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CITIES AFTER TRANSITION NETWORK

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Call for papers:

**2nd INTERNATIONAL URBAN GEOGRAPHIES OF
POST-COMMUNIST STATES WORKSHOP
'SIMILARITY AND DIFFERENCE
IN POST-COMMUNIST URBAN CHANGE'**

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS: 8 OCTOBER 2007

Dear colleagues!

Please allow me to introduce and invite you to the **2nd International Urban Geographies of Post-Communist States workshop**, to be held in Stockholm, Tallinn, and on the Baltic Sea, on 7-10 December 2007. The theme of the workshop, 'Similarity and Difference in Post-communist Urban Change', emphasises the diversity of the urban experiences of the Eastern and East Central European cities while recognizing the continued importance of their more or less shared experience of state socialism, central planning, and general transition towards a democratic society with a market economy. With this in mind, the workshop welcomes a wide array of empirical and theoretical contributions on geographical issues relating to the 'post-communist' city.

The workshop is a follow-up of the very successful Urban Geographies of Post-Communist states stream of sessions at the Inaugural Nordic Geographers' meeting in Lund, Sweden, 10-15 May 2005, which resulted in the publication of a special issue of *Geografiska Annaler B: Human Geography*, no. 2/2007 ('Metropolitan processes in post-communist states'). The objective is to provide a well-focused meeting place for urban geographers with a special interest in the countries of post-socialist East Central Europe (including the Balkans) and the Former Soviet Union. The workshop will allow more time for the presentation and discussion of individual **papers** (probably about 30 minutes, of which 20 for the presentation and 10 for the discussion) and for the development of future research cooperation.

Examples of topics which fit the profile of the workshop:

- 'Pre-communist' and 'communist' urban (historical) geographies
- Socio-spatial differentiation in the post-communist city (including residential segregation, gentrification)
- Inner city regeneration/revitalisation, reurbanisation
- Suburbanisation (residential, commercial, industrial)
- Ethnic urban geographies
- Geographies of industrial restructuring
- Urban geographies of Foreign Direct Investment
- Urban governance issues
- Urbanisation processes
- Small and medium-sized cities
- Commuting and other forms of daily mobility in the city-region
- Demographic change in the post-communist city
- Planning
- 'Semiotic' geographies of the post-communist city
- Environmental problems in the post-communist city

Please send a completed application form, including an abstract of no more than 200 words, to the following e-mail address by the **8 October**: catworkshop@gmail.com. The full papers (no more than about 8,000 words) should be delivered to the same e-mail address no later than the **1 December** so that they can be forwarded to the discussants.

Please notice that the number of participants in this workshop **will be limited to about 40 persons**.

For additional inquiries concerning the workshop, please contact Michael Gentile by e-mail (catworkshop@gmail.com) or phone (+46-8-7369264 [office] or +46-73-7135055 [cell])

Cost of participation

The **estimated** cost for participation is 1800 SEK (approximately € 200). This includes participation at the workshop, return trip Stockholm-Tallinn-Stockholm by ferry sharing a B4 cabin for two nights (shower and toilet in cabin, four persons per cabin¹), two breakfasts on the ferry, one buffet dinner on the ferry, and one three-course dinner on the ferry. Please note that the exact cost of the workshop has not yet been fixed exactly.

Funding plan

Thus far, no external funding is available for the workshop. However, an application for partial funding from the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Fund is planned. If successful, the participants from universities located in the countries of East Central Europe and the Former Soviet Union² will obtain partial or full reimbursement for the estimated basic participation fee of 1800 SEK. Unfortunately, the verdict won't be known until November-December at the earliest.

Acceptance

In case the number of requests for participation exceeds the maximum number of places (about 40 persons), a selection will have to be made based on the submitted abstract.

You will be notified about acceptance no later than the **13 October**.

¹ Should you wish to be in a cabin for two people, the cost will be about 2400 SEK (approximately € 260), while staying in a 'single' cabin will cost you about 3000 SEK (approximately € 330). It is also possible to 'upgrade' to so-called 'A', de luxe and suite cabins at a much higher price.

² The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan.

Upon acceptance, the fee should be paid to the following bank account belonging to Geographica no later than the **23 October**:

Account holder:	Geographica, Michael Gentile
Bank:	Svenska Handelsbanken
Bank address:	Odengatan 7, Stockholm, SE 10432, Sweden
Clearing number:	6133
Account number:	540 039 632
BIC (SWIFT-address):	HANDSESS
IBAN:	SE636000000000540039632

Please ensure that I will be able to track your payment by writing the name of the person(s) concerned in the 'message to receiver' (or similar) field of the transaction form. Please also confirm payment by sending an e-mail message to catworkshop@gmail.com.

Publication plans

The workshop is expected to have an outcome in the form of one or more quality publications. The Lund conference sessions resulted in a recently published special issue of *Geografiska Annaler B* ('Metropolitan Processes in Post-communist States', June 2007). The objective of our workshop should be to maintain publishing a journal special issue as a minimum standard, but there are also plans for a book project that have yet to be materialised!

How to reach Stockholm

Stockholm is very well connected by air to all major cities in Europe. Ryanair, Wizzair, German Wings, Norwegian and Sterling have cheap – even very cheap – flights from many cities (Berlin, Krakow, Katowice, Prague, Budapest, Bratislava, Lubeck, Frankfurt, London, Gdansk, Poznan, Warsaw, Riga, Kaunas, Paris, Milan, Rome, Liverpool, Nottingham, Eindhoven, Brussels, Amsterdam, Bremen and some more). Many of the 'old' airlines offer good deals as well. Travelling by train is also possible, but generally more expensive and, obviously, quite time-consuming. By car, the drive from Copenhagen to Stockholm takes about 7-8 hours, but you will need to have winter tyres (by law). There are ferry connections from Tallinn, Riga, Klaipeda and Gdansk.

Please notice that participants from non-EU countries might need a visa for entering both Sweden and Estonia. If you need any help in this regard, please contact Michael Gentile (catworkshop@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Where to stay in Stockholm

Stockholm offers a wide array of accommodation for all budgets. The cheapest options are in the hostel category (about € 18-25 per person and night). Hotel Formule1 is a budget motel which charges 350 SEK (about € 38) for a 1-3 person room regardless of the number of guests staying in it. Most medium-comfort hotels cost between 600 (€ 65) and 1000 SEK (€ 110) per night for a double room depending on location and luck. At the top-end, price isn't what matters...More specific suggestions regarding accommodation will come with your notification of acceptance.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME
2nd International Urban Geographies of Post-communist States workshop
Stockholm-Tallinn-Baltic Sea 7-10 December 2007

06 December

From about 7-8 PM: pre-workshop dinner at some restaurant or at Michael's house (depending on number of early arrivals)

07 December

Location: Stockholm School of Economics (to be confirmed), Sveavägen 65, Stockholm (city centre), subway station 'Rådmanngatan' (green line)

9:30 AM: Registration, coffee (Room 343)
10:15 AM: Workshop begins, introduction
10:45 AM: Thematic workshop I (Room 750, 7th floor)
12:00 PM: Lunch
1:15 PM: Thematic workshop II (Room 'Torsten', in the inner court yard)
2:45 PM: Coffee break
3:00 PM: Thematic workshop III (Torsten)
4:30 PM: Coffee break
4:45 PM: Thematic workshop IV (Torsten)
6:15 PM: Sum-up
8:00 PM: Dinner at a restaurant in Stockholm

08 December

9:30 AM: Guided walk in central Stockholm *or* guided excursion to ethno-suburban Stockholm
12:30 PM: Boarding time for ferry to Tallinn
1:00 PM: Thematic workshop V (in conference room on ferry, possible parallel sessions)
2:30 PM: Coffee break
2:45 PM: Thematic workshop VI (in conference room on ferry, possible parallel sessions)
4:15 PM: Coffee break
4:30 PM: Thematic workshop VII (in conference room on ferry, possible parallel sessions)
5:45 PM: Coffee break
6:00 PM: Ferry departure, thematic workshop VIII (in conference room, possible parallel sessions)
7:00 PM: 'Pre-dinner' break
8:00 PM: Dinner (buffet), entertainment on ferry

09 December

(Estonian time +2 GMT)

10 AM: Arrival at Tallinn
10:30 AM: Full-day 'geographical' excursion in Tallinn, with lunch at about 1.30 PM (guide: Dr Tiit Tammaru)
5 PM: Boarding time for ferry to Stockholm
6 PM: Future research cooperation discussion (in conference room on ferry)
8 PM: Three-course dinner, entertainment on ferry

10 December

(Swedish time again)

10 AM: Arrival at Stockholm (workshop over)