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# INURA-Conference

## Berlin: June 22 - 28, 2003

### "Border City"

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# Welcome to INURA

# Introduction

From 1961 to 1989, Berlin was a divided city. While the Western part of the city was an outpost and 'shop window' of the Western world, East Berlin was the capital of the GDR. However, both parts were highly subsidized Cold War 'frontier cities'.

Since the end of systemic confrontation, Berlin had to face a tremendous economic and political transformation. Politically, there has been a shift towards neoliberal ideas conceptualizing cities as entrepreneurs in a globalized world economy. Economically, the vision of a post-fordist service metropolis has been never realized. Berlin's failure in the global inter-urban/inter-regional competition is to be explained by both the relative de-industrialization of West Berlin due to the cold war situation and by the de-industrialization of East Berlin's industrial core since unification. Without any significant indus-

trial base or post-industrial service economy, unemployment and welfare rates have skyrocketed in all parts of the unevenly developed city. Moreover, the weak economic base and limited tax income, combined with large-scale political corruption and severe mismanagement (Bankenskandal), have left the city in a state of heavy financial crisis.

At the same time, Berlin is said to be the German city of alternative groups. In particular, the city has a long history and well established tradition of squatter-movements, and it also has a tremendous "off-culture". We want to show you both: some of the most important problems the city and its citizens have to face, and some of the various related paths people try to find to deal with these challenges. Thus, we will focus on economic, social, political and cultural issues in Berlin: truly a border and still a divided city.

## How to find the hostel



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Your INURA-team Berlin at work

# Welcome to INURA

# Berlin's Socio-Economic Situation

by Stefan Krätke

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While Berlin's reinstatement as the capital of Germany has triggered a building boom and raised great expectations of its transformation into a "global city" or at the very least a major European "service metropolis", de-industrialization and job losses in key sectors of its economy have led to mass unemployment and social polarization. The city has not been able to fulfil many of the exaggerated expectations of its economic development in



Homeless woman

the turbulent years since 1990. Indeed, Berlin's socio-economic restructuring appears to confirm predictions that it is developing towards an economically and socially polarised city. The presentation will highlight the main tendencies of socio-economic development in Berlin:

- The city is facing a tremendous loss of jobs in traditional industries, which contributes to a rise of unemployment and the spread of urban poverty; in



Industrial area  
"Oberschönevide"

spatial terms the urban poor are concentrating in several inner urban districts of West-Berlin, whereas other inner urban districts are becoming more and more attractive to new urban scenes and are subject to a process of gentrifi-

cation. - The city has been a prime playground for the activities of professional subsidy hunters in the real estate and building investment business, which left behind a huge pile of empty office space; indirectly, the speculative real estate boom has also contributed to the city's financial crisis.

- New is-lands of economic growth have been developing in Berlin, particularly in research and development intensive activities like the software industry, biotechnology and medical engineering; additionally there has been a strong growth in the Berlin media industry (which is based on the particularly strong "socio-cultural capital" of Berlin) and the city now ranks among the important "global media cities".

- At the same time, the city is an outstanding example of a "worst practice" urban governance which has led to a financial crisis with really catastrophic effects; this crisis has been actively produced by the former urban government in setting up a large public financial corporation (Bankgesellschaft Berlin) that engaged in speculative real estate bonds and failed, leaving the city with an unexpected financial burden of several EUR billions. Even today members of the Berlin political class are continuing to make a private profit from these real estate bonds. Today, the Berlin government tries to consolidate the city's financial situation by severe cuts in social expenditure and public services, particularly in schools, universities and public medical centres, a policy which indirectly might also damage the prospects of Berlin's few growth sectors in the field of knowledge-intensive economic activities.

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Model of the new central station  
also contributed to the the city's



"Media Spree"

## City Tour by Boat

with Werner Sewing

**W**e will cruise some of the city's waterways to introduce you to Berlin. Architectural critic Werner Sewing will discuss the development projects of the last 13 years.

One objective since the wall came down was to merge West and East into actually one city. The government/parliament district exemplifies this effort. The master plan by Axel Schulte envisioned the government buildings as a brooch connecting East and West. Since he did not take into account that real estate ownership structure is/was unclear in the East, the brooch silts up today at the river Spree - exactly where the wall used to be. A weird looking FRG-residential buildings blocks the way for the brooch because the residents fight their re-location successfully.

But this tour will not be limited

to the government districts. It will criss-cross its way along the former wall, delve into immigrant districts, provides ample views into de-industrialized areas and the like.



Potsdamer Platz

## Gentrification, Urban Renewal and Neighbourhood Struggles in Prenzlauer Berg

by Matthias Bernt

**P**renzlauer Berg, likely East Berlin's most famous neighbourhood, has faced dramatic changes during the last decade. From a run-down, dilapidated area it has transformed into a center of urban renewal activities. Decay has been replaced by a new chic and the buzz of vanguard cultural activities. Gentrification is visibly on the agenda.

On the other hand - and unlike gentrification processes elsewhere - the transformation of Prenzlauer Berg is influenced by specific conditions, such as the transformation of real estate and housing markets after reunification and various 'welfarist' state regulations. Although housing regulations have been deregulated Berlin's local government still has a long tradition of "Careful Urban Renewal" which aims to empower inhabitants to participate in the benefits of urban renewal and to prevent displacements.

It is exactly in this contradiction between gentrification and "Careful Urban Renewal" that Prenzlauer Berg has in the 1990's become an arena for community struggles about rent regulations, public places and affordable infrastructures. The field trip will

therefore demonstrate both the changes in the neighbourhood and the political struggles connected with its gentrification. It includes a discussion with the intended participation of community-activists.



Café in Prenzlauer Berg

# "Spandauer Vorstadt"

by Karin Baumert

"Spandauer Vorstadt", the historic area between Alexanderplatz and Friedrichstrasse includes Hackescher Markt, Scheunenviertel (barn district), the Jewish Synagogue and the cultural centre Tacheles and has been challenged by urban renewal and gentrification like no other community in Berlin since the wall came down. Since then, tens of thousands of tenants, craftsmen, and tradesmen have been struggling to preserve this area and its 'Berlin mixture' of living and working in one place (i.e. socially and economically). They are trying to maintain social diversity, the neighbourhood and solidarity. As such, they are trying to defend a social mixture which was always the aim to be achieved in West-German re-development areas.

'Spandauer Vorstadt' is situated within the East-

Berlin city centre. It is the only remaining area in Berlin that commemorates the early history of Berlin. Its genesis goes back to a time where Berlin was a town within today's urban railway circle. During this period a 'Vorstadt' came into being behind the ancient city walls. Berlin was developed as a poly-centric city by suburbanising the surrounding small towns. This is the reason for the existence of a 'Vorstadt' within the city centre today. With regard to the city's historical prominence 'Spandauer Vorstadt' is the very ancient city of Berlin. The unsystematic streets with no city planning structure in place developed spontaneously and its grid is a vivid reminder of their functions - connecting 'Spandauer Vorstadt' directly to other cities. Street names like Oranienburger Strasse, Rosenthaler Strasse, Schönhauser Strasse and the like bring to mind this specific street grid.



Art-house "Tacheles"



Model of restructured "Tacheles"

Because of a fire ordinance (Feuerverordnung) all barns had to be built beyond city walls. That is why the eastern part of the 'Spandauer Vorstadt' is known as 'Scheunenviertel' (the 'barn quarter'). Also the former city potter's field (pauper's graveyard, today the Koppenplatz) was situated together with the gibbet (at the corner between Krausnick Strasse and Oranienburger Strasse, a place which has long been undeveloped), the Garrison (garrison) and the still remaining garrison cemetery. The Linienstrasse is the street that earmarks the first city's enhancement, the line where the medieval wall was.

During that time migration through the city's gateways - the Oranienburger Tor and the Rosenthaler Tor - was strictly regulated; Jews from eastern Europe, for example, were only allowed to enter the city through the Rosenthaler Tor so that the poorer Jews settled within the eastern parts of 'Spandauer Vorstadt'. All the different phases of 'Spandauer Vorstadt's' history left behind traces in stone. The whole history is represented in monuments, streets, squares, and places, thus making the city's history comprehensible.

The Jewish Synagogue represents the assimilation of the Jewish community. In today's Grosse Hamburger Strasse (the former Toleranzstrasse or Tolerance Street) the cohabitation of various religious groups can be traced by the still standing Catholic St. Hedwig's Hospital, the Protestant Sophienkirche (Sophien Church) and the Jewish school, founded by Moses Mendelsohn. Even today you will find his gravestone close to the school on the nearby lawn in the former Jewishgraveyard.

Additionally, there are many reminders of the

1920's within this tiny city quarter telling us about Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht who spoke to the masses in today's Sophiensälen, reminding us of the time when 'neighbours were turned into Jews', a time, when the children of the district clerk

[Reviervorsteher] saved the lives of neighbouring Jewish children by informing them about their planned deportation into the Nazi concentration camps. We also find Miss Balszer, still working in her bakery today, a lady who has white bread in stock all the time; white bread to smuggle the passports of the Jewish workers who used to work at the home for the blind in the Sophienstrasse.

These historic roots may also explain the unique development since the fall of the wall. Seemingly Sleeping Beauty 'Spandauer Vorstadt' rose and shone after the wall came down. Under GDR-rule the bus driver and the professor lived here, rents were low, segregation and gentrification unheard of. 'Spandauer Vorstadt' was in hibernation, it was neither torn down nor - unlike in many Western European cities - replaced by "Modernity".

Capital picked up the scent of a unique chance for profits after 1989 but residents had already become organized by 1989. The community organization managed to turn the area into a huge historic site (Flächendenkmal) to protect it against anticipated gentrification and defend the "use value" of the area. The unique result is the subject of our tour.

The weekly magazine "Der Spiegel" wrote about re-unification after ten years: "... if anything like re-unification really happened, then it did in 'Spandauer Vorstadt'". This appraisal neglects to consider that this unification "product" is the result of intense political struggle and negotiations - and that it is far from secure.

The field trip 'Spandauer Vorstadt' will reconnect its long history with the political contest over the area's significance during the past 12 years. The resulting "product" 'Spandauer Vorstadt' will be critically discussed.

The urban safari will focus on social planning within

the re-development law concerning eastern cities. 'Spandauer Vorstadt' serves as the Berlin example.

The following issues will be addressed while we walk through the community:

1. Starting point 1989: What was the East German configuration of 'Spandauer Vorstadt'?
2. The different participants and their competition over the community's significance: Landlords, developers, tenants and their organization, local politics and institutions
3. How did the tenant's group react to the unification treaty and the possibilities offered by the German re-development law (Sanierungsrecht)?
4. Is a socially diverse population mix something we value?
5. A socially just urban re-development with profit-driven developers - a challenge for all participants involved (Negotiate - with the threat of class struggle)
6. An income dependent rent cap - is this a post-socialist cul-de-sac or a legitimate means of achieving a socially just re-development?
7. Gentrification beyond legal regulation?
8. Is there any academic fall-out from this?
9. Conclusions regarding the margins of manoeuvre for different participants
10. Future visions: What are the limits for social planning in the regional context?

We will visit the following locations:

Hackesche Höfe, Sophienstraße, Sophien/Gipshöfe, Gipsstraße, Auguststraße, Heckmannhöfe, Oranienburger Straße, Handwerkerhof (artisan court)

A comprehensive paper will be available at the conference. We can also show (at the retreat) a documentary about 'Spandauer Vorstadt' by Günter Jordan (1996).

## **De- and Re-Classification of the Modern City - Production of Ideology and the Attack of the Middle Classes**

by Simone Hain

**W**ithin the last decade Berlin proved to be a special showcase of the overall and global cultural clash between the "modern" and the "postmodern" - which can be understood as different ways of dealing with social problems and to draw lines of order by mapping a city. Be it in architectural detail or in huge town planning layouts, one can in depth analyze a process which Alain Touraine described as ongoing compensation of men as political and social

beings by men as pure privates. My slideshow will demonstrate how - after a short phase of preparing Berlin's city for global players - a kind of "pressure group" of the middle class community took planning power to exclude all kinds of so called non-urban population: Poor immigrants as well as jobless desperados as well as trade unionists as well as feminists. The paper will also give a short introduction to the urban history of Berlin.

# Potsdamer Platz as a "New Center": A Center for What?

by Ute Lehrer

The events of November 9, 1989, the fall of the Wall, meant both an end and a new beginning for the spatial, political, social and economic understanding of Berlin. No longer was Berlin a city of two entities. No longer was Berlin's built environment spared the intensified commodification of urban space. Consequently, the built environment became a key component in the symbolic, spatial and politi-

area for capital investment after the fall of the wall, Potsdamer Platz was supposed to become the symbolic center of Berlin's role within the global economy where it was hoped for that Berlin would play a major role in the East-West trade and therefore also would attract significant control and command functions.

The area around Potsdamer Platz has an interesting past that can be linked to city-expansion in the 18th century, to the built up of railroad lines and stations in the 19th century, to the Nazi period, and to the division of the city into four sectors as well as two political systems during the 20th century. In this political climate, Potsdamer Platz became a no-man's land and after the fall of the wall, it became targeted as a prime area for capital reinvestment.

When between 1990 and 1992, three multinational corporations (Daimler-Benz, Sony and ABB) conducted negotiations about buying land at Potsdamer Platz, the companies also promised to bring high quality jobs to a city that desperately was seeking to replace the loss in manufacturing jobs with new opportunities of employment. Not surprisingly, this promise lured a majority of politicians and city officials to support this project. In this context, the case of Daimler-Benz is of particular interest: the initial controversy over selling the land to a multinational corporation which also is engaged in the production of weaponry and which is known for its forced labor camps during the Nazi-period, quickly turned into a discussion about the form.



Demonstration against the restructuring of the inner-city at Potsdamer Platz

cal processes of reunification. The real estate market was booming with new investors.

This tour will take interested observers to a part of Berlin that multinational investors in the mid 1990s liked to call the 'new heart' of the city. As a prime

The tour will take the visitor to all the contentious points of interest: From the sites of the Nazi-period to the sites of the multinational investors, from the traces of the squatters along the wall to the luxury hotels of the new economy, from the 'real' history to the reconstruction of history.

## Social(ist) Housing

by Karin Baumert & Volker Eick & Jens Sambale

**M**ore than 600.000 residents in East Berlin dwell in 'prefabricated slab-construction buildings' (Plattenbauten). While massive social housing seemingly looks quite the same in Eastern and Western Europe, Eastern European's housing com-



"Siemensstadt"

plexes are decidedly different from their Western counterparts. While the West "re-discovered" dense, inner-city housing stock since the 1970s, the East valued living in 'prefabricated slab-construction buildings' as a shared social gain. Socialism Eastern-

Europe-style tried to finally resolve the "housing question" by serial-industrial housing construction: "A flat for everyone".

Real estate in public property resulted in extremely low rents and little, if any segregation based on income. Nevertheless - demand for housing kept growing. The old building stock was generally neglected but not torn down to establish "modern" buildings. Instead - these were erected on a massive scale out in the open countryside (if still inside city limits). As sociological studies in the GDR proved, new residents were very happy when they moved in, but became critical over time. The Plattenbau did serve all housing related functions but lacked genuinely urban spaces.

Immediately after the wall came down, prophets from the West stigmatized the areas as future slums. This did not happen - yet. The big housing projects at the Eastern periphery suffer from all the problems related to unemployed but present still an accepted and relatively affordable housing option.

During our field trip we will visit various types of Plattenbauten and talk with a range of actors.

## Migration and Urban Development

by Miriam Frische & Britta Grell & Erwin Riedmann

**A**fter World War II Berlin was effectively ethnically cleansed through the genocide committed by the Nazis. The nationalist consensus was broken "from above" not until the 1960s, when employers called for low-skilled and cheap labor. "Guest workers" came to West Berlin at first from Greece and Italy, later from Yugoslavia and in particular from Turkey. "Contract workers" in a larger scale from Vietnam, Angola and Mozambique were hired in East Berlin not before the 1980s. In both cities foreigners lived in highly segregated areas - in West Berlin in inner-city poverty neighbourhoods, in East Berlin in shelters. In the late 1980s and in particular after the Berlin wall came down and the "iron curtain" between the two blocs was lifted, it became obvious that the wealth differential and geographical vicinity of Germany and the bordering eastern European countries would trigger new migration

movements especially from Poland and Russia.

Today the old and the new migrants living in the city face discrimination on the labor market (double rate of unemployment; ethnicization of the informal sector and the low wage economy) and on the housing market (higher average rents; partly involuntary segregation). To this adds the terror of young Nazis preventing migrants from moving to East Berlin or the Berlin environs and thereby molding the socio-spatial structure of the city. While the urban elites do call for high-skilled migrants, it were the others who have been coming.

During the field trip that will take us to Kreuzberg we will deal with old and new forms of migration to Berlin and with the structural and institutional discrimination migrants are facing today.

# De-/Reindustrialization in the Inner-City

by Ingo Bader & Albert Scharenberg

The starting point of this field trip is the process of deindustrialization and its expression in the cityscape of Berlin. In academic debate this process is traced back to the “crisis of fordism” and initial problems of postfordist accumulation, but it does not sufficiently explain the de-industrialization of Berlin. Crucial for understanding the transformation of Berlin is the general political condition. Both parts of the formerly divided city had to deal with rapid transformation processes, especially after the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989. This ended the special role of both, West-Berlin (subsidized outsourcing) and the “Capital of the GDR” – here especially the privatization of the state-owned industry by the Treuhand.



Skeleton of the Narva building

There are, however, several redevelopment attempts mainly to reindustrialize the abandoned former industrial areas. The urban imagination of the city government was to develop Berlin into a hub for the east-west trade, an international service node and even a “global city”. These ideas failed to be realized in the 1990s. Moreover, the recent replacement of local government by a post-communist and social-democratic coalition has altered economic policy only a little.

Despite the failure of ambitious concepts, on a lower level, there are some vantage points for reconstructing the city’s economy, especially in the cultural economy but also in other industrial sectors.

Another process is also important for the urban development in the 1990s. The abandoned industri-

al sites were re-used by activists, mostly members of the cultural underground. On the one hand Berlin’s semi-legal club culture was a pioneer for reindustrialization by the cultural economy – for example, the development project “Media Spree” where Universal and MTV are situated, was an area with many sub-cultural clubs in the 1990s. But on the other hand this kind of culture projects, like the “Fuck Parade” from the Berlin hardcore-techno scene, are part of the resistance against a neoliberal city concept. The fuck parade sees itself as a demonstration against the sell-out of techno by the “Love Parade” and the repression against Berlin’s subculture.

“Oberbaum-City” and “Media Spree”, the industrial area between Spree and the railway area in the district Friedrichshain, will be shown as an example for de- and reindustrialization. Until the end of the GDR, the light bulb factory NARVA and GDR’s Reichsbahn (railway company) were located here among others. Redevelopment for this area has worked only selectively: Today, there are firms of the crisis-ridden „new economy“ (the IT-company Pixelpark, call centers, fashion and design companies) and the cultural economy (Universal Music, MTV) but also alternative cultural projects like RAW-Tempel and techno clubs in this area. Lately, a huge development project with an entertainment hall for around 15.000 people is being build, completing the destruction of the subculture situated there.

The main topics of this field trip will be:

- “Electropolis” Berlin
- re-unification and deindustrialization
- the rise and fall of the “new economy”
- economic restructuring and space
- global media industry (MTV, Universal)
- Temporary spaces: subculture and counterculture (Techno, House, Punk etc.)
- Urban planning from below

We will meet members of the former GDR-opposition, trade unionists, members of subcultural projects, call-center-agents and city planners.

# Right-Wing Extremism

by Suse Lang & Axel Dorloff

**B**erlin, as the former “Reichshauptstadt”, has a special ideological meaning for both varieties of German right-wing extremism, for the parties from the organized spectrum (NPD, Republikaner) as well as for subcultural groups (nazi-skinheads, comrade-associations). The right-wing extremism scene in Berlin has changed significantly since the fall of the Berlin wall. In 1989/90, both varieties of right-wing extremism got together: the organized one from the West met the subcultural one from the East. Parties and organizations such as NPD, Republikaner, or FAP moved their headquarters from West Germany to Berlin in order to strategically build up a scene that is oriented toward party politics. The current situation is characterized by an unchanged (and unchallenged?) high potential of right-wing extremist attitudes with a simultaneous stagnation of the institutional spectrum of right-wing extremism. Meanwhile, the subcultural spectrum remains vital and active, the assaults on people motivated by right-wing extremism are increasing. At the same time, the high profile in the public sphere through demonstrations and manifestations plays a

major role in the strategy of right-wing extremists in Berlin.

The tour will start with a visit to a museum in order to provide historical context and an adequate framework. There is no museum that deals solely with contemporary right-wing extremism, but there are several places in Berlin that focus on the topic of fascism and World War II. Along this line, we argue that one has to analyse right-wing extremism of the 21st century in a political continuity to fascism of the 20th century, and that it can not be explained in terms of a violent subculture nor is it part of an urban youth phenomenon. The museum visit will be followed by two discussion rounds: The first one will attempt to analyse the state of the art of right-wing extremism in Berlin, taking into account the different developments in East and West. In the second discussion various counter strategies will be presented and discussed: the engagement of youth- and community based initiatives as well as statef(o)unded (quasi) civil society groups. In both discussion rounds we intend to present diverse approaches, radical and reformist, in order to point out the wide range in which this topic is embedded.



NPD demonstration



Model of the “Germania Halle”  
part of Albert Speer’s concept of the “Reichshauptstadt”

# Housing-Projects:

## Wagenburgen as an Alternative Way of Life

by Renate Berg & Andrea Plöger

In its literal translation, the term Wagenburgen refers to the wagon barricades erected by the pioneers when they came under attack in the Wild West. In its modern use it could mean anything from trailer park to carriage stronghold or portacabin site.

There are about a 100 Wagenburgen in Germany, Berlin has eleven sites. Very few of those Berlin Wagenburgen are legalized and have a lease on a piece of land. Most are merely 'tolerated', i.e. they occupy an area in town and are allowed to stay if there are no other plans for that area. Most of the sites consist of groups from eight to 30 people. They see themselves as an alternative housing project, not as a kind of self-help project to combat homelessness.

Even after several years on the same site, Wagenburgen typically retain their provisional and transitory character. The more uncertain their situation, the more pronounced this character is. It can be seen in the social structure of the group as well as in its spatial structure.

The main attraction offered by this lifestyle lies in the opportunity to live in a freely constituted community, live ecologically, pay no or little rent, and have the mobility inherent in a wagon. This mobility has become more and more popular. There is a trend towards self-propelled vehicles, which is partly due to the uncertain situation (eg. threat of eviction), partly influenced by the demands of the education and job market, and partly down to a basic need for independence. However, this mobility only works if there are enough sites where wagons can find a temporary home.

German law offers several ways of rendering the 'mobile home lifestyle' illegal. Thus spoilt for choice, local authorities often passed the buck of responsibility back and forth and ended up doing nothing. On the other hand, however, their effort to create an investor-friendly environment in the 'Enterprise Berlin' scenario all but eradicated the tolerance towards sub-cultures so prevalent in the 1980s. Since then, groups which are either not able to fit in with this new plan (the homeless and the poor) or not willing (Wagon dwellers, squatters) have been identified as public enemies and become both socially and geographically marginalized. This political line was followed between 1993 and 2000 and resulted in seven evictions, some of which involved an enormous amount of police force. The Wagenburgen resorted to demonstrations, press releases, promotions, involved universities and held talks with politicians and investors and managed



Wagenburg "Schwarzer Kanal"

Foto: Knut Hildebrandt

to shake off their labelling as useless homeless or antisocial criminal elements. Over the last two years one Wagenburg (post-eviction and after several months without a site) was able to find a permanent place and another two were allowed to occupy an alternative site, albeit short term. Elsewhere, however, things are different. In Hamburg, for example, a Wagenburg (Bambule) eviction at beginning of Nov. 2002 involved a high level of police brutality, followed by weeks of protest and repression.

During the INURA conference people will have the opportunity to visit one or several Wagenburgen and find out first hand about the lifestyle and situation on site.

# Castle Trebnitz

The accommodation during the retreat is located in the castle of Trebnitz. The INURA Conference will be the only group in the castle, so we can haunt around and do what we like to do.

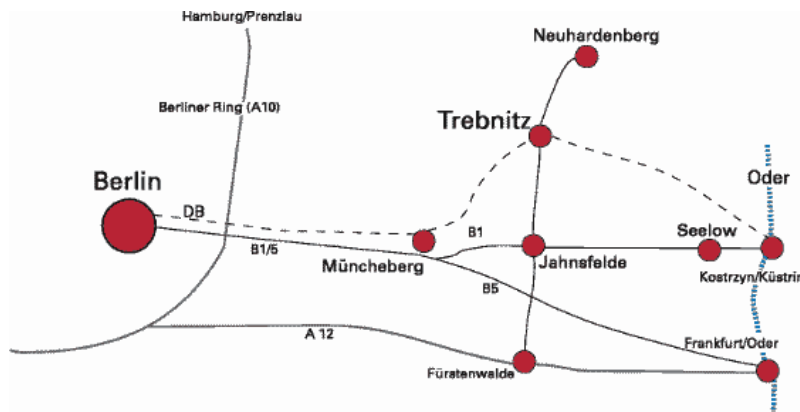
The castle lodges conference rooms and dormitories as follows: We can use 4 smaller conference rooms (~ 40-60 qm), one large conference hall (80 qm), a smaller and a bigger theater-loft in the attic. The Castle provides a little video-room and a photo-laboratory as well.

We will have six bedrooms with two beds, twelve bedrooms with three beds and four bedrooms with four beds. The beds are comfortable, every bedroom has its own shower. You won't need a sleeping-bag.

Outside we can enjoy the garden with a pond and the adjacent forest. For further activities a soccer ground (!) and a lake (!! ) are located very close to our accommodation! The retreat-team suggests to visit the village pub also.

So - How to get there?

For those who plan to come just to the retreat hereis a small map of its location



Trebnitz has a train-station you can reach every two hours by a regional train from Berlin-Lichtenberg station (destination Küstrin/Kostrzyn).

For further information about the castle and Trebnitz see [www.schloss-trebnitz.de](http://www.schloss-trebnitz.de)



accomodation :: chateau trebnitz

# Welcome to the retreat!

# The Retreat

**A**fter the eventful and informative days in Berlin, we will retreat to Trebnitz, a small village in the countryside between Berlin and the German and Polish border. We will stay at the conference-center Schloss Trebnitz which should offer the usual relaxed atmosphere for the INURA-Retreat.

As at the last conferences the retreat consists of workshops, presentations, a discussion of what we have seen in Berlin, plenaries and the INURA-Ceremonies embedded in a program with free time for informal discussions, spontaneous activities or just to relax. For those people who would like to discover the region around Trebnitz, we have also prepared different field-trips, for example to Kostrzyn the next Polish town.



presentation



workshop



Schloss Trebnitz

According to the large number of expected participants, most of the discussions will take place in parallel groups. The presentations are small inputs where you can present your experiences or work. A presentation should not be longer than 15 minutes plus a short discussion. There is enough room for longer discussions in the workshops. In addition we plan to organize a small exhibition, which shall provide a forum to simplify the exchange of experiences, show the discussions of the different workshops and stimulate discussions in general. Here your abstracts of presentations, handouts for the workshops or summaries of the workshops and other papers can be presented. The exhibition should be understood as a constantly changing platform, which lives by what you add to it.

To everybody who wants to give a presentation, offer or propose a workshop:

Please inform the retreat-group as early as possible and send us your abstracts/handouts to [inura-retreat@web.de](mailto:inura-retreat@web.de). The deadline to announce presentations is **May 21!** Please let us know, which (technical) equipment you need. If you have any questions, feel free to write us to the above e-mail-address. (Thanks)

We are looking forward to see you in Berlin and in Trebnitz!

Maik Lindemann, Dirk Lohaus, Denise Notter

accomodation :: chateau trebnitz  
**Welcome to Trebnitz!**

**Youth against Fascism and Racism**

**O**n Thursday, 26th of June 2003 we want to suggest a visit to a self-run and self-organized youth centre in Strausberg as an additional offer.

Strausberg is a midsize city nearby (about 15 km) that is situated right outside of Berlin. The project we are visiting is called "Horte" and is one of the largest formerly squatted left youth centres in the state of Brandenburg existing since 1995. The centre houses a lot of projects and initiatives, starting from music projects, a self run library, office spaces, living spaces, a café and a meeting room, workstations, a carpentry, a photo and video laboratory, metal and clay, as well as a small concert hall.

"Horte" is run by young activists (18-24 years) that are fighting against Neonazis as well as against

administrations of bankrupt cities. They are confronted with a very conservative population and an economic difficult situations that is marked by an unemployment rate of up to 30 percent.

Nevertheless, these young activists manage to find political and personal perspectives within that framework.

The visit will include a dinner and a tour through the project, followed by a discussion with the activists from Strausberg as well as from other towns in Brandenburg. They will talk about their

activities and lives in Brandenburg's cities, their political strategies and realities.

## **EU-Border Town: Küstrin (D)/Kostrzyn (PL)**

by Karin Baumert, Volker Eick & Britta Grell

**B**esondere europäische Grenzen –  
Bijzondere Europese grenzen – Special  
European borders – Les frontières européennes  
speciales – Fronteras europeas especiales –  
Granice europejskie specjalne

Küstrin/Kostrzyn (about 17.000 inhabitants at the Polish and about 3.000 at the German side) is about 30 kilometres from Trebnitz away, and the next border crossing-point that we can easily reach by train. Not a real beauty and not the most exciting place in the world, it is still worth visiting because of its history as a military location and today's role as a typical small border town between the rich (old) and the poor (new) Europe.

If you want to come along or if you have other plans to visit Poland, please do not forget to bring your passport !! (Only German citizens are allowed to cross the border with an identity card. For non-EU-citizens there might be even visa requirements. We will soon inform you about the details.)

Küstrin/Kostrzyn, located at the rivers Oder and Warthe, once upon a time used to be a prosperous German garrison town with a castle and a military fortress (one of the biggest in Brandenburg in the 17th century). In the 18th century it developed as an important traffic junction, at the end of the 19th century it became a regional industrial centre, during the Nazi-regime it was again home of important military buildings and the so called "Deutschlandsiedlung", until the town was almost completely destroyed



German-Polish border

(about 90 percent of all buildings) during World War II. After the war and the drawing of the new border between Poland and the German Democratic Republic\* the divided town and its surroundings were declared a prohibited zone. Russian troops moved into the left over barracks in Küstrin-Altstadt and stayed there until 1991. Until 1954 railway workers were the only civilians allowed to live there.

Since 1992 Küstrin/Kostrzyn is again a traffic junction between Poland and Germany with its newly opened border crossing-points for trains, cars and pedestrians. Unemployment in Kostrzyn is relatively low with 10,3 % compared to 18,9% in the rest of the Wojewodschaft (the Polish word for county), while the social and cultural infrastructure is hardly developed. The town belongs to the so called Special Economic Zone Kostrzyn-Slubice, that is trying to attract foreign investors and businesses with low taxes and other facilities. Today the largest employer is a Swedish owned paper factory, while a large part of the population and people from all over

Eastern Europe are trying to make a living by selling cheap cigarettes, textiles, household items and local products like sausages and handicrafts to mainly German tourists in a big border bazaar. Another economic factor are bars, big supermarkets and a thriving sex industry, a very common phenomenon in all German-Polish border towns.

*\* According to the Potsdam Conference all former German regions east of the rivers Oder and Neisse became part of Poland.*



Border checkpoint Kostrzyn

## Seelow Heights: Second World War's Decisive Battle Ground

by Volker Eick & Suse Lang

**T**he Seelow Heights Memorial and Museum, together with the still visible traces of the battlefield and German and Soviet war graves, are the rare evidence of the hard fighting in the final phases of World War II on German soil.

Over 33.000 Soviet, 12.000 German, and 5.000 Polish soldiers died in the battle between January 31 and April 18, 1945.

The Seelower Hights Memorial and Museum sees its purpose as keeping alive the memory of the suffering endured by both soldiers and civilians during the final stages of World War II, and, from this inheritance, providing a meeting point between Germans and their Eastern neighbours both for the present and the future."

This is the official text in an English booklet publis-

hed by the museum; more details you will find with us, and at:

[www.kultur-in-mol.de/gedenkstaette/index.html](http://www.kultur-in-mol.de/gedenkstaette/index.html) (German only).



"Seelow Hights" Memorial

1. Day Sunday, 22/06/03 Berlin	2. Day Monday, 23/06/03 Berlin	3. Day Tuesday, 24/06/03 Berlin
	8.30 am Breakfast, meeting at hostel	8.30 am Breakfast
	9.30 am - 1.00 pm Boat trip including lunch presentation II: Werner Sewing	10.00 am - 4.00 pm Fieldtrips including lunch and coffee breakes. Meeting point will be at the hostel
4.00 pm Check-in at hostel  6.00 pm Welcome and introduction at hostel	2.00 - 4.00 pm Trip I: "Prenzlauer Berg" Trip II: "Spandauer Vorstadt" Trip III: "Potsdamer Platz"  Dinner organized by working group (to be paid on your own)	Fieldtrip I: "Social(ist) Housing and Migrants"  Fieldtrip II: "Migration and Urban Development"  Fieldtrip III: "De-/Reindustrialization"
6.30 pm Dinner	6.30 pm Dinner in groups	6.00 pm Dinner
8.00 pm Presentation I: Stefan Krätke	8.00 pm Presentation III: Simone Hain (slide show)	8.00 pm Public discussion: "Urban Movements between Neoliberalism and Governance What are the Respon- ses of Progressive Local Initiatives to the Challenges of Competitive City- Systems and Globalization?"

<b>4. Day</b> <b>Wednesday, 25/06/03</b> Berlin/Trebnitz	<b>5. Day</b> <b>Thursday, 26/06/03</b> Trebnitz	<b>6. Day</b> <b>Friday, 27/06/03</b> Trebnitz	<b>7. Day</b> <b>Saturday, 28/06/03</b> Trebnitz
8.30 am Breakfast	8.30 am Breakfast	10.00 am Breakfast	9.00 am Breakfast
10.00 am Meeting at the hostel (collecting your luggage)	10.00 am - 1.00 pm Discussion about Berlin in plenary session	11.00 am- 1.00 pm Workshops	10.00 am - 1.00 pm Workshops
Fieldtrip IV: "Right-Wing Extremism"	1.00 - 3.00 pm Lunch break	1.00 - 2.30 pm Lunch break	1.00 - 3.00 pm Lunch break
Fieldtrip V: "Housing-Projects: Wagenburgen as an Alternative Way of Life"	3.00 - 6.00 pm Presentations in in parallel groups  (including Coffee break)	2.30 -7.30 pm  Fieldtrip VII: Küstrin/ Kostrzyn, Poland	3.00 - 4.00 pm Annual meeting  Coffee break
Fieldtrip VI: still open			
4.35 pm Train to Trebnitz (Station: Lichtenberg)		Fieldtrip VIII: Seelow Hights	4.30 - 7.00 pm Final plenary session including planning of the next conference
5.30 pm Arrival at Trebnitz			
7.30 pm Dinner	7.30 pm Dinner at castle and/or Strausberg	7.30 pm Dinner or barbecue	7.30 pm Dinner & good bye
9.00 pm Welcome and introduction to the program  10.00 pm Film, drinks and fun	9.00 pm Visit: Strausberg, youth center	Free time	Party  The conference will end on Sunday, June 29, 2003, after breakfast

## INURA Annual General Meeting 2003

### Agenda:

Reports from

- INURA Offices

- INURA Common Office

Annual Account, Budget

Future Activities and Projects

INURA Conference 2004

Everybody is invited to contribute and to add items to the list

Philipp Klaus and Richard Wolff

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### INURA MEMBERSHIP

If you agree with the INURA principles you are very welcome to join INURA, exchange experiences, having contacts throughout the world with people involved in urban research and action, get twice a year the INURA bulletin, be on an e-mail listserve and of course attend the annual INURA meeting.

Membership fees in Swiss Francs :

Individuals 50.- (currently about 30 USD, 33 EURO)

Institutions 200.- (currently about 120 USD, 132 EURO)

Reduced fee\* 30.- (currently about 18 USD, 20 EURO)

Donations welcome

\* Students, people with low-income or with non-convertible currency.

Free membership upon request.

Please choose one of the following modes of payment:

\* Bank to bank payment:

To the order of: 1100-0643.833 INURA, Hardturmstr. 261, CH-8005

Zurich, Zürcher Kantonalbank, CH 8010 Zürich

\* Post to post payment:

Postcheck account: 87-313706-0, INURA, Hardturmstr. 261, CH-8005

Zürich, Switzerland.

NOTE: Please do not send personal checks!

They are charged with a sFr. 10.- commission!

# General Meeting

# INURA at the AAG-Meeting in New Orleans

A panel on "Berlin revisited", organized by Ute Lehrer and sponsored by INURA, took place at the American Association of Geographers, in New Orleans, March 4-8, 2003.

Participants were Ute Lehrer (Toronto/Buffalo), Geraldine Gardner (Los Angeles), Jens Sambale (Berlin) and Volker Eick (Berlin). This panel discussed Berlin's transformation since the fall of the Wall in 1989. While Berlin's transformation might be read as a unique case in terms of political, economic and social restructuring, a closer look brings to the foreground dynamics that are inherent in many of today's cities. The panelists focused on the remake of Berlin's spatial articulation as well as the redefinition of its social policies under the framework of neo-liberalization and privatization. The aim was to examine critically the difference between the expectations articulated by politicians, citizens and investors in the early days of a reunified city and the current realities. The four panelists brought to the table the following points for discussion: After introducing the panelists and trying to tie current world events to the specific topic, Ute Lehrer looked at the spatial transformation of the city and in particular Potsdamer Platz. She argued that Berlin is a paradigmatic city for the use of the built environment. What one had seen during the past decade is also a commodification of the building process, accompanied by what

she calls a spectacularization of the building process. She concluded that what is taking place in Berlin, however, also happens at other places.

Geraldine Gardner argued that Berlin's dominant development discourse appropriates cultural images to help galvanize a development agenda that promotes the growth of culture and innovation industries. Her contribution critically examined the type of cultural images used in the promotion campaigns created by the city's marketing company Partner für Berlin, a public-private partnership founded in 1994. Jens Sambale and Volker Eick discussed findings of their research project about nonprofits in reshaping local social and labour market policies in Berlin and Los Angeles. While Jens Sambale presented recent economic trends in Berlin and their possible policy implications, Volker Eick discussed the new role that emerged for nonprofits in the field of domestic security. Former unemployed and welfare recipients are forced through workfare programs to work as security guards against homeless, poor and 'drop outs' both in inner city areas of high consumption as well as in residential areas that are seen as/ are said to be 'problematic'. Due to fiscal restraints as well as in order to organize a governance model of self-regulation the poor are forced to police the poor. The discussion focussed on Berlin in general and revealed that little is known about non-anglo-saxon cities in the US. We will keep on trying to change this.



Hotel in New Orleans

## Cities, Urbanity and Urban Interventions

**C**ity Mine(d), Bureau de Micro-Urbanism and a consortium of university departments (School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford - COSMOPOLIS, City, Culture & Society, Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Centre de Recherche Urbaine, Université Libre de Bruxelles) took initiative to organize the BruXel Glocal conference on "Cities, Urbanity and Urban Interventions" in Brussels.

The conference had three goals in the outset.

The first goal was to foster a culture of open debate with all stakeholders on the social, cultural, economic and architectural fabric of Brussels. The wide range of national and international speakers (31 different interventions) and the high profile venue Palais de Beaux Arts (Centre for Fine Arts) helped to attract an audience of over 300 persons from different backgrounds and sectors in Brussels, as well as individuals active in other cities of Belgium and well beyond (France, Netherlands, Spain, Italy and United Kingdom). Nevertheless, we observed the absence of several crucial governmental bodies in Brussels.

The second goal of the conference was to assess critically innovative and/or experimental methods for urban interventions used in the field. The idea of the conference was inspired by the observation that in Brussels (and other cities) something innovative in urban development is brewing. We define it as Urban Interventions that target strategically a micro geographic scale - such as a square, a group of houses - to have a positive impact on the development at another, often larger, scale. They aim to create a third space between different groups in friction and to transform the dominant or hegemonic urban regime. The morning session of the conference with interventions by Erik Swyngedouw, University of Oxford (The Politics of Scale of GLOCAL Urban Interventions), Patsy Healey, University of

Newcastle (Creativity, Governance and the Public Sphere) and Michael Keith, Goldsmiths University of London (Le Droit à la Ville and the Transnational Urban) scrutinized profoundly the three components - glocal, third space and urban regime change - of our definition of glocal urban interventions. Also, the intervention of Tristan Wibault (artist) illustrated concretely in the field the definition of urban intervention with the case of the Universal Embassy.

The third aim of this conference was to evaluate critically the feasibility and desirability to form glocal coalitions in Brussels. Josep Acebillo, Chief Architect of the City of Barcelona, made the tensions in the conference tangible when he explained the case of Barcelona and the formation of glocal coalitions for acupuncture interventions as a formal policy instrument. In Brussels the formation of glocal coalition generally seen as a tool for urban movements and activists. Subsequently in the conference, unique testimonies from Brussels (such as LimiteLimite, Euclides, Le Gazon / Radio BOEPS, Souterrain Production) as cases in other cities (such as Crimson, Exodus Collective, Centro Popolare Autogestito in Firenze, The Centro Sociale Leoncavallo) highlighted time after time the potentiality to empower citizens by means of glocal interventions and the fundamental differences between glocal coalition formation as a formal policy of a government, or as a tool for social innovation of urban movements.

The last part of the conference was an open debate between different key actors from different sectors in Brussels. The debate and the conference overall highlighted the need for debate and "glocal" effort to reclaim the social, cultural and physical fabric of the city. Will be continued!

A report with all presentations in MP3-format will soon be available at

[www.citymined.org](http://www.citymined.org)

Interventions by:

Erik Swyngedouw, University of Oxford  
 Matthieu Voets, Administratie Welzijn en Gezondheid Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie (Het Stedenfonds)  
 Patsy Healey, University of Newcastle  
 Tristan Wibault, arti(e)st (Universal Embassy)  
 Michael Keith, Goldsmiths University of London, Centre of Urban and Community Research  
 Josep Acebillo, Chief Architect of the City of Barcelona  
 François Thiry, Chief-Editor, A+ Magazine  
 Lieven De Cauter, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven  
 Pieter Uyttenhove, Universiteit van Gent  
 Mark Saunders, Spectacle - Glenn Jenkins, Exodus Collectif  
 Steven Degraeve, Centrum Voor Sociale Stadsontwikkeling, LimiteLimite  
 Jim Segers, City Mine(d) - London, City Mine(d)  
 Dema, Souterrain Production  
 José Menéndez, Euclides  
 Eric Corijn, COSMOPOLIS Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
 Wouter Vanstiphout, Crimson, Rotterdam (Welcome Into My Backyard)  
 Bruno De Meulder, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (De Kunstberg)  
 Nicolas, Gazon / Radio Boups  
 David Jamar, Centre de Recherche Urbaine, Université Libre de Bruxelles  
 Andrea Membretti, Università di Pavia (The Centro Sociale Leoncavallo)  
 Lorenzo Tripodi, University of Florence  
 Gwenaël Breës, Cinema Nova  
 Frédéric Jacquemin, Fondation Marcel Hicter  
 Paul Dujardin, Paleis voor Schone Kunsten -Palais des Beaux-Arts  
 Stefan Decorte, COSMOPOLIS, City, Culture & Society, Vrije Universiteit Brussel;  
 An Van Damme, Jeugd en Stad  
 Chille Deman, Coordinator Brusselse Federatie van Huurdersverenigingen

## Sponsors

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"Helle Panke" was founded in 1991 under the legal form of a membership corporation with acknowledged nonprofit status. The nonprofit offers political education, lectures and talks by and with authors of non-fiction (especially socialscience) and fiction literature. All events are open to the public; the attendance of non-members is explicitly desired.

- Critical and scientifically sound debates concerning important periods in the FRG's history and the relationship(s) between the two German states
- Problems of the German unification process

- Philosophical theories and models in history and contemporary times
- Critical inquiries into the theoretical models of Marx, Engels, Lenin and other labor movement theorists in Germany and abroad
- Discussing the basics of economic development in industrialized countries, especially Germany
- Issues concerning the development of Berlin
- Presenting new publications and interesting publishers
- "Meet the author" and other cultural events
- Panel discussion dealing with current affairs

The nonprofit organization "Helle Panke e.V" is a collaborating partner of the Rosa-Luxemburg Foundation Berlin and a member of the PDS-related council of state foundations for the creation of political awareness.

For a complete list of sponsors see [www.inura-berlin.de](http://www.inura-berlin.de) and first page

# INURA Registration Form

Just fill in the desired information and send by fax to ++ 49 (30) 838 - 526 42.

Registration is only valid after we received your payment. Hurry up - demand is growing, space is limited.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
URL: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone & Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks so far.

Now, which part of INURA's Annual Meeting in Berlin are you going to enjoy?

- I want the whole deal for 260 EUR  
 I am on a budget and would like to do the whole conference plus retreat for 199,99 EUR  
 I do not need housing in Berlin and only stay for the conference  
 I do not need housing in Berlin but will stay for the retreat

We are family, my partner's/husband's/wife's name is \_\_\_\_\_  
our kids listen (if they do) to these names \_\_\_\_\_  
As family we pray together and pay together. Kids are free of charge. No childcare is provided!

- I will send the money to the following account until May 15th

Bank: Bank für Sozialwirtschaft GmbH  
Bank Identification Code: 100 205 00  
Account number: 3323400  
Account Holder: DJB e.V.  
Reason for Payment: INURA

- I am always late, will pay only after May 15th and charge myself a 10% fee accordingly  
 I am from outside the EU and since financial institutions will charge me to death for international money orders, I am allowed to pay onsite.

# Welcome to INURA