



# **The social experiences of urban space in socialist cities of Eastern Europe**

Workshop at Ghent University, Belgium  
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy  
Department of Languages and Cultures  
**30-31 January 2025**

Organisers: Brigitte Le Normand (Maastricht University) & Pieter Troch (Ghent University)

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## Programme

### Thursday 30 January 2025

Venue  
MS Teams

*Opening (16:30–16:35)*

Pieter Troch (Ghent University) & Brigitte Le Normand (Maastricht University)

*Keynote (16:35 – 18:00)*

Heather Dehaan (Binghamton University)

How Socialist Citizens Fabricated Cities: Making Neighborhoods in Soviet Baku

### Friday 31 January 2025

Venue  
Lecture room 5.50  
Campus Boekentoren – Blandijnberg

*Introductory remarks (09:00–09:15)*

Brigitte Le Normand (Maastricht University) & Pieter Troch (Ghent University)

*Session 1 (9:15–10:45)*

Liliana Iuga (RWTH Aachen University) & Oana Pop (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)

Housing policies and legacies of the Soviet nuclear urbanism in Ştei, Romania

Ia Kupatadze (Ilia State University, Tbilisi)

Architecture as a Tool for Social Stratification in Soviet Tbilisi

Lois Kalb (European University Institute, Florence)

Soviet Urbanization from Below: Neighbors, (Dis)possession, and Urban Sociality in Riga

*Session 2 (11:15–13:15)*

Marko Zubak (University of Zagreb)

After Hours: Socialist Urban Nights

Anna Piotrowska (Jagiellonian University Cracow)

Roma music bands at the expense of communistic Krakow: continuation of traditions or new beginnings?

Darine Choueiri (independent researcher, Madrid)

Schooling as a reflection of socio-spatial organization. The Case of Sarajevo.

Boris Stepanov (Paris Nanterre University)

Soviet kids on the block: the socialist city as an educational environment

*Session 3 (14:15–16:15)*

Lina Gergova (Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia)

Construction of Reservoirs and Migration Rural-Urban in Socialist Bulgaria

Rory Archer (University of Vienna)

Albanian entrepreneurs in the North Adriatic: Conviviality and segregation in socialist Croatian coastal towns

Ksenia Litvinenko (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space)

“We used to live in tents and then in railway wagons”: Visions, Experiences and Critiques of Late Soviet Extractive Urbanism in Western Siberia

Iryna Sklokina (Center for Urban History, Lviv)

Remaking “kresy” into “Western Ukraine”: Soviet incorporation, social imagination, and comparative frameworks at the shop floor (1944-1955)

*Session 4 (16:30–18:00)*

Hanna Stein (Graz University)

New rhythms, changing neighborhoods, death, and solitude – The socialist city in Yugoslav amateur film productions of the 1960s and 1970s

Maria Gunko (University of Oxford)

“They destroyed it”: reflections on the changed built environment of a small Armenian town

Diana Malaj (Graz University)

Comparing Socialist and Post-Socialist Social Experiences Kamza, Albania