

Arrival Neighbourhoods in European Cities from the late 19th to the early 21st Century



Urban spaces shaped by migration are subject of a recurrent public interest: Portrayed in media reports as “ghettoes” and “parallel societies”, social scientists either refer to negative “context effects” of the spatial environment or lay emphasis on the integrative effects of an “ethnic colony”. In recent times, urban and migration scholars have picked up the notion of *Arrival City* coined by the journalist Doug Saunders (for example in the variations of “arrival neighbourhoods” or “arrival spaces”) in order to stress the access to resources such urban spaces offer. Arrival spaces are defined as spaces shaped “particularly by immigration, a high fluctuation of local inhabitants, poverty, transnational lifestyles and a spatial concentration of arrival-related opportunity structures” (Hans et al 2019, 2).

Looking back at the history of the late 19th and 20th century, we can observe that urban neighbourhoods shaped by migration in such a way are not a historical novelty: From the “Little Italies” and “Chinatowns” in large and harbour cities in North America but also Europe, to the “Russian Berlin” and the *Scheunenviertel* or similar quarters in Paris characterised by the impact of East-European Jewish migration, such urban configurations of space emerged – and disappeared – in different historical contexts and time frames. Besides their discursive construction as “problematic neighbourhoods”, as spaces of “the other”, of criminality, a lack of sanitation and decay, observers pointed to the social networks of the newcomers, the institutions and places they created but also to negotiations over their arrival in existing institutions and social infrastructures of the local society. Recent historical studies on such quarters in the United States emphasize the multi-ethnic composition of their population and the interactions beyond ethnic boundaries.

In this interdisciplinary workshop we want to shed light on and critically discuss the potential of the conception of “arrival neighbourhoods” for the analysis of urban spaces between the late 19th and the early 21st century. Which analytical value, which new perspectives does the conception offer compared with other concepts and approaches such as those of the “ethnic colony”? How can we distinguish “arrival neighbourhoods” from other urban quarters? Which factors play a role in the emergence of such neighbourhoods – and which are responsible for their disappearance or transformation? And which social, cultural, political and economic developments do we have to investigate in order to understand the character and the transformation of these quarters?

Programme

Thursday, 25 February 2021

14.00-14.20: Introduction: David Templin (IMIS, University of Osnabrück)

14.20-15.10: Keynote

- Heike Hanhörster (ILS Dortmund): The concept of “Arrival neighbourhoods”: emergence and functions for urban integration and resource access
- Chair: Sebastian Haumann (Technische Universität Darmstadt)

15.10-15.30: Coffee break

15.30-16.30: Session 1: Arrival neighbourhoods in a longer perspective

- Garbi Schmidt (Roskilde University): A longue durée perspective on arrival neighbourhoods: Lessons learned from the neighbourhood of Nørrebro in Copenhagen
- David Templin (IMIS, University of Osnabrück): Arrival neighbourhoods in Hamburg in two periods of migration: 1890-1923 and 1960-1985
- Chair: Antonie Schmiz (Freie Universität Berlin)

16.30-17.00: Coffee break

17.00-18.00: Session 2: Contested spaces of “foreigners” in the first half of the 20th century

- Hannah Ewence (University of Chester): `A foreign town´: Space and scale, immigrant Jews and London´s East End
- Marina Chernykh (University of Freiburg): `Russian Berlin´ under the National Socialist regime 1933-1945. Public spaces – Identities – Conflict
- Chair: Jens Schneider (IMIS, University of Osnabrück)

Friday, 26 February 2021

9.45-10.30: Session 3: Arrival spaces in times of crisis, war and welfare policies

- Håkan Forsell (Stockholm University/Humboldt-University Berlin): Arrival quarters in Oslo & Stockholm: The fate of “transit zones” in welfare state societies, 1920-1960
- Chair: Marcel Berlinghoff (IMIS, University of Osnabrück)

10.30-11.30: Session 4: Arrival spaces in peripheral areas since the 1970s

- Jens Gründler (LWL-Institut für Regionalgeschichte, Münster): Arrival neighbourhoods in rural areas during the 1970s and 1980s: a case study from Westphalia
- Nihad el-Kayed (Humboldt-University Berlin): Peripheral high rise estates as arrival neighbourhoods?
- Chair: Sophie Hinger (IMIS, University of Osnabrück)

11.30-11.50: Coffee break

11.50-12.40: Final discussion

- Christiane Reinecke (Forschungsinstitut Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt, Leipzig): Closing remarks
- Chair: David Templin (IMIS, University of Osnabrück)