



CAT-ference 2019 session proposal

Title: Climate Change and 'Cities after Transition'

Description:

In the past decade, cities have become one of the foci of the academic and political debates on social responses to climate change. It has been argued that cities both contribute to the issue of climate change and are vulnerable to its locally specific effects, but they also represent one of the scales on which local-political or behavioural responses are (possibly) formulated (e.g. Bulkeley 2013; Hagen 2016, p. 1). Urban studies, mainly urban geography, has so far joined academic debates about cities in the context of climate change by researching topics such as urban policy responses to climate change, local mitigation and adaptation strategies, tensions between actors and policies, issues of infrastructure and energy provision, vulnerability of urban citizens and their well-being, including negative impacts of adaptive measures such as deepening environmental inequalities. Yet, despite a great number of case studies from cities in different countries and in different geographical conditions, calls for more empirical knowledge from contexts outside the Global North keep appearing in academic writings (see for example Parnell, Simon and Vogel 2007; Anguelovski, Irazabal-Zurita and Connolly 2019 calling for more research on cities in the Global South).

This session seeks to bring together scholars who research cities in the context of climate change in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. While many studies on local risks associated with climate change (such as, e.g. heat waves or floods) have been performed in these cities by scholars in ecology, physical geography or in technical studies, there has been less academic interest in the issue from a social-scientific and urban studies perspective (see also Graybill 2015). Also, more reflection is needed on the role that wider cultural context and historical trajectories may play in how climate change impacts on cities in the world, or in how cities respond to the phenomenon, as well as to the global political or expert debates on the issue. Far from anticipating some specifics or similarities shared between cities located in the post-socialist countries, this session wishes to stimulate discussion between places and cases, and between empirical findings and theoretical ideas. This session welcomes contributions that address topics that include, but are not limited to:

- Urban policy responses to climate change (and their relation to inter/national policies);
- Environmental movements and protests;
- Cities' and urbanites' mitigation and adaptation strategies, and their effects;
- Urban infrastructure, legacy and transformations;
- Vulnerability and inequality in cities;
- Discourses on climate change.

Empirical studies that analyse their case(s) with reference to current debates on the theory of post-socialism and post-socialist cities are particularly encouraged. Please submit a max. 300-word outline of your contribution to the session, including a preliminary title, 3-4 keywords, and affiliation, to Slavomíra Ferenčuhová (Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences); slavka.ferencuhova@soc.cas.cz by **Wednesday 10 April 2019** (session organizers will inform participants about their abstract acceptance for the session by April 12; and all participants will need to submit their papers individually also via conference website when they register, by April 15th).

Session Organiser:

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