

# urbanHIST Newsletter

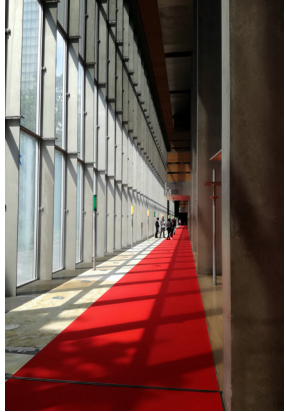
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6 PAGES

NOT FOR SALE



## News and Reports on our Recent Events

In this edition we provide an overview of reports from latest event organized within the urbanHIST project implementation. Do not miss them.

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## Introducing another Partner Organization

On page 5 we are introducing another one of our partner organizations involved in urbanHIST – the Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Košice (Slovakia)

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# Interpreting 20th Century European Urbanism

## The Second urbanHIST Conference Held in Stockholm

Stockholm, Sweden / 21 – 23 October 2019

The Second urbanHIST conference took place at the Wenner-Gren Center in Stockholm between the 21st and 23rd October 2019.

This exciting gathering brought about one hundred urban and planning historians together and created a stimulating setting for scientific debate.

Developed as the programme's key activities, the two urbanHIST conferences serve as means to discuss and disseminate its core issues. Following the aim to open the internal discourse stepwise towards the international research community, the first congress, held at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice in October 2018, addressed mainly young scholars. Dedicated to the main theme 'Interpreting 20th Century European Urbanism', the second urbanHIST conference in Stockholm, was intended to attract a wider public regarding both, research experience as well as the academic and regional background of the participants.

The thematic agenda of this conference relied on the commitment of us, the group of urbanHIST PhD candidates. Abdellah Abarkan (BTH Karlskrona) served as conference convenor, but gave us the freedom to organize it according to our ideas. We willingly accepted this opportunity and pursued the idea of arranging a discourse around our research topics. In this sense, all fellows had the chance to set the topics of the presentation tracks and to co-chair them having a senior scientist aside. We furthermore proposed a shortlist of possible keynote speakers; the diversified keynote lectures thus display the wide range of our key interests. During the conference preparation process, Abdellah Abarkan delegated the coordination part in a very organic way to the two authors of this text. Among this group of three, we discussed the further procedure, coordinated the meetings of

the scientific committee to select the presenters, determined conceptual details as the arrangement of the roundtables, and sent and received hundreds of emails until the conference schedule was finally set.

The programme of the three-day conference included 13 presentation tracks established by nine PhD candidates, namely Azmah Arzmi, Helene Bihlmaier, Federico Camerin, Agnès Dudych, Andrea Gimeno Sánchez, Adam Górka, Ksenija Kršmanovic, Noel Manzano, and Marcelo Sagot Better, four keynote lectures held by Henrieta Moravčíková, Luděk Sýkora, Sasha Tsenkova, Stephen V. Ward, a special introductory lecture on the development of Stockholm by Håkan Forsell, as well as three roundtable discussions. Two of them addressed specific urbanHIST issues, thematizing neglected planning histories (moderated by Eliana Perotti), or arguing the diversity of different research traditions regarding the history of the city and its planning process (moderated by Peter Larkham). The third roundtable, jointly organized by our partner institutions ArkDes and Boverket, addressed "Gaps in Sustainable Urban Development Research" (moderated by Per Haupt). This special panel discussion was held at the ArkDes museum, followed by a guided tour through their fascinating new "Flying Panels" exhibition with the curators. Finally, the pleasant buffet dinner at their café was the crowning finale of an exciting conference day.

Having received more than one hundred applications for paper presentations, we are extremely proud to have reached so many international scholars. Even though urbanHIST focuses constitutively on European pheno-



Photo by Ebba Högstöm

mena, we welcomed researchers from all continents to this conference, a fact that demonstrates the international interest in the urbanHIST programme and its research fields. About 60 invited presenters and the keynote speakers together with an almost complete urbanHIST consortium formed a perfect setting for a lively and inspiring discussion on our research topics. We owe the great atmosphere and success of this conference above all to the fascinating contributions and active participation of all participants.

At long last, we sincerely thank Abdellah Abarkan for his confidence in

us, the members of the scientific committee for their huge effort during the summer break, the urbanHIST consortium members for their great support as co-chairs, as well as moderators or participants of the roundtables, and finally all helping hands, who supported the organizational process of this conference, especially Annica Skytt, Andreea Blaga, and the other active urbanHIST PhD candidates.

Helene Bihlmaier  
and Andrea Gimeno  
Early Stage Researchers



Photo credit Slávka Otčenášová

### The Importance of Partnership

The urbanHIST venture presents a unique opportunity, both for early stage researchers and their mentors, to engage in a truly European project fostering excellent science, international cooperation and mutual dialogue. Conducted within the HORIZON 2020, the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme aiming for tackling societal challenges, the essence of urbanHIST is definitely multidisciplinary, but also multicultural. Throughout the duration of the project, all the participants have been facing a number of challenges related to their intensive exposure to distinctive academic traditions, different methodological approaches and also particular cultural dynamisms, stretching far beyond the borders of heterogeneous Europe. Some prejudices have been destroyed, and yet some new stereotypes may have been created, as well.

I tend to see the urbanHIST project as an exciting laboratory, where we experiment not only with research methodologies aiming for breakthrough scholarship, but where we also study Europe and social interactions in a nutshell. We learn about each other's values, approaches to life and work, and we practise the mutual collaboration. I personally find this aspect of the urbanHIST project the most appealing but also the most demanding one. And I am confident that this is a very meaningful exercise. Not only in order to conduct an important comparative study of the history of two hundred years of European urbanism, but also as a means of empowering our team members with the experience of Europe. Understanding our differences and searching for the common goals that would unite us are the essential requirements for our adjustment to global changes that we are nowadays experiencing. This urgent need is also recognized in the new EU framework Programme Horizon Europe, where the adaptation to societal transformation is designated as one of the main research and innovation missions. I believe that urbanHIST will bring up a cohort of experienced researchers, who will be ready to contribute to developing European partnerships, engage in new and challenging tasks within the European research area, and will commit to strengthening of the idea of Europe.

Slávka Otčenášová  
ERCEA Seconded National Expert

## urbanHIST Calendar

### PAST ACTIVITIES

#### APRIL 2019

- NWWW V meeting (Network-Wide Workshop Week V), Košice, Slovakia, 1-4 April 2019
- Mid-Term Dissertation Examination at UPJŠ for ESRs Ondřej Jirásek, Jovana Vukčević, Azmah Arzmi, Susanna Weddige, Aliaksandr Shuba, Elvira Khairulina (based on the study programme)
- Publication of urbanHIST Newsletter 9
- Publication of CfA for the 2nd urbanHIST conference in Stockholm

#### MAY 2019

- Fourth Webinar Series (UvA and BTH) - Beatriz Fernández Águeda (EHESS, Paris, France), on the making of greater cities and the urban planning ideas circulation in early 20th century Europe

#### APRIL –JULY 2019

- urbanHIST local training events at UvA:
  - Course of Academic English for UvA ESRs and urbanHIST project researchers. How to write scientific texts. (15 May – 30 June)
  - Open Lecture about Historic Urban Landscape in 20th Century Amparo de Urbina González. Universidad Externado de Colombia (9 May)
  - Seminar Housing in Spain in Francoist period "Obra Sindical del Hogar". Dir. María Castrillo Romón / IUU researchers (23 May)
  - Paris. International Colloquium: Recits de Ville. USAGES DE L'HISTOIRE ET CHANGEMENT URBAIN. Organized by Labex Futurs Urbains (Université Paris-Est, UrbanHIST APO) and Instituto Universitario de Urbanística (UvA), 6-7 June
- urbanHIST local training events at UPJŠ:
  - individual research stays and field work, tailor-made according to ESR research needs
  - Academic Writing Course – individual form, focused on self-correction techniques in academic format
- urbanHIST local training events at BTH:
  - Higher seminar, Adam Górká, Marcelo Sagot Better and Ksenija Krsmanović presented their research
  - Methodology course for ESRs

#### JUNE 2019

- urbanHIST Management Meeting in Paris

#### JULY-AUGUST 2019

- urbanHIST (mostly) on vacation :)
- Publication of urbanHIST Newsletter 10
- Organising and preparing 2nd urbanHIST Conference by BTH team

## Network-Wide Workshop Week VI Meeting in Stockholm

Stockholm, Sweden / 24 – 26 October 2019

Last time I organized a workshop was in October 2017, my concern then was how to handle "Swedish fika" and the windy weather in Karlskrona, this time I had to meet some other challenges. Luckily, I was not alone, besides from coordinators, directors and ESRs I had my companions, Kristian, Tobias and of course Nemo.

How do I plan a workshop in a place that I have never been to? I mean I have been in Stockholm but not at Hotel Hilton Slussen. It took 64 e-mails, back and forth, to get everything right and eventually it went through.

After spending three days at the Conference "Interpreting 20th Century European Urbanism" we were ready for NWWW 6, maybe a little bit tired, but still. This time the focus was on Thesis Defence Training and Career Options and we had great help from our Advisory Board and Partner Organisations, thank you! It is quite complicated to do a Ph.D. in three years at two different universities, especially since the two universities are located in two different countries. In the beginning of this project we tried our best to figure this out and it took some time but after a while we had agreed upon 15 individual agreements - Cotutelle. In these agreements we determine the rules and regulations for each and everyone of the ESR.

For this NWWW we also had invited prof. Jan-Evert Nilsson from Blekinge Institute of Technology who gave a very appreciated lecture in European Housing Policy, a complex historical process formed by many historical accidents where economic growth, individual preferences and freedom for the rich and the poor are some of the main aspects in the complexity of Housing Policy. Hope you all had a pleasant and fruitful week in Stockholm and see you in Valladolid in February, but before that I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Annica Skytt  
BTH Local Coordinator



Photo by Annica Skytt

## urbanHIST Early Stage Researchers Colloquium V in Košice

Košice / 9 September 2019

The colloquium took place at the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice on 9 September 2019. The introductory speech and presentation of the agenda by Local Director (LD) prof. Pekár was followed by the main part of the colloquium, consisting of presentations by 3 ESRs from UPJŠ - Agnès Dudych, Adam Górká and Ondřej Jirásek. They presented the status of their research, more specifically past and upcoming academic activities, research progress and timeframe. Each presentation was followed by evaluation comments of respective supervisors and the LD.

After discussion of individual researches, the agenda continuously passed to the topic of formal conditions that must be fulfilled by ESRs in order to submit and subsequently defend their doctoral thesis. Primarily, the ECTS credit system was discussed and how many credits are needed. All ESRs need to fulfill especially the research part by publishing the research results. Within the colloquium, Local Coordinator Mgr. Hajduková informed about



further activities in urbanHIST project including details of travel and stay during the Stockholm conference and workshop week, information about the next webinar with doc. Otčenášová and the lecture and workshop with dr. Roubal, about academic writing course or article requirements for the next newsletter releases. Finally, administrative issues were addressed.

Ondřej Jirásek  
Early Stage Researcher

## Contemporary Trends in the Management of Historic Centres in Europe and Latin America

Valladolid, Spain / May 2019



The scientific seminar addressed some aspects of the current state of the discussions on the management of historic centres in Latin America, in contrast to those developed in Europe throughout the 20th century.

The perspective was twofold: on the one hand, to look for possible coincidences or differences between some cases and others, and on the other hand, the growing criticism that, in the Latin American sphere, is being level-

VIERNES del  
INSTITUTO  
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DE URBANÍSTICA

Conference

**"Contemporary Trends  
of Historic City Centers  
Management in Europe  
and Latin America"**

AMPARO DE URBINA  
Universidad Externado de  
Colombia

Thursday, May 9, 2019  
12:30

Sala de Reuniones - ETSAV



in general, and those of material conservation of the architectural heritage. A built heritage whose structures are increasingly deteriorated, with the added problem of the complexity of the socio-economic context.

The historic center is exposed to tertiarization processes, characteristic of an area of urban centrality, but with the particularity that these processes are developed on urban structures that were not conceived to house commercial activities and services. In the case of Bogotá, this situation has affected the integrity of the patrimonial goods compromising their general physical state. Given that the reference parameter is the external aspect, the facades, the internal processes of deterioration of the buildings, in relation to the parameters of occupation of the same, develop slowly, and are difficult to detect.

The basic objective of the presentation of the Bogotá case was to raise a discussion on the real impact that protection regulations have had and can have on protected properties themselves, both in historic European and American urban centres, given that the comparison between cases is a cross-cutting issue of interest to both regions.

Amparo de Urbina  
Faculty of Social and Human Sciences,  
Universidad Externado de Colombia

led at the importation of European paradigms for the management of its urban heritage.

In the event, the case of the historic center of Bogotá was presented, as well as the impact of urban policies

# International Colloquium Histories of City: Narration and Application of History in Urban Change

Ivry-sur-Seine, France / 6 – 7 June 2019

The international colloquium "Relatos de Ciudad: Narración y Usos de la Historia en el Cambio Urbano" (Histories of City: Narration and Application of History in Urban Change), was organized jointly by the Transversal Group "Usages de l'histoire et devenirs urbains" of the LABEX Futurs Urbains (Université Paris-Est, France) and the Instituto Universitario de Urbanística of the University of Valladolid, and took place in Ivry-sur-Seine (France) on 6th and 7th of June 2019. The main goal of this colloquium was to open a discussion about the creation of narrations based on political goals and interests, social perception and interpretation about cities planning history.

During the colloquium there were presented interesting papers, questioning different narrations which led to the development of fruitful methodology and conclusions. The importance of this topic can be related both to understanding the cities' changing at certain historical moment, as well as, to better comprehension of contemporary urban planning history.

I found this colloquium useful for my thesis, as I could discuss the topic related to the use of ideological discourse in technological development of public transport system. The topic was about the interchange of ideas about transport planning between Capitalist and Communist Europe through the conferences of International Union of Public Transport. In this historical narration about the socialist city, technology was a political tool to demonstrate the power and development of communist countries. But also, it is political narration to support the idea of modern city which was never achieved during that period.

Apart from this official part, the Colloquium was accompanied by interesting visit to the new urban centre of residential district Ivry-sur-Seine, which was constructed as social housing project in the 1970s. Finally, one of the inspirational visits for me was also to the Louvre museum (Fig. 1).

Elvira Khairullina  
Early Stage Researcher



La Victoire de Samothrace | Photo by Elvira Khairullina

# Seminar Housing in Spain in Francoist period: the Obra Sindical del Hogar in Castilla y León

Valladolid, Spain / 23 May 2019

Among the many institutions created in Spain during the Francoist period for the real estate development of housing subsidized by the State, the "Trade Union's Work of the Home and Architecture" (Obra Sindical del Hogar y Arquitectura, hereinafter OSH) was one of the earliest and with a greater scope in terms of residential production. From its creation in 1939 until its dismantling in 1977, the OSH developed more than 140,000 homes distributed throughout Spain.

urbanHIST researchers group at the University Institute of Urban Planning (Instituto Universitario de Urbanística, IUU) of the University of Valladolid (S. Cantero, M. Castrillo, M. Fernández, M. Jiménez, V. Pérez, E. Rodrigo and L. Santos), taking part in a Spain extent study launched by Carlos Sambricio and Ricardo Sánchez Lampreave, carried out, during the first half of 2019, research on the OSH's housing production and estates in the nine provinces that now constitute the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León.

A seminar dedicated to the OSH in this region held on 23 May 2019 at the School of Architecture of Valladolid, organized by the project urbanHIST and the IUU, allowed the dissemination and discussion of some of the first results of that research. It was showed that the OSH was the first real estate



developer to achieve significant results in the field of social housing in the region, in despite of the controversial and propagandistic character of its actions. Luis Santos analysed the case of Yagüe neighbourhood (Bur-

gos); Marina Jiménez the set of OSH housing groups gathered in the Ensanche Este de Ávila; Enrique Rodrigo, the housing group "Ramiro Ledesma" (Segovia) and Miguel Fernández, "XXV years of peace" (Valladolid).

VIERNES del  
INSTITUTO  
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DE URBANÍSTICA

Conference  
Housing in Spain in Francoist  
period: The "Obra Sindical  
del Hogar" in Castilla y León

MARÍA CASTRILLO ROMÓN  
(Coordinator)

LUIS SANTOS Y GANGES  
(Burgos)

MARINA JIMÉNEZ JIMÉNEZ  
(Ávila)

ENRIQUE RODRIGO GONZÁLEZ  
(Segovia)

MIGUEL FERNÁNDEZ MAROTO  
(Valladolid)

Thursday 23 May 2019  
12:00

Sala de Reuniones - ETSAV



The debate was so alive and exciting that it would be worth opening the subject to the whole urbanHIST consortium.

María Castrillo Romón  
UVa Local Director

SEPTEMBER 2019

- urbanHIST PhD Colloquium V at UPJŠ

OCTOBER 2019

- 2nd urbanHIST Conference (Interpreting 20th Century European Urbanism), Stockholm, Sweden, 21-23 October 2019
- NWWW VI meeting (Network-Wide Workshop Week VI), Stockholm, Sweden, 23-26 October 2019

## PRESENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER – MARCH 2020

- urbanHIST local training events at BUW:
  - PhD Colloquium, January 2020
- urbanHIST local training events at UVa:
  - November 2019 – May 2020: Academic English Writing Course for Human and Social Sciences
  - November 2019 – May 2020: General English course /or/ General Spanish Course
  - January – February 2020: Organization NWWW VII
  - Seminar "Housing and urban planning in the Francoist dictatorship (1936-1977): historical perspectives" Two sessions March & April 2020
  - urbanHIST PhD Seminar at UVa: "Dialogues on the history of European urbanism of the twentieth century". Four Sessions of Lectures, each one organised by one UVa ESR with his/her invited lecturer, March to June 2020
- urbanHIST local training events at UPJŠ:
  - 26 November 2019 – tailor-made lecture by PhDr. Slávka Otčenášová, MA., PhD. (Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice; Seconded National Expert at the European Research Council Executive Agency) on Postdoc Research and Funding Opportunities
  - 11-12 December 2019 – lectures by dr Petr Roubal (Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences): 1) Architects under Party Dictatorship: Prague State-Socialist Urban Planning, 2) Architects in the Neo-Liberal Order: Prague Post-Communist Urban Planning
  - Academic Writing Course (native speaker) – group form, focused on self-correction techniques in academic format and presentation skills
  - General English Course (native speaker) for UPJŠ employees focused on speaking skills
  - urbanHIST PhD Colloquium VI at UPJŠ

FEBRUARY 2020

- NWWW VII at UVa (10-13 February 2020)

SPRING 2020

- End of contracting period for the first cohort of Early Stage Researchers, planned submission of the first urbanHIST dissertation theses

# Research Stay in Paris

Paris, France / May 2019



Photo by Agnès Dudych



Photo by Agnès Dudych

*king and Re-Making of Europe: 1919–2019*, the aim of which was to address issues on how to discuss and remember main dates of 20th-century history. At this occasion, prof. Martin Pekár from UPJŠ had a presentation on the panel *Re-makings of Europe: legacies on display*, focusing on the different media which help to address these crucial historical dates. This stay allowed me to broaden my knowledge on my research topic and the conferences I had the chance to attend have brought me new questions and approaches to address in my research journey.

Agnès Dudych  
Early Stage Researcher

In May 2019, I had the opportunity to spend some research time in Paris to access sources and books of French, English and Slovak literature. The stay helped me to deepen my knowledge of French and Czechoslovak housing policies as well as learn about specific housing estates construction. I could improve my thesis chapters and extend the list of literature for my future writing. I took the occasion of being in Paris to visit the College de France to attend several lectures closely related to my research subject (three lectures given by Jean-Louis Cohen titled *Le Corbusier: paysages pour l'âge de la machine*, and two by Andrew Abbott titled *Faits et valeurs*). I also attended the European Remembrance Symposium dedicated to *The Ma-*



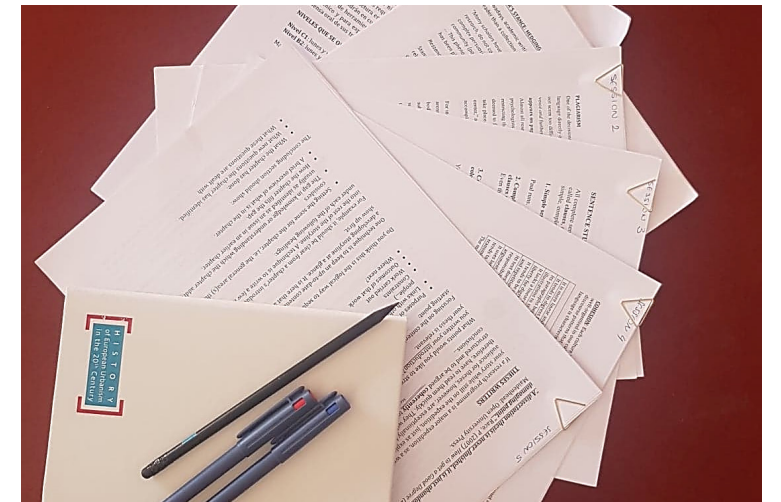
Photo by Agnès Dudych

# A Report on Academic English Course at UVa

From May 15th this year, Marina, Laura, Elvira, Miguel, Noel, Federico and I started attending a course of Academic English organized by Doctorate School at University of Valladolid. Marta Fernandez, the course lecturer, had organized interactive seminars that were focusing on English language dynamics and usages applied on academic texts. Hence, the course was particularly designed for doctorate researchers, with an aim to advance and ease the process of academic writing both for academic papers and doctoral thesis. During the course sessions, we were focusing on the usage of reporting verbs, grammar, structure of sentences, cohesion or text flow, transitions within the text, and verb usage. Thus, we learned about frequent problems in academic writing and exercised together how to polish the written text

and make the main message clearer for future readers. Additionally, one of the sessions was dedicated to plagiarism and paraphrasing as a common issue when engaging with sources. The goal was to offer a way to easily distinguish author's voice from the data obtained by using sources, and to deepen the author's argument. Overall, I would say that the course of Academic English was more than useful for all of us, as we were tackling challenges that most of non-native English language users face when writing an academic text. The exercises done, Marta's tips and explanations we obtained during the May and June sessions encouraged us to enter the 'writing phase' of our research and a final phase of the urbanHIST project.

Ksenija Krsmanović  
Early Stage Researcher



Course materials | Photo by Ksenija Krsmanović

# Reflections about Housing Beyond the State Stockholm Track

Stockholm, Sweden / 21 – 23 October 2019

By the end of October 2019, the urbanHIST network celebrated their second open conference "Interpreting 20th Century European Urbanism" in Stockholm, Sweden. Organized mainly by the Early Stage Researchers, we proposed panels about the main subjects we are working on, opening them to the academic community and entering in contact with researchers working in related topics.

In my case, I had the honor to co-chair the panel I proposed, "Housing Beyond the State" with José Luis Oyón, professor at the Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña with a long trajectory of research about working class housing and informal urbanization.

The panel was conceived as a pan-european historical approach to the phenomena of residential informality. Different researchers showed both housing self-help process and State efforts to regulate them from the end of XIX century to current times. Although we had some management issues – the session was finally split in two due to timetable reasons - the different interventions provoked a big number of questions from the participants. The expected result was to see emerge structural elements in this dialectical relationship through the history. However, at least from my point of view, it did not really happen.

There can be several reasons to explain it. Some of them would be contextual. People with different backgrounds – architecture, history, anthropology, geography - fieldworks – Russia, Spain, France, Italy and Portugal - and different angles of approach to the subject, would have needed much more time to really build bridges and elaborate common visions about the subject.

Some others would be, however, related to the session topic. Although "residential informality" is a "hot topic" with an increasing number of researches all around the world, one of the main challenges of the existing literature is to draw clear boundaries to this global phenomenon. Inherently dependant on the legal and policy contexts that see them rise, although very similar in their basic characteristics, it seems to be extremely difficult to understand them in a comparative, diachronical way.

All in all, as in Spain we say, "the trees should not impede you to see the whole forest". The contextual path-dependence elements do not signify that this "global phenomena" do not deserve a "global approach". Although making micro-history analysis compatible with a world-region approach – to write European planning history - is a challenge for all us, it is the only way to fully understand the complexity of a global system which is – and for

sure was - interdependent. Both in their lights – the intellectual and institutional systems that allowed the construction of the European "modelical" cities - and in their shadows – the classism and racism that systematically erased

the urban traces of the populations that contributed with their own hands to build such "success".

Noel Manzano  
Early Stage Researcher



Photo by Noel Manzano

# Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Košice

Interesting projects, curious researchers, teamwork and a drive to do a good thing – all of this is the Institute of Social Sciences, operating as a part of the Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Košice (Slovakia)

The unobtrusive two-storey building in the centre of Košice does not catch the attention of the casual visitor at all – unless you consider the colour of the walls. However, it is a treasure house of many interesting scientific findings, professional publications, researchers keen on discoveries, discussing various topics including history, psychology or sociology – welcome to the Institute of Social Sciences, the Department of the Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Košice, Slovakia.

## Historical highlights

The idea to establish an institute for social sciences in the eastern part of Slovakia first appeared before 1970; however, the activities of the Institute officially started only on 1 January 1975. Then, the Institute operated the staff of 18 scientists, researching mainly political, social, economic and cultural processes in

the territory of East Slovakia in the period after 1945. The Institute has been an interdisciplinary unit ever since. Teams of scientists and researchers from various fields have been established – these dealt with issues of ethnicity and youth. First, the priority was the status of the Hungarian and Ukrainian ethnic groups in the post-1948 era, as well as the scientific research of Gypsy families. Later, scientific and research teams representing various scientific disciplines, such as history, social psychology and sociology gained shape. After 1989, the scientific and research activities have gained a broader space to operate: the conditions of international cooperation, research projects as well as international work and publishing activities have improved. In the second half of the 1990s, the Institute became a significant scientific and research institution aimed at interdisciplinary research of ethnic relationships – especially the is-

suues of ethnic minorities and the social and psychological studies of behaviour strategies in demanding situations. The current scientific activities of the Institute – reacting also to the current social problems, such as the perception of security, the development of ethnic minority relationships in Slovakia, Roma issues, cross-border relationships, the educational system, attitudes and values of the inhabitants, etc. – are also connected to this field.

Improving the multidisciplinary aspect In 2015, the Institute of Social Sciences and further two institutes – the Institute for Forecasting and the Institute of Experimental Psychology – became part of the Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as



Our team „Standard deviations“ at St. Nicholas run | Photo by Zuzana Kožárová



Collective photo from colloquium | Photo by Klara Kohoutová

the Centre). Due to this organisational change, the multidisciplinary aspect of the research performed by the Institute has broadened – this is one of the strengths of the Centre. As a result, psychology, economy, history and environmental sociology met under one roof, allowing us to solve various domestic and international multidisciplinary projects, to create new scientific teams or forms of cooperation. A further outcome was also a more intense cooperation with universities and research institutes both in Slovakia and abroad, as well as with various public authorities, especially the Government Office of the Slovak Republic and numerous ministries of the Slovak Republic, helping the implementation of projects reflecting the current needs of society.

The Centre – including the Institute of Social Sciences – allows students of social and professional psychology, general and experimental psychology, history of Slovakia, public policy and administration to continue their studies in postgraduate education. Under the auspices of the Institute, more than 60 students have successfully finished their PhD studies; some of them are active at various universities or at the Slovak Academy of Sciences itself. One of them is Mgr. Denisa Fedáková, PhD,

the current director of the Centre, a psychologist specialising in balancing career and family life, Slovak coordinator of a significant international project, the European Social Survey and author of various publications, a sportswoman and a happy mum of two university students.

Some of our past research results The aforementioned international project, the European Social Survey – one of the most significant long-term projects, running since 2004 – covers a significant part of the activities of the psychologists working at the Institute. It focuses primarily on measuring and monitoring the attitudes and values of people living in European countries. A further interdisciplinary empirical survey, implemented not only by historians, but also by psychologists and sociologists of the Centre, is the project entitled "Ethnic Relationship Development Tendencies in Slovakia" (a comparative survey of ethnic issues between 2004 and 2020). The Institute of Social Sciences, in cooperation with the Institute for Forecasts, participated also in the project entitled "Changing discourses, changing practices – the Roma as Human Resource (RARE)", implemented as part of the Interreg Danube

Transnational Programme, with the aim to analyse the labour market situation of the Roma people and to create innovative models to improve their labour market integration. The Institute has compiled practical recommendations for the respective entities of the Slovak and Ukrainian decision-making spheres, utilising the best practices of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, which was one of the outputs of the international survey entitled "Through innovations to effective cooperation", implemented with the support of the EEA Grants and Norway Grants. As a partner in the urbanHIST project, the Slovak Academy of Sciences hosted two Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) – Aliaksandr Shuba and Federico Camerin – who took advantage of discussing their theses with our scientists. Moreover, in December 2018, a colloquium of PhD students was held at the Institute – during this, both students presented their works with our internal PhD students. The details of the aforementioned projects, as well as numerous other projects are available at the website of the Institute: [www.svusav.sk](http://www.svusav.sk).

Lectures popularising the Institute held during and beyond the Science and Technology Week, scientific cafe discussions, the school roadshow, seminars and other activities for the public are only a fraction of the activities performed by the staff members and PhD students in addition to their regular work. Regularly held non-scientific activities, aimed at supporting healthy working conditions and the team spirit of the Institute are possible only due to our great team of especially good-hearted people with a sense of humour. Therefore, you may meet members of the staff of the Institute of Social Sciences at blood donations, at the Santa Claus runs, at the breakfasts held at the Institute or at theatre performances. And, believe it or not, we are looking forward to our next meeting – the traditional Christmas sauerkraut soup party.

Anna Kalistová  
Head of the ISS CSPA SAS



Entrance hall of ISS CSPA SAS | Photo by Klara Kohoutová



Collective photo at the stairs of our building | Photo by Marek Lukacko

# Continuity/Rupture? Art and Architecture in Central Europe 1918-1938

How did the social and cultural elites of central Europe respond to the political upheavals that took place at the end of the First World War? More specifically, how did artists and architects react to the new political realities of the period after 1918?

These are the basic questions addressed by the ERC-funded project Continuity / Rupture? Art and Architecture in Central Europe 1918-1938 (<https://craace.com>), which explores the fate of the visual arts in three states: Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary in the 1920s and 1930s. The answer to these deceptively simple questions is not straightforward. Indeed, our understanding of the history of art and architecture of this period has been shaped by roader histories of the states in questions, the aim of which was often to legitimise the course of events after 1918. Hence, histories of the visual arts in Czechoslovakia, for example, have foregrounded interwar avant-garde and modernist currents, since they serve the image of the state as a liberal and progressive polity. In Hungary and Austria, attention has, until recently, been mostly paid to exiles, such as László Moholy Nagy, Oskar Kokoschka and Lajos Kassák,

or to projects such as the communal architecture of 'Red Vienna', all of which reflects ambivalence over political currents after 1918.

*Continuity/Rupture* challenges this historiographic picture, pointing towards the much more complex situation of interwar central Europe. Even if avant-garde currents transformed much of the cultural map, the memory of the Habsburg Empire was not so quickly forgotten. Not only did Catholicism, for example, provide the foundation of alternative aesthetic visions, even supposedly progressive figures proved unable to draw a line under the past. Hence, projects in 'Red Vienna' such as Hubert Gessner's Reumannhof (1924-26) were criticised for their conservative design that bore echoes of the architecture of the Ringstrasse. In Czechoslovakia and Hungary some of the most striking examples of modern architecture were churches, such as St. Wenceslas

in Prague-Vršovice by Josef Gočar (1929) or the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Budapest-Városmajor by Bertalan and Aladár Árkay (1933). Alongside the metropolitan avant-garde, vernacular modernisms were explored in regional art centres, such as Salzburg, Košice and Kecskemét. While new national political boundaries were erected, transnational artistic networks persisted, maintaining the memory of the shared cultural space of the defunct Habsburg monarchy.

Our project, which continues until 2023, thus critiques the common opposition between avant-garde and tradition that has marked much historiography of twentieth-century art and architecture, as well as challenging the histories of interwar modernism that have tended to rely on the nation state as their primary frame of reference.

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Bertalan and Aladár Árkay, The Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Budapest-Városmajor (1933)  
Photo credit Matthew Rampley



Hubert Gessner, The Reumannhof Housing Estate, Vienna (1924-1926) | Photo credit Matthew Rampley

