



CAT-ference 2019 session proposal

Title: Urban geopolitics, individual resistance, and the everyday: Evidence from post-socialism and beyond

Description:

Focusing on the relationship between cities and violence, the literature on urban geopolitics is interdisciplinary, located at the nexus between urban studies, sociology, architecture, planning, political science, and human geography. Foundational work in this field has examined how different urban areas can be predicated on division, strangeness, and on conceptions of us vs. them (Graham 2004a). Though viewing cities as comprised of social relations, dynamically “shaped by political events, spatial arrangements and emotional geographies” (Yacobi 2009, 576), much work on urban geopolitics tends to highlight the global and state scales, wherein the city becomes visible as the target of urbicide – that is, attacking the infrastructure of a city itself. In this way the city becomes the site of the “intersection of urbanism, terrorism and warfare (Graham 2004b, 191). Too often, however, the micropolitics of everyday life is left under-examined in this work, in favor of more global, state, or institutional-based views.

This session aims to address this gap through a valorization of the individual, the ordinary, and the everyday. These engagements could take the shape of a focus on infrapolitics (Scott 2014), everyday urban geopolitics (Fregonese 2012), attention to non-representational theories of affect and emotion (Laketa 2016), or simply a valorization of the everyday (de Certeau 2011; Lefebvre 1984). Sited in – but through comparative analysis, not limited to – cities in the Global East, we are interested in topics that address the ways in which larger processes are implicated in individual lives, including:

- Everyday resistance;
- Infrapolitics, marginality, and disorder;
- Informality and alternative ways of making do;
- Daily life in situations of conflict;
- The relationship between violence and the built environment;
- Expressions of art and culture in the everyday.

Please submit a max 300 word abstract by April 11. Conference registration deadline is April 15.

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References:

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