



UrbanMetaMapping Semester Talks: Winter Term 2022/23 via zoom, 12.00 - 13.00 (CEST/CET)

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

 UrbanMetaMapping



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Commemorative street naming practices in the border towns Frankfurt (Oder)/Słubice

This chapter explores the longitudinal effects of shifting geopolitical borders after WWII, which resulted in the division of the formerly unified town Frankfurt (Oder). In 1945, the garden quarter called Dammvorstadt on the eastern side of the river Oder was allocated to Poland and renamed Słubice whereas the main part of Frankfurt remained in Germany. The geographical location in the border region and a similar post-WWII history of political regimes affiliated with the socialist eastern Block makes these sister towns an ideal site for researching questions about the effects of the complete population transfer on the Polish side on the ideological robe of the city (Zieliński 1994) in comparison to the German side, which is characterized by a relatively stable settlement pattern.

To investigate these questions, we analyse two types of data:

- (1) street name lists and maps allow us to uncover the spatio-temporal patterns of ononymic change
- (2) individual and focus interviews with different stakeholders give us an insight into the agency behind street renaming and the ways in which different stake holders react to it.

This case study will facilitate our understanding not only of the dynamics of ideological marking of the urban scape. It will also provide comparative insights into the socio-political and cultural forces influencing these dynamics. Our preliminary results show that the German toponymy of Dammvorstadt was completely erased by the Polish post-WWII administration and replaced with figures from Polish national pantheon and communist imagery. The constant turnover of the population precluded the formation of the sense of local identity or belonging between the Polish residents and the post-German town.



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