

The Heinrich Böll Foundation's Office in Ukraine is pleased to invite you to participate in an international conference:

City – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: Memory in the Urban Space

Time: 19-20 November 2012

Place: Kyiv, Great Conference Hall of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

55 Volodymyrska Street, first floor

The history of each state, civilization, nation and culture is, first and foremost, the history of its respective cities. Being centers of business, culture and social activities, cities have been the material manifestation of their resident's both most creative and destructive potentials. These potentials reach far beyond the spatial organization of social relations. Generation by generation, cities have compellingly absorbed a large number of different inhabitants, of ethnic, national, and religious backgrounds, who participated in the spatial creation of a city at different times, while the city itself represented the collective memory of these groups in society. At the same time, cities do not merely represent a collective memory, instead they rather form it through an intricate system of symbols, such as monuments, historical buildings, commemorative plaques, street names or simply through locations that happened to be the silent witnesses of significant events for a society or certain parts of it.

The forming of a collective historical memory does not always progress smoothly and is often accompanied by painful disputes and conflicts in which one party tries to utilize the system of symbolic representation of memory in order to legitimate a dominant model of the past. Meanwhile, the representation of non-dominant groups, which do not fit into the dominant system, are either physically destroyed or modified to the extent that they are completely deprived of their initial meaning, thus no longer being capable of reproducing the memory of a certain group. Unfortunately, this approach applies mainly to societies that have been influenced by aggressive and authoritarian ideology. On the other hand, democratic, open, and tolerant societies would instantly cease to be democratic and open if the visible presence of non-dominant minorities was not provided in the symbolic space of a city.

The young independent states that emerged after the disintegration of the Soviet Empire faced the necessity to reconsider the old representational paradigm and to create a historical memory within the city space. Unfortunately, this problem is being solved rather unsystematically in Ukraine. Neither at the state level, nor at the municipal level, a sound and convincing strategy or at least a leading idea as to how to pursue a policy of memory in a new situation can be distinguished. Most commonly, local authorities are exploiting the old Soviet symbolic scheme of historic discourse; the only difference is that, paradoxically, a new element of national-liberation rhetoric has been embedded into the structure of a traditional Soviet metanarrative. Everything that lies beyond the boundaries of this official model is being dislodged to the margins and practically deprived of the spatial representation in these cities.

In what way should the urban policy of representation of national and local memory be conceived in order to prevent the monopolization of history by certain authorities? Which discourses about the past influence the forming of an identity of contemporary European and Ukrainian cities? Which role does the process of forgetting (“historical amnesia”) play in the representation of the past in the urban space? Who has the authority to initiate such an “amnesia” and how far can it reach? This is the approximate set of questions that we would like to discuss in the circle of our experts and guests.

Program:

19 November 2012, Monday

17.00 Registration

17.30 – 17.40 Opening Ceremony

Kyryl Savin, Director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation's Office in Ukraine

17.40 – 18.00 **Presentation of the first issue of *Urban studies, Anatomy of a City: Kyiv***

Svitlana Shlipchenko

Anna Khvyl

Andriy Makarenko

Vladyslava Os'mak

18.00 – 20.00 Public Lecture and Discussion

Paul Connerton (?), Professor of the Department of Social Anthropology at Cambridge University, Cambridge

or

Aleida Assmann (?), Professor of Cultural Studies, Konstanz University, Konstanz

Myron Stakhiv, historian, director of the Fulbright academic exchanges programs in Ukraine, Kyiv

Helinada Hrynchenko, Doctor of History, Professor at the Kharkiv National Karazin University, Kharkiv

Host:

Bogdan Shumylovych (?), Master of Modern History, Central European University, Lviv

Buffet and Informal Communication

20 November 2012, Tuesday

International Conference

09.30 Registration

10.00 – 10.10 Opening Ceremony

Kyryl Savin, Director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation's Office in Ukraine

10.10 – 12.00 **Section 1: Cultural and Historical Heritage and Cities: Conservation or Renovation?**

In the contemporary world there is no universal strategy concerning the protection of a collective memory. The decision of what might be the most suitable approach to preserve a city's historic space depends largely on the individual tradition of a specific urban community, on the material and symbolic value of its architecture, its legal traditions and the "social climate" of a society. The question is to what extent different approaches are able to maintain the balance between conservation and development of a city.

- What exactly does the concept of "preservation" mean given the specific context of contemporary cities?
- In what way is the concept of preservation integrated into the city planning policy?
- How has the post-socialist transformation of Eastern European cities influenced the elaboration of a (new) concept of the preservation of local historic heritage?
- Which parts of this experience are relevant to Ukrainian cities, particularly to Kyiv?
- The mechanism of achieving the status of "monument": What exactly constitutes a monument? Is historic authenticity crucial within this process?
- How to provide the development of a city without "museifying" its historic components?

Speakers:

Mykola Bevz (?), Architect, Head of the Department of Restoration and Reconstruction of Architectural Complexes at the Institute of Architecture, National University "Lviv Polytechnic", Lviv

Marina Solovyova, advocate, humanrighter, Kyiv

Florian Urban, Head of Architectural History and Urban Studies at the Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow

Volodymyr Shewchenko, Head of the Creative Architectural Studio "TAM V. Shevchenko", Kyiv

Oleg Hrechukh (?), Architect, Journalist and Activist, Kyiv

Host:

Svitlana Shlipchenko

12.00 – 12.30 Coffee Break

12.30 – 14.30 **Section 2: Monuments and Memorial Sites in the Urban Context:**

Ideological Propaganda, Commercial Hotspot or an Instrument for Nation-building?

If the historic urban space represents a city's past, then monuments could be considered its material bearers. During the Soviet times, both the individual and collective memory, which are equally characterized by heterogeneity and polymorphism, were countered by a specific monumental propaganda, which symbolically legitimized solely the regime and thus eliminated the possibility of a free interpretation of history. Nowadays, the reconsideration of a commemorative policy is being conducted rather inconsistently. On the one hand, small non-ideological elements of urban design create multiple de-ideologized places of individual and collective leisure, which in turn create new loci of urban identity with consumer and commercial components. On the other hand, local communities are obliged to integrate the historic memory within the framework of a still functioning Soviet model. At the same time, an attempt to implant a new national metanarrative through the establishment of a set of new monuments devoted to the most iconic figures (both historical and contemporary) is taking place. These monuments often have nothing to do with the collective memory of a specific place, and their symbolism is not intelligible to the local community.

- In what way should the urban policy of representation of national and local memory be developed in order to prevent the monopolization of history by various authorities?
- Are there any successful examples of such a policy?
- How do national and local narratives correlate in European and Ukrainian cities?
- Which actors should have the authority to influence the creation of a national or collective memory in a city and in which way?
- How do commemorative sites alter the development of a city's public space?
- Is it possible to integrate monuments into the practices of everyday life without losing their function as a monument?

Speakers:

Arnold Bartetzky (?), Cultural Scientist, Historian at the Humanitarian Center of History and Culture of Eastern and Central Europe, Leipzig

Kęstutis Pempė (?), Architect, Vilnius architektūros studija,
Vilnius **Victoria Sereda (?)**, Sociologist, Lviv National University. Franko Lviv

Oksana Mikheeva (?), Historian, Donetsk National University, Donetsk

Host:

Ksenia Dmytrenko, Doctoral Candidate, H. S. Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy of The National Academy of Science of Ukraine

14.30 – 15.30 Lunch

15.30 – 17.00 **Section 3: The Renovation of a City and the Public Reaction: From Protest to a new Culture of Urban Planning?**

The reshaping of urban space due to infrastructural expansion and the reconstruction or demolishing of a part of the urban history is inextricably linked to a certain kind of intervention into the traditional social structure of a city. Therefore the reconstruction of urban spaces normally causes social conflicts, and a solution to this conflict is not conceivable without the participation of all parties involved.

The residents of large German cities actively resisted the “sweeping” high-density development of old residential districts, which once contributed to the emergence of a new culture of urban planning. In contrast to Germany, the civil resistance in big Ukrainian cities, specifically in Kiev, concerns not the city centers (the center of the city is no longer even seen as a residential area), but public spaces which lose their social and cultural functions due to reconstruction or other interventions. The central questions of this section are:

- What are the most striking and positive examples of the civil society’s participation in the reconstruction of public space that exist in Europe?
- Which parts of this experience are applicable to Ukrainian cities?
- Which practices and forms of protest work most effectively in the field of the preservation of the historic and cultural heritage?
- How to build efficient communication channels between investors, architects, representatives of the local authority, and the citizens of a city? Is such communication at all possible/necessary?

Speakers:

Teodor Celakoski (?), Citizens’ Initiative “Pravo na Grad” (“Right in the city”), Zagreb, Croatia

Theodor Winters (?), Managing Director S.T.E.R.N. - Association for Gentle Urban Renewal, Berlin

Mariana Malachivska (?), Head of the Program “Analysis and Research” at the Urban Institute, Lviv

Yulia Filonenko (?), Coordinator of The Public Expert Council on Andrew's Descent, Kyiv

Victor Zotov (?), Senior Architect, Architectural Bureau "Zotov & Co", Kyiv

Host:

Kyryl Savin, Director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation's Office in Ukraine

Buffet and Informal Communication

The working languages of the conference are Ukrainian and English with the simultaneous interpretation