

urbanHIST Newsletter

JANUARY 2018, ISSUE 4

ISSN 2585-7118

www.urbanhist.eu

12 PAGES

NOT FOR SALE



urbanHIST at Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach

Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach (Slovakia), Department of history at the Faculty of Arts - One of four beneficiaries of urbanHIST.

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Interview with UPJŠ Local Director Martin Pekár

Read our interview with UPJŠ local director Martin Pekár who has told us more about his career as a historian and urbanHIST project.

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Urban Researcher's Tasks in the urbanHIST Programme

Understanding the City as a Historical Product

The first question to consider is that none of the terms that constitute the basic references of the Program, "Urbanism", "Heritage" and "Urban Planning", prevails over others, which means that the content of the scientific field in which we move will be a product of the relationship established between these concepts, not the separate interpretation of each of them.

It is not a question of developing Urbanism, Heritage or Urban Planning works, independently considered, but those others that result from the dialectical correlation established between them. The Urbanism, in the first place, as a discipline, that is to say, as a theoretical-conceptual framework; the Heritage as the inherited build, physical-social base on which all kinds of intervention in the territory should be supported, that which makes real the expression "Planning with the Existing"; the Urban Planning, as a practice that, almost always, with certain exceptions, realizes the interests related to land ownership, with the aim of materializing, anticipating through a project, "real state spaces". We refer, as can be observed, to the city that is born and develops under the protection of capitalism, with its contradictions that make it submissive or belligerent with the system. We refer, in this sense, to its social structure, that which conditions the use made of space. Based on these three terms, Urbanism, Heritage, Urban Planning, understood as basic references of the research to be undertaken, we can propose the content of the works to be carried out as follows.

Firstly, considering the city as an object of work, as a field of research, well understood that we are talking of the

city in a broad sense, in its meaning as territory. Secondly, starting from the idea of a city as Heritage, as a historical legacy, as existing build, limits its status, as an object of research, to those aspects that identify it as a historical socio-spatial reality that has always been inhabited. And it is in this "habitability" that its status as a public entity resides, which is a result, among other things, of the "social custody" that it has been subjected to for a long historical period by those who have inhabited it constantly. Thirdly, this city, conceived as heritage, has been compromised, we refer to its own internal dynamics, its behaviors as "social space", because of specific interventions that have been formulated in the framework of concrete Projects, that is to say, for having been the object of Town Planning Orders. The Urban Planning, in this sense, can modify, with reservations, specific spatial behaviors, but its incidence is conditioned by what those behaviors allow. We want to say that Urban Planning is characterized more by the ability to "order" what is already in motion, to channel certain already materialized spatial tendencies, to create new behaviors. Only in some cases, where strong political power is determining new social relationships, can the Planning exercise as an innovative practice

with the capacity to recreate a new type of city. But, even in these cases, it would be necessary to consider whether this recreation is a product of the new methods of urban planning established, or are the new class interests, the new "social formation", those that impose their logic on that. The Urban Planning, in sum, follows the social imperatives, in our case, of the forces that agitate the city, which makes it incapable to modify socio-spatial behaviors.

In this conceptual framework, what types of research can be developed? If we speak of a city as a work object, of a public space entity that we identify with heritage values inherited and produced collectively, as well as "spatial behaviors" derived from the use that a certain social formation makes of the space that inhabits to make possible its reproduction, how can this complex spatial reality be understood if it is not from the point of view of its historical understanding? We mean that understanding the city implies, should imply, approaching it from its status as a historical social product. To delimit its study to a certain historical moment, on the other hand, implies an analysis that reveals how its socio-spatial production process has been carried out, clearly distinguishing it from the form that it adopts. Well understood that, "the societies are characterized (distinguished) not by the things they produce but by how they produce them". We must distinguish, very well, in this sense, between the History of the City, understood as the analysis of a socio-spatial production process, of the History of Urban Planning, as History of Ideas, which implies, in the latter case, analyzing what, at any moment, has been thought about how the city should be, but not how the city is. The difference between the two ways of proceeding is that established

between the reality of an object, the city, and what is thought of it from the Project. In this sense it is how we can say that if what really interests us is the reason of being of an urban entity, to interfere in such knowledge would imply treating it as a constructed historical reality, as a "historical product" that needs to be analyzed as such. To do this, we must start from the idea that the city has been debated between its condition of "social reproduction space" and "space of rent", that is to say, as "product" and as "work", producing "values of change" or "values of usage". And, in all this process, it is the behavior of the "property", specially, of "great property", its use, control and form of appropriation, which marks the tendency towards one or another conception.

Hence, the Thesis of Federico Cerverin, whose theme is *The urban management of the great properties in the European urban making during the XX century*, inscribed in the field of Urban History, adopts the "great property" as a basic reference to understand the process of spatial production. Its first proposal referred, exclusively, to Military Properties, but we agreed that it would be much more convenient to highlight the role of "great property", the one identified with industrial facilities, railway, non-residential activities, in general, which consume a lot of space (large urban areas), and that, once "obsolete" and "abandoned", are required for other urban functions and services. The Military Properties would be a concrete case to study contextualizing them in this general framework.

In this general context, in fact, we consider, at least, three different processes, which refer to so many other ways of proceeding to "city production", to its historical interpretation.

(continued on page 11)



Photo by Max Welch Guerra

Inclusive Historiography

urbanHIST is well equipped for achieving all gender equality targets of today's research standards: we have more than gender parity among the early stage researchers, and we don't have a bad ratio neither in the management nor in the support teams. We have a proper guide for gender-inclusive language as well as a Confidential Person – that's me – also responsible for taking care of gender equality matters. A good fundament is laid and also the scientific program of urbanHIST promises to establish an inclusive, enlarging and innovative perspective on the history of urbanism, overcoming national and historiographical boundaries as stereotypes. This also means that the contributions of women to planning history and urbanism will no longer be overlooked, in spite of the difficulties that still occur today in accessing information.

*Therefore, I am confident that in these cutting-edge research projects – also taking into account the new generation of researchers as well as the awareness of more established ones – the ground-breaking contributions of the women protagonists of urban theory, as for instance Adelheid Dohna-Poninska (1804 – 1881), Octavia Hill (1838 – 1912), Sybil Moholy-Nagy (1903 – 1971) or Françoise Choay (*1925), among many others, will be given the credit they deserve.*

I furthermore hope that curiosity will conduct the one or the other brave researcher to approach the rich repository of nearly unexplored female text contributions to urbanism, adventuring oneself into the unsecured terrain of unusual text genres, which in other disciplines have been accessed for quite a long time, in order to write the history of ideas or of everyday life. Why not dare, for example, to enter into the argumentative patterns of travel literature, as Flora Tristan's (1803 – 1844) critical explorations of European cities and South American realities, or Frances Trollope's (1779 – 1863) cosmopolite capital city reviews and comparisons. In the end, what is more exciting for a researcher than to feel a bit challenged?

Eliana Perotti
Advisory Board Member
and Confidential Person

urbanHIST Calendar

PAST ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 2017

- BUW – Presentation of urbanHIST at the German National Contactpoint Information Event on the new Horizon 2020 working programme at Halle/ Saale
- UVa – Doctoral training seminar: Producing spatial knowledge. Tools and methods for the study of the city
- NWWW II meeting (Network-Wide Workshop Week II), Karlskrona, Sweden
- Publication of urbanHIST Newsletter 3
- Submitting paper proposals for International Conference on Urban History EAUH 2018 In Rome

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2017

- urbanHIST local training events at BUW:
 - Internal Doctoral Colloquium
 - Individual training
- urbanHIST local training events at UVa:
 - UVa EJD Seminar + Supervisors + ESR Colloquia: BUILDING THE CITY AND URBAN PLANNING: HISTORICAL HORIZON(S) I
 - 1st session: The city as a historical product
 - 2nd session: Memory & History
 - 3rd session: Urban History as History of ideas
- Individual training
- urbanHIST local training events at UPJŠ:
 - Workshop "Memory in Urban Space: Possibilities and Limits of Comparative Research"
 - Open lecture "Understanding the morphological changes in postsocialistic cities using 3-D virtual models. Case study Košice" (lecturer – Mgr. Adam Górká)
 - Open lecture "GIS as a tool, a technology and science" (lecturer – Dr. Ján Kaňuk)
 - visit of ESRs to „The Unplanned Planned Cities – Scientific Colloquium“, Department of Architecture, ÚSTARCH SAV, Bratislava, Slovakia
 - Academic English Workshop "The Nature of AE, Academic Writing in English"
 - Intercultural Competence – Upgrade your skills for the 21st century, workshop by Karin Brünemann, PMP®
 - The Other Half of Europe I (open ESR colloquium, research progress – A. Dudych, A. Górká)
 - Individual training
- urbanHIST local training events at BTH:
 - Higher Seminar
 - Individual training

JANUARY 2018

- Meeting of urbanHIST Local Directors in Berlin
- UPJŠ – "Being a European Citizen and Student" – presentation by ESRs A. Dudych and J. Vukčević at secondary bilingual grammar school in Košice

IUU Fridays at Instituto Universitario de Urbanística – The Concept and Content of the Last Semester Local Training Activities



Photo by Instituto Universitario de Urbanística

With the aim of offering an open programme of learning in relation to urban and regional planning, the Instituto Universitario de Urbanística (IUU) at University of Valladolid organizes various events such as seminars, meetings, lectures, etc., aimed at a specific audience, whether undergraduates, MA or Ph.D. students, and featuring guests from other universities, Spanish and foreign, or from professional spheres. Among them, those named IUU Fridays intended to serve as a meeting point of members of the IUU and other university community members for, at a more relaxed atmosphere, sharing undergoing research activities or simply discussing ideas following

a thematic conference, a book presentation or viewing a movie. You can consult past and programmed activities of these types here: <http://www3.uva.es/iuu/en/activities/iuu-friday/> and here <http://www3.uva.es/iuu/en/activities/events/>.

Within this formats, since last semester several activities related to the training of our ESRs have been developed. For instance, the first session with the direct participation of our researchers took place on July 7, 2017: "Presentation of thesis projects urbanHIST - UVa"; and last November, special urbanHIST seminar series was organised under the global title: BUILDING THE CITY AND URBAN PLANNING: HISTORICAL HORIZON(S).

There have been three sessions so far, with similar structure: one or two lectures and one or two exposés of advances in ESRs research projects per session, with UVa Local Director María Castrillo as moderator.

Overview of contributions
Lectures: Alfonso Álvarez Mora: *The city as a historical product: an approach to its making process*; Juan Luis de las Rivas: *MEMORY & HISTORY. A pretext through four texts, or about a history by a no-historian one*; Víctor Pérez Egúiluz: *Shared paradigm, different application. The use of history in the study of the conservation of historical areas*; María Castrillo Romón: *Urban History as History of ideas: notes on housing and town planning in Early 20th Century Europe*; Marina Jiménez: *European specificity in the 20th*

century urbanism?: A Transatlantic History in the Construction of Discourses around public space and nature in the city.

Progress in research projects: Federico Camerin: *The role of large property in the process of building the European city. The particular case of military properties in Italy*; Elvira Khairullina: *Planning the city and urban transport in the USSR and Eastern Europe: the urban model and the transport model in socialist urban planning in the 60s*; Ksenija Krsmanovic: *The historical overview of urban development discontinuity in Serbia: the particular case of Belgrade*; Noel Manzano: *Urban History as History of "espontaneous urbanization"*.

Marina Jiménez
UVa Local Coordinator

Higher Seminar at BTH

On the 13th of December 2017 the Spatial Planning Department from BTH gathered for the so-called 'Higher Seminar'. The purpose of this seminar was to introduce our research topics to our department and to get suggestions for upcoming months while we would be away for our secondments. Every ESR had 40 minutes to present the research outline and to receive feedback from all participants. It was a very friendly atmosphere and we got a lot of useful input.

The 13th of December is a very important day in Sweden, it is the Lucia day. Lucia represents an archaic mythical figure who brings light to the dark Swedish winter days. While we were presenting, Annica was preparing a festive 'fika' with traditional Swedish appetizers, sweets, and drinks and we celebrated together both the end of our first seminar and Lucia.

Andreea-Christiana Blaga
Early Stage Researcher

First Secondment: January to March 2018

For some of the Early Stage Researchers the new year began with new places in new countries with new colleagues. The first round of secondments at a non-academic partner organisation (NAPO) became reality.

As urbanHIST Grant Agreement explains, the aim of the non-academic secondment is to leave the "academic ivory tower" and initiate a self-reflection process aiming at (i) becoming aware of the role/ responsibility as a researcher while examining their research regarding its practical relevance/ influence on the society and (ii) providing insight into prospective non-academic careers. As ESRs are to gain an understanding of public concerns and needs, NAPOs are being instructed to put a special focus on the active integration of ESRs in their outreach activities. In addition, NAPOs shall support ESRs in posing and answering questions like "In what way can my research be of relevance for the professional practice?" "In what way does my research provide an answer to societal challenges?" "How may the findings of my research change

the perception of the history of European urbanism?"

Since we have two "groups" of ESRs, the one who started in April 2017 and the other one in September 2017, we also have two rounds of secondments, in the same order as they started, which means that for this first round the following ESRs are located at the following partner organisations:

- Azmah Arzmi, BUW: Stadtmuseum Dresden, Germany
- Helene Bihlmaier, BUW: International Planning History Society/ Planning Perspectives, UK
- Adam Górká, UPJŠ: Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Madrid, Spain
- Andrea Gimeno, BTH: ArkDes Architecture and Design Centre in Stockholm, Sweden
- Elvira Khairullina, UVa: Stadtmuseum Dresden, Germany
- Ksenija Krsmanovic, UVa: Politecnico di Milano, Italy

We wish them a lot of success and good luck pursuing their career and research goals!

Annica Johansson
BTH Local Coordinator

Ph.D. Colloquium at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

After returning from the intensive days in Karlskrona, we were sitting together with our supervisor Max Welch Guerra in the Bauhaus Atelier having a coffee and discussing the state of our work. As we just had shared our exposés before the workshop week, the focus in Sweden was on the discussion with both supervisors accompanied by a short and dense report about our research. This time, Max invited us to give a longer presentation at the Ph.D. Colloquium, which his chair organizes for the doctoral students supervised by him once every semester. We immediately began with our preparations, as the scheduled date was only a week later.

On the day of the colloquium, the morning began with a self-introduction of all of the participants, which gave us an impression of Max' diverse research interests and the variety of his Ph.D. students' academic backgrounds ranging from urban planning, architecture, heritage studies to sociology and political sciences. Two other candidates started with their presentations and offered us an insight of how they have structured their work and

developed their topics. Ph.D. candidates working already for a year have a clear subject of analysis and an even stronger methodological approach, while candidates in their last year are already working on a very extensive monograph handling concrete results and conclusions. For us, the Colloquium was a great opportunity to present and discuss our present state of research to a non-urbanHIST related audience but also showed us, what kind of high-quality outcome Max is expecting from us in a later stage. Even though the research topics of the others were quite different from ours, we all received constructive criticism and had fruitful discussions after each presentation and even during lunch break.

At the end of the day, the four of us sat together again in the Bauhaus Atelier resuming the discussion and summarizing the impact of the colloquium before we went home, tired but in thoughts of how to move on.

Helene Bihlmaier, Aliaksandr Shuba,
Marcelo Sagot Better, Azmah Arzmi
Early Stage Researchers

ESR Andrea Gimeno Sánchez awarded the “European” Competiton in Warsaw

The Project *The Excity* of our colleague, Early Stage Researcher Andrea Gimeno Sánchez has been awarded as one of the ex aequo winners for European Competition in Warsaw. The proposal was developed together with Lluís J. Liñán and Josep Vicent Lluch. European is a biennial competition for young architects under 40 years of age to design innovative housing schemes for sites across Europe. It is one of the most prestigious architecture awards on the emerging scene. Congratulations!

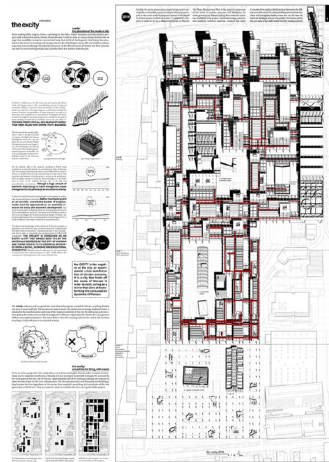
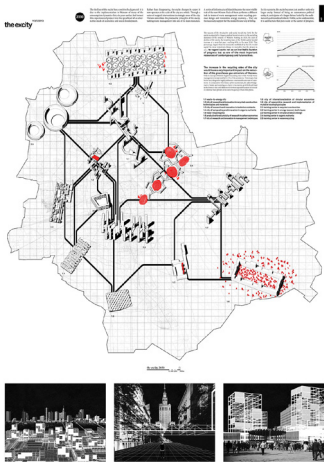
Jury Statement: “The project is based on the concept of transforming (urban) waste into an (urban) resource. The authors propose a superstructure that integrates and processes waste in various ways, for example as building material, as a source for energy production, or as “technical nutrients”. Waste materials from the “Excity” therefore form a new district through being reintegrated in the metabolism of the

city in numerous ways. The proposed infrastructure enables various scales and forms of appropriation over time, including its own decline if the problem of waste is nally solved in future. The jury highly appreciates both the conceptual strength and the questions the project raises, which should be included in every discussion about (urban) future. The European site could consequently not only become a model development case for Warsaw, but also a general contribution with respect to urban development.”

The Award Ceremony will take place in Berlin on the 2nd of February 2018. For more information please follow the link to the competition: european-europe.eu.

Katarína Hajduková
UPJŠ Local Coordinator

Andrea Gimeno Sánchez
Early Stage Researcher



urbanHIST Colloquium at UPJŠ in Košice: The Other Half of Europe I



Photo by Marek Sekerák

In December, the urbanHIST team of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice hosted the first urbanHIST colloquium, aiming to provide the space for evaluation, monitoring and discussion of the research progress of two of the Košice ESRs who joined the project in April 2017, Agnès Dudych and Adam Górka.

The meeting was an important moment for all of the team. For the project managers, it was an opportunity to get an insight into the individual progress of the researchers and their overall accomplishments during the 8 months of their urbanHIST journey, but also to identify the weaknesses and challenges that are to be addressed in future months, by for example organising an academic English workshop or a Slovak history class. For the ESRs, this was the occasion to practice their presentation skills, to receive a valuable feedback and answer to a constructive criticism. The supervisors, from their part, were able to evaluate and comment on the progress of the ESRs and their research endeavours. The presentati-

ons of Agnès and Adam were complemented with the comprehensive reports from their supervisors, Petr Roubal and Jaroslav Hofierka, who shared their suggestions, compliments and concerns related to the progress in content, methodology, skills (incl. conferences and language), networking activities... This was an excellent introduction to the general debate which spread to the evaluation of the overall project.

The two ESRs who only started in September, Jovana Vukčević and Ondřej Jirásek, were also given the opportunity to briefly address their own progress, ideas, goals and concerns related to the research implementation. In March, when the second Košice urbanHIST colloquium will take place, the two of them will be invited to present their research progress along with their supervisors, before heading to Valladolid for the 6 months of secondment at their second university.

Jovana Vukčević, Agnès Dudych
Early Stage Researchers

- UPJŠ – urbanHIST presented as a project success story within the information seminar “Social, Behavioural, Educational and Historical Sciences and Humanities in H2020 – Programme Period 2018 – 2020” at the Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ
- Publication of urbanHIST Newsletter 4

PRESENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

JANUARY - MARCH 2018

- Secondments with Partner Organisations for first six ESRs

FEBRUARY 2018

- urbanHIST webinar # 2 – “L’architecture engagée: How the Engaged Architecture Changed the European City” (lecturer – Prof. Dr. Ing. arch. Henrieta Moravčíková, Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava and Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia)

JANUARY - MARCH 2018

- urbanHIST local training events at BUW:
 - Internal Doctoral Colloquium
 - Individual training
- urbanHIST local training events at UVa:
 - UVa EJD Seminar + Supervisors + ESR Colloquia: BUILDING THE CITY AND URBAN PLANNING: HISTORICAL HORIZON(S) II Jan-March 2018
 - Individual training
- urbanHIST local training events at UPJŠ:
 - The Other Half of Europe II (open ESR colloquium, research progress – J. Vukčević, O. Jirásek)
 - Academic English Writing Course
 - Open lecture series “Researching Contemporary History II (20th Century Slovakia in 20th Century Europe)”
 - Open lecture “Weaving the urban pasts from myths, memories, narratives and politics. On cultural geographies of urban histories” (with invited speaker – Prof. UG dr hab. Mariusz Czepczyński, University of Gdańsk, Poland)
 - Individual training
- urbanHIST local training events at BTH:
 - PhD Course Planning Theory 1
 - PhD Course Planning Theory 2
 - PhD Course Planning Theory 3
 - PhD Course Planning Theory 4
 - Individual training

APRIL 2018

- Secondments with second universities for all ESRs within the double degree scheme
- NWWW III meeting (Network-Wide Workshop Week III), Valladolid, Spain
- Publication of urbanHIST Newsletter 5
- Call for contributions to Young urban(H)IST conference

Open Lecture: GIS as a Tool, Technology and Science – The Potential of GIS for Historical Research

Nowadays interdisciplinarity seems to be the key to successful research. For students at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, the open lecture to learn GIS for free took place on December 4, 2017. Why and how can a historian use the data from Geographic Information System? How can GIS be useful in historical research? These were the questions that interested the audience. The open lecture focused primarily on the introduction to GIS for true beginners, as historians usually are. To present GIS not only as a tool and technology, but also as science was the task for Dr. Ján Kaňuk from the Institute of Geography, Faculty of Science from Pavol Jozef Šafárik University. 90 minutes was not enough for introducing GIS as a whole, but nevertheless, essential information was presented. To look at the historical data as a geographic entry can open new opportunities for historical research. The finding that GIS is not only software and not just for making maps, but can be used for business, governments, transportation, public safety and also



Photo by Agnès Dudych

for social sciences and humanities including historical research, can be surprising for many students. But nowadays an increasing number of historians, particularly those dealing with world history or the history of

large geographic regions, is becoming interested in using geographic information systems in research and teaching. GIS offers historians who specialize in the histories of different places and chronological periods an

effective tool for collaborative research among themselves and for involving researchers from other disciplines.

Patrícia Fogelová
Department of History, FA, UPJŠ in Košice

urbanHIST at Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach (UPJŠ)



Platón building of Faculty of Arts at UPJŠ in Košice | Photo by Zuzana Tokárová

Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (UPJŠ) ranks among the major educational and scientific institutions recognized not only in the Slovak Republic, but also in advanced Europe.

It was established in 1959. Currently, the University consists of the Faculties of Medicine, Science, Law, Public Administration, and the Faculty of Arts, educating physicians, professionals in science, mathematics and information science, teachers, lawyers, public administration specialists, psychologists, social workers, political scientists, historians, translators and interpreters, the English language and linguistics experts, literary scholarship and culture of the English-speaking countries experts, gender studies professionals, specialists in philosophy, applied ethics, mass media studies, teachers of the Slovak, English, German, and Latin languages and literatures, psychology in combination with other study subjects. The graduates from this second oldest classical Slovak university have a good reputation both at home and abroad.

UPJŠ has defended its leading position in the Slovak university education milieu mainly on the basis of internati-

onally recognized research, as confirmed by the Accreditation Commission by including UPJŠ among the four most significant scientific-research universities in Slovakia. The main priority of the present is to ensure that the study at all the units of UPJŠ in Košice is based on a high-quality scientific research led by teams of professionally erudite teachers who transfer the knowledge attained by their own scientific research into the teaching process.

UPJŠ offered a total of 164 accredited study programmes in the year 2016 (of which 95 are Bachelor, 65 Magister, more than 40 Ph.D. ones), 10 of which are studied in English. The total number of students enrolled in the study programmes at UPJŠ in the year 2016 amounted to 7,357 students (more than 10 % international).

The key research place for urbanHist ESRs is the Department of History at the Faculty of Arts. History of the formation of a faculty of arts in Košice reaches as far back as the mid-17th century,

but it was reestablished in modern times in 1959 and 2007. The Faculty of Arts in Košice has a high potential for scientific research. The Faculty of Arts employees develop contractual cooperation with universities in thirteen European countries, they are members of various international organizations relevant for the study courses. The UPJŠ Faculty of Arts in Košice has the right to carry out the habilitation

(associate professorship) and the professor appointment procedures in seven fields of study, in which it also runs Ph.D. studies – Non-Slavic Languages and Literatures, History of Philosophy, Literary Scholarship, Slovak History, Political Science, Social Work, Social Psychology and Psychology of Work.

In the field of international relations, abundant forms of this cooperation include bilateral agreements on the mobility of teachers under the Erasmus+ programme, the mobility agreements of teachers and students in the Erasmus+ programme, international

agreements on scientific and educational collaboration between partner universities, and bilateral research projects. The double-degrees in the Ph.D. study programme are another example of internationalisation of the study and research cooperation with leading European universities.

Within urbanHIST, 4 ESRs are employed and hosted at the *Department of History*. It was established on 1 October 2008.

The constitution process of the Department was entrusted to Prof. Štefan Šutaj, under whose management intensive formation of the new scientific and educational workplace began. After successful accreditation of the study programmes, the first bachelor and Ph.D. students started in the academic year 2009/2010. The Department resides the "Plato" building in the campus of the Faculty of Arts UPJŠ.

Since 2012, the Head of Department has been Assoc. Prof. Martin Pekár. As of 31 December 2017, the full-time staff consisted of one professor (with

DrSc. degree), three associate professors (one of them DrSc.), ten assistant professors with Ph.D. degree and four ESRs (external Ph.D. Students). At that time, the team also had six internal Ph.D. students. In 2017, two sections were established at the Department: *Section for Central and South-East European History Research* (led by Prof. Štefan Šutaj) and *Section for Urban and Regional History Research* (led by Dr. Peter Fedorčák).

The Department provides all three degrees of the university study: *study programmes* of History (single and interdisciplinary Bachelor and Master study), Teaching of Academic Subjects – History (Master study), and Slovak History (internal and external doctoral study). In the academic year 2016/2017, the study programmes provided by our Department were attended by over 200 students of bachelor or master study and 19 students of doctoral study. The Department is also authorized to the rights for implementing the habilitation and inauguration processes in the field of Slovak History.

Members of the Department are active in *publishing of scientific works*. The results of their research achieve internationally respected quality. This may be demonstrated by success in obtaining grant support, or by active cooperation in research with

UPJŠ has defended its leading position in the Slovak university education milieu mainly on the basis of internationally recognized research.

renowned foreign partners (Bauhaus-Universitaet Weimar, Universidad de Valladolid, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Nord University, Charles University in Prague, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Collegium Carolinum in Munich, Silesian University in Opava, University of Ostrava, University of Hradec Králové, European University in Rome, Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest and others). Cooperation with other partners in the Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, Sweden, France, Spain, Italy, Norway, Ukraine, as well as with the *European Network Remembrance and Solidarity* is also progressing.

In the years 2011 – 2014, the Department was the principal research institution of the strategic project of *International Visegrad Fund "Transformation of Central European Cities in Historical Development"*. Since 2016, the Department has been the recipient of the prestigious grant from the *H2020-MSCA programme* focusing on the *"History of European Urbanism in the 20th Century (urbanHIST)"*. In 2017, the Department received financial support from the EEA Grants Scheme. In addition, the Department's research interests are currently funded by two *Slovak Research and Development Agency grants* ("Tendencies of Development of Ethnic Relations" in cooperation with the Slovak Academy of Sciences and "Comprehensive Memory Portal" with the Comenius University in Bratislava) and three projects by *The Scientific Grant Agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Academy of Sciences*, all of them financed by Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

Since 2012, the Department has been publishing its own *scientific journal*, *"Mesto a dejiny" [The City and History]*, indexed in the databases Web of Science (ESCI), ERIH Plus, MIAR, CEEOL, CEJSH, EBSCO, Index Copernicus, WorldCat, Databases of



The Campus of the Faculty of Arts at UPJŠ in Košice | Photo by Lukáš Katríňák

Historical Literature in Slovak Republic and Google Scholar. The journal publishes contributions in Slovak, English or any other foreign language. Thanks to a rigorous evaluation process, international cooperation and its modern design, the journal has, in a short time, become a respected institution. The journal is now a standard by which

both researchers and other, more established journals aim to achieve. The journal *Mesto a dejiny* was also registered by the European Association for Urban History, which designated it as one of their recommended journals for urban history. Besides the journal the Department also provides edition *"Acta historiae Cassoviensis"*, in which

series of original scientific works on the history of Košice is published. By the end of 2017, six such volumes had been issued. In 2016, a project bulletin entitled *"urbanHIST Newsletter"* was launched on a quarterly basis.

The Department of History organizes various *scientific and popularizing activities*. Yearly, several scientific confe-

rences and workshops are held by the Department as a result of its research projects and cooperation with other institutions. Besides them the published pieces of our work are often presented to the public. Moreover, organization of the *Conference of Young Historians*, at which doctoral students from Slovakia and neighbouring countries introduce their work in a discussion with other historians, has become an annual tradition in Košice. The most active students present their papers at the *Students Scientific Conference*. In the years 2013 – 2016, thus, in cooperation with Nation's Memory Institute, the Department realized numerous *Discussion Evenings* focused on diversified political and social themes of Slovakia's history in the 20th century.

Following the thematic focus of urbanHIST, institutional collaboration of the Department of History with the *Institute of Geography at the Faculty of Science, UPJŠ* is of special relevance for our project for providing consultancy and supervision, as well as access to highly specialised infrastructure, technology and equipment (e.g. Geography Information Science Laboratory), and specialized libraries.

During the first ten years of its existence, the Department of History has experienced significant development. It has become an *accepted research center*, as it can be evidenced by a number of realized important scientific events, by the establishment of a scientific journal, by the success of research and infrastructure projects, or by the interest of scholars.) in research, study or lecture stay at our Department.

For more information, visit: <https://www.upjs.sk/faculty-of-arts/departement-of-history/9567/>; <http://geografia.science.upjs.sk/index.php/en/>.

Katarína Hajduková
UPJŠ Local Coordinator



The UPJŠ Rectorate Building Interior | Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

BIOGRAPHY

SINCE 2016 Local director of EC H2020-MSCA-ITN History of European urbanism in 20th century

SINCE 2016 Member of the Slovak National Committee of Historians

SINCE 2015 Member of the Board of Directors of the Nation's Memory Institute in Bratislava

SINCE 2014 Member of Deutsch-Tschechische und Deutsch-Slowakische Historikerkommission

SINCE 2012 Head of Department of History at the Faculty of Arts of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

SINCE 2011 – Higher education teaching professional at the Faculty of Arts of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

1999 – 2012 - Higher education teaching professional at the University of Prešov in Prešov

2010 – 2011 Project manager and research fellow at the Centre of Excellence for Socio-Historical and Culture-Historical Research at the University of Prešov in Prešov

2005 – 2011 Head of Department of the Modern Times and the Most Recent General History of the Institute of History at the Faculty of Arts of the Prešov University in Prešov

2005 – 2010 Deputy director of the Institute of History at the Faculty of Arts of University of Prešov in Prešov

2006 – 2009 Research fellow at the Institute for Regional and National Minorities Studies at the University of Prešov in Prešov

2009 Habilitation procedure at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Prešov in Prešov. Habilitation lecture: National and Religious Principles of the Slovak Statehood in the Period 1939 – 1945

2004 Completion of dissertation as Dr. phil. (PhD.) at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Prešov in Prešov. Dissertation thesis: Political Situation in Eastern Slovakia and the Activities of Political Parties 1939 – 1945

1999 – 2004 Doctoral studies at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Prešov in Prešov

1994 – 1999 University studies of History and Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Prešov in Prešov

Martin Pekár

urbanHIST – the Experience that Moves Us Forward

Historian and Associate Professor at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice and urbanHIST local director at UPJŠ Assoc. Prof. Martin Pekár has told us more about his career as a historian and about the urbanHIST project.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Besides being the head of the Department of History at the Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, you are primarily a historian and associate professor in the field of History of Slovakia. When did you realize you wanted to be a historian?

MARTIN: To be honest, I have never thought of becoming a historian. When graduating from secondary school, the study of History and Philosophy was my "plan B". The "plan A" was to study Law, which was at the time of major socio-political transformation after the fall of the Iron Curtain perceived and understood as the most convenient way as to securing a quality life during uncertain times. The times have changed, however, and Slovakia has become a stable democracy and a part of the united Europe, so I would not trade now.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Why did you decide to focus on History of Slovakia in the first half of the 20th century?

MARTIN: First of all, it was a pragmatic decision related to the details of my first employment – in 1999, I accepted a job position as a researcher at the department where History of Slovakia was the primary research focus. This was the most effective as well as the quickest way of my participation in the departmental everyday activities and research as such. After the collapse of the communist regime, the state-of-the-art within this research area was quite poor. More than forty years of the communist government in the former Czechoslovakia (1948-1989) went hand in hand with the forty years of the dominant position of ideologically deformed Marxist historiography. Among the consequences, one could observe lagging behind in the historical science methodology, misinterpretations and research gaps – all of which is still valid today. I have developed my highest research priorities – diminishing and riddance of the methodological handicaps and considering the historical development in Slovakia within a broader, for example European development. This may only be possible via our participation in successful and renowned research networks.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Do you think it is important to know history or to study history in order to learn from the past?

MARTIN: I do not share the opinion that history repeats itself; nevertheless, I am convinced that we can learn important lessons from it. Knowing and understanding of the past possesses the capability of identifying the possible consequences of human actions or predicting the long-term trends relating to the present we live in or even the near future. This knowledge may influence e.g. contemporary on-the-spot decisions of an individual or representatives of elites in a positive way. The knowledge of history may help building one's own identity, identify values and priorities, develop critical thinking skills etc. There exist a lot of examples of the meaning of history for

the individual as well as for the society. However, I have an impression that the potential of history, especially in Central Europe, is not used in a sufficient way and we only make use of it occasionally or on purpose.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: As the local director of the Slovak part of urbanHIST project, can you evaluate the benefits and difficulties of managing an international project which includes four beneficiaries and the budget exceeding 3.7 million euro? Is this project a professional or managerial challenge for you?

MARTIN: Naturally, it is a huge challenge! It has been the most significant milestone of my career so far and I do not know if anything may reach beyond it in the years to come. Mentioning benefits might seem premature as I believe that those of the greatest

significance are still to be discovered. As far as the project management is concerned, it is not straightforward. We are cooperating within a large international consortium covering Europe from Spain to Slovakia, from Sweden to Italy. There are ESRs within urbanHIST consortium who do not even come from Europe. To define a unified framework, both professionally and organisationally, for such a conglomerate may seem a Sisyphean task. One component of the project is, e.g. double-degree doctoral study. While implementing it, we have to respect the higher-education legislation in four countries, internal regulations within four universities and the content of the four different doctoral study programmes representing different scientific disciplines. The object of particular attention is the gruelling task of the project administration and the financial responsibility. Mastering all of



Martin Pekár | Photo by Lukáš Katriňák



Martin Pekár | Photo by Thomas Müller

the above-mentioned is only possible if everyday communication and mutual respect form the key elements of the cooperation. To conclude, it is an invaluable and enriching experience for me, professionally and personally – I might continue talking about it for hours.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: What is your favourite part about working on urbanHIST project?

MARTIN: urbanHIST provides me with the benefits in terms of travelling and meeting interesting colleagues from different research fields, opening possibilities of discussion and active cooperation. This belongs among my most favourite activities. On the other hand, I am very well aware of the fact that I also got the opportunity not only to be engaged into the research of European significance but also to shape its form and direction - to certain extent. Therefore I enjoy working on the project even if more challenging tasks are being solved. What is more, due to the peripheral position of Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities in the research support system in Slovakia, the involvement of UPJŠ as one of urbanHIST beneficiaries represents remarkably impressive success. It is of great importance to me and I really respect the potential of urbanHIST in terms of presenting an example for the Slovak society, showing that the relevance of SSH must not be underestimated

and last but not least, in terms of contributing towards historical sciences research development in Slovakia, but also at UPJŠ.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Apart from being the urbanHIST local director at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, you are also a supervisor and co-supervisor. To your understanding, what is the most important quality a supervisor should have?

MARTIN:

Being a supervisor is a responsible task. Mastering it requires the synergy of a number of factors which in the end form the supervisor's personality. One could divide them into professional and personal factors. From the professional point of view, the supervisor must be an active researcher in the field, ideally also an experienced teacher. Personal factors include respecting the personality and the efforts of a doctoral student, hard work, patience, especially honesty and willingness to openly state and discuss research progress weak points. Obviously, most of these qualities are difficult to judge. Moreover, an ideal supervisor is merely a prerequisite for the success,

not its automatic guarantee; equally important is the doctoral student's personality and qualities. All in all, within sound academic environment, the supervisor and the doctoral student co-exist in a dynamic balance and it is the nature of this relationship that determines the overall prosperity. As in other human relationships, the outcome of

these joint efforts cannot be mathematically calculated.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: With the beginning of the new academic year

the Early Stage Researcher team in urbanHIST project was completed. What is your opinion of it?

MARTIN: When the complete urbanHIST team met for the first time in Karlskrona in October 2017, I was reflecting upon the individual projects and the young people we had selected in the two rounds of the selection procedure. I was listening to their presentations and felt proud. What I saw, were young educated professionals with an ambition to show and further develop their potential. And each of them was unique! All of the local directors, Maria, Max and Abdellah shared these im-

pressions. Now it is turn for the ESRs to prove their capabilities, to use the potential productively and to overcome the many "obstacles" to come during the next three years. They possess the prerequisites for doing so and I am more than convinced that urbanHIST consortium provides excellent conditions for their growth.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: What would you recommend to Early Stage Researchers for successful completion of the programme?

MARTIN: As I have mentioned, all of the ESRs have the ambition to prove their quality, so there is no lack of strong internally-driven motivation, quite the opposite. urbanHIST offers exceptional working conditions and outstanding supervisors. My only advice therefore is to use all of it in order to accomplish the objectives of our common project, to fulfill their own professional aspirations and thus establish the path leading to their rewarding careers.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Martin, thank you very much for taking the time. Good luck to the project and much success in your career.

Interviewed by Zuzana Tokárová
urbanHIST Newsletter Editor

Translated by Katarína Hajduková
UPJŠ Local Coordinator

FURTHER ENGAGEMENTS

General Editor of:

- scientific journal *Mesto a dejiny* (The City and History)
- project newsletter urbanHIST Newsletter

Member of the Editorial Board of scientific journal:

- *Acta historica Neosoliensia*
- *Studia Historica Nitriensia*
- *Východočeské listy historické* (East-Bohemian Journal of History)
- *Urbánní studie* (Urban Studies)
- open access journal *Dejiny* (History)
- *Magazine Historická revue* (Historical Revue)

Member of Scientific Boards:

- The Institute of Military History in Bratislava
- The Museum of the Slovak National Uprising in Banská Bystrica

Member of the doctoral study committee:

- Committee for Ph.D. studies at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
- Committee for Ph.D. studies at the University of Ostrava



Photo by Max Welch Guerra

We Introduce SUSANNA WEDDIGE

I was born in a small place in Lower Saxony (Germany) in 1981. I love to learn new things, I am curious about places and their people and challenges are always part of my journey through life. This combination might be the reason for my uncommon development from an educated nurse and some years in this profession in Oslo, Norway, to my BA studies

in Social Sciences and Philosophy to my MA in Modern History. When my first son was six months old, we had the chance to spend half a year in Kraków, Poland, while I was an Erasmus student. Already then, I was aware of the complex and challenging questions of the history of urbanism, but had no time to go deeper into this field right then, as I was dealing

mainly with the history of the countries in Eastern Europe.

Spare time in my life means for instance to explore the Swedish autumnal forest with my boys and to make delicious meals with freshly picked berries and mushrooms. This makes me happy and it helps to forget about the heaps of laundry, the never ending to-do-lists and some-

times even piles of still unread books on my desk. But if I manage to sneak in a book I want to read for fun, it is usually the one and only Jo Nesbø and his crime novels or a piece of fantasy like the Earthsea compilation of Ursula K. Le Guin.

Susanna Weddige
Early Stage Researcher

The Establishment of Urbanism as Profession and Discipline

There is still no consensus about what urbanism really is. What is its nature, its actions and what knowledge is it based on? For getting a better understanding of these questions and their dimensions, my field of research is *The Establishment of Urbanism as Profession and Discipline* and my task is to go back to the roots of this development.

Usually the beginning of urbanism is connected to the industrialization in the 19th century, its fast-growing cities, the increasing density of living space and an urban extension. This development prompted questions about how to extend cities on one hand and how to increase the living conditions of the workers on the other hand. Due to this, scientific research is often linked to countries like Britain, France, Germany and the United States. Even though this narration is overwhelmingly strong in scientific understanding and publication, it only shows part of the development in Europe and gives no explanation to many other cases and countries. In Sweden, for instance, the industrialization started with sawmills and iron processing, industries which were not urban related. In addition, there was a low population density and in a European comparison the growth of the cities started quite late. But at the same time, the first attempts in Sweden for an urban planning le-

gislation for the whole country started very early compared with many other European countries. As the first country ever Sweden promulgated a national law already in 1874 which required major cities to have long term plans. Furthermore, the discussion of compiling a plan for Stockholm was already debated in 1857. In 1862 the first urban planning competition in Sweden for Göteborg took place: the first large-scale planning project of the 19th century which was not caused by a city fire. How can developments like this be explained beside the obvious connection between the industrialization and the emergence of the early urbanist? Questions like this exemplify my focus of research and my interest in this issue.

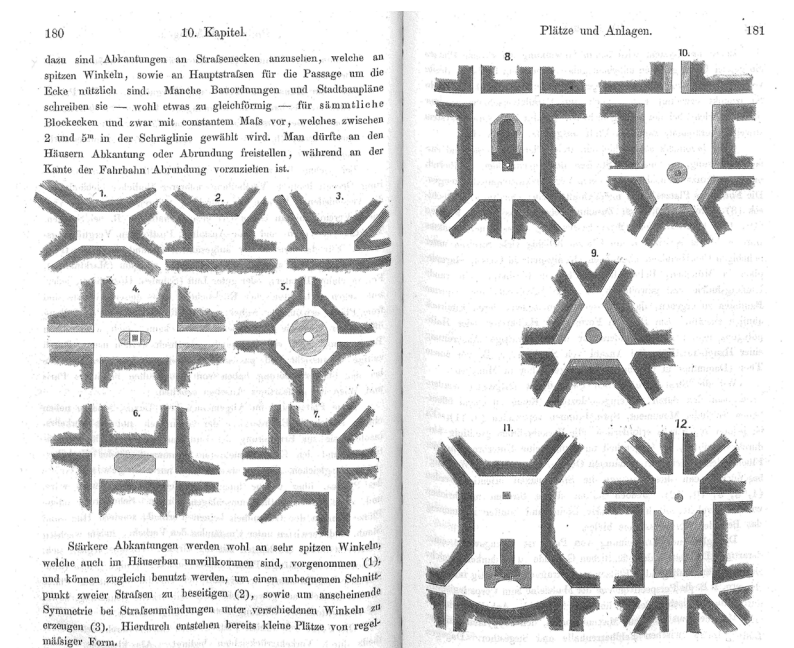
Looking closely at the four elements of my topic (establishment, urbanism, profession, discipline) and asking what these terms mean and contain, the focus of my research becomes more obvious. In the following, I will use the word establishment for clarifying

purpose and to illustrate my approach. Talking about the *establishment* of a new profession and discipline, three questions are to be asked:

1. who were the people involved in this process,
2. what was the new knowledge developed by the early urbanists and
3. how did the vocational training change?

Firstly, the professionals dealing with the problems of urbanism in the 19th century were engineers and social reformers, people working in the administration, lawyers, doctors, hygienists and in the beginning of the 20th century architects as well. How were these different people connected, their networks organized and how did their knowledge emerge and evolve are some of my questions. Using France as an example, the *Musée Social* is very important for my research. This institution, founded in 1894, played an important role as a research center and as a meeting place for people dealing with urban questions.

Secondly, some of these people became authors by collecting and codifying the new knowledge in manuals and handbooks. These manuals were very important since they were a manifestation of the claim that the new discipline was rational and of scientific nature. At the same time, they were a symbol of stability of the new discipline, at a time when the only agreement seemed to be disagreement. This resulted from the different professional backgrounds of the people involved and their different convictions of how to solve the problems at hand like sanitary questions (fresh water supply and sewer systems), traffic problems, the lack of housing and so on. The first manual considered as such was written by the engineer Reinhard Baumeister (*Stadt-Erweiterungen in technischer, baupolizeilicher und wirtschaftlicher*



Pages from important manual: Baumeister 1876, pp. 180-181. Magnago Lampugnani, Vittorio – Albrecht, Katrin – Bihlmaier, Helene – Zurfluh, Lukas (Hg.). *Manuale zum Städtebau. Die Systematisierung des Wissens von der Stadt 1870 – 1950*. Berlin: DOM publishers, 2017, pp. 64-65.

Beziehung, Berlin: Ernst&Korn, 1876).

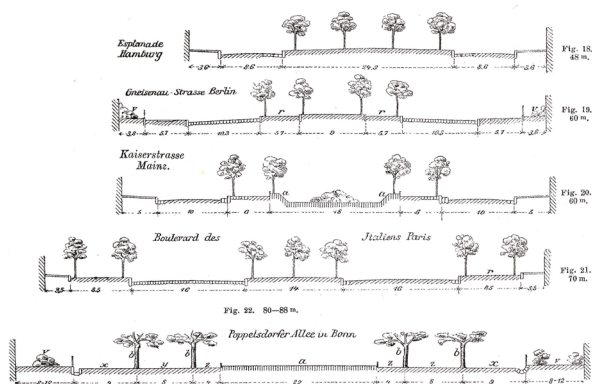
Thirdly, new ways and models of teaching were developed and tested, depending on the profession and the specific aim of the teacher. There was a deep gap between the professional self-conception of the engineers with their focus on science and the professional self-conception of the architects and their focus on art. Many architects in this early stage of establishing the new discipline were convinced that their art was not teachable by manuals or seminars. Another interesting fact is that there was usually a gap between the authors of manuals and the teachers, where Baumeister is an exception again. Since 1890 he held the first chair in "Städtebau" in Karlsruhe, Germany.

In close connection to the early developments, sketched out by mentioning the professionals, the manuals and the vocational training, are the debates of the 19th century about how to build and change the cities. The German case of Berlin needs to be mentioned, especially the so-called *Hobrecht-Plan* resolved in 1862 and its criticism formulated 1870 by Ernst Bruch. In the beginning of the 20th century, the new discipline gradually stabi-

zed. The *Musée Social*, for example, established a new section in 1908 (*Section on Urban and Rural Hygiene*) which became a meeting point for the French early urbanists. Until the First World War, activities concerned with the exchange of knowledge were increasing in many European countries. There were competitions like the *Copenhagen International Competition 1909*, exhibitions like the *Allgemeine Städtebau-Ausstellung Berlin 1910*, conferences like the Town Planning Conference London 1910 and study trips to other European countries. These activities will be part of my further investigations.

My supervisors are presenting the main fields of my studies and their different backgrounds are helping me to face the challenges of my topic. My first supervisor is Abdellah Abarkan, who is an educated architect and dealing with urban planning as the head of the Swedish School of Planning at the Blekinge Tekniska Högskola (BTH) in Karlskrona, Sweden. My second supervisor is the historian Martin Pekár of the Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika (UPJŠ) in Košice, Slovakia.

Susanna Weddige
Early Stage Researcher



Reinhard Baumeister, *Städtisches Strassenwesen und Städtereingang*, 1890

Pages from important manual: Baumeister Strassenprofile 1890. Magnago Lampugnani, Vittorio – Albrecht, Katrin – Bihlmaier, Helene – Zurfluh, Lukas (Hg.). *Manuale zum Städtebau. Die Systematisierung des Wissens von der Stadt 1870 – 1950*. Berlin: DOM publishers, 2017, p. 21.



Photo by Max Welch Guerra

We Introduce

ELVIRA KHAIRULLINA

I was born in the Kostanay region of Kazakhstan in 1989 and I studied a Bachelor degree in Architecture in Astana. During my studies and practice in the City Planning Department of Astana, I realized that I am interested in Urban Planning very much as it involves broader questions about society development. After my graduation, I continued with a Master Degree in Urban Planning at the University of

Granada with an Erasmus Mundus scholarship. This could possibly be considered my greatest academic achievement, because it was my first step in the direction of investigation in urban planning history, carefully guided by professors Rafael Reinoso and Sergio Campos.

I like books related to existentialism, one of the last books I have read was by French philosopher *Michel de*

Montaigne, Essays, where he considered the problem of cognition process through the analysis of oneself in order to achieve the authenticity of knowledge. I think, to some extent, this approach could be useful for research. Another of my favorite authors is *Fyodor Dostoevsky* and his brilliant work *The Brothers Karamazov*, which shows I think not only the crisis of human beings but also the importance

of humanism. His work brings to mind the words of one of the people whom I most admire, that an urbanist should be a good person, but first he should not be hypocritical.

During my spare time I like climbing mountains with my friends, discovering unfamiliar places, sharing different stories and singing during the journey.

(continued on page 11)

Planning City and Transport in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the 1960s

I am studying at the University of Valladolid. My supervisors are prof. Luis Santos y Ganges (UVa, Spain) and prof. Jaroslav Hofierka (UPJŠ, Slovakia).

Since the 1960s efficient and accessible transportation planning has become the main issue in socialist urban planning. This is mainly related to two core objectives. One of these objectives was to provide productivity to cities through fast connections between workplaces and residences, and the accessibility of industrial zones. The importance of this aim could be seen from the words of Michel Roe (1990): "*Transport remains subordinate to economic growth, having to react rapidly (and frequently falling) to changes in industrial plans, and to failures to keep to industrial targets.*" The second objective was related to the necessity to establish social relations and control people's displacement. Both aims needed new urban planning principles to be spatially implemented and integrated.

In urban planning of this period, Western and Eastern Blocs cooperated and there was a transfer of scientific knowledge and for this reason similarities in planning methods exist. This, however, should be understood from the socialist city context. Inside the Eastern Bloc, due to the differentiation in communist party regimes (Kevin McDermott, 2015) in central planned economies and thus, in urban and transport planning approaches, this question should not be viewed as a similar issue. Among the socialist transport planning criteria could be mentioned: door-to-door 30-minute access to every point of the city; equal access to all centralities and workplaces; an array of travel direction options; integration with land use development; strong orientation to public transport planning; functioning of the city as a coherent organism and to future development possibilities, – all these needed appropriations, reconsiderations and the development of existing transport planning methods.

The main resources in the Soviet Union bibliography could be the works of O. K. Kudrjavcev, an architect dedicated to scientific methods and calculations of traffic and transport, and its integration with urban planning. The views of soviet traffic planners V. A. Cherepanov, A.A.Polyakov and G.A.Goltz on this issue could also be emphasized in their fundamental works on socialist transport planning.

Studies by John Pusher *Capitalism, Socialism and Urban Transportation* (1990) completed in the late socialism period explain transport policies functioning in central and eastern Europe and their relationship with land use and urban development. Furthermore, L. H. Siegelbaum studies regarding the *Socialist Car Automobility in the Eastern Bloc* (2011) explain how "invisible" car culture was developed in socialist societies. On the other hand, E. Beyer's (2011) and L. Steven's (2015) works emphasize the influence of urban planning for automobility on urban space production in Eastern and Western Blocs. The topic of the thesis could be helpful, in my opinion, to cover another side of transport planning question, related to transport systems and traffic engineering planning, which finally heavily influenced the whole urban model.

From these resources various questions have emerged which have changed the research guidelines. What role has urban transport planning had in socialist urban planning concepts, like optimal, flexible, dynamic, integrated and finished city? Were transport infrastructure planning methods similar to each other inside the Eastern Bloc, and to capitalist cities? Why and how were these techniques applied and appropriated for different socialist urban planning objectives? What degree of specificity in urban transport infrastructure planning did Eastern Europe countries have?

The aim of this dissertation is to understand the role of transport infrastructure planning in socialist urban planning, its influence on urban form and structure, and its interrelations with socio-economic and political objectives. This objective will, in general, help to understand the degree of relation between Eastern Europe countries and the Soviet Union, as well as the phenomenon of a socialist city. With regards to this term it may be appropriate to mention Kimberly E. Zarecor's opinion about what a socialist city is (2017): a socialist city can be defined as a stage of urban development with recognizable set of priorities for decision-making. Thus, the basic approach in studying the transnational history of Eastern Europe will be understanding



Different modes of transport functioning in Warsaw in the late 1960s. Huge space planning to provide visibility and safety in road intersections | Source: <http://www.fotopolska.eu>

the features of these priorities in state socialist urban and transport planning.

My hypotheses are first that the technical criteria of transport planning were applied in order to change the urban model and appropriate it to the socialist regime objectives. Transport planning played a crucial role in transforming the socialist city model (existing socialist city planning principles) and converting it into a more productive and controlled one.

The second hypothesis is that central planning economy favored better integration between transport infrastructure and urban planning. This is to say that a strong orientation to plan an efficient city were accompanied by many compositional schemes of land use development and transport systems to provide maximum accessibility and economy.

As for the specific research approach, on the one hand, it will be based on studying the theory of urban and transport planning, and applying comparative analysis methods between Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. This method will focus on identifying interrelations and differences, the level of influence of the Soviet Union on Eastern Europe, and the relation which is not so visible, that of the influence of Eastern Europe on the Soviet Union. As John H. Elliot mentioned

(2009): above all a comparative approach forces us to reconsider our assumptions about the uniqueness of our own historical explanation.

On the other hand, in order to understand the degree of interrelation between transport and urban planning, the topic will be studied from a double point of view: the influence of urban planning on transport planning (territory characteristics, established norms in density, politics in centralities, industry location and its relationship with residential space), and the influence of transport planning on urban planning (capacity of transport infrastructure, accessibility, travelling time, proximity, etc.). Starting from an analysis of urban planning theory and defining its characteristics, research will focus on defining its application in different conditions through the analysis of case studies.

Finally, I think that a historical approach to transport planning in socialist urban planning could not only help to understand the history of socialist cities, but also help to understand their main value – the urban structure, and from that point – to contribute to the appropriate urban intervention in contemporary cities.

Elvira Khairullina
Early Stage Researcher

Open Lecture: Morphological Changes in Postsocialist Cities

Blog by Adam Górká

Early Stage Researcher



Photo by Agnès Dudych



Photo by Agnès Dudych

At the end of November I had a chance to present the concept and some of the insights of my Ph.D. project during the open lecture entitled *Understanding the morphological changes in postsocialist cities using 3-D virtual models. Case study Košice*. The lecture was a part of the Scientific Seminars which take place periodically at the Institute of Geography, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. I was hoping that since in my research I will be using GIS tools, presenting and discussing my project with colleagues geographers could provide me with some new perspectives. And after the seminar I was not disappointed.

After a short presentation of myself and urbanHIST project I continued with the description of my project. I started with pointing out the main aim which is to *reconstruct and understand the processes that change the morphology of postsocialist cities* and the specific approach I want to conduct using virtual 3D modeling and retrospective approach. Then I presented the object of my studies – the city of Košice in past 3 decades. The second largest town in Slovakia is a regional center which has experienced a lot of transformation phenomena from the socialist city to the free market economy. Next, I was talking about the methodology that I want to use in my research. The general idea of urbanHIST as an interdisciplinary project indicates the need for building

the methodology of my study by recalling to different fields of knowledge. And the research specifics states a significant role of Geography and Geoinformatics but also History with its critical analysis of archival sources. Afterwards, I continued with the description of the main tool that I plan to use – the virtual 3D model of the city and the method of work with its main stages: data collecting and reviewing, building 3D model, analysis and interpretation. I mentioned the pros and challenges of 3D modeling that might appear when using retrospective approach and working on historical data. Then I presented some representatives of state of the art that is wide and rich for urban development and not that big for using GIS and retrospective approach, since it is a relatively new field. I also presented some of the general concepts that I want to recall in my research, such as *urban sprawl, machine of growth, globalization or city regime models*. The last part of my lecture was the sources description. Cartographic data are crucial for my project, but to build a 3D model, more information is needed. As it was pointed in the beginning, the main aim is understanding of processes leading to morphological changes of the city. For that it is needed to refer to many other historical sources. The list includes urban master-plans, building law, economic statistics, relations about investments,

interviews etc. Important is also the historical background of the city and its region. The events and processes that started long before the period being reviewed still can influence the present time and create the frames for city development. For this, important role in my research will be played by historiography – works by other historians considering Košice, to which I could refer.

The Seminar continued with the discussion. There were some interesting suggestions about the available data and publications that should become helpful. We discussed the methodological issues such as level of details in 3D model, the exact borders of the research subject (some of the city development processes grow outside of its administrative area), what type/size of objects should be suitable for my analysis (building, neighborhood, urban unit or city district). There were also voices that drew my attention to the fact that when analyzing urban planning, one should be aware of the significance of the difference between the plans and the real urban space development. The discussion was interesting and gave me a lot to think of. The same can be said about the whole seminar. Sharing your ideas with others helps to get some perspective and organize your thinking. The bonus are some new thoughts that might help with developing the research ideas.

What is it like to be a European Citizen, Student and a Researcher?

On January 12, 2018, urbanHIST early stage researchers at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Agnès Dudych and Jovana Vukčević gave a presentation at bilingual secondary grammar school (Gymnázium sv. Edity Steinovej, Košice) on the topic of being a European citizen, student and researcher within EU-funded urbanHIST project, focusing on how and why a career in research

might be attractive to young Europeans. Using interactive online quiz to test the students' knowledge in the areas related to the students mobility, university internationalisation strategies, Erasmus+ and other EU programmes, Agnès and Jovana invited students to reflect on the wide variety of European opportunities in terms of studying, living and working abroad. Our researchers shared their academic

and professional development in the framework of the European higher education system, explaining how rewarding, dynamic and inspiring careers in academia may be, especially when you get to be a part of the European project such as urbanHIST at the Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice.

Agnès Dudych, Jovana Vukčević
Early Stage Researchers



Photo by Agnès Dudych

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I also like writing poetry and taking photos, then sharing them with people and receiving feedback on them. It is especially important if it could provoke someone's feelings and emotions, which can help someone to understand an individual and to relate with that person more accurately. A historical figure for me is everyone who has made or who is currently making something important for the development of society. I am fortunate enough to be meeting some of them every day, to have conversations and make my tiny contribution to the reconstruction of history.

Elvira Khairullina
Early Stage Researcher

Federico Camerin's Participation at International Conference: A Safe Future for the City

Blog by Federico Camerin

Early Stage Researcher



Photo by Federico Camerin

The international conference *A SAFE FUTURE FOR THE CITY openness to change and acceptable risk in territorial government* held at *La Triennale* of Milan (Italy) between 21st and 24th of November 2017 (organized by INU, the Italian Urbanism National Institution and URBIT Italian Urbanism srl), pursues to give an integrated view of the following thematic areas. In fact, during the 4-day conference, there have been analyzed: the evolution of urban-planning processes on an international scale (the impact of innovation and globalization processes, long-term spatial scenarios, shrinking cities, etc.), examining the conflicts and synergies between local and global values (paths for growth, dimensions of the economic base, demographic and social context, policies to support marginal areas, consideration of endogenous socio-cultural resources as a source of innovation. The conference has also tackled the risk analysis (territorial vulnerability studies, aspects concerning the prevention of seismic risk and securing high-risk territories, analysis of hydraulic risks and heat islands, study of phenomena associated with land consumption), the evaluation of the positive effects of heritage enhancement and land securing (information networks, enhancing of the value of local resources, increasing tourism demand); the climate change and

adaptation strategies (objectives of mitigation, examination of adaptation policies, reverse of urban regulation, ecological corridors, energy improvements, smart grid) and the reuse of decommissioned areas and the management of deindustrialization processes (urban crowdsourcing and temporary/permanent uses, reclamation and re-naturalization processes for brownfield sites, etc.).

Precisely, Federico Camerin, Early Stage Researcher at Instituto Universitario de Urbanística of University of Valladolid, and prof. Luca Maria Francesco Fabris had the opportunity to participate in the conference in the field of the last issue, specifically the military recommissioned areas and the management of military construction, emptying and re-use processes. The contribution they presented at the conference was called *Military emptying and territorial use changes. An analysis by former Trieste barracks case in Casarsa della Delizia*. This military premises is one of the biggest in Italy, and it is located in a small village in Friuli Venezia Giulia Region), also well-known for Pier Paolo Pasolini tomb.

For more information, check the websites <http://urbanpromo.it/2017/>, <http://www.planum.net/planum-magazine/planum-publisher-publication/un-futuro-affidabile-per-la-citta>.

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In the first place, the specific construction process of those fragments of city identified with urban facilities that demand a great property to make its real materialization possible. This is the case of industries, railway, of large urban services, as well, the military installations. The analysis of the production process of all these artifacts, requires, firstly, the interpretation of the city from the role played by them in their socio-spatial configuration, that is to interpret the city from the spatial configuration of concrete historical facts. At first, therefore, we analyze the formation of spatial episodes built on the "great property". Second, such urban artifacts, either urban equipment, citizen services, or activities, in general, that generate wealth, are settled in the city because they benefit from the "economies of agglomeration" that they

produce. However, under the influence of the new demands of the capital, motivated by technological developments, which reinvest the classical industry towards "productive services", impelling their relocation, and abandoning the city, in favor of new more productive spatial locations, the old installations that they used from their origins become obsolete. Well understanding the production of this "obsolescence" requires the implementation of a real estate mechanism whose objective is to empty the socio-spatial content that has been evicted. Proceeding to the dismantling of urban artifacts which do not demand the capital, because they do not believe it necessary, although its service continues to be useful, especially for the most disadvantaged social groups, constitutes, we say, a more real estate process to understand the historical construction of the city. On this occasion, it is a real estate practice that "constructs"

the waste, which makes the appropriation of a "social space" to dismantle it. This "real estate process" constitutes an unquestionable reference to understand the historical process of construction of the city, as well as those that contribute to its materialization as "built space". And, thirdly, the reconversion of obsolete spaces, left by urban activities linked to the "great property", in other forms - urban contents capable of promoting new socio-spatial behaviors. On this occasion, we are talking about one of the most common urban phenomena that has characterized, and continue to characterize, the construction of the European city, from the last third of the twentieth century to our days. We are talking about Urban Regeneration processes. We complete, in this way, a complete cycle.

Construction, waste, empties, evictions, undone, undoing, regeneration, therefore, constitute

three different but intimately related urban phenomena capable of offering us, from their analysis, a scientific interpretation of the process of historical construction of the European city during the 20th century: Assuming the "city", as object of study; the "great property", as a reference "real estate"; and the "urban planning", as an interpreter and propeller of certain behaviors. Three processes that come together to present a new account of the European city. It is what, in a certain way, wants to express the general title that we have proposed, "Urban heritage planning, its relations to real-estate, economic and social models in 20th century Europe", to refer, within the Program, to the concrete field in the one that the thesis we are elaborating is inserted in.

Alfonso Álvarez Mora
urbanHIST Supervisor for ESR

International Conference: 100 Years since the Russian Revolution

Granada (Spain) / November 15-17, 2017



Malevich. Complex premonition, Torso in yellow shirt. 1932 |
Source: <http://rusmuseum.ru>

Between 15th and 17th of November I visited a conference held at the university of Granada which had been organized by the university in conjunction with the Russian Center and the Department of Contemporary History. The conference was called, *100 years since the Russian Revolution* and its aim was to celebrate the centenary of the Revolution by bringing together different kinds of people from distinct parts of the world, and to raise its main issues.

The first day started with an overall understanding the antecedents of the Revolution. The main speaker of this day was G. Hosking who presented an interesting topic 'Paradoxes of Trust and Distrust: the Russian Revolution and Soviet society' with the principal questions of why distrust appeared and how it was continued over the whole socialist period, both among society and party members.

The second day provided diverse topics oriented towards people's reactions and feelings towards the Revolution. Especially interesting was the artistic expression and

literature section. For example, Malevich's vision about countryman transformation to industrial worker, or techniques of dictators' representation in official paintings which enabled me to immerse myself in that period. This part of the conference was accompanied by the next section dedicated to philosophical and political thoughts. It presented a representation of the socialist regime as a new era in society which needed a different philosophy to create a new collective memory, and to strengthen collective oblivion. Both of which were realized through the confrontation and synthesis of orthodox Marxism, traditional and anarchist views.

The last day was dedicated to the topics regarding the legacy of Russian Revolution, both in later socialist and post-socialist period. In this case, it was interesting to see the continuity of economic politics, human behavior, traditions and habits, urban planning principles, etc. Ironically, these aspects difficultly consolidated in socialist period, were deeply rooted in the society, and thus presented dif-

ficulties for change in post-socialist period. I was interested in this event as studying socialist city is always accompanied by an understanding such crucial events as the Russian Revolution. This period played a significant role because it explained that Soviet urbanism was not always a centralized and authoritarian urban planning process. It was creative and facilitated debate and discussion when responding to the needs of the party and socialist ideology. It was the moment in which the initial and fundamental principles for the socialist urban structure were created which were then reinterpreted over the socialist time, but never completely changed.

In general, this conference united different views, reconsidered important topics, unearthed the hidden questions which contributed to open different facets, nuanced and differentiated views. For this reason, it could be considered as another step to understand Russian Revolution, but above all to understand our present.

Elvira Khairullina
Early Stage Researcher

Scientific Colloquium: Neplánované plánované mestá [Unplanned Planned Cities]

Bratislava (Slovakia) / November 8, 2017

The scientific colloquium entitled *Unplanned planned cities* headed by Prof. Dr. Ing. Arch. Henrieta Moravčíková took place on November 8, 2017 in Bratislava at the exhibition area of the Institute of Construction and Architecture, Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV) in Bratislava, which was the main organizer of the colloquium. The general aim was to show that the city is in many cases much more the result of fragmentary unsuccessful achievements rather than the reflection of the conscious plan pursued by comprehensive urban plans. The colloquium was divided into two blocks with 10 active contributors.

The first block focused on case studies and included presentations about various points of view of differences between urban planning and real appearance of cities. Following contributions were presented: *Boundary of plan and entropy* dealing with reasons for non-implementation of city plans by referring to examples from Bratislava and Prague in the 20th century, *Industry in contact with the city: Bratislava in the 20th century* researched the impact of the industry in Bratislava on urbanization; *Bratislava Castle and the Castle Hill: (Un)connected destinies: Mapping of the social debate on the preservation of the ruins of Bratislava Castle in the context of the Castle Hill*; *Blank cheque:*

Bratislava and the "Asanation Act" presenting urban redevelopment and its implication in the Slovak law, *Unplanned planned cities: Košice in the 20th century* presented a good example how former urban planning might be useful for new ideas; *Vision and reality: the realization of development plans in the history of the Brno Exhibition Center* where the individual plans and the actual construction of the exhibition pavilions from 1924 were described and compared; and *Disaster or the new beginning: Subotica's unrealized plan*

from 1967 analyzing the regulation plan for the downtown that required a transformation of the city-center in the framework of socialist modernism.

The other block focused on comparative studies and included these contributions: *Who has designed modern Bratislava? Selected modern concepts in the structure of the city, their appearance and origin* compared 3 urban concepts from the beginning of the 20th century and their influences into the post-war concepts; *Unplanned planned cities – regional centers of*

Bohemia compared differences in the planning and development of institutions and their planning tools in Pilsen and Hradec Králové; and *City as the mirror of discontinuity: An Urban history of Prague in the 20th century* described and compared the development and changes in planning and realization of the plans in center of Prague from the beginning of the 20th century till the present.

After presentations, the discussion was opened and its result was that for cities, what is important are not only

realized plans, but also the unrealized ones because of continuity of urban planning and development and the opportunity for presentation of different urban designs with its advantages and disadvantages. The colloquium was beneficial for urbanHIST ESRs not only because of interesting contributions in the field of urbanism and urban history but especially for the opportunity to meet with Slovak and Czech experts in this field.

Ondřej Jirásek, Adam Górka
Early Stage Researchers



Photo by Agnès Dudych



Photo by Agnès Dudych

