



 UrbanMetaMapping



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

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

February 16:

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Spatializing the war front: The Civil War in the city of Madrid through the mapping of its remains.

The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) was especially violent in Madrid, where Franco's rebel side, faced with the impossibility of penetrating the city, attacked different areas in a sequence. Thus, the first line went all over the south and west of the region until the armies decided to continue towards the north of the country. Nowadays, this has left us a trail of remains of great heritage value in the form of trenches, bunkers, observatories, machine-gun nests, and so on. In 2013, Madrid recognized the identity value of these remnants by drawing up a regional plan for their cataloguing and protection, also incorporating them into the GIS repository that stores the region's heritage properties.

I contend that GIS catalogs of this kind have the potential to become powerful spatial analysis tool. By processing the specific information on war heritage, it is possible to work with it in such a way that it can no longer be understood as a sum of isolated entities. Instead, they can now be interpreted through their spatial relationships. Thus, we can draw maps that tell us about the advance and retreat of the battle lines over time and, above all, show us the first line in its surface condition: as an urban territory in itself. Finally, I will contrast this type of characterization of the cityscape in relation to a conflict with other mapping strategies to document wartime events.



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