

**Cities After Transition – 9<sup>th</sup> International Urban Geographies  
of Post-Communist States Conference**

**Book of Abstracts**

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## EDITORIAL

This volume offers the compilation of the abstracts presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> “*International Urban Geographies of Post-Communist States Conference*”, the biannual event of the Cities After Transition (CAT) network. The conference was held at the Danube waterfront campus of Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022. It was co-organised by the Department of Social and Economic Geography, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary; the Institute for Regional Studies, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Budapest, Hungary; the Committee on Social Geography, Section of Earth Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary; the Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo, Norway; and the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research (IJURR). The Organising Quiniviriate consisted of *Márton Berki* (Department of Social and Economic Geography, Eötvös Loránd University; Institute for Regional Studies, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies), *Gábor Tolnai* (Department of Social and Economic Geography, Eötvös Loránd University), *Zsolt Bottlik* (Department of Social and Economic Geography, Eötvös Loránd University), *Tünde Virág* (Institute for Regional Studies, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies), and *Michael Gentile* (Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo).

Closely connected to the idea of the varieties of post/socialisms, *diversity* might be considered as a key notion for the entire conference. Hence, under the main umbrella theme of post/socialist cities and urbanism, not only the topics were exceptionally diverse but also the list of contributors. Their disciplinary backgrounds include – but are not limited to – various sub-fields of geography, sociology, cultural anthropology, history, architecture, urbanism, economics, GIS, and beyond. Nonetheless, just as importantly, there were several contributions from outside of the academic realm as well, including the presentations of practitioners, planners, and members of NGOs. By bridging the (seeming) chasm between theory and praxis, this diversity indeed enables a fruitful conversation between researchers and practitioners.

This volume consists of *85 abstracts* by a total number of *142 authors*. We were intentionally not listing the abstracts according to the sessions of the conference – instead, in order to demonstrate the diversity mentioned above, the volume is simply structured along the alphabetical order of the abstracts’ (first) authors. Based on the truly broad scope of topics featured in the conference programme, this compilation is recommended for those interested in the state-of-the-art on post/socialist cities and urbanism – both from and beyond the academic sphere.

We wish all our readers plenty of new discoveries while reading the volume.

The editors,

*Márton Berki, Zsolt Bottlik, Michael Gentile, Margit Kószegi,  
Gábor Nagy, Judit Timár, Gábor Tolnai, Tünde Virág*

**URBAN REGENERATION IN POST-SOCIALIST SERBIA UNDER  
NEOLIBERAL CAPITALISM – BELGRADE EXAMPLE**

The modern-day practice of urban regeneration is generally perceived as a mean of improving the physical and social tissue of cities and towns, along with involvement of stakeholders in decision-making and respect of the basic postulates of sustainability. The experience of the European post-socialist societies has however indicated that market-driven urban development can raise many contradictions and critics. So far, the research studies have shown that the current urban development of post-socialist transitional Serbian society under the auspice of neoliberal capitalism (enthroned on October 5, 2000) has spawned in many cases numerous negative outputs. Within the frame of Serbian proto-democracy, this is an expected consequence of the abolition of the general interest in favor of the private ones which paved the way to private-investors oriented planning, simultaneously neglecting social and environmental dimensions. Negative aspects of the prevailing neoliberal approach to urban regeneration are primarily reflected in the example of the capital of Serbia, Belgrade. Mostly futuristic residential and commercial/business complexes are springing up, mainly in the core center or along waterfronts, the most famous of which is the contradictory Belgrade Waterfront mega-project. New urban (mega)projects are most often shrouded in secrecy, the public is informed from the media, in the phase when all decisions have already been made without proper public participation. Numerous new housing complexes in central municipalities contribute to densification but without provision of accompanying social and educational facilities. The existing COVID-19 crisis has only provided further increase of those negative trends. Though the analysis of some specific urban regeneration projects in Belgrade we will tend to enlighten some lacks of the existing market-oriented planning system, legal regulations, policies, partnerships and other instruments and propose improvements of the existing practice.

Keywords:

URBAN RENEWAL, URBAN PROJECT, POST-SOCIALISM, NEOLIBERALISM, SERBIA



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