

PANEL on (Post-)Socialist Memory and Transgression

10.02.2020 | 12:00 – 15:00 | @Kubbealtı

organized by Belgin Turan Özkaya & Senem Yıldırım Evsen

PRESENTERS: Marina Dmitrieva & Carmen Popescu

DISCUSSANTS: Neşe Gurallar & Bülent Batuman

15:30 | **FILM SCREENING:**

Laura Mulvey & Mark Lewis, *Disgraced Monuments*

|| ABSTRACTS

ALIEN MONUMENTS: THE MEMORY OF ANCIENT REGIMES IN POST-SOCIALIST CITIES



This article examines the various strategies through which ‘alien monuments’ in East and Central European countries – in Poland, Germany, and Ukraine – have been handled after the collapse of the socialist regime. ‘Alien’ monuments are monuments that have been erected by soviet architects during the period of socialist regime. They continue to look as if they have been imposed upon the contemporary urban environment. What happens with such structures, which embody the memory of occupation, of external domination? What is their place in the post-socialist city? This article considers monuments that carry the memory of the occupying powers’ key events and iconic heroes.

Dr. Marina Dmitrieva, Senior Researcher in Art History at the Centre of History and Culture of East Central Europe (GWZO), Leipzig.

ON WALLS AND FENCES/ SPATIAL JUSTICE IN POST-SOCIALIST TIMES

(AND A LITTLE BIT IN LATE CAPITALISM)

A transgressive reading



Post-history, to use what might be seen as a discussable expression, started with a wall being torn down. At the end of 1989, the Berlin Wall, a symbol of the geopolitical segregation – nurturing tensions, frustration and unconfessed phantasms –, was torn down. With its destruction, all the former Communist Bloc felt liberated from the constraints imposed by the falling regime.

Part of these constraints were related to space agency – private as well as public – and engendered, during the post-socialist years a number of transgressive manifestations, oriented against what was perceived as the norms of the former regime.

I will address in my lecture these manifestations, focusing particularly on the raise of walls and fences, as means of appropriating space. I will question their meaning and the changes they brought in terms of sharing space.

Carmen Popescu, Professor of History of Architecture/ ENSA Bretagne, Rennes

|| BIOGRAPHIES

PRESENTERS

Carmen Popescu

Professor of Architectural History at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Bretagne (Rennes).

She is an art and architectural historian whose research is structured around three main themes: the intricate connections between architecture, on the one hand, and ideology and politics, on the other; architectural historiography; the dialogue between art and architecture. She has published extensively on these topics presented her research in numerous conferences. She is currently undergoing a research project around the concept of transgression, that she studies as a paradigm of after-modernity.

Marina Dmitrieva is senior researcher in Art History at the Centre of History and Culture of East Central Europe (GWZO) in Leipzig, Germany. Her fields of interest include urban visual culture in Central and Eastern Europe from the Renaissance to the historical avant-garde, political iconography and the historiography of art. Before joining the Leipzig Centre, she was a researcher at the Institute of Art History in Moscow and taught at the universities of Freiburg i. Br., Basel, Hamburg and Bremen in Germany. She is currently involved in a research project on the utopian imagination in Central and Eastern Europe.

Selected recent publications:

Community and Utopia: Artists' Colonies in Eastern Europe from the Fin-de-Siècle to Socialist Period, ed. together with Laima Lauckaite (Vilnius 2017);

Italija v Sarmatii. Puti Renessansa v Vostočnoj Evropi [Italy in Sarmatia. The Ways of the Renaissance in Eastern Europe] (Moscow 2015);

Stalin's Skyscrapers' and the Propaganda of the New World Order after World War II, in: War of Words. Culture and the Mass Media in the Making of the Cold War in Europe. Ed. by Judith Devlin, Christopher Hendrik Müller (Dublin 2013);

Zwischen Stadt und Steppe. Künstlerische Texte der ukrainischen Moderne aus den 1910er und 1930er Jahren (Berlin 2012);

Einholen und überholen. Amerikanismus in der Sozblock-Architektur, in: Fixstern Amerika. Ideal und Illusion Mitteleuropas. [=Osteuropa, 61. Jg., (2011);

The Post-Socialist City. Continuity and Change in Urban Space and Imagery, ed. together with Alfrun Kliems (Berlin 2010);

Happiness through Discipline. Soviet cities in the Travelogues of Foreign Visitors, in: Urban Planning and the Pursuit of happiness, ed. by Arnold Bartetzky and Marc Schalenberg (Berlin 2009).

DISCUSSANTS

Bülent Batuman

He studied at the Middle East Technical University and received his Ph.D. in History and Theory of Art and Architecture from State University of New York–Binghamton in 2006. His research areas include social production and politics of built environment, history and theory of modern architecture and urbanism, and urban politics. His current research focuses on the architectural politics of Islamism and his book *New Islamist Architecture and Urbanism: Negotiating Nation and Islam through Built Environment in Turkey* was published by Routledge in 2018. He is member of the editorial boards of the *Journal of Urban History* and *Praksis*. He was a Fulbright visiting scholar at Penn State University in the 2017-18 academic year.

Neşe Gurallar

Professor at Gazi University Department of Architecture, Ankara Turkey.

2017-2018 Associate of Harvard University Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture with a scholarship from TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey). Her continuing research is about Russian Modernization in East Anatolia. Short term fellow at Koç University, Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations in 2017 July. She has enrolled at University of Florida in 2016. Visiting researcher at the University of Edinburgh in 1999-2000 with a TÜBİTAK scholarship. Hold a Goethe Institute grant in Schwabisch Hall Germany in 2002. Neşe received her PHD at METU (Middle East Technical Faculty), Ankara in 2003. Author of the books: *Halkevleri: İdeoloji ve Mimarlık* [People's Houses: Ideology and Architecture] and *Emergence of Modern Public Space from a Traditional Mosque Courtyard, Early Nineteenth Century İstanbul- Beyazıt*. She has written several articles in journals and as well as chapters in books, also given public talks in universities, institutions and architectural organizations. Her research area is ideology, politics, public space, architecture, modernity, cities, and urban history.