



 UrbanMetaMapping



UrbanMetaMapping Semester Talks: Winter Term 2022/23
via zoom, 12.00 - 13.00 (CET)
Registration via: talks.urbanmetamapping@uni-bamberg.de

December 21
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Time-traveling Skopje’s Main Street and Square: 1911-2019

In this paper, I use maps and postcard images to show the development of the Macedonian city Skopje’s new urban centre from the end of the Ottoman era to the end of the Skopje 2014 urban renewal project. In 1873 a railway station was built on the south side of the river, not far from the Burmali Mosque. For Sultan Mehmet Reşat’s visit to the city in 1911, a new road was built following a straight line from the station to the Burmali Mosque, and on to the Stone Bridge leading across to the north bank and the fortress. This road, called Yeni cade, “New Street”, soon became the centre of this new part of town, lined with coffee houses, hotels, and shops. Where the street reached the mosque and the edge of the bridge, a square slowly took form. This square was to become one of the largest urban squares in the Balkans, the most contested space in the city, a site that remains central to conflicting views of the city and the identities of those who live there. The square became the epicentre of urban Skopje, and later, the epicentre of the earthquake, and the 2014 renewal project as well. I look at how depictions of the street and square changed form, and the names used by different governments to claim and define them..

