Superior Artística de Porto (Portugal). The European project hosting this Newsletter also belongs to this type of activity.

In the framework of specialized teaching aimed at training technicians in the area of urban and territorial planning, the IUU periodically gives specialization courses and own degrees recognized by the UVa. In the same way, the IUU has promoted the provision of courses that allow to teach various topics

related to urban and regional planning to a wide and diverse public, which includes both University members as professionals or interested citizens. To mention a few courses, such as "Rehabilitate, regenerate or renew the city" (2013), "Towards the resilient city" (2015) or international seminars such as "Urban estates, historical and future diagnoses of the past" or "Ecological corridors and planning space" (2016).

"Cities" is the scientific journal edited by the IUU from 1993 with an annual periodicity. The journal is dedicated to urban planning in a broad sense and is aimed at researchers, professors and students interested in urban issues. It aims to be a means of scientific dissemination in which all issues related to knowledge, project and urban planning that affect the city, territory and landscape are critically addressed. Disseminating research and proposals for intervention are priority objectives, well understood that both must respond to principles that understand our urban and territorial areas as objects of study in their capacity as public space categories serving the community that inhabits them. "Cities" understands that urbanism is "the project of the public".

The IUU also publishes or collaborates in the publication of different books, monographs, etc. Thus, it has a "Dossier Cities", a series of own publications whose general objective is to edit results of research, work, scientific meetings and teaching programmes of its members.

All these activities can be consulted in its constantly updated webpage: <http://www3.uva.es/iuu/>.

Marina Jiménez
UVa local coordinator



Cloister of the de Santa Cruz Palace. Today, University of Valladolid Rectorate | Photo by Carlos Barrena (Archives UVa)

María A. Castrillo Romón

"Diversity is one of the richnesses of our project... but it carries risks"

Architect and PhD in Urbanism, professor of Town Planning at Universidad de Valladolid and urbanHIST local director at UVa Prof. Dr. María Castrillo Romón has told us more about her career and urbanHIST.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: You are an architect and hold a PhD in urban planning. Why did you decide to study architecture and urban planning and dedicate your professional life to these fields?

MARÍA: For me, there are three questions: why I decided to study Architecture; why, within the studies of Architecture, I was especially interested in Urbanism; and why I oriented my professional life towards the teaching and research in this field of knowledge.

I believe that I cannot honestly answer any of the three questions without reference to the circumstances and people who contributed to building those decisions and moving them forward.

I wanted to study Architecture for two reasons: because I was seduced by the idea of studying a curriculum that included Sciences (Mathematics, Physics...) and Humanities (History of Art, Aesthetics...), and because I loved drawing. But, in fact, I could do it because I had the support of my parents at a very difficult time for my family and for most people in Spain.

Urban planning was a part of the subjects taught in the ETSAV (School of Architecture of the University of Valladolid) but it caught my attention much more than other subjects. I remember well the influence that the professor of my first urbanism subject had on me: Alfonso Álvarez Mora, a young professor full of energy, who recently arrived from MIT (USA), did not leave anyone indifferent. When Alfonso gave me the opportunity to collaborate as a fellow with the team that was starting to prepare the Urban Plan for the Historical Centre of Valladolid, I accepted without hesitation.

While the teaching of the practice of the Architecture in the ETSAV was, in general, based in the cult to the "greater names" and to the individuality of the architect, the teaching of Urbanism revealed to me the attractiveness of the teamwork and the interest of the analysis of spatial facts from critical perspectives that involved social, political and economic aspects.

Having graduated in 1991, I applied few months later to an assistant position in the Urban Planning Department of the University of Valladolid. This way, I could start teaching Urban Planning and Urban Planning Practices as an assistant of Juan Luis de las

Rivas and Santiago Calvo. At the same time, supervised by Alfonso Álvarez Mora, I wrote my doctoral thesis on the History of the housing reform in Spain. I defended this thesis in 1997 and, in 2001, I obtained my current position of associate professor.

I wanted to become a teacher and researcher in the field of urban planning because I am fascinated by the complexity and social scope of this discipline. But, as I said at the beginning, my only decision or will cannot explain the fulfilment of my professional aspirations. On the contrary, it has mainly been possible thanks to the opportunities, trust and support that my colleagues gave to me (I also include Milagros de Pedro, Julio Arrechea, Manuel Domingo, Cristina Tremiño, among many others) and, outside of the academic world, also thanks to Óscar Ramírez, who always has supported my professional decisions, even when it has meant a special effort for him in our daily life or in his own professional development.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Apart from being a researcher, as you have already mentioned, you are also a teacher - university lecturer at the Instituto Universitario de Urbanística and a professor of urban planning at the Department of urban planning, both at the University of Valladolid. What are your memories of the time of your university studies and also, can you see the difference between the time of your university studies and current university education?

MARÍA: I do not know if my particular experience as a student in a young and very peculiar school of Architecture authorizes me to make a valid comparison. However, I would say that, in

the Spanish university of the 1980s, a part of the intellectual and political effervescence of the preceding decade was still alive. University life

and politics, it seems to me, were then traversed by many different interests but still retained a clearly humanist horizon. From the 1990s, the strengthening of exchanges and internationalization could have deepened in the same direction but, finally, this was not the case and the Bologna agreement symbolized an inflection point. I agree with those who claim that our institutions are giving in to utilitarian principles and efficiency criteria that



María A. Castrillo Romón

harmonize very well with the dominant ideology but are very damaging to the University (social) mission.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Currently you are also the director of the Instituto Universitario de Urbanística. From your personal experience, what attributes does someone need to have in order to be really successful in the position of a director?

MARÍA: The IUU has had more than 25 years of history and Alfonso Álvarez Mora and Juan Luis de las Rivas were directors for many years. In my case, however, my colleagues chose me to this chair only a year ago and,

furthermore, this is my first important management position. So, I cannot answer your question from my experience as a director.

On the other hand, I try to avoid the word "success" because it refers to a language and even "entrepreneurial" speech which, as I said, seems to me very harmful, especially in academic fields.

I would say that what is required of a good director is what Alfonso and Juan Luis have given us: to do their best to ensure that the academic group can develop their abilities within the constraints of each moment and to try to provide all means available for the chair to build interesting

research and teaching opportunities, and to create a motivating and creative work environment. It's not easy...

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: What was the biggest professional challenge that you have ever faced?

MARÍA: The greatest professional challenge I have faced is undoubtedly the one in which I am immersed at present: to combine teaching and research with the IUU management and the position of the local director UVa for the urbanHIST project. All that implies a lot of work and great responsibility. My capacity for effort, learning and adaptation is constantly

"... I could do it because I had the support of my parents at a very difficult time for my family and for most people in Spain."

being tested and, in fact, the challenge would be impossible for me if I did not count on the invaluable support and collaboration of Marina Jiménez, Javier Pérez Gil and the entire group of research "Territorial and urban planning" participating in urbanHIST as well as pushing the IUU ahead. I should also thank for the good work of María Jesús Nuñez and the support provided by different chairs and services of University of Valladolid to implement the urbanHIST project, the first ITN-EJD at our university and the second one in Spain.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: What was the best - or the poorest - decision you have ever made in your career?

MARÍA: I could not say if there has been a better or a worse decision in my professional life. However, I have been able to verify that some decisions have been very good - at least on an intellectual and academic level. I think that two of the most interesting initiatives were the two sabbatical years that I enjoyed in Paris, as a visiting researcher, first, at the UMR CNRS/MCC 7136 and later at the Lab'Urba and the LAA.

They were experiences that have greatly influenced my ideas, my way of understanding research and the academic activities that I have developed later ... and that, once again, were possible thanks to the support I received from many people and institutions. I regret to be repetitive but it seems important to insist that, contrary to the dominant discourse, investigation rhymes with collaboration.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Implementation of big projects such as urbanHIST project involving more than one beneficiary puts considerable demands on management members. How do you evaluate your collaboration with teammates in urbanHIST project as one of four local directors?

MARÍA: In my opinion, the management challenge of urbanHIST is not only due to the fact that it involves four teams. It is a project with a budget of almost 4 million euros. It is an extraordinary amount for a research project on History, which has to be developed by a very large and diverse group that has never worked together: four beneficiary universities but also 15 ESRs and a dozen partner organizations. All this is both a great opportunity and a great challenge.

I share with other local directors the idea that this diversity is one of the richnesses of our project. It enables interdisciplinarity, multiplies the perspectives of analysis, enriches the universe of scientific references and, on the whole, it can be very stimulating. But it also carries risks. Perhaps the most important is misunderstanding.

In management matters, this risk increases because the administrative cultures of our universities are very different and also because of the fact that local management teams have to work remotely and with tight deadlines.

That is why it seems to me that respect, tolerance, equanimity and goodwill, as well as an enormous amount of work, have been the essential ingredients that have allowed our collaboration to be very positive until today, especially considering the huge difficulty of launching a big project like this.

We have to thank Max Welch Guerra for his initiative and the BUW team (Britta Trostorff and, previously, Sandra Schindlauer) for its good work in general coordination. But we must

also congratulate ourselves, all the local management teams, for having correctly managed the many difficulties arising in the articulation of the urbanHIST project requirements and our respective universities' expectations and necessities.

urbanHIST is already in full operation but we still have a lot of work to do. Perhaps the greatest difficulty from

now onwards is maintaining the good climate of collaboration despite the new difficulties that will arise and despite the fatigue that we

will accumulate. It seems to me that it is essential that the four beneficiaries continue to maintain, as they have done hitherto, high levels of self-reliance and mutual trust. Turning to selfish, myopic or intolerant attitudes would be our worst mistake.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: From a point of view of a researcher, putting aside the managerial matters, what are your feelings and expectations from urbanHIST?

MARÍA: Launching urbanHIST has been exciting but also exhausting for Marina Jiménez and me. We are researchers. Management is not a target for

our academic life. However, administrative tasks absorb almost all of our dedication to urbanHIST. That is why, at the moment,

from a personal point of view, my main expectation is to be able to spend less time on management in order to benefit from a greater dedication to scientific tasks.

As researchers, the working conditions that urbanHIST makes possible are

extremely promising: it encourages intense exchanges with specialists having very diverse cultural backgrounds and coming from different disciplinary traditions; enables senior and young researchers to collaborate in the construction of a dense and stimulating intellectual environment; and provides abundant means for selected students throughout the world to prepare doctoral theses with simultaneous recognition in two European universities.

We have worked very hard in the preparation of urbanHIST and our effort has been crowned with this formidable opportunity. All the researchers involved in the project, doctors and doctoral students, share the great fortune of being able to work in unusual, great conditions. On the other hand, we also share the responsibility of producing research results that are up to the task. It seems to me very important that we all be aware of it.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: María, thank you for taking time from your busy schedule. I am wishing you much happiness and success in your professional and personal life.

by Zuzana Tokárová
urbanHIST newsletter editor

"The challenge would be impossible for me if I did not count on the invaluable support and collaboration of Marina Jiménez, Javier Pérez Gil and the entire group of research "Territorial and urban planning" participating in urbanHIST as well as pushing the IUU ahead."



María A. Castrillo Romón | Photo by Thomas Müller

BIOGRAPHY

SINCE 2016 Director of the The Instituto Universitario de Urbanística at The University of Valladolid (Spain)

2011 - 2013 Professor at the Master of Research in Architecture (Master of Investigación en Arquitectura) of the Technical School of Architecture of Valladolid (Spain)

2007 - 2008 Visiting professor at the National School of Architecture of Paris-Belleville (subject "Looking at the contemporary city", Master program, M1 and M2)

SINCE 2001 until the date Senior Lecturer HDR in Urban Planning and Development (Urban Design, Urban Planning and Territory) at the School of Architecture of Valladolid (Spain)

2001 - 2003 Professor in the PhD program Geography, Town Planning and Regional Planning, University of Valladolid (Spain)

2000 - 2007 and 2008 - 2009 Professor in the PhD program Architecture and City, University of Valladolid (Spain)

2000 - 2006 Professor in the PhD program City, Territory and Heritage, University Institute of Urban Planning of the University of Valladolid (Spain) and the Ibero-American University of Puebla (Mexico)

2000 - 2006 Professor in the PhD program Problems of Modern Architecture and the City: Theory, History, Projects, University of Valladolid (Spain) and Porto Superior School of Art (Portugal)

1997 Doctorate in Urbanism "Reformism, housing and city in Spain: on the origins and development of a debate (1850 - 1920)" (Reformismo, vivienda y ciudad en España: origenes and desarrollo de a debate, 1850 - 1920), under the direction of Alfonso Álvarez Mora

SINCE 1991 Teaching contract at the School of Architecture of Valladolid (Spain) in subjects related to urban planning and design, housing production and urban rehabilitation, within the various curricula, leading to the professional qualification

1991 Diploma of Architect at the School of Architecture of Valladolid (Spain)

FURTHER ENGAGEMENTS

Member of the editorial boards of the journals:

- Ciudades (Spain)
- Espaces et sociétés (France)
- Mesto a dejiny (The City and History) (Slovakia)

Member of the scientific board of:
• Cuadernos de información urbanística (Spain)



Photo by Max Welch Guerra

We Introduce

AZMAH ARZMI

I am an architecture graduate of the University of Kent, I have spent a third of my life in England and I have friends from different countries. Hence, I have always felt as if I do not really fit into one place, that I belong to multiple places as a part of my identity.

I usually update myself with the news on The Guardian, as I think

the articles are well written. The last book I have read was *A Stranger in My Mind* by Orhan Pamuk. It is remarkably vivid and poignant, describing the changing urban landscapes of Istanbul through various political upheavals from the past fifty years through the eyes of a boza seller. As of right now I am learning German, and one of my favou-

rite things to do is to drink some hot tea while reading *Deutsch Perfekt*, a magazine for German language beginners. Wherever I am I like to participate in hiking activities and I feel fortunate to live in Thuringia, Germany where there are plenty of options. I like to travel, and I have been to at least 20 different countries. I travel not just to tick off boxes on

my list, but also to discover what life is like with people who are completely different from me. I do not have a particular favourite food, but I am a localvore and like to sample the local food in foreign places as much as possible.

Azmah Arzmi
Early Stage Researcher

Central Planned Economies and Weak Urban Planning

Explaining a Paradox in the European Countries of State Socialism

I am studying at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, and my supervisors are Prof. Max Welch Guerra and Dr. Matěj Spurný.

My dissertation topic is "Central planned economies and weak urban planning. Explaining a paradox in the European countries of state socialism". Where I am based, in the East German state of Thuringia, traces of the GDR urban planning can be found across cities such as Jena, Erfurt and Weimar. Famously referred to as *plattenbauen*, they are usually on the outskirts and are characterised by homogeneous large housing blocks with lots of wide green open spaces and undefined spatial relationship with the streets. As the testimonies of urban-planners and architects can attest to, their scope of work during state socialism was limited to the national economic plans and there was no room for individual designs or civic participation. Although there were few exceptions when creativity was needed such as the "Fünfgiebelhaus" in Rostock.

According to Klaus Beyme (*Der Wiederaufbau. Architektur und Städtebaupolitik in beiden deutschen Staaten*, 1987) urban-planning in the GDR has gone through three distinct phases, the first being post-war reconstruction and socialist realism (1945 – 1955), industrialised urban-planning with more developed construction processes (1955 – 1975), and qualitative city rebuilding where the construction methods of *Wohnbausysteme* (WBS 70) dominated city peripheries on a massive scale and old city areas were transformed (mid 1970s – 1989). The principle of democratic centralism ensured the vertical hierarchical structure of the planning processes. The districts, cities and municipalities only acted as local organs

Aerial photography of Südstadt in Rostock | Source: G. Krenz - W. Stiebitz - C. Weidner. *Städte und Stadtzentren in der DDR*, 1969, p. 201.

for the central state without much autonomy. The paradox was, instead of constructing for the social order in spatial planning, the socialist regime favoured sectoral planning. This phenomenon was not just apparent in the GDR but also in the other socialist countries. The construction industry played a big role in the history of urban planning. Thomas Topfstedt in his book *Städtebau in der DDR 1955 – 1971* reiterates that the way the buildings were laid out depended on the construction processes such as the course of the crane tracks, radius of hoists, the stock of panels and easy access, all of which have priority over the spatial design and other considerations. It was, as Ludwig Krause,

the former urban-planner in the GDR (1999), said "the city has to adapt to the product, and not the product to build the city".

Thus, the following are the general questions, which emerged during my preliminary readings. How were the national economic plans implemented into urban planning and who were the actors within the processes of responding to those needs? What are the differences between the processes of industrialisation and urban planning between the countries of state socialism, namely Czechoslovakia and GDR and how do they exist? What are the differences in the levels of theories and practice in socialist

urban planning among the socialist countries?

To my knowledge, there is a crucial need to study how the processes of centralized economic administration affected urban planning patterns during this era. My aim is to study this in more detail, with more focus on centralized economy during the Soviet period after Stalin's era (1955 – 1989), the processes and the conditions of urban planning and if there were other severely binding constraints, particularly with case studies of the satellite towns in the former GDR and Czechoslovakia. My hypotheses are first, that the urban planning process was clearly subordinated to a centralised and hierarchi-

cal organised system, based on the national economic planning, which subsequently resulted in the current urbanism. The scope of the actors' decision-making was conditional to the system. Second, that the urban planning process of the centralized economies between countries of former state socialism operate differently and these are reflected in the outcomes of their urbanism. Since this is an empirical research where with the case studies, I aim to adopt a systematic approach, combining qualitative methods with any quantitative data collected, as well as analysis of existing literature.

Azmah Arzmi
Early Stage Researcher



Photo by Max Welch Guerra

We Introduce

ANDREA GIMENO SÁNCHEZ

I was born in Valencia, in the east coast of Spain. I studied architecture at the Polytechnic University of Valencia. During that period, I had the opportunity to study in Antwerp (Belgium) as an Erasmus student and at the University of Granada with a Seneca grant. Just after that, I co-founded Rellam, a small design cooperative that has completed different projects in the past few years, including the restoration of the Renaissance Church of Vinaros or the intervention at Tinglado nº2 in the harbour of Valencia. Our work has been awarded in several competition prizes and was exhibited in the Spanish Pavilion at the XV Architecture Biennale in Venice.

In 2014, I moved to Madrid to study the Master in Advanced Architectural Design in ETSAM where I was trained as a researcher in architecture. Since then, I worked as an assistant to the profes-

sors Andrés Cánovas and Carmen Espiegel during three years at ETSAM and as a junior researcher at GIVCO Research Group. This experience had an enormous influence on my intellectual and architectural development.

It is impossible to outline a favourite book. There are two that I have recently read and that have taken my interest. The first one is *Mi Gaudí espectral* (My Spectral Gaudí) from Rafael Argullol, a

short book where the protagonist establishes a dialogue with Gaudí's spirit about the frustrations of the artistic work. The other book would be *Flesh and Stone* from Richard Sennet, where the evolution of public space and its relationship to the symbols and the bodies in the western culture is explained.

Andrea Gimeno Sánchez
Early Stage Researcher

New Liberal Planning and Sustainable Urban Development

After the conservative turn, the built environment and particularly housing acquired a fundamental new role. From means to provide shelter, it becomes a means to generate financial returns.

A building is not something to use, but to own (De Graaf, 2015). This is the context where the topic 2.2 "New liberal planning and sustainable urban development" is formulated. It will be developed at the Swedish School of Urban Planning in Karlskrona supervised by Abdellah Abarkan (BTH) and Juan Luis de las Rivas (UVa).

From the 1980s, city-making initiatives increased exponentially from the private sector. The elementary particle of the city – housing – changed. Large interventions in cities using public housing as a texture to compose a new, alternative and egalitarian urban fabric became almost impossible. This new scenario dominating contemporary urban planning in most European cities has been labelled as Neoliberal Urbanism.

Today, the non-profit cooperative housing model is presented as an alternative island in this sea of real estate speculation and market dominance. The description of housing co-operatives by CECODHAS (European Federation of Public, Cooperative and Social Housing) shows that this housing-model could be a very good answer for the current housing, social and economic crisis in most of European countries. "There are different co-operative housing models in different countries, but what characterizes housing co-operatives compared to other housing providers is that they are jointly owned and democratically controlled by their members, according to the principle of "one person, one vote". (...) On average, 10% of Europeans live in housing co-operatives. They show that living in a housing co-operative provides many advantages in terms of economic, social and environmental sustainability." Can co-housing advance from the margins and challenge the predominant ways of distributing housing creating

new social practices in cities?

This thesis aims to produce a historical study of housing cooperatives, co-housing and communal housing as a model against the private real estate market, as an alternative for urban societies besides an open declaration of class-consciousness.

The research will question the ideological association of this type of housing – the majority of co-housing investigations have referred to the Soviet *kommunalka* or Social Condensers and have been studied under socialist conditions. Examples of buildings with collective facilities in New York at the beginning of the 20th century and built with speculative and commercial purposes (Puigjaner, 2012) as well as some contemporary examples of co-housing in China promoted by start-ups and technology companies, raise the lack of ideology behind the typology. Since there exist collective buildings from private promotion, public promotion and self-promoted, is it then a model without ideology but politicized in favour of different ideals?

Some of the fundamental concepts on which this research is based (cooperative, cohousing, commune) have been the subject of reflection during the last years, coinciding with the rise of individualism and the crisis of property in housing. Richard Sennet in "Together" makes an anthropological analysis of the concept of collectivity from medieval guilds to contemporary social networks. The philosopher affirms that "cooperation lubricates the necessary machinery to do things and co-participation can compensate what we individually lack".

The appearance of the real estate markets in Middle Ages, created not only the possibility of private property, but has a social dimension. Karl Marx pointed out that the origin of private

property is the origin of the possibility of owning the means of work and production. The possession of a piece of land, a working tool or even a house was understood as the possibility of potentially owning the work of the people (Aurelli, 2014). One declares possession of something if it can generate profits. In the middle of the 19th century Emil Sax described – and later Federic Engels quoted and refuted in *The Housing Question* – that extending the possibility of possession would transform workers into capitalists since it would allow them to generate profits through the real estate system in difficult times.

In that sense, the ideas of co-housing have their historical references in utopian projects that were revealed against private property. Precisely in *Utopia*, Thomas More (1517) describes a society where common property of the

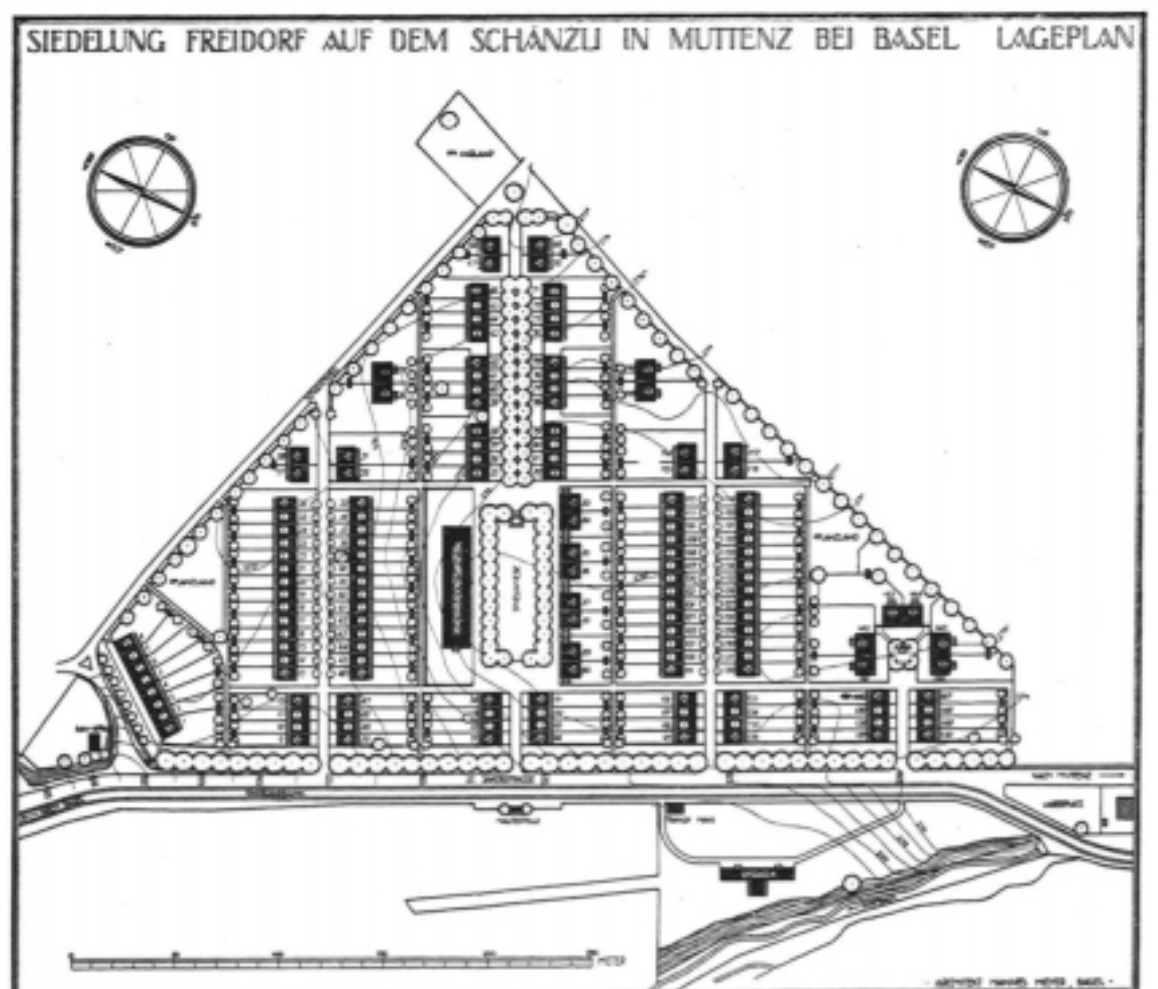
goods is established versus the private one. This apology of the common was recovered 300 years later by the utopian socialists. Charles Fourier proposed to create communes of libertarian association as base of the alternative state to the capitalism. Their *Phalanstères* would be for about 1000 inhabitants and they would possess all type of collective services like kitchens, dining rooms, schools, nurseries, libraries, etc. Fourier advocated for women's emancipation and their right to work in the same way as men.

Dolores Hayden has focused her research on this issue along with what the author calls materialist feminists, during the 18th and 19th century. In "Seven American Utopias", she analyses the settlements of American socialists and connects their designs with the incorporation of industry and

agriculture. In "The Grand Domestic Revolution" she unveils plans and strategies for materialistic feminism, two generations of women who struggled to build neighbourhoods with collective services such as kitchens, dining rooms, laundries, or day care for, according to the author, the liberation of women from housework.

A historical research of bottom-up initiated co-housing developments could be a foundation for new types of housing in most European countries to react on the current housing situation at neo-liberal markets and to refresh the housing question in a sustainable way. This research will produce a genealogy of co-housing in the 20th century.

Andrea Gimeno Sánchez
Early Stage Researcher



Siedlung Freidorf Cooperative, Basel 1919 – 1923, Hannes Meyer. The Housing Estate was designed by the Swiss architect in a bottom-up process for the Swiss Co-operative Association. He lived there until 1926, before emigrating to Germany to become director of the Bauhaus.

UrbanHIST Blog Entry

Blog by Marcelo Sagot Better

Early Stage Researcher

A productive week during the NWWW II in Karlskrona was an outstanding activity to conclude my first official month on-board of urbanHIST as an early stage researcher (ESR). Parallel to the possibility to meet the entire assembly of fellow ESRs during the workshop I also had the unique opportunity to experience beforehand Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), my future secondment university. I have to acknowledge that this was not my first visit to Sweden, as I visited BTH a year ago as a part of my Master's programme. Nevertheless, the NWWW II was a perfect excuse to take a deeper look into my future hosting institution and compare it with my current experiences in Weimar.

It is clear that there are striking differences between German and Swedish town planning. These differences are obvious when comparing physical conditions like geography or weather in both Weimar and Karlskrona. For instance, Weimar is located in the so-called green heart of Germany, the region of Thuringia, well connected to other cities in the State and major urban centres like Frankfurt and Leipzig. On the other hand, Karlskrona is a stunning port town facing the Baltic in the Blekinge County. However, its privileged location in terms of landscape and scen-

ery does not offer the best strategic connection to major cities like Stockholm or Copenhagen. Nevertheless, I would like to pay attention to the more social or economic aspects that shaped (and continue to shape perhaps) the living conditions in both towns.

Coming to Weimar was not a surprise in terms of what I was expecting to find here; it is a quiet and dense town, nice for a walk but even better when riding a bike. The Schillerstrasse is the main pedestrian artery of the city, walking here allows imagining how Schiller, Goethe or Liszt did it years before me. It is the birthplace of an essential German intellectuality that is still reflected in the architecture and monuments of the city. However, modernity also found its way in Weimar with the foundation of Bauhaus School during the interwar period, students and locals are well aware of this legacy. While the Gauforum and the Elephant hotel are just a couple of the silent witnesses of a darker period. This richness is reflected in a variety of museums that I am just starting to explore.

Likewise, Karlskrona also has a well-preserved urban layout. The city centre on the island of Trossö, has unique baroque streets and monumental buildings. Either walking through this

archipelago of charming summer houses or on-board of a picturesque boat it was impossible for me not to perceive the naval heritage of the city. This historical culture is still palpable through pleasing and recognizable architecture that is UNESCO's patrimony since the 90's and is the pride of the locals. I was just able to spot a few naval facilities and classic vessels but there are numerous forts and powder pits all across the 30 islands of Karlskrona that I expect will become an external sort of inspiration during my next year stay at BTH.

As it is still difficult for me to accept the fact that I will not be living in a big city anymore, at least during the first year, I have to recognize that both Weimar and Karlskrona are exemplary cities that are faithful to their pasts but open to the world. From my perspective, this undoubtedly is their more exciting aspect. My never-ending sense of wonder with European cities is not likely to diminish as my home and secondment universities are in outstanding locations that combine a rich historical background and that motivates me to move forward in my research with the living conditions that attracts other students and young researchers to study, live and simply be astonished with both cities.



Photo by Marcelo Sagot Better



Photo by Marcelo Sagot Better

Reconciling Automobiles and Pedestrians

A. Tripp's Ideas for Postwar Road Traffic and Town Planning

Blog by Elvira Khairullina

Early Stage Researcher

I would like to share my opinion on an interesting book that I discovered this summer. The title is "Town Planning and Road Traffic", published in 1943 by Sir Alker Tripp, Commissioner for Traffic Control at Scotland Yard. I found this book translated into Russian in 1947, and it was interesting to know why this book was translated and how it influenced the planning of road infrastructure in the Eastern Bloc. In this brief summary, I would like to step on the basic ideas of the book and put them in a historical context.

The ideas of A. Tripp were new after the massive introduction of cars into the streets and the problem of the increasing traffic in English and European cities; it was the first theoretical concept on how to design or redesign the entire city to overcome traffic problems. Previously, other road traffic planning ideas were given in the form of guidelines (The Athen's Charter), the projected city of Le Corbusier's la Ville Radieuse, Van Eesteren's Plan Amsterdam, etc., and separate theoretical schemes ("Radburn", "Neighborhood Unit", etc.).

Why was a complex theory of road planning important? Mainly because it formed the principles of urbanism that could explain the logic and reason of the decisions, and that provided a framework for other ideas. A. Tripp created a complete theory, including his vision of the traffic controller in urban planning of new and existing cities. In the book, there are many suggestions and proposals on road traffic planning, supported by schemes and detailed explanations on how and why changes in urban morphology should be achieved.

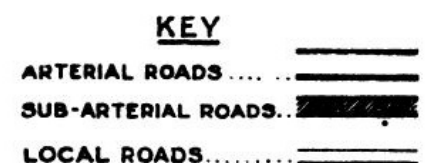
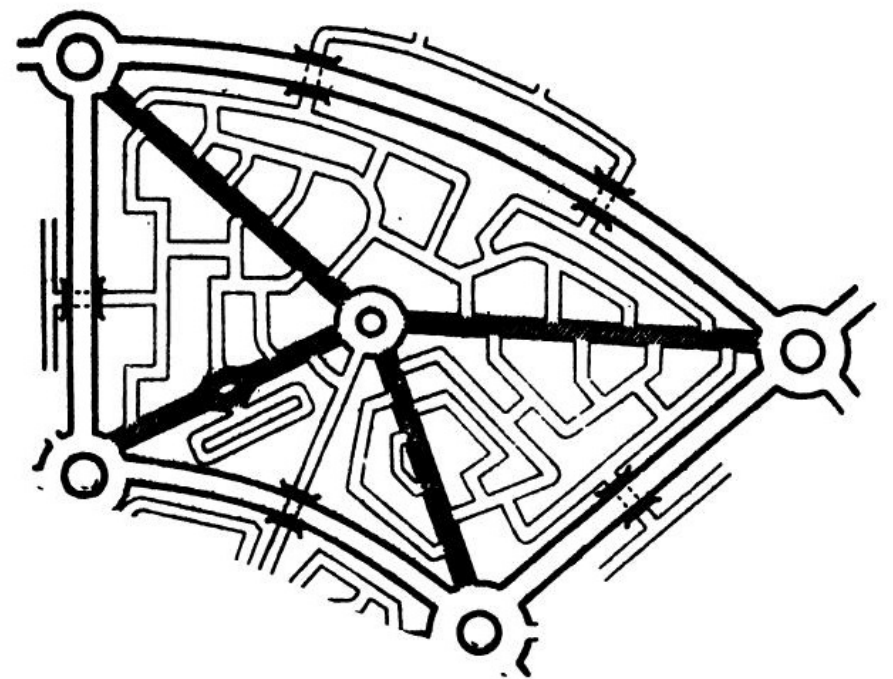
From the beginning of his book, Tripp has outlined several key ideas. First, he stresses that transport and circulation are varied problems, although most people seem to use the terms as if they were

interchangeable (1943). A. Tripp points out that transport is the mode of movement, whereas traffic is the interaction of all these movements.

In the second idea, A. Tripp proposed to think not only of the organization of the main streets but also of the entire road network, he proposed as a solution to the hierarchy of the streets. For this, he was one of the first to introduce the classification of the streets according to their function and their order in the sequence of the relationship. He divided the streets into three groups: the arterial streets, for circulation and sub-arterial, for distribution, which should not be related to the equipment; while local streets are intended to access buildings, and may have several functions and different types of equipment (Pic 1).

Lastly, the areas between the arterial streets named by Tripp "precinct" also received functions in relation to their individual characteristics, such as industrial, commercial, residential areas, welcoming the different human activities. A. Tripp emphasized that these enclosures have to become the "defining feature" of every city plan.

Throughout his book A. Tripp talks about solving two problems: road traffic and pedestrian safety. In short, he gave importance to the needs of road traffic in order to leave the car space for its free circulation, and pedestrianizing the space was a secondary one. These ideas were widely applied in Greater London Plan 1944 by P. Abercrombie who wrote preface for this book and was very concerned about the problem of quiet living spaces in the city. Thus, A. Tripp's work set a tone for road traffic planning till the 1960's, when C. Buchanan arose the questions of the importance of urban environment in road traffic planning which bring a change in urban planning paradigm. However,



Scheme of hierarchical sequence in relations of arterial, sub-arterial and local roads creating precincts | Source: A. Tripp. Town Planning and Road traffic, 1943, p. 55.

before this occurred, the rapid translation of this book in Russian, had an influence in developing road traffic principles in urban planning of the USSR, as well as the whole Eastern Bloc.

Halle-Neustadt, Berlin and Introspection

Blog by Azmah Arzmi

Early Stage Researcher

Berlin is the city to study when one is curious about the differences between socialist and capitalist urban developments. During the Cold War both the East and West authorities competed with each other to prove that they had the better system through their vast urban developments. As a result, there were several housing estates within Berlin. During my internship with an American architect a few years ago, we went on excursions to some of these housing estates. These include Hellersdorf in the former East Berlin, and Siemensstadt in West Berlin. Although there were few similarities between the two systems, the existing East German housing districts were notorious for their lack of aesthetics. However, back then they provided housing for millions of East German residents and were a part of the social welfare programme under the SED regime. I also had the chance to learn about Halle-Neustadt, as we had the idea to propose urban retrofitting for the former socialist city that was established in the 1960s to accommodate the workers for the chemical plants as part of the GDR programme to develop the chemical industry. It is a dying city, as with Hoyerswerda, suffering from population loss. Efforts were made to refurbish the infamous

mundane plattenbau flats and to inject life into the city with more culture and retail. There are a few abandoned housing blocks, possibly set to be demolished but in the meantime serving as a playground for adventurous youngsters. The architect I had worked with had written off the city as unpleasant, banal and in need of total transformation. On the contrary, I felt that there was something poignant about the existence of the buildings, occupied by families and senior citizens who have survived different political periods since the Second World War. That being said, it was incredibly astounding to see how some of these blocks were laid out without spatial context in a repetitive manner. This was the epitome of functional, utilitarian socialist urban planning. Was this the initial master plan of Halle-Neustadt or did it not materialise as intended? If that was not the case, then at which level throughout the urban planning process did the greatest divergence occur and at what conditions?

Memories of Berlin and visits to Halle-Neustadt never truly left me, even when I left Berlin for a few years. In fact, I felt discontented as I left, feeling that I had unfinished business there. I realized that if I do not return to Germany, I will

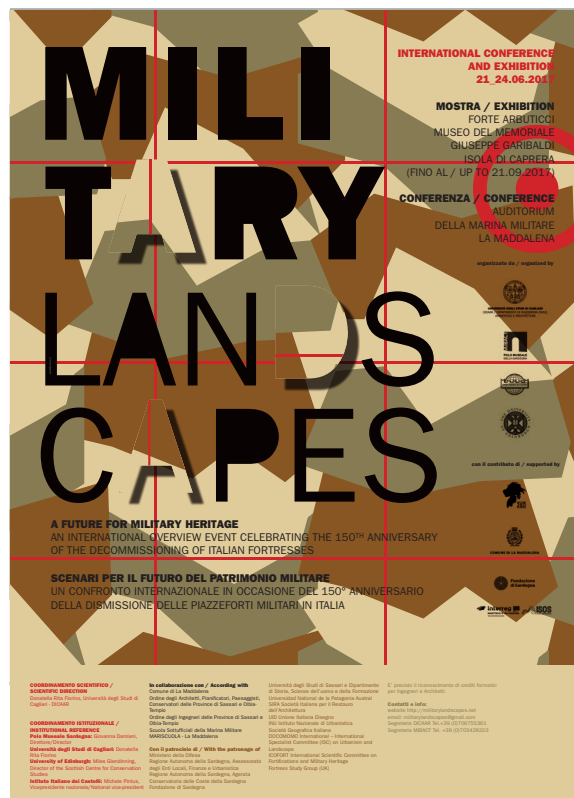
always feel incomplete and disappointed with myself for having started something and not quite finishing it. So I am truly honoured to be a part of urbanHIST and to have been granted the opportunity to conduct research in a field which I had become acquainted with just a few years ago; the socialist urban planning.

Being at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, I was able to interact with other PhD students and they always seem to be surprised when I tell them what I was doing. They expected me to be researching on something about Malaysia or the region where I come from. At times I do feel patronized when I see the doubt in their eyes, as if my background automatically renders me inadequate and incapacitated to conduct research in Europe. When you are trusted with this responsibility of writing the history of a foreign country, it does put some pressure on you to be accurate and unbiased. As I was conducting my literature review the past six months, I came across plenty of American scholars who wrote about the history of Soviet Union, the GDR and other former socialist countries. They were on the other side of the Atlantic, in the USA, so how could they possibly conceive

or understand the history of these countries? Looking at their bibliography and their profiles, it was clear that they have visited the countries they were researching about, like how Stephen Kotkin lived in Magnitogorsk for several weeks before writing his Magnetic Mountain book. There are certain biases of course, especially when the American scholars wrote about the GDR during the Cold War from their own perspective. Therefore, does the author writing the urban history of a certain country have to be a native within the country itself? It is not always the case. We would not have such great literature today, such as Harald Bodenschatz's Städtebau im Schatten Stalins about Soviet urban planning in the Stalinist era or Kimberly Elman Zarecor's Manufacturing a Socialist Modernity: Housing in Czechoslovakia, 1945 – 1960. It has less to do with the blood of the author and very much about the enthusiasm, their rigor and the ability of the author to paint a very good picture of the history itself. Throughout this project, I hope to cultivate a strong sense of character, develop valuable analytical and critical skills as well as being able to trust myself despite any doubts that I or anyone else might have.

International Conference Military Landscapes - A Future for Military Heritage

La Maddalena, Sardinia / 21-24 June, 2017



The international conference "Military Landscapes. A future for military heritage" (21-24 of June 2017), organized by the University of Cagliari, the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (Polo Museale of Sardinia), the Istituto Italiano dei Castelli and the University of Edinburgh, aims to share case studies, interdisciplinary scientific researchers and institutional programs carried out on military heritage with particular focus on their possible protection, conservation and cultural enhancement, also in the case of conversion, reuse or dual (civil and military) use.

The location of the conference, the Mediterranean archipelago of La Maddalena (Sardinia), constitutes a representative microcosm of the global concerns and challenges of military heritage. For this reason, this is also a symbolic and highly appropriate location in which to reflect on principles and guidelines for the protection of international military heritage.

The 4-day interdisciplinary event has developed different sessions, between them there have to be mentioned the following: "Military heritage for Arts and Museums",

"The legacy of the fortified landscape. Knowledge, analysis, surveys", "Military landscapes of the XIX and XX centuries. Protection, reuse and long term planning", "Old and new functions: plans and design projects for renovated urban and territorial hubs", "Military witness and territory. Analysis and scenarios of cultural enhancement". Specifically, the participation of the urbanHIST Ph.D. student Federico Camerin with prof. Francesco Gastaldi (IUAV of Venice) with the proposal "Policies, strategies and institutional roles for the difficult reuse of former military sites in Italy", has been included in the session "Networks and public initiatives for the enhancement of the Italian decommissioned sites". The proposal has been useful to spread the knowledge and contents of the thesis regarding a particular kind of great properties, and their construction, utilization, emptying processes in the XX century and the possible reuse of the military properties in the XXI century. Moreover, the Ph.D. student has successfully contributed to disseminate the urbanHIST initiative in an international event in order to create

a proper network that would be useful to develop his thesis and his knowledge about urban history in European cities.

This kind of initiatives has definitely contributed to the international debate about military heritage, especially about the military installations that have been built, used and emptied during the XX century. To sum up, the conference has been important for the following initiatives: to share international case studies; to study significant experiences of analysis of military heritage; to establish protocols for the conservation, surveillance and maintenance of heritage sites; and to propose strategies for restoration and reconversion for civil uses (e.g. residential, social, cultural, productive, touristic), focusing particularly on examples inspired by aims of social integration, reconciliation and public use.

For more information, the website of the international conference is: <http://www.militarylandscapes.net/>.

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11th Congress of Czech Historians

Olomouc, Czech Republic / 13-15 September, 2017

"Interest in history has never been greater" - that is how Lynn Hunt, the former President of the American Historical Association, opened the 11th Congress of Czech historians which took place last September in Olomouc. The first congress of Czechoslovak historians dates back to 1937, the time when the country faced identity crisis and the national identity had to be reinforced. Eighty years later, Lynn Hunt insists on the challenge of writing history today, which became crucial to building the national identity, especially in Central and Eastern Europe.

The twentieth century was one of the central issues of the 11th congress. The interest of historians in this period shows its importance in the building process of the Czechoslovak identity. The different panels explored a large range of topics and levels of this century.

The panel Czechoslovak society in the context of after-war modern Europe and its crisis explored the role of experts in the socialist society. To which extent did the technocratic government and experts influence the society, what do their discourses say about their epoch?

Vítězslav Sommer (Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences), presented the discourse of experts on management. Management is about governance and how

the power should be divided. In a society which claims working class leadership, the manager is seen as a person responsible for plans fulfilment. These theories do not represent the reality but an ideal of reality. As an extension of factories, studying these texts provides the reader with a view of how an ideal socialist society should be.

Matěj Spurný (Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Institute of Economic and Social History / Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences) underlined the impact of experts' discourses about modernity on the society. The critiques about modernity shifted from the intellectual sphere to the experts' one in the 1970s. The hope to change the society changed into dissatisfaction, the gap between the reality and expectations was not sustainable anymore and accelerated the end of the socialist state.

The city as a field of history research was explored by the panel City under socialism. Kimberly Zarecor (Iowa State University, Architecture) tried to answer the question of what happened to the concept of the socialist city after socialism itself has ended. For Zarecor, the socialist city is a type defined by the priorities of urban development during its construction. The design of a city remains even after the collapse of the regime which built it.



Photo by Agnès Dudych

The congress allowed to question the nations' need of the most accurate possible understanding of their past. In the national identity building process, this congress shows that writing history is

an ongoing process, especially concerning the past century. To conclude, it is important to remember - as Lynn Hunt explained - the importance to write in a way that is accessible to the

public and not to just fellow researchers, and be aware of its needs.

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