

WORKSHOP //

Housing renovation, socialist heritage and state-society relations

09.-10. June 2023

IfEU, Belvederer Allee 5, room 005

Large housing estates continue to be one of the most significant and durable built legacies of the socialist period. The question of how they are managed, maintained, renovated, demolished and perceived therefore remains a crucial one. While programs, projects and practices of renovation, renewal and maintenance of socialist housing estates have been studied comprehensively across the post-socialist context, recent years seem to indicate a certain shift in dealing with this urban heritage. Throughout the post-socialist context, we can observe shifts in dealing with these structures, such as new demolition or renovation programs, modified approaches towards their renewal, new governance arrangements and actor constellations as well as changes in maintenance and finance schemes etc.

This workshop sets out to explore these changes and interrogate their meaning. It holds that the study of housing renovation and maintenance practices as well as the changes therein provide a fruitful lens to uncover broader reconfigurations of state-society-relations in the post-socialist context. While the last three decades have seen different paths of housing provision taking shape in post-socialist countries, post-socialist transformation has been generally characterized by processes of privatization, state withdrawal and the emergence of new subjectivities. The above-mentioned processes, however, seem to reveal some new dynamics. For example, alongside the deepening of neoliberalism we can observe instances of the return of strong state intervention and (re-)new(-ed) promises of welfare provision.

This workshop brings together scholars from different disciplines to shed light on these new practices and discuss their meaning and the drivers behind. The following questions will be addressed:

- Which programs and projects of housing renovation, renewal and maintenance are currently carried out or planned in post-socialist cities, and how do they materialize in built form? In how far do these processes continue or differ from previous approaches?
- What drives the current configurations of housing renovation and maintenance? Which factors facilitate these changes (e.g. physical deterioration), and how are they connected to broader political (e.g. rise of illiberal-populist or authoritarian leaders) and economic trends?
- How can we interpret the observed changes? Do they indicate merely minor shifts, are they hinting towards broader reconfigurations in state-society relations, or might they even be understood as a new phase of post-socialist transformation?

Program

Thursday, 8.6.2023: *Joint dinner at 7pm (optional)
at ACC Café Weimar
Burgplatz 1, 99423 Weimar*

Friday, 9.6.2023

9:00 - 14:30 Joint bike tour: housing projects in Weimar (incl. lunch)

Meeting point: 09.00 at "Grüne Liga", Rollplatz, Weimar:
<https://goo.gl/maps/3jzdX37WoidCjBL36> (bike rental)

15:00 - 18:15 Workshop. Venue: IfEU, Belvederer Allee 5, Weimar, room 007

Introduction to the workshop
Daniela Zupan (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar)

15:30 - 17:00 Session 1 - Civil society's reactions to housing renovation
each speaker 45 minutes (incl. discussion)

Renovation in Moscow: the housing questions and civil society
Anna Zhelnina (Helsinki Institute of Urban and Regional Studies)

A tale of two districts. Local contexts and collective (im)mobilizations
against Renovation in Moscow
Guénola Inzian (Université Lumière Lyon 2)

Moderator/discussant: tbc

17:00 - 17:30 Short Break

17:30 - 18:15 Session 2 - State initiatives
each speaker 45 minutes (incl. discussion)

National urban revitalisation in Poland under the PIS governments
Lydia Coudroy de Lille (Université Lumière Lyon 2)

Moderator/discussant: Lisa Vollmer (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar)

19:00 Dinner (place tbc)

Saturday, 11.6.2023

09:00 - 12:30 Workshop. Venue: IfEU, Belvederer Allee 5, Weimar, room 007

09:00 - 10:30 Session 3 - Practicing housing renewal
each speaker 45 minutes (incl. discussion)

Housing estates renovation practices in the post-soviet context of Bishkek and the post-socialist landscape of Prague
Dilnoza Tasheva (Charles University, Prague)

Bargaining with the pipes: Negotiating the change in maintaining the water supply infrastructure of large housing estates in Aktau
Daria Volkova (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar)

Moderator/discussant: Julia von Mende (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar)

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 11:45 Session 4 - In-between spaces
each speaker 45 minutes (incl. discussion)

Changing public spaces: between buildings of Budapest's large housing estates
Melinda Benkő (Budapest University of Technology and Economics)

Moderator/discussant: Elodie Vittu (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar)

11:45 - 12:00 Short Break

12:00 - 12:30 Summing up: final discussion and reflections on the workshop

Contacts

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