



The social experiences of urban space in socialist cities of Eastern Europe

Workshop at Ghent University, Belgium
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
Department of Languages and Cultures
30-31 January 2025

Organisers: Brigitte Le Normand (Maastricht University) & Pieter Troch (Ghent University)

Programme

Thursday 30 January 2025

Venue
Auditorium 4 Jaap Kruithof
Campus Boekentoren – Blandijnberg

Opening (16:20–16:30)

Pieter Troch (Ghent University) & Brigitte Le Normand (Maastricht University)

Keynote (16:30 – 18:00)

Heather Dehaan (Binghamton University)

How Socialist Citizens Fabricated Cities: Making Neighborhoods in Soviet Baku

Friday 31 January 2025

Venue
Lecture room 5.50
Campus Boekentoren – Blandijnberg

Introductory remarks (09:00–09:15)

Brigitte Le Normand (Maastricht University) & Pieter Troch (Ghent University)

Session 1 (9:15–10:45)

Liliana, Iuga (RWTH Aachen University) & Pop, Oana (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)

Housing policies and legacies of the Soviet nuclear urbanism in Ştei, Romania

Kupatadze, Ia (Ilia State University, Tbilisi)

Architecture as a Tool for Social Stratification in Soviet Tbilisi

Kalb, Lois (European University Institute, Florence)

Soviet Urbanization from Below: Neighbors, (Dis)possession, and Urban Sociality in Riga

Session 2 (11:15–13:15)

Zubak, Marko (University of Zagreb)

After Hours: Socialist Urban Nights

Piotrowska, Anna (Jagiellonian University Cracow)

Roma music bands at the expense of communistic Krakow: continuation of traditions or new beginnings?

Choueiri, Darine (independent researcher, Madrid)

Schooling as a reflection of socio-spatial organization. The Case of Sarajevo.

Stepanov, Boris (Paris Nanterre University)

Soviet kids on the block: the socialist city as an educational environment

Session 3 (14:15–16:15)

Gergova, Lina (Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia)

Construction of Reservoirs and Migration Rural-Urban in Socialist Bulgaria

Archer, Rory (University of Vienna)

Albanian entrepreneurs in the North Adriatic: Conviviality and segregation in socialist Croatian coastal towns

Litvinenko, Ksenia (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space)

“We used to live in tents and then in railway wagons”: Visions, Experiences and Critiques of Late Soviet Extractive Urbanism in Western Siberia

Sklokina, Iryna (Center for Urban History, Lviv)

Remaking “kresy” into “Western Ukraine”: Soviet incorporation, social imagination, and comparative frameworks at the shop floor (1944-1955)

Session 4 (16:30–18:00)

Stein, Hanna (Graz University)

New rhythms, changing neighborhoods, death, and solitude – The socialist city in Yugoslav amateur film productions of the 1960s and 1970s

Gunko, Maria (University of Oxford)

“They destroyed it”: reflections on the changed built environment of a small Armenian town

Malaj, Diana (Graz University)

Comparing Socialist and Post-Socialist Social Experiences Kamza, Albania