

UrbanMetaMapping Semester Talks: Winter Term 2021/22 via zoom, 12.00 - 13.00 (CET)

Registration via: talks.urbanmetamapping@uni-bamberg.de

 UrbanMetaMapping

RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

December 15:

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Making sense of ruins: Approaches of post-war urban reconstruction and dealing with the past after 1945

In the aftermath of the Second World War, the reconstruction of cities occurred as urban planners and architects debated visions related to urban form. From rebuilding as opportunity to attempts to restore pre-war cityscapes, destruction mapping and reconstruction planning often reflected the main concern of remaking the built environment. Yet the societies in which local authorities, architects and planners were working towards reconstruction were also an arena of narratives about the war itself, involving with different intensity in different places, tropes of victimhood, resistance, political responsibility, and guilt. This talk examines the connection between post-war urban reconstruction and processes of dealing with the past, subject of my forthcoming book. It interrogates the role of these concerns in decisions about reconstruction. It discusses experiences after the Second World War, but also how this relationship has been transformed as the nature of war changed and as expectations to work with the past have increased in the last decades. As such, it follows how reconstruction debates have mirrored the changing character of warfare, from the aerial attacks of the Second World War to the so-called “new wars” occurring after 1989, including hybrid wars and high-tech interventions. It draws from a number of examples in post-1945 Europe and more recent conflicts in the Balkans and the Middle East, with a particular focus on the former Yugoslavia.



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