

CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES
at Harvard University
CES BERLIN DIALOGUES

in cooperation with the
* **Center for Metropolitan Studies - Transatlantisches
Graduiertenkolleg ***
Draeger Foundation, Luebeck * Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin *

cordially invite you

April 25, 2005 18.00-20.00

**Post-Conflict Cityscapes:
Berlin, New York, Jerusalem**

Panelists

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Häußermann, Professor of Urban and Regional Sociology, Humboldt University Berlin, and Project Director, 'Geteilte Städte--Planning the Contested City: Policy Analysis and Implications of Reunification in Jerusalem and Berlin.'

Prof. Lawrence Vale, Head and Professor, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge (USA); ed., *The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster* (2005).

Chair and Commentator

Dr. Brian Ladd, Department of History/Dept. of Geography and Planning, State University of New York at Albany; author of *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape* (1997).

Fifteen years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and 60 years since the end of WWII, the shadows of two of the 20th century's most significant geopolitical events linger on in the urban landscape of Berlin. At times suppressed, overanalyzed, reinvented as kitsch, or manipulated to justify contemporary political decisions, the physical and emotional scars of the 20th century are no more visible than in the architecture and urban planning of the German capital.

In this discussion, we would like to examine the urban planning debates of the post-Wall era and the political, ethical, and economic considerations surrounding such discussions. Can the experiences of post-reunification Berlin serve as a model for other cities suffering from post-conflict urban experiences? Have the countless symbolic and pragmatic acts of unification--ranging from the creation of dozens of memorials to the reconfiguration of transport systems--helped Berlin's citizens to overcome the trauma of war and isolation? Or have they helped maintain the status quo by perpetually highlighting the city's--and the nation's--divisive history?

In addition, we would like to expand the scope of the discussion beyond the case of Berlin in order to look at how other cities confront the challenges imposed upon them in the wake of geopolitical conflicts. In New York, a city long accustomed to rapid changes in the urban landscape yet with almost no history of attacks on its civilian population, the experience of September 11, 2001--and the resulting debates surrounding the redesign of Lower Manhattan--have for the first time transferred some of the urban planning dilemmas so familiar in post-war Berlin to the North American continent.

Meanwhile, living in a city that for decades has served as the focal point of the Israeli-

Palestinian conflict, Jerusalem's urban planners are faced with a task not entirely unlike that of their Berlin counterparts during the Cold War. How can architects and planners on the one hand make a divided city as "livable" as possible in spite of an uncomfortable political and security situation, yet simultaneously prepare for an eventual, if at this point very hypothetical, unification?

Our goal in this discussion is to create a dialogue between European and North American perspectives on how to revive politically, economically, and culturally traumatized cities. In examining historical examples of this phenomenon--with particular reference to Berlin--we hope to discuss possible solutions for cities currently struggling with post-conflict urban challenges.

Location
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin,
Reichpietschufer 50, 10785 Berlin

To register for this or other sessions
maychu@fas.harvard.edu

For further information on speakers and chair
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~ces-ber/participants.html>

For further information on the CES Berlin Dialogues
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~ces-ber/>

Berlin Office
Abby Collins * Guido Goldman * Max Hirsh * Karolina May-Chu
Marienstrasse 19/20 * 10117 Berlin * tel: 030/ 28 48 22 40 * fax: 030/ 28 48 22 49