B.6 (Sub)cultures and interest groups in post-socialist city Chairs: R.Matoušek, H.Sooväli

Growth coalitions in post-socialist urban development – the case of Hungary

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In the study we use the 'growth machine' concept to analyse the socio-spatial processes of the Hungarian cities. According to this concept the local development is determined by growth coalitions, whose main goal is to enhance economic development, and intensify land use. The interest of the actors outside these coalitions can be different: to have a liveable city or a sustainable society etc. – which usually causes conflicts between various actors of the urban development.
We examine the conditions related to the evolution of the growth coalitions, and the local power structures related to the urban development. We also introduce the formation and the work of these coalitions through Hungarian case studies: how they tend to monopolise the 'public interest', and how their activities affect the process of spatial exclusion and the production of space. We also claim that the post-socialist social conditions are favourable to the formation of the growth coalitions because of the weak civil sector. This means that the balance between the actors of the local development has been broken. The interest of the global capital is the most influential force to the local policy. The local and state policy is not capable to compensate the ambitions of the investors – moreover, sometimes they support them. In some cases the citizens also support the aims of the growth coalitions – therefore the attitude of the local society creates a legitimating basis for the neo-liberal urban policy.

Goth subculture in contemporary Romania

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This paper is focused on describing and analyzing an urban cultural phenomenon generally identified by the label "goth subculture" and developed in post-communist Romania. Knowing that subcultures have developed on the backgrounds of a reaction to the dominant social and cultural practices this study is striving to reveal rather or not aspects that apparently refer to an urban subculture still talk about a type of reaction. Can we still talk about subcultures today knowing that the transformations they went through are tightly connected with the development of socio-cultural systems?

In the first part of the paper I tried to identify those elements through which the goth identity is built. I am approaching the external marks through which those who join the goth movement identify themselves, and can be identified by others analyzing whether or not they determine the goth identity and the consciousness of belonging to a distinct socio-cultural group.

Another objective of this study is to analyse the spaces that bare a „goth print", and the way they contribute to the construction of identity. By spaces I mean all those places that allow contact between members, both material and virtual spaces.

Finally I'm looking at the relationship with media and comerce in order to reveal how their implication has weakened or on the contrary facilitated the development of subcultural identity in contemporary urban Romania.

Everyday Sarajevo: Reassembling Public Housing and Collective Memory

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After the vast socio-politico-economic mutations suffered by Sarajevo in past decades, this paper explores the mutual processes of post-war reconstruction and social rebuilding in this cosmopolitan city in the face of various global and local forces. It is intended to highlight the global importance of Sarajevo within its diverse political transitions and timescapes—post-Communist, post-Olympic, post-war urbicide victim—in order to address the role of architecture within its ongoing multicultural legitimization and democratic determination.

When one approaches to the study of Sarajevo, one should read the written in the city not only from what is present of but also from what is absent. What was there before? How does (the reconstruction of) public housing affect social life, and vice versa? Does what we see reflect the city as a civic whole, the whole as a just city?

How is power related to space, and vice versa? In observing how power is constituted, how is collective memory translated in Sarajevo when it turns into politics? How does the European Union consider (funding) architectural values in BiH to allow Bosnia(k-n)s to produce collective memory?

This paper is intended to write a history dealing with the dialogue of the diverse potential realizations regarding «citizenship». A close examination of what could constitute a new politics/policy of public housing in Sarajevo and BiH will elucidate the methods of those actions and the diverse groups that are today engaged in the aim of nation-building through the dialectics between Bosnia(k-n)s, power and collective memory.

Environmental justice in postsocialist city: the case of Roma resettlement in town of Vsetín, Czech Republic

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The paper discusses environmental inequality and environmental injustice in relation to social justice, socio-spatial inequalities and residential segregation in the context of neo-liberal transformations in the Czech Republic. The environment is conceptualized as including both physical and social characteristics. Environmental justice is approached from both perspectives defined as right to protection against environmental hazards and right to equally enjoy environmental qualities. Environmental justice is discussed in association with residential segregation and in particular with the segregation of Roma population in middle-size town Vsetín in eastern part of the country. Procedural and distributive (in)justice is studied on the case of segregated Roma community that was resettled (moved) by municipal authority (who is the landlord) from old dilapidated inner city tenement house into newly built house in least attractive peripheral industrial area.

Key words: environmental justice, social justice, segregation, Czech Republic, Roma, Vsetín