

GOVERNING THE NARCOTIC CITY

Discourses on Drug Use, Dealers and Migration around the Görlitzer Park in Berlin-Kreuzberg

The second UROLab will focus on contested urban orders of the Görlitzer Park - a public park in the neighborhood of Kreuzberg in Berlin. Located in a diverse and rapidly gentrifying area between two vibrant nightlife districts, the Görlitzer Park continues to afford a number of uses to a wide variety of groups, including migrants, bohemians, local families, tourists and drug dealers. Recently, the park has become a key site for administrative and governmental interventions; not least caused by an increasing number of refugees using a space intended for recreational activities. Consequently, in late 2014, the park was declared a “danger zone” with ensuing increases of patrols, raids and arrests. Still, as both the marijuana trade as well as the protests against racial discrimination continue to escalate, the Görlitzer Park is currently the site of one of the hottest conflicts of Berlin as well as a symbol for the ongoing struggle over public space and “the right to the city”.

2nd UROLab = Three days of Fieldwork and Discussion

Using the complex socio-political entanglements around Görlitzer Park as a focus point, this international workshop aims to investigate the multiple and overlapping strategies and dynamics through which certain ‘urban orders’ emerge, reproduce and potentially transform. These orders entail forms of multi-level government and governance like systems of law and policing, territorializations and relations of private and public property, as well as arrangements of everyday practices, such as micro economies, forms of consumption and multiple uses of public space as place making by a broad variety of actors.

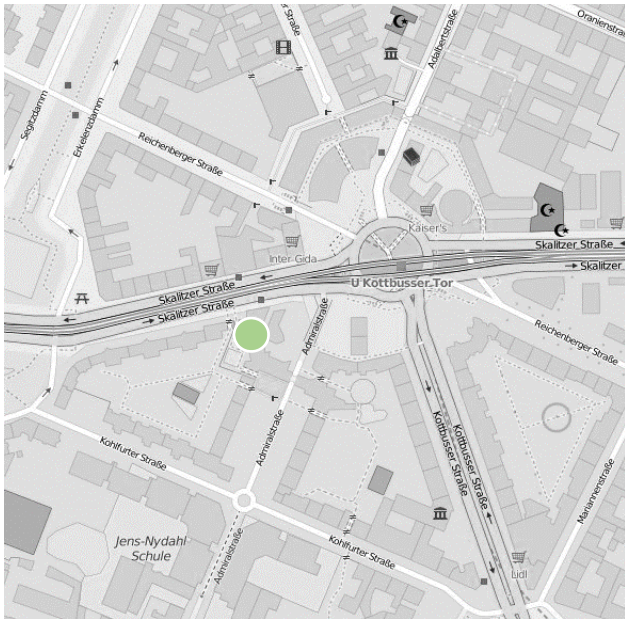
To address these dynamics, The UROLab will bring together perspectives from geography, anthropology, history and urban studies as well as local activists and policy makers. The format of the workshop will cover inputs and presentations by local stakeholders and researchers as well as in-depth explorations and inquiries in small investigative teams allowing for focused and productive discussions aiming to identify and explore particular forms of ‘urban orders’.

By applying different approaches of multi-sited fieldwork (observation, participation, ‘nosing around’), we will address issues of urban government and governance, migration, the function and design of public space as well as urban political economies (e.g. the impact of tourism and its entanglement with the urban drug and nightlife cultures). By doing so, we will also discuss the complex networks of urban actors and social infrastructures around Görlitzer Park spanning from the local government, police and social workers to urban green space planners, refugee activists, journalists, residents, dealers, tourists and many more.

In order to explore the complex situation around the open drug market in the Görlitzer Park, we will also address the historical dynamics of the West Berlin drug culture, spatial politics and immigration policies. In this sense, Kreuzberg and especially the area around Görlitzer Park can indeed be understood as a laboratory as it serves as a key testing ground for new policies and governmental techniques as well as forms of protest and resistance. Investigating the entanglements of spatial practices, governmental strategies and politics of discourse around the Görlitzer Park promises valuable insights into how urban rights and orders are contested and negotiated.

Location

The UROLab will be hosted at "Aquarium am Südblock" (Admiralstr. 1-2/ Skalitzer Str. 6) as well as other locations around the Görlitzer Park in Kreuzberg.



About Urban Orders

Urban Orders (URO) is a transdisciplinary research network based at Aarhus University, Denmark, which focuses on the relationship between the appropriation of urban spaces and new forms of urban citizenship. Taking 'urban order' to signify a dynamic regularity in the relationship between social life in the city and its physical environment, which has emerged without overall coordination, control or use of force, the aim of URO is to develop new transdisciplinary methods for harnessing the potentials of existing urban orders as a basis for creating viable and democratic global cities.

More information under: <http://uro.au.dk/>



Local Project Group

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Accommodation and Guest coordination:
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PROGRAMM OUTLINE

Wednesday, 25th of May 2016

Arrival, Kick-off in the Görlitzer Park

16:00

Welcome and Introduction of the Program

Thomas Bürk / Stefan Höhne / Boris Michel / Morten Nieslen

17:00

Nosing around and BBQ in the Görlitzer Park

Thursday, 26th of May 2016

Urban Orders Colloquium

9:30 – 10:00

Governing the Narcotic City: Introductions to the Case

Thomas Bürk / Stefan Höhne

10:00 – 12:00

INPUTS I: POLICING OUT CRIME AND THE GOVERNANCE OF DRUGS

The Fixers' Capital' - Spatialization of Social Crises since the 1970s

Jan-Henrik Friedrichs (Hildesheim)

Urban Drug Use, Drug Policy and its Side Effects

Bernd Werse (Frankfurt am Main)

“There were problems with residents who complained...”

– Police governing the gentrifying city

Jenny Künkel (Frankfurt am Main)

12:00 – 13:30

Lunch at Südblock

13:30 – 15:00

INPUTS II: BERLIN-KREUZBERG:

URBAN GENTRIFICATION AND THE HOUSING QUESTION

"We made this district hip!" –

Legitimizing the Right to Stay Put in Times of Governance through Community

Lisa Vollmer (Berlin/Weimar)

New Dynamics of urban Tourism in Berlin-Kreuzberg

Nils Grube (Berlin)

15:00 – 16:00

INPUTS III: LOCAL POLITICS OF MIGRATION

**Of Dangerous ‚Concentrations‘ and Productive ‚Communities‘.
Kreuzberg and the Spatial Governance of Migration in German Cities**

Mathias Rodatz (Frankfurt am Main)

Urban Migration and Refugee Politics

Myrto Kougievetopoulos (Berlin)

16:30 – 18:00

EVERY DAY LIFE IN KREUZBERG AND THE MAKING OF DANGEROUS SPACES

Guided Visits to Kottbusser Tor, Görlitzer Park and RAW-Area

Research Team of the Center for Metropolitan Studies, TU Berlin

19:00

Dinner at Südblock

Friday, 27th of May 2016

Fieldwork Day

10:00 – 10:30

Breakfast and Briefing

Meeting at Aquarium, Südblock (Inputs by the Team)

10:30 – 16:30

FIELDWORK AND RESEARCH

A Non-linear Archeology of Goerlitzer Park

Stefan Höhne / Mikkel Thelle

Designing out crime in the Park

Thomas Bürk, Leo Pedersen, Guest: Axel Koller (Grünflächenamt)

Policing in Kreuzberg

ReachOut, KUB, Jenny Künkel

Drugs in the City

Morten Nielsen, Bernd Werse, Horst-Dietrich Elvers, Visit “Fixpunkt“

Touristification in Kreuzberg

Niels Grube, Boris Michel

Housing and the Politics of Urban Renewal

Lisa Vollmer, Kotti & Co

16:30 -18:00

Preparation of inputs by groups (supported by a guideline)

19:00

Workshopdinner and Party at Südblock

Saturday, 28th of May 2016:

Urban Orders in Kreuzberg

10:00

Breakfast and Plenum

Presentations of groups and final discussions

12:30- 2:00

Farewell and Lunch at Südblock

PARTICIPANTS

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