

21.05. until 22.05.2015 in Dunaújváros, Hungary

Call for papers: Cities of a new type. New industrial cities in popular democracies after 1945

12.10.2014

Recommended by Prof. Dagmara Jajesniak-Quast

21.05. until 22.05.2015

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Paris-Est Créteil University; Pepper Art Projects; independent art historian

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Call for papers

International conference in Dunaújváros (21-22 Mai 2015):

"Cities of a new type. New industrial cities in popular democracies after 1945"

In the socialist countries after 1945, several cities were erected from scratch next to an industrial complex: the main ones were Dunaújváros (named Sztálinváros from 1951 to 1961) in Hungary, Eisenhüttenstadt (Stalinstadt from 1953 to 1961) in East Germany, Nowa Huta in Poland and Dimitrovgrad in Bulgaria. They were supposed to become cities of a new type, different from the chaotic, segregated and capitalist city. They had to invent a socialist way of life and the population of these cities (mostly workers) did create a specific working class culture, even if it was different from the one that was expected by the authorities. Each city was progressively built through ideological ambitions, but also through concrete constraints and unexpected evolutions. The history of each city has so far been studied and written mostly from a national or regional perspective. We want to consider them from an international point of view and to put them in a comparative and transnational perspective.

We will consider the entire socialist period, from the late 1940s to the late 1980s. That is to say not only the time of the construction (the early fifties) but also the following decades, when the young cities got older and were transformed, according to local factors and according to the evolution of each popular democracy. However, we will not consider the post-socialist period.

The conference will focus on the four above-mentioned cities, but it will also consider smaller new cities (Ózd and Komlói in Hungary, Nová Dubnica in Czechoslovakia, Nowe Tychy and Jastrzębie in Poland, Schwedt and Hoyerswerda in East Germany, etc.) and new districts in already existing cities (for instance, Poruba next to Ostrava in Czechoslovakia or Halle-Neustadt next to Halle in East Germany).

Contact

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