

**C**  **T**ference Kyiv & Dnipro 2017

**THE 7th INTERNATIONAL URBAN GEOGRAPHIES OF  
POST-COMMUNIST STATES CONFERENCE:  
A view on cities from elsewhere**

**CALL FOR PAPERS AND SESSIONS**

**Kyiv & Dnipro  
with Kryvyi Rih**

**26-29 September 2017**



## CALL FOR PAPERS AND SESSIONS

We are pleased to invite you to attend the **7<sup>th</sup> International Urban Geographies of Post-Communist States Conference: A view on cities from elsewhere** (i.e., the CAT-ference) to be held in **Kyiv & Dnipro** on **26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017**.

**Cities After Transition (CAT)** is the largest network of scholars primarily interested in urban issues regarding the ‘post-socialist’ countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union. Originally uniting geographers with an interest in “urban geographies of post-communist states” (hence the conference name), the network has now expanded into a truly multi-disciplinary event.

CAT’s main goal is to facilitate and promote international scholarly contacts and cooperation within our field, and the bi-annual CAT-ferences are the main highlight of this endeavor.

The 7<sup>th</sup> CAT-ference is preceded by six successful events – in Lund (2005), Stockholm-Tallinn (2007), Tartu (2009), Bucharest (2011), Tbilisi (2013) and Prague (2015).

### CAT-ference THEME: A view on cities from elsewhere

The overall theme of this CAT-ference relates to the relative marginality of cities in Central and Eastern Europe within the context of globally circulating urban theory. This marginality runs the risk of resulting in a “double exclusion” (Tuvikene 2016) – from the mainstream of theory and from recent influential postcolonial critiques of it. Perhaps even more than for most other major CEE cities, the silent absence of Kyiv and Dnipro from these debates is deafening.

Accordingly, our **call for papers and paper sessions is open to all aspects of the urban geography of Central and Eastern Europe**, but we are particularly interested in contributions that offer critical engagement with contemporary urban theory, and/or which show a readiness to “export” (Sjöberg 2014) new ideas, concepts and theories to the global market of urban thought. Our goal is, in other words, to contribute to the placement of “post-socialist cities” – or whatever we prefer calling them – within the growing “repertoire” of cities that inform theory.

The **themes** we wish to focus on at the 7<sup>th</sup> CAT-ference are:

- (1) *CEE “post-communist” cities in urban theory*
- (2) *Theorizing socialism and socialist legacies in cities*

Motivation: Perhaps somewhat paradoxically, recent years have seen an increased interest in the issue of socialist legacies (see for example Beissinger and Kotkin’s (2014) recent book *Historical Legacies of Communism in Russia and Eastern Europe*) in Central and Eastern European societies. This stems, not least, from the insight that democratic reforms and economic liberalization have not been as durable as was once expected. Moreover, as Chelcea and Druta (2016, *forthc.*, see also Tuvikene 2016) suggest, socialism is kept alive as a negative in public discourse.

- (3) *Memory politics and the city*

Motivation: At times of heightened geopolitical (or other) contestation (such as the ones we are living in now), the politics of memory become central to the everyday politics of cities. Like in many places across the Former Soviet Union, Ukrainian cities have long struggled with how the past should be represented in the cityscape.

- (4) *Gentrification, including (and welcoming) comparative studies*

The organizers welcome papers within these four areas, but there is **no formal thematic restriction**. Empirical and theoretical contributions on all aspects concerning urban development in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in communist/post-communist countries across the globe, are welcome.

### FORMS OF PARTICIPATION

You may either propose full paper sessions, or submit individual paper abstracts to be assembled into thematic sessions by the organizing team. You may also participate without giving a presentation. Each paper presentation is expected to receive between 20 and 30 minutes (depending on the number of submissions and on the number of presentations included in the proposed sessions), including 5-10 minutes for discussions.

## ORGANIZING A SESSION

Session organizers are responsible for assembling contributions, and returning a completed session proposal form to the organizers. Sessions may include 3 or 4 papers. Speakers in 4-paper sessions will be given 20 minutes each. The proposal should contain the title, abstract, author name(s), affiliation(s) and email address(es) of all speakers. All sessions will be reviewed by the CAT-ference organizing committee before being accepted for the conference. We will confirm acceptance of sessions by e-mail before the end of April 2017.

To submit a session proposal, please visit conference webpage:  
[www.geokyiv.org/conferences/catference2017](http://www.geokyiv.org/conferences/catference2017)

## REGISTRATION

Each participant is allowed a maximum of one presentation where s/he is speaker. Additional roles as session chair/moderator/discussant may also apply (the online application form gives you the opportunity to opt out of these roles, if you so wish). Please register first for the CAT-ference, by providing the title of your presentation, a short abstract (100-200 words), and the names, affiliations and email addresses of all authors. All abstracts will be reviewed by the CAT-ference organizing committee prior to acceptance. Acceptance will be notified via e-mail no later than 30 April 2017. Payment of the CAT-ference participation fee will be due from 30 April 2017.

To register, please visit conference webpage: [www.geokyiv.org/conferences/catference2017](http://www.geokyiv.org/conferences/catference2017)

## IMPORTANT DATES

Registration opens: 15 January 2017

Registration deadline: 15 April 2017

Submission of sessions and abstracts: from 15 January to 15 April 2017

Notification of acceptance: 30 April 2017

Payment due: from 30 April 2017 to 15 June 2017.

## PARTICIPATION FEES

Regular participant: 200 EUR

PhD-student: 160 EUR

The fee includes: attendance of all conference events, conference materials, dinner, coffee-breaks, three lunches, transfer from Kyiv to Dnipro and back (incl. cold packed meals and water), field trip to Kryvyi Rih, and accommodation for two nights in Dnipro.

The participation of young researchers and PhD students is strongly encouraged.

## VENUE

**Why Ukraine?** Little is known about Ukrainian cities abroad, they are severely underrepresented in the discourse on the development of the “post-socialist” cities, and they are largely absent from broader debates in urban theory. In Ukraine, a country with the vast territory, resources and human potential, the “post-socialist” urban transformations have been taking place with a substantial delay. The coming decade is expected to be associated with an accelerated phase of transformation and development, during which Ukrainian cities may be expected to become better integrated in the urban spatial frame of Central and Eastern Europe.

**Why Kyiv?** Kyiv is the capital, and it is the most globalized and accessible city in Ukraine. It is also the largest European “post-socialist” city outside Russia. The last decade has brought profound changes coupled with various urban transformations that took place over a longer period of time elsewhere in post-socialist Europe. In Kyiv, these transformations overlap, and are taking place all at once.

**Why two cities? Why Dnipro (former Dnipropetrovsk)?** Urban regions in Ukraine differ considerably; during the CAT-ference you will be given the opportunity to compare the political, cultural and business centre of the country with an eastern urban region characterized by a large Soviet industrial legacy that influences current (and future) urban development. With a population near the one million mark, Dnipro is one of the largest industrial centers in Eastern Europe, and it is a key city in the country’s geopolitical strategy. Its past as “rocket city” adds a unique Soviet hi-tech flavoured legacy.

In short, as CAT-ference participants you will be able to see and assess several types of urban change: dynamic and intensive in Kyiv, somewhat slower and manufacturing-based in the strong industrial and scientific centre of Dnipro (now a geopolitical faultline city). In addition, you will have the opportunity to get acquainted with the (even) slower and more hesitant transformation of a purely industrial (metallurgical) city – Krivyi Rih (pop. about 650,000).

*Kyiv (Kiev) host:* Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Faculty of Geography, Department of Economic and Social Geography, Laboratory of Regional Problems of Economics and Politics, Acad. Glushkova, 2a (VDNH/Expo-center University Campus), <http://www.geo.univ.kiev.ua/en/>

*Dnipro (former Dnipropetrovsk) host:* Oles Honchar Dnipropetrovsk National University, Faculty of Geology and Geography, Department of Economic and Physical Geography, Dmytro Iavornytski, 36, building 2, [http://www.dnu.dp.ua/en/geologic\\_geographic\\_faculty](http://www.dnu.dp.ua/en/geologic_geographic_faculty)

*Site accessibility:* There are two international airports in Kyiv – “Boryspil” (29 km from Kiev; price of transfer to railway station by Sky Bus – 2 euro; by taxi – from 10 euros) and “Kiev” (within the city limits). Current cost for accommodation in Kiev: around 30-35 euro per night in a 3-star hotel in the city centre; 15 euro in the University hotel.

## CONFERENCE EVENTS

As usual, the event will showcase high-quality scholarship on the post-communist/post-socialist city, and there will be a dense social programme that includes a field trip. CAT-ferences offer a relatively small-scale environment, creating excellent opportunities to get acquainted with colleagues that share similar research interests.

25<sup>th</sup> September – pre-conference informal gathering (optional)

26<sup>th</sup> September – official opening in Kyiv, IJRR keynote lecture and discussion, sessions, walking tour in the city centre, welcome dinner

27<sup>th</sup> September – keynote talk, sessions, afternoon transfer to Dnipro

28<sup>th</sup> September – sessions, next CATference election, official closing, excursion in Dnipro

29<sup>th</sup> September – fieldtrip to Krivyi Rih, evening transfer to Kyiv

30<sup>th</sup> September – post-conference excursions (optional)

## FIELD TRIP

Krivyi Rih is a metallurgical center of Ukraine, and the largest city in the country lacking the functions of regional administrative centre. Krivyi Rih is an example of an extremely interesting city in terms of the preservation of the existing production base, combined with unfavourable demographic trends and environmental issues. The city has a specific spatial planning structure, stretching over 120 km along the iron ore basin, with unique industrial facilities. During the trip there will be an opportunity to visit an operating mine, and to visit a quarry or the steelworks.

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Kostyantyn Mezentsev (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine)  
Liubov Zelenska (Oles Honchar Dnipropetrovsk National University, Ukraine)  
Michael Gentile (University of Oslo, Norway)  
Volodymyr Kazakov (Kryvyi Rih National University, Ukraine)  
Olena Denysenko (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine)

## **PUBLICATION PLANS**

Several international journal theme issues have been published on the basis of the materials presented at CAT-ferences or CAT workshops (including theme issues in *Geografiska Annaler series B human geography*, *Cities*, *Geografie* and forthcoming theme issues in *Eurasian Geography and Economics* and in the *Czech Sociological Review*). We will honour this tradition.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information, please check the CAT-ference's webpage:

<http://www.geokyiv.org/conferences/catference2017>

Should you have any questions concerning the conference, please contact us by using the official CAT-ference e-mail address: [catference2017@gmail.com](mailto:catference2017@gmail.com)

**We are looking forward to meeting you in Kyiv & Dnipro!**