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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIES AND CHANGE

# THREE DECADES OF POST-SOCIALIST TRANSITION

MAY 17-18, 2019



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urban  
morphosis  
lab

**DFG** STADTFORSCHUNG In|ge|ni|um

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIES AND CHANGE

# THREE DECADES OF POST-SOCIALIST TRANSITION

MAY 17-18, 2019

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DARMSTADT

# WELCOME NOTE

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## **Welcome to the international conference “Cities and Change: Three Decades of Post-socialist Transition”**

With 2019 marking three decades since the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989-2019) and the collapse of state-socialism in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the team at the “Urban Morphosis Lab” research group decided to utilize this unique opportunity to reflect and discuss on the ways in which the processes and outcomes of post-socialist transition have impacted the built environment of the CEE cities. That thought led us to organise the inaugural International Conference on Cities and Change, with the focus being on topics related to restructuring of planning and design frameworks, infrastructure, architecture, and urban space in CEE context. After receiving more than 125 abstracts from across Europe, we are delighted to bring together leading academics, researchers and practitioners in fifteen sessions to discuss the major factors that guided this process, such as—the shift to neoliberal system of urban governance and planning; strategic and innovative urban development approaches and practices for adapting to socio-political change; democratization of planning and design practices; privatization and commodification of urban spaces; globalization and diversification of urban culture; and transformation of urban memory, heritage and identity. Through these insights and debates, we are hoping to increase the diversity of geographic perspectives in research on urban transformation, bring forth the spatial dimensions of transitioning processes, and, finally, produce new empirical insights, theoretical concepts and analytical methods for better understanding the complexity of the processes of urban change in wider international contexts. Above all, we are looking forward to two days of inter- and transdisciplinary debates, inputs by the leading academics in the field, and plenty of opportunities for exchange and networking.

Thank you for your participation and contribution to the conference.

Organizing Committee

# LIST OF CONTENTS

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## 1 Conference venue and information

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## 2 Conference programme overview

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## 3 Keynote speakers

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## 4 Conference sessions and abstracts

**Session 1.** How Long Does The ‘Post’ Last? Spatial Dynamics in Post-Socialist Transition

**Session 2 A/B.** Socialist Legacy—Emerging Heritage?

**Session 3 A/B.** The Urban Morphology of Post Socialism

**Session 4 A/B.** Contested Functions of (Socialist) Architecture in Post-socialist Cities

**Session 5 A/B.** 1989-2019 CEE Urban Transformation Revisited: City Visions, Self-made Transitions and Alternative Development Models

**Session 6.** Culture-led Urban Transformation and Tourism Potential in Post-socialist Europe and Beyond

**Session 7.** Contentious Mobility Governance: Mobility as an Entry Point to Understanding Urban Governance in Post-Soviet Cities

**Session 8.** Rural Areas in the Post-Socialist Context

**Session 9.** New Patterns of Land Appropriation in Post-socialist Space

**Session 10.** Innovating the Post-socialist City: Challenging Legacy. Emerging Fears?

**Session 11.** Promises of Strategic Urban Planning

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## 5 Organization committee

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## 6 Partners

## **Strategic or strategic? Reaffirmation of socialist planning on the case of Belgrade**

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### **Abstract**

This paper examines the understanding of the term 'strategic' in spatial planning practice in the post-socialist country Serbia. This is a context which is characterised by the EU integration processes, ongoing transition to a market economy, but also strong path dependency. The first part will present a historical overview of transition from traditional rational planning model to more strategic planning approaches considering the main European and international influences. The second part focuses on a case study of General Urban Plan of Belgrade from 1972 and explores its procedural elements in relation to the 'strategic approach'. Here we focus on the plan preparation methodology which included strong participatory mechanisms, public competitions and other forms of deliberation, which are rarely considered as a binding component of the rational approach to planning in its purest sense. Finally, this paper discusses the commonalities and differences within General Urban Plan from 1972, contemporary city-level general urban planning documents in Belgrade and present local strategies of integrated urban development. The main aim of this paper is to re-evaluate the socialist legacy in relation to the use of different procedural elements of strategic planning in contemporary conditions.

### **Keywords**

legacy, strategic, transition, path dependency, participation