THE URBAN HISTORY GROUP

Annual Conference

RECOVERY AND THE CITY

University of Warwick

30th to 31st March 2023

Programme

Conference Theme

The main theme at this year's is the notion of recovery in the developing scholarship on urban history across all time periods. How, for example, do cities and those who live, work and govern there remember, and recover from, episodes and events that disrupt or reshape the economies, networks, cultures, societies and processes that characterise urban space and life? Wars, environmental disasters, plagues, and economic crises all require cities to adapt and rebuild, but more subtle and more gradual processes of change – both positive and negative – also require strategies of recovery amongst the multiple strata of urban societies. How have groups defined by gender, class, sexuality, occupation or ethnicity adapted, recovered and even flourished in response to historical turning points and wider processes of change? How might we study and understand the ways in which institutions, guilds, families and other layers of civil society reshape themselves over time? Furthermore, how might historians interrogate the notion of recovery, and related concepts such as renaissance and growth, decline and decay, to uncover the inherent assumptions, biases and limitations that lie at the heart of historical periodisation?

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Conference Website and Registration link: https://urbanhistorygroup.wordpress.com/

Urban History Group Annual Conference

RECOVERY AND THE CITY

Conference Programme Résumé

THURSDAY 30TH MARCH

11.00-14.00 Registration

14.00-15.30 **Session 1: Plenary Session**

Did the Black Death or Successive Plagues of the Second Pandemic Reshape Cities?

15.30-16.00 Tea

16.00-17.30 **Session 2: Parallel Sessions**

- *2.1 Urban Recovery in Early Modern Europe*
- *2.2 Built Heritage, Place and Public Engagement in Twenty-first-century Britain*
- *2.3 Urban Morphology and Design in Twentieth-Century Cities*
- *2.4 Responses to War in Europe 1914-1945*

17.45-19.15 **Session 3: New Researchers' and First-Year PhD Workshops**

- *3.1 War, Disease and Social Survival since 1850*
- *3.2 Consumerism, Performance and Festive Cities since the Early Modern*
- *3.3 Accepting and Confronting Post-war Consumer Spaces*

19.30- 20.30 Conference Dinner

FRIDAY 31ST MARCH

9.00 – 10.30 **Session 4: Parallel Sessions**

4.1/5.1 (Double Session) Disaster and Management of Water in the Modern European City, 1800-2000, pt.1

4.2 Constant Recovery or Measured 'Success'? The evolution of the new towns in Scotland over the long term

4.3 Recovery after or under the Mongols: Cities in Central Europe and the Golden Horde

10.30 – 10.45 Coffee

10.45 – 12.15 **Session 5: Parallel Sessions**

4.1/5.1 (Double Session) Disaster and Management of Water in the Modern European City, 1800-2000, pt.2

5.2 Recovering Black urban histories

5.3 The Second World War and Post-war Reconstruction

12.15 – 13.15 **Session 6: Final Plenary Session**

13.15-14.00 Lunch (for those who have booked it)

14.00 Conference ends

Urban History Group Annual Conference Programme

RECOVERY AND THE CITY

THURSDAY 30TH MARCH *(ROOM)*

11.00-14.00 Registration

14.00-15.30 Session 1: Plenary *(Ramphal Lecture Theatre)*

Did the Black Death or Successive Plagues of the Second Pandemic Reshape Cities?
Samuel Cohn (University of Glasgow)

15.30-16.00 Tea *(tbc)*

16.00-17.30 Session 2: Parallel Sessions

2.1: Urban Recovery in Early Modern Europe *(Ramphal 0.12)*

A Double Whammy: Dissolution and fire in the re-making of Elm Hill, Norwich, c.1500-1600
Victor Morgan (University of East Anglia)

Bird's-Eye and Street View of the Construction of Early Rationalist Space: Post-Earthquake Catania's Via dei Crociferi
Silvio Lorenzo Ruberto (Utrecht University)

The City of Versailles before, during and after the Regency of Philipp II, Duke of Orléans (1715-1723)
Angela Gobel (Université Lyon 3 - Jean Moulin & Philipps-Universität Marburg)

2.2: Built Heritage, Place & Public Engagement in Twenty-first-century Britain *(Ramphal 1.13)*

Community Narratives of Hull's Urban Past: From Blitzed Town to Maritime City
Charlotte Tomlinson (Hull Maritime/University of Lincoln)

SHIPS in the SKY: rigged for a long journey
Esther Johnson (Sheffield Hallam)

Chicken George, Old Mother Riley and Understanding Local Hull Narratives in Place
James Greenhalgh (University of Lincoln)

2.3: Urban Morphology & Design in Twentieth-Century Cities *(Ramphal 0.14)*

An Imperial Clutch: Western urban planning models, influencing new development trends in the new capital city of India, 1912 – 1947

Ishan Garg, Olivia Jacob & Subhankar Mete (School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi)

Mapping Guilds of an 'Earth-bounded' Society: an enquiry into the socio-spatial history of Late Imperial and Early Republican Nanjing (1910-1930s)

Yichang Sun & Laura Vaughan (Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL)

After the Earthquake: the reconstruction of urban space in Skopje and Naples and the legacy of international exchanges

Jasna Mariotti (Queen's University, Belfast)

2.4: Urban Responses to War in Europe 1914 -1945 *(Ramphal 1.15)*

Bombardments and Urban Societies in the Rear, France 1914-1918

David Hager (Université de Picardie Jules Verne, Amiens)

"Like a Phoenix it will have risen, reborn from its ashes!" Resilience and recovery in the (sub)urban landscape of Flanders, 1915-1920

Bart Tritsmans (University of Antwerp)

Civil Defence and the City: a study of British cities and their structural responses to the threat of aerial warfare, since 1937

Will Sanders (Leeds Beckett University)

17.45-19.15 Session 3: New Researchers' Panels

3.1: War, Disease and Social Survival since 1850 *(Ramphal 0.12)*

'Haven of Hope': Papworth Village Settlement, Tuberculosis and Visions of Recovery in the British Empire

Sadie Levy Gale (University of Cardiff & University of Bristol)

An Epidemic and its Aftermath: cholera in Utrecht, 1866

Nelleke Tanis (University of Antwerp)

Ports on the 'Periphery?' - Food scarcity and social unrest across four cities of the British Empire during the First World War - Cape Town, Freetown, Bombay and Melbourne

Sarah-Jane Walton (University of Leicester)

3.2: Recovery, Culture and Economics since the Early Modern *(Ramphal 1.13)*

Rebuilding the Urban (Festive) Space (Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries)
Emma D'haene (KU Leuven)

Thriving in post-Famine Ireland: consumerism in a small rural town 1850–75
Fiona Slevin (University College Dublin)

Covent Garden Theatre and London Tradespeople, 1767-1809: Recovering Trade
Leo Shipp (University of Galway)

3.3: Accepting and Confronting Post-war Consumer Spaces *(Ramphal 0.14)*

"Halting the American Syndrome": from American-style malls to covered British high streets
Ellie Brown (University of Warwick)

Boots the Chemist, Shoplifting and the Bristol Experiment: reducing retail crime in the self-service era, 1960-71
Jack Moss (University of Nottingham)

Fast-food and "Americanisation" in Urban British Restaurants
Danielle La Scala (De Montfort University)

19.30-20.30 Conference Dinner

20.30 Bar

FRIDAY 31ST MARCH

09.00-10.30 Session 4: Parallel Sessions

4.1/5.1:(Double Session) Disaster and Management of Water in the Modern European City, 1800-2000, pt.1 *(Ramphal 0.12)*

Experiencing Rainfall in Dublin in the 1950s
Erika Hanna (University of Bristol)

Rebuilding Lyon After the Flood of 1856
Will Clement (Brasenose College, Oxford)

Regulating Domestic Water Use in London, Paris and Brussels, 1850-1940
Matthijs Degraeve (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Underwater: human and ecological precarity on the Thames
Simeon Koole (University of Bristol)

Urban Waterscapes: waterworks and civic pride in nineteenth and twentieth-century Britain
Andrew McTominey (Leeds Beckett University)

4.2: Constant Recovery or Measured 'Success'? The evolution of the new towns in Scotland over the long term *(Ramphal 1.13)*

Recovering urbanity: the Scottish Office, urban development, and the genesis of the new towns, 1935-50
Alistair Fair (University of Edinburgh)

Glenrothes New Town: A Story of Resilience
Kat Breen (University of Edinburgh)

'Maintaining the Momentum': Ongoing recovery and resilience in the new towns in Scotland from the 1980s to the present day
Valerie Wright (University of Glasgow)

4.3: Recovery after or under the Mongols: Cities in Central Europe and the Golden Horde *(Ramphal 0.14)*

Location and Topography of Wrocław – Construction of the Town after the Mongol Invasion (1241)
Rafał Eysymontt (University of Wrocław)

Recovery after the Mongol Invasion: Cities and Towns of Hungary in the Mid-thirteenth Century
Balázs Nagy & Katalin Szende (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest and Central European University, Budapest and Vienna)

Recovery and Emergence of Cities and Urban Sites in the Golden Horde after the Mongol Conquest
Jack Wilson (Central European University, Vienna)

10.30-10.45 Coffee *(tbc)*

10.45-12.15 Session 5: Parallel Sessions

5.1: (Double Session) Disaster and Management of Water in the Modern European City, 1800-2000, pt.2 *(Ramphal 0.12)*

(see 4.1 above)

5.2: Recovering Black Urban Histories *(Ramphal 1.13)*

Remembering David Oluwale
Henry Irving (Leeds Beckett University)

'Willing Hands': Refuge, Recovery, and Resistance in the Inner City
Michael Romyn (Queen Mary University of London)

History as Healing: going into the city with the Philadelphia Black Docents Collective
Gareth Millington (University of York) & Irteza Anwara Mohyuddin (University of Pennsylvania)

5.3: The Second World War and Post-war Reconstruction *(Ramphal 0.14)*

Constantinos Doxiadis and Adriano Olivetti's urban politics and democracy: Ekistics as condisciplinary science and communities as concrete utopias
Marianna Charitonidou (Athens School of Fine Arts)

Recovery from Occupation of the City of Chișinău During the Second World War
Laura Demeter (Otto-Friedrich University, Bamberg)

Recovering the Past for the Future: Racibórz after the Second World War
Piotr Kisiel (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, Germany)

12.15-13.15 Session 6: Plenary *(Ramphal Lecture Theatre)*

13.15-14.00 Lunch *(tbc)*

14.00 Conference ends

Panels and Abstracts

Session 1: Plenary Speaker

Did the Black Death or Successive Plagues of the Second Pandemic Reshape Cities?
Samuel Cohn (University of Glasgow)

Before turning to the Black Death, I will briefly reflect on pandemics during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries—cholera, tuberculosis, and the 'Third Pandemic of Plague'--and their direct consequences on urban planning and reshaping. I then will argue that the Black Death and subsequent waves of plagues during the Second Pandemic, by contrast, had few, if any, direct consequences for urban renewal; rather the changes in urban structures were of second-tier causation. Here, my concentration will be on Florence. The absences in plagues' direct and immediate stimuli for urban re-shaping, I will argue, were surprising, given the new consciousness of infection and contagion ushered in immediately by the Black Death in 1348 and the progressive developments in preventive controls against plague across Europe and especially in Italy from plague legislation in 1348 through the invention of new plague measures during early modern period.

Session 2: Parallel Sessions

2.1: Urban Recovery in Early Modern Europe

A Double Whammy: Dissolution and fire in the re-making of Elm Hill, Norwich, c.1500-1600

Victor Morgan (University of East Anglia)

Today Elm Hill is an iconic street as part of Norwich's tourism industry. But its past history belies the claim that it is the best survivor of a 'typical' Tudor street. Two catastrophes in the 16th century ensured that it was anything but typical. Looking at a single street in detail using the evidence of both archives and material culture provides insights into the history of Norwich as a whole in a period when it was the second city in the kingdom and invites comparison with other early-modern towns. One catastrophe was the Dissolution of religious houses in the 1530s. This destroyed the rich diversity of ecclesiastical institutions across the late-medieval City, the full range of which has, perhaps, not been appreciated. The dynamism of urban redevelopment meant that, unlike in the countryside, few 'bare ruin'd choirs' remained to remind us of a City once dominated by these institutions. Where the buildings do survive it is because they were acquired for civic purposes—itself part of a wider movement of 'municipalisation' over the course of the 16th century. The most notable instance of this repurposing is the Blackfriars at the top of Elm Hill. But what was lost and not replaced was the complex devotional space that once had spilled out into the Hill. Moreover, until recently this aspect of the history of the City has been lost to sight amongst historians because they have ignored the ephemeral and the kinetic in the making of urban space. The second catastrophe was the great fire of 1507 which, it is estimated, destroyed 40% of the City. What is remarkable is the speed of recovery as demonstrated on the grey-ash site that Elm Hill had become. The reason for this recovery is tied up with shifts in the balance of power between different business interests within the City. This was reflected in the form and the concentration of buildings that were constructed after the fire. In turn this was further reflected in shifts in the balance as between the various guilds and their presence within the encompassing urban government. Until the early nineteenth century the presence of members of the civic hierarchy resident on Elm Hill was indicated by its 'street furniture',

imparting to this urban space an entirely new character. Therefore, in this case at least, recovery from catastrophes demonstrates two different outcomes. How, in one instance, recovery can obliterate earlier topographies that imparted specific characters to urban spaces, and in the other recovery can both feed off and further stimulate wider changes in the commercial and civic life of a city.

Bird's-Eye and Street View of the Construction of Early Rationalist Space: Post-Earthquake Catania's Via dei Crociferi

Silvio Lorenzo Ruberto (Utrecht University)

Ahead of most European cities, Catania turned seventeen-century natural disasters – the 1669 volcanic eruption of Mount Etna and the 1693 earthquake in the Val di Noto - into the rationalist and late Baroque, monumental cityscape that characterizes it today. According to Stephen Tobriner, Giuseppe Lanza, Duke of Camastra, who the Viceroy of Sicily had appointed to oversee the rebuilding of the towns in the Val di Noto, not least Catania, instructed his collaborators to rebuild the town of Noto along a ruling grid pattern made up of wide streets within the rationalist framework of earthquake safety prevention. This interpretation of the reconstructive process has been the starting point for many historians who have studied cityscapes and buildings in the Val di Noto, albeit only through their stylistic evolutions and the socio-economic relations that produced them. The frequency of these two approaches is problematic in that it does not provide nuance to the idea of early rationalist architecture, nor does it account for the way passers-by could have experienced it. In these terms, space is seen as a stage that pre-dates agents. According to Henri Lefebvre's materialist definition, "the rationality of space (…) is itself the origin and source (…) of the rationality of activity". Understanding this bond is relatively easy for utilitarian activities like earthquake safety prevention with its consequent construction of space. However, significant parts of present-day audiences would find the space-activity nexus hard to recognize as rationalist if aimed at devotional activities, which nowadays seem to have lost their collective utilitarian purpose. Hence, choosing to study a street with an exceptionally high concentration of ecclesiastical institutions like Catania's Via dei Crociferi can serve as a suitable testing ground for the spatial approach.

The City of Versailles before, during and after the Regency of Philipp II, Duke of Orléans (1715-1723)

Angela Gobel (Université Lyon 3 - Jean Moulin & Philipps-Universität Marburg)

Built and grown in harmony and rhythm with the Palace of Versailles, the main residence of the French king since 1682, the city of Versailles was strongly oriented towards the royal court in its formative phase. Its population rose and fell with the comings and goings of the court. As with other residential cities, the economic prosperity of the town itself was tied to the presence of the court. Thus, the death of Louis XIV in 1715 and the subsequent return of the court to Paris marked a first deep break in the history of the development of the city of Versailles. The population dwindled, empty houses fell into disrepair and the city became an unsafe place. But, as early as 1722, the young Louis XV decided to return to Versailles with the court and a recovery phase started. The present paper would like to examine the extent to which this interruption had an impact on the development of Versailles. How was the exodus of the population, the decay of the buildings and the burgeoning insecurity dealt with in the absence of the royal court? This first analysis will be followed by a review of how Versailles was restored under Louis XV. In which areas and in which way was the rehabilitation of the city carried out? How the city's municipality changed in comparison to the time before the regency? Finally, this case study is also meant to invite reflection on other residential cities and their strong dependence in relation to the presence and absence of the ruling prince.

2.2: Built Heritage, Place & Public Engagement in Twenty-first-century Britain

Community Narratives of Hull's Urban Past: From Blitzed Town to Maritime City

Charlotte Tomlinson (Hull Maritime/University of Lincoln)

Earlier this year, in an oral history interview, I asked a local resident of Hull what they thought were the most significant parts of Hull's history. 'Fishing, maritime heritage, people' was their reply. Another similarly told me: 'Blitz, rebuilding Hull, 2017'. Together these two responses reflect an evolving dynamic in the heritage discourses of the city, from being seen primarily as a 'North East Coast Town' recovering from the impact of the blitz, towards a post-industrial city celebrating its rich maritime past. This change is both the product of evolving generational community histories at a grassroots level, and has been fuelled by major investment in heritage and cultural programmes in the city over the past decade. Hull Maritime is very much part of this story: a £30million placemaking programme of regeneration, restoration, and the creation of new heritage assets across the city centre (and beyond). At Hull Maritime my role focuses on community, through a range of informal and formal learning initiatives, skills development opportunities, collaborative partnerships, and creative projects. My previous research (as part of the AHRC-funded Half Life of the Blitz on Hull) brought attention to the ways in which people draw on and engage with personal histories of the everyday urban landscape to build a sense of place-identity. In this paper, I draw across my academic and public history experience to explore how we apply these learnings at Hull Maritime, engaging various layers of the local population in processes of placemaking and the (re)negotiation of Hull's post-industrial narratives.

SHIPS in the SKY: rigged for a long journey

Esther Johnson (Sheffield Hallam)

The opening and closing stanzas to Philip Larkin's poem The North Ship, 'I saw three ships go sailing by' and 'rigged for a long journey', could be said to echo another Three Ships central to the fabric of Hull. The vessels in question are those featured in the grade II listed* 'Three Ships' (1963) mural, the largest mosaic in the UK designed by Alan Boyson (1930-2018) for the former Hull & East Riding Co-operative Society Central Premises, later a BHS. The building has had many lives – a department store, market,

dance/music venue and nightclub. On closure in 2016, the entrance canopy acted as shelter for the homeless and the building behind the mural is now being demolished ahead of redevelopment. Inspired by 'Three Ships' and two further Hull Boyson works, the social history arts project 'SHIPS in the SKY', by artist and filmmaker Esther Johnson, explores the role and importance of public art in placemaking. By creating a memory mosaic of lived experience via oral testimonies, memorabilia, archive material and film, the project aims to create a 360-degree portrait or an iconic Hull landmark, and connect residents with the city's unique built environment to stimulate new perspectives of the familiar. The project situates Boyson's murals as emblematic of Britain's postwar rebuilding, and of the rich seam of Hull's maritime heritage. The power of civic histories and community identities that the project has unearthed inspired 'Fish and Ships', a 2020 lockdown campaign celebrating the City of Hull's entwined maritime and cultural legacy. This campaign integrated Larkin's The North Ship into a video to encourage project followers to purchase SHIPS in the SKY designed T-shirt/Tote/record slipmats to raise money for UK food banks. This presentation will include audio/film clips to discuss the research approach and working methods in the making of 'SHIPS in the SKY', and how public engagement with the project evidences the power of the built environment in placemaking and civic histories.

Chicken George, Old Mother Riley and Understanding Local Hull Narratives in Place
James Greenhalgh (University of Lincoln)

2.3: Urban Morphology and Design in Twentieth-Century Cities

An Imperial Clutch: Western urban planning models, influencing new development trends in the new capital city of India, 1912 – 1947

Ishan Garg, Olivia Jacob & Subhankar Mete (School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi)

The decision of the construction of New Delhi as the new national capital set in motion the process of heavy building activity leading to transformation of barren land to a visual treat. Wide roads lined with carefully selected trees and with circular plazas at important intersections, the genius of the commanding vistas and verdure, the Gymkhana and the Golf club, the offices of the bureaucracy and the homes of the officials would all come up to bring a new life in the new capital. This paper begins by exploring the extension of the imperial city, where political measures and policies influence a network of developments and further debates the question of Delhi being a permanent capital of the British Empire where the rising need for infrastructure for the government officials exposes the brutal measures adopted by them. This exploration allows us to understand that in India, the emergence of town planning by the Britishers had been more about "a matter of asserting the Imperial presence by the construction of impressive buildings for colonial rulers and their officers", than systematic planning for the development of the expanding urban periphery. They created a city for their own benefit where they looked into governance, provision of water, sewerage, electricity, gardens and wide roads but always carried out development through the lens of the British experience, neglecting the influence it had on the Indian conditions.

Mapping Guilds of an 'Earth-bounded' Society: an enquiry into the socio-spatial history of Late Imperial and Early Republican Nanjing (1910-1930s)

Yichang Sun & Laura Vaughan (Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL)

This paper builds on the proposition by Fei Xiaotong in his renowned book *From the Soil* (1947) that Chinese society is characterised as 'earth-bounded', with differential modes of societal associations. With a strong reliance on extended family structures, alongside connections to places of origin, the guilds of late Imperial and early Republican China tended to follow a different rationale for forming associations than

that of European guilds. The case study is Taiping South Road area (TPS), one of the newly thriving commercial centres in early twentieth century, Nanjing. Based on archival research, including local chronicles and historical maps, three types of guilds were identified (*Huiguan* for common origins: *Gongsuo* for common occupations; *Shiguan* for academic examinations), documented, and mapped at the street, plot and building levels. Taking an integrated approach of space syntax and typo-morphology, the street configuration, plot morphology, and range of land uses are analysed to explore the spatial culture of guilds in Nanjing within their wider context. This study goes further in investigating the guilds of Anhui people specifically, who were the largest proportion of migrants to the city at the time. It found that the spatial clustering of Anhui guilds is focused on urban amenities that relate to their places of origin, suggesting that spatial proximity supported pre-settlement social solidarity, while the lack of dispersal in the city's main street network, might in turn reflect a lower dependency on the urban structure to create encounters with the host city. The historical endurance of an 'earth-bounded' society, it is argued, can be indicated by the transpatial culture of Nanjing guilds in transition towards integration in the city.

After the Earthquake: the reconstruction of urban space in Skopje and Naples and the legacy of international exchanges

Jasna Mariotti (Queen's University, Belfast)

The paper will explore the changing character of two European cities, Skopje and Naples examining the planning practices and the changing image of their city centres brought by architects following the devastating earthquakes in these cities. In Skopje, the devastating earthquake on the 26th of July 1963 ravaged about eighty-five per cent of its buildings, and took the lives of more than one thousand people. In Naples, resulting from the Irpinia earthquake on the 23rd of November 1980, 40,000 houses were subject to evacuation, 150,000 citizens were left homeless and neighbourhoods in the historic centre of the city had to evacuate 40% of the resident population. Although tragic, the earthquakes that impacted the urban space in Skopje and Naples presented an opportunity for new planning approaches and re-imagining of the inner cities of these

cities, also positioning them on the global map. This paper will focus on the approaches for urban reconstruction of Skopje and Naples through the projects by the Japanese architect Kenzo Tange. The projects for Skopje (1965) and for Naples (1982), were a complex interplay between politics, planning and input from local communities, and resulted with a profound transformation of the city centres of these cities. The paper will trace the origins, urban morphologies and structuralist approaches of Tange's plans for Skopje and Naples, highlighting the crucial role of international exchanges in architecture in these cities.

2.4: Urban Responses to War in Europe 1914 -1945

Bombardments and Urban Societies in the Rear, France 1914-1918

David Hager (Université de Picardie Jules Verne, Amiens)

The First World War confronted civilian populations with violence not only in the vicinity of the frontline but, due to aircraft bombardment and attacks with long-ranging heavy artillery, also in the interior, thereby radically changing life in cities under fire as well as the experience of war itself. Bombardments forced civilian and military authorities to establish protective measures like lightning reductions, alarm systems, and some sort of active defence consisting of anti-aircraft guns and projectors. Soon after the outbreak of war, people had to take cover in fear for their lives and properties. Although many processes that can be observed during the bombings of the Great War anticipate essential characteristics of later and present-day conflicts (e.g., urban destruction, relocation of urban populations, fear, and other psychological consequences), this subject has received little attention in research on World War I. The impact on the civilian population's everyday existence, morale, and the response of civilian and military authorities are unclear in many respects, especially from a French/comparative perspective. Moving away from the frontline, my PhD focuses on cities such as Dunkirk, Amiens, Châlons-sur-Marne, Nancy, and Paris, to name some examples. They suffered bombardments of varying intensity, with casualties ranging between several dozen and several hundred.
The project intends to gain insight into an integral part of the wartime experience – that of many people living outside of the immediate front area. Based both on official documents like police or prefectorial reports, and personal accounts like correspondence and diaries, my dissertation examines material and psychological consequences, protective measures taken, as well as the representations of the bombardments – all to contribute towards a more sophisticated understanding of civilian experiences during the Great War.

"Like a Phoenix it will have risen, reborn from its ashes!" Resilience and recovery in the (sub)urban landscape of Flanders, 1915-1920

Bart Tritsmans (University of Antwerp)

During the First World War, the young Flemish architecture critic and author, Edward Léonard (1890-1981), regularly took walks in the surroundings of the city of Antwerp. He described the battered landscape, and although the devastation of rural architecture pained him, it was the reconstruction, in particular, that abhorred him. According to Léonard, the resilience of the population which resulted in a hasty rebuilding of destroyed buildings, led, after the "deconstructive destruction" to a "constructive destruction". The connection between landscape and architecture was lost and "instead of trying to replace the beauty that was lost with modern beauty, buildings were erected that, aesthetically speaking, have only flaws." The pretentiousness and the inappropriateness of the buildings had to be contained, "with the aim of preserving the country's natural beauty". At the same time, Léonard was hopeful that reconstruction could lead to the realisation of a harmonious relationship between cities and countryside, according to the principles of the garden city. If reconstruction would be based on the "very latest principles of urbanism", Flanders would gain international admiration, "for like the Phoenix it will have risen, reborn from its ashes!" Léonard's critical approach to the future of the (sub)urban landscape was reinforced by the devastation of the war, but it had its roots in the growing awareness about the loss of the rural character of the suburban landscape and the decay of historic elements in the city centre. In this contribution I will explore how resilience and recovery during and after the destructions of the First World War led to debates about the aesthetics of the (urban, suburban and rural) landscape of the future. Furthermore, I will study the contrast between the often nostalgic local discourses and the international urban planning ideas about restoring and safeguarding the landscape which had already emerged before the First World War.

Civil Defence and the City: a study of British cities and their structural responses to the threat of aerial warfare, since 1937

Will Sanders (Leeds Beckett University)

From the moment an airborne enemy dropped the first bomb on British soil in 1915, the urban environment was instantaneously, and irrevocably transformed into a target, and each of its inhabitants a potential victim. With the advent of a second world war looming, this concept grew in the minds of every British citizen, culminating in the British government's decision to pass the Air Raid Precautions Act of December 1937. The Act effectively outlined, amongst other concerns, the immediate necessity for the armament of the urban environment with defensive structures for the protection of the urban populace. From this point, as Adam Page understands it, British cities were' remade into sites of war', and continued to be replanned and built throughout much of the twentieth century with Civil Defence in mind (Page, 2019, p.15). Using a selection of British cities as case studies, this study seeks firstly to analyse to what extent civil defence concerns were made a part of the planning of urban environments post-1937, and secondly how Civil Defence structures were dealt with in the post-war context. Adam Page states that 'attempts to reshape cities [...] reveal telling cultural assumptions about the period in which they were conceived, which makes them valuable historical documents '(Page, 2019, p.9); If we are to understand the urban environment in this way, we may conceive of it as repository of history, with structures forming part of the material artefacts of past ages. With this in mind, an analysis will be made of what remains of our Civil Defence structures, and what relevance they hold in our understanding of the past to which they relate.

Session 3: New Researchers' Panels

3.1: War, Disease and Social Survival since 1850

'Haven of Hope': Papworth Village Settlement, Tuberculosis and Visions of Recovery in the British Empire

Sadie Levy Gale (University of Cardiff & University of Bristol)

While the influence of tuberculosis sanatoria on modern urban planning has been the subject of extensive scholarship, little has been written about the role of photography in disseminating and producing ideas about tuberculosis recovery, urban development and the city across the British Empire. This paper seeks to amend this omission by considering how publicly circulating photographs of Papworth Village Settlement influenced the building of Perak Anti-Tuberculosis Rehabilitation Settlement in Batu Gajah, Malaysia (then part of British Malaya) in 1953. Founded in 1917, Papworth Village Settlement was one of the largest and most famous tuberculosis 'colonies' in Britain. It provided housing, employment and leisure facilities for tuberculosis patients on-site until 1957, claiming to offer patients the chance of total recovery from the disease. The settlement attracted extensive coverage in the national and international press during the interwar years, with photo essays about Papworth frequently published in illustrated magazines like Weekly Illustrated and The Sphere. Captions in post-war Central Office of Information (COI) photographs taken of Perak Settlement in Batu Gajah reveal that Papworth Village was the direct inspiration for the site. My paper will contend that the visual framing of Papworth by the press as an antidote to overcrowded industrial areas suggests that the new "landscape of health" identified by Elizabeth Darling as a feature of interwar modernism was contingent on the spatial segregation of infectious citizens in medicalised rural landscapes that were a safe distance from the modern city. Further, by placing images of Papworth in dialogue with photographs of the Batu Gajah settlement, I will explore how the visual rhetoric of recovery operating in these photographs reflected national concerns not just with the improvement of healthcare and urban space, but the wider recovery of Britain's imperial prestige and strength in the post-war period..

An Epidemic and its Aftermath: cholera in Utrecht, 1866
Nelleke Tanis (University of Antwerp)

This paper studies the cholera epidemic of 1866 in the Dutch city of Utrecht, analyzing individual and collective attempts to recover from this crisis. The epidemic, killing 1726 people during the summer months of 1866, hit the poorest part of the population the hardest. This paper focuses on women who were widowed during the epidemic, most of whom were facing great financial difficulties immediately after the loss of their husband and breadwinner. Thanks to a unique set of 350 surveys on the financial situation of these widows and their families, conducted by the local cholera committee, we can reconstruct in detail the way in which they tried to cope with the loss of income. In answer to the great material need among these households, the urban community started several fundraising initiatives, which allowed them to provide each widow with a considerable sum of money to start their own business or rebuild their lives in other ways. Funded by Utrecht's elite and middle class, this 'microfinance' initiative was motivated not only by charity, but also by the increasing awareness that the root of the recurring epidemics was poverty, and that financial aid was indispensable for structural improvement. However, it proved very difficult to bring about such change. Recovery from the crisis meant a return to the status quo, leaving the fundamental problems underlying the outbreak untouched. This research thereby nuances the idea of crises such as epidemics as agents of structural change.

Ports on the 'Periphery?' - Food scarcity and social unrest across four cities of the British Empire during the First World War - Cape Town, Freetown, Bombay and Melbourne
Sarah-Jane Walton (University of Leicester)

This paper relates to the material impact of the First World War on four different port cities of empire: Cape Town, Free Town, Bombay and Melbourne. It considers the material impact, specifically food scarcity, engendered by the war in these cities, and the corresponding social responses therein. As strategic wartime ports, each experienced the massive movement of goods and men. Whilst some businesses were able to capitalise on wartime conditions – such as food-processing in Cape Town, textiles in Bombay, livestock

farmers in Melbourne and palm kernel exporters in Freetown – the war's disruption of international shipping and the imperial prioritisation of resources towards the war effort also saw real and perceived hardship. Particularly in the colonial ports, the war effort was prioritised over local needs, whilst population increases and a disruptive El Nino, exacerbated the affordability of staples. Even in the dominion cities, cushioned by their greater independence from Britain, discourses about spiralling costs of living peppered the papers. Each city experienced forms of social protest relating to food: the 1915 Lusitania Riots in Cape Town reflected disaffected locals, whilst in 1919 dockers refused to load ships with meat and jam; in Melbourne women led an anti-government food movement in 1917; in Bombay millhands looted Marawi-owned shops for grains in 1918; whilst in Freetown, anti-'Syrian' riots in 1919 fed off years of famine and the uneven payment of war bonuses. In discussing these discourses of scarcity, this paper points to the broad commonalities in the experiences of these cities during the war, despite their diverging histories and contexts, highlighting the cost of the war on everyday urban populations across what were often regarded as the 'peripheries' of the British empire.

3.2: Recovery, Culture and Economics since the Early Modern

Rebuilding the Urban (Festive) Space (Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries)

Emma D'haene (KU Leuven)

In recent decades, research on early modern festive culture has mainly focused on the decline of urban festivity, referring to the social elite's critiques of what these historians called the inherently violent festive culture. But recently historians like Ann Tlusty went against this paradigm. Contrary to what is generally believed, festive culture in the Southern Netherlands was intensively promoted by local authorities throughout the early modern period. Festivities such as the Catholic kermissen were ritual urban ceremonies that brought the whole city together. People from inside and outside the city flocked to the lavish kermis celebrations, such as the Brussels Ommegang, that originally commemorated the historic dedication of a parish church. But of course, things were not always peaceful in the Southern Netherlands. Over the centuries, epidemics, wars and famines put a lot of pressure on the festivities organised by local religious and urban authorities, causing the annual kermis celebrations to be cancelled. But these cancellations were always temporary. Contrary to existing historiography, and on the basis of new archival research, it is argued that these cancellations were not attempts by the urban elite to curb so-called popular culture, and that external disturbances in the form of epidemics and war could only temporarily affect urban festive culture. The archives clearly show that cities invested hallucinatory amounts of money in the innovation and promotion of kermis celebration after having to cancel one or more edition, to which locals contributed heavily. This paper will show that cities like Antwerp and Brussels continued to promote these festivities to show the outside world that they, and by extension their inhabitants, were positive about the future despite the bad years. They rebuilt their cities, both in terms of buildings and population. And in this specific context, kermis celebrations became part of reviving the urban festive culture, proving an excellent tool in the hand of the local authorities to symbolise, highlight and supplement the (successful) process of rebuilding urban spaces.

Thriving in post-Famine Ireland: consumerism in a small rural town 1850–75

Fiona Slevin (University College Dublin)

Ireland's Famine of the late 1840s decimated the rural population, causing high rates of death, land clearance and emigration. Despite this, most scholars acknowledge that income and living standards improved in post-Famine Ireland. In studying the period, historians have focused largely on the experience of farmers and labourers, while small towns and townspeople have hardly been examined. This paper examines post-Famine recovery in one small rural town by using Mohill, County Leitrim as a microstudy, and specifically by analysing consumerism in the town between 1846 and 1870. In 1856, Slater's Commercial Directory described Mohill (population 1062 in 1871) as a 'thriving' town with 'several good shops'. This paper addresses two questions: what constituted a 'thriving' rural town in post-Famine Ireland?, and to what degree did 'thriving' apply to all occupations, classes and genders? I analyse retail growth in Mohill and show how commercial offerings tripled between 1846 and 1870. Through comprehensive analysis of an account book for a single drapery shop in Mohill in 1873-74, I quantify the level of conspicuous consumption in Mohill in the period, and analyse consumer spending by occupation, gender and class. I also analyse the role of shopkeepers in offering credit and examine how this facilitated consumerism and post-Famine recovery. I argue that small rural Irish towns recovered quickly from the Famine, and that improved living standards and consumerism extended to the middle and poorer classes, while women across classes had agency and discretionary spending power. I argue that shop credit was key to growth and consumerism, but made for a precarious business model. In conclusion, this paper demonstrates the crucial role that small-town rural shopkeepers played in facilitating post-Famine recovery in rural Ireland.

Covent Garden Theatre and London Tradespeople, 1767-1809: Recovering Trade

Leo Shipp (University of Galway)

In the late eighteenth century, Covent Garden was one of London's two patent theatres, meaning that (alongside Drury Lane) it held a legal monopoly on the production of public drama in the capital. Staging performances most nights of the week for three quarters of the year, and carrying out refurbishments between theatrical seasons, Covent Garden

required the goods and services provided by dozens of different trades. The relevant interactions are recorded in great detail in the theatres' surviving account books, which testify to the huge importance Covent Garden had in the urban economy, and the extent to which families' livelihoods and the dynamics of certain trades across the metropolis were bound up with the business of theatre. However, this business could be turbulent. In 1767, four new owners bought Covent Garden, almost immediately fell out with each other, and mounted a (sometimes physical) battle for control of the theatre. As part of this, payments to most or all tradespeople were suspended for an extended period. War and weather also affected the theatre's fortunes; and in 1808, the theatre burned to the ground and had to be rebuilt from scratch. This paper will assess how the trades and tradespeople which serviced Covent Garden adapted to, and recovered from, the theatre's various ruptures, changes and catastrophes; and it will explore how those trades and tradespeople were able to recover their money at such times as the theatre was unable to pay.

3.3: (Panel) Accepting and Confronting Post-war Consumer Spaces

Panel Overview

This panel brings together our research as postgraduate researchers investigating consumerism in 1960s–1970s Britain by focussing on the experience of users. We explore the transformation of the built environment around new modes of consumerism as being closely associated with the proliferation of American trends on the British high street, through the introduction of self-service, shopping centres and fast-food chains. Whether embracing or rejecting "Americanisation", users were not passive but active participants. As such, the panel considers how consumers were active in shaping the physical structure and experience of new environments to also meet their own needs, demands and concerns.

"Halting the American Syndrome": from American-style malls to covered British high streets

Ellie Brown (University of Warwick)

This paper examines responses to the construction of shopping centres in Britain alongside changing attitudes towards the convenience of the American mall and the loss of a familiar urban environment from the mid-1960s to late-1970s. It responds to recent literature in urban history that offers a more complicated understanding of post-war urban redevelopment, from public-private planning alliances (Kefford, 2022) to modernist planners with conservation sympathies (Saumarez Smith, 2019). I consider how American-style retailing was simultaneously embraced and rejected by planners/architects and private developers in response to citizens' concerns about the loss of the local environment in British urban centres. To do so, I consider how Nottingham's two shopping centres – built in the late 1960s – were promoted as American-style environments, compared to two shopping centres constructed in Peterborough and Milton Keynes in the late 1970s which were projected as cultivating a local, community-oriented sense of space. As such, this paper uses discussions and publicity in the press to highlight how the promotion of shopping centres responded to national and local shifts in order to construct successful retailing environments.

Boots the Chemist, Shoplifting and the Bristol Experiment: reducing retail crime in the self-service era, 1960-71

Jack Moss (University of Nottingham)

From the late 1950s, high-street pharmacy chain Boots the Chemist, had interlaced self-service methodologies within their stores, causing a proliferation of open-displayed, easy to touch merchandise. Alongside the increased attainability of items, Boots stores were also reconfigured to promote specific notions of an affluent and autonomous postwar shopper. However, by the autumn of 1971, it became necessary for Boots to undertake a pioneering experiment with the "A" Division of the Bristol Constabulary. Responding to the city's spiralling rates of shoplifting and wider characterisations of urban malaise, the "Bristol Experiment" aimed to test the efficacy of CCTV and other crime cutting technologies on the frequency of in-store theft. This paper discusses the Experiment and Boots' associated in-store responses to shoplifting, exploring the ways in which the retailer chose to counteract its disobedient shopper. In doing so, it reveals the complexities of postwar retail crime and highlights how occurrences of shoplifting came to acquire ambivalent tendencies as both an affront to, and predictable outcome of, postwar consumer democracy.

Fast-food and "Americanisation" in Urban British Restaurants

Danielle La Scala (De Montfort University)

To meet the demands for a convenient and affordable space of consumption in the post-war era, fast-food restaurants, influenced by the success of American entrepreneurs, gradually entered the British urban centre during the 1960s – 1970s. Newspaper archives and a wide range of original material such as company documents reveal how the expansion of two popular and modern brands resulted in an anxiety of urban decline and "Americanisation". This paper firstly details the development of the Wimpy Bars, a British company of German-Jewish origins, which introduced the burger meal through a familiar café environment. This is contrasted with the belated entry of the first American-owned McDonald's branch in Woolwich, London in 1978. It considers how each drew opposing responses from users who responded to corporate branding, design, and operative mechanisms. The proliferation of these franchises across the UK offers valuable

insight into the everyday experience while highlighting how the British consumer felt in a globalising environment. It details how companies alter their brand to succeed in a new market. As present-day expectations of informal and quick-service dining lie in this revolutionary shift, I aim to demonstrate how the urban consumer reacted to – and influenced – the evolution of these existent, multinational businesses.

Session 4: Parallel Sessions

4.1/5.1:(Double Session) Disaster and Management of Water in the Modern European City, 1800-2000, pt.1

This session proposes to examine how urban citizens have managed their relationship with water in the modern period. Water is essential to the smooth running of the modern city, providing a means of transport, sanitation, and energy. It is also needs careful management, a system of reservoirs, drains, and pipes, spilling on beyond urban area to ensure that there is enough—but not too much—water, and that it is clean, efficient, and where it should be. When this system breaks down and floods occur they can provoke a crisis in the management of the city and in the lives of citizens, spilling dirty water into homes, disrupting the infrastructure of the city, and creating new and strange bodies of water where there were once streets and shops. Through examining newspapers, council documents, visual ephemera, and state files it explores how too much water in the wrong place made the familiar strange, opened up new modes of being in the city, and created new crises of urban governance for those seeking to maintain the city's infrastructure and functions.

Experiencing Rainfall in Dublin in the 1950s

Erika Hanna (University of Bristol)

That autumn of 1954 Dublin was a city of low grey cloud, damp air, wet pavements, where leaves clogged up drains and gutters ran with water. Men in hats and raincoats bustled into steamy pubs after work. The shoals of bicycles which poured through the arteries of the city at this time skidded on wet tarmac. People waiting at bus stops had their raincoats drenched, shoes flooded, hats blown from their heads, and when they finally made it onto the buses it was sickly with damp and the smell of petrol. Cars stood in queues of traffic, unable to get through flooded roads, their headlights illuminating the raindrops against the dark autumn evenings. But this situation only got worse in December when the state's already sodden infrastructure was hit by another storm. On 8 December the rain battered buildings, filled up the gutters, swept across the streets. The city's Victorian infrastructure strained and creaked. Rivers overflowed their banks, roads were blocked, railway

embankments subsided, telephone and electricity lines were broken. The bridge which had carried the main Dublin-Belfast train daily for over a hundred years collapsed across the mouth of the Tolka at East Wall, creating an immediate and artificial dam, flash flooding hundreds of red brick houses. People who had little found their possessions beneath six inches of dirty water, their lino saturated, their bedding stinking, their few possessions sodden and useless. This paper explores the sense of urban crisis which pervaded experiences of the rain in Dublin in 1950s, exploring how throughout the excessive rain of that year the familiar became strange, the city became somewhere unknown, somewhere threatening, where well-known roads became dead ends, where the safety of home was compromised, and where hundred-year old structures were unstable.

Rebuilding Lyon After the Flood of 1856
Will Clement (Brasenose College, Oxford)

Heavy rain throughout May 1856 left the threat of flood hanging over much of France. Fears were perhaps at their highest in France's second city, Lyon, which – located at the confluence of the river Saône and the river Rhône – was a city with a long and fraught relationship between the urban and natural environment. Between midday on 28 May and nightfall on 30 May, the level of the Rhône surged from 1.90 metres to 5 metres. Panic gripped local residents in the predominantly working-class Brotteaux and Guillotière quarters as people abandoned houses and possessions. That night, the banks burst and much of these quarters were submerged. In the days and weeks after the floods, contemporaries estimated that as many as 20,000 out of Lyon's population of 255,000 had been rendered homeless overnight by this destruction. This paper explores the aftermath of these floods and the myriad actors involved in the recovery of the city. These range from financial contributions from religious groups and from the central state, as well as innovative approaches to housing and urban redevelopment from local state and philanthropic organisations. In addition to considering archival manuscript sources, the paper will also explore this water-related disaster through the lens of visual culture and the notion of disaster imagery. The floods and their aftermath were captured by prominent early photographers Edouard Baldus and Louis-Antoine Froissard; international

journalistic musing on France's relationship with water and flooding were rife in the English illustrated press; while several self-aggrandising paintings depicting Emperor Napoleon III as saviour of the drowned cities of the nation proliferated in the following years.

Regulating Domestic Water Use in London, Paris and Brussels, 1850-1940
Matthijs Degraeve (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

The management of urban water attracted much research attention within urban and environmental history. The scope, however, often remains focused on large, public infrastructures of utilities, dams, canals and the like. The management of urban water equally depended on how it was actually used inside the home. Regulating the indoor use of water was not only required for the promotion of public health and hygiene, but also to prevent and cope with environmental disasters such as drought, pollution or flooding. For a period characterized by an increasing privatization of sanitary comfort, the question then arises how urban governments were still able to exert control over private property and influence the indoor use of water? Information on the governance of domestic water use during the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century transition period is scarce and fragmented across a variety of historical subdisciplines. Based on a review of this literature and an analysis of regulatory sources, this paper proposes a comparative study of government interventions in domestic water use in London, Paris, and Brussels between 1850 and 1940. A particular focus is placed on how governments aimed to manage excessive water in the city through the regulation of domestic water use.

Underwater: human and ecological precarity on the Thames
Simeon Koole (University of Bristol)

The history of flooding in London might be told as part of a story of urban growth and management. Following enormous demographic expansion and the streamlining of the city's wastewater flows from the 1860s, the frequency and severity of London floods dramatically increased from the 1870s. But rather than examine London flooding within a history of urbanisation, this paper uses it as a prism for understanding human and other-than-human precarity, and their intertwined relationship. Focusing on the flood of January

6th-7th 1928, it examines how transformations in trade and dredging at once made the Thames more vulnerable to weather fronts building in the North Sea and those labouring by it more vulnerable—bodily as well as economically—to changing market forces and river flows. In so doing, the paper charts a history of precarity as more than an economic situation of individual workers and instead as a condition of physical exposure shared between the human and other-than-human and accentuated by changes in global capitalism in the late nineteenth century.

Urban Waterscapes: waterworks and civic pride in nineteenth and twentieth-century Britain

Andrew McTominey (Leeds Beckett University)

When historians have looked at civic pride, particularly in the nineteenth century, they have most readily associated this with the construction of grand buildings or urban development. Water supply was a key aspect of the civic project, and the construction of waterworks in rural areas was often framed within the narratives of urban improvement and civic pride. What has been less readily recognised is that civic pride was a key factor within urban water supply well into the twentieth century. This paper will emphasise the prominent role that civic pride played within narratives of urban water supply by highlighting a number of waterworks projects from Leeds, Liverpool and Birmingham across the late-nineteenth century and the post-Second World War period to show continuity in the importance of civic pride and the engineers' belief in their ability to tame the wilderness. By emphasising narratives of environmental change and civic pride, this paper will demonstrate the continuing importance of water technology to the identity of the city.

4.2: (Panel) Constant Recovery or Measured 'Success'? The evolution of the new towns in Scotland over the long term

Panel Overview

The new towns programme in Britain is often contextualised in relation to post-war reconstruction. It is also closely aligned to the government's efforts to rebuild the nation by modernising and decentralising industry and relocating and rehousing thousands of workers and their families from cramped and decaying inner cities. This was particularly important in Scotland where the new towns were seen as a solution to attract inward investment from new industries to replace the deindustrialising traditional industries. Addressing overcrowding and substandard housing in Scotland's largest city was also a key objective with 'overspill' population from Glasgow being central to the justification for investment in the initial proposed new towns. These three papers will explore how the new towns in Scotland evolved to recover from challenging economic circumstances, setbacks in the development of the towns and responded to constant social change. This reappraisal of the new towns in Scotland over the long term draws on our project 'Building a Modern Scotland: The New Towns, c. 1947-2017' and considers the following themes and chronologies.

Recovering urbanity: the Scottish Office, urban development, and the genesis of the new towns, 1935-50

Alistair Fair (University of Edinburgh)

This paper will contextualise Scotland's post-war new towns within a series of discussions led by the Scottish Office and the Secretary of State for Scotland during the second half of the 1930s and the 1940s. These debates were concerned with Scotland's urban fabric and, in particular, the recovery of such qualities as urbanity which recent suburban developments were felt to lack, not least the peripheral estates built by local authorities such as Glasgow. Reference was made in official reports and committee papers both to Scotland's architectural inheritance and to contemporary developments in continental Europe, and to the ways in which planning, housing, and social provision could (and should) be better integrated. In a context where Scotland's economy was struggling, and with the decline of heavy industry posing particular challenges on Clydeside, this

'recovery' of urbanity can be framed not only in terms of conflict between the Scottish Office – then increasing in scope and ambition – and Scotland's local authorities or private-sector builders, but rather as an early airing of ideas which had fundamental implications in post-1945 Scotland, a context in which the 'recovery' of the nation was afforded prominence by policymakers and was intimately connected to the recovery of the built environment.

Glenrothes New Town: A Story of Resilience
Kat Breen (University of Edinburgh)

In 1948 work commenced on Scotland's second New Town, located in a rural area of the Fife region. Set within a traditional mining area, the aim of the Scottish Office was to centre the town's industry primarily on a new 'super pit', the Rothes Colliery. Glenrothes was initially estimated to house upwards of 32,000 people, with one in eight of the population employed directly through mining. However, the mine suffered from frequent flooding from its opening in 1958, and by 1962 it had been closed. While the sudden loss of its main industry almost led to the cancellation of the town by the Scottish Office, a resilient Development Corporation set about creating entire new economic, physical and social plans for the town. Through the examination of Fife Archive's Glenrothes Development Corporation collection and the New Town Record, this paper will examine the impact that the unexpected early closure of its primary industry had on the continued development of the town. It will explore how through a combination of marketing, economic policy, housing expansion and infrastructure advancements, the Development Corporation laid a path towards the town's gradual recovery and growth. By the New Town's wind up in 1995, Glenrothes had recovered from the early loss of its primary industry by becoming a key economic hub and had overshot its initial population goals with a final total of 39,950. Through a continued belief in the future of the town, Glenrothes Development Corporation were able to create an entire new settlement from scratch, overcome its obstacles and become what is now a moderately successful regional centre.

'Maintaining the Momentum': Ongoing recovery and resilience in the new towns in Scotland from the 1980s to the present day

Valerie Wright (University of Glasgow)

The 1980s were a crucial decade for 'maintaining the momentum' of the new towns in Scotland. The development corporations of their contemporaries in an English, Welsh and Northern Irish context were wound up at the start of the decade. However, the new towns in Scotland continued for a further fifteen years such was their importance as economic 'growth poles'. The Scottish Office continued to prioritise the new towns, arguably over their attempts to address the impact of depopulation and deindustrialisation in inner city urban Scotland. Throughout their evolution the development corporations of the new towns in Scotland had been continually adapting to, and recovering from, a variety of setbacks as well as economic change. Nevertheless, a range of strategies to attract and retain industry and businesses had been successfully implemented in all five towns. Unsurprisingly, the new towns in Scotland therefore quickly adapted to a new political landscape and successfully put Conservative ideology into practice through a variety of 'enterprise' strategies to continue to attract investment and jobs to the towns. This period of ongoing recovery, resilience and growth has had a long-term legacy for the new towns and their citizens, not least in the form of higher rates of owner occupation and the consequent economic security. This paper will argue that the population of the new towns were therefore insulated from the worst effects of unemployment and poverty experienced elsewhere in urban Scotland in the 1980s and beyond. Moreover, oral history life narrative interviews conducted in the new towns highlight that there is a feeling of ongoing abandonment that residents of all generations and backgrounds currently feel after the eventual wind up of the development corporations in Scotland. In their view their towns have lost their perceived 'special status' and have become more 'like everywhere else' in urban Scotland.

4.3: (Panel) Recovery after or under the Mongols: Cities in Central Europe and the Golden Horde

Session Abstract

The Mongol Invasion, a series of events culminating in the mid-thirteenth century, is a prime example of an intervention that disrupted the lives of polities and settlements on a hitherto unprecedented scale from Eastern Asia to Central Europe. The troops appearing almost overnight besieged and sacked proud cities, destroyed well-functioning economies, and cut centuries-old ties. However, the brutal episodes had to be followed by periods of recovery when settlements were rebuilt, and connections realigned. This panel examines these reconstructions and realignments in two distinct geographic frameworks that got in contact with or became part of the Mongol Empire: in Central Europe and in the vast territories in the border zone between Europe and Asia controlled by the Golden Horde. The example of Silesia and Hungary, discussed in the first two papers, represent territories that were hit by the Mongol attack at a time when great social transformations were underway. These were catalysed by the effects of the attack which created unexpected opportunities for asserting a new seigniorial urban policy by the local rulers, the dukes of Silesia and the kings of Hungary, respectively, after the withdrawal of the Mongols. In contrast, the Golden Horde was a polity under Mongol rule which partly took over and transformed existing urban centres of the former Kievan Rus' and partly created cities of their own to foster trade along routes along the Volga River, and from Khwarazm to the Black Sea region. Presenting towns from both areas side by side throws a sharper light on the different forms of urbanity: topography, society and legal frameworks that emerged as a consequence of the Mongol intervention. They also present different sources and agents of resilience and new beginnings

Location and Topography of Wrocław – Construction of the Town after the Mongol Invasion (1241)

Rafał Eysymontt (University of Wrocław)

The development of the medieval Wrocław, as well as other large towns in this part of Europe at that time - Krakow or Prague - took place in stages. The first stronghold of Wrocław was situated on the right bank of the Oder River. The transfer of the centre of

the new centre of Piast Silesia to the left bank of the river also took place in stages, the most important of which took place shortly after the Mongol invasion. The location of the town on the site of an older settlement established in the first decades of the 13th century and situated on an important south-north communication route was made before March 10, 1242. It was confirmed in 1261 by granting the town the Magdeburg rights. The area of Wrocław covered building blocks situated on an area of 60 hectares surrounded by the internal city moat. Probably also around 1242, the central square - the Market Square and the auxiliary Solny Square - were marked out. Around 1300, the medieval town was again enlarged to an area of 120 hectares and surrounded by a second moat ring.

Recovery after the Mongol Invasion: Cities and Towns of Hungary in the Mid-thirteenth Century

Balázs Nagy & Katalin Szende (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest and Central European University, Budapest and Vienna)

Hungary was the country hardest hit by the Mongol attack on Central Europe in 1241/42. Due to efficient scouting and intelligence gathering, they targeted and devastated the richest and strategically most important settlements of the kingdom, the royal seats, merchant towns and cathedral cities. This paper examines the destruction and recovery of these urban centres. Thanks to surviving narrative documents and other sources, we have a rather differentiated picture of the destruction of urban centres. With the sieges of Suzdal, Kiev and other cities in the territory of the Kieval Rus', the Mongols had already demonstrated their ability to conquer fortified settlements before their arrival in Hungary. During their military campaigns in Hungary the Mongols were able to seize most of the cities, they aimed, including the most significant urban centres of the country. Most of the residential cities in the central administrative region of the country (medium regni) were destroyed by the Mongols. The sudden destruction of 1241/42 was followed by a compelling recovery. His process was marked by new town foundations, granting urban privileges, intense building activity to fortify the towns and a significant increase of urban population. The seats of Hungary's well-developed network of church administration, the two archbishoprics: Esztergom and Kalocsa, and six out of its ten bishoprics were sacked and plundered. The accounts of these events often offer a detailed description of the sites.

This will be contrasted to their fate in the following decades. Some of them never fully recovered from this blow; those, however, which fitted into the emerging new networks and were promoted by their bishops, like Alba Iulia, Vác, and Várad (Oradea), soon regained their vitality.

Recovery and Emergence of Cities and Urban Sites in the Golden Horde after the Mongol Conquest

Jack Wilson (Central European University, Vienna)

Often associated with the great destruction of the initial conquest and its population dismissed as aimless wanderers, the Mongol Golden Horde (ruling from today's Ukraine through to Kazakhstan) was much more complex than this description allows. This paper will discuss the development and organization of the Golden Horde's state structure and division of lands, the enforcement of which allowed (with the Khan's encouragement) the establishment and growth of urban centres in the steppes (most notably the capitals of Sarai and Sarai al-Jadid) and recovery of cities in the Rus' lands and Central Asia. Particular attention will be given to the period of the initial establishment of Mongol rule and consolidation under Batu Khan (1230s-1250s) and the Horde's peak of "urbanization," coupled with Islamization during the reigns of Öz Beğ Khan (r.1313-1341) and his son Jani Beğ (r.1342-1357). I will show how the Mongol Khans, contrary to their reputation, understood and were willing to foster urban development and trade, taking advantage of the relatively security of the overland Eurasian networks under Mongol global hegemony to tie the Horde's settlements to Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia and China.

Session 5: Parallel Sessions

5.1 (see above)

5.2: Recovering Black Urban Histories

Remembering David Oluwale

Henry Irving (Leeds Beckett University)

David Oluwale's body was recovered from the River Aire on 4 May 1969. Oluwale was a British Nigeran who had lived in Leeds for twenty years. Most of this time had been spent in prison, psychiatric hospital or sleeping rough. He was an unwelcome presence in the city and there was little interest in the circumstances of his death. This changed when the Metropolitan Police launched an external investigation. Their evidence suggested Oluwale had died after being 'hounded' into the river by two Leeds City Police officers. A landmark trial in 1971 established Oluwale as a victim. Inspector Geoffrey Ellerker and Sergeant Ken Kitching were given custodial sentences for assault, although they were acquitted of manslaughter. Oluwale's story highlights the limits of care within the post-war welfare state and the potential brutality of urban governance. The 1971 trial generated a flurry of media interest and Oluwale's name was (briefly) a rallying call for Britain's Black Power movement. He was then forgotten. It was only after the release of the Metropolitan Police files and publication of two very different texts (by Caryl Phillips and Kester Aspden) in 2007 that interest began to recover. The past fifteen years have seen a sustained effort to remember Oluwale, expressed through art, poetry and education. His memory recently returned to national prominence when a blue plaque in his honour was stolen in a racist hate crime just hours after it was unveiled. I am leading a project with history students at Leeds Beckett University that explores the way Oluwale has been remembered since his death. This paper uses our findings to consider how Leeds has recovered – and sought to come to terms with – such a dark episode in its recent history. It will contain a mix of reflections on the project, public history and pedagogy.

'Willing Hands': Refuge, Recovery, and Resistance in the Inner City

Michael Romyn (Queen Mary University of London)

In the early hours of December 18, 1977, foster carer and community worker Sybil Phoenix received a call from the police telling her that Moonshot, the youth centre in New Cross that she ran and had helped build from scratch, was in flames — the apparent target of a racist firebomb attack. The fire was one in long list of racist attacks in that part of southeast London in the 1970s and early 1980s. These included the Sunderland Road firebombing in January 1971, and the destruction of the Albany – a community centre and locus of anti-racism in Deptford – by arson in July 1978. On January 18, 1981, the long-embattled black community in New Cross was victim of what many believe was another racist attack. The fire at 439 New Cross Road, dubbed the 'New Cross Massacre', killed 14 young people and injured 27 others. It was tragedy that demanded a state response based on care and support. Instead, the bereaved and wider black community were treated with neglect, provocation, and contempt. This paper examines how, in the face of everyday hostilities and hardships, as well as larger moments of urban social rupture, figures like Sybil Phoenix and spaces such as Moonshot were vital; as part of a British black self-help movement, they countered crises with care, and implemented strategies of survival. By focussing on the relation of violence and emotion in late twentieth century urban Britain, this paper will further explore how the affective dimensions of urban stresses and disturbances in Lewisham acted as an engine for change. While racist violence and the enaction of exclusionary urban policy often precipitated adverse emotions such as shame and fear, so too did feelings born of oppression and tragedy coalesce into sites of refuge, recovery, and resistance.

History as Healing: going into the city with the Philadelphia Black Docents Collective

Gareth Millington (University of York) & Irteza Anwara Mohyuddin (University of Pennsylvania)

This paper explores the recent work of the Philadelphia Black Docents Collective in the context of post-Covid and the BLM protests of 2020. The central theme of our discussion is the collective's aim to use urban history to heal. During the Covid-19

lockdowns of 2020 and 2021 a group of docents (museum guides) at the African American Museum in Philadelphia made the decision that if the museum could not open, to reaffirm their community they would continue their teaching and guidance in other ways. As such the collective moved activities into the city and online; they gave talks, produced online resources and began to act as a conduit between black museums in the city. The goal was, as one docent told us, 'to bring it to the neighbourhood, bring it to the community'. As part of a wider project into the production and uses of black urban history in three cities, we interviewed members of the Philadelphia Black Docents Collective and tried to understand how their imaginaries of the city, their actions and activism as well as the resources they have produced fit into Philadelphia's recovery landscape. In the paper we present the collective, within the context of Philadelphia in the early 2020s—a 'wounded city' perhaps, in Karen Till's terms—as 'organic intellectuals' in the Gramscian sense that they possess a deeper knowledge of Philadelphia's black history than most traditional intellectuals in the city, as well as being in a unique position to share and transmit this knowledge to the new publics which coalesced in the city following the demonstrations of 2020. The docents claim that by sharing the history of the city, a city marked by past structures of violence and exclusion but also a city of many black visionaries and leaders, they can help Philadelphians to heal. They articulate healing in a number of ways that we examine in this paper: education as healing; work as healing; decolonising knowledge as healing; generational healing; and art and joy as healing. Finally, despite the successes of the collective, we point to barriers yet to be overcome that hinder progress towards sharing Philadelphia's black history to honour and encourage residents' right to the city.

5.3: The Second World War and Post-war Reconstruction

Constantinos Doxiadis and Adriano Olivetti's urban politics and democracy: Ekistics as condisciplinary science and communities as concrete utopias

Marianna Charitonidou (Athens School of Fine Arts)

The paper is developed around the following axes: firstly, it focuses on the examination of Constantinos A. Doxiadis and Adriano Olivetti's respective understanding of democracy; secondly, it presents their respective reconstruction models; thirdly, it analyses their respective stance vis-à-vis centralised and decentralised models of governing; finally, it examines their respective involvement in the European Recovery Program (ERP). The objective of the paper is to shed light on how Doxiadis and Olivetti contributed to societal transformation, on the one hand, and the formation of national identity within the Greek and Italian post-war context respectively, on the other hand. Important for grasping ERP's impact on Greece is Doxiadis's role as undersecretary and director-general of the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction between 1945 and 1948, as coordinator of the Greek Recovery Programme and as undersecretary of the Ministry of Coordination between 1948 and 1950. Pivotal for understanding the Marshall Plan's impact on Italy is Olivetti's role within the study centre of the UNRRA-CASAS housing committee, which was responsible for the development settlement schemes based on the model of the communitarian aggregation. In many cases, renowned architects, who worked outside the agency's technical staff, were invited to design these settlement schemes.The main objective of this paper is to provide a terrain of investigation situated at their intersection with architectural design and urban planning, taking into account the interaction between social history, political history, economic history and transnational studies. Despite the fact that it mainly examines Doxiadis and Olivetti's agendas, the way it is developed aims to provide an understanding of the dominant models of urban planning, during the post-war years, both in Greece and in Italy. The paper places particular emphasis on the role of holism and interdisciplinarity in Doxiadis's approach, on the concepts of "Ekistics" and "condisciplinary science" in Doxiadis's thought and practice. Moreover, it pays special attention to Olivetti's thesis supporting that the establishment of conditions that would provide the citizens with the sense of community.

For Olivetti, the communitarian dimension was the antidote against problems between citizens and governmental institutions. Olivetti's utopian vision could be characterised as "concrete utopia" in the sense that his understanding of communities as concrete goes hand in hand with his conviction that communities are determined by geography and history. At the centre of the paper is the hypothesis that Doxiadis and Olivetti's vision of politics is related to their agendas regarding urban planning strategies within the context of the post-war reconstruction. Of great significance for understanding their political agendas is the way they conceived the relationship between democracy and community, and interdisciplinarity.

Recovery from Occupation of the City of Chișinău During the Second World War
Laura Demeter (Otto-Friedrich University, Bamberg)

During the Second World War Eastern European cities experienced major damages and occupation by different powers involved in the war. This paper aims at discussing the recovery process of the city of Chișinău in the Bessarabia region, following the Soviet occupation at the beginning of the Second World War in 1940. Chișinău which became part of the Kingdom of Romania in 1919 experienced until 1940 numerous urban development projects under the Romanian administration. However, following the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in June 1940 Bessarabia was annexed by the Soviet Union. Chișinău was eventually captured in July 1941 by the Romanian and German troops from the Soviets, when it was included again under the Romanian administration. Based on the case study analysis, this paper asks when does recovery starts and ends in the context of war affected cities and occupation. Informed by archival documentation this paper will analyze how the temporary recovery process of the war damaged city was discussed, documented, and carried out under the Romanian administration, that lasted from July 1941 until August 1944.

Recovering the Past for the Future: Racibórz after the Second World War
Piotr Kisiel (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, Germany)

This paper examines the recovery of the history in the case of town of Racibórz in Silesia (Poland). In particular, it examines how research on its urban history was

integrated into the reconstruction process in the aftermath of the Second World War. It argues that it was not merely a rhetorical device, but rather an integral part of efforts to rebuild the city. Racibórz (Ger. Ratibor) was heavily damaged in the last months of the Second World War, during fights over the city but also in their aftermath. The German population was forced out and its place was taken over by the Polish settlers. As it was the case with many smaller, provincial towns there was no immediate post-war reconstruction, the wounds in the cityscape were visible well into the late 1950s. The projects were drawn, however, from the late 1940s. The Polish government insisted that Racibórz, together with the rest of Silesia, but also Lubusz Land, Eastern Pomerania and southern East Prussia were not "annexed" but rather "recovered". The argument was that Poland was returning to its "rightful" territories lost over the centuries due to German "expansionism". For this reason, recovering the past, especially the medieval one, was essential part of building the (Polish) future. The analysis of the administrative and planning archival documents, as well as local press allow us to ask in what ways the history of Racibórz was seen as relevant to the vision of its future, how its history was told in the cityscape and what were the limits in the reality of the post-war Poland.