

Infill, its Promoters, and its Opponents in a Post-Communist City: St. Petersburg under Siege

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An official city government policy of permitting infill to occur in the historic and UNESCO World Heritage-listed city center of St. Petersburg began a decade ago. Together with large inflows of private investment beginning in 2003, developers and architects have changed dramatically the face of the historic center of the city. The first part of the paper provides a typology of the different types of infill that have occurred in St. Petersburg in the last decade. The paper's second part explores the techniques and approaches used by developers and city officials to permit such infill to occur with official permission and sanction. A third part examines the response of city preservationists to the visual transformation of the St. Petersburg's center. Rapidly implemented infill practices, including the "reconstruction through tearing down" of historical buildings, has led a young generation of city preservationists to engage in a wide range of oppositional responses, including the use of such organizational techniques such as social networking, outdoor theatrical presentations, and "PR scandals" through the city's mass media. In the absence of transparency on the part of official 3D modeling of future infill projects and their impact on the city and its skyline, alternative line-of-sight and other GIS analyses have also been developed as an effective instrument of opposition by city preservationists. The paper's final part presents evidence that, in the face of widespread public opposition, some instances of backtracking among city leaders over previously accepted infill practices and strategies have occurred.

Functional changes in the city centre of Tallinn during transition period

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The decline of city centres in the course of suburbanisation, which was postulated in the United States in 1950's (Jacob, 1961), and has been taking place throughout the world, is also noticeable in Eastern Europe. Populations in city centres have fallen, and the relative importance of core functions of the modernistic city centre as production and retail has also fallen. At the same time, in contrast to the Western experience, the volume of commercial space in CEE cities has increased during suburbanisation, because there were simply very few shops and other services establishments in the Soviet period. Similarly to Western cities, gentrification is taking place in CEE urban centres, and a so-called new economy is arising.

The aim of this paper is to determine the distinctive features of the processes taking place in post-communist city centres, using the example of Tallinn. For that purpose, we compare the number and distribution of functions in 1983 and 2008 in downtown Tallinn, and compare changes therein against the background of changes taking place in the city. Since Tallinn is, like most CEE cities, a historical and developed city, we presume that the Soviet period was only one episode in its development. It is on that basis that our research questions have been formulated – does the development of a post-communist city differ from that of a Western city centre? How long can the influence of the Soviet system be observed to last?

Emergent properties of HIV risk among IDUs in Tallinn: the synthesis of individual, network, and neighbourhood-level factors

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Estonia has a rapidly expanding IDU-driven HIV epidemic. By 2006, the rate of newly-reported HIV cases in Estonia was 504 per million inhabitants, the highest per capita rate in Eastern Europe. This rate is almost twice the rate in the Ukraine and Russia, which have the second and third highest rates in Eastern Europe. Injection drug abuse is a significant public health problem because of its association with numerous negative health and social consequences. This problem is concentrated in urban environments, especially in the capital, Tallinn, where it is related with certain neighbourhoods.

Research on the injection-related risk of HIV, hepatitis C and other blood-borne pathogens has largely focused on individual-level characteristics and behaviours. However, HIV/AIDS risk is embodied within multiple levels, including structural and social levels. This study investigates the effects of emergent properties, such as neighbourhood disadvantage and network characteristics, on HIV prevalence among IDUs residing in the city of Tallinn, Estonia in 2007.

This study employs a cross-sectional, multilevel design using data from two sources: (1) a survey of 350 current IDUs recruited in Tallinn in 2007 using respondent-driven sampling, which collected data on (a) individual characteristics (demographics, drug use history, and HIV risk behaviour), (b) self-reported residency, (c) IDU network characteristics (size and composition), and (d) HIV serostatus from biological testing; (2) the Estonian census of 2000 that contains data on neighbourhood socio-demo-economic characteristics.

Habitat-level demographic and socioeconomic variables will be linked with individual and network attribute data to create the final multilevel data set. Multilevel modelling (MLM) analysis will identify individual-level and emergent structural-level factors, as well as cross-level interactions associated with IDU-related HIV risk.

Juvenile delinquency in post-socialist city: The case of Riga, Latvia

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Since last quarter of 2008 in Riga as well as in Latvia significant economical and social changes such as growth of unemployment and decay of income stimulated by global economic crisis have been seen. Local economic problems initiated discussion and preoccupation on rise of criminal activities among various social groups. The aim of this paper is to characterize the current situation of juvenile delinquency in Riga neighbourhoods. The study analyzes territorial conformities of juvenile delinquency in Riga neighbourhoods. There is evidence that socioeconomic status of neighbourhood and family has a little effect on juvenile delinquency rate in neighbourhoods. More important for crime commitment is physical, functional and social structure of place as well as seasonality and attraction of environment. In this study various methods were used. Mapping of quantitative data and qualitative data gathered in semi-structured interviews was a tool for more precise characterization of juvenile delinquency.

Keywords: juvenile delinquency, neighbourhood, crime, Riga