

# urbanHIST Newsletter

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12 PAGES

NOT FOR SALE



## Interview with BTH Local Coordinator Annica Johansson

Do not miss our interview with Annica Johansson, the main contact person for Partner Organisations and Advisory Board concerning coordinating their travel activities

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## Introducing Two More of Our Partner Organizations

In this issue we are introducing two more of our partner organizations involved in urbanHIST - Politecnico di Milano (Italy) and The Institute of Contemporary History (Czech Republic)

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# Network-Wide Workshop Week IV Meeting & Young urban(H)IST Conference in Košice

Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia / 1 – 5 October 2018

The fourth network-wide workshop meeting in line of all-consortium meetings was organised in Slovakia on 1 – 5 October 2018 by the Department of History, Faculty of Arts of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University.

Such meetings form an essential component of the urbanHIST project implementation. One-week long programme comprised all-consortium activities, including the beneficiaries, partner organisations, members of Advisory Board and this time, also the representatives of European Commission. It must be said that for most members of the consortium, this was a first-time visit to Košice, so the Košice team had started preparing the event for our guests well in advance.

Apart from the traditional components of the week (project management meetings, discussion on the current implementation status and open tasks, training and educational activities for ESRs or the popular ESR Night), the NWWW IV certainly had its

“highlights” and we would like to remind you of some:

- the keynote lecture on Monday, 1 October 2018, with the guest speaker prof. Peter A. Clark (University of Helsinki) - *European Cities in Comparative Perspective*;
- Young urban(H)IST conference, 1 – 2 October 2018, with 23 active participants in two parallel sessions;
- evening guided tour on a historic bus ŠKODA RTO, 3 October 2018, *Košice Housing Estates at Night*;
- the Midterm Review Meeting with representatives of EC, 4 - 5 October 2018;
- the interactive exhibition of 20th century Slovak history, 5 October 2018.

From the above mentioned, the Young urban(H)IST Conference deserves a special paragraph, as it was for the

first time that the scientific results and research progress of all 15 ESRs got to be presented in front of international academic audience. The 8th annual conference of this kind, i.e. intended primarily for young historians and doctoral students was held on 1 - 2 October 2018. However, this year's Meeting of Young Historians was a bit different from the previous years. The conference was designed primarily for Early Stage Researchers in urban history and its organization was linked to the implementation of the urbanHIST project. The main organizer of this event was the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ in Košice. The special feature of this year was the keynote guest lecture by the British historian prof. Peter A. Clark (University of Helsinki) *European Cities in Comparative Perspective*. The ceremonial opening of the conference took place in the beautiful Historic Aula of the UPJŠ Rectorate Building, in the presence of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, prof. PhDr. Olga Orosová, CSc., the Head of the Department of History prof. PaedDr. Martin

Pekár, PhD. and also urbanHIST project directors at participating universities. The conference was actively attended by 23 young researchers from several European and non-European countries. The event was held in two parallel sessions, with commentators from different areas of research. Their role was to critically evaluate the presented contributions in accordance with the conference objectives, which is constructive discussion and providing feedback to help develop the presentation and professional skills of PhD. students.

We believe you all enjoyed the meeting as much as the Košice team. Pavol Jozef Šafárik University is looking forward to hosting the urbanHIST consortium again in spring 2019, for the Network-Wide Workshop Week V.

For more information see: <https://www.urbanhist.eu/reference>

Katarína Hajduková  
UPJŠ Local Coordinator

Patrícia Fogelová  
UPJŠ Management Support Team

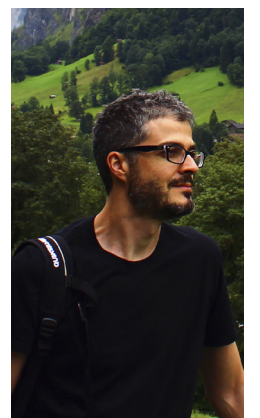


Photo credit  
Alvaro Sevilla Buitrago

## Planning History as Critical Design

*Given my background as a planner and designer, my interest in history is driven by the urge to understand how our urban present has become possible, and the prospect that a proper critical reappraisal of the past may help us build alternative city futures. Any form of history, of course, is a judgment on the past in the name of contemporary aspirations. But planning history can also be immediately productive if it shows designers and policy-makers that the techniques, models and procedures they use are all but innocent. A critical genealogy may reveal their role in the formation of spatial grammars and meanings that current design and governance practices take for granted. It can also unearth alternative paths implicit in former planning imaginations, and resuscitate social life forms that planning destroyed—concepts and regimes that could help solve certain contemporary urban predicaments. History, in that sense, can be regarded as a form of design—historical narratives shape the past and in so doing they contribute to change the present and delineate the future. The type of transdisciplinary, transnational collective research fostered by the urbanHIST project constitutes the best conceivable platform to approach that challenge with a polyphonic perspective suited to the multifaceted problematic of urban Europe.*

Álvaro Sevilla Buitrago  
Universidad Politécnica  
de Madrid



Photo by Lukáš Katriňák



Photo by Lukáš Katriňák

## urbanHIST Calendar

### PAST ACTIVITIES

#### JULY 2018

- urbanHIST participation at the IPHS Yokohama 2018 Conference "Looking at the World History of Planning" (14 - 19 July 2018). Panel proposal: "The Formation of Planning Historiography Patterns in European and International Writings (19th-20th c.)". Participants: AB Member Eliana Perotti (panel submission); LD UVA María Castrillo, ESRs: Helene Bihlmaier, Susanna Weddige (papers)
- Publication of urbanHIST newsletter 6

#### JULY - AUGUST 2018

- Preparation of urbanHIST Midterm Report and Mid-term Review Meeting

#### AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2018

- urbanHIST participation at the EAUH Rome 2018 Conference "Urban Renewal and Resilience. Cities in Comparative Perspective" (29 August - 01 September 2018). Session proposals: (LD) Martin Pekár: "Old and New Industrial Cities: Rise, Fall and Resurgence in a Global Perspective"; (supervisor) Petr Roubal and (PD) Max Welch Guerra: "A parallel story? Urban Renewal in East and West". ESRs participants: Azmah Arzmi, Federico Camerin, Ksenija Krsmanovic, Agnès Dudych, Aliaksandr Shuba, Marcelo Sagot Better, Ondřej Jirásek, Jovana Vukčević (with some of their supervisors)

#### SEPTEMBER 2018

- urbanHIST local training events and PhD. Colloquia for seconded researchers at individual beneficiaries UVA:

- HISTORY AND THE URBAN CONDITION I: IMPRINTS: Ph.D. Seminar (involving teaching in English) between two University Research Institutes: Instituto Universitario de Urbanística and Instituto Universitario de Historia Simancas ("Encounters I+I")

BTH:

- Planning Theory PhD - Higher Seminar including examination

UPJŠ:

- individual training and consultations with supervisors

- Participation at local Researchers' Night Event in Košice - team UPJŠ (28 September 2018)

- The completion of a 6-month secondment at the second university for all ESRs within the double degree scheme

# urbanHIST Training Activities – Outdoor Exhibition about European History of the 20th Century in Slovakia

Košice, Slovakia / 5 October 2018



Photo by Lukáš Katriňák

On 5 October 2018, the interactive exhibition "History is Made by You!" took place in the campus of the Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. The event was organized by the Department of History of the Faculty of Arts in cooperation with the State Archive in Košice and the Slovak Technical Museum. By its form and partially also the content, it has been a continuation of successful two annual interactive exhibitions entitled "Who Will Be the Next?" (organised in 2016 and 2017).

This year's exhibition was organized as an output activity of a similarly titled project under the VVGS (Internal Scientific Grant System) scheme, implemented at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University. At the same time, it was an accompanying event of the University's official Open Doors Day and a part of the urbanHIST NWWW IV. The organising team of the exhibition included the colleagues from the Department of History - 2 assistant professors and 6 PhD. students, some of whom are also members of urbanHIST support

team at UPJŠ. Last but not least, 25 students of the Department helped with the exhibition as well.

The exhibition presented seven themes focused on the significant years in the history of Slovakia in the 20th century and the key events associated with them. The events of 1918, 1938, 1948, 1968, 1988 and 1989 were approached. However, for the visitor, the significance of the current year of 2018 remained as a question yet to be answered. The exhibition was compiled more contextually, and introduced the

causes and consequences of selected historical milestones in the political, economic, cultural and social life. Each thematic unit consisted of 8 panels on which the material of different origins was displayed, from photographs, through selected archival documents, to periodical prints, advertising and film posters. More than 600 items were presented and the material was provided mostly by the State Archive in Košice. Four historic vehicles borrowed from the Collections of the Air Force and Transportation Museum in Košice, an extended branch of the Slovak Technical Museum, complemented the displayed items of the exhibition. One of the interactive parts of the exhibition were the students in historical costumes, who represented "live narrators" of the exhibited material.

The exhibition had several objectives. The first line was the commemoration of the key historical milestones in the history of Slovakia in the 20th century, through the "live" interpretation of the exhibited material. The second line was to interpret the idea that history is not necessarily made up of "great" and well-known personalities from different spheres, but that it was formed by less known or even unknown individuals, their decisions, attitudes, or everyday life reality. The third objective was to present the work of historians and the study not only at the Department of History, but also at the Faculty of Arts and the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University as such.

Mikuláš Jančura  
Department of History, FA, UPJŠ in Košice

## I+I Seminar in Valladolid – IMPRINTS

Valladolid, Spain / 7 September 2018



Photo by David Navarro

On 7 September 2018, the four ESRs involved at UVA for the six-month secondment participated in a doctoral seminar called I+I: Imprints. The event was a collaboration between two academic institutions from University of Valladolid: our 'Instituto de Urbanística' and the 'Instituto Simancas' which belongs to the Faculty of History. This was the first of a series of events focused on sharing ongoing researches within each institution, all of them with the common interest on the built environment. With background in pre-modern history, the doctoral students from 'Instituto Simancas' were sharing with us their investigations focused on Middle Ages Castilian cities. On the one hand, two researches were about Mozarab imprints on Spanish middle towns and, on the other hand, the third one was

focused on how urban environments were used as scenario for middle age funerary rituals. One after other, we were presenting our communication in a restricted time of twenty minutes. Afterwards, as closure, a small debate was opened, and some interesting questions came up.

Although interchanging experiences with other scholars is always enriching, I must admit that, while the trigger of the investigations was shared -the city-, the distance between topics and approaches was considerable. In my opinion, this situation opens a further interesting debate about the way of communicating research: shall we adapt it according to different audiences?

Andrea Gimeno Sánchez  
Early Stage Researcher

# urbanHIST at 18th International Planning History Society (IPHS) Conference – Looking at the World History of Planning

Yokohama, Japan / 15 – 19 July 2018

“Looking at the World History of Planning” was announced as the overall theme of the 18th Conference organized by the *International Planning History Society* (IPHS). The conference took place in July 2018 in Yokohama, Japan. A close link can be observed between the main topic of the conference and Carola Hein’s recent publication *The Routledge Handbook of Planning History* (2017). Since many IPHS council members contributed to the Planning History Handbook, both, the conference and the publication reflect the Society’s idea to overcome national borders and to involve scholars from other world regions to contribute to a global approach in planning history. Thus, a

noticeable interest was paid to give East Asian scholars a stage to present their research and keynote speeches revolved around Japanese planning history topics. Furthermore, a pre-symposium in Japanese was staged as a special feature and outreach activity for the locals.

Beside keynote speeches, round tables and book talks, 75 panels were held for three days, discussing the history of planning with many different approaches. Four members of the urbanHIST consortium contributed a panel on the *Formation of Planning Historiography Patterns in European and International Writings (19th-20th century)*, which was well received and discussed.

Eliana Perotti introduced the session by giving a short lecture about *Glocal Historiographical Narration*, followed by three papers about *The Emergence of Historiography in Early Spanish Writings on Urban Planning (1850-1930)* (María A. Castrillo Romón), *Artistic Approach and Historiography Patterns in Early German-Language Town Planning Literature* (Susanna Weddige) and *Historiographical Patterns in Early Anglophone Town Planning Literature* (Helene Bihlmaier).

The academic program was complemented by two exhibitions on “Yokohama’s Urban Planning History and its Legacy” and the “History of the Urban Research Agency” as well as by short and one-day excursions.

The evening tours through Yokohama introduced current planning projects, regarding the important role of Yokohama in the country’s planning history as the first port of call or the city’s recent waterfront development. The whole-day excursions led to Yokohama’s suburban areas or to near Tokyo to experience the reinterpretation of historic neighbourhoods or to explore the Olympic legacy and Imperial Gardens. Overall, going to Japan was an interesting experience to rethink the European perspective of planning history.

Helene Bihlmaier, Susanna Weddige  
Early Stage Researchers

## PRESENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

### OCTOBER 2018

- NWWW IV meeting (NetworkWide Workshop Week IV), Košice (1 - 5 October 2018)
- Mid-Term Dissertation Examination at UPJŠ for ESRs Agnès Dudych and Adam Górká (1 October 2018, based on the study programme)
- Young urban(HIST) conference - History of European Urbanism in the 20th Century - Distinctive and Common Themes (1 - 2 October 2018)
- Midterm Review Meeting (4 – 5 October 2018)

### OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2018

- The third round of academic and non-academic three-month secondments at urbanHIST partner organisations
- Publication of urbanHIST Newsletter 7

### NOVEMBER 2018

- Periodic Report for the European Commission

### JANUARY 2019

- Publication of urbanHIST Newsletter 8
- Third (BTH) and Fourth (UVa) Webinar Series

### APRIL 2019

- NWWW V meeting (NetworkWide Workshop Week V), Košice (1 - 5 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)



Photo by Susanna Weddige



Photo by Susanna Weddige

# urbanHIST at the EAUH Rome 2018 Conference

Rome, Italy / 29 August – 2 September 2018

Every two years, the European Association for Urban History organises a large-scale international conference, at which European and non-European scholars discuss new directions in the field, conduct and stimulate comparative research, and initiate future collaborative projects and publications.

The 14th International Conference on Urban History with the title “Urban renewal and resilience - Cities in comparative perspective” was held from August 29 to September 2, 2018 in Rome. It was a great opportunity to present results of the urbanHIST ESRs. Contributions from eight of them were accepted. The papers of Azmah Arzmi, Agnès Dudych, Ksenija Kršmanovic, Jovana Vukčević, Marcelo Sagot Better, Aliaksandr Shuba, Federico Camerin and Ondřej Jirásek, were presented within 7 different sessions.

Also other researchers involved in urbanHIST project like Piero Sassi or Martin Pekár presented their contributions there. In addition, two sessions were organized by urbanHIST local directors and supervisors: “A parallel story? Urban Renewal in East and West” was organized by Max Welch Guerra and Petr Roubal and “Old and New Industrial Cities: Rise, Fall and Resurgence in a Global Perspective” by Martin Pekár together with Andrea Pokludová from University of Ostrava. Of course, apart from the ones mentioned above, many other representatives of urbanHIST partner organizations also participated at the conference.

Therefore, I dare say that urbanHIST was really successful and significantly contributed to the 14th EAUH conference and thus also to the discourse in the field of Urban History.

Ondřej Jirásek  
Early Stage Researcher

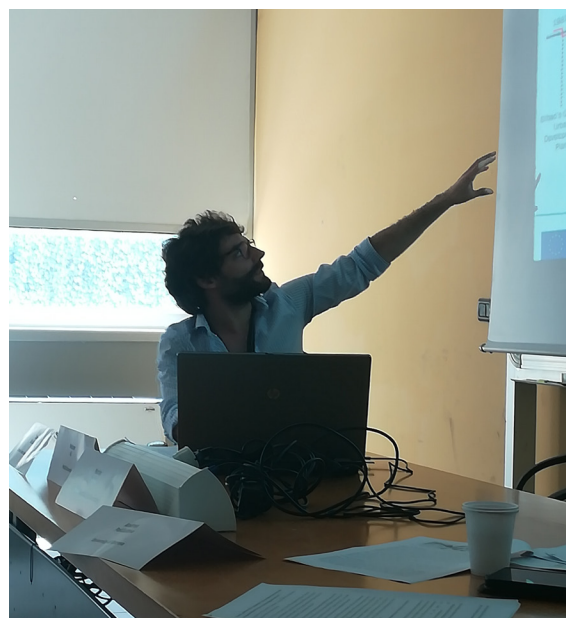


Photo by Martin Pekár



Photo by Martin Pekár

# Politecnico di Milano

The urbanHIST European Joint Doctorate constitutes a valuable occasion for the discussion and exchange within a multidisciplinary network of academic partners and non-academic institutions who share a common interest for the history of European urbanism in the 20th century.

The active discussion with the 15 PhD students and the involvement in their research activities help all of

us - emerging researchers and experienced scholars - to grasp the richness and complexity of recent research ten-

dencies and approaches and encourage the interaction between diverse methods and research practices. This fruitful exchange found in the meetings held at the beneficiary universities represent important occasions for the consolidation of a shared culture, as emerged in Weimar, Karlskrona, Valldolid and Košice.

As an academic partner, the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU) based at the Politecnico di Milano contributes to the program by providing a set of specific compe-

tences and fields of specialization, but also offering an established research structure as work environment for students seconded in Milan. The second largest Department, DAStU is the major research structure in the field of architecture and urban studies at Politecnico, and is connected with the School of Architecture Urban Planning and Construction Engineering. Established in 2016 after a process of reorganization, the new School combines the contribution of the humanities and the arts with those of technical sciences. DAStU is conceived as a structure of thematic and interdisciplinary research, where 153 academics are based and work in the fields of Architecture, Planning and Urbanism, History and Restoration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. The academic community of DAStU is deeply involved in researches on architectural and urban projects, spatial planning and territorial governance, urban policy, conservation and intervention on heritage and natural environment, historical and critical interpretation of architecture, city and territory.

At DAStU, the urbanHIST PhD candidates can benefit from the presence of three Doctoral Programs in "Architecture, Urban and Interior Design", "Preservation of Architectural Heritage", and "Urban Planning, Design and Policy" and could be involved in the series of national and international thematic seminars organized by the Department. Students could also have the possibility to work in the frame of a system of research and permanent Laboratories (Architectural Modelling / Building Analysis and Diagnostic /

CCRR-Lab – Climate Change, Risk and Resilience / Data Analysis and Cartography / Techniques for the Conservation and Management of Architectural Heritage). The quarterly journal *Territorio*, published by the Department since 1988, along with the numerous libraries and documentary funds based at the School and the Department, could offer a relevant resource for the students.

The team of scholars and professors based in Milan and involved in the urbanHIST consortium consists of architects, planners, architectural and urban historians. They have a consolidated experience in the description, history and analysis of the transformation of 20th century city and share a particular interest in the study of urban design, investigated in its contemporary and historical dimensions. Interdisciplinary research projects carried out by the Milanese team members address diverse themes and include the study of the circulation and migration of urban models, discourses and ideas over the 20th century and their translation into constructed forms, paying a particular attention to the actors and vectors of the transfer; the history of housing cultures, forms, practices and policies over the 20th century; the history of professional culture and networks, the real estate market and the building industry; the physical and social evolution of post-war Italian cities, focusing on the relationship between urban built environment and social groups living in the city.

Gaia Caramellino, Nicole De Togni  
Politecnico di Milano



Photo by Ksenija Krsmanović



Photo by Ksenija Krsmanović



Photo by Ksenija Krsmanović

# The Institute of Contemporary History

The Institute of Contemporary History (ÚSD) has been established in February 1990, that means immediately after – and in a way as a consequence – of the Velvet revolution and the collapse of the communist régime in Czechoslovakia.

Its function was to build the discipline of contemporary history (which due to the politically motivated indoctrination and manipulation with history in fact did not exist in communist Czechoslovakia) and to undertake primary research into post-1938 Czech and Czechoslovak history in the international context. Within this overall objective, the thrust of the enterprise has changed over time with the main focus of enquiry shifting from the study of key events in the political history of Czechoslovakia during the period of communist dominance, which was paramount in the first years of the Institute's existence, to a multilayered exploration of contemporary history, which includes the sociological, the everydayness and mundane, as reflected in the lives and thoughts of the ordinary man or woman in the street, the economic and, as already mentioned, the international.

The Institute of Contemporary History is an integral part of the Czech Academy of Sciences, since 2017 its director has been Prof. Miroslav Vaněk. The Institute is now structured thematically into four departments, namely Department of the History of Ideas and Conceptual History, Department of Global Conflicts and its Consequences, Department of Political

History and Department of Social and Cultural History. In parallel, there is another structure of smaller, flexible, sometimes ad hoc or temporary (now twelve) centres and research groups. Among them, especially Oral History Center (led by Petra Schindler-Wisten), Research Group on Contemporary Environmental History (led by Doubravka Olšáková) and research group on Urban History (led by Petr Roubal) are closely related to the topics of urbanHIST project. Today the staff of the Institute consists of ca fifty employees, primarily researchers but also librarians, economic and technical managers, IT experts.

A part of the Institute's remit is to organize international conferences (as was e.g. great international conference on the events of 1968 held in June of 2018), specialized seminars, and workshops. Its scholars are members of committees, field and academic councils of many universities, academies and other institutions, within and/or outside of the Czech Republic. Likewise, when called upon, the Institute cooperates with organs of state and regional administrative bodies. In terms of its role with the universities, the most extensive cooperation is with the Institute of International Studies of the Faculty of Social Sci-



Photo credit ÚSD, Photo by Jiří Hoppe and Jiří Hlaváček

ences, with the Department of Oral History – Contemporary History and Department of Political Science of the Faculty of Arts (all Charles University in Prague), with each of which the Institute has embarked on long-term joint projects.

The Institute has its own unique library of tens of thousands of volumes, which is open to the public and contains a wide collection of documents

relating to contemporary history. This resource base is constantly being added to, particularly as far as post-1989 records are concerned. The Institute also brings out sets of books periodically (hundreds during last twenty-eight years), either at its own expense or in collaboration with commercial publishers. In 1993, the Institute started publishing the field academic journal *Soudobé dějiny* [Contemporary History]; since 2013, the English version – *Czech Journal of Contemporary History* – has been available as well. In addition, the Institute works in tandem with similarly oriented foreign institutions, with some of which indeed it has long-term cooperative agreements.

Oldřich Tůma

The Institute of Contemporary History



Photo credit ÚSD, Photo by Jiří Hoppe and Jiří Hlaváček

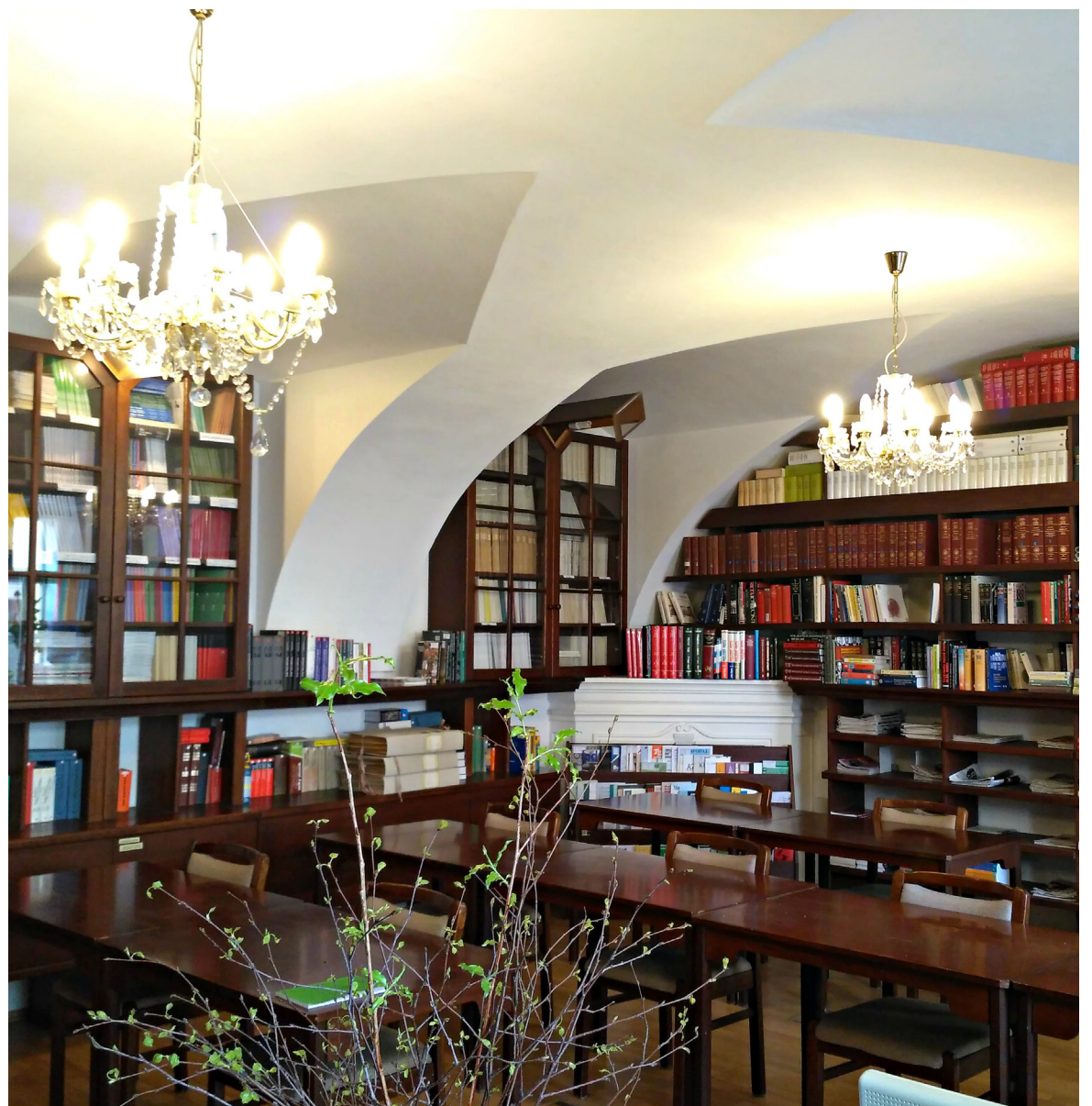


Photo credit ÚSD, Photo by Jiří Hoppe and Jiří Hlaváček

# Travelling in urbanHIST

## Interview with BTH Local Coordinator Annica Johansson

Annica Johansson, Local Coordinator at Blekinge Tekniska Högskola and the main person responsible for managing traveling activities in urbanHIST project has told us more about herself and her activities in the project.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Dear Annica, you are the Local Coordinator at BTH and the main person responsible for managing traveling activities in urbanHIST project. My first questions relate to the traveling work package. Can you describe your tasks? Also, how did you get into the urbanHIST project?

ANNICA: I started to work at the Department of Spatial Planning at Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) as a coordinator in January 2017 and at the same time as a local coordinator in this project. It was my first EU-project, I didn't know anything about EU-projects in general so of course even less about this specific project and suddenly I was responsible for a work package! I didn't know what that was. I was really confused, beneficiaries, milestones, partner organisations (PO), deliverables, advisory board (AB) and early stage researchers, what? My rescue was that I had been working as an administrator at BTH since 2009 and before that I had been a student so at least I knew the BTH organisation.

Eventually it started to make sense to me, I understood what my task was. It was to make sure that our partner organisations and our advisory board got reimbursement for their travel expenses to our NWWWs. It was harder than I expected and I didn't feel comfortable with the English language either spoken or written, and I am still working on it. Also, I was not familiar with the

wording, specific academic and subject related words that were used in the Grant Agreement – it was all new to me. But, from the very beginning I thought it was interesting and I really wanted to do this.

In detail, my task can be described like this. BTH holds the budget for travelling and urbanHIST covers travel expenses of members of our partner organisations and our advisory board members for their participation in urbanHIST events, so far NWWWs. For each journey, costs of up to 800 EUR can be compensated, however, the reimbursement is based on the real expenses. For some journeys the reimbursement is a little bit higher, like it was in the last NWWW, due to the Midterm Report Meeting. And also, for the NWWW in Stockholm, autumn 2019, in that case it's because of NWWW and conference at the same time.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Are there any specific requirements for you within the administration of traveling activities?

ANNICA: For me, it was not very easy to find a way to explain the regulations that have to come with reimbursement to the PO and AB, especially since I didn't know them myself, I had to follow EU regulations but also Swedish regulations and I was not sure of either of them. Also, it turned out that we had to manage this in two different ways, one way is doing a travel expenses reimbursement with the POs or AB home institu-



Annica Johansson | Photo by BTH



Annica's board | Photo by Annica Johansson

tion according to their national regulations which will lead to an invoice that according to BTH regulations has to be sent to our Economic Department and then I don't know when it arrives or even if it will arrive. The problem with this is that I, before the reimbursement can be done, have to create a purchase order, otherwise the Economic Department will not pay the invoice, a little bit like Catch 22. Also because of the fact that reimbursement only can be done after the journey, otherwise I could do the purchase order in advance. The other way to do it is if the PO or AB reimburse themselves, in this case they have to do some paperwork themselves. First, they have to save every receipt, voucher and boarding pass and send to me by regular post. According to Swedish regulation, scanned copies are not enough, then they have to fill out some

forms regarding their expenses and another form with the bank account details and so on. So, it is a little bit more work for them and also, they cannot get allowance if they reimburse themselves. But for me it is nice because I often get a personal postcard with the receipts, so by now I have a collection on my bulletin board. Besides that I have the best colleagues at BTH to help me, I don't do this all by myself, I have Tobias Ericsson and Madeleine Jarltèn who back me up and I am very grateful to them. And not just my colleagues at BTH, I also have my colleagues in the project who I appreciate very much and who, unlike me, have experience and knowledge of projects from before, experiences that they share with me.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: What does the managing position of

BTH Local Coordinator mean for you personally? What are the main benefits of your position of BTH Local Coordinator? How do you evaluate the cooperation with people from other countries (for example people from the partner organizations or members of Advisory Board) or with early stage researchers involved in the project?

ANNICA: Personally, for me the project has made a huge difference in my working life, I have learned a lot, everything from regulations to culture and diversity and of course collaboration. I have also had the privilege to meet amazing early stage researchers, not just from a working point of view but as friends, too, eating apple crumble, playing football, watching Swedish movies and baking gingerbread. This is a very important part, too, when you are in this kind of project with so many things to do and so many people involved and so little time - you need some "fun time".

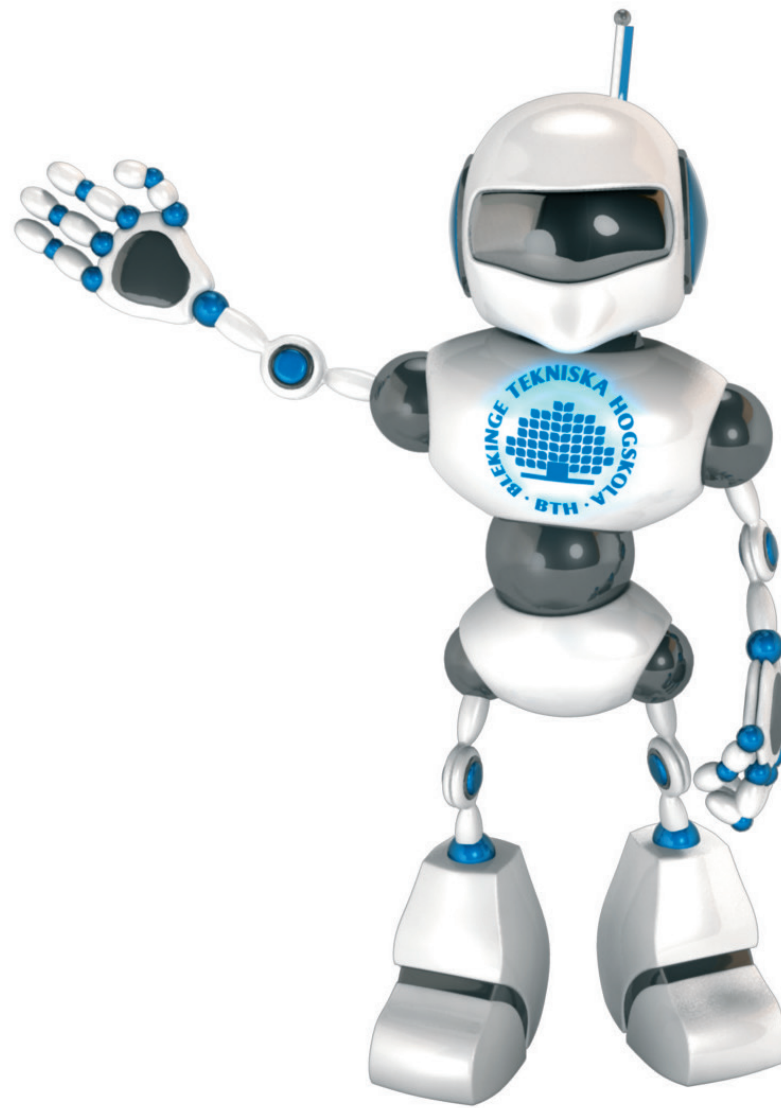
As I said in the beginning this is my first EU-project and I didn't know what to expect, I was not used to working in this kind of collaboration with people you don't know and never even have seen, which was scary for me from the beginning. And at the same time I was the one who

should answer all the questions from the early stage researchers that were coming here. And you might think that it is rather easy to move to Sweden, you don't need visa or other documents, as long as you come from the EU, but I was proved otherwise. It was not easy at all, Susanna, Andreea and Andrea faced lots of problems seeking housing, getting bank accounts, social security numbers and healthcare, we struggled a lot but eventually we made it. And now half way through I must say that this is a great opportunity for me to develop myself in my work and I am very thankful to all people in the project, I have never thought that I would meet so many interesting people at the same time and I am very impressed by the dynamics in the group.

I would like to end this interview by saying a special thanks to Christiane, Katka and Marina. You are great to work with and I really appreciate your commitment and efforts in all the things we do.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Thank you Annica for your time and for sharing information about your activities in urbanHIST project. We wish you a lot of success in your activities.

Interviewed by Zuzana Tokárová  
urbanHIST Newsletter Editor



BTH mascot | Photo by Marika Ottosson



BTH Buildings | Photo by Marika Ottosson



Photo by Daniel Blaga

## We Introduce

# ANDREEA CHRISTIANA BLAGA

I was born and raised in Bucharest where I also studied Architecture at the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning. During my fourth year, I was granted an Erasmus+ exchange at Blekinge Institute of Technology where I discovered my interest for urban planning. Moving

from a big city to Karlskrona was a totally new experience for me and I have to admit that I enjoyed my time there. That is why I also applied for this programme once the call was launched.

While living in Karlskrona I discovered two of my latest favorite sports: bouldering

and sailing. Both of them have enhanced my ability to take faster decisions as you always have to deal with the unexpected. Sailing is the perfect way to disconnect from everything for a couple of days. The best about it is the night navigation, of course when the weather is fine. Lying on the

deck and looking above to the stars is my favorite part. Traveling and photography are two other hobbies that I have and that go hand in hand with the nomadic life I have had for the past year and a half.

Andreea Christiana Blaga  
Early Stage Researcher

# Planning for Growth and Social Welfare

During the first decades after the Second World War, most of the Northwestern European governments were laying out visionary, state-funded, social programs that aimed to increase the quality of life of their citizens.

So was the case of Sweden. The Swedish welfare state during this period was marked by a favorable economic growth which was able

to support the new universalist social policies paving the path towards equality. However, the welfare can be regarded from two

different perspectives. On the one hand, it is considered to be the model of advanced social policy and on the other, it is the symbol of all the goals that were achieved by the Social Democrats over the previous century, including the five decades of continuous leadership. The Social Democratic ascension to power was marking the beginning of the so-called *good life for all*. Among others, equal living standards, the benefits of varied social services, and the right to education were no longer ambitious ideals, but reality.

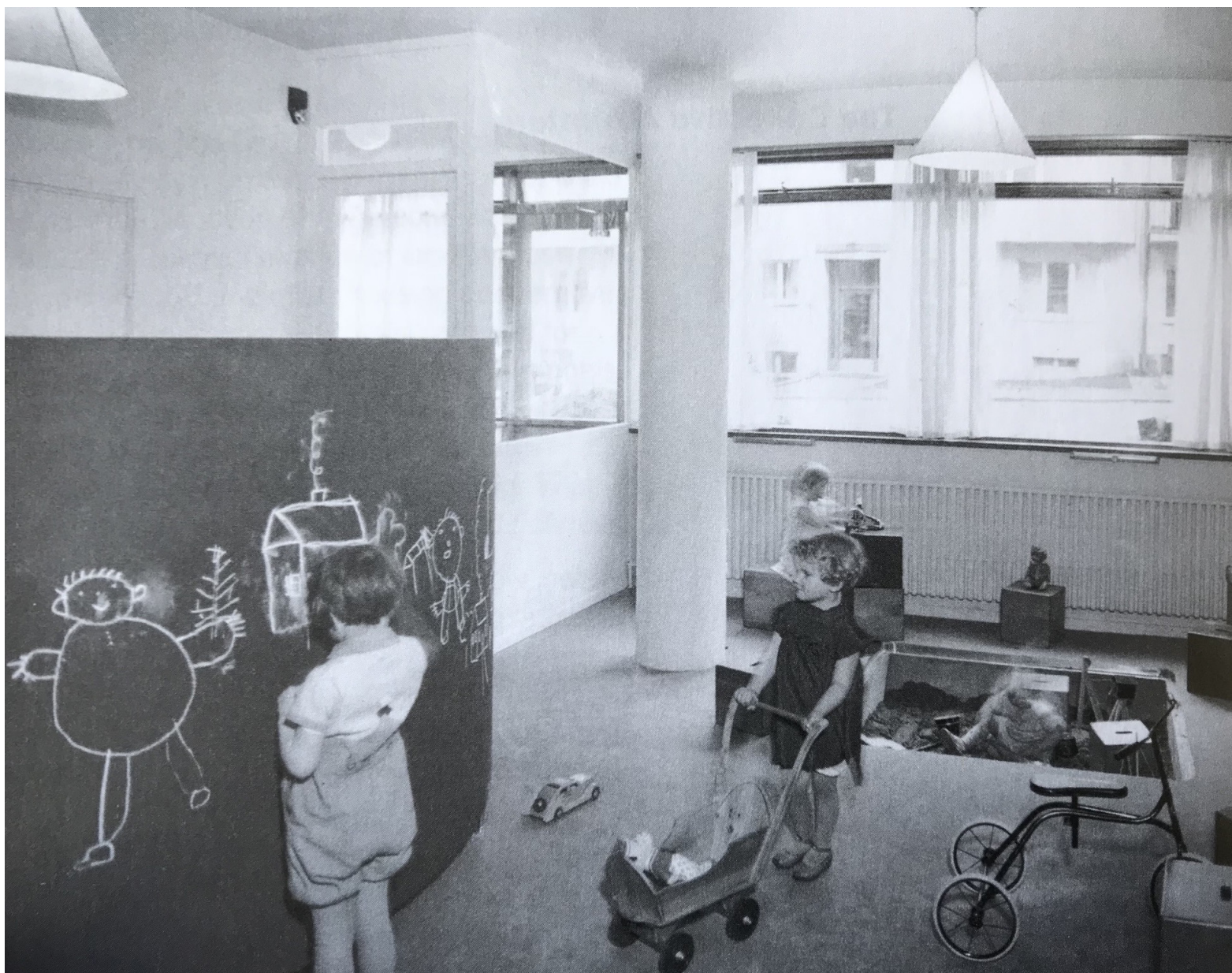
Sweden evolved over a couple of decades from being one of the poorest countries in Europe to becoming a role model in terms of social policy and high living standards. In order to understand how this radical shift was possible, my aim is to analyze the welfare origins from different angles *before* and *after* the early 1930s. This period is taken as a reference point as it coincides with the ascension to power of the Social Democratic Party. The two concepts, the *welfare state* and *social democracy*, are often depicted as a couple, as

having developed simultaneously, one depending on the other.

What makes the Swedish welfare model so unique, in comparison to other Western states, is, according to Esping-Andersen (Gösta Esping-Andersen, "The Making of a Social Democratic Welfare State," in *Creating Social Democracy. A Century of the Social Democratic Labor Party in Sweden*, ed. Misgeld et. al. (Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State Univ. Press, 1992), 36), its "structuralization". The political scientist explains that the cost structure of the Swedish welfare was ensured by placing the burden on the taxpayer's shoulders. In turn, it promised to meet the needs of workers and the upper societal groups without making any kind of class differentiation. Therefore, the cost structure was prioritized in a way to increase the living standards for a large population sector and to create a more even allocation of opportunities. Until then, equality was not seen a trigger of economic prosperity.

At the beginning of the 1930s, on the background of the Great Depression, the Social Democratic Party not only managed to win political power but also proved its capability to use it by proposing a longterm solution to the pressing problems that were affecting the country, among others, a low birth rate, high unemployment rate, and rough living conditions. From a political perspective, the answer for solving these problems was finding a solution for the housing crisis.

Translated into architectural terms, the metaphor *folkhemmet*, also known as the 'people's home', represented a hygienic building with access to sunlight and fresh air. The new policy was based on the extensive studies that had been conducted during the previous decade by the standardization committees. Though formulated in the 1930s, this social vision of the welfare state matured during the interwar period and was complete only after the Second World War.



Picture: kollektivhuset, ArkDes collection

Andreea Christiana Blaga  
Early Stage Researcher





Photo credit Aliaksandr Shuba

We Introduce

# ALIAKSANDR SHUBA

I am originally from Minsk, Belarus, where I have spent a significant part of my life. My bachelor and master degrees were obtained from European Humanities University in Vilnius, Lithuania, where the focus of my programmes was on history, cultural heritage and tourism at the History Department. I became the first student at my university and the whole

Lithuania who completed the bachelor level with a combined degree from the European Universities Foundation – Campus Europea. For my bachelor and master research projects, I worked in the fields of the late 19th and early 20th-century European historical architecture. In addition, I had a chance to make few traineeships and work with leading scholars and specialists at

the Centre of Cultural Heritage in Nicosia, National Museum Palace of Great Dukes of Lithuania in Vilnius, and the NGO International Movement "Like-minded people" in Minsk. Currently, my work is dedicated to the research on the topic: "The historiography of European urbanism in the 20th century". A significant part of work is dedicated to the critical analysis of cross-natio-

nally oriented publications in Slavic languages under the supervision of Prof. Dr. phil. habil. Max Welch Guerra and Prof. PaedDr. Martin Pekár, PhD. at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar in Germany and Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach in Slovakia.

Aliaksandr Shuba  
Early Stage Researcher

## The Historiography of European Urbanism in the 20th Century. A Critical Analysis of Cross-Nationally Oriented Publications in Slavic Languages

How did the interpretations and debates on the European architectural and planning history in the 20th-century change within the post-Soviet countries in the last decade before the year 2000?

Was a mediation between the political orientees and academic ethics common in the Soviet and post-Soviet countries of the 1980s and 1990s? Did the political and economic transition of last decades affect academia and writing of 20th-century urban planning history in Slavic countries, which had experienced various transformations from Communism to Democracy and from Socialism to Capitalism? Those and some other questions are essential and addressed in the research project: "The Historiography of European urbanism in the 20th century. A critical analysis of cross-nationally oriented publications in Slavic languages."

During the second half of the 20th century, the theory and history of architecture, urban planning and urbanism were influenced by the State(s) Control and Communism Party in the Soviet countries. With the political and economic reforms and the disintegration of Soviet Union in 1991, Czechoslovakia in 1993, and the breakup of Yugoslavia, the transition was started within the centrally planned economy to a liberal model. The political, economic and social transition was attempted to be explained by the collapse of Communism and numerous reforms around the world. There are still some questions whether this transition was also applicable to the academia of the post-Soviet countries; whether it has affected the intellectual sphere and academia of the successors' countries in the Eastern, Central and South-Eastern Europe. The conformism characteristics and tendencies had star-

ted to transform, the scholars and intellectuals in the Soviet countries had started to avoid or limit Marxism-Leninism markers and narrative(s) in the works.

The research aims to provide a critical analysis of selected published works, which have contributed significantly to the interpretation of the European 20th century architecture and planning, and have attempted to include multi- or transnational perspectives of the recent past. One of the essential concerns of this research is how the sphere of architectural and planning history experienced a mediation between "old Soviet" tradition and new tendencies within the interpretation(s) of the European urban planning history.

Within the first year of my studies, I started to analyze several important cross-nationally oriented materials on the theory and history of European urbanism in the 20th century from Slavic authors, such as E. Hruška, J. Hruška, W. Ostrowski, V. L. Glazyciev. One of the interesting aspects for this research project was the cooperation between the Academies of Sciences from the USSR, ČSSR and PRL, which resulted with numerous translations to Russian and academic publications in the 1970s and 1980s. Those cooperations were not widely analyzed and known from the perspectives of being «official» discourse's expressions in the USSR and its satellite states in Central Europe.

The second volume on the history of gradostroitelstvo art from A. V. Bunin and T. F. Saverenceva is a compelling example of the «official» planning his-

tory in the late USSR. The second volume has been a significant example of the «official» urban planning history and an essential Soviet contribution to the European urban planning in the 20th century studies for architects and urban planners from the 1980s. One of the current concerns is whether the mediation process created a division in the academia into «official» and «unofficial» discourses in the Slavic countries, as it has happened with an «unofficial» interpretation of Stalin's time architecture and planning from V. Z. Paperny, which had appeared with his dissertation "Culture Two". The dissertation was not accepted for the defence in 1979 but only later it was published in 1985 abroad. The concept of "Culture One" and "Culture Two" was applied only to the early 1920s and the Stalin's time. However, the author and other scholars have tried to apply it to earlier and later decades of Soviet urban history as well. The materials from the political stagnation time are compelling to see the basis of «official» history, which was developed by the Soviet scholars and impacted later writing of the 20th-century European urban planning history in the 1990s. The current focus of this research is on its methodology and on the main sources, one of them is the book from A. Gutnov and V. Glazyciev from 1990.

The current analysis focuses on the one of the main sources that is another interesting example of architectural and urban development history. The book is "Мир архитектуры: Лицо города" (World of Architecture: Face of City) by A. E. Gutnov and V. L. Glazyciev from 1990. The book was written in Moscow for future architects and urban planners from the MARHI, and the book includes the history of architecture and town planning from Ancient time until the contemporary (for the authors) on the global scale. Even there are many examples and elements were considered from the Ancient, Middle ages and



A. E. Gutnov - V. L. Glazyciev. World of Architecture : Face of City. Moscow : Molodaya gvardiya, 1990.

early Modern European urban history, those elements were essential for explaining the contemporary discourses and debates for future architectural and planning projects. The whole publication is a significant contribution to the world history of architecture and urban planning in the Russian language.

The research would further focus on the selected references, which are still relevant today for the analysis of the interpretations and debates of European

planning in the 20th-century history. Its interpretations with diverse debates are essential not only to some Slavic countries to rethink the recent past but the work can help to reflect on the complex history of Europe with its diversity. A few more primary sources from the 1990s would be analyzed in Polish, Czech and in some other Slavic languages further.

Aliaksandr Shuba  
Early Stage Researcher

# Course on Planning Theory – Secondment at BTH

Blog by Marcelo Sagot Better

Early Stage Researcher

As a part of the tasks developed during our secondment at BTH, we had the opportunity to take part in a course on Planning Theory instructed by Dr. Jan-Evert Nilsson. The objective of the course was to tackle a rather simple question: What is planning theory? We discovered that the answer to this seemingly short inquiry is embedded in a complex set of ideas that has evolved alongside the development of the discipline, as many influential thinkers have tried to tackle this same question untiringly. Over the course of five weeks, we embarked on a periodical analysis of some of these seminal works on planning theory, a task that resulted to be both demanding and very constructive to continue refining our individual research projects.

In any discipline, there are diverse and competing ideas that provide the basic foundations for the area of research. To begin the modelling of such a framework in planning, we started discussing some of the historical changes of the late 1960s when academics started to displace their attention on systematic decision-making to the ontological intersection between knowledge and action. Consequently, one of the first attempts to outline this connection came with the publication of "Planning as a vocation" in which Friedmann argues that the development of planning theory was necessary as it deals with relevant public issues, as it is oriented to "obtaining results in the 'real world' whose realization requires political strategies" (1966). This dynamic balances the near present and the distant future, aiming to generate some level of control in the outcomes of current practices.

During the first seminars we focused our attention on the aim for control as the beginning of the rational approach to planning, as this was paradigmatic for the definition of the field as a causal effort, with a body of theoretical works focused on understanding the different interactions between the elements of a system, and providing planners with the means to regulate the communication between these parts (McLoughlin, 1969; Chadwick, 1971).

As we moved forward with the materials provided by Dr. Nilsson, we focused on how this rational perspective started to lose its ground as the positivist approach of science started to be contested in the wake of more complex views of society. What we stressed here is that the historical discontent with the rational approach to planning can be found in its approach to the context. Rational planners argue that it is possible to regulate time and space through plans that are independent of the context, which was an attempt to exclude the ambiguity of human nature. Contrariwise, a new school of thought sought social interaction as the source of complexity to be em-



Illustrative photo | Photo by Lukáš Katriňák

braced and demanded a more central role of the people in planning. Post-positivist thinkers incorporated this idea, placing new planning theories in the middle of the social arena. For these planners, a need to look out for a new conceptual framework became a necessity in order to deal with qualitative questions and the higher degree of uncertainty (Davidoff & Reiner, 1962).

From this point onward, planning as a concept has become more elusive while further collaborations like neo-pragmatism, postmodernism and feminism just added more angles to the large post-positivist theoretical literature. Conversely, the following contributions came to be an attempt to handle this increasing number of ideas and the complexity of the new approaches. For instance, synthesis and classification are the strategies that Allmendinger uses to explain modes of planning (1967), while Faludi's contribution came with a "useful distinction to be

drawn between theory in planning and theory of planning" (1973).

Nevertheless, the strong disbelief on blending science in human affairs -controlling, managing and especially planning the fate of the individuals - changed the landscape of planning in such a degree that the forming objective of foreseeing the future outcomes of current actions became secondary. More authors started to speculate on pushing planning theory one step back, dealing only with the immediate problem-solving context demanded by the complexity of the human will, in other words, dealing with short-term goals by applying present-day approaches to consensus-building processes like collaborative planning which advocates for a new role of the planner becoming closer to a "counsellor" (Wissink, 1995) or "knowledge mediator" (Healey, 1997).

Accordingly, the final seminars became focused on a fascinating discussion on the future role of the planner and the overall prospect of the disci-

pline. The analysis of the texts moved forward from planning as advocacy securing the "voice to the voiceless" (Healey, 2003) - dealing more with social issues, equality and communication - to a neoliberal type of planning (Sager, 2011) that follows a logic towards the accumulation of capital. Neoliberal planners then focus on developing more sources of work, study and resources to "make a living" arguing that the endless array of possibilities for everyone will lead to social development as people become focused on self-realisation.

Accordingly, we found ourselves trying to ponder on the existence of a dichotomy, between the collaborative approach and the right-leaning theory, as the latter one implements a more undemocratic, competitive and assertive type of planning - closely related to the rational planning agenda of the 1960s. However, the *raison d'être* of planning should be focused on merging or "to be integrative" (Baeten, 2012) of both social

and economic aspects. Nevertheless, we concluded that this is a contradiction, as the social aspect of planning relies on the means or the process of shaping a plan, while the economic goals weigh the attention on the ends or the plan in action. One of the closing arguments of the course was the ontological breach between participation and implementation or the social versus the economic (Baeten, 2012) remains as the most relevant in the academia.

We finished the course with a paper speculating on: What is planning theory in the future? It is necessary to continually prompt a theoretical discussion about the role of the planning professional beyond the aforementioned scenario, then we will venture on what it could potentially become in order to guide planning as a continuous and permanent process of societies. From here, the potential connections to other fields and emergent forms of technology will (re)shape how we theorize the field.

# Workshop – GIS and the City. The Use of GIS in Historical Research

Blog by Adam Górká

Early Stage Researcher

On 13-14 September 2018 I had a chance to participate in the workshop where researchers from different fields and countries were discussing the use of Geographical Information Systems in historical studies. In last decades the use of digital cartography has increased dramatically. The development of new tools allows researchers to digitalize and work with historical data. GIS seems to be particularly attractive for historical research with a strong spatial dimension such as Urban History. Digital cartography can be used for visualizing patterns and structures by supporting or even replacing 'traditional' methods, but also for the process of building and developing

hypotheses through the correlations not visible without GIS analysis. The aim of the workshop was to exchange the insights from different projects where historical studies were conducted with the use of Geographic Information Systems. Different approaches, tools, sources and results were presented, not only from typical research projects but also those using new media and network society. All presentations were followed by feedback from all participants and at the end a round table discussion was conducted to conclude the workshop.

After official welcoming from the Dean of the Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences of TU Darmstadt, Prof. Jens Steffek, the first

panel – "City – Hinterland – Environment" started with the project presentation from Severin Hohen-sinner (Vienna, Austria) entitled *Step by step backwards in time: Revealing Vienna's historical Danube river landscape by GIS*. He presented the approach used to reconstruct historical development of Vienna by referring to changes of the Danube river straights and the historical pictography. Next, Olaf März (Bremen, Germany) was talking on spatial structures of early modern urban agriculture and the last in the panel was Nadia Fava (Girona, Spain) with the analysis of function location and changes in early 20th century Girona with the presentation *Foodscape and the*

*"spatial turn": the GIS approach to sustainability*.

The second panel, entitled "City as a Social Web" started with the presentation of very interesting project by Iason Jongepier and Rogier van Kooten (Antwerp, Belgium) on socio-spatial reconstruction of Antwerp in 1584 – 1984. By using archival cadastral data and GIS tools they conducted the analysis over numerous social aspects of the city development since the 16th century. Very helpful were the insights over methodological problems that occur during work with archival sources. The methodological topic was continued by Léa Hermenault (Paris, France) with her presentation *GIS: advantages and pitfalls of a spatial correlations*

*explorer tool. Reflections about two Parisian case studies*. She mentioned important challenges but also specific outcomes of using GIS tools that is improbable to get with "traditional" analysis. This part of the panel was closed with Wolfgang Moschek (Darmstadt, Germany) who presented a project of reconstruction of the pre-war city structure on example of Darmstadt. Next, Simon Schneider (Luxemburg) was talking on mapping the topographical change of the city of Luxembourg and its socio-economic structure since the 18th century. The panel was concluded by Gabor Demeter (Budapest, Hungary) and his project analyzing social differentiation and spatial patterns in a multiethnic city on the example of Debrecen in the 19th century.

The first day of the workshop was concluded by the keynote *Reconstructing the Past: Mapping Edinburgh's Social History* given by Richard Rodger (Edinburgh, Great Britain). He described the need for easy access public data – both contemporary and historical and presented his project of mapping the city of Edinburgh in OpenStreetMap based on cadastral data and conducted fieldwork.

The second day followed thoughts from the keynote and started with the panel "GIS in Public History". First, Kathrin Schön (Frankfurt, Germany) presented the interactive project of reconstructing Jewish heritage in Frankfurt. By using mobile phone application people are able to go and map the historical places within city structure, but also social media are used to add more documentation and create interesting historical narrations. Different approach to the potential that is represented by GIS and the Internet was presented by Katharina Ernst (Stuttgart, Germany) with map-based historical encyclopaedia of Stuttgart. The online encyclopaedia provides not only historical cartographic data but other types of sources like pictography of written descriptions.

After the poster session, the last panel "Brave New GISStory" started. It dealt with more technical issues. Daniel Stracke (Münster, Germany) was talking about digitalizing of cadastral data while Alexander von Luenen (Huddersfield, Great Britain) with presentation entitled *Historical GIS – What's the point (x, y)?* mentioned some important methodological challenges during work with GIS and historical data. The whole workshop was concluded by round-table discussion *Historical GIS and urban history: benefits and pitfalls*. There was also time for less official talks and exchange of experience. From the perspective of an Early Stage Researcher who works with digital cartographic tools and archival data this workshop was very helpful and I'm sure it will be beneficial for my urbanHIST project.



Darmstadtium - Science and Conference Centre in Darmstadt, Germany | Photo by Adam Górká

# REACH Opening Conference – Resilient Cultural Heritage and Communities in Europe

Budapest, Hungary / 10 – 11 May 2018

The REACH Opening Conference held in Hungarian National Museum in Budapest under the coordination of Eötvös Loránd University brought together over 150 heritage researchers, professionals and policy-makers to discuss some of the major challenges and innovations related to the participatory mechanisms for cultural heritage. The conference announced the official launching of the new European project “RE-designing Access to Cultural Heritage for a wider participation in preservation, (re-)use and management of European culture” aiming to provide a platform for interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international collaboration in the field of minority, institutional, rural and small town heritage. Keynote speakers included some of the most prominent researchers and practitioners from the field, such as Gabor Sonkoly (Eötvös Loránd University), Niel Forbes (Coventry University), Carenza Lewis (University of Lincoln) and Wolfgang Merkel (Humboldt University), reflecting on the new heritage

dynamics, global challenges, community interactions and some of the best practices and initiatives from around the world. The poster session displayed over 20 prominent international projects related to the topic, amongst which the urbanHIST as well, since our ESR Jovana Vukčević presented her research “Commodifying the contested: Institutionalising “difficult” heritage of dictatorships in post-socialist Europe”. Focusing on resilience as a capacity of heritage to accommodate different social needs, the conference set the tone for enhancing participatory approaches and fostering social, economic and ecological sustainability of cultural heritage in Europe. In the following month, the project researchers and other heritage stakeholders will focus on developing a framework for strengthening innovation, participation and sustainability of heritage. urbanHIST wishes them a successful journey!

Jovana Vukčević  
Early Stage Researcher



Photo by Mark Turoczi

# Cold War Inheritance in Friuli Venezia Giulia Region: the Case of Trieste Barracks (Casarsa della Delizia, Pordenone)

Ghent, Belgium / 9 – 12 September 2018



Author unknown

The European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools (ECLAS) held its annual conference in Ghent, Belgium, from 9 to 12 September 2018 with the title “Landscapes of Conflict”. Associate Professor Luca Maria Francesco Fabris with the help of the Early Stage Researcher Federico Camerin, presented their work called “Cold War Heritage in Northeast Italy. A Challenge for Landscape Design” in the session “Conservation and Development”.

The presentation regards a study on the Friuli Venezia Giulia, the north-eastern region of Italy that borders Austria and Slovenia, which played a strategic wartime role. From the Great War to the Cold War, the installation of defensive works including barracks, fortifications and infrastructure distinguished the territory. A significant rationalization in the territory and modification in the organizational structure of the Armed Forces took place from the end of the Cold War, through the EU expansion to the countries located on the north-eastern border of Italy, and up to the Army’s transformation from conscription to voluntary service. The town of Casarsa della Delizia represents a case of important significance due to the presence of the “Trieste” barracks, a settlement of extensive and significant environmental impact, a part of which has not been used for years, becoming over time a landscape-abandonment

issue, on which action is needed. The presentation focuses on the proposals to recover this former military area as a new integrated part of the city, merging the necessity of saving the past heritage and developing a new landscape vision, bringing together the historical and contemporary ways of living and promoting urban regeneration complex operations.

This contribution in the session has demonstrated how landscape architecture might play a major role in raising awareness on the value or the potential of military heritage. Moreover, as a design discipline, it may shape future scenarios, balancing historical values with new societal claims. Trieste barracks require landscape architecture to weigh up conservation and development, taking numerous claims and legislations into account, without forgetting to put in the context of the widely issue of the abandonment of military installation not only in Friuli Venezia Giulia, but in all European countries. Forty years of Cold War dramatically affected the landscape morphology, with strong repercussions in the territories affected by militarization after 1945.

For more information on the international workshop: <http://www.eclas.org/index.php/99-eclas-conference-2018>.

Federico Camerin  
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