

## How Long are New Towns New? European Post-War New Towns as Authentic Places in a Comparative Perspective

Over recent years, European New Towns have been debated in architectural, social and historical perspectives respectively. They have been interpreted as model cities of the post-war era, solutions to housing shortages, a new way of living, either a social failure or success, and as nation-building projects. In contrast to architectural and urban history and social sciences, a historical perspective has not yet been fully developed.

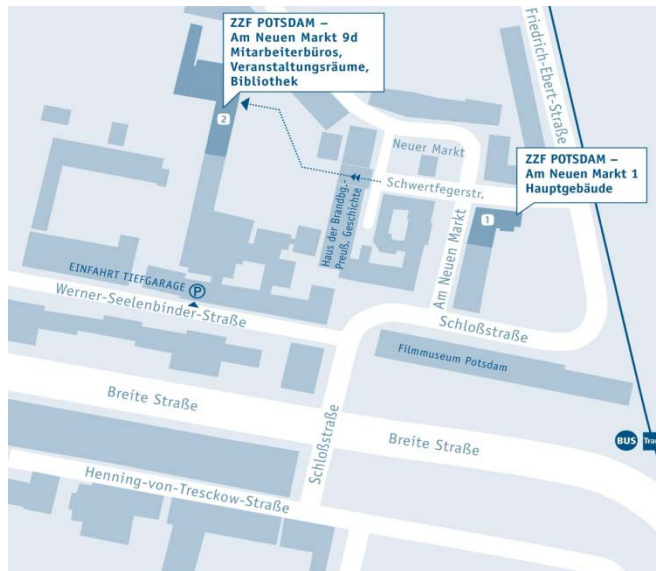
The workshop will address the historical dimension and recognition of the New Towns. Should they be seen as mainly functional housing entities to serve industrial and urban development or, for example, as places with specific authenticities of the post-World War Two era and high modernity? The workshop's title "How Long are New Towns New?" refers to the possible "making" of New Towns as authentic places of their time. It will inspect their historicity within East and West European context and touch the Mediterranean and global developments. The workshop will raise questions whether New Towns have already been discussed as places of national or cultural heritage and how they are represented in the public sphere (museums, tourism, and media)?

By examining the existing research on New Towns within the fields of contemporary history and within the debate on historical authenticity, the workshop aims to reconstruct the developments and the different layers of authenticity of New Towns, to discuss attributions of authenticity to New Towns, and to analyze forms and actors of rediscovering New Towns as authentic places.

### Concept:

Ana Kladnik and Andreas Ludwig (ZZF)

Achim Saupe (ZZF/LFV HA)



### Conference venue:

Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam /  
Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam  
Am Neuen Markt 9 d, 14467 Potsdam  
Large Seminar Room /Großer Seminarraum

# How Long are New Towns New? European Post-War New Towns as Authentic Places in a Comparative Perspective

Leibniz Research Alliance Historical Authenticity  
Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam

23.-24. February 2017  
Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam



ZENTRUM FÜR ZEITHISTORISCHE  
FORSCHUNG POTSDAM

Institut der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft





Eisenhüttenstadt, 1965 (photo: unknown)



Sergy-Pontoise, 2016 (photo: A. Ludwig)

**Thursday, 23. February 2017**

From 13:30: registration

**14:30-15:00**

Martin Sabrow (Potsdam)

*Greetings*

Ana Kladnik and Andreas Ludwig (Potsdam)

*Introduction*

**15:00-17:00**

**Historical Recognition of New Towns in Post-War Europe**

Chair: Christoph Bernhardt (Erkner)

Rosemary Wakeman (New York):

*Ideal Cities and the Origins of the New Town Movement*

Loic Vadelorge (Paris):

*Building and Conserving the French New Towns: From the Uses of Past to the Management of Heritages (1970-2010)*

Eszter Gantner (Marburg):

*Heritagization of New Towns after 1989 in East Central Europe*

**17:30-19:00**

**Mass Housing as *Erinnerungsort***

Chair: Thomas Lindenberger (Potsdam)

Miles Glendinning (Edinburgh):

*European Mass Housing in its Global Context*

Florian Urban (Glasgow):

*'The Slab' in East Germany - an Ambivalent Heritage*

**Friday, 24. February 2017**

**9:00–11:00**

**New Towns as Cultural/National/World Heritage**

Chair: Thomas Schaarschmidt (Potsdam)

Marina Epstein-Pliouchtch (Haifa):

*"White City" Myth of Tel-Aviv – Canonization of the Modernist Heritage*

Shane Downer (Milton Keynes):

*From New Town to International City – Culture Led Development in the Growth of Milton Keynes*

Jure Ramšak (Koper):

*"One of Which no Sane Visitor Would Want Any Part": The New Town of Nova Gorica in the Late-Socialist and Transition Period*

**11:30-13:00**

**Public Representation of European Post-War New Towns**

Chair: Albrecht Wiesener (Cottbus-Senftenberg)

Michał Wiśniewski and Helena Postawka-Lech (Krakow):

*The Architecture of Nowa Huta*

Michelle Provoost (Rotterdam):

*Coming of Age: Reinventing New Towns in the Rotterdam and Amsterdam region*

**14:30 – 16:00**

Round Table /Final Discussion:

**Characteristics of European Post-War New Towns as Places of Historical Authenticity**

Moderators: Ana Kladnik and Andreas Ludwig

Discussants: Wolfgang Kil, Michelle Provoost, Achim Saupe and Rosemary Wakeman