Empire, City, Nature
2nd Annual Conference
International Graduate Research Program,
Berlin-New York-Toronto:
'*The World in the City: Metropolitanism and Globalization from the Nineteenth Century to the Present*'

30.05.2013 – 02.06.2013
York University and University of Toronto
Toronto

30.05.2013

Keynote (11:00-12:00)

>>   Empire

1   **Leo Panitch** (YU, Toronto)
     Rethinking Empire with Neil Smith

     Leo Panitch's keynote address will take up Neil Smith's very important contributions to
     our understanding of the relationship between imperialism and capitalism. In sharp
     contrast to the intellectual fashion of the global cities paradigm, this included
     the crucial insight that the internationalization of capitalism takes place through
     a simultaneous development and reproduction of the national political space.

     Chair: Kanishka Goonewardena (UT, Toronto)

Panel 1A (13:00-14:30)

>>   The World in the City during the Age of Empire

1   **Tara C. Foley** (Fordham University, NYC)
      '*Nuisance Control': Representations of the Factory, its Workers and the Fight to Zone NYC*

      At the beginning of the twentieth century, overcrowded streets, densely packed
      neighborhoods and unchecked vertical expansion exposed New York's need for comprehensive
      urban planning. In a unprecedented feat of municipal reform, a city planning commission
      comprised of very different interest groups—public health officials, civic leaders, real
      estate developers, and wealthy merchants worked together to create a zoning ordinance
      that governed space, scale, and aesthetics in all five boroughs by 1916. Although the
      city planning commission was charged with the responsibility of protecting the welfare
      of the city's population against haphazard growth, one interest group within the
      commission, the Fifth Avenue Association, held less altruistic concerns. The members,
      who were some of the city's wealthiest merchants, blamed the "peculiar conditions of
      congestion" along the avenue on "large masses of workers and operators." The FAA worried
      that the influx of an undesirable class of workers, visibly mixing with fashionable
      shoppers during lunchtime, would potentially discourage a wealthier class of customer
      from entering their business district. In an attempt to remove these workers, the FAA
      connected overcrowding to the "presence of high loft buildings." If one could physically
      (and legally) separate retail shops from manufacturing lofts through zoning, then one
      could effectively spatially and socially segregate rich from poor, native from immigrant.
      In addition to examining the minutes from the meetings of the Fifth Avenue Association
      business alliance, in this paper I will analyze representations of the factory in weekly
      educational bulletins from municipal health departments, and newspapers and magazines
      articles on community health. These voices often represented the factory and its workers
      as transmitters of TB germs; in these depictions, infected factory workers transferred
      microbes onto the garments that they produced for middle class consumers. I pair these
      different voices to analyze how representations of the factory classified places (and
      the people who inhabited them) as dangerous, infected, and contagious. Moreover, I will

argue that this system of classification (linking contagion and congestion to industrial workers and the poor, many of whom were immigrants) reveals a deeply rooted structural racism, broad cultural and ideological anxieties such as xenophobia and anti-semitism, and escalated fears about social class. Finally, I am interested in how these anxieties framed the 1916 New York City Zoning Ordinance, which not only shaped the space, scale, and aesthetics of the modern American city but also irrevocably impacted how we live our lives and interact with others in an urban environment.

2   **Dustin Harris** (UT, Toronto)
    Colonial Power Relations and the Production of Public Space in Dakar, 1857–1915

Founded in Senegal in 1857, the French colonial city of Dakar was constructed to physically implement and visually project France's assimilationist conception of colonial power. This meant that planning and architectural initiatives transformed Dakar into a "French" city that, for colonial authorities, expressed France's imperial grandeur and facilitated the integration of its African inhabitants into French culture. However, into the twentieth century, as assimilationist ideology continued to impact the city's development and population, the policies enacted by local French officials gradually shifted to reflect the theory of cultural association. Focusing specifically on the production and use of public spaces in colonial Dakar by the colonial state and European and African city-dwellers, this paper addresses the results of this transition in French colonial rule in the city between the years 1857 and 1915. It demonstrates that amidst this transition, the initial French approach to the planning and development of Dakar's urban landscape, which encouraged the residential inclusion of Africans, shifted by 1914 to facilitate their segregation. It also examines the ways in which the city's African residents experienced and responded to this transition.

This paper contends that an examination of the production and use of public space in colonial Dakar is central to understanding not only the transition from assimilationist to associationist practices of French colonial rule, but also the ways in which African city-dwellers viewed, experienced, and responded to both policies. In particular, such an analysis brings into focus a three-stage process of evolution in the urban development of Dakar that had significant physical, social and cultural consequences. Between 1857 and 1902, an "inclusionary phase" was initiated during which colonial authorities, following assimilationist ideals, developed Dakar according to a gridiron pattern, granted its African residents the same privileges as French citizens, and promoted the residential co-existence of Europeans and Africans. These initiatives symbolized the French effort to transform Dakar into a European metropolis of "French population and influence," an effort that was accentuated by the construction of public buildings and the initiation of street naming practices meant to reflect the city's French character.

From 1902 to 1914, French rule in Dakar entered an "exclusionary phase," whose ambiguities and contradictions had a considerable impact on what came afterward. During this period, the city reached the height of its assimilationist morphogenesis, receiving a massive investment in so-called modern principles in European urban development after it was named the capital of France's West African Federation. The results of this investment, including the development of public spaces like cafés, theatres and parks that served as important sites of social interaction between Europeans and Africans, suggested to contemporaries the success of Dakar's transformation into a centre of French culture. This does not mean, however, that the Africans who occupied and passed through these spaces did so because they had fully adopted French customs and mores. Well into the early twentieth century, Africans continued to map spaces in the city that suggested an aversion to assimilation. Moreover, while colonial authorities extolled Dakar's modernization as a symbol of the success of assimilation overseas, fundamental changes were made to local French ruling strategies that reflected association's growing influence in French West Africa. The associationist goal to allow non-Europeans to develop according to their own cultural milieus was reflected in efforts to deny African city-dwellers many of the privileges they were granted under assimilation. It was also apparent in planning initiatives that informally separated Africans who maintained their customary practices from European residential areas. Finally, between May 1914 and January 1915, an outbreak of bubonic plague in Dakar provided colonial officials with

the opportunity to institutionalize the exclusionist goals inherent in associationist ideology. This amounted to a "segregationist phase" during which unwanted Africans were removed from Dakar and relocated to a newly created town named Médina.

3   **Botakoz Kassymbemova** (CMS, Berlin)
     Grand Hotels in Imperial Russia: Capital, Trust and Status in Moscow Fin-de-Siècle

The expansion of the Russian railway to Western Europe and East Asia, Russia's successful conquest of markets in the Middle East and the colonization of Central Asia brought enormous wealth to its imperial urban centers. In the history of Russia's modernization and urbanization, Moscow played a key role as a trading center and a transportation hub. It thus became a crucial place for Russia's entrance into the world competition for market domination and military control. I propose that Grand Hotels were an integral part of the imperial expansion and global rivalry spectacle inscribed into Moscow's metropolitan built environment. Moscow's *Metropole*, *La Russie*, *Nacional* were "business cards" of the new global center in which city branding and building personal connections played an important role. Despite the fact that Grand Hotels are briefly mentioned in many studies about modernizing metropolises, Grand Hotels received relatively little scholarly attention as urban institutions that integrated the "world in the city." In this paper, I would like to reflect upon the question of how Grand Hotels as urban places and spaces reflected and forged new forms of metropolitan experience in the turn-of-the-century Moscow. By looking at who, how and why built, managed, used and worked in these establishments, I hope to capture the social dynamic of the places as metropolitan institutions and their role within the city, empire and "the world." On the example of Moscow's Grand Hotels, I would like to scrutinize experiences, interpretations and strategies of the metropolitan fantasies and the everyday at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Although taverns and lodging houses existed long before first modern luxury hotels, Grand Hotels were new structures that radically differed from their predecessors. In an attempt to create "city within city" and "world within city", they pioneered modern technologies, luxury, management and service on an unprecedented scale. In the Russian context, they acted both as permanent miniature world fairs to boast Russian achievements, but also as cosmopolitan places that showed their connectedness to and familiarity with the outside world. However, despite their quest for originality and novelty and their role as scenes of local and international social/business/political interaction and networking, its history shows that the traditional family institution played a key role in the process of their construction and management. Whether on the level of monarchy, business elites or servants, family ties were crucial for "constructing" and "managing" the new metropolitan city. On the other hand, while associations and identities based on interests and skills (rather than or despite ancestry) started to appear in modernizing Russia, rigid status system turned Grand Hotels into islands of freedom in which – and this was crucial to modern metropolitan experience – there were no strangers but only dear guests (provided they could pay). As places where the wealthy regardless of background could appear and interact with others (also with statesmen and foreign guests), Grand Hotels contributed to reshaping of traditional social structures. As such, however, they became ambiguous spaces and were both admired as objects of national pride (for technological achievements, scale and originality) and despised as places of corruption and unjustified luxury.

Moderator: Patrick Hege (CMS, Berlin)
Discussant: Jennifer Jenkins (UT, Toronto)

Panel 1B (13:00-14:30)

>>   Social Reproduction and the City

Panel abstract:
For Neil Smith, social reproduction is some combination of the necessities of daily life (e.g. Homeless Vehicle, which also provides the space required for launching / living a retaliation to the condition of homelessness), willingness to commute on a daily basis (the logical boundary of how far people are willing to commute for work), and a

necessary factor of urbanity itself. A triangulation of these angles gives rise to any number of possible definitions, scales, and manifestations / interpretations of lived social reproduction. Well documented is the predilection of capital to jump scale as it reshapes cities as places of consumption rather than production. As the state scales back its social obligations to the majority of people in the city, cities are at the centre of expanding capital accumulation in different spheres of urban life (an expansion of its social obligations to capital, if you like). This may include extending new or more intensified mechanisms of social control and containment. The lives of urban citizens reflect the contemporary processes of political and economic restructuring in cities, albeit unevenly.

This session uses Neil Smith's work on gentrification, namely the making / remaking of social unevenness, as a starting point to explore how some urban subjects have experiences of social reproduction, reflecting these new encroachments of capital into formerly public realms. This requires or enables new, locally inspired repressive apparatuses of state power and governance that extend deep into the lives of urban dwellers. These conditions create new constraints on social reproduction and novel, more "productive" ways of enabling and facilitating it.

1   **Simon Black** (YU, Toronto)
    Social Reproduction in the Revanchist City: Childcare Policy in Giuliani's New York

    Rudolph Giuliani won New York City's mayoral election after campaigning on a platform of replacing the urban liberal social services approach—which posits that government bears some responsibility for the maintenance of a minimum level of social reproduction for all—with a series of 'tough love' measures. As Neil Smith 'revanchist city' thesis argued, the Giuliani administration represented a "reaction" against liberal urban policy and sought "revenge" against the public enemies of New York's bourgeois political elite and their supporters i.e. those people, institutions and movements deemed responsible for the city's urban liberalism: minorities (particularly African-Americans and Latinos), the working class, feminists, environmentalists, gays and lesbians, and recent immigrants. While Giuliani's revanchism is associated with the need for social order in the public sphere, his administration's childcare policies, through strategies of privatization and familization, sought to reinscribe a conservative social order in the spheres of the home and community. This paper provides a feminist political economy analysis of the Guliani administration's childcare agenda. In response to escalating crisis tendencies in social reproduction produced by federal welfare reform, the adminstration developed policies which left social reproduction to individual (subsidized) choice in a mostly private childcare market of (low-waged, gendered, and racialized) providers. I argue that Giuliani's transformation of New York City's public childcare sector was another act of revenge on the City's social liberal welfare regime, the citizens who relied on it, and the social movements that defended it.

2   **Peter Brogan** (YU, Toronto)
    Understanding the New Urban Apartheid in the 'Great American City': Social Reproduction and the Containment in the Chicago Public Schools

    Drawing on Neil Smith's scholarship on the Revanchist City and the changing contours of social reproduction and social control, this paper examines the ways in which corporate-driven education "reform" has unfolded in Chicago has been central to the neoliberalization of the city. It further seeks to address how and why the restructuring of Chicago public schools has led to a new form of urban apartheid in which the local state has not only abandoned its previous commitments for social reproduction vis-à-vis schooling for all, but has implemented education policies to gentrify neighborhoods and contain poor and working class African American and Latino populations.

3   **Claire Major** (YU, Toronto)
    The Social Reproduction of Homelessness in Fort McMurray, Alberta

    Fort McMurray, Alberta is a contemporary single-industry boomtown. Unlike the overplayed narrative of it suffering from Gillette Syndrome—rapid population growth resulting in a

frenzy of mental health issues, drug use, a high cost of living, weak social bonds, and general debauchery (some of which are present)—this paper is a narrative of what happens when workers migrate to the oil sands region without secure work and without a place to live. There is small, but ever-present population of migrant homeless, a population "displaced to" it from across Canada. This paper is not about the scales of the causes of homelessness, rather is about how individual needs of social reproduction are, or are not, met in Fort McMurray. I explore what processes and actors re-create it as a problem. That is, while Fort McMurray's well-compensated residents are philanthropic with both time and money, homelessness is a phenomenon that is very nearly celebrated as an opportunity to give. Individuals blog about it, oil sand producers donate to it. In between are social services that engage with trying to provide the basics of social reproduction in a provincial context that that prioritizes a housing first model, which can create other vulnerabilities for this population. Complexity of unevenness—in wages locally, in job opportunities nationally—and homelessness become institutionalized in Fort McMurray through formal and informal institutional links and relationships.

Moderator: Gergely Baics (Barnard, New York)
Discussant: Gerda Wekerle (YU, Toronto)

Panel 1C (13:00–14:30)

>>   Colonization and Space: On the Politics of Gentrification, Segregation and Pacification
Keywords: capitalism, colonization, urban space, gentrification, segregation, pacification, the body, racialized territorialization, development, security, revanchism, ongoing (so-called) primitive accumulation, 'nature'

1   **Oded Haas** (YU, Toronto)
Bedouin communities in the Israeli Negev desert: A case study for colonization by "ethnocracy".

The informal "unrecognized" villages of the Bedouin indigenous communities in the Israeli Negev desert are part of a territorial conflict in which the state considers them a threat to its spatial identity. Although the Bedouins are full citizens of the state, they receive neither services nor infrastructure from the state – unless they move into modern urban areas that are extremely marginalized; whole towns which are ethnic ghettos that were built especially and exclusively for Bedouins. This paper presents the story of a particular Bedouin community and its claim for "planning rights". It is situated in the contexts of ethnic discrimination and of planning practice that uses "nature", among other things, for racial segregation and displacement. This case study shows the significance of racialized territorialization in colonizing Israeli urban space, nature, and national identity, and how "ethnocracy" is articulated in space.

2   **Kim Jackson** (YU, Toronto)
Gentrification in the Junction, West Toronto: A Case Studies for Ongoing (so-called) 'primitive accumulation'

The gentrifying west Toronto neighbourhood known as the Junction provides a case study on how capitalist and colonial relationalities are enacted locally between bodies who share and produce space over time. The commercialization of everyday life reorders our bodies in space according to their economic (dis)advantage, as colonized or 'otherwise.' Those bodies and histories which are unable to participate in, or are resistant to, gentrification are relegated to a subaltern or surplus population status where they face immiseration within both over accumulation and consumption. Settler histories are marketed as a neighbourhood branding strategy excluding First Nation's enduring relationships to their geographies, knowledge and counter narratives of colonization from the public sphere. Fear and hatred of those outside of gentrification is a commonplace of revanchist bourgeois desire where 'others' are ultimately displaced or variously subject to forms of institutionalization. This research situates gentrification as a process of ongoing (so-called) primitive accumulation within a

continuum of colonial and capitalist ideologies and material practices that promote 'social cleansing' at the service of land speculation and economic 'improvement'.

3   **Parastou Saberi**(YU, Toronto)
     On the productive dimension of war: (Geo)politics of fear, "vertical poverty," and neo-colonial pacification in Toronto's "middle ring"

     This paper makes a theoretical intervention in analyzing the current politics of place-based urban policy and policing in Toronto's post-war suburbs which are populated by majority non-white working-class population. By historicizing the ideologies at the heart of the recent policy activisms around the re-development and policing strategies that target peripheral spaces of Toronto, I highlight the importance of examining such strategies in relation to the broader politics of security and development and (neo-)colonial relations of domination. I thus suggest to conceptualize these strategies as a modality of (neo-)colonial pacification that aim to re-shape (non-white) working class subjectivities and spaces in order to secure the production of Canada as a white-settler-imperialist country.

     Moderator: Anna Steigemann (CMS, Berlin)
     Discussant: Ranu Basu (YU, Toronto)

Panel 2A (15:00-16:30)

>>   New Globalism, New Urbanism

     In this panel we want to explore the relationship between urbanism and the global circuits of ideas and policies as well as agents and actors of urban development programs. Globalization, as one of the most influential concepts of contemporary scholarship, has often been described as the increase and intensification of transnational social, economic, political and ideological exchange processes, as a speeding up and spreading out of the circulation of people, goods, information, and capital. Neil Smith, although himself highly skeptical of the omnipresence of the notion of "globalization", dedicated a great proportion of his oeuvre to questions about the political-geographic transformation processes under contemporary global capitalism and their relationship to modes of imperialism or the production of urban space. A large body of work followed his initial ideas on the social-economic transformations and political power dynamics that molded and remade geopolitical and geographical scales and territories. Recent scholarship has discussed the process of globalization more widely as a spatial process that takes place on different scales simultaneously.

     Discourses and technologies of urban governance are being adapted to the ongoing rescaling of political spaces and the crises that accompanied it. Globalization is here often presented as a naturalized force or as an inevitable fate for cities around the world equally, to which urban governments eventually have to adapt. The "inter-referencing" of urban policy and planning tools, globally circulating models of urbanism and the "worlding" (Roy) of hegemonic discourses on urban politics are part of this transformation. This depoliticized process is accompanied by institutional arrangements of planning knowledge and policy transfers, often managed through agents of a professional "global consultocracy" (Ward). In this panel we want to explore the causes and consequences of these developments from a critical perspective as well as potentials and examples of political contestations and counter-hegemonic movements. Contributions to this interdisciplinary panel are welcome from a broad range of academic fields, including geography, planning and architecture, history, social and political sciences, anthropology, philosophy as well as neighboring disciplines.

1   **Afia Afenah** (CMS, Berlin)
     From Fishing Village to Modern Metropolis: On Trajectories of Urban Planning for Accra, Ghana

Contemporary tenets of urban planning in Ghana's capital city Accra support Harvey's (2008) notion that the regeneration of strategically vital city space is developing into one of the most essential means by which cities attempt to increase their competitiveness to attract global capital.

As highlighted by Smith, this practice that began in the global North, is increasingly affecting urban areas around the world. Most cities now have a "City Development Strategy" and employ western international consultants that take exorbitant fees for transferring western planning ideas across the globe. With international organizations and consortia such as the World Bank and Cities Alliance pressing for and co-developing such strategies, we are witnessing the globalization of urban regeneration and with it the gentrification of a vast array of city space. "Gentrification as global urban strategy" (Smith 2002, p 446) has become the "consummate expression of neoliberal urbanism" (Ibid).

This article then unravels how these processes unfold in Accra. I argue that whilst there are clear indices that the city authority's contemporary approaches to urban planning are embedded in global waves of neoliberal urban renewal a visit to Ghana's national archives, suggests that some of these development processes have in fact been ongoing for almost a century. These findings provide a rupture in the current globalization narrative and point towards the need of a more nuanced historical perspective that interrogates long term international linkages, especially those embedded in colonial relations, as well as local political, cultural and economic influences that have shaped urban planning and development in Accra's past and present.

2   **Sabine Barthold** (CMS, Berlin)
     Cities as Actors, Sites and Objects of Global Environmental Governance

Environmental governance becomes more and more embedded in a set of different scalar institutions simultaneously, in which cities and metropolitan regions play major roles. Worldwide urbanization is seen as the major cause for contemporary environmental degradation. Increasingly it is also believed that cities have the highest potential for the development of alternative paths in socio-economic development and a global turn towards a more sustainable future. In search for planning and policy tools, city governments increasingly transverse different scales rather than merely act as subunits within a hierarchical state organization. They are working on developing innovative environmental and climate protection programs and policies and cities often serve in this process as the laboratories for pioneering technologies and policy programs. Knowledge production and transfer are thereby systematically incorporated into governance practices that shape planning ideas, policy innovations, and "best practices". This development has led to an institutionalization of knowledge/policy interfaces, of which the two global city networks that are at the center of this study are examples. C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability are the two major city networks that are dealing with environmental issues in the global arena. I will discuss how cities are constructed sites, objects and actors of global environmental governance through the work of these networks. As both global and urban institutions, these networks serve as interurban knowledge/policy interfaces in which common symbolic-ideological imaginaries of nature/city relations are produced that consequentially (re-)shape both the landscape of global environmental governance and urban political ecologies.

3   **Ayesha Basit** (UT, Toronto) + **Nathan Prier** (YU, Toronto)
     Toronto as 'Sanctuary City' for Undocumented Migrants

This paper will examine the ways in which urban "sanctuary city" discourses have circulated and been reformulated in different urban policy contexts, in tension with different migrant struggles in and across city networks. An analysis of undocumented migrant labour must be located within a larger systems of imperial exploitation and the (re)production of uneven development. Forms of labour are undermined and (re)produced as precarious labour (including growing undocumented populations) becomes part of distended urban development regimes. This involves a new stratification of labour but also pits

cities against other state jurisdictions in the delivery of public goods and urban governance. Through the use of recent empirical examples from Toronto and other major cities in the United States and Europe, this paper will show how local state restructuring in neoliberal global urbanism is dialectically part of a rolling out of and a challenge to empire, through the lens of urban sanctuary struggles. How does the Canadian state participate in the creation of indentured and precarious social relations and how are these relations contested? What are the stories circulated about migrant labour and how do these stories inform the policies that get implemented? How do these policies contain and shape certain normative orders and how do the limits of state power become exposed through these same policies?

Moderator: Margit Mayer (FU, Berlin)
Discussant: Uli Best (YU, Toronto)

Panel 2B (15:00-16:30)

>>   Contested Spaces

1   **Adèle Cassola** (CU, NYC))
    Gentrification and the State: Policy Responses to Neighborhood Diversification and Displacement

    In 1986, Neil Smith and Peter Williams ended their seminal volume, *Gentrification of the City,* by noting that '[i]n the short term, fighting against gentrification can force the state to ameliorate some of the hardest costs.' Their words ring true in present-day Germany, where public protests over skyrocketing rents and forced evictions in Berlin have put policy responses to gentrification on the national election agenda. Although the role of governments in promoting gentrification has been well-documented, the policy tools available to lessen the costs associated with this process - such as rent regulation, housing subsidies, and inclusionary zoning - have received less attention from researchers. This paper will review and compare the public interventions that have mitigated some of the displacement costs of gentrification in New York City, London and Berlin during the past twenty years.

2   **Christian Haid** (CMS, Berlin)
    Legitimate or not – Tracing Informal Spatial Practices in Berlin

    This paper discusses urban informality beyond dominant conceptual threads focusing on land-use or the informal sector. Rather, it emphasizes dimensions of the political, the socio-cultural, and, closely related to these, the spatial. Furthermore, my paper aims to contribute to recent broader conceptualizations of urban (in)formality as a mode of urbanization (Roy, 2005), as forms of practice (McFarlane, 2012), a "new" way of life (AlSayyad, 2004) or even a form of political resistance through quiet encroachment (Bayat, 1997). As various urban scholars researching the Global South have been suggesting, the concept of (in)formality can be operationalized as an analytical lens for a broader theory within urban studies generated somewhere else than Chicago or L.A.; thereby providing a comprehensive alternative to the theoretical divide between the North and the South.

    Within such an encompassing approach, my paper makes the effort of learning from the "Southern turn" within the research of public space informality in Berlin. Concepts of (in)formality which have been developed in the Global South are investigated in relation to their adaptability for a Western context without stumbling into an inverted pitfall of applying Western "models" to explain Southern "problems".

    Contemporary Berlin - especially in the two decades after the fall of the wall - has had the reputation of being the city of "anything goes". It suggests that the city is, at least in a Western context, an unprecedented playground for spontaneous and informal activities, on economical as well as cultural, political and also spatial levels. This paper scrutinizes the validity of Berlin as the city of "anything goes". It seeks to unpack this label by focusing on informal activities and uses in Berlin's contemporary

public spaces. However, for some years now, Berlin's "anything goes" reputation has been crumbling more and more. Many activities in public space that were once accepted have been de- or informalized. General global tendencies of maintaining or establishing order have been changing urban public spaces lastingly; the same is taking place in Berlin. Relying on ethnographic research this paper highlights the case of Preußenpark aka "Thai Park" in Berlin Wilmersdorf with its thriving weekend picnics and the informal Asian food market. Amongst other examples of informal public space activities in Berlin, this case study reveals a highly complex narrative of negotiations and antagonisms rendered by informal everyday practices and traditions in diverse ethno-cultural milieus and excavates the (in)stabilities of diasporic public life in the city of "anything goes".

3   **Cory Jansson** (YU, Toronto)
     The Production of Nothingness, the Other Side of Gentrification: Spotlight on Neukölln, Berlin

     My paper provides a critical view of the growing tourist-based gentrification literature in Berlin. While the influx of staycationers, the easyjetset, and the like play a role in driving gentrification process in Neukölln today, tourists, I argue, are by no means the main drivers of gentrification in Neukölln. To understand displacement in Neukölln today, the precondition for gentrification, one must look back in recent history at how the state's neoliberalization of public institutions has shifted economic resources away from most Neuköllners and made them more vulnerable to the actions of the gentrifying class. Just as critical dependency theorists in the 1970's recognized that foreign capitalists were dependent on domestic capitalists to establish and maintain their class influence and that foreigners could not be blamed for everything, I argue that gentrification scholars of Berlin would benefit from shining more critical light on how Berlin capitalists, in general, and the Berlin state, in particular, have organized to produce the social conditions necessary for the gentrifiers to better vanish the gentrified.

4   **Nimrod Lin** (UT, Toronto)
     Spatial Violence and Urban Planning in Jaffa 1936-1960

     My paper is concerned with three episodes of large-scale urban demolition taking place in the city of Jaffa from 1936 to 1960. In June 1936, during the Palestinian revolt against the British Mandate, British forces had paved two intersecting roads through the old city of Jaffa. The rationale cited for the operation was "urban improvement", that is, alleviating the poor hygienic conditions in the neighborhood. It was clear to local observers, however, that the new roads were built to allow large military forces to circulate through the neighborhood and quell the nascent uprising. The correspondence between British officials concerning the operation reveals that for the mandatory government there was no real separation between hygienic and military reasoning; rather, the violence of the revolt was understood as stemming from the spatial conditions of the old city of Jaffa, and the solution to the Palestinian uprising was to raze the urban matrix that had allowed it.

     In 1948, during the Palestinian-Jewish civil war, The *Irgun*, a Zionist militia, had conquered the Jaffan neighborhood of Manshiyya , leading to the collapse and surrender of the whole city. Initially, the *Irgun* fighters could not advance through the streets due to the superior positioning of the Arab defenders. They decided to move solely through the neighborhood's houses by blowing holes through external and internal walls, thus creating makeshift, alternative streets. By literally deconstructing the Palestinian differentiation between the public and the private sphere, the *Irgun* was able not only to outflank the local defence but also to destroy the material basis of Palestinian life in Manshiyya, preventing Jaffan refugees from reclaiming their homes. During the battle most of the city's denizens fled. After the war, Jaffa was incorporated in the Jewish city of Tel-Aviv and re-populated with Jewish immigrants who were often placed in abandoned Palestinian homes. However, both the old city and Manshiyya, now standing empty and in ruins, were scheduled for razing. While Manshiyya was levelled and turned into a business district the old city was saved from demolition by a coalition of historians and architects who wanted to preserve its unique architectural "character". The neighborhood was gentrified and turned into an "artists'

colony" and a tourist attraction. The old city was re-modeled as an emblem of Jaffa's historicity, while its more recent Palestinian past was marginalized. Its antiquity serves to counterbalance Tel-Aviv's own claim to western modernity. The incorporation of Jaffa into Tel-Aviv validates the Jewish presence in Palestine as both ancient and modern, western and autochthonous, turning Jaffa from a rather Palestinian urban space into a benign, unthreatening "Mediterranean" fantasy.

Moderator: Dietrich Henckel (TU, Berlin)
Discussant: Stefan Kipfer (YU, Toronto)

31.05.2013

Keynote (09:30-11:00)

>>   City

1   **Stefan Krätke** (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt)
      Cities in Contemporary Capitalism

      Stefan Krätke's keynote address is on cities in contemporary capitalism. It is based on the 'political economy' tradition of urban research. Starting from the general context of a globe-spanning economic crisis, the talk will focus on economic forces that shape uneven development within the urban world of capitalism, outlining in particular the inclusion of cities in distinct circuits of capital, the switching of capital flows within the urban system, major forms of inter-urban competition and the different functional roles of cities within global economic networks.

2   **Damaris Rose** (Centre Urbanisation Culture Société, Montréal)
      Whither Critical Gentrification Research?

      In her short plenary address, Damaris Rose will reflect on a few pivotal moments in radical/critical thinking about gentrification over the past three and a half decades. Each of these was defined or catalysed by the interventions of Neil Smith (1954-2012), leading scholar and internationally renowned public intellectual in this field. From her viewpoint as part of the same generation and same cohort of radical urban geographers as Smith, she hopes to contribute to building 'collective memory' on the evolution of critical thinking about gentrification and to open up debates about the continuing and new challenges facing a new generation of critical gentrification research.

      Chair: Ute Lehrer (YU, Toronto)

Panel 3A (11:15-12:45)

>>   Futures Past: Space, Time and Urban Utopias

1   **Natasha Barykina** (UT, Toronto)
      From Utopian Visions to Socialist Constructions: German Modernist Architects and Planners in the USSR

      This presentation addresses the work of German modernist architects invited by the Soviet state to assist in designing plans for industrial cities in barely populated, remote areas of the Russian Far East and Siberia in the early 1930's. These architects, I argue, did not simply apply or adapt the principles developed in a different geographical and cultural area. Framed by the Soviet effort to abolish private property, German architects' planning of socialist cities developed within the complex local constellations of changing political directives, of power dynamics among architects (local and "western"), of constant negotiations of various designs and complex local bureaucracies, of the challenging geography of the place.

2   **Wang Chao** (UT, Toronto)
        Planning the Future through the Utopian Past: Urban Development, Socialist Legacy and
        Spatial Struggle in Panzhihua, China

        Built in 1965 against a background of China's national program of the Third Front
        Construction, Panzhihua City (Sichuan province of Southwest China) is struggling to find
        its place among the new spatial hierarchy of cities against China's current national
        movement of urbanization. As a typical Third Front city, Panzhihua's development was
        shaped by the steel industry that put it on the map. It came to embody China's socialist
        urban planning blueprint with a utopian vision. In the post-reform era, like other Third
        Front cities, Panzhihua saw its status diminish in the national urban hierarchy, as the
        model of the socialist industrial city became coded as a utopian relic of an earlier era.
        Now, the city is actively engaging in urban renewal through city planning practices and
        redevelopment projects that are 'post-industrial' in character, with a marked shift
        towards a more consumption-oriented vision of the city.

        The focus of my work is the relationship between Panzhihua's development agendas and its
        socialist legacies. I will explore such relationship by looking at how the city's
        current vision of planning copes with its utopian and industrial 'past'. This 'coping'
        involves a series of (re)interpretations of the city's socialist legacies, which frame
        the trajectory of development as a historical continuity. This 'coping' must also
        address the many struggles over urban space between the city's industrial sector and its
        new emerging real estate and service sector.
        Keywords: urban utopia, urban development, planning, Panzhihua city, China

3   **Prasad Khanolkar** (UT, Toronto)
        Afterlives of Utopia: Space and Time in Mumbai

        The paper begins by asking what kind of time and imagination of space is at work within
        modern utopian planning projects. It looks at this relationship between utopia, time,
        and space only to understand what happens to these tropes in the afterlives of these
        planning projects. By studying the afterlives of three large planning projects in the
        city of Mumbai a) The Rent Control Policy 1950; b) the Slum Sanitation Program 1995; and
        c) the Mumbai Urban Transportation Project 2000, this paper attempts to identify ways
        for rethinking urban praxis and politics vis-à-vis Henri Lefebvre's notion of *ucoopia*
        i.e. practiced utopias

4   **Azam Khatam** (YU, Toronto)
        Tehran Urban Modernization and Reform Movement in Iran

        In 1989, the first issue of a new economic magazine (titled taze-haye eghtesad)
        published an article featuring an illustration of a patient lying on stretcher and so
        bloated with illness that the medics carrying him were wearing gas masks. On this body
        was title "Tehran." In the years following the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) government
        economists invoked this medical metaphor of an ailing body in their descriptions of
        Tehran. Their intention, in doing so, was to represent Tehran as deserving official
        intervention in order to be cured. These representations and the position underpinning
        them aimed to counter the view of Tehran as a site of moral decay and corruption for
        being the epicenter of the royal Phalavi government – popularly referred to as the
        taghoot-i regime. I will argue that the image of Tehran as a sick body in need of
        medical attention eventually gave way to an understanding of Tehran as the national
        focal point of a putative Islamic modernism. This article addresses the liberalization
        and deregulation of urban governance and controversies attending this process for
        expanding the spectrum of political and civil dialogue and enabling neoliberal urbanism.

        Moderator: Angela Uttke (TU, Berlin)
        Discussant: Rosemary Wakeman (FU, NYC)

Panel 3B (11:15-12:45)

>>   Ruins, Land and Rent

1   **Rachael Baker** (McMaster U, Hamilton)
     Concentrating the Motor City: Residential Reconfiguration and Civic Ruination in Detroit

     Detroit, Michigan, a city that was built on the successes of the American automotive
     industry offers a variety of contemporary and historical moments in which the issue of
     housing allows us to draw out the spatial and temporal tensions of the city's 138.8sq
     mile footprint. "Detroit 2020" ("2020") the civic development strategy being endorsed by
     Detroit's mayor and Michigan's governor has begun the evacuation and relocation of
     residents out of forty-four of the city's fifty-nine neighbourhoods to clear the way for
     neighbourhood demolition. The mass demolition is one component of the "2020" project to
     reduce the civic operating budget, and in its contraction and planned concentration of
     urban spaces to ease the surveillance of public spaces which will turn Detroit, like
     many North American and European cities, into what Gilles Deleuze calls a society of
     control. The completion of this residential concentration plan is dependent upon the
     forced exile of residents from low priority areas of the city relocating themselves into
     neighbourhoods the city has determined as worthy of continued investment.

     My research seeks to deconstruct the post-mortgage crisis housing climate in Detroit,
     Michigan. By using differentiation, alienation and spatilization as analytic tools, this
     paper will address the social, economic, racial and political climates of the city so as
     to account for how the civic-led destruction and construction of housing are shaping the
     evolution of Detroit today.

2   **Meisen Wong** (CMS, Berlin)
     Made in China: Land Use, Property Speculation and the Production of Ghost Cities

     With more than half of the Chinese population now urbanized and 75% expected in the next
     two decades, the proliferation of 'instant cities' in China can be understood as the
     state's attempts to house and provide employment for the ever-expanding urban population.
     Yet, with the ceaseless construction of the built environment that takes place all over
     the country is also the phenomenon of 'ghost cities', where cities lie largely under-
     populated and underutilized while housing projects serve mostly for financial
     speculation and not domestic accommodation. Together with recurring discussions about
     overcrowding in big cities such as Beijing or Shanghai, the existence of 'ghost cities'
     render doubts over the explanation of instant cities as welfare directives by the
     Chinese state. Despite the popular claim of neoliberal globalism severely circumventing
     state power, Smith argues, in *Uneven Development* (2008) that the respective states, to
     varying extents, have relinquished their welfare responsibilities to its citizens while
     simultaneously consolidating state apparatus to enhance its entrepreneurial functions
     (260). Through discussing the role of central and local governments concerning land use
     policies, speculative property and their significance to ghost cities, this
     paper/presentation intends to examine the value of Smith's argument of the logic of
     capital accumulation increasingly negating the state's traditional function of welfare
     provision in relation to Chinese urban development.

3   **Thorben Wieditz** (YU, Toronto)
     Don't Let the Condos Eat my Job: From the Production Cookies to the Production of Space

     The remaking of old-industrial areas into glitzy condo landscapes is a well rehearsed
     phenomenon in cities around the world. Toronto had its fair share. The Garment District,
     the so-called Two Kings, Liberty Village, the Distillery District, Toronto's Railway
     Lands, Toronto's Waterfront, the list goes on. What appears to be new, however, is the
     speed in which the creative destruction of Toronto's urban landscape takes place. While
     it took years, even decades, until redevelopment occurred in those aforementioned old
     industrial districts, the recent decision of Mondolez Canada, owner of the Mr.
     Christie's bakery in South Etobicoke, to lay off its 550 workers in order to flip their
     property and to immidiately construct 27 condominium towers illustrates the enormous
     'rent gaps' that have developed around so-called employment lands in Toronto. The Mr.
     Christie's case, however, is just the tip of the iceberg in a city which continues to

peripheralize working class residents and industrial employment. The City of Toronto is currently faced with more than 120 requests to "upzone" industrial lands to allow for residential development. This paper will shed light into the efforts of labour to protect land zoned for employment purposes by looking at previous labour-community coalitions and their effectiveness in challenging speculative interests in Toronto.

Moderator: Emily Bereskin (CMS, Berlin)
Discussant: Robert Beauregard (CU, NYC)

Panel 4A (14:15-15:45)

>>   Capital, Value and the Built Environment

1   **Martine August** (UT, Toronto)
      Speculating Social Welfare: Public Housing Redevelopment in Downtown Toronto

Over the past two decades, socially mixed redevelopment has become a popular way to address ageing post-war public housing projects. This paper looks at the application of this model in Regent Park, Canada's largest public housing community. Once the 15-year Regent Park redevelopment is complete, 2087 units of public housing in the community will be rebuilt (with a portion replaced off-site) and over 5400 new market-rate condominiums will be added to the newly designed, New Urbanist community. While celebrated by the mainstream media, critical analysts suggest that "revitalization" amounts to gentrification, removing a large barrier to private investment that has kept the downtown site affordable for decades. This presentation explores resident experiences with redevelopment, examines tenant thoughts on their new and old homes, and evaluates the extent to which redevelopment-related goals for the improvement of tenant circumstances are being achieved. I conclude that the main problems existing in Regent Park prior to redevelopment (poor maintenance, safety issues, and stigmatization) are likely be reproduced in the new community, and that mixed-income redevelopment based on property speculation is not an adequate replacement for a shrinking social welfare state.

2   **Peter Pantalone** (YU, Toronto)
      Environmental Determinism and Contemporary Urban Renewal

When Pruitt Igoe fell to the wrecking ball in 1972 architectural historian Charles Jenks opined that the occasion marked the death of modernist architecture and decades of disastrous urban renewal. Environmental determinism, the philosophy that planning and design interventions could facilitate upward social mobility, acted as a rationale for the bulldozing of inner-city slums and their replacement with sprawling modernist housing blocks. Rather than serving as incubi of socioeconomic development for their residents, however, these housing projects quickly became synonymous with blight and decay, giving rise to a new cycle of malaise and social isolation. Today, a new wave of neoliberal-inspired urban renewal is taking place in the form of inner-city revitalization of deteriorating social housing projects into mixed-income public-private communities. Undercurrents of environmental determinism have resurfaced, particularly manifest in the unsubstantiated rhetoric that mixed-income environments will encourage low income residents to emulate the 'model behaviours' of their high-income counterparts and thus accelerate graduation rates from social housing. This paper will outline the role that environmental determinism played in earlier urban renewal campaigns and document its reemergence in contemporary urban renewal processes, while critiquing the belief that upward social mobility can be aided through targeted design interventions such as mixed-income communities and crime prevention through environmental design.

3   **Laura Calbet I Elias** (CMS, Berlin)
      Financialization of Housing: Reflections on Neil Smith's 'Generalized Gentrification'

In his discussion about the ubiquitous "mobilization of urban real-estate markets as vehicles of capital accumulation", Neil Smith (2002, 99) remarked that not only mega-

projects but also modest developments have been extensively percolated by global capital. According to Smith this has become apparent through the internationality of the firms related to such projects. Heeg (2004), Holm (2010), Scharmanski (2009) or Botzem/Dobusch (2012) among others, have already discussed how the Real-Estate-Field – and in extension current housing developments – are related to "global players". But, does the involvement of internationalized actors provide the sole evidence of the financialization of the housing supply? Understood as "the growing influence of capital markets, their intermediaries, and processes in contemporary economic and political life" (Pike/Pollard 2010, S. 30), financialization is discussed as „not merely the expansion and proliferation of financial markets that are striking but also [as] the penetration of such financing into a widening range of both economic and social reproduction – housing, pensions, health, and so on." (Fine 2012, S. 58) In this sense, the concept 'financialization' can contribute to renew the place of finance in economic geographies (Pike/Pollard 2010, S. 45), as well as to better understand the role of finance in a 'generalized gentrification' (Smith 1996, 2002, 2006).

Moderator: Lisa Vollmer (CMS, Berlin)
Discussant: Ute Lehrer (YU, Toronto)

Panel 4B (14:15-15:45)

>>   Mobility and City

1   **Jean-Paul Addie** (YU, Toronto)
Mobility and Marginality: Transportation and the Production of New City-Regional Topologies

This paper provides a critical engagement with the sociotechnical power geometries, politics of infrastructure and institutional restructuring underpinning neoliberal city-regionalism. Focusing on issues of urban transportation, mobility and marginality, I explore the co-presence of multiple spatio-temporalities and relative (dis)connectivity of "inbetween city" spaces of Toronto. Drawing from a conceptual framework bringing together post-suburban politics, uneven geographic development and new mobilities literatures, I analyze the multiscalar processes of global urbanization and the logics of networked transportation which disrupt contiguous territorial governance arrangements and produce new topological understandings and experiences of city-regional space. Evidence from the inbetween city and the on-going regionalization of urban transportation in Toronto discloses the significant ways in which relational multiscalar flows, policy transfers and networked connectivity challenge territorial notions of agency. Yet in turn, this study also illustrates: (1) the continuing significance of jurisdictionally-defined political power structuring the emergent geographies, and regulation, of city-regional infrastructure; and (2) the privileging of particular space-times in new post-suburban growth and mobility hubs. The overlaying of regional logics of connectivity upon established city/suburban and core/periphery metropolitan dynamics reconfigure the patterns and practices of localized movement within polycentric urban space, presenting distinct forms of uneven development and new challenges for urban planning and social justice.

2   **Martin Danyluk** (UT, Toronto)
The Urban Revolution in Logistics

This paper represents a first cut at thinking through the mutual entanglement of two processes that are transforming the socio-spatial organization of contemporary capitalism on a world scale. On the one hand, the "urban revolution"—posited by Lefebvre in 1970 as only a nascent possibility—is fast becoming our lived reality, with new scales and patterns of urbanization reconfiguring the spatiotemporal structure of everyday life across the planet. On the other, the "revolution in logistics" has quietly but dramatically shifted the way goods are produced and distributed in the global economy. This paper explores the points of articulation between these two broad shifts, paying attention not only to their reciprocally constitutive relations but also to the moments of violence that erupt where they intersect.

3   **Steven Logan** (YU, Toronto)
     The City as Product in the Age of Automobility: The Case of the South City, Prague

     On display in the Czechoslovak pavilion at Expo '67 was a model of Etarea, an
     experimental city that would be situated in the green landscape 10 km south from Prague.
     It was a city for 130,000 people in a future defined by and through the rapid mobility
     of people, information, and goods. Etarea was never built, but it became the model for
     South City, an urban development just outside of Prague. Conceived in the late 60s,
     South City connected post-war Modern planning that sought to create entirely new cities
     with the utopian visions of the artists and architects of the Czechoslovak avant-garde.
     It was premised on the paradoxical rejection and embracing of the automobile. Following
     the Russian occupation of 1968, the main architect of South City was forced to leave the
     project, and little of the original plans were realized. One architectural theorist
     called South City, with its row upon row of mass-produced prefabricated concrete
     apartment buildings, the ugliest housing settlement on the planet. Still lacking a city
     centre, South City has been called an unfinished city, neither city nor suburb in the
     traditional sense, stuck between Prague's medieval historical core and the new post-
     communist suburbs. This paper catches a glimpse of the past planning and design of
     future dwellings and mobilities (automobile and otherwise), asking how this particular
     history of the dreams of mobility and dwelling resonates with and informs the present
     urban and ecological concerns around automobility, and the transition to sustainable
     mobilities.

     Moderator: Sybille Frank (TU, Berlin)
     Discussant: Steve Penfold (UT, Toronto)

06.01.2013

Keynote (09:30-11:00)

>>   Nature

1   **Dorothee Brantz** (TU, Berlin)
     Uneven Natures: An Historian's View on the Environmental Production of Urban Spaces

     Dorothee Brantz will speak on "Uneven Natures: An Historian's View on the Environmental
     Production of Urban Spaces". She explains how Uneven Development: Nature, Capital and
     the Production of Space is one of Neil Smith's most well-known publications. Taking
     this book as premise, this keynote will offer some transatlantic reflections about
     historical interpretations of spatial productions in urban environments. The
     presentation will pursue three distinct questions regarding the meaning of uneven
     development that will be posed for discussion with the audience.

2   **Roger Keil** (YU, Toronto)
     The Urban Political Ecology of Ontario's Greenbelt

     Roger Keil will take Neil Smith's remarks on nature and urbanization in his foreword to
     Henri Lefebvre's *The Urban Revolution* as the starting point for a reflection on how the
     Ontario Greenbelt can be analyzed productively using a critical urban political ecology
     (UPE) framework. (Sub)urban expansion will be presented through the lens of ostensible
     boundary settings for growth through greenbelts engendering new urban political
     ecological contradictions. The Ontario greenbelt has become a prime negotiation space
     for the overall re-regulation of UPE in Southern Ontario.

     Chair: Jennifer Jenkins (UT, Toronto)

Panel 5A (11:00-12:30)

>>   Nature, City, Empire: Critical-Theoretical Reflections

1   **Karen Asp** (YU, Toronto)
      Wild Things in the City: Adorno and 'New Materialism'

      Concerned in part with the need for more critical, political engagement with ecological
      issues, the "new materialist" literature emphasizes the idea that the material world
      exists independently of human knowledge and intent. Further to this, objects and life
      forms are thought to possess effective powers in their own right, or agency. For example,
      Jane Bennett (2010) develops the idea of the "thing power" of inanimate objects, such as
      trash encountered on the street, in order to recognize its non-reducible worth and
      constitutive material impact on human life. In this paper, I explore the import of
      these ideas, notably the risk of anthropomorphism, relative to Theodor Adorno's notions
      of the primacy of the object and the non-identity of concepts and objects. I suggest
      that Adorno offers a way to recognize the materiality and independent force of things
      without risking anthropocentrism. On Adorno's terms, this risk may be greater than ever
      given the deepening ecological crisis in the era of late capitalism, and his own
      approach avoids it without sacrificing the importance and possibility of political
      engagement.

2   **Zev Moses** (UT, Toronto)
      Revisiting the Urban Question: Lefebvre, Althusser and the so-called 'Blind Field'

      In Neil Brenner's recent essay "Eight Theses on Urbanization," he suggests that urban
      studies is in need of radically new ways of conceptualizing and theorizing the urban. In
      particular, Brenner seeks to construct a rigorous concept of planetary urbanization that
      will ward off the dangers of the conceptual "blind fields" that Henri Lefebvre warned us
      about in his now classic book The Urban Revolution (1970). Brenner's intervention
      suggests a timely opportunity to revisit Lefebvre's concept of the blind field. With
      help from contemporaneous critiques by Louis Althusser, this paper works through
      Lefebvre's critique of interdisciplinary and overspecialization, and the blind fields
      these produce. Even as Brenner cautions urban studies about such dangers, I ask whether
      his own approach to the question of planetary urbanization actively constructs blind
      fields of its own.

3   **Carmen Teeple-Hopkins** (UT, Toronto)
      *Capitalist Accumulation and Primitive Accumulation in the Making of Precarious Labour
      and Empire*

      This paper makes a theoretical intervention in discussions of accumulation by
      dispossession. In Marx's volume one of *Capital*, the General Law of Capitalist
      Accumulation demonstrates the long-rootedness of unemployment and precarity to the
      intrinsic functioning of capitalism. I argue that the General Law (chapter twenty-five)
      and So-Called Primitive Accumulation (part eight) should be read together to understand
      the dynamics of capital accumulation. Moreover, both chapter twenty-five and part eight
      exemplify the expanded reproduction/accumulation by dispossession dialectic theorized by
      David Harvey. While many scholars focus on accumulation by dispossession, I hold that
      the General Law of Capitalist Accumulation is fundamental to understanding the expanded
      reproduction side of the dialectic. I conclude by discussing precarious labour as
      central to neoliberal empire.

      Moderator: Adrian von Buttlar (TU, Berlin)
      Discussant: Shubhra Gururani (YU, Toronto)

Panel 5B

>>   Water and Urban Politics

      Cities grow along with their natural surroundings and use resources to supply their
      residents. As part of urban development, ecosystems are transformed. Infrastructures,

the transformation of landscapes and the environmental, social and political consequences are central to the changes brought about by modernity, industrialization and capitalism. The universalizing tendency of capital transforms nature into a universal mean of production (Smith:2010:154) and natural resources into commodities (Kaika:2005, Swyngedouw:2004, Smith:2010). Modern discourses, infrastructures and systems often become instruments of domination. These create and reaffirm unequal social relations, which are disseminated by, for example, colonial regimes and the private sector. The project of modernity and the postulation, which understands culture and nature as being separate and propagates the idea that eternal progress and human emancipation follow (Brantz: 2007: 195), are reflected and criticized throughout the history of environmental research, within the historical perspective on political ecology and in critical geography. Authors like Neil Smith, reflect on the production of nature within a capitalist context and denounce the uneven development, which is supported by the ideological dualism of society and nature (2010:50). Authors like David Blackbourn (2006), Christoph Bernhardt (2009) and Maureen Ogle (1997) demonstrate this by way of historical research. Others like Arturo Escobar (2008), present more recent examples through ethnography. These argue that there are often contemporary alternative meanings of natural resources and alternative systems to modern developments. These alternatives demystify the promise of modern developments as being the only and best possible ones for all citizens and the ones that work in a democratic and centralized manner, giving all people equal access to and control of the same goods. In this panel, we aim to expose current and past examples and case studies. These share a critical view of modern urban developments (e.g. planning, infrastructures, knowledge, models of management, etc.) and their contemporary, if sometimes contested, alternatives. We aim to reflect on the modern construction of nature and culture as opposite categories. In doing so, we are searching for alternatives, which take the ecological and social dimensions of urbanization into account.
Key words: production of nature, urbanization, critique of modern developments, alternatives

1   **Marcela Arrieta Narváez** (CMS, Berlin)
    Communal Water Supply Systems as an Alternative to Urban Expansion into Rural Areas

The example of Bogotá and Usme: Dialogue on the knowledge of water management in urban development in the 20th and 21st Centuries. Local knowledge and community systems in Bogotá Water supply systems are a central task for all cities. For modern cities, the development of centralized systems was the basis for population growth and the overcoming of the hygienic crisis. Yet, could these technologies and infrastructures fulfill the promise of the project of modernity? Did this type of infrastructure supply all citizens? Did all citizens have equal access to water and under the same conditions? Do other systems exist, that have a different understanding of water and water management, which also supply water to the marginalized population? In Colombia, some 12,000 community water systems exist parallel to the centralized systems of water supply. These supply the regional capitals to 20%. These systems are usually the result of community initiatives, which cooperate with the regional and/or state institutions responsible for ensuring a proper supply in rural and remote areas. To supply their users, community water systems depend on local resources and their immediate surroundings. Urban expansion projects threaten the existence of these systems through forced displacement of inhabitants and the transformation of the rural and environmental characteristics. With this presentation, my goal is to present an alternative model of city and water management. This model is built locally. It transforms the meaning of city and water management and serves as an alternative to modern systems. With this aim, I present the case of communal water systems in the upper basin of the Tunjuelo River, the knowledge of their operators and their ability to deal with modern systems and technologies.

Critical geography, postmodern critical theory and the history of ecology question the achievements of modern technologies that fail to fulfill their promise of a just and equitable progress. Some geographers and social scientists understand these communal systems to be social and cultural heritage. They identify these aqueducts as an alternative water supply for outlying areas of the city. These views often emphasize only the positive aspects of these systems, while understanding them to be locally specific and isolated developments. I take these researches and center on an

anthropological analysis of knowledge construction of communal water systems. I will focus on the dialogue between local and centralized supply systems, while avoiding the polarization of the two as oppositional systems. I understand local knowledge to be an active process of construction, on the part of the population, which negotiates with external knowledge and modern technologies to supplement its own. I apply the following concepts: discontinuities and transformations of meaning, codes of knowledge and repertoires of use. My methodological approach is ethnographic: semistructured interviews and the observation and analysis of historical sources. The appropriation of modern methods of water purification is a way to cooperate with the official requirements in order to maintain self-sufficiency. For the population this means to overcome the marginalized position in which they find themselves.

2   **Christoph Bernhardt** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning, Berlin)
     At the limits of the European sanitary city: Water governance, social inequalities and political power in Berlin-Brandenburg 1918-1939

The paper discusses the ambivalences of the modern urban sanitary technologies with regard to power relations and social inequalities. It will show along the case of Berlin-Brandenburg that the introduction of centralized water infrastructures since the late 19th century established a vision of an egalitarian urban society, at least in terms of sanitary justice. At the same time this model was part of a strategy of the urban bourgeoisie to accumulate political power. The paper will demonstrate in a second step the spatial, technological and social limits and ambivalences of this model that became obvious during the crisis of the welfare state and the settlers movements in Europe during the interwar-period. As a conclusion the paper will discuss the fact that the egalitarian model of the European sanitary city created new social and environmental inequalities. It will also reflect on the consequences that this might have for the concept of the „just city".

3   **Frederick Peters** (YU, Toronto)
     Privatization and the Damage Done: Gdansk and Tallinn after a Decade of Water Services Privatization

Facing multiple pressures to address the expensive problems of required water infrastructure investment in the 1990s after years of insufficient system maintenance under Communism, the cities of Gdansk and Tallinn, alone in their nations, each decided to seek out injections of private capital into their municipal water services, in what is called "privatization" which needs clarification. After the shots of private involvement with municipal water services, these cities had to react to mitigate "the damage." These cases of cities thus engaged with private capital, in the rapid transition into a market-driven political system, show the dynamics of neo-liberal capitalism on immediate and active display.

Moderator: Berit Hummel (CMS, Berlin)
Discussant: Scott Prudham (UT, Toronto)