



 UrbanMetaMapping



UrbanMetaMapping Semester Talks: Summer Term 2022 via zoom, 12.00 - 13.00 (CEST)

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

May 18:

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Adapting and Reusing the Built Environment in A Postwar and Postdisplacement City

The Second World War and its aftermath marked a radical split between place and society, especially in areas where borders were redrawn by postwar peace treaties, populations were unmixed by displacement, and new Soviet or socialist systems were established. By looking at the city known as Lwów, לעמבערג, Lviv, Lemberg and Lvov, which emerged from the war and occupation with more than 90% undestroyed buildings and more than 90% loss of its prewar inhabitants, I will ask how the pre-Soviet built environment featured in the ambitious project of moving the city spatially and temporally into the Soviet realm.

While new projects were conceived – and some were realized – I will argue that acknowledging the quality of the pre-Soviet built environment was a critical element in moving away from the city’s non-Soviet past and from the recent war. This process meant adopting and reusing buildings that were now stripped of their functions and communities. The need to adapt and reuse in this specific postwar and post-displacement context fostered discussions on what new functions were possible, how these new functions shaped new meanings and values, as well as the economic considerations in the context of state socialism. Assigning the status of monuments to buildings, while adapting and reusing them, shifted the discussions from thinking about monuments of architecture as something to preserve to claiming them as a source of symbolic, social, and economic transformation. Placing these heritage discussions and practices in a postwar context offers a new perspective on the trajectories between postwar “socialist reconstruction” and the later “historical turn” and includes the perspectives and experiences of state socialist societies into a larger story of reconceptualizing heritage as a social and economic resource.



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