

## **Internal Call for Papers**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference “Metropolitan Temporalities”**

What role does time play in the characterization of the metropolis and the global processes that sustain metropolitan life? Over the past three decades, both urban studies and globalization studies have predominately focused on spatial concerns, often neglecting the important temporal dimensions of global urban development. Our third annual conference therefore seeks to systematically examine the diverse temporal aspects of global exchange and metropolitan development.

Urban temporalities not only affect the historicization of the past, present, and future, but they also raise questions about changing social structures, patterns of living and the local and global spatialization of the urban. For instance, conceptions and perceptions of time change dramatically during periods of social upheaval, or as the result of technological innovations (e.g. the standardization of times through “railway time”, the organization of working hours according to technical “requirements”). Time is also central to cultural differentiation and religious segregation (e.g. observance of a day of worship in the three main world religions). Struggles over the regulation of time have been a field of control and contestation throughout colonialism and postcolonialism. Throughout the course of globalization, during which the world became interconnected through transport and telecommunication networks and the intensification of exchange of goods, information, and people, different notions of time have often collided, especially in metropolitan contexts.

To organize the examination of these themes, we propose the following four clusters: metropolitan pasts and futures; politics of time; metropolitan rhythms; and economies of time. These clusters are meant to provide a productive framework for the analysis of time in relation to metropolitanism, while also remaining broad enough to allow for the participation of doctoral students and professors from Berlin, Toronto, New York, and elsewhere. We welcome a lively discussion from across disciplines.

The conference will further provide time for both informal and formal meetings and gatherings amongst the IGK network. Time is scheduled for student/advisor meetings, and the final day of our program will include 1 - 2 excursions related to the theme of urban temporality here in Berlin.

**Conference dates: November 20th-22nd, 2014**

**Conference venue: Technische Universität Berlin, Germany**

## **Clusters and Panels**

The following is a collection of individually-organized and authored panel descriptions. Please contact the organizers listed below each description if you have an interest in participating in the given panel.

### **I. Metropolitan Pasts and Futures**

- *Questioning the Temporalities of Metropolitan Memory: Transitions, Cycles, Durations and Moments* – S. Merrill/E. Bereskin
- *Yesterday's Tomorrows: Histories of the Future Metropolis* – S. Höhne

### **II. Politics of Time**

- *Everyday Life, Informality and the Experience of Permanent Temporariness* – C. Haid/A. Steigemann/A. Levels
- *Political Time in Urban Settings* – J. Mollenkopf

### **III. Metropolitan Rhythms**

- *Cultural Representations of Urban Rhythm* – J. Rohlf/B. Hummel
- *Colonizing Time? The Impact of Globalization on Urban Rhythms* – D. Henckel/P. Hege
- *Metropolitan Streets: Everyday Temporalities and Contemporaneity* – C. Haid/A. Steigemann/A. Levels

### **IV. Economies of Time**

- *Time, Land and Rent* – L. Calbet/L. Vollmer
- *Urban Mobility, Social Acceleration and Time Regimes* – A. Nützenadel/C. Bernhardt

**Keynote speaker** – Mustafa Dikec (University of London)

**Plenary debate** with 3 guests – Moderator: Rosemary Wakeman (Fordham University)

## Cluster I: Metropolitan Pasts and Futures

### **Panel: Questioning the Temporalities of Metropolitan Memory: Transitions, Cycles, Durations and Moments**

Organization: Sam Merrill (IGK-Associate Fellow) and Emily Bereskin (IGK-Postdoc)

Within the interdisciplinary sub-field of memory studies that has emerged since the 1980s, the urban realm has been acknowledged to be particularly well-attuned to reflect the dynamics of social memory and has subsequently been elevated as a key context for investigation. Within this body of literature, however, notions of temporality and time are often under-scrutinized and their significance is often assumed to be self-evidently connected to the process of handling the past in the present. Temporality is almost always present but is rarely the focus of such studies. One notable and influential theoretical exception is Jan Assmann's attention to memory transitions, most significantly the transition between 'communicative' and 'cultural' memory, determined by generational cycles and characterised by durations of 80-100 years. In addition, numerous empirical studies have emphasised memory moments or 'flashpoints' – commemorative anniversaries or instances of returning social relevancy that facilitate the remembrance of specific pasts and the repression of others. These explications of mnemonic temporalities, however, may themselves be of the past, outdated and no longer suited for the study of metropolitan memory in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Globalisation processes, in particular the spread of virtual and digital technologies with their increasing degrees of social connectivity and instantaneity, have eroded the sharp distinctions that formerly characterised notions of 'metropolis', 'time' and 'temporality.' This urban temporal transformation has undoubtedly changed the nature of urban memory, although the precise ways in which this has occurred has yet to be fully empirically investigated or theoretically formulated. As such, this session invites paper proposals that question and explicate the changing temporalities of urban memory. Preference will be given to proposals that explicitly emphasise the temporal transfigurations of existing theories of urban memory and question their ongoing validity through the application of comparative and transnational perspectives and where possible, in reference to empirical case studies.

- Moderator: Sam Merrill (IGK-Associate Fellow) or Emily Bereskin (IGK-Postdoc)
- Commentator: Karen Till (University of Minnesota)
- 1. Paper: (maybe) Sam Merrill (IGK-Associate Fellow) or Emily Bereskin (IGK-Postdoc)
- 2. Paper: tba
- 3. Paper: tba

**Seeking:** 2-3 panel participants

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## Cluster I: Metropolitan Pasts and Futures

### **Panel: Yesterday's Tomorrows: Histories of the Future Metropolis**

Organization: Stefan Höhne (Technical University Berlin)

Be it as utopian visions, apocalyptic fears or development plans – urban futures have always played a vital role in how cities were experienced as well as governed. Until today, the question of how the future of urban environments should look like often serves as an arena for struggles of recognition and regularly causes furious debates.

This panel aims to explore the complex strategies of how the futures of cities were anticipated and made plausible throughout history. It asks about the ways these scenarios served as tools to (re)produce social order or juxtapose them. Furthermore, it alludes to the specific historical dynamics of how these ideas of urban futures were propagated, reaching from exhibitions, world fairs, and urban planning to novels, movies, and other media. A specific focus will be drawn on the various roles these future visions played in the everyday practices, subjectivities and governmental techniques of western metropolises.

- Moderator: tba
- Commentator: Stefan Höhne (Technical University Berlin)
- 1. Paper: Rosemary Wakeman (Fordham University)
- 2. Paper: Owen Gutfreund (City University of New York)
- 3. Paper: tba

**Seeking:** A moderator and a panel presenter

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## Cluster II: Politics of Time

### **Panel: Everyday Life, Informality and the Experience of Permanent Temporariness**

Organization: Annika Levels (IGK-Fellow), Anna Steigemann (IGK-Fellow) and Christian Haid (IGK-Fellow)

Contemporary city life is shaped by everyday experiences of instability and impermanence linked to growing housing and income insecurity, financial precariousness, deregulation, and crumbling welfare states. Related to these processes, informal practices and simultaneously spaces of informality - or "gray spaces", as Oren Yiftachel terms them - are globally expanding. However, how the state is dealing with such activities differs from context to context. State interventions range from either clamping down on them immediately or tolerating them to a certain extent. The tolerance or even encouragement of such gray spaces preserves many of these informal activities in a state of "permanent temporariness", that is tolerated but condemned, and that perpetually waits to be corrected. This notion of "permanent temporariness" needs further in-depth investigation, especially on the temporal dimension: the seemingly opposing notions of permanence and temporariness generate conceptual tension as they are being experienced simultaneously in everyday city life.

This session invites contributions that engage the question in what way this status of permanent temporariness has become an everyday experience in contemporary city life. Given the thematic concerns of the conference, preference will be given to contributions that explicitly engage with the temporal dimensions in these everyday practices as well as those which seek to conceptually expand the notion of permanent temporariness. Contributions may include but are not confined to empirical research on squatters facing a constant risk of eviction, street traders and their livelihoods which are perpetually threatened by expulsion, and the everyday lives of the urban poor or "the excluded" who rely on constantly changing strategies in order to survive. Papers can also focus on various tactics of the state to strategically keep urban residents in a condition of instability. The session aims to bring together established researchers and new scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds working in the urban context of both the Global North and South.

- Moderator: Anna Steigemann (IGK-Fellow) or Christian Haid (IGK-Fellow)
- Commentator: tba
- 1. Paper: tba
- 2. Paper: tba
- 3. Paper: tba

**Seeking:** 3 panel participants and a commentator

**Contact:** annika.levels@metropolitanstudies.de, anna.steigemann@metropolitanstudies.de, christian.haid@metropolitanstudies.de, emily.bereskin@metropolitanstudies.de

## Cluster II: Politics of Time

### **Panel: Political Time in Urban Settings**

Organization: John Mollenkopf (City University of New York)

Berlin, Toronto, and New York have faced a set of common challenges since roughly 1989 (date of the Wende in Berlin and onset of a severe recession in the US and Canada). These have included further deindustrialization, fiscal stress, the rise of new immigrant communities, efforts to promote economic development through sometimes questionable marquee projects, the fiscal and housing crisis of the post-2007 period, rising rent burdens, and gentrification. This panel will address the timing of efforts to respond to these challenges in Toronto, Berlin, and New York. More specifically, we would like to consider a.) the timing of how and why urban movements do or do not form political coalitions responding to these challenges; and/or b.) the temporal dimension of municipal government policies concerning them.

- Moderator: tba
- Commentator: tba
- 1. Paper: John Mollenkopf (City University of New York)
- 2. Paper: Roger Keil (York University, Toronto)
- 3. Paper: Henrik Lebuhn (Humboldt-University, Berlin)

**Seeking:** A moderator and a commentator

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## Cluster III: Metropolitan Rhythms

### Panel: Cultural Representations of Urban Rhythm

Organization: Berit Hummel (IGK-Fellow) and Johanna Rohlf (IGK-Fellow)

The perception of cities has been a central subject of artistic production ever since they existed as everyday environments. Although this may seem most apparent in image based artistic genres, it can be argued that temporal and spatial rhythms are main organizing principles in all forms of art. So when looking at times of change in the rhythm of everyday life in urban societies it becomes obvious that these changes – caused by processes such as industrialization, economic growth, commodification, political restructuring, (de-)densification or increased foreign cultural influence – trigger shifts in prevalent forms of artistic expression. This may lead as far as to the invention of new modes or genres of artistic production as shows the widely studied example of the emergence of City Symphonies in the 1920s, being documentary flows of urban images structured by film cutting and musical form.

In this panel we would like to investigate the cultural production of urban imaginaries in times of crisis, the latter being defined as an evident change of or break with habitual conditions of life on the urban level, going along with a changed spatial and temporal perception. The panel seeks to look at these interactions and parallels between changes in temporal dimensions of artistic productions and those of urban life from a historical perspective. Prospective presenters could look at the following themes: In how far did an altered urban rhythm produce or require new formal means of artistic production? In which ways did a culturally transferred (artistic) rhythm modify the perception of the existing ones? Are there analogies in terms of the use of urban rhythms in different artistic forms of expression and at different times (e.g. in the first and second Avantgarde)? And how did the reception of these new aesthetic forms possibly change the perception of the metropolis?

- Moderator: tba
- Commentator: tba
- 1. Paper: Berit Hummel (IGK-Fellow)
- 2. Paper: Johanna Rohlf (IGK-Fellow)
- 3. Paper: tba

**Seeking:** A moderator, a commentator, and 2 panel participants

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## Cluster III: Metropolitan Rhythms

### Panel: Colonizing Time? The Impact of Globalization on Urban Rhythms

Organization: Dietrich Henckel (Technical University Berlin) and Patrick Hege (IGK-Fellow)

The rhythmicity of cities is a result of the interplay many different cycles: natural cycles (day and night, lunar and seasonal cycles, climate etc.) but of even more importance are manmade cycles like the week, calendars, the academic year, holidays, bank holidays, seasonal or weekly peak days, working time arrangements, opening hours of shops, production plants, services etc. Legal rules, regulations, cultures and habits contribute to establish different rhythmicities of metropolises. With respect to internationalization and the relation between cities a lot of questions arise, e.g.:

- What is the impact of foreign populations on urban rhythms?
  - How do foreign enterprises influence and change urban rhythms?
  - How do collaborations over time zones (e.g. time zone shifts) influence urban rhythms?
  - What impacts do high numbers of tourists, business travelers (temporary, especially international, populations) have on urban rhythms and how do inhabitants and their political representatives react?
  - How do urban politicians and planners react in regulating time to demands of international firms (e.g. in the financial services)?
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- Moderator: tba
  - Commentator: tba
  - 1. Paper: tba
  - 2. Paper: tba
  - 3. Paper: tba

**Seeking:** A moderator, a commentator, and 3 panel presenters

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## Cluster III: Metropolitan Rhythms

### **Panel: Metropolitan Streets: Everyday Temporalities and Contemporaneity**

Organization: Annika Levels (IGK-Fellow), Anna Steigemann (IGK-Fellow) and Christian Haid (IGK-Fellow)

Historically, streets and their social and spatial orders have changed over time according to the respective societal setting. Streets have always been the most profound units of urban life and the main elements to structure urban form and transportation. However, with the rise of the profession of urban planning, streets have been increasingly reshaped, according to the planner's ideals of their time.

Today, streets with their specific spatial and social orders are the most dynamic space-time settings in a metropolis: they comprise a high degree of mobility, varying uses, agents, everyday practices and activities, norms, values, symbolic meanings, and power relations as well as a constant negotiation in between them. All of these coexist and affect each other according to the time of the day, week, year and season. Thus, an ever changing social and spatial environment is being produced in metropolitan streets which has its own temporality and contemporaneity.

In this panel we would like to address the intertwined relationship between spatial order, social order, everyday practices and time in the urban street. Thus we welcome papers dealing with these different levels of temporalities and contemporaneity, as well as their historical dimensions.

- Moderator: Anna Steigemann (IGK-Fellow) or Christian Haid (IGK-Fellow)
- Commentator: tba
- 1. Paper: Annika Levels (IGK-Fellow)
- 2. Paper: tba
- 3. Paper: tba

**Seeking:** 2 panel participants and a commentator

**Contact:** annika.levels@metropolitanstudies.de, anna.steigemann@metropolitanstudies.de, christian.haid@metropolitanstudies.de, emily.bereskin@metropolitanstudies.de

## Cluster IV: Economies of Time

### Panel: Time, Land and Rent

Organization: Laura Calbet (IGK-Fellow) and Lisa Vollmer (IGK-Fellow)

Time has always been a crucial factor in the relationship of capital accumulation and urbanization.

The deeply intertwined linkage between accumulation and land/rent is enacted through processes in time such as cycles of accumulation, differing land value over time and the spatio-temporal fix (Harvey). Comparatively long payback periods and the durability of buildings made investment into the built environment an important asset especially in times of economic uncertainty. In contrast to such long-term related characteristics, the current financialization of housing entails an acceleration of accumulation cycles and the expansion of short term speculative investments. The panel seeks to evaluate how time mediates the relationship between capital accumulation and urbanization in general. Specific interest will be paid to the recent acceleration of the transactions in the real estate market as opposed to the lengthy building cycles.

How does this paradox temporality play out on the current real estate markets and construction projects? Does temporality also become a discussed issue in conflicts triggered by the housing shortage? These and other questions of time, land and rent we want to discuss in our panel.

- Moderator: tba
- Commentator: (maybe) Lisa Vollmer (IGK-Fellow)
- 1. Paper: Laura Calbet (IGK-Fellow)
- 2. Paper: tba
- 3. Paper: tba

**Seeking:** 2 panel participants and a moderator

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## Cluster IV: Economies of Time

### **Panel: Urban Mobility, Social Acceleration and Time Regimes**

Organization: Alexander Nützenadel (Humboldt-University, Berlin) and Christoph Bernhardt (IRS-Erkner)

The modern metropolis is characterized by an increasing acceleration of social interactions and economic practices. Since the evolution of enormous urban agglomerations in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, time has become the most important resource for urban life. While commuting times determine the choice of residence, infrastructures are created to increase mobility and temporal efficiency. The panel analyzes the effects of mobility and acceleration on urban time regimes and spatial arrangements in the metropolis. What are the strategies of urban inhabitants to optimize available time? What is the impact of time efficiency on the spatial structure of the metropolis? Which are the main categories in which problems of time and mobility are perceived and analyzed in different historical, social and scientific contexts?

- Moderator: Alexander Nützenadel (Humboldt-University, Berlin)
- Commentator: Christoph Bernhard (IRS-Erkner)
- 1. Paper: Katja Schmidtpott (Goethe University Frankfurt a.M./University of Cambridge): Time regimes and urban industrialization in Japan
- 2. Paper: Maren Boersma (University of Utrecht/City University of Hong Kong): Urban space, infrastructure and time
- 3. Paper: tba

**Seeking:** 1 panel participant

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