

# urbanHIST Newsletter

JULY 2017, ISSUE 2

ISSN 2585-7118

www.urbanhist.eu

12 PAGES

NOT FOR SALE



## urbanHIST at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar (Germany) - Lead beneficiary of urbanHIST

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## Profile Interview with urbanHIST Project Director Max Welch Guerra

Check out our exclusive interview with urbanHIST project director and BUW local director Max Welch Guerra, who has shared some insights on his university studies, spatial planning and urbanHIST project with us.

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# ESRs Kick-off Meeting / Network-Wide Workshop Week I Meeting

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany  
May 2017

It was a great pleasure and a very special moment to welcome about 40 members of the urbanHIST consortium between May 3rd and 6th at the first urbanHIST network-wide workshop week at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar.

For the first time and one month after 9 urbanHIST Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) started their research work, directors, coordinators, supervisors, researchers, academic and non-academic partner organisations as well as the Advisory Board members came together in order to jointly start the working process.

Getting to know each other was an important matter during these days: the four beneficiaries introduced their teams. Using a photograph of their own choice, the Early Stage Researchers briefly presented themselves and their motivation within urbanHIST. The partner organisations gave an overview on their activities and the Advisory Board members briefly outlined their connection to the subject of urbanHIST. In supervision meetings, the ESRs discussed with their supervisors on the next steps of their research and came to know the partner organisations for their secondments. Besides, time was reserved for networking and informal get-togethers and a joint sports activity during one of the coffee breaks not only surprised everyone but also provided a pleasant refreshment.

However, also starting the discourse on the contents of the urbanHIST project, reflecting concepts and filling urbanHIST mission with con-

crete contents was in the focus of these days. A thematic walk through the city of Weimar led by urbanHIST director Max Welch Guerra offered on site some insights into today's processes of negotiating the built past with all its contradictions. The direct neighbourhood of the new Bauhaus-Museum to the prestigious Nazi-Gauforum and the way these two will be linked provides a very rich example for the different dimensions of the history of urbanism. Communicating different perspectives on urbanism and asking for their emergence as well as changes is the daily work of Claudia Quiring from urbanHIST partner organisation City Museum Dresden as well as from Manon Kempinaire and Stéphanie de Blicke from

partner organisation Civa, Foundation Stichting, Brussels. While Mrs. Quiring highlighted especially the aspect of exhibitions, Mrs. Kempinaire and Mrs. de Blicke stressed the challenges and potentials of archives in urban research. The first urbanHIST lecture was given by Eliana Perotti from ETH Zürich, who is accompanying urbanHIST as a member of the Advisory Board. Mrs. Perotti discussed "The Theoretical Construction of the City", and with reference to the highly estimated outcomes of the research project at ETH Zürich that are published as "An-



Photo by Thomas Müller

thologie zum Städtebau", Mrs. Perotti outlined the main components of a new urban historiography. But what do historiography and researching history methodically actually mean? These questions were discussed on Saturday morning based on the research projects of the Early Stage Researchers. The historians within the consortium commented the inputs and led the discussion, partner organisations and Advisory Board contributed their experiences to this discussion. The Early Stage Researchers participated in two more workshops out of the training programme provided by urbanHIST.

Finally, the first urbanHIST network-wide workshop week also served the purpose of ensuring the progress of the project on qualitatively highest achievable level. Therefore, seven urbanHIST committees with

members out of the consortium will continuously support the Local Directors and Managers in steering the project. These boards were formed during one of the network-wide workshop week sessions.

urbanHIST network-wide workshop weeks take place every 6 months and bring together all people, institutions and organisations involved in urbanHIST. Thus, they are the central element of the whole project as the conditions for a successful cooperation and mutual understanding are formed here. The next workshop week will take place in Karlskrona, Sweden in the first week of October 2017. See you all there!

For detailed programme, follow this link.

Britta Trostorff  
BUW local coordinator



Source: ktct.tdt.edu.vn

Dear readers,

to provide this newborn journal with an editorial is an easy matter because there are plenty of things we want to say in this early stage of our research project urbanHIST. As this is also my first intervention in the journal I will shortly share with you my thoughts on urbanHIST as a research milieu and the need of shared and common understanding of concepts and conceptions that are central to urbanHIST. This means the need of a common language the urbanHIST community needs for an effective communication and dialogue.

With the last recruitment of the remaining four early stage researchers few weeks ago, urbanHIST has fulfilled its first target, in fact the most tangible one, which is to provide with the critical mass fundamental to any research milieu. The leading core of urbanHIST, which includes the local directors and local coordinators representing the four beneficiary universities, faces now the main challenge to manage and coordinate efforts and contributions made by the scholars and practitioners involved in the project. Besides the leading core, urbanHIST includes fifteen doctoral students, thirteen partner organisations representing both academic and professional milieus, and an advisory board including six renowned academics. Not only the number of the participants to urbanHIST is important, but of more significance is its diversity.

Fundamental to any research milieu is the critical mass sustaining the dialogue and inquiry into the research questions posed in a specific situation or project. The research milieu is to include and engage several individuals and/or groups in the discussion of important questions over a fairly long period of time. The research milieu gathers researchers, individuals and groups which are engaged in research and/or practice in one or several closely related research areas.

(continued on page 5)

## urbanHIST Calendar

### PAST ACTIVITIES

#### APRIL 2017

- urbanHIST ESRs recruited in 1st call starting their research activities
- Publication of the first issue of urbanHIST newsletter
- Open lecture series/ IUU's Fridays at UVa launched – «Urban Brownfields, Public Spaces. What uses of the History for what Futures of Urban Heritage?»
- Seminar between the IUU-UVa and the group of research "Usages de l'Histoire et futurs urbains"

#### MAY 2017

- ESR Kick-off / NWWW I meeting (Network-Wide Workshop Week I), Weimar, Germany
- First Cotutelle contracts signed
- Career Development Plans of ESRs signed
- Open lecture series at BUW launched – Urbanism and Politics
- Launching the ESR urbanHIST blog

#### JUNE 2017

- urbanHIST webinar #1, lecturer – Dr. Petr Roubal, Modernist Urban Planning under Socialism and Its Crisis - the Case of Prague, live transmission from BUW
- Open lecture series at UVa - Perspectives on History of Urban Planning in 20th Century: Problems and Methods. (I)
- Open lecture series at UPJŠ launched - Researching Contemporary History (Periodisation, Methods, Problems); Confusion of languages: A Historian in Linguistic Hell (lecturer – prof. Jaroslav Miller)
- Selection procedure for open ESR positions and meeting of project directors and coordinators, Košice, Slovakia

### PRESENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

#### JULY 2017

- Preparations for contracting ESR recruited in 2nd call, preparation of bilateral Cotutelle Agreements, dissemination activities
- Publication of the second issue of urbanHIST newsletter
- Open lecture series at UVa. Perspectives on History of Urban Planning in 20th Century: Problems and Methods (II)

#### SEPTEMBER 2017

- urbanHIST ESRs recruited in 2nd call starting their urbanHIST research activities
- Preparation of the internal consortium report

#### OCTOBER 2017

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

# Recruitment of PhD Students

Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach, Slovakia

June, 2017

On 20-21 June, 2017, the Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice hosted the event of urbanHIST Early Stage Researcher recruitment procedure for free doctoral positions within the EC-H2020-MSCA funded project *History of European Urbanism in the 20th Century* (urbanHIST). The programme of the event was further composed of the meeting of directors and coordinators of the project.

Within the published call, two PhD positions were advertised for Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and two PhD positions were advertised for Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. 11 researchers from 7 countries showed their interest in the UPJŠ

positions, i.e. in the research and study opportunities at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts. For the two positions at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany, again 11 applications were submitted by Early Stage Researchers also from 7 countries. Occupying the remaining four research positions out of the overall 15 EC-funded positions within the entire urbanHIST consortium, the major objective of the project has been achieved, together with the expected grant allocation exceeding 3.7 million EUR.

During the meeting of directors and coordinators, the overall budget for project activities as well

as the next phase of the project implementation were discussed. The two-day meeting also included an informal social programme with the participation of the UPJŠ urbanHIST team members as well as the members of the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, UPJŠ.

We are looking forward to finally having all ESRs onboard and to meeting the new ESRs in person during the next consortium meeting in Karlskrona, Sweden in October 2017.

Katarína Hajduková  
UPJŠ local coordinator



Members of the selection committee | Photo by Zuzana Tokárová

## Signing Cotutelle Agreements

For the four urbanHIST beneficiaries Universidad de Valladolid (UVa), Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach (UPJŠ), Blekinge Tekniska Högskola (BTH) and Bauhaus-Universität Weimar (BUW), running a European Joint Doctorate does not just mean a negotiation on the thematic focus and methodological conduction of the research itself. Besides, it requires organisational and administrative arrangements. These have to take into account the different institutional regulations and have to bring them together in such a way

that a smooth and practical conduction of the PhD-research becomes possible also in formal aspects. One of the arrangements organising this are the bilateral Cotutelle Agreements between two universities that are jointly awarding a doctoral degree. The Cotutelles fix the conditions how the double doctorate degree will be awarded by the two universities on the basis of a single academic contribution by the PhD researcher. They thus specify for each candidate the requirements in relation to the valid doctoral regulations

and fix within this framework the conditions for the double degree. The Cotutelles therefore include the bilateral arrangements concerning fees, formal aspects of the doctoral thesis, regulations concerning supervision and assessment requirements agreed upon mutually.

For the urbanHIST researchers, the Cotutelle Agreements and their conditions were negotiated among the respective two universities during the past months. Starting from the same template which was based on the respective doctorate regulations,

necessary specifications were made and certain arrangements agreed upon. Currently, the signature of the Cotutelle Agreements is close to be completed. Each Cotutelle contains the signatures of the researcher concerned, the two supervisors, the authorities in charge of the awarding of a doctoral degree, mostly the deans or heads of study programmes, as well as the heads of the universities concerned.

Britta Trostorff  
urbanHIST project manager

# Some Remarks on Launching urbanHIST Training Activities

The entire urbanHIST project is a joint doctorate training programme, so all its key activities could be considered as training; however, we can identify three main components as specific “training activities”. We present now a brief description of these components and their exciting start-up:

The NETWORK-WIDE WORKSHOP WEEKS (NWWW), which concentrate the Key Competencies Tracks that the Early Stage Researchers (ESR) have to complete as part of their doctorate formation. NWWWs are programmed every six months as specific weeks for the joint and face-to-face training, and they take place sequentially at the four hosting universities. The first NWWW was implemented at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar (BUW) last May, with the central “Field-related track” (Field Related Tracks are the tracks related with the main topic of the program, that is Urban History) “Researching history – methodological reflections” – conducted by the program professors M. Pekár, P. Roubal and M. Spurný. Besides it, there were several “Sensitizing tracks”, lectures and activities of supervision included in the programme. The next NWWW will take place at Blekinge Tekniska Högskola (BTH), Karlskrona, in October 2017.

The Webinars / e-Guest Lectures: Interwoven between each two NWWWs, each of the two

activities is programmed as one online session for ESRs altogether containing several lectures and a debate. In each of them, one beneficiary institution invites a renowned international researcher from the inside or the outside of the urbanHIST consortium who is an expert in academic and non-academic areas within the field of the history of European urbanism. The first session within this component of the training programme took place last June, conducted by the professor P. Roubal as an invited lecturer by BUW. He gave two lectures with these two topics: 1) Modernist urban planning under socialism (case of Prague) and 2) Crisis of modernist urban planning under socialism (case of Prague).

The Open Lecture Series integrate the different training activities that each of the four hosting universities organizes for its ESRs in a constant way in line with each beneficiary’s academic calendar. For instance, during the first trimester of activity for the students of the urbanHIST program at University of Valladolid, the Instituto Universitario de Urbanística (IUU,



The idea inside the Open Lecture Series is that in the first moments, the thematic input was provided by the representatives of partner organisations and academic staff, and step by step, the ESRs will be actively involved. So the last session until now at UVa was conducted by our own ESRs, where they presented the first steps in their research. It generated an interesting and multiple brainstorming that we hope to be fruitful for next sessions. | Photo by Marina Jiménez and Miguel Fernández-Maroto

UVa) organized two series of lectures, one concentrated around the topic “Urban Brownfields, Public Spaces. What Uses of History for what Futures of Urban Heritage?” (Joint seminar of IUU with the French group of research “Usages de l’Histoire et futurs urbains”), and another one focused on the topic: “Perspectives on History of Urban Planning in 20th Century: Problems and Methods;”. UPJŠ launched the open lecture series with the topics:

“Researching Contemporary History (Periodisation, Methods, Problems)” and “Confusion of languages: A Historian in Linguistic Hell (Prof. Miller);” and last but not least, the BUW topics focused on “Urbanism and Politics.”

Everything is going! We trust the rhythm to be constant, beautiful, lively, and provocative!

Marina Jiménez  
UVa local coordinator

## urbanHIST Advisory Board

Besides the different bodies, boards and committees within the urbanHIST consortium which steer the overall project, the four local directors decided to set up an external Advisory Board. It is a scientific board which accompanies the project from the very beginning and critically reflects and comments on the overall thematic concept as well as on the eight lines of research. Thanks to this advising expertise, the main lines of discourse of urbanHIST are qualified for the European discourse. The Advisory Board advises but has no decisive power.

urbanHIST is very proud of having gained six outstanding researchers for the Advisory Board for the next two years. These colleagues will ac-

company our research, participate in Network-Wide Workshop Weeks, giving us orientation, discussing with us as internal interlocutors and enriching our project with their own contributions as guest lecturers and academic advisors.

**HARALD BODENSCHATZ**  
(Technische Universität Berlin, Germany)

Research areas: The history of urban design and post-industrial urban design, urban renewal, urban redevelopment and the city planning.

**MARIUSZ CZEPZYŃSKI**  
(Uniwersytet Gdański, Poland)

Research areas: Cultural geography, post-socialist landscape transforma-

tion, meaning of culture in urban conversion, social construction theory, local development and its strategies, regionalisation as well as cultural heritages and quality of life, cultural landscape of post-socialist cities.

**PETER J. LARKHAM**  
(Birmingham City University, Great Britain)

Research areas: Urban form, planning and design (town centres and suburbs, post-catastrophe reconstruction planning); urban agriculture, urban conservation mechanisms.

**ELIANA PEROTTI**  
(ETH Zürich, Switzerland)

Research areas: The theory and history of urban development and architecture, with her work focusing on gender studies, colonial studies, cultural studies and sustainability.

**ÁLVARO SEVILLA BUITRAGO**  
(Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain)

Research areas: Social history of planning, critical urban studies, urban commons and urban enclosure, territorial formations of capitalism, urban social movements.

**CHARLOTTE VORMS**  
(Université de Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne, France)

Research areas: Social history of cities and urban societies, urban policies in

contemporary cities and administration of populations.

In this way we strengthen the pan-European character of urbanHIST, extend our network integrating six renowned universities and round our academic setting with Sociology and Town Planning, Cultural Geography, Art History, Town Planning and Urban studies, Economic and Social History. More information on the advisory board and its members can be found at <https://www.urbanhist.eu/advisoryboard>.

Katarína Hajduková  
UPJŠ local coordinator

Britta Trostorff  
urbanHIST project manager



Advisory board members Charlotte Vorms and Mariusz Czepczyński | Photo by Thomas Müller



Advisory board member Eliana Perotti | Photo by Thomas Müller



Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Main building | Photo by Nathalie Mohadjer

# urbanHIST at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

urbanHIST at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar is embedded into a longstanding tradition of interdisciplinary discourses and research which is reflected both in today's profile of the university with its faculties of Architecture and Urbanism, Art and Design, Civil Engineering, and Media as well as in the facilities provided.

Within the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, two of the three Institutes are directly involved in urbanHIST. They have a close connection to the subjects of the urbanHIST Early Stage Researchers and offer them various opportunities:

The Institute for European Urban Studies was founded in 2004 as a reaction to the increasing demand for teaching and research activities in the field of urbanism regarding the extensive challenges and problems of a globalising world. The Institute offers 3 Master programmes as well as two structured PhD programmes

besides free PhD and Post-Doc facilities.

The Bauhaus-Institute for Theory and History of Architecture and Planning brings together researchers and academics from numerous disciplines focusing on the investigation of different aspects of the history of architecture, heritage and urbanism and not only of the historic Bauhaus. In conferences, workshops, colloquia, joint research activities and classes, an intense discussion on the latest research activities takes place. Joint research proposals led to two projects funded by the Deutsche



Workspaces of the Faculty of Architecture | Photo by Nathalie Mohadjer



Workspaces of the Faculty of Architecture | Photo by Nathalie Mohadjer

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*This means that urbanHIST, as the research milieu we are talking about, includes members (organisations or individuals) which are different but have a common interest which concur on making consistent and coherent team or organisation.*

*We are witnessing an extensive process, through which the urbanHIST from being a small entity of four universities is becoming a large European doctorate school and a worldwide research platform. This means that there is a crucial need of a common and shared understanding of fundamental concepts and conceptions we are dealing with, although from different perspectives and in different disciplinary research traditions. There is an urgent need of an inquiry into the concepts of history, historiography, urban, urbanism and urbanisation. I see these concepts as centrally relevant because history, urbanism and Europe are the main components of our research project urbanHIST. All our research questions target these concepts and seek to understand, interpret and reflect on these concepts in their geographical, historical and cultural contextualisations.*

*The diversity of approaches needs to be supported by the diverse research milieu, able to communicate and exchange ideas and experiences within this large community of urbanHIST. The next Network Wide Workshop Week, which will take place at the Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona in October 2017, will provide an opportunity to discuss the above mentioned concepts, their contextualities and diversity of disciplinary perspectives and approaches. You are all welcome!*

Britta Trostorff  
BUW local coordinator

Abdellah Abarkan  
BTH local director

Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), dealing with Urbanism under Iberic Dictatorships and with the broader questions of Identity and Heritage.

The research activities which were established at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar in the past years in the field of architecture, heritage studies, urbanism as well as engineering and which focus on the investigation of spatial and built structures and processes in context of changing social and societal conditions and technical solutions have been bundled in the research cluster *Planen. Bauen. Erben.* (Planning. Constructing. Inheriting.) since 2016, with a research centre for graduates as the core. This research centre for graduates currently comprises three prestigious projects. Up to 15 researchers, among them our four urbanHIST researchers, do have their own office

spaces directly on the Campus next to the famous main building and the Bauhaus-Atelier, the cafeteria of Gropius' times which nowadays is a café and a shop.

Besides urbanHIST, the DFG-funded Graduate School "Identität und Erbe" (Identity and Heritage) as well as the Early Stage Researchers Group "Social Housing Supply in growing Metropolitan Regions" funded by the Hans-Böckler-Foundation are represented here.

Besides the facilities the faculty provides, with Bauhaus Research

School, the Language Center and the International Office, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar provides other facilities to the urbanHIST researchers to connect with other PhD researchers, to improve language skills or train certain skills which may be relevant for the next steps of their career. In 2011, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

was awarded the distinction International University by the Stifterverband and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in recognition of its international orientation. Being international is not just a label

the university is proudly referring to, but it is a central part of the self-understanding and commitment at the same time. The International PhD-network, the Weimar Internationals, and the annual welcome weeks are some of the well established events. The annual Bauhaus Summer School attracts students and researchers from all over the world, not few of them return afterwards for their studies or research activities.

Variety and number of facilities are astonishing considering the only small size of Bauhaus-Universität Weimar: Only 4.000 students conduct their studies here, the contact with the university staff is mostly familiar. Being a researcher at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar also means enjoying the quality of life and the exceptional cultural settings in the city.

**Up to 15 researchers, among them our four urbanHIST researchers, do have their own office spaces directly on the Campus next to the famous main building and the Bauhaus-Atelier, the cafeteria of Gropius' times which nowadays is a café and a shop.**



The Van-de-Velde Building | Photo by Jonas Tegtmeier

## BIOGRAPHY

SINCE JULY 2013 Director of the Bauhaus Institute for History and Theory of Architecture and Planning

OCTOBER 2010 "Stiftung Baukultur" Price for the trilogy "Stadtentwicklung und Kulturlandschaft Thüringen"

SINCE 2010 Head of the study programme "M.Sc. Urbanistik"

SINCE 2008 Head of the study programme "B.Sc. Urbanistik"

2008 - 2010 Head of the DAAD sponsored, binational Ph.D. programme "Urban Heritage"

2007 - 2010 Member of the IBA Fürst-Pückler-Land advisory board

SINCE 2003 Head of the Chair for Spatial Planning and Spatial Research, Faculty of Architecture, Bauhaus University Weimar

2001 - 2002 Holder of the Walter Gropius Chair (DAAD) as Profesor Titular Invitado at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Arquitectura, Diseño y Urbanismo, Argentina

1999 - 2002 Representative of the Senate of Berlin at URB-AL, an EU-initiated programme for the exchange of experiences between european and latin-american cities

1999 Habilitation procedure at the Department for Environment and Society at the Technical University (TU) Berlin. Post doctoral dissertation thesis: "The new capital planning in the Federal Republic of Germany as the 'completion of the unification' ". Granting of lecture qualification in "political science with special regard to town and regional planning". Evaluators: Prof. Dr. Klaus von Beyme, University of Heidelberg; Prof. Dr. Harald Bodenschatz, Technical University Berlin; Prof. Peter Zlonicky, University of Dortmund

1997 - 2000 Member of the Planning Advisory Board for Berlin-Mitte

1994 - 2000 Assistant lecturer (C1) at the Department for Theory and History of Planning - Institute for Town and Regional Planning, Technical University Berlin

JULI 1991 Completion of dissertation as Dr. phil. (Ph.D.) at the Department for Social and Planning Sciences TU Berlin

1990 - 2000 Editor of the Yearbook of Urban Renewal at German-speaking Universities

SINCE 1990 Numerous visiting professorships, e.a.: Mestrado em urbanismo, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Departamento de Postgrados, Facultad de Arquitectura, Urbanismo y Artes, Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería, Lima, Peru; DESS Urbanisme et Aménagement, Institut Français d'Urbanisme, Université de Paris VIII and Université de Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne, France; Departamento Urbanística y Ordenación del Territorio | Escuela Técnica Superior de Arqui-

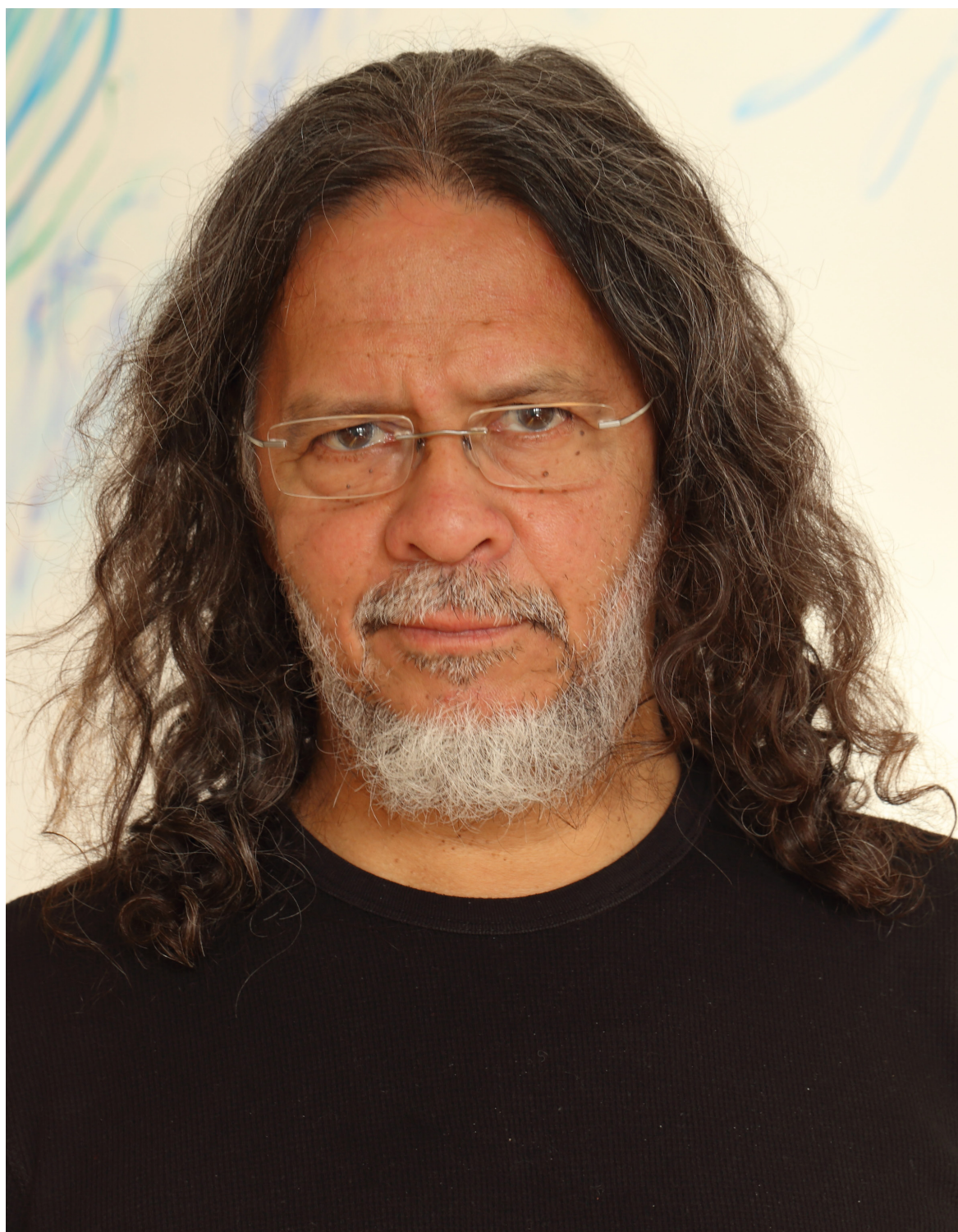
# Max Welch Guerra Research following a relevant academic agenda, not commercial or administrations interests

Professor for spatial planning and spatial research at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, urbanHIST project director and BUW local director Prof. Dr. phil. habil. Max Welch Guerra has told us about his university studies in Berlin, spatial planning and European urbanism as well as urbanHIST project.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Dear Max, you are urbanHIST project director and I am therefore delighted and thankful for this opportunity to do the first interview in urbanHIST Newsletter just with you. My first question relates to your studies of political science at the Free University of Berlin. Why did you choose this university and what factors influenced your choice?

MAX: After finishing the school in West Germany in 1976, I resolved to understand better the reasons that obligated me to flee from Chile. A military junta had overthrown our democratically elected government under Salvador Allende in September 1973. The Political Science Faculty at FU Berlin was at that time the most renowned one in the German-speaking world. Paradoxically, I did not study the Chilean or Latin American experiences, but I immersed myself into the European political history of the late 19th and the 20th century and this way I understood better my personal political biography, too. The coup d'état in Chile was a chapter of Cold War and one of the numerous tragedies of countries searching for their own way of development, understandable only in a broader perspective.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Tell us more about the time of your university studies. What are your memories of those years?



Max Welch Guerra | Photo by urbanHIST

MAX: The time as student at FU Berlin was surely a crucial part of my academic life. I could work intensively - and for free! - with some of the leading professors in the fields of Political Theory, Political Economy and Philosophy. I have benefited as well from my fellow students, with whom I experienced a high dedica-

tion preparing and reworking what we were elaborating in the seminars and lectures, always looking for own opinion. But no less important was what I learned participating at the inner political life at FU Berlin. The five years there were determining for my integration in Germany. I began as a committed Chilean refugee and I fi-

nished as a committed Berliner with a Latin American background.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Why did you decide to dedicate to spatial planning and European urbanism?

MAX: The housing conflicts in West Berlin culminated in 1980 - 1981,



Max Welch Guerra | Photo by Thomas Müller

when I was ending my studies, with an impressive insurgence against a devastating type of Urban Renewal policy. Together with other activists from the student's union executive committee, I supported the numerous squatters. I soon discovered the importance of spatial dimension for social justice, for the life quality of the population and for the reproduction of the whole society.

Later, examining cities like Paris, Rome and Barcelona, but also Moscow and Prague, I realised that urban planning and the system of spatial planning was in Europe, despite all differences, much more relevant than in the Americas, in Asia, Africa and Oceania. But the hegemony of mission-oriented research in our field tends to pragmatic investigation, reducing the conscience of the functions and implications of spatial planning in its different scales for society and nature.

I really understood urban planning and the complex relationship between spatial planning and society only during my Ph.D. years. Researching in order to respond to a relevant scientific question without commercial or administration interests, obligated only by the correctness of academic culture, following

my own and scholar's curiosity - these years signified the second study program for me, much more self-determined than my five years at FU Berlin.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Since July 2013 you have been the director of the Bauhaus Institute for History and Theory of Architecture and Planning. According to the website arch20.com Bauhaus-Universität Weimar is listed among the top 10 architecture schools in Germany. What might be the reasons from your point of view?

MAX: Not only the architecture program, our urban planning program under the name Urbanistik belongs as well to the informal Premier League in Germany. We profit from different factors. Hochschule für Architektur und Bauwesen Weimar was in German Democratic Republic times already a leading University for Architecture and Urban Planning. Despite some painful cuts, the transition to a Federal Republic of Germany University was able to strengthen the institution in order to consolidate a clear profile as an internationally oriented, small but highly productive house. Apart from West German universities, we cooperate

with Central and East European institutions as a matter of course. Our history is not only this of capitalism.

The renaming into Bauhaus-Universität Weimar in 1996 was understood as a mission, a responsibility dealing with the name of the worldwide most famous design school of the 20th century, avoiding cheap imitations and unreflected veneration. Such temptations emerge again facing the centenary of Bauhaus foundation in our main building (1919), but we broach the issue of the contradictory history of progress. The historical Bauhaus is not the only one, but a very eloquent example for this.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: What are your expectations from urbanHIST project?

MAX: The urbanHIST program sounds very ambitious and it is in fact very ambitious. The primary goal is to set the foundations for a history of European planning in the 20th century, which considers the whole continent and follows the solid rules of historiography. With the support of Marie Curie Program, the capacity of our four universities and of our academic and non-academic

partners all over Europe we dispose of the material, institutional and intellectual resources to fulfill this goal. The scarce resource is now the time.

UrbanHIST is however stirred by further goals as well. We have the responsibility to orient 15 strictly selected high potential young people to a doctorate and to an international career. We have the possibility to contribute to an efficient European academic culture with a horizontal structure of protagonists. We are the actors of the further internationalisation of academic and non-academic institutions. And we have the chance to demonstrate that cooperation between members coming from countries with a divergent history, carrying very diverse cultures and representing different scientific disciplines is possible and can lead to excellent results. We are an expression of European culture.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Max, thank you for allowing us to learn more about you. Let me conclude this interview with wishing you much success in your professional and personal life.

by Zuzana Tokárová  
urbanHIST Newsletter editor

tectura de Madrid, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

APRIL 1989 - JULY 1994 Assistant Professor at the Institute for Town and Regional Planning at the TU Berlin, Department for Urban and Regional Studies

1987 - 2000 Teaching and research activities at the Institute for Urban and Regional Planning at the Technical University (TU) Berlin

1986 - 1988 Doctoral scholarship granted by Hans-Böckler-Foundation, Germany

1985 - 1989 Visiting lecturer for „Housing Economics and Policy“ and „The Emergence of Capitalism and Civil Society“ at the Berlin School of Economics and Law FHW Berlin

1982 - 1985 Tenant's advisor (Kreuzberg and Märkisches Viertel, Berlin) and professional editor at Berlin Tenant Association

1976 - 1981 University studies of political science at the Free University of Berlin graduated with diploma as a political scientist

1976 Baccalaureate at the Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Gymnasium, Hiden/Rhineland, Germany

1974 Escape from Chile and recognition as a political refugee in Italy and in Germany

1963 School enrolment into German School of Valparaíso, Chile

1956 Born in Chile

#### FURTHER ENGAGEMENTS (selection)

Member of the Advisory Board of :  
• the magazine URBAN, Departamento de Urbanística y Ordenación del Territorio, Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura - Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, since 2010

• the magazine sub \ urban of Berlin

• the online magazine UrbanisticaTre

• Jahrbuch Stadterneuerung an deutschsprachigen Hochschulen

Member of the Academic Senate of the Bauhaus University Weimar

Liaison tutor in situ of the German National Academic Foundation

Member of the Bauhaus Research School Direction

Member of the Town, Regional and Country Planning Association of Germany (SRL)

Member of the International Planning History Society (IPHS)

Member of Ver.di

Evaluator for:

• DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service

• DFG - German Research Funding Organization

• Schweizerischer Nationalfonds - Swiss National Science Foundation

• ANVUR (Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca)

• Österreichische Nationalbank, Jubiläumsfonds - Austrian National Bank Foundation

# Our Early Stage Researchers Participating in urbanHIST



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**BAUHAUS-UNIVERSITÄT WEIMAR**

**AZMAH ARZMI**  
(Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia)  
Dissertation thesis: Central Planned Economies and Weak Urban Planning. Explaining a Paradox in the European Countries of State Socialism  
1st supervisor - Max Welch Guerra (BUW)  
2nd supervisor - Matej Spurný (UPJŠ)

**MARCELO SAGOT BETTER**  
(San Jose, Costa Rica)  
Dissertation thesis: Urbanism in Europe in the 20th Century. 100 Years of Reforming Capitalism  
1st supervisor - Max Welch Guerra (BUW)  
2nd supervisor - Abdellah Abarkan (BTH)

**HELENE BIHLMAIER**  
(Wuppertal, Germany)  
Dissertation thesis: Historiography of European Urbanism in the 20th Century. Critical Analysis of Cross-Nationally Oriented Publications in English  
1st supervisor - Max Welch Guerra (BUW)  
2nd supervisor - María Castrillo Romón (UVa)

**ALIAKSANDR SHUBA**  
(Minsk, Belarus)  
Dissertation thesis: Historiography of European Urbanism in the 20th Century. Critical Analysis of Cross-Nationally Oriented Publications in Slavic Languages

1st supervisor - Max Welch Guerra (BUW)  
2nd supervisor - Martin Pekár (UPJŠ)

**UNIVERSIDAD DE VALLADOLID**

**FEDERICO CAMERIN**  
(Mareno di Piave (Treviso), Italy)  
Dissertation thesis: Urban Heritage Planning, its Relations to Real-Estate, Economic and Social Models in 20th Century Europe  
1st supervisor - Alfonso Álvarez Mora (UVa)  
2nd supervisor - Max Welch Guerra (BUW)

**ELVIRA KHAIRULLINA**  
(Astana, Kazakhstan)  
Dissertation thesis: Contemporary History of Technical Infrastructures in European Cities and in Urban Planning  
1st supervisor - Luis Santos y Ganges (UVa)  
2nd supervisor - Jaroslav Hofierka (UPJŠ)

**KSENIJA KRSMANOVIĆ**  
(Novi sad, Serbia)  
Dissertation thesis: Urbanism and Landscape in the Evolution of Urban Heritage Policies During the 20th Century  
1st supervisor - Juan Luis de Las Rivas Sanz (UVa)  
2nd supervisor - Abdellah Abarkan (BTH)

**NOEL ANTONIO MANZANO GÓMEZ**  
(Zaragoza, Spain)  
Dissertation thesis: Housing and Early 20th Century Urbanism in Europe: Sharing

Ideas, Models and Practices Beyond Frontiers  
1st supervisor - María Castrillo Romón (UVa)  
2nd supervisor - Max Welch Guerra (BUW)

**UNIVERZITA PAVLA JOZEFA ŠAFÁRIKA V KOŠICIACH**

**AGNÈS DUDYCH**  
(Duravel, France)  
Dissertation thesis: Soviet Urban Studies and their Influence on Urbanism in Central Europe  
1st supervisor - Petr Roubal (UPJŠ)  
2nd supervisor - Max Welch Guerra (BUW)

**ADAM GÓRKA**  
(Kobiernice, Poland)  
Dissertation thesis: Understanding the Morphological Changes in Post-socialist Cities Using Virtual 3-D City Models  
1st supervisor - Jaroslav Hofierka (UPJŠ)  
2nd supervisor - Abdellah Abarkan (BTH)

**ONDŘEJ JIRÁSEK**  
(Opava, Czech Republic)  
Dissertation thesis: "Small" European Dictatorships in the 1st Half of the 20th Century – the National Principle and its Place in the Public Space  
1st supervisor - Martin Pekár (UPJŠ)  
2nd supervisor - Marina Jiménez (UVa)

**JOVANA VUKČEVIĆ**  
(Podgorica, Montenegro)  
Dissertation thesis: Institutionalised His-

torical Memory and the City  
1st supervisor - Štefan Šutaj (UPJŠ)  
2nd supervisor - Luis Santos y Ganges (UVa)

**BLEKINGE TEKNISKA HÖGSKOLA**

**ANDREEA-CRISTIANA BLAGA**  
(Bucharest, Romania)  
Dissertation thesis: Planning for Growth and Social Welfare  
1st supervisor - Abdellah Abarkan (BTH)  
2nd supervisor - Max Welch Guerra (BUW)

**ANDREA GIMENO SÁNCHEZ**  
(Valencia, Spain)  
Dissertation thesis: Neo Liberal Planning and Sustainable Urban Development  
1st supervisor - Abdellah Abarkan (BTH)  
2nd supervisor - Juan Luis de Las Rivas Sanz (UVa)

**SUSANNA WEDDIGE**  
(Erfurt, Germany)  
Dissertation thesis: The Establishment of Urbanism as Profession and Discipline  
1st supervisor - Abdellah Abarkan (BTH)  
2nd supervisor - Martin Pekár (UPJŠ)

In the case of ESRs Marcelo Sagot Better, Helene Bihlmaier, Aliaksandr Shuba, Noel Antonio Manzano Gómez, Ondřej Jirásek and Jovana Vukčević the contracts are expected to be signed. These ESRs will participate in the urbanHIST project from September 2017.





Photo by Max Welch Guerra

We Introduce

# FEDERICO CAMERIN

I'm Federico Camerin, I was born on 19th of February 1989 in Treviso province (Italy). In 2008, after graduating high school, I started studying urban planning at IUAV University of Venice and obtained in 2014 an Inter-University-Programme Graduate Degree in "City and Environment: Planning and Policies" and a European postgraduate degree in "Planning &

policies for cities, environment and landscape". After my graduation, my greatest achievement has been developing my knowledge about the reconversion of former military sites after the end of Cold War.

I usually read books and magazines about urban planning questions and actually the last book I have read is "Urban planning and austerity"

(Campos Venuti, 1978). In my spare time I like going out with friends and travelling around Europe with them, discovering new types of culture, food and meeting new people: this is what really amazes me. As an Italian, I love Mediterranean cuisine: I would like to eat gnocchi and tiramisu every day! If I won the lottery, I would love to travel around the world and to

help people obtain better living conditions. If I could meet any historical figure, personally I think Ernest Hemingway would be an interesting person to share opinions with and experience what he had experienced when he was living in Italy.

Federico Camerin  
Early stage researcher

## The Urban Management of the Great Properties

I'm enrolled at Instituto Universitario de Urbanística (IUU) of University of Valladolid (Spain). My first supervisor is Alfonso Álvarez Mora (IUU) and the second is Max Welch Guerra, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar (BUW, Germany).

In order to narrate the European city during the twentieth century and to explain its process of construction, the object of study of the present thesis are the great properties (such as industries, railways and militaries) and their role in this process.

Based on the analysis of some case studies (Firstly, at European level, and secondly a selection of Italian cases. Among great properties, special attention will be paid to the militaries.), the object of the thesis deals with urban history issues. It fosters the analysis of the evolution, management and role of great properties in their context, from their construction to their reuse, through the process of emptying understood as a real estate product. Specifically, it is emphasized that the process of emptying the great properties (and their management) is a

product of the real estate development process of the city.

The starting hypothesis of the thesis is to emphasize the great property, assigning it its condition of "fixed capital", from which new economic and social profitability is required, because it is a fixed capital of soil through which there have been developed new urban projects. It is in this sense how special attention will be paid to the relationship between "great property", "real estate agents" and "financial capital". Due to the phenomenon of abandonment, it seems clear that there is a close relationship between ownership, financing and real estate developers. When the great property ceases its previous use, it comes into the possession of a real estate developer, a financial institution, the usual speculator, in other word,

the "great capital", which is responsible to the development of new urban actions.

Following the description of the purpose, the thesis has a double objective in an exercise of urban history periodization of the twentieth century.

Firstly, it is aimed to understand why the "urban empties" coming from the great properties have taken place in the European city, and how they take part in the historical construction of the city as they are produced as a real estate object. In fact there is a real estate process in the city that has tried to produce urban voids in order to redevelop the city, even if it does not produce something that can be reused immediately. The questions to answer are the following: if real estate market implies the production of the city, housing, equipment, open and green spaces, can it be proved that the same real estate market produces the urban voids? And why have the urban voids been generated? In other words, how does the real estate development process lead the great property to ruin? How do urban agents and urban policies take part into the creation

process of urban voids that allow the city to be redeveloped? Which are the techniques and strategies that lead the great properties to end up in urban voids?

Secondly, and in close relation with the first objective, it will be studied how the urban voids intervene, a posteriori, in the materialization of a new "model" of city in the process of its construction. That is to say, it will analyze how these urban voids are useful to carry out real projects in place of the previous use. It has always been considered that the city is usually "built on the ashes of the past", but these ashes must be produced. In this context, the aim is to find out how great properties have been emptied and how urban projects have been conceived (if they both have been carried out or not). In fact, in relation to several typologies of great properties, the attention is focused on a particular case, that is to say, the militaries. This study is going to be accompanied by the analysis of what has happened in the cases of industrial and railway great properties.

Federico Camerin  
Early stage researcher



A view of the MAXXI museum (former Montello barracks) from the former Guido Reni barracks in Rome | Photo by Federico Camerin



Photo by Max Welch Guerra

## We Introduce AGNÈS DUDYCH

I was born in Prague in 1992 and grew up between the Czech Republic, Germany and France. I studied in different cities in France, started in the area of IT and completed a master degree in urban planning. Having started my studies with a short degree to be a

professional, I am proud to be today involved in a PhD study and research in an area which has a meaning for me. I like reading about people and their own history, one of my favourite books is by Adeline Yen-Mah, *Falling Leaves*, which is about the author's childhood in China

and Hong Kong after the 1949 revolution. The last book I have read was an engaging essay about the domestic space written by the journalist Mona Cholet, *Chez soi - Une Odyssée de l'espace domestique*. It is about our relation to it and how the society influences

it, I can just recommend it to everyone.

During my spare time I like going for a walk, discovering new places, and spending time with my family and friends. I like to discover people's life stories; some people's careers are very inspiring. If I could meet a

historical figure, it would be Simon Veil, the French minister who works to improve women's rights, I would love to know more about her life and fights.

Agnès Dudych  
Early stage researcher

# Soviet Urban Studies and their Influence on Urbanism in Central Europe

As a child, I have the memory of my family driving through Bratislava and complaining about the ugly concrete communist architecture. Later I studied urban planning and it gave me the opportunity to have a different lecture of my environment and understanding its history.

In these days, it is important to be aware of the communist architectural projects value. More than a legacy of it, it is a heritage of the modern period. We should (re)consider its value and build a stronger knowledge about it. The essential point is to have a new way of looking at it.

A range of researches are published nowadays, such as *Manufacturing a Socialist Modernity: Housing in Czechoslovakia, 1945-1960*, Kimberly ZARECOR (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011), *Modern and/or Totalitarian in the Architecture of the 20th Century in Slovakia* (Henrieta MORAVČÍKOVÁ et al., Bratislava: Slovart, 2013). They show the growing interest about this topic all over Europe. Groups of activists have been formed at a local scale, to put the light on its potential.

These are the reasons why I decided to apply for the urbanHIST programme. Sharing the idea that urban planning from Central Europe has a lot to teach us and should be better known to be better protected. Within the subject 'Soviet urban studies and their influence on urbanism in Central Europe', I decided to focus on the living environment because it had, and still has, an impact on people's daily lives.

After the war, the need for housing was real all over Europe and the solutions found were the same as to their shape but distinct in the pattern. The ideological framework which guided the architects and urban planners during one half of the 20th century, had an impact on the design, but to what extent? How different are eastern housing estates from western

housing estates? What role did the communist ideology play in their construction?

After describing the state of the art on what a socialist city is, based on contemporary and past literature, my work will consist of analysing a site from Central Europe and by comparison with western examples its specifics will be underlined. For that purpose, I will focus on the housing estate "Západ" built in Košice in the 1960s. The city of Košice has not been studied a lot from an urban point of view, even if "Západ" is one of the biggest mass housing in Slovakia. A comparison with different French examples of housing estates will underline the specifics of the Soviet urban studies. France is an interesting case for its numerous examples of housing estates designed by famous architects of this time (Le Corbusier, Candili). Their work and reputation influenced other European architects on both sides of the iron curtain.

With this research I want to move away from the idea that a communist central decision body decided about how the cities should be designed. I would like to show that architects also had their own influences and that each area has its specifics. Has not urban planning always been a tool for the decision body to influence the way they want people to live? My aim is to show the architectural and urban planning value of such projects.

To achieve my aim, Dr. Petr Roubal, my first supervisor at Univerzita Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach and a researcher at the Czech Aca-



Photo by Katarína Hajduková

demy of Sciences in Prague and Professor Max Welch Guerra, from the Bauhaus-Universität in Weimar will supervise my work. The urbanHIST project provides me with the opportunity to stay at both universities. I will also have the chance to broaden my knowledge within the

team of the ATRIUM project and the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague. These exchanges will offer me the possibility to have new points of view and ideas.

This PhD is for me the first step to develop a better knowledge about urban planning and architecture of

Central Europe. I would like to take advantage of urbanHIST partnership to build my network and to contribute in the future to better protection of this heritage.

Agnès Dudych  
Early stage researcher

# Introducing urbanHIST Blog

Regular contributing to urbanHIST blog is one of the obligatory parts of the joint doctoral training programme for ESRs. After NWWWI in Weimar (4-6 May, 2017), a blog section was implemented as an integral component of the project website ([www.urbanhist.eu](http://www.urbanhist.eu)).

The blog will be used by ESRs and members of the consortium to publish scientific or research-related reports (e.g. congress experiences, publication annotations, a critical

reflection on research methodology etc.) or issues occupying their minds (e.g. insights into the first months at the new working place) in a rather informal, short and easy-to-read manner. The [www.urbanhist.eu](http://www.urbanhist.eu) and the blog section will be advertised on and linked to consortium members' official websites, on homepages related to the expertise field of European urbanism and urban planning. Expected frequency of contributions from the ESRs is at least twice a year,

whereas for the remaining members of the consortium the contribution to urbanHIST blog is on an optional level.

Contents published within blog contributions will be checked for meeting urbanHIST standards (e.g. gender-neutral language) by a yearly elected editors' board which consists of 4 ESRs (incl. one "social media commissioner" who will be appointed among the ESRs) and 2 senior researchers. The Chairperson

of the Editor's Board is the UPJŠ local director Martin Pekár, as UPJŠ is the beneficiary in charge of the Work Package on the communication and dissemination activities.

The blog will form an integral part of the project website and as such, it belongs among the key communication and dissemination tools. It intends to contribute to the systematic communication of the project ideas and dissemination of the project results to the wider, not academic-only

audience. It will be frequently linked to the urbanHIST social media accounts. Last but not least, the expected - rather informal style - should reflect the team spirit and overall philosophy beyond urbanHIST.

For publishing your blog contributions, contact the UPJŠ local coordinator Katarína Hajduková at [katarina.hajdukova@upjs.sk](mailto:katarina.hajdukova@upjs.sk).

Katarína Hajduková  
UPJŠ local coordinator

## ¿Habla usted Inglés?

### Blog by Ksenija Krsmanović

Early stage researcher

After visiting Spain two times as a tourist, I returned to it for the third time to live, study and work at the University of Valladolid as an ESR of urbanHIST program. We were warmly welcomed here by our team from university that assured our settling in the city and a successful beginning.

With round 300.000 inhabitants situated in more-less central Spain, Valladolid is famous for a good regional wine, lamb specialties and the purest Spanish language in the whole country. It is the city between two rivers where everything is

within walking distance. Moreover, it got me thrilled from the very beginning with its architecture and charming streets packed with tapas bars and cafés full of people in the evening hours.

When it comes to the foreign language issue, it gets more complicated being a foreigner here. Visiting metropolitan Barcelona and Madrid, the situation is better while you are surrounded with tons of other tourists, so that even locals are interacting with you in English with less problems. This is often not the case with less touristic

cities such as Valladolid, where you might feel more like a foreigner whereas the answer to so frequently repeated question "¿Habla usted Inglés?" is mostly negative.

Spanish people overall are outgoing, cheerful, willing to help and pleasant. Hence, I have never had any problems making friends and interacting easily with locals, it is just that the language issue does exist if you are arriving with no prior knowledge of the local language. Adding the fact that this nation is generally very talkative, you might really want to go for

a language course prior to your arrival here that would facilitate your future social life and sense of community belonging.

In the end, isn't it the biggest beauty of Europe, having so much cultural, historical and linguistic diversity on such a small continent? Valladolid is offering an opportunity to learn the best Spanish in the interaction with locals. So, I am definitely going to grab this opportunity to add another world-wide spoken language on my list and enjoy living and working in Spain to the fullest. It is definitely worth it.



Photo by Ksenija Krsmanović



Photo by Ksenija Krsmanović

# Opening Up for Debating Planning Culture – Is It Nationally Bound?

In an attempt to widen the debate on planning culture in general and the culturised theoretical model in particular (See for example: Knieling & Othengrafen 2009:39ff) we presented a paper at the Nordic Geographers meeting in Stockholm, 18 - 22 June, 2017. We argue that while the concept of 'planning culture' may prove to be fruitful in capturing

the common and coherent aspects of national cultures, it does not account for how it is implemented and negotiated at a local level or how change in culture comes about. In the paper, we selected illustrative examples from our three different dissertation projects that in various ways shed light on these matters. We delineated the ways in which a

national planning culture is affected and challenged by transnational trends, international procurement models and legislation as well as internal situations and affairs. Traits in the development in Swedish planning processes exhibit close resemblance with the development of planning processes in other countries. This illustrates the difficulty of

drawing clear-cut lines between different nationally bound planning cultures, as well as clear-cut lines between different dimensions of a national planning culture. Based on these difficulties, how can planning culture be conceptualised that takes these considerations into account? Reference: Knieling, Joerg & Othengrafen, Frank,

(2009), "En Route to a Theoretical Model for Comparative Research on Planning Cultures", pp. 39-62 in Knieling, Joerg & Othengrafen, Frank, (Eds.), (2009), *Planning Cultures in Europe - Decoding Cultural Phenomena in Urban and Regional Planning*, Ashgate, Farnham.

Annica Johansson  
BTH local coordinator

## International Seminar «Urban Brownfields, Public Spaces. What Uses of History for what Futures of Urban Heritage?»

Valladolid, Spain  
20 - 21 April, 2017

"History and Urban Survey" is the title of a series of bilateral international seminars that have been organized every six months since March 2016, in alternating venues, by the Research Group "Regional and urban planning" of the *Instituto Universitario de Urbanística* (IUU) of the University of Valladolid (Spain) and the Transversal Group "Uses of History and Urban Futures" of *LABEX Futurs Urbains* (France).

The thematic fields are historical surveys, urban heritage and their contemporary uses. The meetings are framed in an interdisciplinary dialogue in which historians, architects and geographers participate. Its most recent edition took place in Valladolid in April 2017 and it was dedicated to the uses of history in the urban development of brownfields or wastelands.

The seminar paid much attention to the problem of large railway areas. Karen Bowie (ENSA Paris-La Villette, Laboratoire de recherche AHTTEP-AUSSER) lectured on "Industrial Heritage and Urban Project in Paris, 1980 - 2010", focusing on the large urban transformations of Paris-Rive Gauche and Batignolles, where industrial heritage preservation has been very different. José Luis Lalana and Luis Santos (IUU), in "The industrial railway heritage in Valladolid: the dangers of incomprehension", analysed the station set as a part of a system and insisted on the worrying ignorance of the cultural value of the industrial facilities (locomotive depot and general workshops) and on the inadequacies of the heritage preservation system. The third contribution, "30 years of uncertainty in Valladolid: the railway central space as an 'urban void'", elaborated by Juan Luis de las Rivas, Enrique Rodrigo, Miguel Fernández and Mónica Martínez, valued the urban meaning of the "Richard Rogers Plan" for the undergrounding of the railroad and the urban renewal of the railway areas, contextualizing it in the long series of urbanistic proposals that have known those urban areas (still in

use today) and the little attention paid to the industrial brownfields of the city.

The contribution of Alfonso Álvarez Mora and Federico Camerin (IUU, urbanHIST), "The Great Abandoned Properties as Urban Resources: Alternatives from Ruin and Degradation", explored the relationship between built heritage and land rent and its links with the processes of abandonment, using as an illustration the military installations in disuse in Italy. For his part, Emmanuel Bellanger (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Centre d'histoire sociale du XXe siècle), in "The End of the 'Banlieue Rouge' and of its Capital City, Ivry-sur-Seine? Deindustrialization, Social Tensions and Urban and Architectural reconversions (1960 - 2000)", analysing the case of this "working-class capital" of the Paris region, introduced the question of the political and social dimensions interwoven with the communist municipal action. This action was directed, from the 1960s, to the peripherization of the factories and the construction of a new urban centrality in the old industrial areas; later, during the turn of the century, it faced the multiplication of industrial brownfields (more than 20 % of the municipal territory).

The seminar allowed to question - as Karen Bowie explicitly proposed - some ideas received. It does not seem evident that the "heritage field" has been extended during the last decades of the twentieth century, neither that heritage has been increasingly protected or accounted in urban plans and projects. On the contrary, in the analyses made throughout the meeting, elements were exposed that point to (i) the prevalence of the "positive image" (*image valorisante*) on the characterization and patrimonial preservation, and (ii) the increasing role of the "positive image" in the legitimation of urban planning decisions when contradictory with the conservation of the industrial heritage.

María Castrillo Romón  
UVa local director



Photo by María Castrillo Romón



Photo by María Castrillo Romón

