

urbanHIST Newsletter

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12 PAGES

NOT FOR SALE



urbanHIST at Blekinge Institute of Technology

Blekinge Tekniska Högskola, Department of Spatial Planning - One of four beneficiaries of urbanHIST.

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Profile Interview with BTH Local Director Abdellah Abarkan

Do not miss our interview with BTH local director Abdellah Abarkan who has told us more about his career and urbanHIST project.

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Network-Wide Workshop Week III Meeting

Universidad de Valladolid, Spain | April 2018

From 17 to 20 April 2018, our 3rd Network-wide Workshop Week (NWWW III) took place in Valladolid. The event had been prepared by the Research Group on Urban and Territorial Planning of Instituto Universitario de Urbanística (University of Valladolid) since November 2017.

We put a lot of expectations into it and worked as a team, directed by María Castrillo, with Marina Jiménez and Víctor Pérez in front.

Our partners in this project brought spring to Valladolid. The rainy days of a strangely wet spring ended with the start of NWWW III and suddenly we settled at more than 20 °C.

Those were the good vibes to start a difficult agenda, adapted to "Spanish timetable": starting work at 8:15, having lunch at 14:00 and working until 20:00 ... avoiding the famous "siesta" (breaking stereotypes!).

The program introduced some innovations that were very well valued:

- An optional study visit to Madrid, specially prepared for the Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) on Monday, 16 April 2018 in the afternoon. Alberto Sanz showed us the College of Architects of Madrid (COAM), and Alvaro Sevilla and Cristina García guided us through a walk in the northern part of Madrid centre, where we could get to know different urban fabrics and interventions of the twentieth century.

- Two parallel workshops, aimed not only at ESRs, were offered - one indoor on critiques of selected texts, and another one outdoor, guided by Miguel Fernández-Maroto. Driving around Valladolid, he provided us with a direct knowledge of some features of Spanish twentieth century urban peripheries.

Our schedule also included some already well-established activities. The work started on Tuesday with brief ESR presentations in front of the whole consortium, concerning

issues related to their thesis development, it is what we called "Thesis Day". Important evolution in the doctoral research was appreciated and a lot of valued comments were received. Keep on this way!

Wednesday was the "Full Consortium Day" with sophisticated lectures given by Álvaro Sevilla (urbanHIST Advisory Board Member from Universidad Politécnica de Madrid) on History between Theory and Activism: The Commons of Centrality in Weimar Berlin; Laurent Coudroy de Lille (representative from our Academic Partner Organization, Université Paris-Est Créteil) on Urban or Urbanistic History in France: The Meaning of the Distinction; and Carlos Lahoz (Associate Dean from our Non-Academic Partner Organization, COAM). We also had the meetings of all consortium boards.

Training activities were also included, within the above mentioned activities of the "Workshops Day" on Thursday and the "Training Day" on Friday, where the closure talks made the satisfaction from the meeting palpable.

We are proud to mention that the Consortium thanked Britta Trostorf for her performance as the Project Manager so far. From now on, we also greeted Christiane Krämer as our new Project Manager and ESR Agnès Dudych was elected the new representative of the ESRs.

We must also thank ESRs and supervisors for very intensive and interesting days, whose debates were highly contributed by our Advisory Board members and the representatives of our Partner Organizations, those that have not yet been men-



Consortium members at the entrance at School of Architecture of University of Valladolid
Source: Instituto Universitario de Urbanística

oned (Gaia Caramellino, Corinna Morandi, Mariusz Czepczyński, Florian Urban, Cristina García, Patrick Faming, Claudia Quiring, Oldrich Tůma).

Last but not least, some networking and spending time together was also possible during our week. Firstly with a Welcome Dinner on Tuesday, but also with the ESR Night organized on Wednesday by Federico Camerin and Noel Manzano, where ESRs could taste one of the

typical recipes of Castilla y León: "Lechazo" (roast suckling lamb). It was very pleasant to see how personal relationships are strengthening and helping the general feeling of the urbanHIST team as a group.

We hope you all enjoyed the meeting as much as we did, and we will see you all in Košice!

María Castrillo, Víctor Pérez,
Marina Jiménez
UVa Team



Moving on to Next Stages of the PhD. Study

Most of our ESRs have completed their first year of study. This first year has involved numerous meetings and discussions with supervisors to adjust the study plan and research goals. An extensive literature review is an essential part of this initial stage. It provides a strong grounding as well as an opportunity to make research original and valuable. The outcome of this initial stage must be a clear vision of further steps leading to scientific results. The crucial part of the PhD. study is the second year when most of the research is done. Dissertation results usually include partial findings and results that should be published in scientific journals or presented at conferences. I would like to stress this part of the PhD. candidate activity as a very important milestone and confirmation of the research excellence. The evaluation of the PhD. candidate's activity and dissertation results is usually much easier when parts of these results have been peer-reviewed by other, independent reviewers in top scientific journals.

The preparation of the first publication should start at the end of the first year of the study at the latest, otherwise it could be problematic to meet the deadlines and have a paper published within the period of the study. While writing a manuscript takes some time, later it provides a good compact material for the dissertation. The review process in many journals is still slow and usually takes several months depending on the opinions of the reviewers and editorial process. Each peer-reviewed publication provides a strong confirmation of the student's ability to do a serious research, especially at the European level represented by our urbanHIST project.

Jaroslav Hofierka
urbanHIST ESR Supervisor

urbanHIST Calendar

PAST ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 2018

- Meeting of urbanHIST Local Directors in Berlin
- 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
- UPJŠ – “Being a European Citizen and Student” – presentation by ESRs Agnès Dudych and Jovana Vukčević at secondary bilingual grammar school in Košice
- Publication of urbanHIST newsletter 4

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 and Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava)

JANUARY – MARCH 2018

- Secondments with Partner Organisations for first six ESRs
- 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 January-March 2018
 - Individual training
- urbanHIST local training events at UPJŠ:
 - The Other Half of Europe II (open ESR colloquium, research progress – Jovana Vukčević, Ondřej Jirásek)
 - Academic English Writing Course
 - Open lecture with invited speaker “Weaving the Urban Pasts from Myths, Memories, Narratives and Politics: On Cultural Geographies of Urban Histories” (speaker – Prof. Mariusz Czepczyński, Uniwersytet Gdański, Poland)
 - Individual training “Researching Contemporary History II (20th Century Slovakia in 20th Century Europe)”
- 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

MARCH 2018

- CFP for Young urban(H)IST conference – HISTORY OF EUROPEAN URBANISM IN THE 20TH CENTURY – DISTINCTIVE AND COMMON THEMES published (Košice, 2 October 2018)

urbanHist Webinar #2: L’Architecture Engagée as a Part of European Urban History

Six months after the first urbanHIST Webinar in Weimar, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice hosted the second one in February 2018. This time the guest lecturer was Henrieta Moravčíková from the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, and Professor at the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. Henrieta Moravčíková is a well-known researcher in the field of Slovak architecture in the 20th century. She and her team published a number of books in the field and they have had great success within both academic and non-academic sphere (for instance *20th Century Architecture in Slovakia, Modern and/or Totalitarian in the Architecture of the 20th Century in Slovakia...*).

The subject of the webinar was *L’architecture engagée: How the Engaged Architecture Changed the European City*. In the beginning of the 20th century a lot of new concepts appeared, as much political as economic or social, which had important impact on the artistic creations which include the architectural one. On the basis of examples from all over Europe, the Professor drew the history of architecture in the 20th century in the light of architects’ engagement. Some of the cited architects included Nikolay Alexandrovich Milyu-

tin and Ivan Ilich Leonidov from early Socialist Russia, both engaged in the conceptualisation and creation of *Sotsgorod* and linear cities in USSR, as well as the architects from western Europe like Tony Garnier, Ebenezer Howard, etc. Moravčíková also emphasised the role of the different political parties which

influenced the building production mostly through the financial support.

Henrieta Moravčíková concluded her presentation by drawing attention to today’s architects’ creation. In many projects we can observe that the designer made his own interpretation of old concepts (Rem Koolhaas’ project of linear

city *Exodus*, Alejandro Aravena’s social housing project in Iquique, Chile...). Return to old concepts and looking back to our urban history, according to her, is a clear sign of the crisis in today’s urban planning.

Agnès Dudych
Early Stage Researcher



Photo by Katarína Hajduková

Open Lecture: Weaving the Urban Pasts from Myths, Memories, Narratives and Politics: On Cultural Geographies of Urban Histories

On 14 March 2018, UPJŠ team hosted prof. dr. Mariusz Czepczyński, professor at the University of Gdańsk and urbanHIST advisory board member. His fascinating lecture *Weaving the Urban Pasts from Myths, Memories, Narratives and Politics: On Cultural Geographies of*

Urban Histories discussed some of the most recent and innovative concepts related to the inter-weaving of time and space, such as the urban memories, semiotic landscape or doxas of social practices. According to Czepczyński, history is a sense making dialogue with the past, re-

flected in the ‘semiotic landscape’ which preserves mnemonic traces of social constructions of the various past events. As such, both urban memories and urban spaces represent ‘rewritten palimpsests’ which evoke different mnemonic and urban dynamics, revealing themselves

gradually in order to legitimise contemporary societal needs, ideologies and politics.

Other than addressing landscape, heritage and memory as a set of spatio-temporal references to certain historical period, Czepczyński analysed how different forms and practices of memorialisation and forgetting reshape societies and public spaces. This opened a space for discussing multi-layered, volatile, deceptive and epidemiological nature of memory and general political capacity of societies to engage with multiple versions and different trajectories of interpretation of the same past. Lively debate with the Košice ESRs highlighted the importance of interactions of time in space in commemoration practices, resilience of both mnemonic and urban structures, different ways of remembering in public space and contemporary challenges related to incorporation of (divergent) narratives into identity discourses. This inspiring presentation provided once again a powerful reminder about how challenging, resourceful, multi-layered and ambiguous the analysis of history and memory may be, especially when contextualised through the urban landscape and its variety of forms and concepts.



Photo by Katarína Hajduková

Jovana Vukčević
Early Stage Researcher

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

On 14 March 2018 the second urbanHIST colloquium was held at UPJŠ, Košice. There were presented the results and progress in the research of 2 PhD. students at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Jovana Vukčević and Ondřej Jirásek. The aims of the colloquium were to evaluate the current work and provide feedback and recommendations for further research. Doc. Martin Pekár opened the colloquium and welcomed the guest Prof. Czepcyński, who also held open lecture under the urbanHIST project after the colloquium.

The first contributor was Ondřej Jirásek who presented his research focused on public space changes in accordance with the ideologies of The (First) Slovak Republic, Francoist Spain, and Nazi Norway. He presented the methodology of the research and the main concepts of ideology, public space, and semiotics that will be used in the research. He was recommended to test the methodology on a particular city before its application to selected regimes and inclusion of the thesis chapter focused on the general overview of various dictatorship practices in Europe in the period under review.

Jovana Vukčević followed with a presentation of her research dealing with



Photo by Katarína Hajduková

contemporary uses of the unwanted, unacknowledged or underestimated past and uncomfortable heritage in post-socialist Europe. Also, her presentation was focused especially on the theoretical and methodological background. In this case, supervisors recommended narrowing the focus and

selecting only a few of mentioned concepts to make the thesis sufficient specific.

The colloquium was a great opportunity to discuss and get feedback concerning not only the scientific part but also networking, training, conferences, publication and administrati-

on. There were mentioned many important things for the development of quality dissertation theses as well as the fulfillment of the goals and potential of the urbanHIST project.

Ondřej Jirásek
Early Stage Researcher

ESR Colloquium II at BUW

Receiving critiques, comments, and recommendations are essential parts of the *internal doktorandenkolloquium* that is organized each semester by Prof. Welch Guerra chair. Nevertheless, the opportunity to expose our work to "outsiders", who are not familiar with our thesis, is an outstanding occasion to challenge our research from other Ph.D. candidates' perspectives.

Except for the first presentation, the whole session was dominated by presentations from the urbanHIST researchers with a wide-ranging variety of topics like: planning transport models in Eastern Europe and the USSR, central-

planned economies and the paradox of weak urban planning, a historiography of European Urbanism in Slavic languages, and historical approaches to technology and exhibition in a relation to housing development.

While every contribution is particularly innovative and original, a common denominative among the urbanHIST candidates is the attention to transnational comparisons as a historical approach to developing each study. As a tool, the comparative perspective allows us to expand the limits of an otherwise traditional methodology, often focused on single case studies or specific countries,

to a wider situational approach that deals with both physical and temporal phenomena. This approach is applicable to the cases of the former GDR, the USSR or Czechoslovakia at the turn of different regimes or market economy transitions, these topics are commonly left aside in a cross-national research, which is the distinctive and enriching characteristics of the overall urbanHIST programme.

With compelling comments and comprehensive aspects, our main supervisor Prof. Welch Guerra concluded the colloquium. For the first time, our supervisor mentioned that our research project

takes shape. There were some significant questions, as has this part of history been built on the boundaries of urban planning and other political and socio-cultural aspects that could constitute the joint understanding of 20th century urbanism in Europe? An elaboration on the overall "contour" of the urbanHIST project as a new possible pan European history of urbanism based on the correlation of topics that attempt to narrate an alternative history of European urbanism and urban planning.

Marcelo Sagot Better, Aliaksandr Shuba
Early Stage Researchers

urbanHIST at IPHS 2018 Yokohama Conference

Looking at the world history of planning is the overall theme of the upcoming biannual conference of the *International Planning History Society*. The international meeting will take place in July 2018 in Yokohama, being the second largest Japanese city and a part of the Greater Tokyo Area.

As the topic perfectly matches the urbanHIST investigation agenda, Advisory Board member Eliana Perotti grasped the opportunity to submit the panel *The Formation of Planning Historiography Patterns in European and International Writings 19th-20th century*. The proposal included three papers from urbanHIST members, by Valladolid local director María Castrillo Romón and by early stage researchers Susanna Weddige and Helene Bihlmaier. The abstracts were submitted mid-December 2017, went through the peer-review process and got accepted.

The panel will focus on theoretical writings concerning urbanism and town planning from mid-19th century to World War II. The geographical range of their origins goes beyond Europe, also taking further continents, nations, and former colonial territories into consideration. Prof. Castrillo Romón's presentation is titled *The emergence of historiography in Early Spanish Writings on Urban Planning*, focusing on the features of the development of urban historiography in Spanish literature during the second half of the 19th century as well as on its transnational influence. Susanna Weddige will talk about *Artistic Approaches and Historiographic Patterns in Early German-language Town Planning Literature*, since writings like *City Planning According to Artistic Principles* (1889) by Camillo Sitte had great impact far beyond the German speaking areas. Helene Bihl-



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maier will focus on *Historiographical Patterns in Early Anglophone Urban Planning Literature*, concentrating on their emergence, their diverse use and their oscillating approaches between

national and transnational planning history.

Susanna Weddige, Helene Bihlmaier
Early Stage Researchers

PRESENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

APRIL 2018

- NWWW III meeting (Network Wide Workshop Week III), Valladolid, Spain
- Introducing new urbanHIST PM and LC BUW - Dr. rer. nat. Christiane Kramer
- Publication of urbanHIST newsletter 5

APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2018

- 6-month secondment at the second university for all ESRs within the double degree scheme
- urbanHIST local training events at BUW:
 - Ph.D. Colloquium
 - Seminar "Aspects of the history of European urbanism in the 20th century" conducted by ESRs
- urbanHIST local training events at UVA:
 - Urban History: INTER-DISCIPLINARY OPENING UP
 - Three specific actions:
 - NEW TECHNOLOGIES APPLIED TO THE ANALYSIS OF URBAN EVOLUTION (Seminar with experts in TICs and urban history researcher)
 - Progress in urbanHIST UVA ESRs' research projects
 - HISTORY AND THE URBAN CONDITION: Ph.D. Seminar between two University Research Institutes: Instituto Universitario de Urbanística and Instituto Universitario de Historia Simancas ("Encounters I+I")
- urbanHIST local training events at UPJŠ:
 - Ph.D. Colloquium, research progress Azmah Arzmi, Elvira Khairulina, Aliaksandr Shuba, Susanna Weddige
 - Individual training and consultations: "Researching Contemporary History I (Periodisation, Methods, Problems)", "Researching Contemporary History II (20th Century Slovakia in 20th Century Europe)"
 - Open lecture "Politics and Public Space in Slovakia between 1938 and 1945: The example of Prešov" (lecturer – Assoc. Prof. Martin Pekár)
 - Ph.D. Networking workshop in cooperation with the Institute of Construction and Architecture SAS including guided city tour of Bratislava (Michal Janák)
- urbanHIST local training events at BTH:
 - Ph.D. Course Planning Theory
 - Ph.D. Colloquium, Adam Górka, Marcelo Sagot Better, Ksenija Kršmanović
 - Individual training and courses: Information search, Research methodology and Ethics in research

JULY 2018

- Midterm Report
- urbanHIST participation at the IPHS Yokohama 2018 Conference "LOOKING AT THE WORLD HISTORY OF PLANNING", 14-19 July; Panel proposal: "The Formation of Planning Historiography Patterns in European and International Writings (19th-20th c.)" Participants: AB Member Eliana Perotti (panel submission); LD UVA María Castrillo; ESRs Helene Bihlmaier, Susanna Weddige (papers)

urbanHIST at Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH)

BTH conducts education and research at a high international level in which engineering and IT are integrated with other disciplines such as spatial planning, industrial economics, design and health sciences to contribute to solving the challenges the society is facing.

Everything we do has three distinct perspectives: innovation, sustainability and in real life, which means collaboration and exchange with both business and industry as well as society. BTH has a distinctive focus on IT and sustainability. We are firmly rooted in an innovative and expanding region. We represent quality and innovation, and are perceived as open, exciting and creative. Our activities attract students, businesses and organisations, and contribute to new and local investments. Both of BTH's campuses are located by the sea, which creates a special atmosphere. On campus there are of course lecture halls and libraries, but also restaurants and cafes, student housing, a students' union, and the unique opportunity to swim in the sea; in other words – an inspiring study environment.

Education and Applied Research at BTH

BTH offers student-centred and research-based education resulting in students who are satisfied with their education and in demand on the labour market. Our aim is that the students become creative, knowledgeable and independent, acquiring a sound basis for their future success after graduation.

BTH is a university where the research is applied, i.e. the purpose of the research is to seek new knowledge with a view to a definite application. Research is conducted in collaboration with both business and industry as well as society, and always with a clear focus – that the results will contribute to solving the challenges facing society.

The research at BTH is conducted at two faculties within the fields of engineering,



Source: <https://www.bth.se>



Photo by Martin Pekár



Photo by Marika Ottosson

IT, spatial planning, industrial economics and health.

Planning and the Built Environment

The research in planning explores how planning works and the different control mechanisms that affect spatial development, but also how planning processes are initiated and managed, as well as the institutions and stakeholders involved. Research on spatial planning is a multi-disciplinary activity. As spatial planning is part of society's governance system, research on planning in the broad sense is conducted within a variety of subjects, such as architecture, sociology, political science, human geography, environmental science, ethnology, and more. This is partly reflected in the department's composition of staff, where several different subject areas are represented. More importantly, the theoretical and methodological basis of research is not limited to one subject, but spans many different sciences; consequently, the researchers receive impressions, inspiration and tools from a variety of disciplines.

Two Different Research Fields

Research in the field of spatial planning at BTH does not take place in separate research teams, but individually and in different networks according to various theoretical perspectives, the methods applied and concrete research assignments. Two main research fields can, however, be identified even if there is no sharp boundary between them:

- planning as a control system for societal change and
- the built environment as an outcome of planning.

Research on Planning as a Control System

Research on planning explores how planning works and the different control mechanisms (ideologies, legislation, professional norms, technologies) that affect spatial development, but also how planning processes are initiated and managed, as well as the institutions and stakeholders involved. Special emphasis is placed

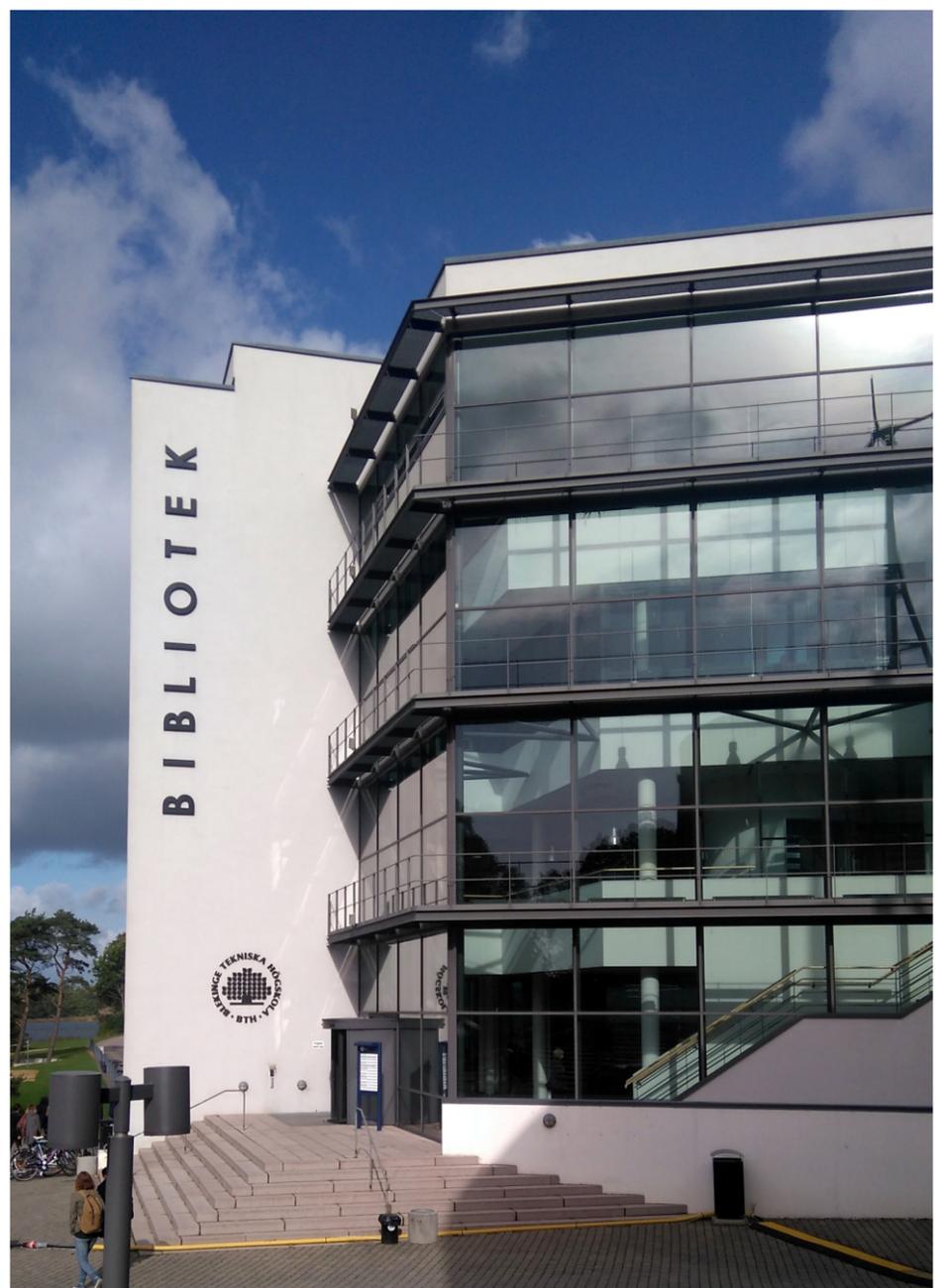
on how planning is influenced and changed under pressure from political trends and societal transformation in general, such as climate change, increased globalisation, alongside increased supranational governance and decentralisation. It also includes study of the democratic dimensions of planning and how different groups' scope of action is influenced by and changes during ongoing processes, not least in terms of citizen participation in planning.

Research on the Built Environment

Research on the built environment explores how different perceptions of space affect planning in practice and thus the form and design. A starting point here is to understand how different material and social conditions produce space, that is, built space as a venue for a daily practice, but also how the space is a background to subjective experiences and notions about what the space is, or should be, in its new form. Another area of interest in this context is how different perceptions of general virtues, such as security, integration or meetings, affect the design of spaces in terms of their physical form. Similarly, the research explores how spatial structure has an impact on human life and daily patterns of activity, and how the urban form affects mobility, flexibility and identification issues.

Research at the Department of Spatial Planning is conducted in research projects and environments consisting of doctoral students and senior researchers. One of the research projects includes six PhD students and four senior researchers, and is also part of an internationally funded project and consortium of four European universities. Another research project is conducted in collaboration with researchers at Stockholm University, and yet another is a collaboration project within a broad Nordic research network. Research is also conducted, to a limited extent, by teaching staff with PhDs and doctoral students, focusing on planning issues in both a national and international context.

Annica Johansson
BTH Local Coordinator



BTH library building | Photo by Martin Pekár

BIOGRAPHY

SINCE 2015 Adjunct professor at Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, (Vietnam)

2013 Dean of The Swedish School of Planning at the Blekinge Institute of Technology

SINCE 2010 Head of the Department of Spatial Planning

SINCE 2009 Professor and chair in Spatial Planning at the Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona (Sweden)

2003 – 2008 Associate professor in Architecture especially Urban Planning and Design, Royal Institute of Technology, School of Architecture, Stockholm (Sweden)

2003 Docent in Architecture, especially Urban Planning and Design, Royal Institute of Technology, School of Architecture, Stockholm (Sweden)

1999 – 2002 Senior researcher at the Royal Institute of Technology, School of Architecture, Stockholm (Sweden)

1996 – 1999 Assistant professor in Architecture at the Royal Institute of Technology, School of Architecture, Stockholm (Sweden)

1996 Master of Science in Architecture, Institut Supérieure de l'Architecture de l'Etat (ISAE), La Cambre, Brussels (Belgium)

1995 – 1996 Temporary lecturer at Chalmers University of Technology, School of Architecture, Göteborg (Sweden)

1995 Doctor of Philosophy, Urban planning and Design, Chalmers University of Technology, School of Architecture, Göteborg. Title: Mediterranean Urban Patterns – Comparative study of urban patterns in Fes and Siena. Supervisor: Prof Björn Linn

1989 – 1995 Doctoral student at Chalmers University of Technology, School of Architecture, Göteborg (Sweden)

1986 – 1988 Practicing Architect at Ateljé Courbisier, St Gilles, Brussels (Belgium)

1983 Bachelor degree in Architecture, Institut Supérieure de l'Architecture de l'Etat (ISAE), La Cambre, Brussels (Belgium)

Abdellah Abarkan

"The Most Appreciated Part of urbanHIST Project is Its Diversity"

Professor of Urban Planning at Blekinge Tekniska Högskola and BTH local director Prof. Abdellah Abarkan, Ph.D has told us more about his career and about the urbanHIST project.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Dear Abdellah, my first question is aimed at your university studies time. During your bachelor's and master's degree you studied architecture in Brussels (Belgium). What aspects motivated you to choose this field of study?

ABDELLAH: In the 1970s and early 1980, Morocco was experiencing a rapid urbanisation, especially in the northern part of the country where housing development reached levels never seen before or after. In my home town, located on the Mediterranean coast, only ten kilometres from the Spanish enclave Melilla, housing development spread over agricultural land in informal manner. Infrastructural equipment and facilities were totally missing. This rapid change of small (at the time still colonial patterns) cities and villages attracted our interest. One of the reasons of the uncontrolled housing expansion was said to be the lack of experts in the field of architecture and urban design. The first school of architecture was established in Morocco in 1980, the same year I left the country to pursue my university studies in Belgium. Before this date and even after many Moroccans were getting their education in architecture, and other disciplines, in France or other French speaking countries or regions in Europe. Having experienced the huge and rapid urbanisation in my home town, the interest in architecture and urban design was pending years before I decided to apply for the admission to study architecture at La Cambre in Brussels.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Could you reveal more about the time when you were a student? What were some of the memorable moments for you?

ABDELLAH: I left Morocco in October 1980 and started the year after my studies of architecture in Belgium. This was in times when European universities were still believing in their humanitarian mission, and before they became real companies selling education to those who afford to pay, not to those who are in need. Educa-



Abdellah Abarkan | Source: BTH School photo 2016

tion and universities in Belgium were the meeting points for international, diverse populations of students and teaching staff. At the same time, as universities offered educational tracks and programmes that were easy to accede, every classroom was overpopulated, a crowd of people of different colour, culture and nationalities. Besides this international mix of young people, education in architecture was social sciences and humanities based. Courses in history, sociology and philosophy were offered together with or parallel to courses in mathematics,

physics and chemistry. Design studios were meant to promote not only figurative design, but most of all creative and reflective design processes aided by abilities and knowledge provided by the theoretical part of the curriculum. I think that this was one of the reasons why I chose an academic career instead of a practical one.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Later, your study focused on the field of Urban Planning and Design and now you are a professor of Urban Planning at Blekinge Tekniska Högskola. What

has been most attractive about this calling for you?

ABDELLAH: As I said earlier the mode of education in architecture I went was quite special, it gave me a good insight in the domain of architecture and urban design. I mean here both the process of building and the context this process is related to. The discourses, planning and building actors, the physical context of new developments has to integrate to, and last but not least the society and the community of users, constitute this complexity

inherent to architecture and planning. The short period I spent in practice was enough to clarify two phenomena related to the city and the spatial configuration. The first considers the city as an assemblage of knowledge and experience. This appreciation found its tools of investigation in my early reading in semiology with Roland Barth as the main reference, but later on the phenomenological corpus introduced by Christian Norberg Schultz and Merlau Ponty gave more support to the understanding of the existential and architectural space, and spatial configuration. The other phenomenon concerns processes of architectural and urban design. The conception of architectural and urban project is situated and time related. These two aspects of place and time reappeared after the failure of the modern project in the late 1950s and early 1960s. In this field, theories that helped me in the conception of the design project, and both in my teaching and research, were formulated by the Italian building typology put forward by Muratori and Cannigia. Also the French orientation towards the role of and relation between building typologies and the urban form, put forward by Christian Devillers as typomorphologies was fundamental to the conception of architectural project as dialectic interpretation of the relation of architecture to the city.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: When you look back at your career what has been the most rewarding experience?

ABDELLAH: I think that my work at the Blekinge Institute of Technology is and has been the most exciting, inspiring and engaging. The task I got when I started at the Department of Spatial Planning as a professor and chair, was to develop the subject spatial planning and revise the existing education programme. From the then existing program of four and a half years of study we developed new curricula for the education in spatial planning, which is prepared in the bachelor program of three years and two master orientations, one in urban planning and the other in strategic spatial planning. The idea of the curriculum is based on the conception of the core of education and specialisations. The core includes the very specific knowledge, regulations and experiences appropriate to the Swedish building and planning practice. Specialisation is mostly done in the master level of education and performed in deepened knowledge and understanding, reflective and critical ability in the conception of planning and urban design. We have been awarded by the National Agency of Higher Education in its last national evaluation the grade "very high quality" education.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Can you tell us what your expectations from urbanHIST project are? What is the main benefit of urbanHIST project implementation for the Department of Spatial Planning at Blekinge Tekniska Högskola?

ABDELLAH: My expectation is the achievement of urbanHIST project, which means that all the fifteen early stage researchers complete their theses in 2020. My expectation is also that our consortium will continue its cooperation of research and education in new programmes and expanded form. And my expectation is also that the individual studies of each early stage researcher will provide a deeper understanding of the history



Abdallah Abarkan | Photo by Thomas Müller

of 20th century European urbanisms, and hopefully contribute with new insights in until now marginalised aspects and practices of urbanism. urbanHIST research project has meant a lot for our department because of the project's international frame and its orientation. The department is strengthened by the employment and enrolment of six international early stage researchers and by the integration of an international and interdisciplinary community of researchers and experts in European urbanism.

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

ABDELLAH: The most appreciated part of the project is its diversity. The most successful and engaging research milieus have in my experience been those which were multidisciplinary, and most interesting discussions occur often in different conference sessions gathering people from different research traditions. I think that

urbanHIST offers these two opportunities.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: urbanHIST project has now been running for more than one and a half year. Could you evaluate the institutional cooperation between beneficiaries?

ABDELLAH: Cooperation has always its best sides and other less good ones. The less fortunate encounters have been of administrative character, which have not affected research. Today I see that the achievement of all the fifteen early stage researchers is very promising, and the management of the project is also in good hands. I must say that I am confident.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: What do you think is the most important task that needs to be ensured for the successful completion of the project?

ABDELLAH: All the fifteen individual projects are running almost at the same speed but in different contexts

and different local culture. The challenge we are all facing is to find ways of adjusting to each other's requirements and expectations. Our research project strives for the accomplishment of a European history of urbanism but completed in different contexts, research traditions and cultural areas.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: How do you encourage the participation of Early Stage Researchers in research and activities in urbanHIST project or at the Department of Spatial Planning at BTH?

ABDELLAH: I opted from the beginning for an open and transparent process and mode of cooperation with the early stage researchers. I introduced a process of research, which step by step, gave the needed support to investigate the area of research, identify problems and questions that can be analysed and discussed, and suggesting theories and methods of interpretation. This model of open and regular dialogue concerned not only

the research tasks but even other more practical issues related to the management of the project, dissemination of research findings and data collection.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: How do you evaluate the involvement of Early Stage Researchers in the urbanHIST project and their progress?

ABDELLAH: As I said before, I see great progress and promising very good results. I have no doubt that the urbanHIST project is a successful project, and this is thanks to all its participants, which have accepted to contribute with their knowledge and expertise in the history of the 20th century European urbanism.

URBANHIST NEWSLETTER: Abdallah, thank you for taking time and interesting interview. I am wishing you much success in your professional and personal life.

Interviewed by Zuzana Tokárová
urbanHIST Newsletter Editor



Photo by Max Welch Guerra

We Introduce

KSENIJA KRSMANOVIĆ

I was born in Novi Sad, the second biggest city in Serbia that lies on the left banks of the Danube river. In my home town, I have finished Bachelor studies of Landscape Architecture, where I have developed a big interest for research in multidisciplinary studies, particularly in urban landscape and heritage. In 2014, I have received a scholarship for the best students studying abroad from Serbian Government as well as Italian Regional grant that enabled me to undertake Master studies of Urban

Planning and Policy Design at Politecnico di Milano. Studying at this prestigious international university was one of the most precious experiences in my life at the time that influenced my academic development. Life in Milan gave birth to my passions for urbanism, studying in international environment and exploring new countries, cultures and languages. This led me to urbanHIST project and the development of the doctoral research in the field of European urbanism, heritage and planning.

It is hard for me to select a favorite book. Recently I have read American XX century classic *The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand that I found interesting. The piece speaks about ideals, creativity and power of human beliefs reflected through modern architecture by using the language of objectivism. At the moment, I am reading *Danubio* by Italian scholar and writer Claudio Magris who collected every day stories gathered along the course of Danube river. The book is enriched with ideas about society, politics

and the world at the end of the cold war in not so well-known part of Europe.

Ever since my childhood, music has been my hobby. Besides playing the piano, I have been singing in mixed choirs for more than 15 years both in Serbia and Spain. In addition, I enjoy spending my free time traveling with my friends, doing photography or visiting some relaxing gardens and waterfronts.

Ksenija Krsmanović
Early Stage Researcher

Urban Regeneration on River Waterfronts in the Second Half of the XX Century

During the XX century, in many cities of Europe, there has been an increasing number of waterfront transformation projects.

Due to the big economic shift from the industrial to postindustrial society, cities have been undergoing major changes. The significant turn occurred around '60s and '70s, when industrial base ceased to exist and all the areas it was occupying faced the problem of the degradation, unemployment, emptiness and emerging of vacant industrial buildings, leaving neglected spaces, brownfields and 'no-go' areas in the inner city. The rising phenomenon gave birth to the numerous urban regeneration policies implemented worldwide not only in former industrial areas, but also urban spaces linked to transportation and ports, altering in that way the relation between the city and its waterfront.

Creation, expansion and urban development of the cities is connected to the presence of the water. Traditionally, the presence of the river in the city could be seen as its connection, but also as the border or the edge on the other hand (Lynch, 1960). Historically, waterfronts were considered as places of heavy activities as they were locations used for serving the port. Hence, the main use of waterfronts was connected to infrastructure, transportation and exchange of goods. Recently, the situation has been considerably different. The waterfront transformation led to the change of the functions from heavy to places that are hosting soft, sustainable activities foreseen for public use.

Step by step, this type of transformation took a significant role in contemporary cities described by the statement: "the urban waterfront development is widely regarded as a frontier on contemporary urban development, attracting investment

and publicity" (Morena, 2011).

The significance as an object of urban transformation course is given to the waterfront areas because they are seen as opportunity to enhance local economy and promote the city itself by improving the urban image and quality. The waterfront development stimulated modern development in the cities (Wrenn et al., 1983).

Hence, I see waterfront as a very interesting object for studying urban processes' course. My research is focused on the urban regeneration on river waterfronts in the inner city areas, where the river has a specific spatial meaning as the meeting place of built and natural, thus forming a particular urban landscape.

I am conducting my research at University of Valladolid, with the supervision of professors Juan Luis de las Rivas Sanz (UVa, Spain) and Abdellah Abarkan (BTH, Sweden).

General aims of my thesis are to expose the evolution of planning concepts and tools for urban preservation in several chosen European countries by applying comparative methodology and to answer how landscape created by urban form on river waterfronts is interpreted by European urbanism. Furthermore, to understand the evolution of ideas related with the historic city preservation, principles and practices through history with the focus on urban waterfronts in late XX century (from 60s to nowadays) in European cities by applying historical approach. The goal is to improve the conceptual basis and targets of future planning actions and to add value to previous researches on national levels.

The specific subject of the research is to ponder about the point in urban history when urban preservation started being relevant and desired form of urban practice. Related to

this, my hypothesis is that urban regenerations on waterfront areas are relevant features in searching for urbanity.

As a result, specific aims of the thesis are formed. Firstly, developing acknowledgments about the interaction between urban waterfront regeneration policies and urban landscape in European inner city areas. Secondly, understanding how these transformations effected evolutions of tools, policies and culture in different settings.

To study this process and its outcomes, a specific comparative research methodology was formed, which is implemented through five main steps: (1) selecting cases undergoing the same process of urban transformation, then (2) studying critically implemented tools in different settings, (3) describing different outcomes of transformations, (4) comparing these

cases by acknowledging their differences and similarities and finally (5) classifying them in typologies.

Thus, thesis work is conducted in few main phases. Firstly, researching the evolution of the ideas by using relevant bibliography related to urban landscape and river waterfront as its component, urban regeneration as a process, concept of urbanity and urban history. Learning about new urban landscape on waterfronts is implemented by using Urban Atlas as a first approach to practice selection criteria and ordering of chosen cases. Furthermore, two main cases of the research are selected and will be elaborated equally, in detail by using primary and secondary sources. Finally, at the ending phase of the research process, the cases located on the Danube river will be selected in order to study the evolution of planning ideas, history and urban complexity in set-

ting that had once belonged to the same Empire, but after underwent major changes influenced by 'West' or 'East' ideologies.

The chosen case studies offer a standpoint from which processes happening in the city could be observed and they are given significance and a central role of a potential catalyst of urban transformations. It is essential to identify the specific relation between the city and its river in each particular case defined by local, regional and national context and regulations. In my opinion, the complexity of studying this phenomena is mainly seen in understanding the local character in order to create objective image and knowledge about each particular case of waterfront transformations within urban areas.

Ksenija Krsmanović
Early Stage Researcher



Aerial view on Hamburg Harbor from the first part of the XX century | Source: www.hamburger-fotoarchiv.de



Photo by Max Welch Guerra

We Introduce ADAM GÓRKA

I was born in 1981 in Kraków, Poland – where I spend half of my life. The other one was dedicated to traveling and exploring the world around me. Although Kraków is an amazing, cosmopolitan city with rich history, my inner need to discover the unknown has led me to many new places. That's why among others I have spent some time living on the glacier in Switzerland or in the mountains of Scotland. And now I have the chance to discover more by taking part in urbanHIST project.

My academic background is Human Geography and Spatial Development which I graduated from at Jagiellonian University in Kraków. My MA thesis about social interactions within public space of Kraków has set the direction of my field of interest on Urban Studies, especially interactions between people and the urban space. Since city is an object of interest of many disciplines, in my studies I try to conduct interdisciplinary approach and use methodology from different fields, such as Geography, History, So-

ciology, Anthropology and Urban Planning. I'm the author and co-author of several papers and monographs, such as: *Little towns inside the big ones, big cities inside the small town – local society or alienation in public space, Scan-space. Social interactions in postmodern cities, Factors and constraints of urban development in Pomorskie voivodship*. My biggest project so far is a book *Where the Południce goes? Historical and cultural guide to Myślenice region* that I wrote for Regional Museum in Myślenice. I

had a chance to work with historical sources as well as to do some fieldwork in one of the regions of Southern Poland. In Kraków I had a chance to get some experience as a teacher. I had lectured the courses about data processing, and global socio-economic processes. I was also preparing and leading some workshops for city activists and members of EGEA (International association of Geography students).

Adam Górkka
Early Stage Researcher

Understanding Morphological Changes in Post-Socialist Cities Using 3D-Virtual Models – Case Study of Košice

According to the United Nations, at the end of 2008 the global number of people living in urban areas has for the first time in human history overcome the number of people living in villages.

Although urbanization processes have more rapid progress in the developing countries, cities everywhere are changing. And the character of those changes is quite significant. During the last decades in Europe, population or physical development might not have been as dynamic as in the ones following the end of World War II, nevertheless they are indicators of the transformation from industrial to post-industrial cities. Those processes have been detected in many parts of the world, but in Central and Eastern Europe the characteristics of its base stage creates a specific form: *post-socialist cities*. After the fall of communist regimes almost every aspect of human life has been going through transformation. New economy, politics and social processes has made an impact on the

urban space. And those phenomena are mostly concentrated in main cities. In my research I am intending to analyze morphological changes in post-socialist cities with the help of 3D virtual city models. Because of the intention of in-depth analysis and the amount of available data it was decided to concentrate on case studies rather than the description of the whole phenomenon.

The title of the research suggests the main frames of the studies: the timespan (1989-2018), the area (post-socialist cities - case study of Košice) and the main tool (3D virtual models of the city). But as it is also pointed out, it should not only detect the morphological changes, but also analyse the processes indicating them. Both, urban space and social processes occurring in the cities are not uniform.

This diversity is of a functional nature, as well as a characteristic overlook that makes them differ from each other. The cities themselves changed their faces many times in subsequent stages of their development. Thus, their image at the moment is both an expression of contemporary processes and the legacy of historical times. Their spatial form is the resultant of various factors that shape them. Therefore, the city cannot be treated only in the context of its material sphere, it is needed to pay attention to the social processes taking place in it.

This complex is based on a system of dependencies between various dimensions (Fig.1). The physical form of the city is directly related to the functions that are located within urban space and the socio-economic processes that shape them. The context in which the city develops is of significant importance. Natural conditions determine the general framework and directions of spatial development. The history of the city and the region determines the starting point for further development: the existing spatial form, the plots pattern, the economic base, etc. "Big" historical events (war, exchange of people etc.) as well as political and ideological changes determine the turning points of the city's development. This is particularly important in the analysis of the development of socialist and post-socialist cities, where the urban space has been subjected to strong influences of ideology. Local traditions and habits such as social capital, neighbourhood bonds and human mobility also impact the city's development. When analysing morphology, one cannot omit processes occurring not only locally but also under the influence of wider trends. New ideas, fashions and technologies influence the development of society and, consequently, the space that it shapes. Based on those interactions it is possible to develop research hypothesis: *The post-socialist transformation of urban space is a complex of processes that combine changes on different dimensions – physical, social, economic and political*. All those dimensions interact with others creating a system of dependencies and

impacts. Morphological and functional changes might be shown and analysed with virtual 3D models, which should be a base stage for the following studies that will intend to analyse other dimensions of urban development. Following this approach, the main aim of the research is as follows: Identification and analysis of decision-making and development processes leading to the current state of the post-socialist city of Košice represented by time-series of virtual 3D city models.

The area and time frame of the research seems to be set within clear borders: the city of Košice in last 3 decades. During this period the city has been going through transformation from an industrially dominated, socialist town to contemporary urban organism developing in free-market economy. Today, with 240.000 inhabitants, it is the second largest city in Slovakia and the main economic and cultural center. Thanks to this, most of the transformation phenomena are focusing on Košice. The local specifics of the city, which went through a rapid urban growth in socialist period, determine the urban surface in most parts of the town. In the communist period Košice was described as "the fastest growing city in the republic". At this point the propaganda was right – since 1945 the population had grown from 50.000 to 235.000 people in 1989 and about 75.000 apartments were built. In this period several masterplans for city development were made and big housing estate projects were realised. Because of its importance, a deeper analysis of the socialist period will be included as a background for contemporary urban changes.

Košice will be the main object as a case study, but to get some overview and to detect global trends, other cities will be considered to compare various development trajectories, regional differences in the decision-making processes, social, political and economic environments (for example: Miskolc, Bielsko-Biala, Chemnitz).

The specifics of the research indicate the need for building the methodology by referring to different fields of know-

ledge. This means a significant role of Geography and Geoinformatics but also History with its critical analysis of sources. The study of morphological changes must appeal to the field of Urbanism and its three main schools of urban space analysis: Italian (typo-morphological analysis), English (Conzenian approach) and French. To understand the socio-economic processes that stand behind the physical changes of urban space, it is crucial to refer to Sociology of the city and Economics.

With the recent development of digital technologies, new tools and methods for analysis appear. Among them are Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and 3D modeling, which can be beneficial for urban morphology studies. In past 30 years, the number of city models has grown, but most of them were have been used for visualization of the present situation or future plans. This emphasis put on planning and development leaves a big space for retrospective analysis using GIS and 3D modeling. By using the appropriate historical data, it could be a powerful, interdisciplinary tool to reconstruct the city development. The historical approach poses several challenges in terms of availability of data with sufficient accuracy and spatial detail. It requires the use of multiple historical sources, such as maps, city plans, urban planning documentation, individual building documentation, iconography, articles, etc. with varying data quality and completeness.

With such number of different sources, data availability and quality is crucial, which is why sources review must be conducted with a special attention. As the results of research, a linear model of changes will be created, followed by the analysis and interpretation of gathered materials. Studied narratives should help understand the urban space transformation in Košice, but they should also give an insight into the phenomena of post-socialist cities.

Adam Górkka
Early Stage Researcher

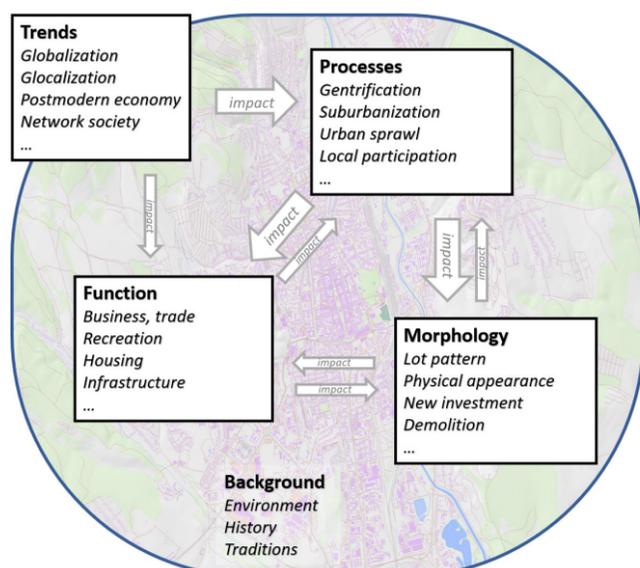


Fig. 1: City development graf | Picture by Adam Górkka

First Round of Secondments

IPHS, GSA and the Scottish Library Landscape

For my first urbanHIST secondment I had the great chance to get affiliated with the International Planning History Society (IPHS). Having succeeded the British-based Planning History Group (PHG) founded in 1974, IPHS was inaugurated in 1993. The society continued PHG's responsibilities to organize a biennial international conference and to publish the quarterly bulletin *Planning Perspectives*. As IPHS has no physical head office and thus no specific location, Planning Perspectives Review Editor-in-Chief and urbanHIST contact Florian Urban invited me to stay at the Glasgow School of Art (GSA), where he is a Professor for Architectural History and Urban Studies. Florian warmly welcomed me at GSA, introduced me to the faculty members and organized a workspace for me in the PhD candidate's office. Shortly after I had arrived, the Mackintosh Research Symposium was held, which gave me the opportunity to get an insight into GSA academic discussions. Thus, I profited from getting to know two well-established institutions at the same time.

In 2014 a disastrous fire damaged the GSA main building, constructed around 1900 according to the design of the famous Scottish architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The most affected part of the building was GSA's library, one of the world's finest examples of art nouveau design, which housed many rare books and archival materials as well as original Mackintosh furniture and fittings. The librarians told me that many historical books and journals, which could have been interesting for my research, were then destroyed by the flames. This sad story reminded me of the great fire of the Duchess Anna Amalia Library in Weimar 2004. While the library in Weimar already reopened after its refurbishment, the Mackintosh building is still covered with scaffolding, waiting for its reopening next year.

As my research builds on Anglophone urban design literature from the first half of the 20th century, the major goal of this secondment was the organisation and collection of my main research material. I was lucky to get the help of indefatigable



Mackintosh building behind hoarding and scaffolding and view on hilly GSA campus street | Photos by Helene Bihlmaier

librarians to find an alternative access to rare historical sources. I not only used the stock of secondary literature at GSA library and waited for interlibrary loans to arrive, but also visited the other Glaswegian academic libraries of Strathclyde and Glasgow

University as well as the University Library and the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh. In the United Kingdom it is not a right but a privilege to visit university libraries; therefore, I was very lucky to receive this invaluable privilege during my

secondment, which allowed me to become acquainted with the broad landscape of Scottish libraries and the treasure they keep.

Helene Bihlmaier
Early Stage Researcher

State and University Library of Dresden – “Wir Führen Wissen”



Exterior of the Central Building of State and University Library of Dresden
Photo by Elvira Khairullina

When describing my experience in Dresden city, I would like to start with the question – How could the working place affect the research? Research and freedom are two synonymous words. Research is like entering a “trance”, as Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi said: all your thoughts, intentions, feelings and senses are focused on the same goal (1990). At this moment, every disturbance can just interrupt the flow of ideas. Thus, research is not a multitasking process or quick solution, which comes rapidly, it is a result of continually flowing process and authentic motivation.

I found this special atmosphere in the State and University Library, Dresden, as this library gives the opportunity to experience certain kind of dualities. The silence, but at the same time many people around; and the monotony, but at the same time the diversity of people's goals. Being among other students made me feel as if I were a part of the big process. As it is said, in the logo of the Library, “We carry knowledge”, many students come to the library to study, and to share some part of their lives. I like to experience diverse cultures, especially the diverse knowledge culture.

One of the best features of the library could be the simplicity in the functioning of and yet the complexity in the organization of it. The library utilizes an automated process of borrowing and returning books. Additionally, it has a comfortable in-

terior space with large studying halls, closed small places, open space and rooms for people with children, etc. This is accompanied by the long opening hours and helpful staff.

I also could point out that the library holds a great deal of information, which I found on my research topic, especially books, journals, newspapers related to urban planning in the GDR period. There are historical maps collections and university archive departments. I was also surprised when I discovered a branch library dedicated to the transport and traffic plan-

ning literature. However, sometimes it was just a valuable time to spend some minutes just viewing old books about urban planning and architecture, which I did not know about.

Finally, maybe not all these organizational things impressed me, but maybe this open and unconditional willingness to share the knowledge did. This is perhaps the one quality which always attracts me not only to places, but also to people.

Elvira Khairullina
Early Stage Researcher



Interior of the Central Building of State and University Library of Dresden
Photo by Elvira Khairullina

Politecnico di Milano

It has been half of the year since I was not in Milan, and this time I have returned to live and study again at Politecnico for three months only. Never before have I felt this city is so big and as cold as this winter. For the first time I have seen heavy snow in its streets enlighten with numerous shop windows, squares full of tourists and cafés where coffee is consumed rapidly, in rush of business life while standing at the bar. Moreover, I felt it has grown during this short period after I finished my Master's, into more foreign and dynamic metropolis in which I do not know many people any longer. My friends from studies, I thought, are spread in many countries around the world, working or studying, living new chapters of their lives, like I did as well in no time after our graduations. Cities are people, I realized. It is not their urban form, history, facilities nor events we attach to, but our memories, peers and everyday routines.

After getting settled into for me well-known student residence Galileo Galilei that has the best view on Milan's skyline, I restarted conducting my research now at Politecnico di Milano. Shortly after my arrival in January, I met Prof. Morandi who warmly welcomed me at her office and explained me technical things, regulations and what I was supposed to develop as outcomes of my stay. The days that followed were filled with hours of readings and writings in

the Central Library of Architecture at Leonardo Campus, rethinking the initial research questions, main concepts and hypotheses. Moreover, I was introduced to prof. Gaia Caramellino and together with my supervisor prof. de las Rivas, professors Morandi, Paris and de Togni, I have discussed in meetings the progress of my research as well as new ideas for selecting the case studies, restructuring of the bibliography and thesis work. I have been indicated to the new topic of Danube as a geographical link between the possible chosen riverfront regeneration cases that would narrow my research focus and international setting to more familiar regions and languages to me. Furthermore, we agreed on creation of Urban Atlas as an innovative and useful addition to my research that would introduce me to practicing selective methodology and collecting lists of urban regeneration cases, grouped in typologies according to their qualities.

In addition, the time I spent at Politecnico gave me the huge benefit of participating in relevant lectures both for master and doctoral studies. I have attended lessons given by prof. de las Rivas about waterfront regenerations, lessons of prof. Morandi about the urban development of the European capitals and a very interesting lecture about cultural routes and intangible heritage of Camino de Santiago given by prof.



View on Milan skyline from the student residence Galileo Galilei | Photo by Ksenija Krsmanović

Calvo Salve from University of Pennsylvania.

Lastly, my final week in Italy was enriched with participation at the book presentation and review: *Waterfront revisited* at IUAV in Venice. The stay at APO was closed with handing the report of conducted activities to professors in charge

and discussing the outcomes of this significant stay at academic institution that certainly made fruitful effect on my future research development.

Ksenija Krsmanović
Early Stage Researcher

Stadtmuseum Dresden



Photo by Azmah Arzmi

Elvira Khairulina and I spend three months at the Stadtmuseum in Dresden as a part of our NAPO secondment. It is one of the group of museums under the central management, Museen der Stadt Dresden, which share a common database, depots and technicians. The custodian, Dr. Claudia Quiring gave us a glimpse into what goes on behind the scenes. Regular staff meetings take place every week regarding exhibitions, research management as well as new objects to the museum collection, mostly donated by the public. There is very much a culture of a round table open discussions. Proposals for upcoming exhibitions were rigorously explored, with ideas on how to display the artefacts to guide the visitors. It is a concerted effort, which requires management and administrative skills. You had to delegate tasks clearly, from negotiating with workshop carpenters on the dimensions of the pedestals to requesting the technicians to fix the old television sets. We were fortunate to be involved in a few tasks, such as researching about particular artefacts and to scan and inventorise old photos from the 1970s for the database, which gave us further insights into the urban planning processes of the city after the War.

Engagement with the community is also quite a strong point at the museum. Annually, the Stadtteilkolloquium is held where amateur researchers

present enthusiastically about projects of their choice to the public. This year the theme was architecture related. Among the topics presented during the Colloquium were the fountains and the schools of Dresden. In conjunction with the nationwide Week Against Racism, there was also a guide led by the museum lecturer Dr Robert Mund around the collections in the permanent exhibitions to discuss whether Dresden was an 'innocent city' during Hitler's reign. Addressing the hotly debated issue of integration, the Stadtmuseum also provides a place three days a week called ABC Tisch where refugees and newcomers to Dresden gather for German lessons with local volunteers.

In one sense, not only is the museum retelling and displaying memories of Dresden through its object collection, but it is also helping to create memories in the present through active community projects. "*Real museums are places where time is transformed into space*," wrote the Turkish Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk from his book *The Museum of Innocence* (2011). "*After all, isn't the purpose of the (...) museum, for that matter, to relate our memories with such sincerity as to transform individual happiness into a happiness all can share?*"

Azmah Arzmi
Early Stage Researcher

Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Madrid

As a part of urbanHIST project, during the first three months of 2018, I spent my Non-Academic Partner Organization secondment at Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Madrid (COAM). The time I spent there allowed me to learn about the activities of this institution as well as develop my research. I also had the opportunity to meet Spanish researchers working on similar projects to mine and exchange experiences with them.

COAM is an independent institution associating architects and urban planners. Its activity covers many fields.

Starting from exhibitions organization, meetings and other events to documenting the activities of well-known architects. An interesting project is a library of materials where architects can look at (and touch) various types of building materials to use this knowledge in later design processes.

An important part of COAM is Servicio Histórico, where I spent most of my time. One can find here a large library with various publications in the field of architecture and urban planning. Colleagues who work there have a wide knowledge of the whole field,

not only the library catalogue and are always ready to help, which makes it a great place to work. An important part of the activity of Servicio Histórico is the archive documenting the activity of Spanish architects for around 100 years. One of the largest archives in the country is an ideal place to conduct research and search for historical sources.

Despite the fact that my research area (post-socialist cities) is not directly related to Spain, I managed to find here interesting materials that I will be able to use in further work. I have got familiar

with the projects trying to reconstruct the morphological changes of Spanish cities by referring to archival cartography and other historical sources. Despite the different areas of research as well as time-frames, the methodology of these studies is very interesting and I will certainly be able to refer to them in my research. One of particular interest is the *Forma Urbis* project carried out by researchers from the University of Valladolid. Thanks to Maria Castrillo's help, I had the opportunity to meet them and discuss our projects. The knowledge gained from this meeting

will surely pay off in my further work.

Summing up my stay at COAM, I was not only able to develop myself scientifically but also learn about the practical side of the institution's activities. It is a place that gathers large amounts of knowledge and materials, as well as leading an active scientific and cultural life. The only thing I can regret is my poor knowledge of the Spanish language, which prevented me from fully participating in the activities of COAM.

Adam Górka
Early Stage Researcher

Small Towns in Promotion of Their Cultural Heritage: Possibilities and Experiences

Prague (Czech Republic) / February 15, 2018



Photo by Luďa Klusáková

H2020 project REACH is about participatory approaches to culture. It is coordinated by Coventry University with participation of important international partners. During next three years the consortium will establish a Social Platform as a sustainable space for meeting, discussion and collaboration by a wide-ranging network of professionals, institutions, researchers, arts practitioners, associations, and interest groups representatives of non-professionals with a stake in research and practice in the field of culture and cultural heritage.

The project team at Charles University is focused on small town's heritage. On 15 February 2018, it has organized the first meeting of the REACH network of associate partners. The event was arranged in the format of a one-day workshop that was intended to prepare the ground for collaboration. It was visited by a significant number of twenty partners from the pilot regions in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Belarus and a new potential member from Poland. The program was organized into four panels. The first one was devoted to presentation of the project's major objectives and to explanation of the method of critical mapping, SWOT analysis and composition of the database of best practices in cultural heritage protection, its re/use and management. The second panel focused on possible forms of collaboration with associate partners - what they can offer, and what they expect to achieve from the partnership. The third panel opened the discussion about the ways in which the actors operating in national scale approach local actors and motivate their activities related to heritage use and re-use. The fourth panel was devoted to the heritage activities carried out by towns, places and associations.

The debate was fueled by interesting cases of participatory activities in relation to cultural heritage that were presented on one hand by experts from official institutions such as National Heritage Institute and CzechTourism, and on the other hand by architects operating as volunteers in European Council for the Village and Small Town (ECOVAST) in Slovakia and in Petr Parler Association on one side and local actors from towns represented by partners from the Slovak town of Svidník, a large factory CZ LOKO operating in the town Česká Třebová, and a microregional project for participatory activities created by a group of citizens based mainly in small town Stařeč on the other. The experts operating in NGOs: Institute for monuments and culture and Anthropictures, anthropology research studio, represented those who register, survey, motivate and support the participatory activities.

The discussion indicated several themes for further reflection, such as: the persisting tendency to limit the idea of heritage in small-town setting to old and tangible monuments; the discrepancies between the values of local residents and the perspectives of protection agencies; the double-edged relations between tourism and local sustainability; or the impact of participation by the local citizenries in all phases of the heritage practices on their success or failure. The event has proven that such informal meetings are indispensable to achieve the goal of the project. The desire to meet soon again was the feeling generally shared by all participants as well as organizers.

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The Seminar Class: New Forms of Living – Politics and Innovations

Venice (Italy) / March 13, 2018

The seminar class *Nuove forme dell'abitare. Politiche e innovazioni*, in English *New forms of living - Politics and innovations*, took place on 13 March 2018 at the ancient Mill cotton of Venice, during the course *Urban development and sustainability* (held by prof. Francesco Gastaldi), in the study course *Innovation in architecture* of the Department of Design and Planning in Complex Environment (IUAV University of Venice). This seminar included a presentation of a number of case studies relating to the new forms of living, taking place between the end of XX century and the beginning of XXI century.

Moderated by the local Associate Professor Francesco Gastaldi, 5 experts took part in this event. Almost 100 future architects were taught different experiences of various Italian researchers at a different scale (from Ph.D. students to urban planners, some even coming from Italian Government Department). Moreover, it comprised the explication of different projects not only in Italy but also in Europe, comparing what had happened in Italian and European cities.

The presentations were *The quality of living at the center of European initiatives. Analysis of two case studies: Ljubljana and Bordeaux* (Fiorella Angeli, urban planner, working at urban planning studio Smart Srl), *Living at Marghera Cita neighborhood (Venice municipality)* (Alessia Mion, urban planner), *Great military properties and housing. The cases of Guido Reni barrack in Rome and La Marmora barracks in Turin* (Federico Camerin, Early

Stage Researcher at Instituto Universitario de Urbanística, UVA Valladolid, Federica Di Piazza, working at the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for Cohesion Policies). Eventually, Federico Della Puppa (Chief of urban planning studio Smart Srl) summarized the contents of the previous presentations. Firstly, reflecting on Italian cities competitiveness at European level in terms of "Cohesion policy" (see for more detail http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/faq/); secondly, remarking the difficulties of Italian cities to elaborate innovating plans to participate and win the prize for being one of the *European Capitals of Culture* (https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/actions/capitals-culture_en) and the European Green Capital Award (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/>).

To sum up, this experience could lead students to reflect on historical and emerging issues and topics on the territorial and contemporary city transformations, considering the interrelations between social phenomena evolution, spatial changes and local governance problems. The seminar analyzed approaches, instruments, actors and organizational assets, providing knowledge and capability of understanding about the complex dimension of urban sustainable development construction and implementation, especially regarding living issues and housing.

Federico Camerin
Early Stage Researcher



Photo by Francesco Gastaldi

